# **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ... We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture ... Psalm 100:3



December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

# ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.

God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection. We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.

In keeping with our welcome, Good Shepherd is a Reconciling in Christ partner congregation, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. We are an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

The Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero Energy use. Welcome guests! There is more information for you on the back of the bulletin.

# **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

congregational responses in **bold**; rise in body or spirit when indicated by \*

## **GATHERING MUSIC:**

There is no rose of such virtue (anon., c. 1420) Es ist ein ros entsprungen (Johannes Brahms) Coventry Carol (arr. Jim Engebretson) In Dulci Jubilo (J. S. bach) Noell, out of your sleep arise (anon., c. 1430)

## **PRAYER BELL - WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW #283 O Come, All Ye Faithful, vs. 1-3

| <ul> <li>1- O come, all ye faithful,</li> <li>joyful and triumphant!</li> <li>O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;</li> <li>come and behold him,</li> <li>born the king of angels;</li> </ul> | 2- The highest, most holy,<br>light of light eternal,<br>born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;<br>Son of the Father |
|---|--|
| born the king of angels:  | now in flesh appearing! Refrain  |

### **Refrain**:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord! 3- Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: Refrain

## \*CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE AND GREETING

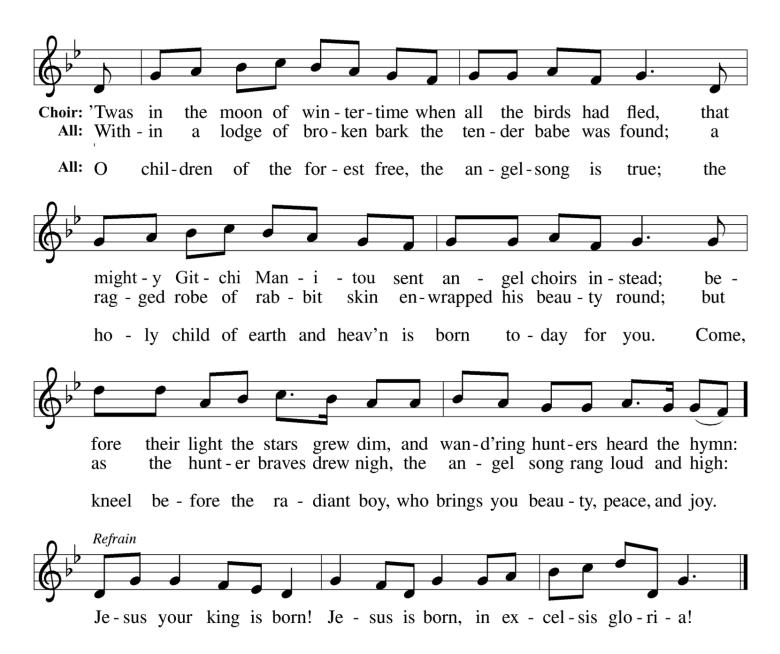
I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.
To you is born, this day, a Savior.
Unto us, a child is born; unto us, a son is given.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.
Let us go now and see this thing that has taken place.
Fear not, for Christ is with you.
Let us pray ... Amen.

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of

Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. - Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**.

**HYMN:** ELW #284 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (vs. 1 choir, vs. 2 & 4 congregation)



### SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ELW #270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

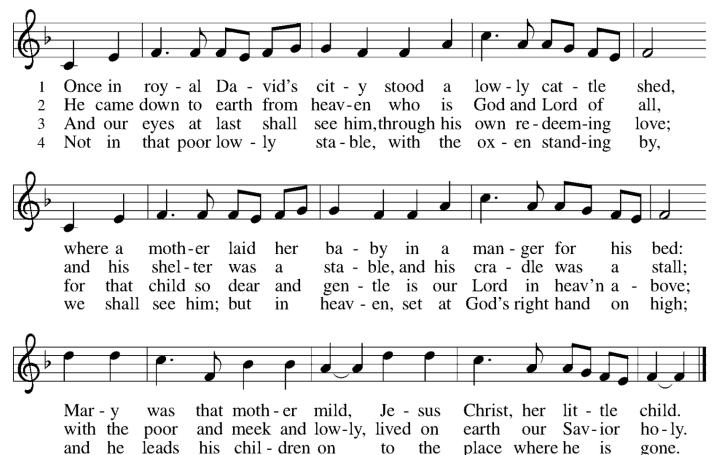
- Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
- **Refrain:** Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
  Hail the Sun of righteousness!
  Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
  Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. Refrain

### THIRD READING: Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God

HYMN: ELW #269 "Once in Royal David's City" vs. 1 & 2



### FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8-20

there his

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry

crowned.

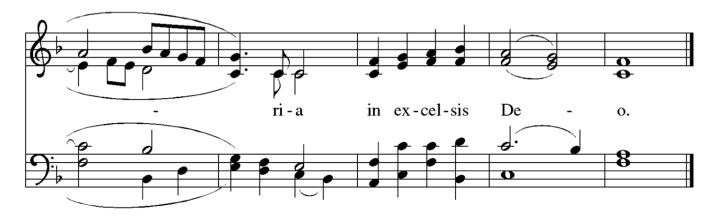
<sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they

had heard and seen, as it had been told them. - Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

**HYMN:** ELW #289 Angels We Have Heard on High - all children are invited to come up front to join in spontaneous bell ringing during the refrain





## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

\*HYMN: ELW #282 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



## **\*PRAYER LITANY:**

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You reign with justice and mercy.

Bring your gift of peace to all nations and peoples of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You guide with steadfast love.

Enliven us to bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be present always and especially among those who are hungry, lonely, in prison, homeless.

**Open our eyes to see you in all people and to care for all in any need.** Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

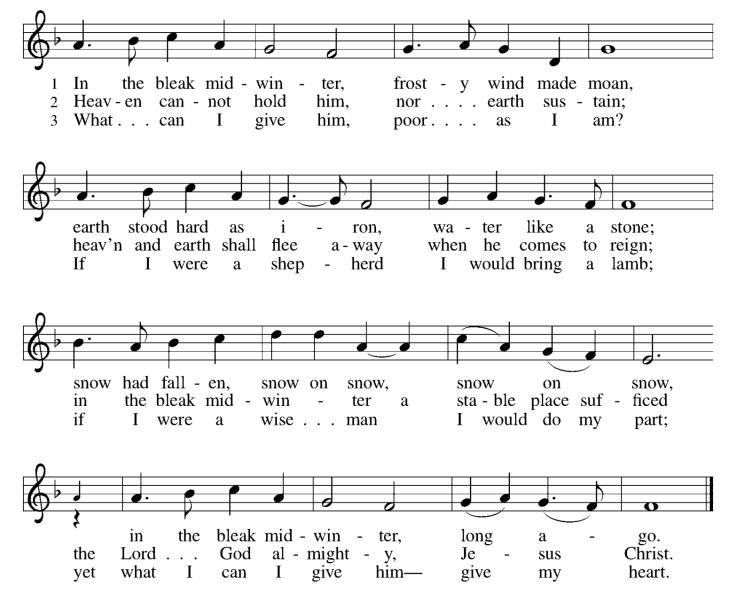
Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to the world. Amen.

**OFFERTORY:** "Carol of the Birds" arr. Brooke Joyce

### \*OFFERING SONG: ELW #294 In the Bleak Midwinter



\*OFFERING PRAYER Let us pray...Amen.

## **\*HOLY COMMUNION**

\*The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
(sung to the tune of Angels, from the Realms of Glory)
Holy, holy, Lord most holy,
God of pow'r and God of might:
heav'n and earth reveal your glory.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!
Blessed be the coming Savior.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

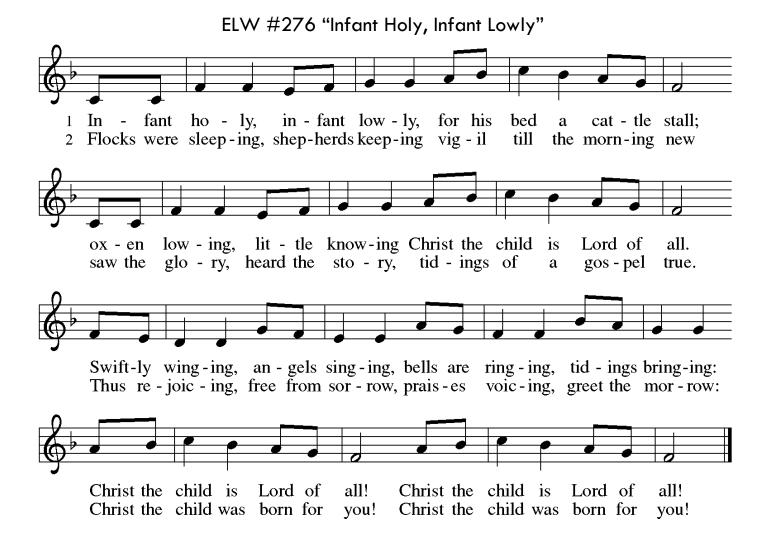
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

All are welcome at Christ's table. The ushers will direct you down the center aisle. You can hold out your hands to receive gluten and dairy free bread, then the plate of cups will be offered for you to select red wine or grape juice. If you prefer a blessing, indicate by placing your hands in front of your heart. If you need an individual, pre-packaged serving of bread and wine, please request that of your server. Place wine/juice cups in the basket by the altar as you return to your pew.



Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959 Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol



Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919 Arr. from *Carols for Choirs* 1, © Oxford University Press 1960. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

#### ELW #274 "On Christmas Night"



Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt. Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional



ELW #296 "What Child is This"



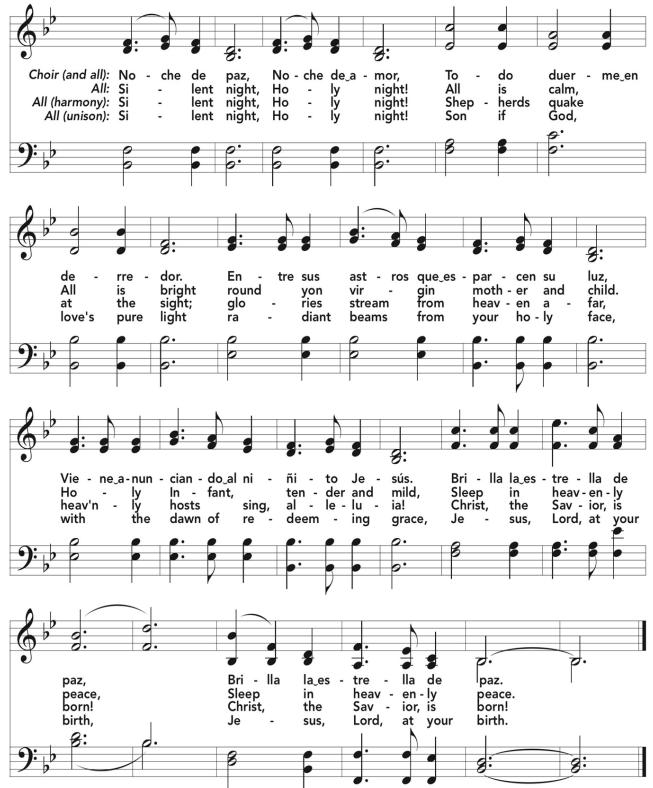
## **\*BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## **\*THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

(The light is shared, passing from one person to the next. Please be sure that the lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another.)

\*HYMN OF LIGHT: Silent Night, Holy Night!

Verse 1 in Spanish (choir and all who wish to join), then all sing vs. 1-3



## Jesus Christ is the Light of the word. **The Light no darkness can overcome**. \***BLESSING (**The candles are extinguished. Please blow gently and hold upright until wax is hardened @.) \***SENDING HYMN:** ELW #290 "Go Tell It on the Mountain "



## \*PRAYER BELL

\*DISMISSAL: Glory to God in the highest! Peace to God's people on earth! Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE:** "Sleigh Ride" – Leroy Anderson

The postlude sends us out for service in the world. Feel free to use this time in any way that helps to send you out!

## THANK YOU TO ALL THE MUSICIANS WHO ARE PART OF TONIGHT'S SERVICE!

### **POINSETTIA CONTRIBUTIONS**

- o In celebration of our daughters Nora and Blair Rebecca & David Schaffer
- o In memory of Bud Bahr Donna Bahr
- In memory of Richard Snow Lise Kildegaard & Luther Snow
- Connie Buresh for Family, Friends and Blessings in 2024
- In memory of Don Kemp Jane Kemp
- In memory of Claude Hayes Harriet Hayes
- In memory of our parents Vernon, Ida, and Edith Naslund and Maynard and Mimi Aakir, and our grandson Brendan Numehdahl – Ann & Bob Naslund
- In memory of Mike & Carol Moe Naomi Craft
- In memory of Harley Refsal Bob & Marilynn Larson
- In memory of Glenn Nelson Bob & Marilynn Larson
- In memory of Ed Kaschins Bob & Marilynn Larson
- In memory of Paul Solberg Bob & Marilynn Larson
- In honor of our grandparents Chris, Bonnie, Erik & Hallie Johnson
- In honor of Bob & Eileen Fahrenkrug Nancy & Jeff Roatch
- In memory of our parents: Pastor Marty & Vera Silseth, and Eldon & Doris
   Peterson Kris & Dave Peterson
- In memory of Arthur & Betty Van Roekel and Edgar & LeVerne Epperly Ed
   & Joyce Epperly
- o In memory of my parents: Heyo and Anna Kampman Beverly Sheridan
- Given in gratitude for the love, support, and prayers of the congregation throughout my transplant journey – Stephanie Hoff
- In memory of Eileen Fahrenkrug Sara Wicks

# **Good Shepherd Worship Schedule**

## Sunday, December 29th - First Sunday of Christmas

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion; Presiding/Preaching: Pastor April Ulring Larson Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall; Green Flock

## Sunday, January 5<sup>th -</sup> 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion; Presiding/Preaching: Pastor April Ulring Larson Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall;

## Sunday, January 12<sup>th -</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Haiti Earthquake

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion; Preaching: Pastor Mike Blair Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall; Sunday School programming resumes after winter break! Youth Group (7-12 grade) in Fellowship Hall – 3-6<sup>th</sup> In the Library – Pk-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade in Sanctuary

## WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS and especially to Luther College Students! It is a joy to worship with you.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION.** It is Christ's table and Christ is the host. Instructions are included in the communion section of the Order of Worship.

**THE PRESENCE, ENERGY, AND NOISE OF CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME HERE!** The sound of a child in worship is the sound of a new Christian being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. A nursery with toys and activity bags is available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works.

**RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT:** This Statement was approved at the annual meeting of the congregation on February 6th, 2022. It was developed through the work of the Racial Justice Team which held listening sessions with the congregation. Find the full statement at **goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement** or by scanning the code.



## **GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:**

Pastor April Ulring Larson (563) 217-0741 pastorapril@goodshepherddecorah.org Brooke Joyce; Music Director Tristan Occhipinti; Office & Building Manager Mike Sammons; Custodian



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