



“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ...A Savior has been born to you....” Luke 2:10,11

Christmas Eve

The Birth of our Lord



AD 2020, December 24

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)



*Service of
Lessons
and Carols
for Christmas Eve*

It is a laudable custom to make the sign of the cross on yourself where you see the sign of the cross (+) in the order of service.

BELL TOLL

HYMN 50 -- Once in Royal David's City

stanza 1 – choir members; Congregation sings v 2

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/50>

INVOCATION

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

Cong: Amen. (spoken)

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M: Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Be Seated

Nine Lessons and Carols

Following each lesson (except the 9th lesson) there will be a brief address.

1st Lesson Genesis 3:8-15
The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

HYMN 28 -- Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord,
stanzas 1 & 2 -- choir members; Congregation sings v 5
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/28>



2nd Lesson Genesis 22:15-18

The salvation of the world shall come through Abraham.

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

HYMN 61 -- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Congregation sings vv 1-2

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/61>



3rd Lesson Isaiah 9:2,6,7

Our righteous ruler shall bring an everlasting peace.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HYMN 90 -- The People That in Darkness Sat

stanza 1 -- choir members; Congregation sings vv 2-3

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/90>



4th Lesson Micah 5:2-5a

**The eternal one shall enter our time in Bethlehem
to shepherd his people.**

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

HYMN 65 -- O Little Town of Bethlehem

Congregation sings vv 1-2

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/65>

5th Lesson Luke 1:26-35,38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary in whom the Lord is conceived.

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 will be called holy—the Son of God."

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

HYMN 24 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Stanzas 1 & 2 – choir members; Congregation sings stanzas 3-4

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/24>



6th Lesson Luke 2:1-7

The Lord becomes flesh; Jesus is born.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN 33 -- All Praise to You, Eternal God*stanza 1 & 2 -- choir members; Congregation sings v 4*

NOTE: Hymn 33 will be sung according to "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (Hymn 38), with Alleluia's omitted.

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/33>

**7th Lesson Luke 2:8-20****The shepherds visit the manger.**

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN 57 -- Go, Tell It on the Mountain*Congregation sings vv 1-3*

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/57>

**8th Lesson Matthew 2:1-12****The Magi worship the newborn King**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

HYMN 83 -- As with Gladness Men of Old

stanza 1 -- choir members; Congregation sings vv 2,4
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/83>



CANDLE LIGHTING

The acolyte will light the Christ Candle in the Advent wreath. Please light your LED candle at this time. The church lights will be dimmed, and the candles will remain lit for the remainder of the service.

Stand at the direction of the pastor for the reading from the Gospel according to St. John.

9th Lesson John 1:1-14 The mystery of the incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

M: The gospel of our Lord

Cong: **Thanks be to God.** *(spoken)*



PRAYER

M: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong: Amen. (*spoken*)

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.

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HYMN 60 **Silent Night! Holy Night**

Congregation sings vv 1-3

- v 1) **Silent Night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**
- v 2) **Silent Night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
 Glories stream from heaven afar;
 Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia;
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**
- v 3) **Silent Night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

BENEDICTION

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Cong: Amen. (*spoken*)

Following the Benediction, please extinguish your candle. There is a receptacle at the entrance to the chapel in which to place your candle as you leave the service.

HYMN 56 -- Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

stanza 1 -- choir members; Congregation sings vv 2-3

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/56>

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Officiant Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder
Organist Julie Weber

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 Day Service

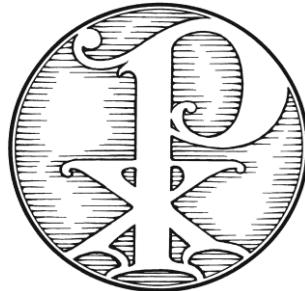
Friday at 10:00 AM, in person and on Facebook Live.

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.

Worship Note for the Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve (December 24)

One of the most common Christmas traditions is the Christmas Tree. While most other plants have died off for the winter, the evergreen thrives. Therefore, the evergreen makes us think of the eternal life our Savior won for us. Christmas trees are also decorated with lights, keeping us mindful that this Savior is the Light of the World who sets us free from the darkness of sin and death. The ornaments on Good Shepherd's tree are called "chrismons." These are various Christian symbols, each used to represent a facet of our glorious God (e.g., eternal, triune) or to represent our place as God's children.



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.

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.

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Friday (12/25)

Christmas Day Service

Sunday (12/27)

NO Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM

Sunday (1/3)

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM

Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM

Installation of Church Council officers – 10:00 AM

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.

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

A LOOK AT THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE

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

- 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)
- 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

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.

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

Sylvia Campbell	1745 Wickhamn	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](http://faithtalkdetroit.com) phone app.

WELS CHURCH LOCATOR - If you are traveling out of town or on vacation, you can visit www.wels.net and click **Find a Church/School** at the top of the page, to find a WELS Church near you.