



Shepherd's Staff

PEACE



The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

December 2022



Josh Brecht
Lead Pastor

Hosanna in the Highest! Christmas Season at GSLC

Ever feel like Christmas has become too commercialized?
Ever feel overwhelmed by all the *busyness* that fills your calendar in December?
Even though you love the parties and the Christmas music, do you ever wish there was a time to just be still and really contemplate the reason for the season?

Advent is here. We breathe and we wait. We remember the coming of our savior, Jesus, into our world, our hearts, and our homes. While the world speeds up to a frantic pace, Christians slow our souls. We wait with hope for the coming of peace, joy, and love. We wait for Emmanuel, God with us. During these longest nights of the year, we wait for the light of Christ, shining forth for all the world to see.

In this Advent & Christmas season there will be many opportunities to gather and share the story of salvation, to connect with others, and to rest in the goodness of God. Many groups at Good Shepherd will have smaller, intimate Christmas parties or meals (bible studies, small groups, etc.), and together we will have large, festive events. Our narthex will host opportunities to bless others in our community and around the world with special Christmas gifts and offerings.

**Who has been far from God that might just be waiting
for an invitation?**

Here are a few of the key details as we journey to Bethlehem this season.

Christmas Cantata – Saturday, December 10 at 4:00 pm & Sunday, December 11 at 9:00 am

Children's Christmas Musical – Saturday, December 17 at 4:00 pm & Sunday
December 18 at 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Worship: Live Nativity – December 24, 3:30 & 5:30

Christmas Eve Worship: Traditional Candlelight – December 24, 8:00 & 10:30

*Christmas Eve Livestreams 3:30 & 8:00**

Christmas Day Worship – Sunday, December 25 – 10:00 am (*No Livestream, in person only*)

New Year's Day Worship – Sunday, January 1 – 10:00 am (*No Livestream, in person only*)

Christmas is a time of year where the message of God's love in Jesus is swirling around us, stirring hearts and on people's minds. I encourage all of us to consider inviting someone to Good Shepherd this Christmas season. Who has been far from God that might just be waiting for an invitation? Too many people have felt distant, discouraged, and alone. Let this Christmas be the moment we reach out with the love and invitation of Jesus.

In Christ,
Pastor Josh

**Please note we will be giving our incredible A/V team a bit of a break during the holiday season. We will livestream 2 of our Christmas Eve services, pause on Christmas and New Year's days, and then resume our normal livestreaming on January 8.*

Emily Horning
Director, Children and Family Ministry

The Beauty of Intergenerational Community Events

October was Trunk or Treat. It was a HUGE success, with 175 families attending. But did you know that out of the 175 families who signed in, only 25 were from Good Shepherd? This was a true community event, an opportunity to provide fellowship and belonging to those outside our walls. We had 25 trunks hosted by members and almost 30 volunteers who helped make this amazing night happen for almost 700 visitors. Many of those who had trunks or helped with games, crafts, and refreshments do not have young children at home- so why do they feel called to help with family ministry?

"I think community events are very important because they give you the opportunity to meet new people. Halloween is one of our favorite holidays and we love seeing the kids all dressed up and passing out treats to them!" Sandy Hochecker

"(My daughter) has been away at college for the last 4 years, but now she has graduated and is back in St. Louis and was excited to be able to participate. It's been a family tradition for all their lives pretty much, and it's fun to be able to continue that tradition with them now that they are adults themselves and bring a little cheer to the next generation of children." Robyn Essig

We hope everyone at Good Shepherd finds belonging here, whether it's through small groups, worship, service, or helping with community events. Next up are our intergenerational Christmas Eve services! We would love to have your involvement,

whether it's helping with the animals, assisting with worship, coordinating our "actors," or handing out candles! How would you like to get involved?

Welcome Team Wink Article Elliott Haugen



Merry Christmas! It is hard to believe we are already in the Advent Season and preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As at His birth, we are surrounded by the love of God, family and others; wonderful music; amazing acts of kindness; and the sharing of gifts. Although the Magi's gifts were meant for the new King, ours are shared with loved ones and strangers who may need our love.

As a congregation, we also share gifts with each other – your presence in each other's lives. We are welcoming another group of new members this week, so I am sharing some of their thoughts about how you and Good Shepherd are blessings to them. They mentioned how you have helped create a friendly and safe place to worship, explore, and build relationships. They value the programs and opportunities (supported by you), the inclusiveness that goes beyond the welcome statement, and the love within this faith community that worships, prays, supports, and serves together. Please welcome and encompass their presence in your life and within Good Shepherd and its ministries.

On behalf of the Welcome Team, have a healthy, safe, blessed, and Merry Christmas.

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. Romans 15:13

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click the button below:**

[Good Shepherd Connect Profile](#)

Weekly Services Sunday 9am (traditional) & 11am (contemporary)
goodshepherdlutheran.com | 636-391-6685 | [Calendar](#)