

The Divine Service



John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4)

2nd Sunday In Advent



AD 2020, December 6

*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 20 When All the World Was Cursed

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/20>

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 our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C: Amen

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, "Cry!"
 And I said, "What shall I cry?"
 All flesh is grass,
 and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
 The grass withers, the flower fades
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
 surely the people are grass.
 The grass withers, the flower fades,
 but the word of our God will stand forever.
 Go on up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 "Behold your God!"
 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
 he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

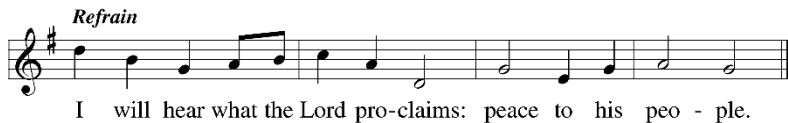
M: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY ~ Psalm 85 (page 97)

Cantor: Verses ~ **Congregation:** Refrain & Glory be to the Father

Refrain



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Psalm tone



Refrain

I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
 you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people*
 and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation.

Refrain

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;*
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**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: From *The Psalms for the Day, Series C*. © 1976 Fortress Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

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.**

VERSE OF THE DAY:

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4,6)

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



THE GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

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

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

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 16 On Jordan's Bank the Baptists's Cry
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/16>

SERMON TEXT: MARK 1:1-8
SERMON THEME: PREPARE THE WAY WITH REPENTANCE.

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Responsive Prayer for Advent (*page 123*)

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 the family of Rev. George Tiefel, retired pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, South Lyon, called to eternal rest (11/16)
- ❖ For Jim & Lindsey (nee: Holloway) Hardiman who were blessed with the gift of a baby girl (Emma James Hardiman, born at 7:39 AM on November 24; 6 lbs, 1 oz.)

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 12 Hark the Glad Sound! Savior Comes
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/12>



Preacher & Celebrant Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder
Organist Jeanette Schneider

Worship Tidbit for the 2nd Sunday in Advent

The seasons of the Church Year are marked in a number of ways. One of those ways is by the altar paraments. The paraments at Good Shepherd for the season of Advent are blue. Blue is a color which signifies hope and anticipation. It is not only the anticipation of Christmas (Jesus' first coming), but also the anticipation of Jesus' second coming. The color blue also makes us mindful of the sky, from which our Savior will come to redeem us from this earth.

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 be suspended until January 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.

ADVENT VESPERS

We prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord with prayer, meditation, and penitence. Advent allows for additional services to ponder our Lord's promises and their fulfillment. We worship on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. The theme of our Advent Vespers will be the Hymns of Advent.

December 9 The Magnificat – The Song of Mary

December 16 The Gloria in Excelsis – The Song of Angels

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We will be decorating the church in anticipation of the Christmas season on Sunday, December 6 at 11:15 AM. This involves setting up the Nativity scene in the front of the church, putting up ornaments on the trees, hanging wreathes, etc.... All are welcome to join us.

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.

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Sunday (12/6)	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM Church Decoration for Christmas – 11:15 AM
Wednesday	Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM Advent Vespers – 7:00 PM Martin Luther Memorial Home Board meeting, Lansing – 4:00 PM
Saturday	Decoration of MSU Extension Light Display – 12:00 Noon meet at church
Sunday (12/13)	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM Sunday School Teachers' meeting – 11:15 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.

God's blessings from HVL!

HVL is currently utilizing online instruction with all of our students. While it is a tremendous blessing to be able to utilize technology in this way, we are eagerly looking forward to our return to face to face instruction. During the Christmas season we reflect on the fact that God has blessed us with many physical gifts that we can touch, see, and enjoy, but his greatest gifts we grasp only by faith. We pray that God blesses your Christmas celebration with the comfort and promises of the greatest blessing of all -- Christ Jesus our Savior.

HVL Christmas Concert Canceled

Unfortunately, we are unable to invite everyone on campus for our annual Christmas concert this year; however, once we have our students back on campus, we are looking to record a few pieces to make available online.

Thrivent Action Awards

If you are a Thrivent member and want to hear more about how to support HVL through Action Teams or Choice Dollars, please reach out to HVL and let us know. We can work with you to make the most of these giving opportunities.

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.

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. One is live-streamed; the other is an archived video.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary – Sunday, December 13 at 4 PM (EST) (livestream.com/WLSLive.)

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

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT THE FARM (MSU EXTENSION)

We will be participating in "Holiday Lights at the Farm" at the MSU Extension (12 Mile and Meadowbrook Roads). David Kirvan has arranged a set up time on Saturday, December 12. We will meet at Good Shepherd at Noon to load our display items, and arrive at the MSU Extension at 1:00 PM. Hopefully, this works for all those who had expressed interest in helping. If you still want to lend a hand, we will be assembling our Nativity scene and putting up lights in our assigned area. The more, the merrier.

Our display and many others will be there for five evenings [December 17-21 (5 – 10 PM). Admission is \$10 per vehicle.]. If you are interested in more information from the MSU Extension, you can find it here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/events/holiday-lights>

Please keep in mind that we will still 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.

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.*

- 2 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 2 Advent Vespers – 7:00 PM
- 6 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 6 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 6 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 6 Church Decoration – 11:15 AM
- 9 NO Catechism Class; memory work still as scheduled
- 9 Martin Luther Memorial Home Board Meeting, Lansing – 4:00 PM
- 9 Advent Vespers – 7:00 PM
- 13 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 13 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 13 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 14 Pastors' Circuit Meeting at Our Saviour, Westland – 9:30 AM – Noon
- 15 Redford Pregnancy Care Center Bible Study – 10:00 AM
- 15 Church Council – 7:00 PM
- 16 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 16 Advent Vespers – 7:00 PM
- 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

LAST WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Weekly Attendance

November 29	
Divine Service	27
Lord's Supper	24
Sunday School	0
Adult Bible Class	12
Advent Vespers (Dec.2)	14

Offerings for the Lord's Work

November 29	
General Fund	\$ 1,098.00
Building Fund	\$ 10.00
Windows/Siding	\$ 50.00
Advent Vespers	\$ n/a
<hr/>	
Total Offerings	\$ 3,640.10

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

Sylvia Campbell	1745 Wickhamm	Royal Oak, MI 48073
Jim Hogley	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

CONCERNING PASTORAL CARE

Divine Services: We have in-person services on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Online Worship: You can join in our services via Facebook Live (Sundays, 10 AM). You can find it here, or by searching for "Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church." Make sure you click to the one in Novi.

Archived Resources: We are posting our services on YouTube. A search for "Good Shepherd Novi" should bring up services. As always, sermon manuscripts are posted on the pastor's blog (www.LutheranSubject.blogspot.com). You can use the search bar to find a particular date, day of the Church Year, or Scripture reference.

Person-to-person care: Pastor Schroeder will be in his office to offer private devotions, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion to members in small groups or to individuals. Please set up your visit by appointment at any time.

In case you contract COVID-19: Please contact Pastor Schroeder. He will alert the congregation so that your fellow members may pray for you, and he will keep everyone informed of your condition. If possible, Pastor Schroeder will visit you during your quarantine. At the very least, he will keep in contact with you and provide devotional materials. 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.

IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution Opportunity

Although the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act suspended required minimum distributions from IRAs and other qualified retirement accounts in 2020, IRA owners age 70.5 and above can still make qualified charitable distributions of up to \$100,000 per person, per year from their accounts this calendar year.

If you make a direct transfer from your IRA to your congregation, WELS, or other 501c3 charities, you are not liable for income tax on that part of your distribution. The transfer must be in the charity's name, not yours. This has been a permanent part of our tax code since 2016.

While such distributions may be made at any time during the year, since just several weeks remain in 2020 we encourage you to move forward with this soon if you want to do it.

Here is the link for more information on the WELS website: <https://mcg.welsrc.net/download-mcg/ira-charitable-distributions/> Again, gifts may be made to your congregation, WELS, or other 501c3 non-profits. If you would like to make gifts to several WELS ministries, you may make one gift to the WELS Foundation, and have them make transfers to the various ministries. WELS Foundation will also provide you the appropriate receipt for the gift.

If you want to request an IRA qualified charitable distribution, please speak first with your financial planner/IRA custodian and your tax professional. For more information on how WELS Foundation may assist you, please contact Christian giving counselors Rev. John Graf (john.graf@wels.net; (414) 899-8173 or Rev. John Kenyon (john.kenyon@wels.net; (414) 405-9226).

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.

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