



GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter December 2023

XLVII, ISSUE XII

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MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE AND LUNCH

The Worship Life Committee invites you to take a midweek break during this busy time of year for an Advent worship service and light lunch immediately after the service on December 6 and December 20. There will be a POGS Christmas Lunch on December 13 which will require a reservation that needs to be made by December 1.

Worship begins at noon in the Sanctuary.

Lunch will be in the FAB immediately following the service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30 a.m. — Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service

4:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

9:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

If you are unable to attend, you may watch the 9:30 a.m. Advent Service and the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service live or any time after the services on our YouTube channel. A link will be found on our website on December 24.

- ◆ *If you are watching from home and you wish to participate in the candlelighting part of the service, make sure you have candles ready for your use.*
- ◆ *As they have for over 35 years, members of the Taylor family, along with friends will be providing string music beginning at 3:45 and the 8:45.)*

A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a called congregational meeting held on Sunday, December 17, 2023, following the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service for the purpose of voting on a 2024 budget recommendation from our Congregational Council. Plan to attend this important event in the life of our congregation. A letter will be mailed out soon, if you do not receive the mailing providing budget information, please contact the Church Office at 803-787-4413.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



This is the time of year where many things are either winding down or getting squeezed in. We often refer to it as the end of the year. Christmas cards are hastily sent out, the football season draws to a close, churches scramble to make up budget shortfalls, last-minute Christmas shopping is in full-swing, and the days are all getting shorter. Yet on our church calendar, Advent marks the beginning of the New Year. Did you ever stop and think about that? While the world hustles and bustles toward the close of the year, we are already celebrating a new year with our Lord. And our call this time of year is not last-minute scrambling, it is patient, sober watchfulness. We are to watch, pray, and wait for our Lord's coming among us. That coming among us is threefold: First, he comes as the baby in the manger on Christmas Day—that day that God's Word became flesh and lived among us. Second, he comes to us now in our fellowship, in our worship, in our baptism, in the bread and wine of communion, and in the read and proclaimed Word. Third, we await his coming again as he promised to bring about his peaceful and wonderful reign for all people. And so we watch and wait.

The first coming is the one we're most familiar with—as children we waited eagerly for the coming of Christmas morning. Perhaps this was more for the presents than for the coming Christ child. Even now our culture seems to encourage a hurried attitude toward getting to that Christmas morning. Advertisements urge us to get our toys now before others do; get our black Friday deals before they're gone; buy our Mercedes-Benz before it's too late. After all, we deserve it—we've been such good little boys and girls all year long.

But our call to waiting with patience for the 25th of December is different. Christ came precisely because we weren't such good little boys and girls. He came as a light while we were living in the dark. And so amidst all the commercialism and greed and entitlement that we find ourselves dwelling in this time of year, the Christ child comes. And if we fail to watch and wait, we might just miss him in a sea of bows and ribbons and presents and food and sports and busyness.

I do not suggest that we isolate ourselves from the world this time of year. Instead, I suggest that we fix our hearts and minds upon the coming of the Lord. I suggest that as we remember and celebrate his birth on the 25th, we also make room in our hearts and minds for him to come among us here and now in our worship life together. Sometimes our hearts and minds are so full of other stuff (be it worries, doubts, or all the "stuff" of the season with which we are bombarded) that we don't have room for the Lord. I pray that we might be sober and patient, making room for Christ as he comes among us. Part of that is showing up for worship, part of it is an intentional focus not on the world, but on Christ. But all of it is the Lord's work. The Holy Spirit is at work already in your life and heart and mind to prepare the way of the Lord. May you grow more aware of the Spirit's work this time of year.

And perhaps even more difficult is the third coming for which we prepare—the return of the Lord. As Lutherans, we don't like to talk about this last coming. We don't know the day or the hour of Christ's triumphant return, so we tend to ignore it and forget about it. Yet Christ himself urges us not to let that day catch us like a trap. So we should prepare and be watchful for the day that Christ comes again. When he does, may we be found already living into the abundant life he came to give us.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

I hope these ponderings help you wrestle with your own readiness to receive the Lord. But above all else, I hope you will heed my words and slow down at this busy time of year. We have a whole new church year ahead of us, so we need not rush as the world does. During this season of holy waiting and preparing, may God continue to work in your mind and heart so that you might be ready to receive him as he comes—as the baby born in Bethlehem, as the body and blood given and shed for you, and as the coming King.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Andrew

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



The Worship Life Committee asks you to help beautify our church for Christmas by placing poinsettias in the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Please use the **Seasonal Flower Offering** envelopes in each pew to order your poinsettia.

The **Seasonal Flower Offering envelopes** have the order form printed on them for your dedication. Complete the form to indicate your dedication, place your check or payment amount in the envelope, and place it in the offering plate.

The cost is **\$15.50 each**. Make your check payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and place it in the **Seasonal Flower Offering envelope**. If you can't come to the church but want to order a poinsettia, call the church office to place your order.

Place your check and the order form in the offering plate or bring or mail it to the church office **by Sunday, December 10**. The first 75 orders accompanied by payment will be accepted. If you donate a poinsettia, you may take your plant home after the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Pick up your devotions for Advent & Christmas to be used during our Advent season, which begins Sunday, December 3. These Advent materials are available on a table that is set up in the Narthex. Please take only what your family will use; materials are limited. We encourage you to use them to enhance your Advent season as we prepare and anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Each week there will be a new bookmark with instructions for lighting the Advent wreath candle at your home.

WEEKLY MELODY BOOKMARK

For those of you who have an Advent wreath in your home, there is also a weekly reading to go along with lighting the candle. We will provide a different sheet each week.



Christmas Opportunities



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES FROM ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Looking for a Christmas gift for a hard-to-buy-for friend or family member? How about a goat...or a rooster...or a pig...or

honeybees...or a water filter...or a vaccination for a child...or mosquito nets...or seeds and gardening tools? These and many other gifts are available through the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Donations to this program help needy persons around the world, including in the U.S.

Gift cards are available for you to send to recipients to let them know gifts have been made in their honor. You also can send email greetings. To check out gift possibilities and giving options, check the ELCA Good Gifts website at <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>. For more information, contact Suzanne Sanders at 803-530-2919, or at suzanne_henson1@yahoo.com.

NOISY OFFERING

Start saving those coins! Noisy offering is coming on December 31. Some of the GSLC children will be in the Narthex before and after service that day with their buckets to accept your coins, bills and checks! You can also send your contributions to the church office any time in December or make an online contribution. Make checks payable to Good Shepherd and designate for noisy offering. The children's Sunday School classes will be selecting the recipient charity in the coming weeks. We will announce the selected charity later in the month.



RINGING THE BELL FOR SALVATION ARMY

Good Shepherd will be ringing the bell on Thursday, December 14 at Wal-Mart on Forest Drive, Grocery Entrance. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., divided into one-hour shifts. A sign-up sheet is in Narthex. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

ANGEL TREE

Good Shepherd is having an Angel Tree again this year. We are supporting Providence Home with 60 men and Women's Shelter with 13 women. We will provide a \$25 gift card from Wal-Mart, Visa, MC, or AMEX for each resident. If you are unable to get a gift card, a donation can be made to GSLC and designated for Angel Tree on the envelope or check. Each card is placed in a box or bag before it is delivered. There will be Christmas cards available if you would like to write a note of encouragement to add to your gift card. The tree will be in the Narthex November 12 – December 10. The gift cards will be delivered before Christmas as many of the residents will use them to buy things for their families.



SALVATION ARMY STOCKINGS

Social Ministry is not distributing stockings this year. If you want to help Salvation Army serve children by filling a stocking, call Shannon Chapman at Salvation Army of the Midlands, 803-309-3244. Stockings may be picked up at 3024 Farrow Rd, Columbia 29203.

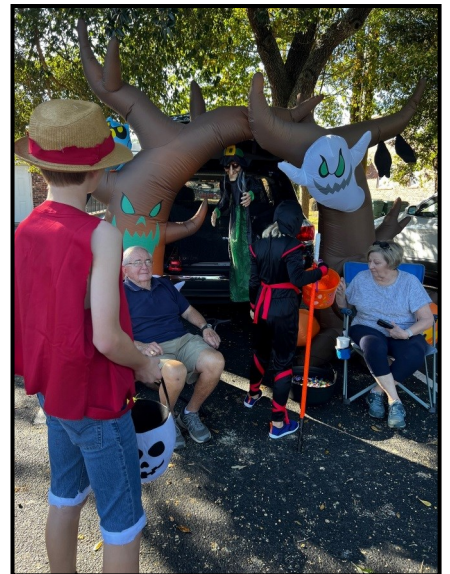




FALL FEST THANKS

A big thanks to all the volunteers and families that came out to the event. We are looking forward to doing this event again next year. If you have any feedback on things we can improve on, please let Amy Kemp or Pat Quattlebaum know.

Fall Fest Committee



THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Words cannot express our gratitude for the love poured out to us during this difficult time. We have been so blessed by our Good Shepherd family and friends. Many thanks to the food committee for the delicious meal and to all who took part in the funeral preparations. As a dedicated member of Good Shepherd, Herman loved his church very much. Special thanks to Pastor Andrew for all his love and support.

Much love,
Evelyn, Kelli, Allison, and family

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls. I am truly blessed to belong to this congregation.

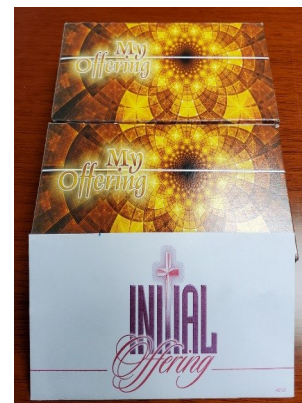
In Christ,
Marion Eargle



PREPARING FOR 2024

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES GETTING CREDIT FOR YOUR OFFERINGS

The **2024 offering envelopes** will be on a table in the Narthex starting Sunday, December 3, 2023, through January 7, 2024. Please stop by and pick up your envelope box at your convenience.



Donations are effective only in the year in which they are offered. A check received after December 31, 2023, cannot be credited for the 2023 year even if it is dated "2023." Make sure your **mailing envelope is postmarked by December 31, 2023**. Then, even if it arrives in 2024, the check is still deductible for 2023.

The **best way to make sure your offerings are credited** to your account is to use the Good Shepherd numbered offering envelopes assigned to you. Using your assigned offering envelopes helps the offering tabulators and myself for record-keeping purposes and posting to the correct accounts.

Also available for your convenience is **online giving**. Call the church office or visit our website to further explain how to sign up.

When completing your contribution, please do the following:

1. Use your assigned general offering envelopes or a pink special envelope. The pink special envelopes are located in the pews and on the table in front of the Chapel. If using a pink special envelope, please indicate which fund the contribution is to be applied.
2. Write your name on the envelope.
3. Write the amount on the envelope.

Thanks,

Deb Embrey, Financial Secretary

SIGN UP FOR 2024 FLOWERS



The Flower Calendar for 2024 is available to sign up for the dates to offer either Altar Flowers, Narthex Flowers, or the Altar Rose for 2024. The cost of flowers is as follows: Altar flowers \$70, Narthex Flowers \$50, and the Altar Rose is \$10.

Please call the church office or sign up in the Narthex on the 2024 Flower Chart posted on the **BULLETIN BOARD** if you want to offer flowers for a certain date next year. **If you do not plan to take the flowers, please let Don Caughman or the office know. Flowers not picked up by mid-day Monday will be taken to shut-ins.**



NATIVITY PROGRAM

The Youth and Children of GSLC invite you to their annual Nativity Program on Sunday, December 10, in the FAB starting at 11:00am.

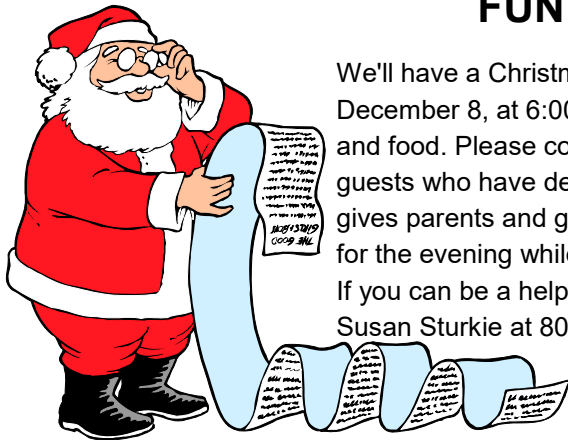
Families, practice schedule is as follows:

Saturday, 12/02/23 – following Chrismon Tree decorating (FAB) ~ 12:00 pm
Pizza and drinks will be provided for 12/02/23 rehearsal.

Sunday, 12/03/23 - During Sunday School Hour (FAB) 10:45 am - 11:45 am

Lastly, on the day of the program, Sunday, December 10, we will encourage children to head to the FAB following the Children's Sermon to begin to dress for the program. Light refreshments will be provided.

FUN FRIDAYS - DECEMBER 8



We'll have a Christmas party for our Fun Fridays' guests on Friday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the FAB. There will be crafts, singing, games and food. Please come and be a helper for the night to help us host our guests who have developmental disabilities. The Fun Fridays program gives parents and guardians a break from the care of their family members for the evening while our guests have a great time with our own members. If you can be a helper on this night or would like more information, contact Susan Sturkie at 803-788-6807 or sloopystur@aol.com.

CHRISMON TREE DECORATING

Save the Date: December 2
at 11:00 a.m.

All Youth & Children are invited to help decorate the Chrismon Tree on Saturday, December 2 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Children will gather to learn the meaning of the Chrismon ornaments before they decorate the tree.

Immediately following decorating the Chrismon Tree, all Youth & Children are asked to stay for Nativity Program rehearsal. We will meet in the FAB for rehearsal and pizza.





SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary) & Live-Stream
 10:45 - 11:45 am Adult Sunday School Class (CL 1, 2, & Parlor)
 10:45 - 11:45 am Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)
 10:45 - 11:25 am Children's Sunday School (E-111 & E-113)
 11:25 - 11:45 am Children's Music (E-115)

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>DECEMBER 24 SCHEDULE: <i>9:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> <i>4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.</i> <i>Christmas Eve Services</i></p>		
<p>3 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</p>	<p>4 POGS trip to North Myrtle Beach</p>	<p>5 POGS trip to North Myrtle Beach 11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</p>
<p>10 9:30 a.m. Worship & Live-Stream 11:00 a.m. Nativity Program (FAB) 5:30 pm Supper Club (FAB)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm) 3:00 pm Executive Committee meeting (CL 2)</p>
<p>17 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE Congregational Meeting Food Pantry Sunday 6:30 pm Council meeting (CL 2)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</p>
<p>24 9:30 a.m. Worship & Live-Stream 4 & 9 pm Christmas Eve Services</p> <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> <p>31 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES</p>	<p>25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26 NO Bible Study CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>



Please see an updated church calendar
and the calendar for other months at
<http://www.gslc.com/>.

Click "See the Current Calendar" at the
bottom of the page.

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 11:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Chrismon tree decorating and Nativity Program rehearsal (Sanctuary & FAB)
6 8:00 am Zoom Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary) 12:45 p.m. Midweek Advent Lunch (FAB) 5:30 pm Social Ministry Committee meeting (CL 2) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	7 set up for Fun Fridays 11:00 a.m. Mary Group meeting (off-site) 6:00 pm Communication Committee meeting (Conf Rm)	8 6:00 p.m. Fun Fridays	9
13 Newsletter Deadline 8:00 am Zoom Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary) 12:45 pm POGS (FAB) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	14 Salvation Army Bell Ringing 5:30 pm Dorcas Circle Christmas Social (Becky Shealy's house)	15	16
20 8:00 am Zoom Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary) 12:45 p.m. Midweek Advent Lunch (FAB) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	21 6:30 pm Tamar Group meeting (off site)	22	23
27 NO Zoom Bible Study NO Choir Practice	28	29	30

DECEMBER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

We welcome everyone to join us for learning and fellowship during the Sunday School hour following the worship service.

December Sunday School Schedule

December 3—Regularly scheduled classes—see schedule below

December 10—No Sunday School classes due to the Nativity Program

December 17—Regularly scheduled classes—see schedule below

December 24—No Sunday School Classes due to Christmas Eve services

December 31—Regularly scheduled classes—see schedule below

Sunday School Classes

10:45-11:25 Children's Sunday School for grades Kindergarten-6th grade

11:25-11:45 Children's Music for grades Kindergarten-6th grade

10:45-11:45 Youth School Sunday School in Youth Room

10:45-11:45 Adult Sunday School

Around The Corner Adult Class: Parlor

The Around the Corner class is a discussion-based class that utilizes various resources, such as podcasts, books, music, or television shows, to inspire talking points and areas of interest. ***This class starts a little closer to 10:55, as several members need time to sign children into their Sunday School classes.*** All are welcome to join this lively class!

Come and See Adult Class: Classroom 1

Bible Study Facilitators: Bruce Shealy, Mark Lovern, Ed Woodward

This class focuses on studying the Scripture and bible readings for the upcoming service.

Fellowship Adult Class: Classroom 2

The Fellowship Class, led by Don Caughman and Ben Haigh, is continuing with the Augsburg Adult Bible Studies series. The topic for the fall session is "God's Law Is Love." Scripture for these lessons will come from the Gospels of Luke and John and from Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians and Colossians.

Everyone is invited to join us at any time for these informal, discussion-based classes.

Additional Learning Opportunities

Weekly Bible Study

There are two weekly opportunities for Bible Study with Pastor Andrew. Please join us Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room or virtually on Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. for a Zoom meeting. A Zoom ID and password is sent in a weekly email.

Faith 5

Each week Pastor Andrew will send a Faith 5 Study email that includes a recommended scripture reading to guide and nurture your spiritual development through the following 5 steps.

Share your highs and lows of the day/week

Read a bible verse or story

Talk about how your Bible verse or Bible story might apply to your highs and lows

Pray for one another's highs and lows

Bless one another

NATIVITY PROGRAM



Our children are excited to present the annual Nativity Program to you. Please join us for the Nativity Program on December 10 in the FAB after the 9:30 a.m. service. Light refreshments will be served.

PATHFINDERS OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON—DECEMBER 13 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 12 NOON ADVENT SERVICE



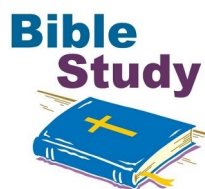
Join us for lunch as we enjoy hearing Lynn Derrick share his travels to the Holy Land.

Bring a dozen of your favorite cookies IF you wish to participate in our holiday cookie swap.

Also, Pathfinders participating in the trip to North Myrtle Beach are reminded to eat an early lunch before you come to the church. We will meet in the FAB parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to begin loading the bus. The bus will depart at 12:00 p.m. Cars can follow or meet us there.

VETERANS HONORED AT PATHFINDERS OF GOOD SHEPHERD MEETING

At the POGS November gathering we gathered for a traditional Thanksgiving meal and appreciation was expressed to some of our Good Shepherd Veterans. A representative from the **Quilts of Valor Foundation** presented beautiful quilts to three of our members, Jason Fowler, Steve Hanayik and Ed Woodward.



Meet in the Conference Room
on Tuesday mornings at
11:30 a.m. for a Bible Study.

***There will be no Bible Study on
December 26.***

***There will be no Bible Study on
January 2, 2024.***

WEDNESDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Zoom Bible Study will be led by Pastor Andrew
each Wednesday at **8:00 a.m.** A reminder with a
meeting link will be sent by email each week.

***There will be no Zoom Bible Study on
December 27.***

***There will be no Zoom Bible Study on
January 3, 2024.***



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER

COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH: Becky Shealy, Jason Fowler, Anna-Marie Plyler

DATE	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24	12/31	1/7/2024
USHERS	Sid Havird, Marcia Woodward, Matt Herrmann, Chris Herrmann	Pat Quattlebaum, Marcia Woodward, Dick Sturkie, Mary Stallings, Alice Buckner	Pat Quattlebaum, Matt Herrmann, Chris Herrmann, Alice Buckner	Sid Havird, Marcia Woodward, Mary Stallings, Alice Buckner	Matt Herrmann, Chris Herrmann, Dick Sturkie, Mary Stallings	Wingard Team
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Lector & Communion Assistant: Amanda Snodgrass	Lector & Communion Assistant: Steve Steck	Lector & Communion Assistant: Mike Weaver	Lector & Communion Assistant: Bruce Shealy	Lector & Communion Assistant: Marcia Woodward	Lector: Alice Buckner Communion Assistant: Gaye Tucker
ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER	A: Anna-Marie Plyler C: Don Caughman	A: Adam Ortiz C: Evelyn Ortiz	A: Callen Gilbert C: Matthew Herrmann	A: Blake Gross C: Savannah Gross	A: Anna-Marie Plyler C: Becky Shealy	A: Blake Gross C: Savannah Gross
ALTAR GUILD	Joey Allison	Joey Allison	Joey Allison	Joey Allison	Joey Allison	TBD
TABULATORS	Mary Margaret Hoy, Mary Stallings	Steve Steck, Lavina Chandler	Leigh Tondini, Donna Foster	Jim Tucker, Becky Shealy	Mike Sanchez, David Lucas	Karen Lucas, Rebecca Richardson



Deadline to submit articles for January Newsletter is **DECEMBER 13.**

DECEMBER 2023 MEETINGS

- December 6 Social Ministry Committee (5:30 p.m.)
- December 7 Mary Group Christmas Luncheon
- December 7 Communication Committee (6:00 p.m.)
- December 12 Executive Committee (3:00 p.m.)
- December 14 Dorcas Circle Christmas Social
- December 17 Council (6:30 p.m.)
- December 21 Tamar Christmas Gathering

Please call the church office to reserve a room for any upcoming meetings.



FOOD PANTRY

The GSLC Food Pantry provided food to 40 families in October serving 139 individuals.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
4:00 & 9:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 24, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Ushers	Dick Sturkie, Matt Herrmann, Chris Herrmann, Alice Buckner
Lector/Comm Asst	Becky Shealy
Acolyte	Natalie Ferlauto
Crucifer	Lucas Ferlauto
Torch Bearers	William Snodgrass, Amanda Snodgrass
Banner Bearer	Matthew Herrmann

9:00 p.m.

Ushers	Marion Eargle, Dick Sturkie, Mary Stallings, Sid Havird
Lector/Comm Asst	Don Caughman
Acolyte	Becky Shealy
Crucifer	Don Caughman
Torch Bearers	Joey Allison, TBD
Banner Bearer	Mike Sanchez

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (ACCORDING TO CHURCH RECORDS)

1	William Pope	14	Linda Van Duys	27	Clarissa Ferry
	Tim Nance	16	Jackson Nabors	30	Gaye Tucker
3	Una Rose Van Duys		Stephane Seay	31	Andrea Keim
4	Dave Shelton	17	Brenda Wicker		
6	Alyia Grosh	18	Cheryl Christian		
7	Devon Robinson		Marion Eargle		
9	Charlene Fink		Michelle Isenhower		
10	Delaney Uehling	21	Leo Van Duys		
11	David Hill		Adelaide Cannon		
12	Walker Bostic	24	Chuck Henderson		
	Hagan Sightler		Chris Seay		
	Victoria Houghton	25	Jeff Inabinet		



LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER 3—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

PSALM – Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

DECEMBER 10—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

PSALM – Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

SECOND READING – Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

GOSPEL – Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

DECEMBER 17—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the

prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

PSALM – Psalm 126

The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

SECOND READING – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

GOSPEL – John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

DECEMBER 24—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

FIRST READING – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

PSALM – Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

SECOND READING – Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

GOSPEL – Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

DECEMBER 31—FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread.

Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 61:10—62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

PSALM – Psalm 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

SECOND READING – Galatians 4:4-7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.

GOSPEL – Luke 2:22-40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

WITH PRAYER

<i>John Allen</i>	<i>Dot Correll</i>	<i>Kitty Howard</i>	<i>Frances Plyler</i>
<i>Rev. Russ Anderson</i>	<i>Helen Derrick</i>	<i>Judy Hoy</i>	<i>Anna-Marie Plyler</i>
<i>Gwen Barnes</i>	<i>Sylvia Anne Derrick</i>	<i>Sara Hydrick</i>	<i>Cathy Quinton</i>
<i>Trisha Benson</i>	<i>Marianne De Werdt</i>	<i>Neal Inman</i>	<i>Barbara Sutton</i>
<i>Grace Boozer</i>	<i>Lena Duncan</i>	<i>Jeannine Jameson</i>	<i>Bubba Willis</i>
<i>Steven Bowden</i>	<i>Marion Eargle</i>	<i>Billie Jones</i>	<i>Peter Zornow</i>
<i>Victoria Brown</i>	<i>Larry Evans</i>	<i>Rod Kent</i>	
<i>Rosemarie Brown</i>	<i>Violet Fetner</i>	<i>Lisa Lehman</i>	
<i>Charles Buckner</i>	<i>Jon Frew</i>	<i>Sara Loyd</i>	
<i>Joanna Carpenter</i>	<i>Bonnie Hammond</i>	<i>Mary Clare McAbee</i>	
<i>Lavina Chandler</i>	<i>Pat Hazle</i>	<i>Michele Morrison</i>	
<i>Cheryl Christian</i>	<i>Trisha Holman</i>	<i>Tim Mueller</i>	



PLEASE UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST

Those who have requested friends and loved ones to be included on the prayer list, please contact Deborah Mitchell in the church office at parishadmin@gslc.com or (803) 787-4413 to **renew your request or add prayer concerns by the newsletter deadline of each month. You may call or email anytime to remove a name.**

Please do not assume that we know the name should be renewed or removed.

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

<i>Beckham Family—friends of Lawson-Nabors family</i>	<i>Jack Reynolds—brother of Margaret Hill</i>
<i>Robin Boggs—daughter of Anne Rush</i>	<i>Henry Richardson—father of Amanda Snodgrass</i>
<i>Allie Clark—friend of Betty Cox</i>	<i>Sharon Schulze—friend of Sandy Gundlach</i>
<i>Betty Cox—former member</i>	<i>Joanne Schweitzer—sister of Mary Clare McAbee</i>
<i>Landon Derrick—friend of Amanda Snodgrass</i>	<i>Marise Shumpert—friend of Rosemary Nance</i>
<i>Lynn Derrick—son of Sylvia Anne Derrick</i>	<i>Bob Stearn—friend and neighbor of Frances Plyler</i>
<i>Idona Erwin—friend of member</i>	<i>Harry Swindler—father of Penny Sox and grandpa of Stacy Gross</i>
<i>John Flitter—friend of Leigh Tondini</i>	<i>Beth Price Tisdale—former member & daughter of Leonard Price</i>
<i>Sarah Harmon—friend of Anna Lawson</i>	<i>Phyllis Tollison—mother of Phil Tollison</i>
<i>Lamar Harper—brother of Gwen Barnes</i>	<i>Robin Trauffer—friend of the congregation</i>
<i>Forrest Hinebaugh—father of Elaine Zornow</i>	<i>Joey Turner—college friend of Trisha Benson</i>
<i>David Hinshaw—Deb Embrey's nephew</i>	<i>Gayle Watts—friend of Leigh Tondini</i>
<i>Frank Hinshaw—Deb Embrey's nephew</i>	<i>Terry Weaver—mother of Mike Weaver</i>
<i>Greg Lehman—brother of Lisa Lehman</i>	<i>Danny and Joey Wheeler—cousins of Jason Fowler</i>
<i>Sylvia Livingston—mother of Cheryl Beaman</i>	<i>Shirley Zornow—mother of Peter Zornow</i>
<i>Jesse McAllister—friend of Meals on Wheels volunteers</i>	
<i>Katherine Heath McGrew—friend of Pam & Frank Fusco</i>	
<i>Marie Starnes Rabon—Daughter of Pat Hazle</i>	
<i>Barbara Reese—friend of Justine Parker & Joyce Mobley</i>	

Office Information

http://www.gslc.com

Hours: Mon–Thurs. 9 AM-4:30

PM;

Fri. 9 AM-2:00 PM

Phone: (803) 787-4413

Pastor

Reverend Andrew Isenhower

Parish Administrator

Deborah Mitchell

Director of Music Ministry

Jim Johnson

Organist/Music Associate

Susan Sturkie

Sexton

Joey Allison

Financial Secretary

Deb Embrey

Council President

Ed Woodward

Council Vice-President

Debi Powell

Secretary

Anna-Marie Plyler

Treasurer

Jan Haigler

Committee/Council Member

Communication/**Carole Sox**

Evangelism/**Jason Fowler**

Finance/**David Lucas**

Gifts/**Ed Woodward**

Learning/**Heather Gilbert**

Parish Life/**Debi Powell**

Property/**Mike Weaver**

Social Ministry/**Suzanne**

Sanders

Worship Life/**Becky Shealy**

Youth & Children/**Amy Kemp**

****Non-Council Member****

Property/**Rod Kent**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Columbia, SC 29204

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DELIVERY REQUESTED BY
November 30, 2023
DATED INFORMATION ENCLOSED



CALENDAR



Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School (CL 1, 2, & Parlor)

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)

10:45 – 11:25 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (E-111 & E-113)

11:25 – 11:45 a.m. Children’s Music (E-115)

DECEMBER	December 2	Chrison tree decorating & Advent Program rehearsal
	December 3	Sunday Schedule above
	December 4-5	POGS trip to North Myrtle Beach
	December 6	12:00 noon Midweek Advent Worship following service Midweek Advent Lunch
	December 8	6:00 p.m. Fun Fridays
	December 10	9:30 a.m. Worship Service NO Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Nativity Program 5:30 p.m. Supper Club
	December 13	12:00 noon Midweek Advent Worship following service POGS Luncheon January Newsletter Deadline
	December 17	Food Pantry Sunday Sunday Schedule above Congregational Meeting
	December 20	12:00 noon Midweek Advent Worship following service Midweek Advent Lunch
	December 24	9:30 a.m. Worship Service NO Sunday School 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
	December 25-26	Church Office Closed
	December 31	Noisy Offering Sunday Schedule above