

# ***Second Sunday in Advent***

***Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025***

***Divine Service 1, Page 151***



***Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church & School***  
***7308 Wedgewood Drive***  
***Black Hawk, SD 57718***

*"We are baptized children of God, forgiven and redeemed by Jesus. We are His family, called together to receive His gifts and serve others."*

***Pastor Dennis Mercer***

Office 605-787-6438  
Pastor M. Cell 443-980-7338  
ECC 605-791-1131

**Email:**

**[dslcpmercer@divineshep.org](mailto:dslcpmercer@divineshep.org)**  
**[dslcsecretary@divineshep.org](mailto:dslcsecretary@divineshep.org)**

## **Greetings to all in the Name of the Risen Lord!**

May our worship this glorious morning celebrate the joy and hope, peace and presence, of our Lord Jesus Christ, raised to life for us. We welcome all, especially our guests. If you do not have a church home, please consider Divine Shepherd. We would love to have you as part of our family. Please take a minute and sign our guest book.

### **A prayer before Worship**

This is the day you have made, O Lord Jesus, a day of new life and eternal celebration! The stone is moved; death is defeated; heaven is open. As Your disciples first saw and believed Your victory over the tomb, so give us joy in the promise You made and keep for us: because You live, we live also! Amen.

### **The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated by us this morning in the confession and gladness that, as our Lord says, He gives into our mouth not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His Words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.



Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the blood of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. (1 Cor 11:28 ESV) Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Any who holds a confession differing from that of the Holy Scriptures or are not a member in good standing with the LC-MS, are asked to speak with Pastor Mercer.



## Invocation & Exhortation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## Absolution

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

**Introit** *Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17*



Say to the daughter of | Zion,\*

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

**The Lord will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,\*  
and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!\*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

**Restore us, | O God;\***

**let your face shine, that we | may be saved!**

Turn again, O | God of hosts!\*

Look down from | heaven, and see.

**But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,\***

**the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

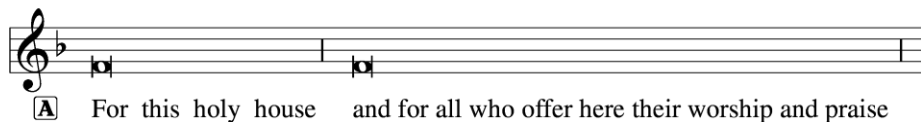
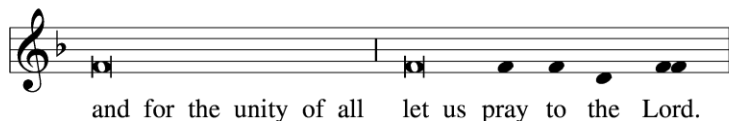
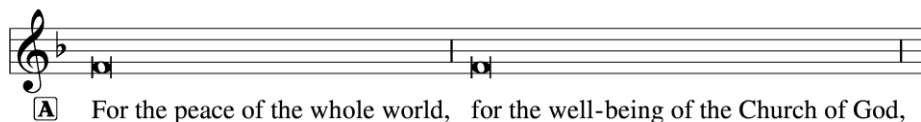
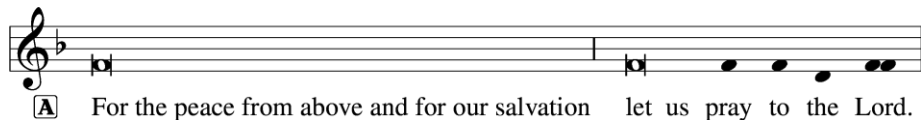
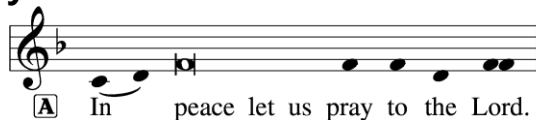
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Say to the daughter of | Zion,\*

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

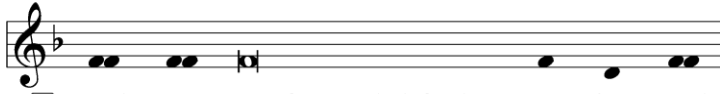
**The Lord will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,\*  
and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.**

## Kyrie





**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading *Malachi 4:1–6*

<sup>1</sup> “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

<sup>4</sup>“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. <sup>5</sup>“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

## **Gradual** *Psalm 50:2–3a, 5*



Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God | shines forth.\*

Our God comes; he does not keep | silence;

**“Gather to me my | faithful ones,\***

**who made a covenant with me by | sacrifice!”**

## Epistle      *Romans 15:4–13*

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup>And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup>And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

## Alleluia and Verse



The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for the first line of the verse. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of the verse, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel**      *Luke 21:25–36*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." <sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup>For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

### 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him  
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion  
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;  
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;  
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,  
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:  
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers,  
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly  
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.  
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.

Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725-99

Text and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon "A Message of Hope"**

### **Nicene Creed**

**C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

### **"Hear Our Prayer"**

### **Offering, Special Music**

**"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

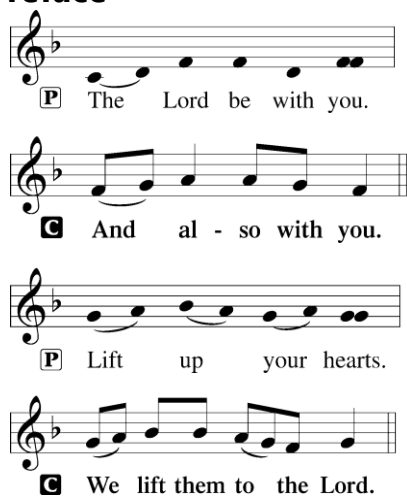
*Melissa Sutton, Joni Mercer, Pastor Dennis Mercer*

## Offertory

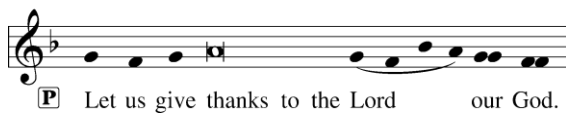


**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Preface

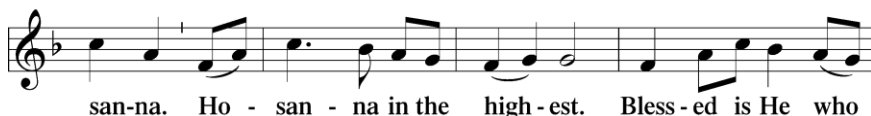
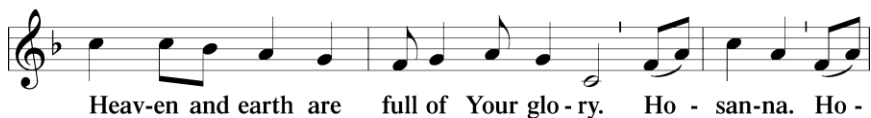


**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.



It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

### Pax Domini



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**G** A - men.

### Agnus Dei



**G** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution Hymns

### 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1613-76, in: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, vol.  
Tune: Johann Oeger, 1598-1662  
Text and Tune: Public Domain

## 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text and tune: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934-2025

Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004822

## 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and  
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard  
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,  
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,  
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing  
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -  
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the  
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to  
 As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.  
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
 van - quish As the dark-ness clears a - way.  
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-85, alt.  
 Tune: French, 17th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## 772 In Holy Conversation



1 In ho-ly con-ver-sa-tion We speak to God in prayer,  
 2 These ho-ly con-ver-sa-tions Be-gin in child-like ways;  
 3 As ho-ly con-ver-sa-tion, In si-lence or by word,

And at His in-vi-ta-tion Our deep-est thoughts we share.  
 We bring our sup-pli-ca-tions And words of thanks and praise.  
 In ev-'ry sit-u-a-tion Through Je-sus, we are heard.

We come, His will o-bey-ing, As chil-dren bring-ing needs;  
 With care our Fa-ther lis-tens To ev-'ry thought ex-pressed,  
 So let us pray se-cure-ly, Ex-press-ing hopes and fears

And to sup-port our pray-ing, His Spir-it in-ter-cedes.  
 Then an-swears our pe-ti-tions In ways He knows are best.  
 With con-fi-dence that sure-ly Our Fa-ther ev-er hears.

Text: Gregory J. Werner, 1988  
 Tune: Swedish  
 Tune: © 2008 Gregory J. Werner. Used by permission: LDS Hymns License no. 110004822  
 Tune: Public Domain

## Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

## Post-Communion Collect

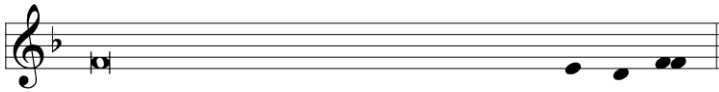
A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

## Benediction



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you  
 and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## 672 Jerusalem the Golden



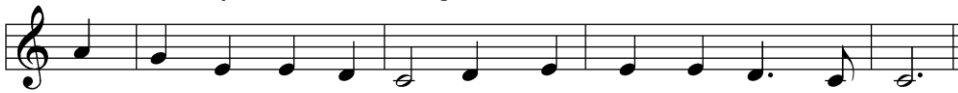
1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—  
 2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,  
 3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,  
 △ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!



The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—  
 As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.  
 Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.  
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!



We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:  
 The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;  
 They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,  
 In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest



The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!  
 The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.  
 Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.  
 With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66; alt.  
 Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830/95; alt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Important Dates and Information

### Advent & Christmas Service Schedule (No 11am services during Advent)

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve Service: 6:30 pm

Christmas Day Service: 9:00 am

### Christmas Caroling

Please join us for Christmas Caroling on **December 20<sup>th</sup>!** ***We will meet at the church at 9:45 am and leave by 10:00 am.*** A lunch will be provided. Please let Joni Mercer know if you plan to come.

### LWML Christmas Cards

The LWML will have Christmas cards for sale in the fellowship hall next to the membership picture wall. There are boxes or you may purchase individual cards. There are special 5 panel cards for \$3 each or 2 for \$5. These cards include Luke 2 and the salvation message for someone special in your life. There are also a variety of sympathy and occasion cards.

### Poinsettias

Poinsettias have been ordered. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please sign up on the sheet that is on the bulletin board. They will be \$15 each.

### The Giving Tree

The Giving tree has returned! If you would like to participate, please take a card from the tree and return the card attached to an unwrapped gift. **Please return all gifts by December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.** Gifts can be placed near the tree in the hall. For more information, please see the flyer next to the Christmas tree.

***Please do not bring gifts after the deadline date and time as they will not have time to wrap them.***

## Offering Envelopes 2026

If you would no longer like to use offering envelopes or if you would like to start/continue using them, please fill out the sheet provided by the secretary's office and return them to the labeled box or place them in the church office drop box on the door. Please fill the sheet out before the end of December.



**Join us for an eventful morning to hear the story of Christmas!**

**Doors will open at 9:45 am.**

## **Divine Shepherd Calendar**

### **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

#### **LWML Mite Sunday**

- 9:00 am Divine Worship Service  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Sunday School

### **Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

- All Day Carpet Cleaning at the Church

### **Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

- 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

- 5:15 pm Family Dinner  
5:45 pm Confirmation, Bible Study  
6:30 pm Advent Vespers Service (No 11am services during Advent)

### **Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study  
5:30 pm Adult Bell Choir  
6:30 pm Adult Choir

### **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

- 7:30 am Rusty Restorations  
9:00 am Volunteer for Food Pantry  
10:00 am ECC & Academy Christmas Program

### **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Food Pantry Sunday**

- 9:00 am Divine Worship Service  
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program

**Three Ways to support Divine Shepherd**

**GIVE NOW**  
Set up online giving or a one-time gift

**Text to Give**  
605-220-7119

**We still take checks and cash!**

Let us know if you would like envelopes