

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 22, 2024 9:30am

Our sermon series for December is "Light Dawns on a Weary World." Our theme today is *A Visit from Joseph*.

**Gathering Music**

Connie Stenzel

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Stangler Family

L: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Gathering Hymn**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Red 254

**Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

**Hymn of Praise**

Prepare the Royal Highway

Red 264 vv 1-3

1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

*Refrain*

*Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!*

2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

**Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

L: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come.

**C: With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*You may be seated*

**Reading**

Isaiah 7:10-17

L: A reading from Isaiah

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah."

L: Holy wisdom, holy Word

C: Thanks be to God

## Children's Time

Lauryne Stern

*Please stand as you are able*

## Gospel Acclamation

He Came Down

Red 253

He came down that we may have love; He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love; Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light; He came down that we may have light;  
He came down that we may have light; Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace;  
He came down that we may have peace; Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy;  
He came down that we may have joy; Hallelujah forevermore.

## Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

<sup>18</sup>Now 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. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But 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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

L: The Gospel of our Lord

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

*You may be seated*

## Character Portrayal

A Visit from Joseph

Pastor Vern Christopherson

*Please stand as you are able*

## Hymn of the Day

What Child Is This

Red 296 vv 1-2

*You may be seated*

## Poem

Grounds for Hope

Gerhard Frost

## Special Music

Mary's Little Boy Child

Sandi Hartman and Jon Melby

Jean Carlson, Piano & Brad Heggen, Bongos

## Offering

*Please stand as you are able*

## Offertory

What Child Is This

Red 296 v 8

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;

joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

## Prayers of the People



**Thank you!** I would like to thank everyone who helped me celebrate my retirement. I very much appreciated all the cards, gifts, well wishes and everyone who had a part in the planning and hosting of the party. The program was great with all the kind words (even those who roasted me.) The Cheesecake was a nice touch too! **Blessings to all, Kent**

### **Blessing of the Families at Christmas**

We are planning a special blessing for families on Christmas Eve. If you'd like to participate, gather your family of 1, 2, 10 or more - after you've been to communion - and share in words of blessing from Pastor Vern or Good Shepherd member Ashley Ignaszewski. We hope this blessing adds to the spirit and festivity of the season.

**Join us for "Can We Talk" Conversations with Pastor Vern & the Transition Team in the Social Hall.**

**Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM  
and Sunday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:45AM**

**Help the future Call Committee prepare to interview pastoral candidates.**



### **Congregation Service Project**

**Wednesday, January 8th from 4:00-6:00pm @ USC School Commons**

**We'll be joining others, including the confirmation students, in packing meals for Jesus' Food. Everyone is welcome to help: RSVP to [shepherd@bevcomm.net](mailto:shepherd@bevcomm.net)**



Wednesday night meals will resume after Christmas break on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm. Look for the menu in The Voice and on Facebook!

### **Looking ahead:**

- Dec 24- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25- No Evening Worship Service, Merry Christmas! Office is Closed.
- Dec 30- NOON- Year end cut off for giving.
- Dec 31- Ministry team annual reports due- email to [shepherd@bevcomm.net](mailto:shepherd@bevcomm.net)
- Jan 1- No Evening Worship Service, Happy New Year! Office is Closed.
- Jan 5- Sunday school resumes
- Jan 7- 5:00pm Property & Management meet, 5:30pm Youth & Education meet
- Jan 8- 9:30am Worship & Music meet, 4-6:00pm at USC- Jesus Food Pack- Confirmation Service Project, 7pm- Third Grade Bible Class in the Bell Tower, Wednesday school resumes 7pm- "Can We Talk" conversation in the Social Hall
- Jan 9- 5:30pm Church Council meeting
- Jan 12- After 9:30am Worship-"Can We Talk" conversation in the Social Hall
- Jan 17- NOON-Annual Report Available
- Jan 19- Informational meeting after worship
- Jan 21- 9:30am Bible Study in the Parlor
- Jan 26- Annual Congregational meeting after worship



Jan 17 @NOON-Annual Report Available  
 Jan 19 10:30am-Informational meeting  
 Jan 26 10:30am-Annual Congregational meeting following  
 9:30am Worship  
 Elections \* Reports \* 2025 Budget

**Cancellation Policy** If the U. S. C. School District is cancelled or dismisses early, there will be no evening activities/worship/meeting. Cancellations will be posted on the Good Shepherd Facebook page and announced on both KBEW (1560 AM) and KJLY (104.5 FM). Sunday Mornings: Sunday worship will rarely be cancelled. Please use caution in making your travel decisions.

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**Poinsettias** may be purchased at a place of your choice and brought to the church, please include it on the slip below and put it in the offering basket or the office mailbox.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Drop them off any time after December 16<sup>th</sup> or have them delivered by Country Roads Floral & Gifts.

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<b>Peaching:</b> Pastor Vern Christopherson	<b>Head Usher:</b> Kent Stern
<b>Assistant Worship Leaders:</b> Linda Hagen, Bill Groskreutz, Jr.	
<b>Pastor's Email:</b> pastorGSLC@bevcomm.net	
<i>Pastor Vern will generally be in the office Tues-Sat mornings and many afternoons!</i>	
<b>Office Manager:</b> Amy Schroeder	<b>Treasurer:</b> Jackie Huper
<b>Education Coordinator:</b> Nancy Bruckhoff	
<b>Broadcast Bevcomm Cable TV Channel 990:</b> Tues. -11:00am & Wed. -7:30pm & Sat. -11:00am	
<b>Web Site (Live Stream):</b> <a href="http://www.goodshepherdwells.org">http://www.goodshepherdwells.org</a> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:shepherd@bevcomm.net">shepherd@bevcomm.net</a>	
<b>Technical Advisor &amp; Social Media:</b> Pat Ojanen can be reached at <a href="mailto:goodshepherd@bevcomm.net">goodshepherd@bevcomm.net</a>	
<b>Church office hours:</b> M-F 8:30-3:00 (Friday by appointment only) <b>Church Phone:</b> 507-553-3513	