



Welcome to Good Shepherd

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

December 24, 2017

Today's Worship

God's Presence Brings Life - Surprised by Joseph: Joseph is our teacher this morning. He faithfully listened to the angel of God, when he could have turned away from Mary. Joseph was tough when he could have been weak, tender when he could have been harsh, trusting when he could have doubted. What can we learn from Joseph?

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath "Light One Candle" vs 1, 2, 3, 4. ELW 240
(Family: Ashley, Daren, Haley & Isaac Ignaszewski)

***Gathering** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice". ELW 288

P: We worship this morning in the name of our Faithful God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is the light and life of all the ages.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in Jesus Christ, who came to share our humanity and bring light to this broken world, let us come before God without fear to make our confession.

Pause for silence and reflection

P: Comforting God,

C: We confess before you and in the presence of one another that we are sinners who fail to live as you desire. So often we place our trust in ourselves and not in you. We do not love each other as you have commanded. Because of us, your whole creation suffers. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us. In your boundless patience and mercy, lead us to live by faith in your promise. Amen.

P: God's love for us is greater than all our sins. God promises full pardon and complete forgiveness to all who turn from sin and place their trust in Christ, light of the World. Hear and believe the good news that all your sins are forgiven. With God nothing is impossible.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

C: Loving God, what we choose changes us. Who we love transforms us. How we create remakes us. Where we live reshapes us. So in all our choosing, O God, make us wise; in all our loving, O Spirit, give us courage; in all our living may we become whole. Amen.

Children's Message

Psalm Psalm 98 (read responsively)

¹O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

²**The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

⁵Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

⁸**Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy**

⁹at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Announcement of Scripture Reading:

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

C: Praise to you, O Lord.

Bible Story . . . 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: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn "The First Noel". ELW 300

Apostles' Creed. page 105

***Sharing the Peace**

Offering

Offertory Response. "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly". ELW 276

Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

***Sending Song** "Joy to the World" ELW 267

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Church Phone: 507-553-3513

Web site: <http://www.goodshepherdwells.org> E-mail: shepherd@bevcomm.net

Broadcast Cable Bevcomm TV Channel 7 Tuesday at 10:15 am & Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Presiding & Preaching: Rev. Mary Iverson

Scripture Reader: Trudy Drugg

Pianist: Staci Thompson

Birthdays -Dec 24-30 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

24-Julie Mattick	27-Jerad Billings	Kim Stevermer	30-Lori Hotzler
Lauryne Stern	Kathryn Ehlert	28-Jacob Elmer	Chris Tatge
25-Mary Rollenhagen	Jackson Spizzirri	Jaxon Hart	Diane Walters
26-Matt Stern			

The Christmas season; the season of giving. We remember the first Christmas when our God gifted us His Son, Jesus. Oh, what a blessing! Are you feeling the inspiration to be a blessing to someone in need during this season, to share some of the many blessings you have received from God? We have a family in need right here in Wells who could use our financial support: Evan and Dara Getchell. Their son, Bebo, has begun his 2nd year fighting leukemia and his fight is not over. Evan and Dara are raising 8 children in a Christian home and working to maintain normalcy during Bebo's battle with cancer. If you would like to assist them, you can write to them at: Evan and Dara Getchell, 15-3rd Ave SW, Wells, MN 56097. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas, Sandi Hartman, Congregation President.

Looking ahead to Christmas Eve - There will be two Christmas Eve worship services at 5pm and 7pm on the evening of December 24.

Grades Kindergarten – 3 Youth Event - Fun, Fun, Fun at the Church, Sunday, January 7, 2018 11am – noon. Gather together in the Good Shepherd Kitchenette (down the hall from the church offices) where we will learn more about the 3 Wise Men and make a cool craft. We will also play some fun games together and have a small snack. The cost is free but we do ask you to sign up on the church office door by Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

Grades 4-7 Youth Event - Ultimate Game Night, Saturday, January 13, 2018 6pm – 9pm. Meet in the Good Shepherd basement Social Hall for a great evening of new games (Human Clue) and old favorites (Sardines). There is no cost for this event and you are welcome to bring a friend. The deadline to sign up on the church office door is Wednesday, January 10. Please come with a full stomach as a snack but not a meal is being served.

Grades 8-12 Youth Event - Saturday, January 6, 2018 6pm – 10pm. Meet in the Good Shepherd basement Social Hall for a great evening of new games (Human Clue) and old favorites (Sardines and Race to 100). There is no cost for this event and you are welcome to bring a friend. A pizza dinner will be served. The deadline to sign up on the church office door is Wednesday, January 3.

Cutoff for Financial giving for 2017 will be 9:00 am Fri., Dec. 29th. 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 doing your part.

December Food Collection - During the month of December we will collect food donations of Whole Kernel Corn and canned Green Beans. (*Please no gallon size cans.*) A grocery cart is parked in the sanctuary, collecting your donations, which will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf.

Please include Maggie Treptow in your prayers. She suffered a stroke in recent days and has been hospitalized in Texas. Cards may be sent to: Maggie Treptow, 2500 E Bus. 83, Lot 482, Mission, TX 78572.