



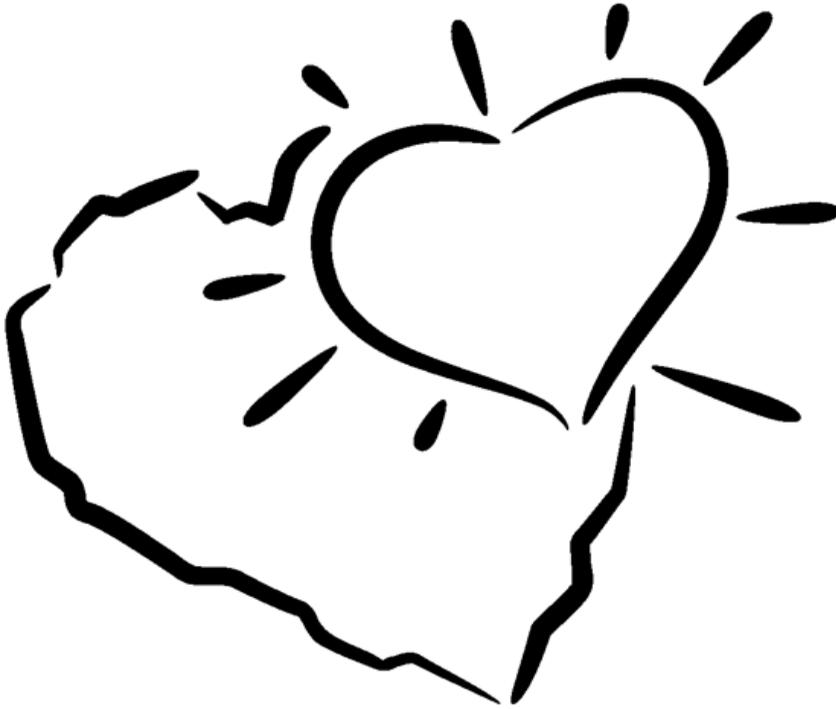
## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Mission & Ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod that is...  
Proclaiming Christ's Word through Truth, Innovation & Fellowship!*

**Ash Wednesday**

*February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

*6:30 pm*



*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit  
within me.*

*-Psalm 51:10*



## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2450 West 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54904

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod...920-231-0530

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**Worship Services:** Wednesdays During Lent: 10:30 am & 6:30 pm  
Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 am

Holy Communion is Celebrated every Sunday  
(The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 8am; the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am)

**Supper served at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays! All Welcome!**

**Sunday School for All Ages: 9:15-10:15 Sundays!**

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am-1:00 pm**

*Pastor office hours: Tuesday-Thursday 11:30-3:00 or by appointment.*

*(Pastor always available via cell! Call or text!...763-913-8445)*

### *As We Gather...*

*Greetings People of the Good Shepherd! It's a privilege and honor to worship our Merciful Heavenly Father with you this Ash Wednesday. We're so glad you are here! As always, make yourself at home, you are among family!*

*Ash Wednesday is not about trying harder or proving ourselves to God. It is about honesty — admitting we are dust, confessing our sin, and facing what we would rather avoid. Yet we do not do this alone. Just as a loving parent stands beside a child who must confess, Christ stands with us in our weakness. Repentance is not something we accomplish for God; it is something God works in us. The ashes do not say "Do better." They say, "You are mortal — and you are loved." Lent begins not with self-improvement, but with a Savior who kneels beside sinners, speaks absolution, and walks with us toward the cross. We do not repent alone. We do not suffer alone. Christ stands with us — and that is more than enough.*

## *Service Notes...*

**In preparation for worship:** Please take some time to greet the people you are worshiping with! The order of worship is printed for you below; please take a few minutes to look it over as you prepare for worship. You may also want to mark the songs: **192, 547, 425, 570, 626, 581 & 418** in the Lutheran Service Book (*LSB*) before we begin. **Reminder:** If you have a smart phone, and you're on Facebook, please "check in" at *Good Shepherd* Lutheran Church...then turn the sound off! May our Good and Gracious Shepherd bless your worship this day...this NEW day of salvation!

**To Stand or Sit:** There are certain parts of the service where you will be invited to stand. Sometimes, "wrestling" with kids, or a personal health condition makes standing uncomfortable... please know: **It is okay to either stand or sit. Both are appropriate!** So please, make yourself comfortable, receive the gifts God loves to give and **BOLDLY** sing His praises!

**Children:** We are blessed to have a lot of young families and young children here at *Good Shepherd*. We take Jesus' words very seriously when He says, "Let the little children come to me..." We also know how difficult it can be to keep children sitting quietly for any period of time, much less an hour long church service! For your convenience, "Quiet Bags" have been provided for young worshippers. They are located in the narthex to your right (on the "Noah's Ark" wall mounting, next to the big bulletin board) when exiting the sanctuary. Also, for your convenience, a "Quiet Room" is located at the back of the sanctuary for use during those "difficult" times. Also, please keep in mind that everyone here loves to have the children here and will help you in any way they can!

**Guests, Visitors & The Offering:** If you are our guest today, you are **not** expected to contribute monetarily to God's work at *Good Shepherd* ... you are our guest! Please take this service as our gift to you! But please do take a minute to check in at one of our kiosks in the atrium and sign the guestbook so we can thank you for your visit...and come soon to see us again! If you choose to give an offering, know this: **The gifts we give back to God are used by His church to transform lives.**

**The Lord's Supper:** *Good Shepherd* joyfully celebrates the Lord's Supper today, and we do that in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25. **Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes** Matthew 5:23; 18:15-35. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession Matthew 10:32 differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. Because Scripture says we ought "examine ourselves" before receiving the Holy Meal 1 Corinthians 11:28, it is recommended that we review the "Christian Questions with Their Answers" section of the *LSB* before communion (pg. 329), please take a few moments before the service or during the offering to do so. Thank you! **Please note: There are two or three cups at the center of each tray that are non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer such for personal or medical reasons (The wine containing alcohol is white, the non-alcohol is red/pink).**

**The Ashes:** Today you will be invited to approach the altar to receive ashes, on your forehead or on the back of your hand, to reflect upon yourself in your own way. Like Holy Communion, or a hymn or prayer, in fact, like anything offered by God through His church, it's optional...Just another way to "remember."

## *Pre-Service Meditation...*

Please check out some of the pre-service prayers in the front of the LSB and/or meditate on one or more of the Psalms printed in the front of the LSB (specifically **Psalm 103** this evening).

## *Prelude...*

*(The Good Shepherd Choir Sings: "Near the Cross" –Jay Rouse)*

*Jesus keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain,  
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.*

*In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,  
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;  
there the Bright and Morning Star sheds its beams around me.*

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day with its shadows o'er me.*

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.*

*In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,  
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

## *Words of Welcome...*

*The Opening Song: "Create in Me"*

*(LSB pg. 192 Bottom)*

## *The Invocation*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b;*

**All: Amen.**

## *We Confess our Sins* [1 John 1:8-9]

Pastor: Holy and merciful Father, we confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. For our failure to love You, with all our heart, mind, and strength,

**All: accept our repentance, O Lord.**

Pastor: For our failure to love our neighbors as ourselves,

**All: accept our repentance, O Lord.**

Pastor: For our holding on to grudges and refusing to forgive others as You have forgiven us,

**All: accept our repentance, O Lord.**

*(Continued...)*

Pastor: For our reluctance to share generously and joyfully the time, talent, and treasures You provide,

**All: accept our repentance, O Lord.**

Pastor: For our suspicion of strangers, which sometimes hinders our sharing of the Gospel,

**All: accept our repentance, O Lord.**

Pastor: For our refusal to speak well of our neighbor and to put the best construction on our neighbor's words and actions,

**All: accept our repentance, O Lord.**

Pastor: For our arrogance toward others,

**All: accept our repentance, O Lord.**

Pastor: For all of the ways in which the confession of our lips does not show forth in our lives,

**All: accept our repentance, O Lord.**

Pastor: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

**All: Amen.**

### *The Imposition of Ashes...*

*(At this time, those who wish to receive the mark of ashes may come forward. The ashes are an ancient sign of mortality and death, sorrow and forgiveness, used at the beginning of Lent.*

*All are invited to meditate on Psalms 90 as they await ashes or after returning from receiving them. As the ashes are imposed on the forehead or hand of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.")*

### **Psalm 90**

*LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world from everlasting to everlasting You are God. You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence. For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on Your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; Yes, establish the work of our hands!*

*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.*

*We Hear God's Forgiveness* [John 20:19-23]...

Pastor: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

**All: that we may show forth Your glory in the world.**

Pastor: By the cross and Passion of Your Son, our Lord,

**All: bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.**

Pastor: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore Him to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit that those things may please Him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to His eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

*We Sing: "The Lamb"*

(LSB pg. 547... Choir will sing verses 2 & 4)

+*We Hear God's Word* +

*Joel 2:12-19 "Return to the Lord"*

Pastor: 'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' <sup>13</sup> Rend your heart and not your garments.

**All: Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.**

Pastor: <sup>14</sup> Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing— grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.

**All: <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. <sup>16</sup> Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast.**

Pastor: Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. <sup>17</sup> Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say,

**All: "Spare your people, O LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"**

Pastor: <sup>18</sup> Then the LORD will be jealous for his land and take pity on his people. <sup>19</sup> The LORD will reply<sup>a</sup> to them:

**All: "I am sending you grain, new wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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a 18,19 Or LORD was jealous... | and took pity... | 19 The LORD replied

## *Hebrews 12:2*

Pastor: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

**All: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## *2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10 "Be reconciled with God."*

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>a</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you."<sup>b</sup> I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup> We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. <sup>4</sup> Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; <sup>5</sup> in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; <sup>7</sup> in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; <sup>8</sup> through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; <sup>9</sup> known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything...This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## *Joel 2:13b*

Pastor: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**All: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

## *The Good Shepherd Choir Sings: "Come to Me"*

*Come to me, all you who labor.*

*Come to me, all you who labor, and I will give you rest.*

*Take up my yoke and learn from me,  
for I am meek and humble of heart.*

*You will find rest for your soul, for my yoke is easy,  
And my burden is light.*

*Come to me, all you who labor, come to me all you who labor,  
And I will give you rest, give you rest.*

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<sup>a</sup> Or *be a sin offering*

<sup>b</sup> Isaiah 49:8

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Alms giving, prayer, and fasting.*

“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>16</sup> “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*We Sing: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”  
(LSB pg. 425...With a little help from the Bell Choir!)*

*The Message: “Pointing Forward”  
(Sermon Application...)*

What did God teach you in His Law today (*What you should do, or have failed to do for God*)?

What did God teach you in His Gospel today (*What God has done for you through Christ*)?

What is the main thing you’re taking home from this message today?

Have a comment or question about today’s message? Have any questions about any of this Jesus/Christian stuff? Text the pastor at 763-913-8445 or email him at [pastor@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org](mailto:pastor@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org). If you’d like to hear Sunday’s message, or share it with a friend, it posts on our Facebook page and/or Website by 10 am on Monday...



## *The Litany...*

*(A structured form of prayer for all conditions of humanity, consisting of a series of petitions and responses)*

Pastor: O Lord,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**All: hear us.**

Pastor: God the Father, in heaven,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

**All: Spare us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

**All: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and Passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**All: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**All: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

**All: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith, to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

**All: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**All: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

*(Continued...)*

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**All: we implore You to hear us.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**All: grant us Your peace.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**All: hear us.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**All: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**All: have mercy. Amen.**

### *We Celebrate the Lord's Supper...*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.** 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: Let us pray....

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**All: 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.** Matthew 6:9-13

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### *The Words of our Lord...*

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

### *The Distribution...*

*We come forward to receive the Body & Blood of Christ in, with and under the bread and wine for remembrance; for forgiveness; for the strengthening of our faith. The ushers will usher you up, you may sit and sing while you wait for the Holy Meal.*

*During the Distribution:*

*The Bell Choir Plays: "Let All Mortal Flesh"*

*All of us Sing: "Just as I Am, without One Plea" (LSB pg. 570)*

*℟*

*"Come, Let Us Eat" (LSB pg. 626)*

*℟*

*"These Are the Holy Ten Commands" (LSB pg.581)*

*The Post Communion Prayer...*

*The Blessing*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Num. 6:24-26

**All: Amen.**

*The Closing Song: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"*  
*(LSB pg. 418)*

*Please stick around as long as you desire for fellowship, Good Shepherd style!*

*If you're visiting us today, please remember to sign the guestbook before you depart...and  
come soon to see us again!*

*If you haven't checked in at the Good Shepherd Kiosk, please take a moment to do so  
before you leave! It's fun!*

*Don't forget your Lenten Devotions!*

**Next week we will begin our Wednesday Lenten Series...**

**“The Angels of the Passion”**

**Lenten Midweek 2: How It All Started**

**Lenten Midweek 3: A Mission of Mercy Pt. 1**

**Lenten Midweek 4: Traitors!**

**Lenten Midweek 5: A Mission of Mercy Pt. 2**

**Lenten Midweek 6: Just One Little Word!**

**Feed your body & feed your soul Wednesdays during Lent at Good Shepherd!...And bring some friends! (Food at 5:30; Worship at 6:30...Wednesdays!)**