



Welcome to Good Shepherd

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

Today's Worship

January 1, 2017

Who is Jesus? The Son of Man is Revealed ~ infant is recognized as a Savior. Mary and Joseph brought their 8 day old baby, Jesus, to the temple. While there, old man Simeon and prophet widow Anna both spotted the baby and recognized Jesus as one who would bring salvation. On this first day of the new year, can we make it a goal to be on the lookout for the evidence of the presence of Jesus in our lives? Forget resolutions and focus instead on seeking, recognizing and praising Jesus. Where might you see Jesus? How will you know it is Jesus? What will you do when you find him in unexpected ways?

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High". ELW 289

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: We gather together this morning to learn from God and to be healed. We pray that we may see Jesus this morning.

C: We gather to worship and praise Christ, the Holy Son of God.

P: Let us pause to examine ourselves and silently confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection

P: Let us pray: Emmanuel, God with us:

C: We confess that so often we are too preoccupied to notice your presence among us.

We miss seeing you and miss the chance to share the mystery of you dwelling among us in our world. Forgive us for being centered on our own drama that we miss your presence in our lives. Bring us back to you, Jesus, our life and our Savior.

P: The Lord is with us, bringing forgiveness, hope and everlasting life. No sin, no distraction, no misstep is big enough to separate us from the love of God in Christ. Rejoice, you are forgiven!

C: Amen.

Children's Message

Prayer of the Day:

C: O Lord, sometimes we encounter you in unexpected places. May we meet you with joy and honor you in all the ways we speak and act. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Psalm 131 (read responsively)

¹O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

²But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.

³O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

*Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Luke chapter 2.

C: Praise to you, O Lord

Bible Story Luke 2:21-38

²¹After 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. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶There 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice". ELW 288

The Apostles' Creed

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offertory Response "Away in a Manger". ELW 277

Prayers of the Church

Words of Institution/The Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Communion Blessing

Benediction

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

Dismissal

P: Go in peace.

C: Serve the Lord.

Presiding & Preaching: Mary Iverson

Scripture Reader: Nancy Elmer

Communion Helpers: Russ & Nancy Elmer

Birthdays-Jan 1-7 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

1-Dorine Miller	Dave Sauer	Ray Harris	6-Samantha Rollenhagen
2-Linda Niebuhr	Frances Solberg	Hayden Niebuhr	Mike Swanson
4-Dylan Bonsack Velma Brandt	5-Robert Buendorf	Barb Sletten	7-Pam Melby

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.

January Food Collection - During the month of January we will collect food donations of chocolate, yellow, white or spice cake mixes (please no Jiffy cake mixes). A grocery cart is parked in the sanctuary, collecting your donations, which will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf. Thank you for your December donations of Whole Kernel Corn and canned peas that also went to the Food Shelf.

Youth Tubing at Mount Kato - Saturday, January 7, Grades 2-6. Meet at the Good Shepherd office door at 1pm. We will return to the church around 5pm. Cost: \$10 per child. Each child may bring one friend if they would like. Poor weather may cancel this event. Medical waiver forms (available on the table by the office) need to be filled out for ALL youth who are attending without a parent. Drivers are needed – please sign up if you can chaperone and drive! Sign up deadline: January 4.

Good Shepherd Greatest Chef Cooking Challenge - Good Shepherd Kitchen and Social Hall. Sunday, January 15. Grades 3-6: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Grades 7-12: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Ever see any of the cooking challenge shows on TV, like Chopped? Come and be a part of a team and compete against others to prepare tasty food combinations that will impress judges and help you win this cooking challenge. No cooking skills are needed – if you like to eat, you will love this event. Sign up is required and you may bring one friend. Sign up on the church office door sign up no later than January 11. The cost is free. Please note: no supper is being served with this event.

Dinner Connect Group - The dinner group will have a potluck at the church on Sunday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the social hall. Anyone interested in this group should bring a dish to pass.

Game Connect Group - The game group will meet in the church social hall on Sunday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. Bring a game that you would like to play.

Cooking Connect Group - The cooking group will meet Monday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Social hall. Amy Anderson will demonstrate how to cook with Essential Oils.

On Friday, Jan. 6th Good Shepherd will be observing the New Years Holiday with the church office being closed.

Looking ahead to next week - *Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-22)*. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended and the Kingdom of God was introduced to the world. To this day, the Kingdom shines forth in the baptized, in our lives and all we do and say. How do you live out your baptism?

Retirement Party for Pastor Meg Sander. Jan. 15, 2017 at First Lutheran Church, 3315 G Ave, Kearney NE from 2-4:00 p.m. For a memory book photos and fond memories of Pastor Meg can be sent to the church or email to Jen Puls at juplus@region3.net

Flowers on the alter are in honor of Fran Solberg's 91st Birthday which is Jan. 4th. They are given by her children.