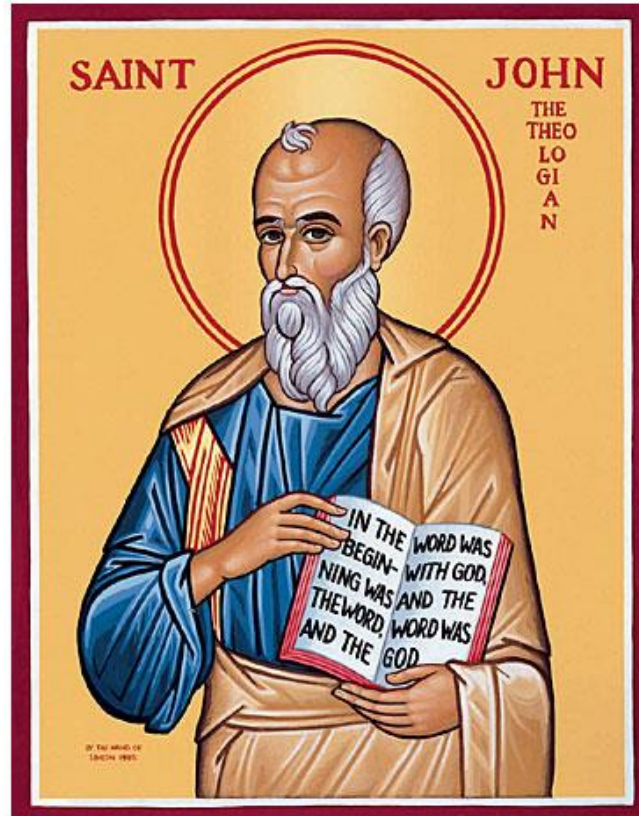


The Divine Service



"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, ... we proclaim also to you."
(1 John 1:1,3)

Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist



AD 2020, December 27

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 41 Let All Together Praise Our God

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/41>

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: **Merciful Lord, cast the bright beams of your light on the whole Christian Church, that, being instructed by the teachings of your blessed apostle and evangelist John, we may always walk in the light of your saving truth, until at last we inherit the gift of eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C: Amen

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 45:7-9

I form light and create darkness;

I make well-being and create calamity;

I am the LORD, who does all these things.

“Shower, O heavens, from above,

and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;

let the earth cause them both to sprout;

I the LORD have created it.

“Woe to him who strives with him who formed him,

a pot among earthen pots!

Does the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’

or ‘Your work has no handles’?

M: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8 (page 67)

Cantor -- verses

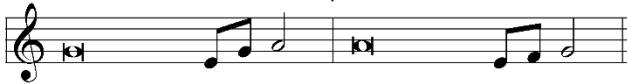
Cong -- Refrain & Glory be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev-er, my King and my God.

Psalm tone



Refrain

I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

You have set your glory above the heavens.

When I consider your heavens,*

the work of your fingers,

what is man that you are mindful of him,*

the Son of Man that you care for him?

Refrain

You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings*

and crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the works of your hands;*

you put everything under his feet.

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

THE SECOND LESSON Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

M: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE OF THE DAY:

M: Alleluia. The message of the cross is the power of God to us who are being saved. Alleluia.

(1 Corinthians 1:18)

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



THE GOSPEL Luke 2:25-40

M: The Gospel for today is from the Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter, beginning at the 25th verse.

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

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant^[a] depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.¹ She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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 552 By All Your Saints Still Striving

(verses 1,26,3)

<https://hymnary.org/CWLH1993/552>

Sermon Text: 1 JOHN 1:1 – 2:2

Theme: THE BELOVED APOSTLE DECLARES A BLESSED FELLOWSHIP.

Hymn 67 What Child Is This

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/67>

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 Irene Pawley-Kennedy, cousin of Terry Barber, diagnosed with cancer
- ❖ 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 37 **Once Again My Heart Rejoices**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/37>

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Preacher & Celebrant
Organist

Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder
Jeanette Schneider

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

Monday

Private Confession & Absolution – 6:30-8:30 PM

Wednesday

Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM

Bible Matters – 7:00 PM

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. (*resumes Jan, 3rd*)

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.

December 27 -- St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Lutheran worship is liturgical. While that often refers to an order of worship, it can also refer to the calendar of the Church Year. The Church Year includes major festivals, such as Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Pentecost, etc... Today we recognize a minor festival, the Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.

John was the son of Zebedee and the brother of St. James. John and James were known as the “Sons of Thunder,” which reveals their passionate nature (sometimes misguided). John was one of the three apostles who was privileged to witness Jesus’ most intimate moments in his ministry (e.g., the raising of Jairus’ daughter, Jesus’ transfiguration, Jesus’ sufferings in Gethsemane). John, who refers to himself as “the other disciple” or “the disciple Jesus loved” in his gospel, seemed to be Jesus’ closest friend. This apostle wrote the final books of the New Testament (a gospel, three epistles, and Revelation). We know that, toward the end of his life, John was exiled to the island of Patmos for his faith. Tradition says that John was the only apostle to die of natural causes. Whether we go to our grave peacefully or as a martyr, we would pray that our Lord keep us faithful as he did for John.

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.

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.

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.

LAST WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

**Weekly Attendance
December 20**

Divine Service	35
Lord's Supper	30
Sunday School	1
Adult Bible Class	13

**Offerings for the Lord's Work
December 20**

General Fund	\$ 1,651.00
Advent Offering	\$ 45.00
Windows/Siding	\$ 50.00
Building Fund	\$ 10.00

Total Offerings \$ 1,756.00

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

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.

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 phone app.

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

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 – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)

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 – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)
- 4 Private Confession & Absolution – 6:30-8:30 PM
- 6 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 6 Bible Matters discussion group (Suggestions for meditating on God's Word) – 7:00 PM
- 10 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 10 Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)
- 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 (Can a Christian hate anything?) – 7:00 PM
- 17 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 17 Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)
- 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 (Does God speak through dreams?) – 7:00 PM
- 24 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 24 Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)
- 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 (Why Lutheran?) – 7:00 PM
- 31 Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)
- 31 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM

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

- 1 Bible Information Class – 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 3 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 3 Bible Matters discussion group (When God is silent, what is our confession?) – 7:00 PM
- 7 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 7 Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)
- 7 Evangelism & Stewardship Committee meetings – 11:15 AM
- 8 Bible Information Class – 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 9 Redford Pregnancy Care Center Bible Study – 10:00 AM
- 10 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 10 Bible Matters discussion group (“Male and female he created them.”
Why is this controversial?) – 7:00 PM
- 10 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 14 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 14 Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)
- 15 Pastor / Teacher Conference at Zion, Monroe – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- 16 Pastors' Conference at Zion, Monroe – 9:00 AM – Noon
- 16 Church Council – 7:00 PM
- 17 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 17 Ash Wednesday Divine Service – 7:00 PM (also on Facebook Live)
- 21 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 21 Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)
- 21 Open Forum – 11:15 AM
- 21 Voters' Meeting follows Open Forum
- 22 Bible Information Class – 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 24 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 24 Lenten Vespers – 7:00 PM (also on Facebook Live)
- 28 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 28 Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)