

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

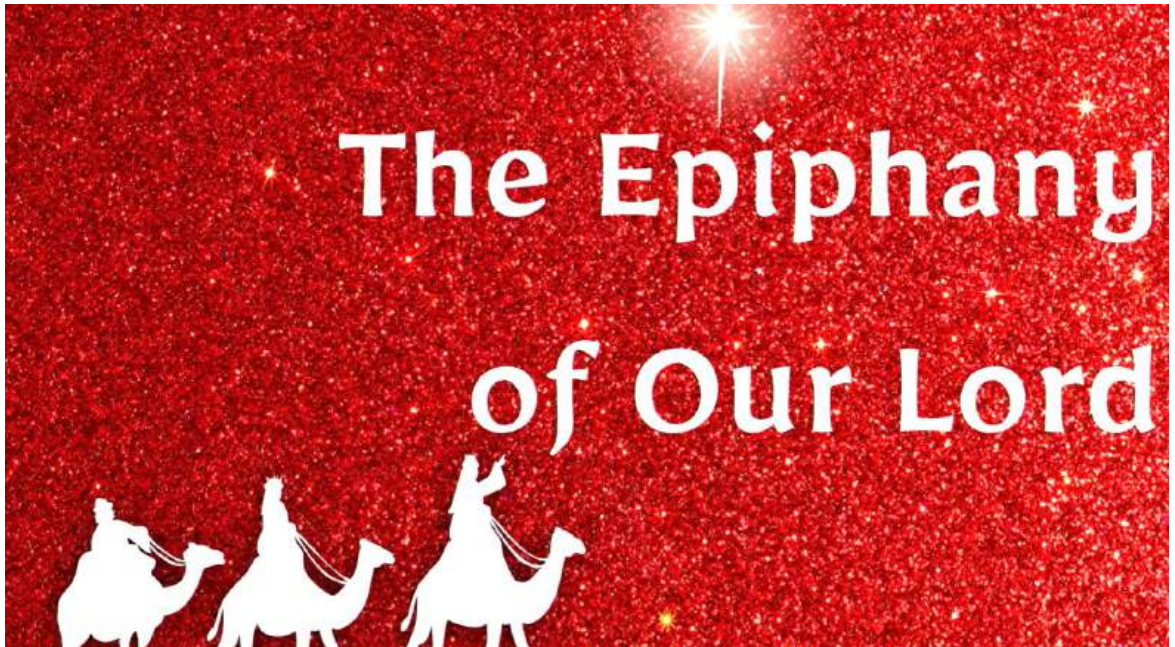
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

A Member of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod

**a place to grow in faith and knowledge of our Savior Jesus
and make Him known to others**

Sunday, January 4th, 2026

9:00 AM



The Twelve Days of Christmas are the days between Christmas Day and January 6. What is special about January 6? It is the day when the Christian Church celebrates the Festival of the Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "reveal." When the Savior was born, he was first revealed as love's pure light to Israelites: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds. Today we see the Lord miraculously guiding foreigners across countless miles so the Savior's holy face could be revealed to them as well. The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as Christmas for the Gentiles. We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is a gift for all people, Christ the Savior of the world.

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

Presiding Minister & Preacher: Pastor John Melke

Organist: Miss Hannah Cook

ORDER OF SERVICE

Dialogue

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

HYMN

372 As with Gladness Men of Old



- 1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,
- 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
- 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
- 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;
- 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre-at-ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down.



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Declaration of Grace

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you; be
mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



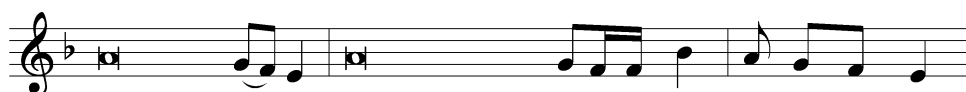
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



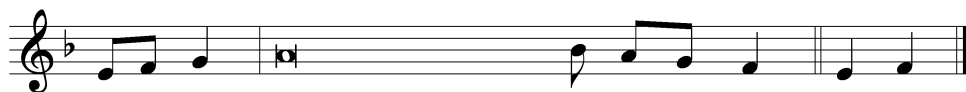
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

²Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.

³Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.

The wealth of the nations will come to you.
 6Caravans of camels will cover your land,
 young camels from Midian and Ephah.
 All those from Sheba will come.
 They will carry gold and incense,
 and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

72E Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;
 4 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y and bid the weak be strong,
 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.
 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light
 To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans-gres-sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, are pre-cious in his sight.
 his king-dom still in-creas-ing, a king-dom with - out end.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er—that name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery Tune: Leonhart Schröter Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2–12

²Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law.

He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day 370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride-groom and
In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 2:1-12 Jesus is for you.

Stand

Nicene Creed

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 in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]*. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, *[especially . . . here name the person]*. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering and Connection Card

Our family of faith together in faith and love work to carry out God's will in our communities and around the world. All are invited to participate, none are forced. We thank you for your generous gifts for Gospel ministries here. Please take a moment to fill out the connection card. Communicants may check the box to indicate how many in your family are receiving communion. Guests will want to register for communion by speaking with the pastors ahead of time. Thank you!

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

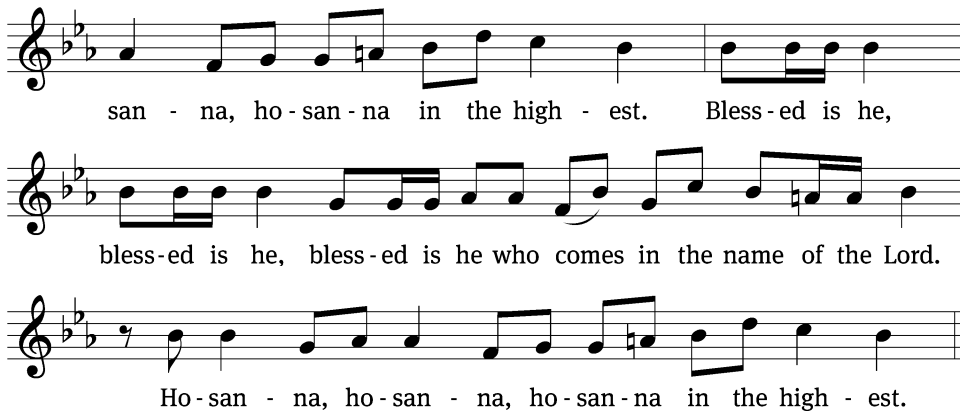
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a colon, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.



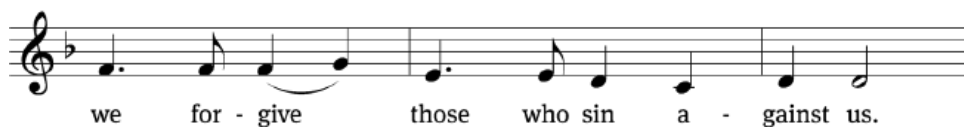
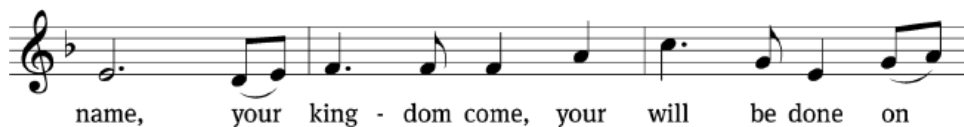
Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer





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Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Our Communion Practice – In the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we express spiritual unity with our Savior and spiritual unity with those Jesus has likewise convinced. Dear Guests, we look forward to the time when all Christians will be united in faith and confession and enjoy this gracious sacrament. If you have questions about this, or any other teaching of the Bible, please let us introduce you to one or both of our pastors. They readily share Bible classes to help people more thoroughly know Jesus and His Word. Thank you.

Distribution

As the elements are distributed, the communion assistant says to the communicants:

Elements

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

As the communicants are dismissed, the communion assistant may say:

Dismissal

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
Go ✚ in peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymn 344, 347, 375,

Stand

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Proclamation

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Post-Communion Prayer

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

374 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here



1 The star pro-claims the King is here; but, Her - od,
2 The east - ern Ma - gi saw from far and fol - lowed
5 All glo - ry un - to Je - sus be and praise for



why this sense - less fear? For he who came from heav - en's
on his guid - ing star, and, led by light, to Light they
his e - piph - a - ny, whom with the Fa - ther we a -



throne does not de - sire an earth - ly crown.
pressed and by their gifts their God con - fessed.
dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Pastor Paul A. Tullberg
Pastor John T. Melke

Principal/Instructor Hannah E. Cook
ECM Teacher/Director Amanda Irwin



1goodshepherd.org

1goodshepherdchurch@gmail.com

Sunday 4	9:00 am	Worship Service w/communion
	10:15 am	Sunday School
	2:00 pm	Cable TV of <i>Last week's service</i> <u><i>Solarus Ch 3 & Spectrum Ch 985+</i></u>
	4:00 pm	Youth Group Bible Study
Monday 5	12:00 am	Circuit Pastor Meeting
Tuesday 6	7:00 pm	Elder's Meeting
Wednesday 7	8:30 am	Communion @ The Renaissance
	9:30 am	Coffee w/Christ
Thursday 8	6:30 pm	Worship Service

Worship Online 24/7 at live.1goodshepherd.org

SCRIP ORDERS DUE TODAY

**WE WILL BE REMOVING THE HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY!**

Birthdays/Anniversaries this week: Mariana Treul, Marcia Klicko, James Stickel, Kent Zastava, Emma Kay

**Our Extended & Growing Family of Faith
remains in our prayers to God our Father.**

Pat & Ed Tesch
Connie Heitl
Gloria Walters
Chris Rhein

Becky Thorpe
Lynn & Deb Ives
Sue Danielsen
Jerry Marks

Brad Roberts
Betty Havlik
Pat Hunziker

Andy & Margie Hogan
Jenna Kammueller
Jerry Wiessinger

The families of Elizabeth Fregien

Friends of the Congregation: Forrest & Elizabeth, Tami Zimmerman, Juliett Ort, Gil Ewer,
Mandy Ehlke & Family, Sam & Becky



**From your pastors, teachers and staff
along with their families,**

Thank you for the cards and gifts!

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets in the Fellowship Hall for a Bible Study entitled Apologetics-Defending the Faith from 4-6 PM on Jan 4th Feb 1st



Please use this QR code to be directed to the Good Shepherd Planning Committee survey.

Help Wanted

There are openings for greeters for the following months:

January
May
August
October
December

Important Confirmation Class Information

There is **NO CONFIRMATION** class planned for December 31, January 7th and January 21st.

A sign-up sheet for those willing to help serve treats during fellowship Sunday mornings is now available in the Narthex.



School events for this month:

Christmas Break: December 20-Jan. 4, School resumes on Jan. 5

End of Quarter 2: Friday, January 9

Report Card Conferences: Tuesday-Thursday, January 13-15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, January 19 (We DO have school this day, but there will be no bus.)

Principal Conference: Saturday, January 31



GOOD SHEPHERD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, USA