

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024 9:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH



WELCOME! We are delighted to have you worship with us. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to share ours. Please sign our "Friendship Register" providing the requested information. Be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Andrew; he would love to meet you.

NURSERY The nursery is open for parents to take their small children during worship service. The space is available but not staffed. Parents are invited to take their children to play. For your convenience a TV is

provided to watch a live stream of the worship service. Please make yourself at home and pick up toys before leaving. For your safety, the Education Building is locked. Please see an usher to open the door if you do not have a key.

FOR THOSE CHILDREN REMAINING IN THE SANCTUARY, Quiet Bags filled with activities are hanging on the coat racks in the Narthex. Parents of young children are invited to pick up a bag at the beginning of the service. Ushers can direct you to their location.

ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS ARE WELCOME TO THE FEAST AT THE LORD'S TABLE.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, please notify an usher so that communion may be brought to you at your seat. If you are unable to receive either the bread or wine, please be assured that the fullness of our Lord's presence is complete in either element alone. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let the communion server know of your need. Young children who commune should be assisted by their parents.

A PRAYER BOX is located in the Narthex for any Prayer Requests that you might have.

PLEASE SEE THE CALENDAR in this bulletin for a listing of events taking place at Good Shepherd this week. There is also a monthly calendar on the web page at www.gslc.com.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP, our services are live-streamed and archived for viewing at other times. See the web page at www.gslc.com for links to these services.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD PANTRY collects non-perishable food items throughout the month with special emphasis on collection the third Sunday of every month. It is open for distribution Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH FAMILY, especially those you have not seen for a while. Send a card, make a phone call, or pay a visit. Let them know we love and care for them and wish them God's blessings.

THE CHURCH OFFICE is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Office hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In the event of an emergency, call the church office at (803) 787-4413 or Pastor Andrew Isenhower at (803) 409-8270. His email address is pastor@gslc.com.

+ GATHERING +

As we gather for worship, please be aware of those around you who may be in a time of quiet reflection before the service starts. Please remember to silence any electronic devices.

PRELUDE

OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL

Costello

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Please sign the attendance sheet.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Congregation stands.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

The congregation turns to face the cross in procession, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.

GATHERING HYMN 265

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
 - "All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee; thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:

"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE





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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

Congregation sits.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING HYMN 253

HE CAME DOWN

He came down that we may have love: (sung three times) Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light: (sung three times) Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace: (sung three times) Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy: (sung three times) Hallelujah forevermore.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING Congregation sits.

MICAH 5:2-5A

A reading from Micah.

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.

³ Therefore 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.

⁴ And 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; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM LUKE 1:46B-55

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will $^{\mid}$ call me blessed:

 49 you, the Almighty, have done great $^{\mid}$ things for me and holy $^{\mid}$ is your name.

⁵⁰ You have mercy on | those who fear you, from generation to | generation.

⁵¹ You have shown strength | with your arm and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

52 casting down the mighty | from their thrones and lifting | up the lowly.

⁵³ You have filled the hungry | with good things and sent the rich | away empty.

⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel, to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,

55 the promise made | to our forebears, to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 10:5-107

A reading from Hebrews.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings

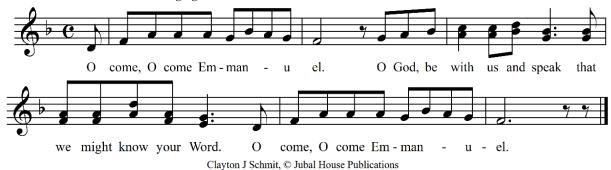
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Congregation stands.



GOSPEL LUKE 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

- ⁴⁶ And Mary said,
- "My soul magnifies the Lord,
- ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

- ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
- ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

- ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
- ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy.

- ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
- to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

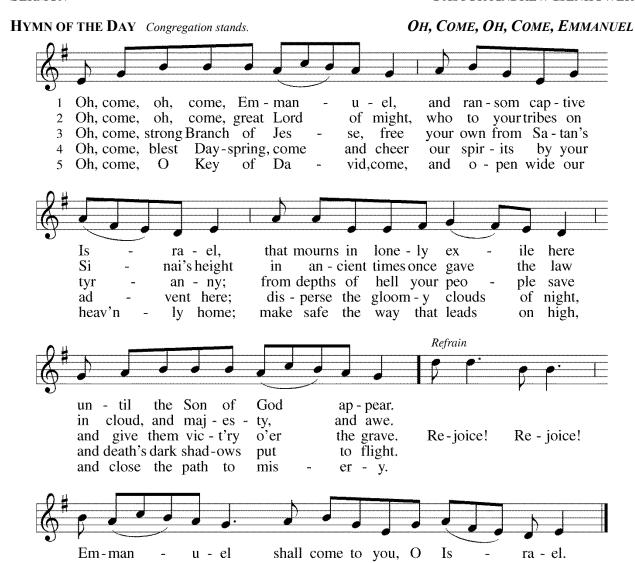
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PASTOR ANDREW ISENHOWER

SERMON

PASTOR ANDREW ISENHOWER



NICENE CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Congregation kneels or sits.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill, especially those whom we name now. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE Congregation stands.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+ MEAL +

OFFERING Congregation sits.

ANTHEM **SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS** LARKIN **OFFERING SONG** Congregation stands. Now in this ban - quet, Christ is bread; Here shall all hun-gers be our fed. Bread that is bro - ken, wine that poured, Love is the

> of good - ness peo ple Text & Tune: Marty Haugen 1986, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-701826.

You who have touched us and graced us

with

light._

love,

D.C.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

sign

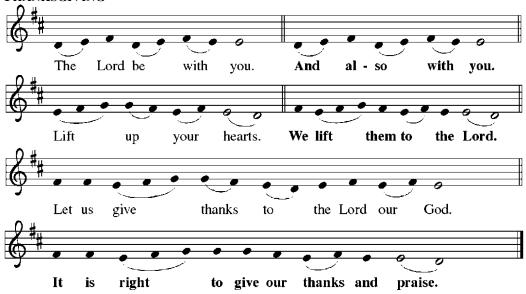
of our Lord.

make us your

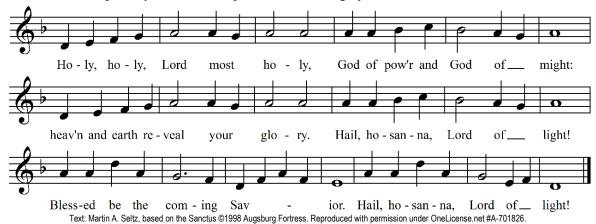
Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

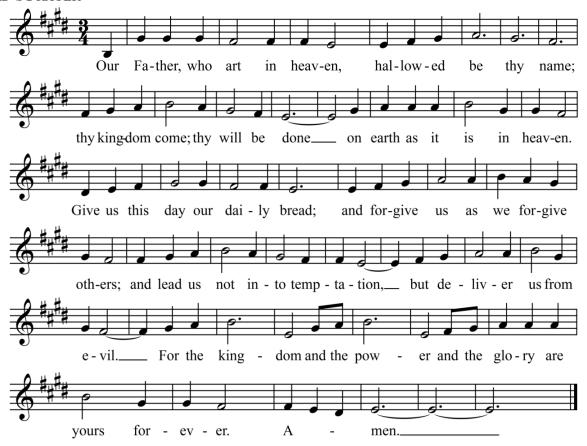
Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

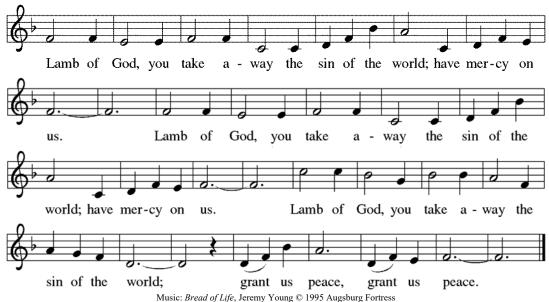
God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION Congregation sits.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. Young children who commune should be assisted by their parents. If you are unable to receive either the bread or wine, please be assured that the fullness of our Lord's presence is complete in either element. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please let the communion server know of your need. After communing, please return to your seat. If you are unable to come to the altar, please notify an usher so that communion may be brought to you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



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COMMUNION HYMN 723

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS Congregation stands.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

The congregation faces the cross as it leaves the sanctuary, following the cross as we follow Jesus into the world. All remain facing the cross for the dismissal.

SENDING HYMN 267 JOY TO THE WORLD

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 plains
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE JOY TO THE WORLD CHERWIEN

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LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Brickmont of John's Creek Assisted Living – Lena Duncan

Harmony – Billie Jones

The Heritage at Lowman – Rosemarie Brown, Marianne De Werdt

Merrill Gardens – Mary Clare McAbee

The Palmettos – Sara Loyd

Rice Estate – Grace Boozer

Wellmore of Lexington – Dot Correll

Wellmore of Daniel Island – Barbara Sutton

At their homes – Gwen Barnes, Sylvia Anne Derrick, Larry Evans, Bonnie Hammond, Jeannine Jameson, Justine Parker

DECEMBER 15, 2024 ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

9:30 a.m. Worship Service: **90** Sunday School: **36**

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS OFFERINGS

Social Ministry December Focus – Angel Tree	\$725	Food Pantry	\$610
Synod-SC Disaster Response	\$50	Poinsettias	\$105
Synod-World Hunger	\$60	Altar & Narthex Flowers	\$260
Capital Improvement Fund	\$530	2025 Congregational Retreat	\$200
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$120	VANCO Processing Fee	\$1

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Barbara and Albert R. Nagy to the Glory of God and in remembrance of their parents Rose and Albert S. Nagy and Margaret and Andrew J. Horvat, respectively.

THE ALTAR ROSE is given by Steve and Kappy Steck to the Glory of God and in memory of Steve's mother Frances Steck.

THE NARTHEX FLOWERS are given by Deb Bodie to the Glory of God.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS – We still have 17 poinsettias available. You can offer poinsettia(s) to beautify the church for our Christmas Eve Services. The cost is \$15.00 each; fill out a Seasonal Flower Offering envelope found in the back of the pews and return it with your money to the offering plate. We will list who the poinsettia is placed in honor or memory of in the bulletin as we have in the past.

POINSETTIAS – If you have donated a poinsettia or have been honored by the gift of one, it may be picked up on Tuesday, December 24 immediately following the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE – Join us Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. in Good Shepherd's Sanctuary for a Candlelight Service of Holy Communion.

2024 RECEIPT REIMBURSEMNTS – If you have receipts for reimbursement, the last day to turn in receipts is December 29.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025 are on table in the Narthex. Please pick up your envelopes in order to save the congregation mailing expenses.

2024 YEAR-END GIVING – Please remember that in order to receive credit for contributions in the year 2024, offerings must be received in the church office by December 31 or postmarked December 31. Anything after that date is counted as contributed in the year 2025.

LESSONS AND CAROLS – On December 29, we will have a service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

NOISY OFFERING NEXT WEEK – Our final noisy offering of the year is coming on December 29. The GSLC children will be in the Narthex before and after service that day with their buckets to accept your coins, bills and checks! They are collecting money to support the City of Columbia Animal Shelter. 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 CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26, for the Christmas holidays, and again on Wednesday, January 1, for the New Year's Day holiday.

^{*}Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Collections needed: \$9,330

^{*}Current Expenses & Benevolences Received: \$12,631

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – Packets from the month's council meeting are available on the table under the bulletin board in the Narthex. This packet consists of the current committee minutes/reports and approved prior month's council meeting minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY bulletins are due by 12 noon each Wednesday. Email your announcements to Deborah Mitchell, Parish Administrator, at parishadmin@gslc.com.

PLEASE SEE THE MONTHLY CALENDAR – on the web page at www.gslc.com for a listing of events taking place at Good Shepherd.

PATHFINDERS OF GOOD SHEPHERD (POGS) is sponsoring a trip on Thursday, January 9, 2025, to Little Pigs Barbeque on Alpine Road for lunch. Cost: Buffet meal dutch treat. Everyone will be meeting at Little Pigs at 12 noon.

THE EPIPHANY CHILI & CORNBREAD COOK-OFF DINNER begins at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 5, with a meal of chili and cornbread, judging for the cook-off winners and a short devotional. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex so you can sign up to bring chili and/or cornbread for the cook-off or offer a dessert. We are also asking for donations of Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Socks, and other warm clothing. Bring your gifts to the FAB when you come for the chili cook-off.

SIGN UP TO OFFER FLOWERS FOR 2025 — The sign-up chart for offering flowers is on the BULLETIN BOARD in the Narthex. Please sign up — with your phone number — for the dates you want to offer flowers in 2025. Altar Flowers are \$85, Altar Rose is \$10, and Narthex Flowers are \$55.

USHERS Dick Sturkie, Pat Quattlebaum, Marcia Woodward, Marion

Eargle

LECTORVirginia MorrisCOMMUNION ASSTBruce ShealyACOLYTESavannah GrossCRUCIFERBlake Gross

ALTAR GUILD Becky Shealy, Joey Allison
TABULATORS David Lucas, Mary Margaret Hoy
CC PERSON OF MONTH Becky, Anna-Marie, David, Jason

THIS WEEK AT GSLC

December 22 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School (CL 1, 2, Parlor) 10:45-11:45 a.m. Confirmation Class (E-112)

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 24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

December 25-26 Church Office Closed

December 29 9:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School (CL 1, 2, Parlor) 10:45-11:45 a.m. Confirmation Class (E-112)

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)

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL



OFFICERS

President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	TERM ENDS
Carole Sox	Communication	2024
Jason Fowler	Evangelism	2024
David Lucas	Finance	2024
Ed Woodward	Gifts	2024
Barbara Nagy	Learning	2025
Deb Bodie	Parish Life	2025
Richard Inman	Property	2025
Jan Haigler**	Social Ministry	2025
Becky Shealy	Worship Life	2024
Chris Herrmann	Youth & Children	2025

**Non-Council Members

Cathy Milejczak & Rod Kent

Social Ministry Co-Chairs

OUR MISSION

We are a community of all ages gathered by God's grace for worship, learning, loving, and service to all.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

3909 Forest Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29204 www.gslc.com (803) 787-4413

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Carolina Synod

Rev. Andrew W. Isenhower, Pastor Jim Johnson, Director of Music Ministry Susan Sturkie, Organist/Music Associate Deborah Mitchell, Parish Administrator Deb Embrey, Financial Secretary Joey Allison, Sexton