



Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church

“The Seasons - The Advent Season”

*Advent, Christmas, Epiphany to Transfiguration of our Lord
1st Sunday in Advent, December 2, 2018
through
Transfiguration Sunday March 3, 2019*

Among the gospels Luke's - the focus of this new church year is arguably the most loved. It features some of the most treasured stories in the New Testament, like Zacchaeus, the road to Emmaus, and baby Jesus in a manger. It offers some of Jesus' most popular parables, like the good Samaritan, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. It shows a distinct interest in the socially marginalized, like women, widows, tax collectors, Samaritans, and Gentiles. It has a unique interest in the realities of empire, more explicitly visible in interest in the realities of empire, more explicitly visible in its companion volume, Acts. It is the only gospel to feature extended birth narrative (Luke 1-2) and the ascension, making it historically favored among liturgists and artists. And between its preface (1:1-4) and sheer length, Luke's gospel gives readers the impression of being the most thorough account of Jesus available. These kinds of things led the French scholar Ernest Renan to call the third gospel "the most beautiful book ever written" (*Les Évangiles* [Paris: Calmann-Levy, 1877], 283). While our praise might not be so extravagant, many resonate with the sentiment.

Mission Statement

“Created, Redeemed and Called by God, we reach out to all , by sharing our gifts and the unconditional love of Jesus.”

Vision Statement

“To be an intergenerational congregation that put the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world.



*Holy Communion celebrated at ALL
Saturday and Sunday Worship Services*

1st weekend in Advent
Sat. December 1, 4:00 pm
Sun. December 2, 9:30 am

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: Jeremiah 33:14-16 , Psalm 25:1-10 , 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

COLOR: Blue – Sign of hope and expectation.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!” (MERTON) ELW246

Reception of New Members

Join us after the Saturday night service for the 1st Saturday supper.
 The Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta will join us for worship

2nd weekend in Advent
Sat. December 8, 4:00 pm
Sun. December 9, 9:30 am

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-1, Luke 3:1-6

COLOR: Blue— Sign of hope and expectation.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Soon and Very Soon" ELW439

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent to share the Sacrament of the Altar with the homebound, hospitalized and imprisoned.

3rd weekend in Advent
Sat. December 15, 4:00 pm
Sun. December 16, 9:30 am

The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news - and cause for exultation - for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

COLOR: Blue – Sign of hope and expectation.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" ELW256

Installation of Congregational Council, Endowment, and Assistants to the Pastor

Blue Christmas (The Longest Night)
Friday December 21, 6:30 pm

The constant refrain on radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the Christmas Season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, the gut wrenching loss of a child, the loneliness of no longer having a beloved spouse to share each day, the loss of a dear family pet – all these can contribute to a feeling of being alone, of ‘feeling blue’ in the midst of the society around us which seems bent on “being happy” and “celebrating”. There are years when we hurt at Christmas time and can’t get into the festivities others seem to be able to do.

It is at such times that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. For these reasons, Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church, invites you at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, December 21 to come and join in sharing and hearing prayers, Scripture and music that acknowledge that God’s presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle – and that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Please accept this invitation to be with us – a time to move from feeling ‘blue’ to experiencing the wonder and hope of Christmas. No need to RSVP – our doors will be open to all who come so please feel free to invite others to come with you, as your support, or if you know that they too, are finding that Christmas hurts.

With Love, Pastor Daniel and the Congregation of
 Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church

4th weekend in Advent
Sat. December 22, 4:00 pm
Sun. December 23, 9:30 am

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary’s magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ’s advent is for “the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—“we proclaim the Lord’s death.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. 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.

LESSONS: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55

COLOR: Blue – Sign of hope and expectation.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel “ ELW 257



**Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve Candlelight
December 24, 6:30 pm & 10:30 pm**

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh - in Christ's body and blood - so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14-20

COLOR: White – Associated with Festivals of Christ traditionally suggesting gladness Christ Light and Joy!

HYMN OF THE DAY: "From Heaven Above" ELW 268

**Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day
December 25, 10:30 am**

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-20

COLOR: White – Associated with Festivals of Christ traditionally suggesting gladness Christ Light and Joy!

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Let Our Gladness Have No End" ELW 291

1st weekend of Christmas**Sat. December 29, 4:00 pm****Sun. December 30, 9:30 am**

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

COLOR: White – Associated with Festivals of Christ traditionally suggesting gladness Christ Light and Joy!

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Let All Together Praise Our God” ELW287

Please join us for a Pancake Breakfast 12/29, 8-10am.

**Epiphany of Our Lord****Sat. January 5, 4:00 pm****Sun. January 6, 9:30 am**

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles - that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

COLOR: White – Associated with Festivals of Christ traditionally suggesting gladness Christ Light and Joy!

HYMN OF THE DAY: “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!” ELW308

Join us after the Saturday night service for the 1st Saturday supper.

Baptism of Our Lord
Sat. January 12, 4:00 pm
Sun. January 13, 9:30 am

The Baptism of Our Lord cannot help but recall our own and all baptismal blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as daughters and sons, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire.” On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of the beloved Son of God in bread and wine.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-22

COLOR: White – Associated with Festivals of Christ traditionally suggesting gladness Christ Light and Joy!

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Spirit of Gentleness” ELW 396

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent to share the Sacrament of the Altar with the homebound, hospitalized and imprisoned.

2nd weekend after Epiphany
Sat. January 19, 4:00 pm
Sun. January 20, 9:30 am

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of the glory of God to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at the baptism of Jesus—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people “as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride.” By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LESSONS: Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

COLOR: Green -Time of growth in The Spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Take My Life, That I May Be (PATMOS)” ELW 685/583

3rd Weekend after Epiphany**Sat. January 26, 4:00 pm****Sun. January 27, 9:30 am**

The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LESSONS: Nehemiah 8:1-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

COLOR: Green -Time of growth in The Spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Let Streams of Living Justice" ELW 710

Please join us for a Pancake Breakfast Saturday 1/26, 8-10am.
Congregational Meeting Sunday, 1/27 @ 11am - Walton Hall

4th weekend after Epiphany**Sat. February 2, 4:00 pm****Sun. February 3, 9:30 am**

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LESSONS: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30

COLOR: Green -Time of growth in The Spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak" ELW 676

Join us after the Saturday night service for the 1st Saturday supper.

5th weekend after Epiphany
Sat. February 9, 4:00 pm
Sun. February 10, 9:30 am

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal the glory of the Lord. "Who will go for us?" queries the voice of the Lord. A man of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is the fact that we are also called.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LESSONS: Isaiah 6:1-13, Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

COLOR: Green - Time of growth in The Spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Here I Am, Lord" ELW574

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent to share the Sacrament of the Altar with the homebound, hospitalized and imprisoned.

6th weekend after Epiphany
Sat. February 16, 4:00 pm
Sun. February 17, 9:30 am

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed ares" and the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and the power to heal us all.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LESSONS: Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

COLOR: Green -Time of growth in The Spirit.

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HYMN OF THE DAY: "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" ELW 769

7th weekend after Epiphany
Sat. February 23, 4:00 pm
Sun. February 24, 9:30 am

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of the glory of God revealed in the Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: Genesis 45:3-11,15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38

COLOR: Green

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW631

Please join us for a Pancake Breakfast 2/23, 8-10am.
 New Members Class 2/23, 10am

Transfiguration of Our Lord
Sat. March 2, 4:00 pm
Sun. March 3, 9:30 am

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus will be unable to avoid reflecting that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see the glory of the Lord in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by the Spirit of God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS: Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36-43a

COLOR: White – Associated with Festivals of Christ traditionally suggesting gladness Christ Light and Joy!

HYMN OF THE DAY: "How Good, Lord, to Be Here!" ELW315

Join us after the Saturday night service for the 1st Saturday supper.
 Reception of New Members



MONTHLY

(on going)

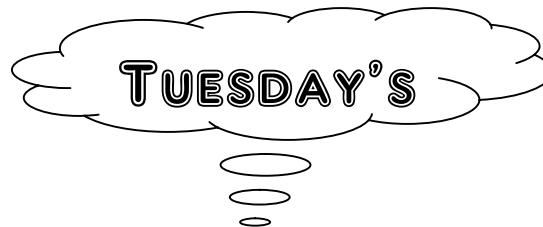
1st Wednesday - Women's Bible Study 1:30pm

1st Saturday Suppers - 5:30pm

**1st Saturday & Sunday – collection for
Valley View Community Food Bank**

2nd Saturday - Men's Ministry 9:00am

Last Saturday pancake breakfast 8:00am-10:00am

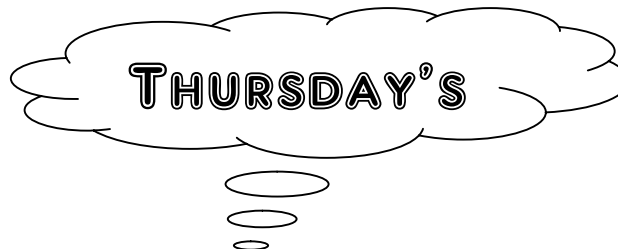


TUESDAY'S

(on going)

Quilters Corner (Knit and Crochet too) 9:00am

Healthy Living Class 6:00pm



THURSDAY'S

(on going)

After School Program

Scouts



WOW
Word on Wednesday/Bible Adventures
 Wednesdays
Supper at 5:30pm Classes at 6:00pm
(unless otherwise noted)

Wednesday, December 5	Midweek Advent 2 - Evening Prayer Worship at 6:30pm
Wednesday, December 12	Midweek Advent 2 –Evening Prayer Worship at 6:30pm
Wednesday, December 19	Midweek Advent - “The Posada” Service 6:00pm – Supper & Pinata to follow at 6:30pm We invite the greater community and we celebrate the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem with our Brothers and Sisters from Pan de Vida
Wednesday, December 26	NO WOW
Wednesday, January 2	NO WOW
Wednesday, January 9	Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund functions
Wednesday, January 16	Lutheran Boarder Concerns Ministry, Pastor Ramon Contreras
Wednesday, January 23	Sun City – Meals on Wheels
Wednesday, January 30	Circle the City, Medical Respite Programs for the Homeless – Lisa Kaiser
Wednesday February 06	LSS - I-Help - Connie Phillips / Robert Sanders
Wednesday February 13	Golden Sun Peace Ministries- Housing for Clients with Developmental Disabilities
Wednesday February 20	Mosaic – Serving those with Developmental and Intellectual disabilities
Wednesday February 27	Planned Giving, Steve Tutnick, Attorney at Law Estate Planning Attorney

Thursday's Word
Thursday's
Class offered at 10:30am and 6:30pm



Thursday, December 6	The Gospels
Thursday, December 13	The Gospels
Thursday, December 20	The Gospels
Thursday, December 27	NO CLASSES
Thursday, January 3	NO CLASSES
Thursday, January 10	Book of Revelation
Thursday, January 17	Book of Revelation
Thursday, January 24	NO CLASSES
Thursday, January 31	Book of Revelation
Thursday, February 7	Book of Revelation
Thursday, February 14	Book of Revelation
Thursday, February 21	Book of Revelation
Thursday, February 27	Book of Revelation



Praying with the Saints in Advent - Midweek Evening Prayer Services

December 5, 12 & 19 - 6:30pm

The Sundays of Advent, like all Sundays, are a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Midweek worship in Advent, while anchored in the Sunday cycle of readings, can make room for an additional layer of prayer and praise by observing the commemorations that fall during the month of December. Commemorations "illuminate various aspects of the church's life and mission through the lives of women and men who have followed Christ in succeeding generations.

Even as we look to Christ as our light, breaking through the darkness of these often cold and weary days, we can also see that light reflected - however imperfectly - in the lives of ordinary people. May this great cloud of witnesses inspire our prayer as we prepare to receive in faith what they see face to face.