**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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| Pastor: Katie Anderson | Music Director: Lois Swanson |
| Pastor’s Cell: (715) 245-1943 | Office Phone: (715) 387-2731 |
| Pastor Email: gslcwi.pastor@gmail.com | Office Email: gslcwi.office@gmail.com |
| Website: GoodShepherdMarshfield.org |  |

**Lessons and Carols**

**December 29, 2024, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

*The tradition of the Lessons & Carols service goes back to 19th century England. This special service proclaims the Word not through a sermon but through nine ‘lessons,’ or scripture readings, and nine accompanying carols. Today’s service honors the structure of this traditional service while incorporating different scripture readings and carols to tell the Christmas story.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN Once in Royal David’s City ELW 269 v. 1, 3**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,**

**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,

on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ’s glory,**

**glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life,**

**and the life was the light of all people.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7**

 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. 3You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**CAROL Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming ELW 272 v. 1-2, 4**

**SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a**

 2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5and he shall be the one of peace.

**CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279 v. 1-3**

**THIRD LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38**

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 38Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**CAROL The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came ELW 265 v. 1-3**

**FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7**

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**CAROL Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ELW 276**

**FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16**

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

 14"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**CAROL Angels, from the realms of glory ELW 275 v. 1-2, 4**

**SIXTH LESSON: 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.

**CAROL Love Has Come ELW 292 v. 2-3**

**SEVENTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11**

1In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
 6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"
7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**CAROL What Child is This ELW 296**

**EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:13-18**

13Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."
16When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. 17Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
 18"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

**CAROL Your Little Ones, Dear Lord ELW 286 v. 1, 3-4**

**NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14**

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**CAROL Of the Father’s Love Begotten ELW 295 v. 1, 3-4**

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

Glory to God in the highest,

**and peace to God’s people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,**

**and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament**

**that we may bear your light to all the world.**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in December*** *(collected in a special*

*envelope) will be the* ***ELCA Good Gifts Program****. This is being done in conjunction with the Sunday School.*

**OFFERING HYMN Cold December Flies Away ELW 299 v. 1-2**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW pg. 173**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

 Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death

and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,** **hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,** **thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;** **and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those** **who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,** **but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,** **and the power, and the glory,** **forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Merciful God,

we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

Strengthened by this goodness,

send us forth to announce your peace,

comfort the afflicted,

and share the good news of great joy.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,

the obedience of Joseph,

the joy of the angels,

the eagerness of the shepherds,

the determination of the magi,

and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW 270**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| **Coming up at GSLC** |
| Sunday, December 29 | 9:00 am | Worship Service* First Sunday of Christmas
* Luke 2:41-52; The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor
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| Tuesday, December 31 | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, January 1 |  | Church Office closed for New Year’s |
| Thursday, January 2 | 11:00am | Purple Angels |
| Sunday, January 5 | 9:00 am | Worship Service – Sunday School* Second Sunday of Christmas
* John 1:[1-9]10-18; God with us; the incarnation of the Word
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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | **Deep Clean** |
| December 29 | Volunteer | Volunteer | Volunteer | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill | December:Dave & Sue SchraederAndrea Hovick |
| January 5 | Dennis & Deb Janz | Nancy Tibbett | Andrea HovickTammy Neumann | Nancy Leonard | Rob Mader | January:John & Jane WagnerLaurel Peterson |
| January 12 | Gene & Linda Schrieber | Leslie Mader | Dave & Sue Schraeder | Robin Beeman | David Schneider |
| January 19 | Chris & RobinBeeman | Tammy Neumann | Bruce & Nancy Tibbett | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis |

**Pastor Katie’s Office Hours**: Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm. Tuesday mornings at Uptown Coffee. Afternoons available by appointment. You are welcome to stop in any time for conversation or concerns.

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SOS is experiencing record high numbers. The shelves are the lowest they've been in a long time. The Winter Wonderland donations will help but are a month away. The food list: Mac’n Cheese, Boxed Rice Meals, Canned Pasta Meals, Tuna, Canned Chicken. **Supplies of nearly everything are low but especially needed are broth, brownie/muffin Mix, canned carrots, canned tomato products, mayo, and canned stew.**

Pastor Katie will be on vacation from Dec 25th to Jan 1st.

Office will be closed Dec 31st, Jan 1st and Jan 3rd.