



# Welcome to Good Shepherd

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

December 31, 2017

Today's Worship

## Prelude

### Welcome

\***Gathering** . . . . "O Come, All Ye Faithful" . . . . . ELW 283

P: O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned.

**C: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P: When we make no room for Christ, and fail to welcome him into our lives,

**C: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P: When we follow shooting stars and squander our gifts in Herod's court,

**C: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P: When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us,

**C: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P: When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth, and fail to recognize Christ's everyday presence,

**C: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P: We turn to you, Christ, perfect union of Spirit and flesh;

**C: We renounce evil; We claim your love; We choose to be made whole.**

P: May we rejoice in the forgiveness of God.

**C: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

**C: Loving God, you have given us the immeasurable gift of the Word made flesh. May the light of Christ live within us as we rejoice that God is with us through this tiny child. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

### Children's Message

**Psalms** Psalm 97 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

<sup>2</sup>**Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side.

<sup>4</sup>**His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.**

<sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.**

<sup>7</sup>All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him.

<sup>8</sup>**Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.**

<sup>9</sup>For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

<sup>10</sup>**The Lord loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

<sup>12</sup>**Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!**

## Announcement of Scripture Reading:

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

**C: Praise to you, O Lord.**

**Bible Story** . . . John 1:19-34

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. <sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup>And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

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

**Apostles' Creed** . . . . . page 105

## \*Sharing the Peace

## Offering

**Offertory Response** . . . What Child is This" . . . . . ELW 296

## Prayers of the Church

## The Lord's Prayer

## Benediction

**\*Sending Song** . . . "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" . . . . . ELW 290

## \*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](mailto:shepherd@bevcomm.net)

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

**Presiding & Preaching:** Rev. Roger Haug

**Scripture Reader:** Russ Elmer

**Pianist:** Staci Thompson

**Birthdays** -Dec 31-6 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

|                     |                    |                   |                        |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 31-Lillian Neubauer | Marilyn Rauenhorst | Dave Sauer        | Hayden Niebuhr         |
| 1-Gavin Gonzalez    | 4-Dylan Bonsack    | Frances Solberg   | Barb Sletten           |
| Dorine Miller       | Velma Brandt       | 5-Robert Buendorf | 6-Samantha Rollenhagen |
| 2-Linda Niebuhr     | Joshua Hansen      | Ray Harris        | Mike Swanson           |

**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.

**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.

**Annual Reports** will be available for the Congregation on January 19, 2018. Forums to discuss the report will be held on Sun., Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> and Wed., Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> following the worship. A reminder to all ministry teams and organizations a 2017 report of your activities is due to the church office on or before Jan. 12, 2018.

**Youth Gathering Meeting** - Those attending the ELCA Youth Gathering will meet on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. in the basement Parlor, behind the kitchen. We will enjoy donuts and juice and begin discussing details for the Youth Gathering.

**Farewell to Wednesday Cook, Suzanne** - Farewell and God's Blessings to our Wednesday Supper Cook, Suzanne Comeau. Suzanne has resigned so she can take a full-time job elsewhere. We are very sad to accept her resignation because she is much-loved and we have appreciated her fabulous

meals and friendly personality! Suzanne's last Wednesday will be on January 10, 2018. Good Shepherd will provide a special dessert that evening in her honor and ask diners to sign a farewell card on both January 3 and 10 that we can present to Suzanne.