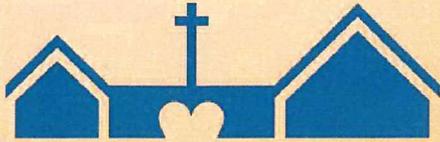


FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
9:00 am Service of Holy Communion
11:00 am Service of the Word
November 30, 2025



**Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church**

Keep
awake

therefore,
for you

do not know
on what day

your
Lord
is coming.

7800 West McCarthy Road, Palos Heights, IL 60463

The Pastor: **Rev. Chris Buresh**

The Associate Pastor: **Rev. Andrew Bell**

Intern: **Immanuel Karunakaran**

The Director of Children's & Family Ministry: **Lori Puttkammer**

The Pastor Emeritus: **Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Basch**

Welcome

This last Sunday in November is also the first Sunday of Advent. We are delighted that you have come to worship. Let us now begin to spiritually prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth.



Candles That Tell a Story

Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent.

Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations and meanings for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two

Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

The wreath: Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.

The four candles: Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.

Purple candles: in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.

Blue candles: Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.

The pink candle: Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.

The white candle: The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

GATHERING

The Prelude: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel with Come, Thou Almighty King"
Johnson

The Call to Worship (11 am): **"Light One Candle" Sleeth**

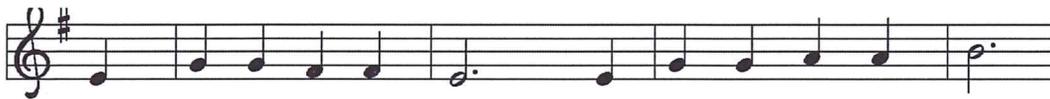
+ THE HYMN: WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING No. 436

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.

////////////////////
The Service of Holy Communion

+The Kyrie:



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

The Service of The Word

////////////////////
Today we joyfully participate in celebrating a baptism. Join in the baptismal liturgy as it is found on page 227 in the front of your hymnal.

Baptism

+ The Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

The Readings for the First Sunday of Advent:

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us and now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Anthem: ***"An Invitation for Advent" Schram***

Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming,

he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Sermon: ***“Caught Napping”***

+ THE HYMN OF THE DAY: MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING No. 438

+The 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 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.

+The Prayers

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom. Uphold and strengthen your church here, in Coronationville and in all places. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, and all the world around us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Give wisdom and safety to those who serve our country and communities. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (especially). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (especially) to your holy city. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

+ PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

The Voluntary: "Song of the Watchman" Grieg

Service of Holy Communion

MEAL

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Preface is spoken by the pastor



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



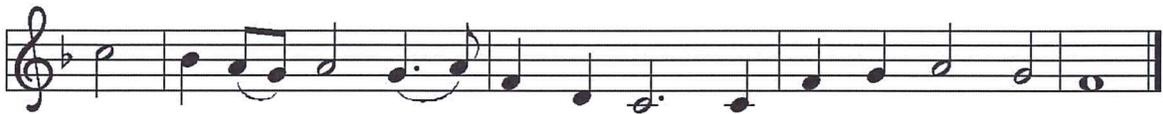
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ The Lord's Prayer

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.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

BY YOUR HAND YOU FEED YOUR PEOPLE
HE CAME DOWN

No. 469
No. 253

+ The Prayer After Communion



Service of the Word

+ Canticle of Thanksgiving:

Refrain



Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -



ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O



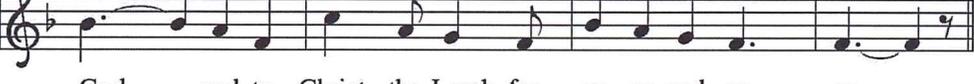
God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O



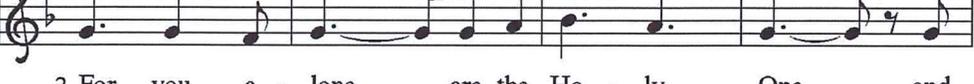
Rul - er of all the na-tions. Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and



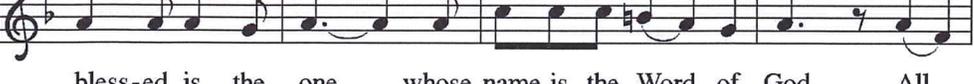
Refrain
sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and



bles-sed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

Refrain

praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

+ The Lord's Prayer

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving



SENDING

+The Blessing and Dismissal

+Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SENDING HYMN: REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS

No. 244

The Postlude: *"Lift Up Your Heads"* Paxton

SERVING TODAY:

Organist - *Beth Ridderhoff*

The Soloist- *Michelle Podewell*

The Cherub Choir Director - *Angie Pope*

The Lectors - 9:00 - *Rich Jelinek*

11:00 - *Deanna Wachholz*

The Acolytes - 9:00 - *Ron Krapf and Jack Wiltgen*

11:00- *Ruby & Scarlett Gutierrez*

Today's chancel flowers are given by CJ Muller on the anniversary of Franky's entrance into the church triumphant.

The 2026 flower chart is on the bulletin board if you would like to sign up for flowers. The cost remains \$40.

Our Vision Statement

Transforming lives by making the hope of God real through bold faith, service, outreach, discipleship and helping all people discover their God-given value.

Our intercessions include:

The hospitalized: Robin Manning (Christ)

+The bereaved: Tom and Vicki Paxson on the passing of Tom's cousin, Thomas Houlihan; The Sombraske and Ausec families upon the passing of their cousins, Catherine Anderson and Kellie Mrotz

+The Holy Baptism: Violet Lydia Adair, daughter of Matthew and Christina (nee Faklis). Born: April 6, 2025. The Sponsors: Alexandra Weiner and James Faklis.

*Pictures may be taken at our service to use on our updated website.
Please contact us if you desire we not use any photograph including your image.*

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Announcements

Sign-ups are available in the narthex this morning for the beautiful red poinsettias that will grace our sanctuary on Christmas. The flowers may be taken home after the Christmas Day Service. The cost is \$15, and all orders must be received by Wednesday, December 10.

Get the news out about Good Shepherd and come join the Palos Heights holiday parade on Sat., Dec. 6 at 10 am. You can ride or walk, throw candy and hand out flyers with our holiday services. Sign up by calling the office at 708/448-4170.

Gift card orders which support the youth mission trips are due TODAY. They will be available to pick up next Sunday, Dec. 7. Another order will take place on Dec. 7 with pick up on Dec. 14. Thank you for supporting the Youth!

LSSI wish lists gifts need to be returned to the Galilean room by Sunday, Dec. 7.

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend Gingerbread house decorating. Join us on Sunday, Dec. 7, Noon – 2:00 pm. We'll have lunch from Pop's and then we will start decorating!

December Newsletter corrections. Please note that the Palos Heights parade is on Saturday, December 6 and Sunday School Service rehearsal dates are Saturday, **December 6** and Saturday, **December 13.** We apologize for these errors.

SAVE THE DATE: We'll be decorating the sanctuary on Thursday, December 11, beginning at 6:30 pm. The more the merrier!

Good Shepherd's newsletter needs a name! We're looking for some suggestions from you! Please drop a note on Donna's desk or email her with the following information: your name and phone number and your suggested newsletter name. See the newsletter for more information and thanks for your participation!

Parents of Sunday School Children: Please keep practicing the Christmas Service songs with your children at home! If you need a copy, let us know. Thank you.

The calendar for the week of November 30

SUN	10:30 am 11:00 am	1 st Gift Card Order Due Cherub Choir Sunday School
MON	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	"Just a Quick Word" - YouTube/FB Junior Choir 6 th & 7 th Grade Confirmation "Body & Soul"
TUE	9:30 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	"Faith, Prayer & Joy" Group Bible Class Discovering the Bible Deacons' Meeting
WED	11:30 am 6:00 pm	"OFF" Club Christmas Party Adult Choir
THU	6:30 pm 9:00 pm	Carillon Choir Prayer Walk
SAT	10:00 am 10:30 am 3:15 pm	Palos Heights Parade Childrens' Christmas Service Rehearsal Grades 1-5 and Confirmation Participants Bowling Leage - GRABBAG
SUN	9:00 am 10:10 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 am	LSSI GIFTS DUE GIFT CARD PICK UP/2 ND ORDER DUE Service of Holy Communion Online Service 8th Grade Confirmation Cherub Choir Service of the Word Sunday School Gingerbread Houses and Lunch

Advent Is Here: Prepare Your Heart

The season of Advent begins today! Join us each week in worship as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ with hope, peace, joy and love.



First Sunday in Advent



PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation

Grant Spooner	Lucette Held
Jim Srbeny	Jim Sheehan
Larri Lyn Rauch	Marilyn Garr
Robin Manning	Warren Meneou
Gail Kendall	Bill Innocenti
Jerry Kendall	Tom Kozlowski
Ray Borner	Bill Johnsen
June Johnsen	Nicole Baldwin

Friends of the Congregation

Allison Lathrop	Louise Sims
Lori Toepper Opsenica	Jason Randall Glugla
Sarah Wagner	Rachel Sullivan
Laura Reynolds	Karen Heilman
Andy Zilis	Sylvia Rodriguez
Ronald Held	Tim Hennessey
John Morrocco	Katy Peterman
Jennifer Strilko	Rick Christensen
Brian Dinkmeyer	Jessica Clifford
Betty Naughton	Erin Olson
George Tragos	Dave Furtak
Sue McCoy	Dale Koch
Joe Kaderabek	Maryanne Campbell
Barbara Lindsay	Jim Cirese
Jim Peele	Alex Gersic
Pam Blessing	Silvia Guijarro
Ann Dixon	Dan Zakowski
Louise Sims	

Please let us know if there is someone you need added or removed from the prayer list by contacting the church office by 9 am on Friday. Thank You!