

The Divine Service



*"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall call his name Jesus." (Luke 1:31)*

4th Sunday in Advent



AD 2020, December 20

*Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
41415 W. Nine Mile Road
Novi, Michigan 48375-4306
(248) 349-0565 www.GoodShepherdNovi.org
Good Shepherd is a member of the WELS (www.wels.net)*

The Divine Service

This order of service is a variation of the Common Service, p 15 in Christian Worship. To limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus as much as possible, singing will be restricted to only a few places. The responsive portions of the liturgy shall be spoken. Where you see this symbol + you may make the sign of the cross.

Hymn 2 Savior of the Nations, Come

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/2>

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and Merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil, and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: **Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, 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.**

C: Amen

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

M: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY ~ Psalm 89 (pg 98)

Cantor: Verses ~ **Congregation:** Refrain & Glory be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song;
I sing for joy.

I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;*
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,*
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,*
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?*

You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,*
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;*
they exult in your righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Steven Warner. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE SECOND LESSON 2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

M: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

M: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE OF THE DAY:

M: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.

Alleluia. (Matthew 1:23)

C: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.** (*sung*)



C: **Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!**

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

M: The Gospel for today is from the Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter, beginning at the 26th verse.

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^{ed} will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant^{ed} of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

M: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

All readings are from the English Standard Version

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn 23 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/23>

SERMON TEXT: 2 SAMUEL 7:8-16

SERMON THEME: THE SON OF DAVID SHALL REIGN FOREVER

Hymn 17 God's Own Son Most Holy
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/17>

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

INTERCESSIONS

Intercessions that are requested prior to the bulletin's printing will be included in the bulletin. Requests may be made prior to the service as well.

In our prayers...

While we offer up prayers for specific requests in our services, petitions and intercessions can be offered up throughout the week for continued concerns. Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

- ❖ For Elaine Patton, recovering from illness
- ❖ For Earl Schroeder, father of Pastor Schroeder, who is recovering from a fall

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: ... one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn 15 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/15>

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Preacher & Celebrant
Organist

Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder
Jeanette Schneider

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Sunday (12/20)	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM
Thursday	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 PM
Friday	Christmas Day Festival Service – 10:00 AM
Sunday (12/27)	NO Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Divine Service is Sundays at 10:00 AM, in person and on Facebook Live.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class is on Sunday at 8:45 AM.

Bible Matters, a Bible discussion group, will resume on Wednesday, January 6, 2021

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We will be having our Christmas services as usual this year. Here is the schedule:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service -- December 24, 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Festival Service -- December 25, 10:00 AM

Worship Tidbit for the 4th Sunday in Advent

There seems to be quite a bit of green in the front of the church. The tree is unmistakable. The Advent Wreath is another example. Why evergreens? Because at a time of the year when many trees and plants are dead, the evergreen continues to thrive. Therefore, the evergreen has come to represent everlasting life. For centuries, Christians have decorated their homes for Christmas with greenery – to be a reminder of the eternal life that is ours through the Savior who has come.

OFFICE HOURS – Monday – Thursday (9:00 AM - Noon)

The pastor will be in his office unless a meeting has been scheduled elsewhere (consult the weekly schedule). The pastor is also available by appointment. Call or text (248-719-5218). You may also email (welsnovi@aol.com), but the response may be slower.

POINSETTIAS

The Ladies of Good Shepherd will be setting out a sign-up sheet soon for Christmas poinsettias. The cost will be determined soon. Checks can be made out to Good Shepherd Worship Committee. Cash can be left in the collection plate but needs to be designated “poinsettias.” The poinsettias will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas services. You are welcome to take yours home after the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service.

CONCERNING PASTORAL CARE

Besides Facebook Live and YouTube, you can find the pastor's sermons archived on this blog. You can use the search bar to find a particular date, day of the Church Year, or Scripture reference.

Pastor Schroeder will be available for private devotions, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion to members in small groups or to individuals. You may call to set up an appointment at any time. Visits by appointment can be done either at church or at your home.

If you want to ask for intercessions for loved ones, we will certainly remember them in our prayers, too. If your loved one has no pastor, ask if they would like Pastor Schroeder to visit them.

PEERING INTO 2021

>>> **Offering Envelopes** have been prepared. Each confirmed member of Good Shepherd should have a box of envelopes at church already. If you don't have one (which is possible because of a glitch with labels), please contact the Pastor.

>>> **Bible Reading** for the year can [follow this schedule](#). This enables you to read through the entire Bible in a year, including the Gospels twice. If you would prefer a less aggressive schedule, you can find a "Through my Bible in Three Years" brochure at church.

>>> A **Bible Information Class** will begin on Monday, January 11 (7:00-8:30 PM). This class covers basic Christian doctrine for any level of familiarity with the Bible. It is a valuable refresher for long-time members, and it is an excellent way for anyone to get to know the Bible's teachings even if you feel like you know none of them. There is no cost. Contact the church (welsnovi@aol.com) to register. Good Shepherd members: Consider whom you might bring to this class!

>>> **Bible Matters** is a discussion group. We will resume our discussions on Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 PM. Topics will be announced later.

BAD WEATHER POLICY FOR SERVICES AT GOOD SHEPHERD

We will always have services as scheduled at Good Shepherd. Since I live across the parking lot, I can get to the church no matter how bad the weather gets. Even if the service is just me and my family, we will be here. For everyone else, please use your God-given common sense to determine whether or not you will get on the road to attend any service when the weather is bad. We don't want anyone to risk his or her life to be here. But if you do venture out, the scheduled service will take place. It may be only a handful with a cappella singing and/or spoken liturgy, but we will be here.

Bible Classes and meetings may be canceled due to weather. Check your email regarding announcements to see if any of those scheduled events is canceled. If there is no email about it, it is not canceled. But again, use common sense to determine if you can make it, and call the pastor to let him know if you will not be coming.

NOTES from Huron Valley Lutheran High School (HVL)

Join HVL's Mailing List - Go to HVLHS.org and click on "Sign up for Newsletter" or call or email the school office at mail@hvlhs.org to be added.

HVL SUPPORT

At this time of year, we pause to give thanks to God for the many blessings he gives us every day. As Christmas approaches, we especially praise God for the gift of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. At Huron Valley Lutheran High School, the next generation is taught the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. Please consider a special, generous offering to our high school. And let's remember that our regular, planned gifts to HVL help our high school to meet its financial obligations in a timely manner.

REDFORD PREGNANCY CARE CENTER (RPCC) UPDATE

Even with COVID restrictions, the RPCC has seen a few more moms in the last number of weeks. There have been some very nice donations, but more items would be helpful. Especially needed is gently used clothing in sizes 24 mo. - 4T for both boys and girls. If you can help, you may drop off your donations at church so that they can be delivered to the RPCC. Your generosity is appreciated.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT THE FARM (MSU EXTENSION)

"Holiday Lights at the Farm" at the MSU Extension (12 Mile and Meadowbrook Roads) will be December 17-21, 5:00-10:00 PM. The cost is \$10 per vehicle. Drive on through to check out Good Shepherd's display!

We will also need helping hands to take down the lights and to return our Nativity scene to Good Shepherd. That particular day and time has not been determined yet, but it will take place December 22-24 or 27.

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

COVID has put a damper on a number of Christmas traditions and outings that we attend. You may still attend a number of Christmas concerts, although they will be virtual. Here are a couple you can enjoy.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary – archived from Sunday, December 13 ([2020 Christmas at the Seminary on Livestream.](#))

Martin Luther College – 2019 Christmas Concert (<https://livestream.com/mlc-streams/events/8839343/videos/199656698>)

LAST WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Weekly Attendance

December 13	
Divine Service	30
Lord's Supper	26
Sunday School	1
Adult Bible Class	10
Advent Vespers (Dec.16)	13

Offerings for the Lord's Work

December 13	
General Fund	\$ 2,628.00
Missions	\$ 60.00
Windows/Siding	\$ 50.00
Building Fund	\$ 100.00

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Total Offerings \$ 2,838.00

Note: Our combined offerings for Thanksgiving and Advent Vespers, up to \$2,000, is designated for Huron Valley Lutheran High School.

A LOOK AT THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE

DECEMBER *Note: All dates are subject to review, based on the COVID-19 updates.*

- 20 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 20 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 PM
- 25 Christmas Day Festival Service – 10:00 AM
- 27 NO Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
- 27 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)

JANUARY *Note: All dates are subject to review, based on the COVID-19 updates.*

- 3 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 3 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 4 Private Confession & Absolution – 6:30-8:30 PM
- 6 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 6 Bible Matters discussion group – 7:00 PM
- 10 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 10 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 10 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 11 Pastors' Circuit Meeting – 9:30 AM – Noon
- 11 Bible Information Class – 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 13 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 13 Bible Matters discussion group – 7:00 PM
- 17 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 17 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 17 Elders' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 18 Bible Information Class – 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 19 Redford Pregnancy Care Center Bible Study – 10:00 AM
- 19 Church Council – 7:00 PM
- 20 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 20 Bible Matters discussion group – 7:00 PM
- 24 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 24 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 24 Evangelism & Stewardship Committee meetings – 11:15 AM
- 25 Bible Information Class – 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 26 Martin Luther Memorial Home Board Meeting, Lansing – 4:00 PM
- 27 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 27 Bible Matters discussion group – 7:00 PM
- 31 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 31 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM

SHUT-INS - *Please remember our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers.*

Sylvia Campbell	1745 Wickhamm	Royal Oak, MI 48073
Jim Hobley	6950 Farmington Road	West Bloomfield, MI 48322
Margaretha Lester	935 Union Lake Road Apt. 218	White Lake Twp., MI 48386
Elaine Patton	42600 Cherry Hill Road, Rm. 115	Canton, MI 48188
Mary Zuehlke	29451 Halsted Road Apt. 118	Farmington Hills, MI 48331

WELS RADIO HOUR broadcasts 10:30-11:30 AM, Sundays, out of Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church of Redford. It airs on WLQV, AM 1500 and 92.7 FM. It is also simulcast on faithtalkdetroit.com and can be heard on the faithtalkdetroit phone app.

Christian Education: We encourage our members to utilize opportunities for Christian education, grounded in the Evangelical-Lutheran faith. While we do not own and operate a school on our property, we are able to enroll our children at the following schools.

St. Peter Lutheran School

(Pre-K only)
1343 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 421-9022

www.splp.org

Becky Lohrmann, teacher

St. Paul Lutheran School

(Pre-K through 8th grade)
17810 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48152
(734) 453-0460

www.stpaulslivonia.org

Mr. Paul Leifer, principal

Huron Valley Lutheran High School

(9th grade thru 12th grade)
33740 Cowan Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 525-0160

www.hvlhs.org

Mr. Matt Foley, principal