



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Proclaiming Christ's Word through Truth, Innovation & Fellowship.

The Eve of Thanksgiving

November 27th, 2024



Let us Bless the Lord!

-Psalm 136:1



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2450 West 9th Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54904

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Pastor Greg Koepsell: Office 920-231-0530 or Cell 763-913-8445
or pastor@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org

Web Site: www.goodshepherdinoshkosh.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/oshkoshgoodshepherd

E-Mail Address: church@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org

Worship Services: Wednesday: 10:30 am & 6:30 pm (*Back to Thursday Eve. Jan. 2nd 2025*)
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am

Holy Communion is Celebrated every Sunday

(The 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 8am; the 2nd and 4th at 10:30am)

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

Pastor office hours: Please call or text for an appointment!
(Pastor always available via cell! Call or text!...763-913-8445)

As We Gather...

*A warm & hearty welcome to you! It's a privilege and honor to worship our Good Shepherd, Jesus, with you this Thanksgiving Evening! Everyone is better off and **thankful** you are here! As always, make yourself at home, you are among family!*

As we gather on this Thanksgiving, we give thanks for the land in which we live, where we can freely exercise our religious beliefs. We also take time to remember the land God gave Adam and Eve—a land that was perfect before their fall into sin. There's also the Promised Land that God led the Israelites to after releasing them from slavery and the land of our religious forefathers in Germany, the land of the Reformation. This was a land our forefathers left to find religious freedom in America. We are thankful for this freedom as we celebrate the freedom that is ours because Jesus rescued us from our slavery to sin through His atoning sacrifice on the cross.

Service Notes...

In preparation for worship: Please take some time to greet the people you are worshipping with. The order of worship for this evening is printed for you below, you may want to take a few minutes to look it over and mark the songs **785, 892, 894 & 895** in the Lutheran Service Book (*LSB*) as you prepare to sing your thanksgivings to your Good Shepherd, Lord and Savior. If you have a smart phone, and you're on Facebook, remember to check in at *Good Shepherd* Lutheran Church...then turn the sound off! May God seriously bless your worship this Thanksgiving Evening!

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 “Crying Room” is located at the back of the sanctuary for use during those “difficult” times.

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 offering plate is located at the sanctuary entrance*)

The Lord’s Supper: This evening, *Good Shepherd* joyfully celebrates the Lord’s Supper, 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 to “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 (**page 329 of the *LSB***), 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).**

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 *LSB* (specifically **Psalm 67** today)...or just spend some time quietly in meditation and prayer before we begin.*

Prelude...

The Good Shepherd Bell Choir blesses us with, “Bell Peal on Old 100th” –Art L. Lamb

Words of Welcome...

The Opening Song: “We Praise You, O God” (LSB pg. 785 -with bell choir accompaniment)

The Invocation...

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

All: Amen.

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

All: to God my exceeding joy.

Confession & Forgiveness...

Pastor: If we confess our sins, our God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.

All: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, creator of all things, we confess that we are indeed sin-filled people. We are by nature sinful, and sin is present in our lives each day, in thought, word, and deed. We know that have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You require of us. We have not always lived lives that reflect thankfulness to You, the giver of all that is good. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Lord, who is the source of our salvation. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live faithfully and with great gratitude here on earth until that time beyond time when we rejoice together in Your eternal presence.

Pastor: Our God has promised to hear us and to grant forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for His grace and mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you be kept steadfast in the Holy Spirit, living each day in thankfulness to God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Good Shepherd Choir Sings: “Come, Give Thanks and Sing” -Jean Anne Shafferman

Come, ye thankful people come, raise a song of grateful praise.

To His sacred altar bring gifts of gladness to our King.

Let the universe rejoice, stars and angels lend your voice.

Lord, of all to Thee we raise this our grateful praise.

Come and sing your songs of praise, joyful alleluias raise.

All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.

God, our Maker, doth provide, for our wants to be supplied.

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our grateful praise.

(Continued...)

*Raise your voices, sing in gladness, banish earthly gloom and sadness!
Lift your song to God on high; wing your voices to the sky!*

*Sing ye thankful people sing; Jesus Christ is Lord and King!
By God's bounty we are fed; by His goodness we are led.
Ever onward day by day, singing songs of love and praise.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our grateful praise!
Come and sing! Sing your praise!*

We Pray...

+ We Hear God's Word +

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 *(In the good land remember God's fatherly care.)*

Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. ² Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; ⁸ a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹ a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. ¹⁰ When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you... This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 *(Prayers and supplications are to be made for all people.)*

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth... This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Luke 17:11-19 *(Only one leper returns thanks.)*

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy^a met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

(Continued...)

^aThe Greek word was used for various diseases affecting the skin—not necessarily leprosy.

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” ...This is the Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ!

We Sing: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” (LSB pg. 892)

The Message: “Acts of God”

(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. 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...



We Affirm our Faith (The First Article of the Apostles’ Creed)

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What does this mean?

All: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

The Prayer of the Church [1 Timothy 2:1-4]...

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ and for all people according to their needs.

Thank You, Lord,

All: for food, health, clothing, and homes.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord,

All: for the many freedoms we enjoy.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord,

All: for a just government.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord,

All: for teachers, family, and friends.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord,

All: for the gifts You give to Your Church.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord,

All: for Baptism, the Lord's Supper, forgiveness, grace, hope, and Your Word.

(A moment of silence to give personal thanks to God...)

...Pastor: Thank You, Lord, for Jesus Christ, Your only Son, through whom You give us the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life in Your Kingdom just as He gave when, On the night when He was betrayed...

Words of our Lord...

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

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 Peace of the Lord

Pastor: The peace of the + Lord be with you always. John 20:19

All: Amen.

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. You may sit and sing while you wait for the Holy meal. The ushers will assist you.

During the distribution:

Cello Piece by Jacob Bedroske: "The Mission/How Great Thou Art"

We Sing: "For the Fruits of His Creation" (LSB pg. 894)

Post Communion Prayer...

The Blessing...

We Sing: "Now Thank We All Our God" (LSB pg. 895)

*Thank you for worshiping with us this evening...
it's better with you here! Please stick around for some great fellowship & PIE!*

A Blessed Thanksgiving to you!.. To God Alone All Glory Goes!

Serving Us Today

Pastor & Celebrant.....Pastor Koepsell
Organist.....Ken Hill
Choir.....Adult Choir
Cello.....Jacob Bedroske

Questions about the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod? Check out, www.lcms.org