



*Comfort, comfort my
people says your God. . .*

114 E. Blue Earth Ave.

Fairmont, MN 56031

Sunday Worship: 9:30am

Sunday School and Bible Class: 10:45am

www.shepherdofthelakes.net

Pastor Jason Zuehlke

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PastorZuehlke@outlook.com

Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 2020

Welcome to Shepherd of the Lakes

We're here to shepherd Christ's flock and seek the lost sheep by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all. Come, let us worship!

For Your Convenience. . .

A room for any parents with children in need of a quiet place is located just outside of the back of the sanctuary. Restrooms are located in the hallway toward the front of the sanctuary. Please ask if you have any further questions or concerns..

Prayer before worship

Heavenly Father, as I worship you today, curb my wandering thoughts. Speak to my heart. Encourage me with your Word, that my faith is strengthened, my confidence and hope renewed, and I am recommitted to serve you faithfully. In Jesus' name, amen.



DIVINE SERVICE I



OPENING HYMN: CW 14.....*Arise, O Christian People*

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY—*Kyrie*

C Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy

on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE:

M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

M: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Two Advent candles are lit.

TRIO ANTHEM..... *O Come, Emmanuel*
Neil & Tracy Hankwitz
©2003 Northwestern Publishing House
Sung by Debra Sulzle, Linda Hughes, Sharon Scheff

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 85 (*printed on p. 97 In the front part of your hymnal*)

SECOND LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

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

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 6:60-69

PLEASE STAND

M: The Gospel according to Mark chapter 1.



The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

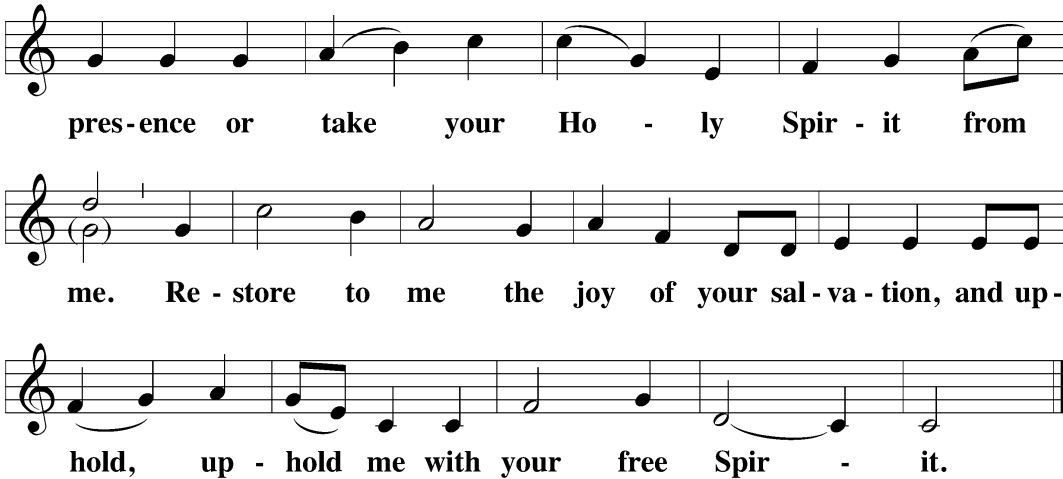
“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”—

³“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.





pres-ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING

*Offerings can be placed in the offering plate in the back of our sanctuary. They can also be mailed to our church office at **114 E. Blue Earth Avenue, Fairmont, MN 56031** or made on our website under the "Donate" tab at the top of the homepage or taken to Profinium Bank in Fairmont*

***To our visitors:** Our offering is not a debt we owe God, but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation, but love for God. The members of Shepherd of the Lakes have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. As our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Found on page 123 of Christian Worship)*

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen!

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY—*Sanctus*

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD—*Agnus Dei*

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in common time (C). It consists of seven lines of music. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men. A - men." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the seventh line.

C O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O
Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O
Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace. A -
men. A - men.

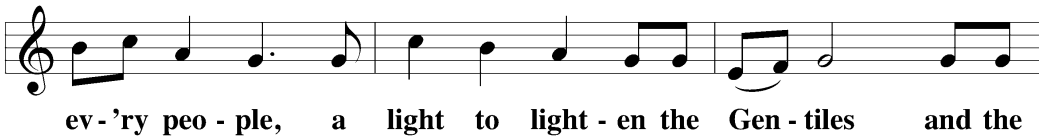
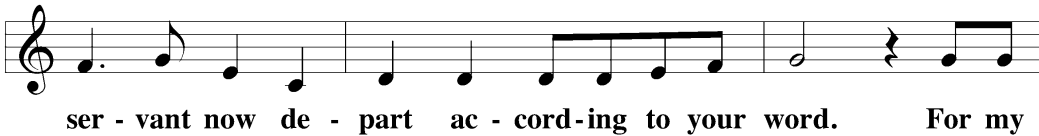
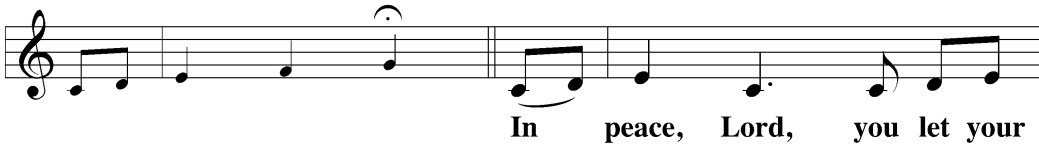
PLEASE BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION To our visitors: *Scripture teaches us that those who commune together are expressing a unity in faith and all of Scripture's teachings. This is called closed communion. Therefore, if you are not a member of Shepherd of the Lakes, the Wisconsin Synod, or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, you will want to wait to commune with us until you've had the opportunity to learn more about what we believe and teach and then publicly express that unity at your confirmation. This is not a judgment in any way on your faith. Rather, we want you to be sure you agree with us before you express that unity at the Lord's Table. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe and teach or if you have any questions, please talk with our pastor.*

PLEASE STAND

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON—*Nunc Dimittis*



M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

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.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: CW 20 vv 1,3,4.....*When All the Word Was Cursed*



Notes and News for December 6, 2020

Prayer Requests

As a we love each other as the body of Christ, we want to "rejoice with those who rejoice [and] mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). If you have any prayer requests, please pass them on to Pastor that we may take them to the Lord with you!

Midweek Advent Worship

Last Wednesday began our evening Advent worship services Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Join us for two more midweek Advent opportunities on the 9th and 16th at 7:00pm as we look at "The Names By Which He Will Be Called" in lessons from Isaiah about our Savior born on Christmas.

Children's Christmas Service

Our Children's Christmas service will be at 9:30am on December 20th. Our children along with volunteers from the congregation will be participating in a service that looks at the promises from God throughout generations that are kept at Christmas! Thank to all who have volunteered!

COVID

With cases on the rise, we would just like to remind everyone to be vigilant in watching for any symptoms that you may present and that you can view our COVID-19 Worship Preparedness Plan on our website. With our Worship Preparedness Plan, some of the precautions we are taking involve masking whenever possible, social distancing 6 feet between household whenever possible, and taking our worship folders home to be recycled so as to maintain a minimum amount of contact between multiple people on similar surfaces or objects.

The Greatest Gift: Hope Has Arrived!

Getting gifts is great. . . except when it's not. Sometimes getting gifts can be just plain disappointing. We open gifts that are not our size, or we already own, or we don't even want, or that only last for a short time before it breaks or is forgotten. But there is one gift that is perfect for everyone. It has no fancy bow or wrapping paper. You aren't going to find it under a tree. In fact, stores don't even sell it. But it's just what we need. And it lasts forever. it is the greatest gift! We hope you can all join us on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm to hear lessons and carols proclaiming our theme this year, The Greatest Gift: Hope Has Arrived!

Elders and Council Meetings

Elders and Council will be meeting this coming Tuesday at 6:30pm and 7:00pm.

Wine, Women, and the Word

Wine, Women, and the Word is scheduled to meet a week from today (December 12th) at 2:00pm at church

Weeknight Bible Class

If you are interested in participating in our weeknight Bible study on Mondays at 6:30pm, we'll be glad to have you! Let Pastor Zuehlke (PastorZuehlke@outlook.com) know if you 'd be interested or if you think anyone else in our community would be interested in joining so he can order more books as needed!

Remember in your Prayers this Week

+ **Prayer requests:** We continue to pray for Sue Von Haden who is recovering from surgery and removal of a tumor and a second surgery to remove cancer from her lymph nodes; We continue to pray for Al Schaller and his family after finding nodules on his lungs; Lola Schultze (mother of Jean and Roman's sister-in-law) who was flown to Rochester after a car accident on Friday.

Coming Up this Week

Sunday 12/6.....Worship 9:30am
Bible Class 10:45am
Sunday School 10:45am

Monday 12/7.....Weeknight Bible Class 6:30pm

Tuesday 12/8.....Elders Meeting 6:30pm
Council Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday 12/9.....6th Grade Confirmation 4:30pm
7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 5:30pm
Midweek Advent Worship 7:00pm

Sunday 12/13.....Worship 9:30am
Bible Class 10:45am
Sunday School 10:45am



The Chi Rho is a Christian symbol for “Christ” written by superimposing the two Greek letters “Chi (X)” and “Rho (P)” which are the first two letters in Greek of the name of “CHRist.”

The first public use of the Chi Rho symbol was on the labarum, the shield of Constantine’s warriors in the Battle of Milvian Bridge on October 28, 213 AD. Emperor Constantine (reigned 306-337) and his troops saw a miraculous sign in the sky the day before the battle.

Emperor Constantine won the Battle of Milvian Bridge and believed he won because of the symbol of Christ, the Chi Rho, upon the shields of his men. Several months later, Constantine in the Edit of Milan declared Christianity legal in the Roman Empire. The almost three hundred years of Imperial Persecution against Christians were over.

The use of the Chi Rho symbol preceded the use of it by Constantine. In the first hundred years of the faith, it was a secret sign for Christians to identify themselves to each other and was used in catacomb art from the c. 150’s through the 350’s AD.

~Article by Sandra Sweeny Silver from <https://earlychurchhistory.org/christian-symbols/the-chi-rho-symbol/>



Find and like us on Facebook at *Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church (WELS) of Fairmont, MN*

