
December 11th, 2016 at 9:30 am 3rd Sunday of Advent
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 E. Mason, Lena, IL 61048

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Art by
Anna Patterson

***Welcome to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
If you are visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome
And to know that we are delighted to have you here***

We would like everyone to fill out the Friendship Pad at the end of the pews and pass it along for all to fill out. Please also mark the names of all in the family who are receiving Communion. If you are visiting, please include your address and phone number.

Nursery Children are always welcome at our worship services; however, if you desire, please feel free to use the nursery located out the north entrance of the sanctuary.

— **ORDER OF WORSHIP** —
ELW SETTING 3

PRELUDE

(A time for prayer and reflection)

Chime Choir

Announcements & Community Concerns

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Please stand)*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
 who comes to wake us from sleep,
 who leads us into the light of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord
 by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: God of all time,

**C: we confess that we have not prepared
 for your merciful reign among us.**

**We ignore our neighbors in need
 and fail in the labor of justice and peace.**

In your mercy forgive us.

**Grant us wisdom to welcome your light
 and to seek the things that will endure
 until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

P: Comfort, O comfort my people,
 says your God.

In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven
 and all things are made new.

Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW#254



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



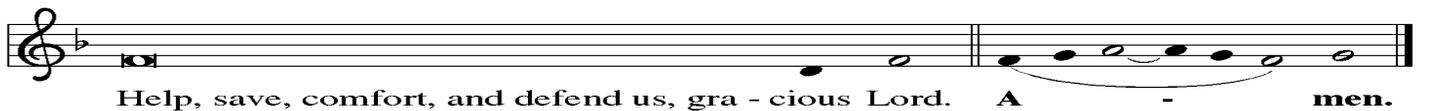
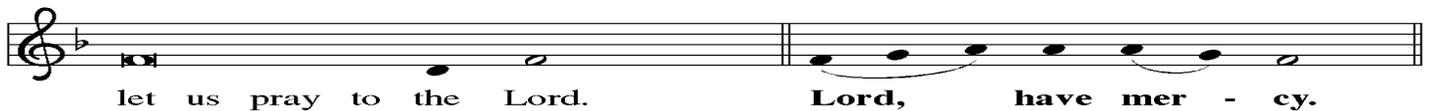
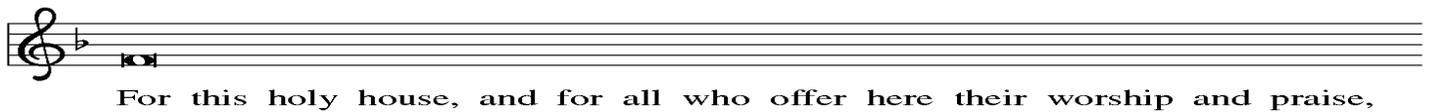
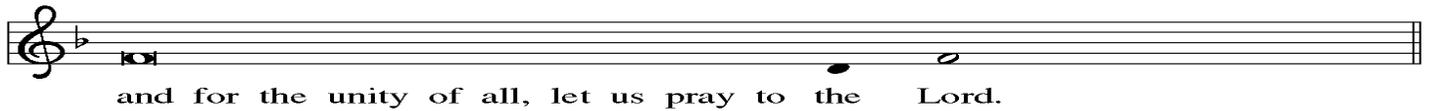
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

KYRIE *Please stand as you are able.* (Assisting Minister: regular print, **C: bold print**)

Please be seated

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One of the best known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.

Litany for the Third Sunday in Advent:

L: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L: We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes to be reshaped by God's promises. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L: We wait for the day when God will make for us a future that is no longer predicated on our fear. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L: We find a new receptivity within us that desires God's will over our own will and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope.

C: Amen.

Light three candles.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verse 3) ELW#257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come - and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray, **C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

L: The 1st READING is from Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall

become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:5-10 (*Please join the Assisting Minister in reading the psalm responsively*) **ELW#146**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God; ⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;** ⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

L: The 2nd READING is from James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew 11:2-11 **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This

is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."P: The gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

CHILDREN 'S MESSAGE

Pastor Miho Yasukawa

SERMON

Pastor Miho Yasukawa

HYMN OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW#264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

APOSTLES CREED *Please Stand*

A: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: WA: let us pray. **C: Have mercy, O God.**

WA: As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need. *A brief silence*

WA: For the church and all messengers of the gospel, for all who call upon the name of the Lord, and for congregations throughout the world; that God work through us to bring harmony and reconciliation, let us pray. **C: Have mercy, O God.**

WA: For rain forests and deserts, for wilderness and developed land, and for plants blossoming and dormant; that the splendor and diversity of creation proclaim the glory of the Lord, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

WA: For our government, for the military and international relief workers, and for those who care for the stranger, widow, and orphan; that God raise up leaders who work for the protection of all, let us pray. **C: Have mercy, O God.**

WA: For the hungry and homeless, for those in captivity, for the fearful and sorrowful, for those living with HIV/AIDS, and for the sick *especially, Bob Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Verl Price, Bruce, Beverly, Donna Euler, Katy Lartz, Kelli Huneke, Jane Parks, Dave Offerman, Scott Bonnet, Thomas Lance* strengthen and encourage *Carol Wybourn and Ray Stamm*, that those who help others serve with patience and grace. Love, comfort and hope of Resurrection for the family and friends of Pat Costello, let us pray. **C: Have mercy, O God.**

WA: For all who call this community home, for those visiting from near and far, and for those preparing for the holiday season, that the advent of Christ make our hearts and minds rejoice, let us pray. **C: Have mercy, O God.**

WA: In thanksgiving for the departed who were faithful to God's word; that their words and actions direct us to the one who prepares a way for us, let us pray. **C: Have mercy, O God.**

Pastor: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior. **C: Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING**Men's Choir**

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church locally and throughout the world, including those in need. We also offer up prayers to God as we offer ourselves (time, talents, gifts, and interests) to the Lord's service and dedicate our lives to God's work in the world. During this time, the table is set. After the table is set, the offering is gathered & the anthem concludes, the acolyte walks out to the edge of the chancel steps to receive the offering from the ushers.

Offering Prayer (after acolyte presents offering at altar) – Please Stand

A: Let us pray, **C: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION**LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C: 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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We practice open Communion here — Christ invites us to the table. All baptized Christians are welcome to partake the body and blood of Jesus Christ. If you wish to receive a blessing, you may come forward. Holy Communion will be celebrated by intinction you will dip the bread into the chalice. The gold chalices have wine; the chrome chalices have grape juice. You will be ushered down the center aisle and return to your pew by way of the side aisles. If you need assistance, please let an usher know.

**COMMUNION SONG (sung by all) Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

TABLE BLESSING:

P: The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION A: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW#251

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-secure.

Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
 The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;
 Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
 the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

DISMISSAL (*from the back*)

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE**Karen Niemeier**

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THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD**December 11th thru December 18th 2016**

Today	Worship Service with Holy Communion	9:30 am
	Fellowship	10:30 am
	Sunday School	10:45 am
	Choir Practice	11:00 am
	Christmas Caroling	2:00 pm
Tuesday	Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center	9:45 am
	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
Wednesday	"Piece Corps" Quilting Group	8:00 am-11:30 am
	After School Program for 4 th -8 th graders at the Hangout	3:30 pm-5:00pm
Thursday	Pastor Miho Devotions at Friendship Center	10:30 am
	Faith and Hannah Circle Lena Living Center Birthday Party	2:00 pm
Saturday	Christmas Program Rehearsal	9:00 am – 10:30 am
Next Sunday	Worship Service/Christmas Program with Holy Communion	9:30 am
	Fellowship	10:30 am
	Choir Practice	11:00 am
	Good Shepherd at Lena Living Center	2:30\ pm
	Chime Practice	5:00 pm

Attendance December 4th was 60

Total Offering December 4, 2016 \$1927.00 – Amount needed \$6,782.15

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<u>Pastor:</u>	Pastor Miho Yasukawa	<u>Missionaries to Tanzania:</u>	Randy & Carol Stubbs Family
<u>Pianists:</u>	Tena Rackow, Sarah Baker	<u>Organist:</u>	Karen Niemeier
<u>Choir Dir. /accomp:</u>	Janis Kurth / Marion Fahr	<u>Secretary:</u>	Darlene Barr
<u>Lector</u>	Beth Martin	<u>Acolyte:</u>	Ethan Fye
<u>Assisting Minister</u>	Jay Andrews	<u>Worship Assistant:</u>	Shirley Fox
<u>Communion Usher</u>	Jerry and Beth Martin	<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Beth Martin
<u>Communion Asst:</u>	Troy and Cindy Doubler		
<u>Elevator Operator</u>	Jackie Jordan		
<u>Sound System:</u>	Austin Andrews, Taylor Bastian		
<u>Greeters:</u>	Wayne and Janis Kurth, Bob and Sharon Schlachter		
<u>Ushers:</u>	Jerry and Beth Martin, Gary and Cynthia Boekle		

Children's Christmas Program will be December 18th

Join us for a festive worship service led by our children and youth as they present

"Footprints to the Manger"

The children will lead us in song and actions. There will be special music from our children and youth. We will have congregational hymns, and we will hear and see the story unfold.

All Sunday school children are encouraged to attend Sunday School to help prepare for the Christmas program.

Hope to see you all there!

Christmas Gifts Bags

Items are needed for Sunday School Christmas Gift Bags, please see signup sheet by the Fellowship Hall for items that are needed

Pastoral Care:

If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, please notify or call the church office (815-369-5552) and/or Pastor Miho E-mail: gslpastor@aeroinc.net Cell: 815-821-9570

Christmas Caroling, Today

We will meet at the church at 2:00 pm, dress warmly; we will bring the Joyful sounds of the Christmas Season to others in our community. After Caroling, enjoy a hot bowl of soup back at Good Shepherd.

Bring finger foods to share.

Lena Area Church Cooperative

Reminder: The Angel Tree gifts are due next Sunday. Please be sure and return your gift (s) to the church. The gifts will be taken right after the church service for distribution. Thank you for your generosity! Shirley Fox and Mary Lloyd. Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship Services

Join us on Saturday December 24th as we celebrate Christmas Eve Candlelight worship with Holy Communion at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Choir and Chime will offer their music.

Volunteers Needed

For All positions at the 5:00pm and 7:30pm Christmas Eve Services

If you can assist please write your name, time of service and volunteer position on the pew pad or call the church office at 815-369-5552 or email gschurch@aeroinc.net or GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com with the information.

Consider Alternative Giving this Christmas
Celebrate Giving with ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Make a difference in the world as you give gifts to loved ones this Christmas

In lieu of traditional gifts, consider supporting meaningful projects of the ELCA in honor of friends and loved ones through **ELCA Good Gifts, ELCA Disaster Relief, or God's Global Barnyard**. Honor friends and loved ones with gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. You can buy a chicken that will provide eggs and income, you can support a missionary, support a church plant, buy a well or a portion of a well, and so much more. Consider creating a new family tradition! Maybe you can decide to go in together and choose together what would be meaningful to do. **Check out the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall for more ideas!**

Update Your Information

Good Shepherd Church is up-dating the Church's contact file.

Please fill out the enclosed form and place it in the offering plate or in the wicker baskets that are at the doors as you exit. Thank you.