



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Ministers: All The People of The Congregation
Called by God to: Grow; Serve; Love; Care and Worship

Third Sunday of Advent. December 14, 2014
9:00 a.m. Worship. * Please stand

Welcome
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts ' as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.
 *Advent Song“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” v 1, 2 & 3. ELW 240

*Confession and Forgiveness
 P: Holy God, turn your ear toward your people as we pray,

C: During this season it is so easy to let anxiety overtake us. We are trying so hard to have the best decorations, to give the best gifts and to get everything done in time. Forgive us for focusing on such selfish things during this sacred holiday season. Quiet our overwhelmed spirit, so that we may live out your Holy Gospel in our daily lives.

P: As we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, be still and know that you are God's beloved. Receive the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of Jesus Christ, for whom we wait.

C: Amen.
 *Gathering Song“People, Look East”. ELW 248

*Prayer of the Day
C: God of justice, you sent your servant Esther into a life of privilege so that those without would be taken care of. In our privilege, show us how to advocate for those who have less, so that your world might be peaceful and just. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Choir Anthem“Blessed Are You”. Adult Choir

Psalms 24:1-6 (read responsively)
 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
²for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.
³Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?
⁴Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.
⁵They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.
⁶Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Children's Message
Announcement of Gospel
 P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.
 *Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to

dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon
 *The Song of the Day“A Song for Joseph”. Printed

*The Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Offering
The Prayers of the Church (kneel or sit)

*The Lord's Prayer
 *Benediction

*Sending Song“He Came Down”. ELW 253

*Dismissal
 L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
C: Thanks be to God!

Preaching & Presiding: Pastor Mary Iverson **Assisting Worship Leader:** Bill Groskreutz, Jr.
Scripture Reader: Jim Stern **Acolytes:** Zach Niebuhr, Collin Foley

Annual Meeting is Jan. 25, 2015 following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Council recommends a by-law change to the congregation to remove the youth representative from the council.

Birthdays - Dec 14-20 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)
 14-Tina Lutteke Lisa Ulferts Dave Tatge 18-Maurine Lutteke
 15-Albert Quade Brian Vedders 17-Kathy Ayers 20-Kyley Bullerman
 Dave Talamantez 16-Jackie Ramaker

You are invited to “And Glory Shone Around” presented by the Good Shepherd Adult Choir, Sun., Dec. 21st at 9:00 a.m.

The Harmony Junction Barbershop Chorus will be performing its annual Christmas benefit concert on Sun., Dec. 14th at 3:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church and at 7:00 p.m. at St. Theodore Catholic Church in Albert Lea. They will be joined by the Albert Lea Community Band. The free-will offering will be directed towards the Ecumenical Food Shelf and Salvation Army Food Shelf in Albert Lea.

Senior Saints - Come to Broadway Apartments on Wed., Dec. 17th at 11:00 a.m. to share in the joy of Christmas by participating in holiday activities and songs. There will be a time of food and fellowship as we share in "Getting to Know" Pastor Mary. Thanks to the December service group for providing the noon meal.

The Wells Area Food Shelf along with Wells Marketplace Foods has made it easy for you to help the food shelf out this Christmas Season. When you are grocery shopping at Wells Marketplace Foods look for the bags already filled and ready to be donated to the food shelf. Bags cost \$10.00 and are filled with \$10.00 worth of food that the food shelf is in need of. We would like to thank Wells Marketplace Foods for supporting the Wells Area Food Shelf in our campaign to feed the hungry during the holidays. For more information like the Wells Area Food Shelf Page. <http://www.facebook.com/wells-area-food-shelf>

Cutoff for Financial giving for 2014 will be 9:00 a.m. Wed., Dec. 31st. This allows time to get the deposit to the bank for credit also. God has blessed us to be a blessing. With the support of Good Shepherd we may continue to meet our obligations as a Christian community. Thank you.

St. Casimir Choir invites you to Lessons & Carols at 7:00 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 17th. Light refreshments will follow the program that features music, readings, and pageantry.

Daily Scripture Readings

Dec 15 -Psalm 125

1 Kings 18:1-18

Ephesians 6:10-17

Dec 16 -Psalm 125

2 Kings 2:9-22

Acts 3:17 – 4:4

Dec 17 -Psalm 125

Malachi 3:16 – 4:6

Mark 9:9-13

Dec 18 -Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

2 Samuel 6:1-11

Hebrews 1:1-4

Dec 19 -Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

2 Samuel 6:12-19

Hebrews 1:5-14

Dec 20 -Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Judges 13:2-24

John 7:40-52

A Song for Joseph

To Joseph an angel appeared in a dream
Do not be afraid for it's not as it seems
The child Mary carries is sent from above
The work of God's Spirit - a gift of God's love.

So Joseph, believing, took Mary, his wife.
And cared for her, loved her, the rest of his life.
And when that day came when young Mary gave birth
He named the child Jesus, our God come to earth.

O God of surprises, O God of great love.
We praise you for this wondrous gift from above
For in the child Jesus you entered our pain
That through him, our Savior, true life we would gain.

Dear Father in heaven, O help us we pray
Like Joseph, to trust and believe what you say
That in us, and through us, your will may be done
So all in this world will rejoice in your Son.

Tune: Away in the Manger (ELW #278) Words: Dave Nelson © 2004 Used with permission