



Welcome to Good Shepherd

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

Today's Worship

December 11, 2016

The Coming of Christ ~ The Birth of John the Baptist

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath "Light One Candle" vs 1 & 2 & 3. ELW 240
(Family: Jon, Jackie Huper and Family)

***Gathering** "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" ELW 242

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We are called to a holy and righteous life, trusting always in God's promises. But many are the times when we fall short of our calling. As we prepare to welcome the Christ Child, let us confess our sins, that we might receive grace and mercy.

Pause for silence and reflection

P: Gracious and loving God ...

C: We confess that we have not always placed our trust in you, God. Sometimes we lose hope altogether. Forgive us for our lack of faith and teach us to trust in you, God, for all we need. Amen.

P: This is what the Lord has done for us: God looks with favor upon us and God forgives you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of the Day

C: Stir up your power, Lord Jesus, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from sin that binds us, that we might receive you in joy and serve you always. Amen.

Children Message/Excuse for Sunday School

Choir Anthem . . "Morning Star: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" . . Adult Choir

Psalm 126 (read responsively)

¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

²**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."**

³The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

⁵May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

*Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Luke chapter 1.

C: Praise to you, O Lord.

Bible Story . . . Luke 1:57-67

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn "Prepare the Royal Highway". ELW 264

The Apostles' Creed. page 105

*Sharing the Peace

Offering

Offertory Response. . . . "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs 5 & 6. ELW 257

Prayers of the Church

Words of Institution/The Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Communion Blessing

*Benediction

***Sending Song** "He Came Down" ELW 253

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Presiding & Preaching: Mary Iverson

Scripture Reader: Marilyn Rauenhorst

Birthdays-Dec 11-17 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

11-Cayden Stern	15-Albert Quade	Brian Vedders	Dave Tatge
12-Dennis Lutteke	Lisa Ulferts	16-Jackie Ramaker	17-Kathy Ayers
14-Tina Lutteke			

In memory of Donna Allen memorials have been received towards the Sanctuary Technology.

Children's Christmas Program - there will be a Christmas program presented by the children on Wed., Dec. 14th at 6:15 p.m.

Special Congregational Meeting - There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 and continuing Sunday, December 11, 2016 following the worship services in the Sanctuary for the purpose to consider the following:

To allow the Getchell Family to rent the parsonage as soon as possible. Details were presented at forums on Wed., Nov. 30, 2016 and Sun., Dec. 4, 2016.

A 2/3 vote of members present is required to approve the recommendation.

December Food Collection - During the month of December we will collect food donations of Whole Kernel Corn and canned peas.. A grocery cart is parked in the sanctuary, collecting your donations, which will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf. Thank you for your November donations of brown sugar and cinnamon that also went to the Food Shelf.

Harmony Junction Christmas Concert - Dec. 18th, 3:00 p.m. at the Untied Methodist Church and 7:00 p.m. at St. Theodore Church, both in Albert Lea. Also featuring the Albert Lea Community Band, women's chorus, and Faith Tones.

Thrivent Action Team - Boots and Headphones for Kids - Looking for gently used winter boots for Kids at United South Central also any headphone you have to be used with iPads for United South Central Elementary. They would like to be able to provide a set of headphones for each child that cannot afford their own. They prefer they have their own for sanitary reasons. Items may be brought to the church.