



# Welcome to Good Shepherd

Called by God to: Grow; Serve; Love; Care and Worship

Today's Worship

December 27, 2015

## "Carols and Stories"

**Music is an important part of our celebration of Christmas. We celebrate our faith with our soul, so we sing. Martin Luther himself said, "When we sing, we pray twice." Since music are so central to our Christmas celebrations, today we will sing several beloved carols but also hear the stories of the hymn writers and their hymns.**

### Welcome and Announcements

#### The Story of Isaac Watts

Hymn . . . . "Joy to the World" . . . . . ELW 267

#### Prayer of the Day

**C: Redeemer God, you created light that we might live and you illuminate our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

#### The Story of Phillip Brooks

Hymn . . . . "O Little Town of Bethlehem" . . . . . ELW 279

#### Psalm 11 (read responsively)

- <sup>1</sup>In the Lord I take refuge; how can you say to me, "Flee like a bird to the mountains;
- <sup>2</sup>for look, the wicked bend the bow, they have fitted their arrow to the string, to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.
- <sup>3</sup>If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"
- <sup>4</sup>The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven. His eyes behold, his gaze examines humankind.
- <sup>5</sup>The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and his soul hates the lover of violence.
- <sup>6</sup>On the wicked he will rain coals of fire and sulfur; a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.
- <sup>7</sup>For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

#### The Story of Charles Wesley

Hymn . . . . "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" . . . . . ELW 270

#### Bible Story . . . . Luke 2:21, 25-40

- <sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
- <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the

child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too." <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

#### The Story of James Montgomery

Hymn . . . . "Angels from the Realms of Glory" . . . . . ELW 275

Apostles' Creed . . . . . ELW page 105

#### Sharing of the Peace

#### Offering

#### The Story of Joseph Mohr

Hymn . . . . "Silent Night" . . . . . ELS 281

#### Prayers of the Church

#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Benediction

#### The Story of John Work, Jr.

Sending Hymn . . . . "Go Tell it on the Mountain" . . . . . ELW 290

**Preaching & Presiding:** Rev. Mary Iverson      **Scripture Reader:** Rachael Korman

**Birthdays-Dec 27-Jan 2**(If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

27-Jerad Billings	28-Jacob Elmer	Lori Hotzler	31-Lillian Neubauer
Kathy Ehlert	Jaxon Hart	Chris Tatge	1-Dorine Miller
Kim Stevermer	30-Julie Diekmann	Diane Walters	2-Linda Niebuhr

### Daily Scripture Readings

Dec 28 - Psalm 148  
Isaiah 54:1-13  
Revelation 21:1-7

Dec 29 - Psalm 147:12-20  
1 Chronicles 28:1-10  
1 Corinthians 3:10-17

Dec 30 - Psalm 147:12-20  
2 Chronicles 1:7-13  
Mark 13:32-37

Dec 31 - Psalm 147:12-20  
1 Kings 3:5-14  
John 8:12-19

Jan 1 - Numbers 6:22-27  
Psalm 8  
Galatians 4:4-7 *or* Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 2:15-21

Jan 2 - Psalm 147:12-20  
Proverbs 1:1-7  
James 3:13-18

**Cutoff for Financial giving for 2015** will be 9:00 am Thurs., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. 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. Thanks for taking your part.

**The new Church Photo Directory has arrived!** - The new photo directories have arrived! The directories will be labeled with your family name and will be in boxes at the table near the church office. Additional directories may be purchased for \$5.00. A special thanks to Julie Forderer and Lynne Hansen who put in work over many months. Thanks, as well, to the families who came to have their photos taken several months ago.

**Annual Reports** for the 2015 congregational meeting are due at the church office by January 8, 2016. All ministry teams and organizations are asked to submit a report of their 2015 activities. The Annual Report Booklet will be available for pick up on January 17, 2016. Please pick up your copy on the table near the church office or on the table near the front door of the sanctuary to review before the Annual meeting.