



**“The Word (ο λογος ) became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us.” (John 1:14)**

### **Christmas Day**



**AD 2020, December 25**

*Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Novi, Michigan 48375-4306  
(248) 349-0565 [www.GoodShepherdNovi.org](http://www.GoodShepherdNovi.org)  
Good Shepherd is a member of the WELS ([www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net))*

## THE COMMON SERVICE – PAGE 15

*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. The Service for Christmas Day will be chanted.*

### BELL TOLL

#### **HYMN 55                    Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**

*Stand for the final stanza*

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLHI993/55>

### 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:** Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

#### **ISAIAH 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

M: The word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 40 (v1-3) O Jesus Christ, your Manger Is**

*stanza 1 -- Pastor*

**Congregation sings vv 2-3**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLHI993/40>

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading HEBREWS 1:1-9**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

M: The word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Verse of the Day**

M: Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia. (Galatians 4:4,5)

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

*Stand*

**The Holy Gospel JOHN 1:1-14**

M: The Gospel for today is from the Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.

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

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.

*Readings are from the English Standard Version*

M: The gospel of the Lord.

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

### **ATHANASIAN CREED**

*The first portion of the Athanasian Creed focuses on the doctrine of the Trinity. As the focus of Christmas Day is that God comes to us in the flesh, we will confess the second portion of the Athanasian Creed, which confesses the two natures of Jesus—namely, that he is both true God and true man.*

**Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith. Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.**

**It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.**

**Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.**

**He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father,  
and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,  
fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,  
equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;  
and though he is both God and Man, Christ is not two persons but one,  
one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed,  
not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;  
for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man  
are one Christ.**

**He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.**

**\*Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.**

**This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.**

*\*NOTE: The good God seeks in us is credited to us by Jesus and his perfect life (Galatians 3:37). He also works good in us which is evidence that we are God's Children (Philippians 2:13).*

### **The Chief Hymn**

#### **HYMN 35 Of the Father's Love Begotten**

*Stanzas 2 & 4 -- choir members*

**Congregation sings vv 1,3,5**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/35>

### **The Sermon**

**HEBREWS 1:1-9**

**THE WORD MADE FLESH IS GOD'S WORD FOR YOU.**

### **HYMN 63**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/63>

### **Prayer of the Church for Christmas Day**

#### **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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### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **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 62**

**Joy to the World**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/62>

Preacher & Celebrant  
Organist

Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder  
Julie Webber



### **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

**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.

### **THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD**

**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.

### **NOTES from Huron Valley Lutheran High School (HVL)**

**Join HVL’s Mailing List** - Go to [HVLHS.org](http://HVLHS.org) and click on “Sign up for Newsletter” or call or email the school office at [mail@hvlhs.org](mailto: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.

## **WORSHIP NOTE for Christmas Day, the Nativity of our Lord**

Today's worship focuses our attention on one of the great mysteries of the Christian faith: God has become man. "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14) God so loved the world that God himself came to us to save us. But God had to become man to do that. Since sin and death came into this world through a man, so victory over sin and death had to come through a man. Since man destroyed his relationship with God, so a man would restore it. Jesus Christ is God; and Jesus Christ is man. He is the Savior we all need, and he is the Savior whose birth we praise today.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **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.

## **A LOOK AT THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

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

- 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

# Bible Information Class

## will begin on Monday, January 11.

### Classes will be 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

The schedule for this class is as follows:

January 11	God's Plan of Salvation
January 18	God Created a Beautiful Universe.
January 25	Why is the World So Crazy?
February 1	How did Jesus Save the World?
February 8	The End is Coming!
February 22	Why do We Need the Bible?
March 1	God Works through Holy Baptism.
March 8	God Works through Holy Communion.
March 15	God Gathers His Church.
March 22	A Conversation with God.
March 29	Our Spiritual Heartbeat
April 12	Love the Lord your God
April 19	Love your Neighbor – Part 1
April 26	Love your Neighbor – Part 2; Take good care!

NOTE: Depending upon how many questions or discussions we have with the material, we may be able to complete more than one lesson in a session.

While this class is geared toward people who are interested in church membership at Good Shepherd, taking the class does not obligate you to join the church. If you simply want to grow in your knowledge of the Bible, this class is for you.

***There is no cost.*** All materials are provided. You will not be put on the spot to answer questions (though we will ask your name). You are not even expected to know anything. Come with questions. Come with friends. Come and learn what God wants you to know.

**Call (248-349-0565) or e-mail (welsnovi@aol.com) if you are interested or have any questions about this class.**

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

<b>Sylvia Campbell</b>	1745 Wickhamn	Royal Oak, MI 48073
<b>Jim Holey</b>	6950 Farmington Road	West Bloomfield, MI 48322
<b>Margaretha Lester</b>	935 Union Lake Road Apt. 218	White Lake Twp., MI 48386
<b>Elaine Patton</b>	42600 Cherry Hill Road, Rm. 115	Canton, MI 48188
<b>Mary Zuehlke</b>	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](http://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](http://www.wels.net) and click **Find a Church/School** at the top of the page, to find a WELS Church near you.