

# **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church**

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church & Augsburg Lutheran Churches 2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

# **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church**

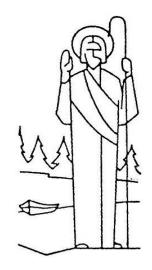
A member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

Reverend William C. Wendorf Ministers: The people of the Parish

| Council:                     |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| President: Mike Pockat       | 715-892-4488 |
| Vice President: Jack Carlson | 612-889-1250 |
| Tracey Ahlborn               | 612-716-6008 |
| Eric Eade                    | 608-386-3242 |
| Jackie Jungemann             | 630-450-2247 |
| Jeanne Kroll                 | 715-542-2797 |
| Sharon Rice                  | 715-479-9336 |
| Bill Sima                    | 715-542-4375 |



## Church Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

#### **WELCOME GUESTS**

We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Here at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church we celebrate Holy Communion whenever we gather, and we would like to invite you to join us, as **all** are welcome to the Lord's table here. If you are in need of any additional information in regard to our church or Synod affiliation, please contact Pastor Bill at 1-715-617-6477. Thank you for joining us.

#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

#### **Recorded Services**:

All Sunday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube. Go to the Church website at <a href="https://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org">www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org</a>

and look for the symbol.

Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

For those of you worshipping with us at home – You can mail your donations to:

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 State HWY 155

PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560

Or on the church website – www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

You can donate through our PayPal account.

"Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together."

### Readings for December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent:

 First Reading
 Micah 5: 2 - 5a

 Psalm
 Luke 1: 46b - 55

 Second Reading
 Hebrews 10: 5 - 10

 Holy Gospel
 Luke 1: 39 - 45 [46-55]

## **Being Recognized, Encountering Christ**

Often called the visitation, the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is full of joy, recognition, gratitude, and blessing. Luke immediately follows the annunciation with Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth, who gives this unmarried pregnant girl not only a safe haven but also the first glimpse of what it means to be the mother of the Savior. The encounter is full of mystery and grace: the mystery of new life forming but still invisible, and the grace of recognizing each other as the Spirit-filled mothers they are becoming.

The story is also full of theological gravity: as the women encounter each other, so do Jesus and John the Baptist. Yet the theological meaning is almost overshadowed by the sheer physicality of the encounter. Imagine the hasty travel, demonstrative greeting, joyful exclamation, the unborn John leaping for joy, and robust singing. As the celebration of Christ's birth approaches, the four active and responsive bodies in this text remind us that this is, after all, the incarnation itself unfolding.

God becomes a body in Jesus, and that body will be offered up for the sake of the world. This body, recognized already by John in the womb, will eventually undergo the suffering and shame of death on a cross. Without losing sight of that big picture, today we enter into the up-close picture of Mary and Elizabeth's encounter and share in the joy and gratitude they have in common with all who recognize Christ in their neighbor.

#### **CONTACT INFO:**

Treasurer – Jean Maines (715) 542-4213 or (715) 891-3344 Email: <u>treasurer@sotlsayner.com</u> or <u>jamaines2012@gmail.com</u>

Secretary – Sharon Brooker (715) 892-7049 Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@sotlsayner.com">secretary@sotlsayner.com</a> or <a href="mailto:plclerk@gmail.com">plclerk@gmail.com</a>

Pastor Bill Wendorf (715) 542-3701 (Church) or 715-617-6477 Email: wendorfw@gmail.com or pastor@sotlsayner.com

#### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion is offered at every service. All are welcome. The Sunday service will be live-streamed and recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays.

#### FINANCIAL NOTES: December 8, 2024

**ATTENDANCE: 32** 

#### **No Financial Report Today**

#### TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 3 pm. The study will again be based on "The Chosen".

#### **CHURCH SCHOOL**

Church School will be offered every Wednesday (as long as school is in session) after school. The bus will drop the children off at approximately 3:45. Lessons/project time will last until 5 pm. We welcome you to get your children - or grandchildren - involved!

#### ALTAR FLOWERS - INFORMATION ON HOW TO SIGN UP

Contact Person - Jo Ann Kehl Cell 715-892-0413

The Sign-Up Sheets are located in the Narthex on the shelf under the Lutheran Rose.

#### STEP ONE:

Sign up for the date you wish to provide the set of two altar bouquets **STEP TWO:** 

You can provide flowers in two ways:

- 1. You may purchase your own flowers and bring them to church.
- 2. You may contact Jo Ann Kehl and she will order them for you. Just let her know what flowers you would like and how much you would like to spend. You can then write a check to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church for that amount and designate it as *Altar Flower Donation*. ANY QUESTIONS? Contact Jo Ann

#### **IMPORTANT REMINDER:**

If you use the kitchen at church, please be extra prudent and make sure the water is turned off, the refrigerator doors are closed firmly, the oven is off.......whatever you use, make sure to turn everything off and close doors!! Cleaning staff found the oven left on cleaning setting and the stove/oven was EXTREMELY hot and a fire danger!

#### **BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER**

Please consider giving to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Pink donation envelopes will be labeled and available.

# SHEETS NEEDED FOR QUILTERS

Shepherd of the Lakes Quilting Circle meets the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 9 a.m. You do not need sewing skills to join the fun! Our quilts are distributed locally to those in need and this year that need has been great. We are doing our best to keep up, but we are in need of sheets to back our quilts. King and queen work best but we will take all sizes. If you have questions, please feel free to ask.

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Carolers will gather at the church on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm and go caroling around town. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex (please come even if you didn't sign up!) All are welcome!

#### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will be holding Christmas Eve worship service at 4 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Bring a friend and let's celebrate the birth of our Savior together! We will be celebrating Holy Communion and all are welcome. This service will be streamed live and will be available on the YouTube link. There will be no Christmas Day Service!

We will be serving cookies and hot chocolate after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. If you have the time please join us. Sign-up sheet for bringing cookies will be on the table in the Narthex.

#### **ALTAR POINSETTIAS**

The poinsettias that adorn our altar today were provided by Dee Burlingame.



# PRAYER REQUESTS

### Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Carolyn, Beth, Shirley, Chandler, John, Kim, Dick, Lynn C., Mary H. (Please let us know if/when names should be removed from this "current issues" list or moved to "ongoing list")

## Pray for those with ongoing health issues:

Larry, Mary Lou, Brian, Melody, Graham, Ericka, Mike, Shelle, Amy L., Sharon G., Bob B., and Ron

## **Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:**

Brian, Adam & Brittany, Brooks, Will, Sgt. Keara, Alex, Jared, Noah, and Dylan.

## Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:

Elisabeth

# Pray for peace and consoling comfort for the families of those who have passed:

Family of Jim Mulleady

Please email Bill Wendorf at <u>pastor@SOTLsayner.com</u> or text to 715-617-6477 or email Jean Maines at <u>treasurer@SOTLsayner.com</u> if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list.

# **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church**

A Member Congregation of The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and

Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC) "3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024"

## **Greeting & Announcements**

**Lighting Of The Advent Candles** 

(Please remain seated)

**Third Sunday of Advent** 

(Candle Litany)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Christ is our light. By grace he came, in power he rose; we wait for Christ to come again.

(The three candles of Advent are lit.)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you and turned away your enemies.

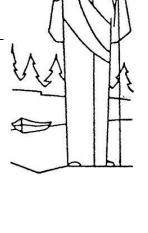
#### We fear disaster no more.

Do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst.

## God will rejoice over us with gladness and renew us in love.

God will save the lame and gather the outcast, changing their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time, God will bring us home. The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.



### **Invocation**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

#### Amen.

# **Confession and Forgiveness**

Let us come before God in confession of our sins known and unknown, things said or left unsaid, things done or left undone.

# **Prayer of Confession**

To you, O God,

We lift up our souls.
You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways; teach us your paths;
and lead us in peace and truth,
for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### Amen

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

## People, Look East



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

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## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

## **Opening Dialogue**

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength, and my might; and has become my salvation.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him; his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

## **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray....

Stir up the wills of your faithful people,

Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

## First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6

- <sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.
- <sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
- <sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.
- <sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## **Second Reading** Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## The Holy Gospel

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

The Holy Gospel According to....

Glory to you, O Lord.

# Gospel Reading Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

#### "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" ELW 244

# Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

#### **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen

# **Prayers of the Church**

**Sharing of the Peace** 

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please share the peace as you are comfortable)

### **Offering**

(We will receive our offering today in the traditional manner)

For those of you worshipping with us at home -You can mail your donations to: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 State Hwy 155Sayner, WI 54560

Or on the church website <u>www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org</u> You can donate through our PayPal account. "Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together."

### **Presentation Of Gifts**

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

## **Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray;

O Lord our God,

Maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

## **Great Thanksgiving**

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.

#### **Words Of Institution**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

## Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

## Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

## **Lords Prayer**

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.

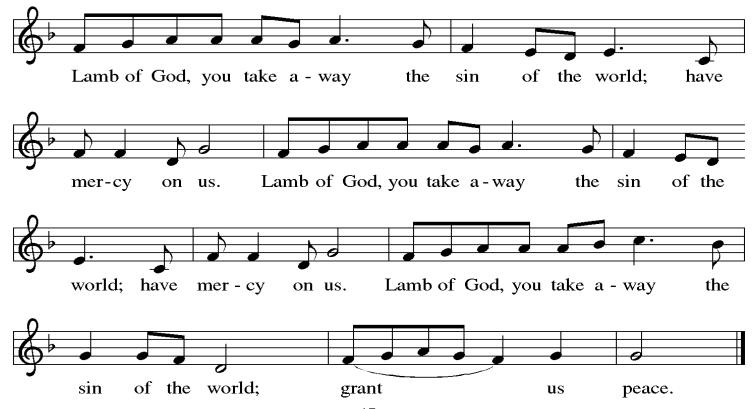
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

#### **Invitation**

Please come forward as the ushers direct, receive the bread in your hand and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the wine (chalice). Grape juice is also offered as an alternative to the wine in the crystal Chalise. We also have gluten free wafers for those in need, simply ask for them when you come forward. Small children and others that wish not to commune may come forward for a blessing. ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.





### **Communion Hymns**

### "What Feast Of Love" ELW 487

# What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of fered here, what ban-quet come from heav en?
- 2 What light of truth is of fered here, what cov e nant from heav en?
- 3 What wine of love is of fered here, what crim-son drink from heav en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en? What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this Christ the the bread come down from 18 king, heav - en. king, This, this Christ the the come down from is sun heav - en. This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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# "Christ Be Our Light" ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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# **Communion Blessing**

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

### **Amen**

# **Prayer**

God for whom we wait,

In this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

# **Blessing/Benediction**

Almighty God, Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit, bless you all, now and forever. **Amen** 

# Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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### **Dismissal**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service. Second Sunday of each month join us for brunch after the service.

### Calendar for Week of December 16 – December 22, 2024

| Wednesday | December 18, 2024 | Quilting                         | 9:00 a.m. |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Wednesday | December 18, 2024 | Church School                    | 3:45 p.m. |
| Sunday    | December 22, 2024 | Worship Service –                | 9:00 a.m. |
|           |                   | 4 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent |           |

### **Next Council Meeting:**

January 12, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Christmas Eve Service at 4 pm on December 24th

Check our calendar of events on the church website for times and dates of events and worship services.

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org
FaceBook: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church – Sayner, WI
Instagram: sotlsayner



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