

*TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST*  
*November 12, 2023*  
*Thankoffering Service 11:00 AM*

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4201 Stoudt's Ferry Bridge Road  
Reading, Pa. 19605  
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Mission Statement:  
Building the Kingdom of God In our Community

The Bulletins and Flowers are sponsored by W/ELCA

Today's Reader is Kristen Simons

BELL RINGING

\*Denotes Congregation Stands, if you are able.

## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS & CONCERNS

#### PRELUDE:

#### \*GATHERING

P: Let us give thanks to God, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.

P: You are to be praised, O God,

**C: Happy are they whom you choose**

**and draw to your courts to dwell there;**

P: They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,  
by the holiness of your temple.

**C: Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,**

P: O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

**C: You make firm the mountains by your power;**

**You are girded about with might.**

P: You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamor of the peoples.

**C: Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your  
marvelous signs,**

P: You make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

**C: and your paths overflow with plenty.**

P: May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,

**C: And the hills be clothed with joy.**

P: May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,

**C: and the valleys cloak themselves with grain.**

P: Let them shout for joy and sing.

\*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.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God our Father,

**C: your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit, lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** Thank You, Lord!

**FIRST READING:** Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

Reader: <sup>7</sup>For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. <sup>10</sup>You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

<sup>11</sup>Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. <sup>12</sup>When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, <sup>16</sup>and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. <sup>17</sup>Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten

me this wealth." <sup>18</sup>But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

R: The word of God

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15**

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written,

"He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever."

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup>for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

R: Word of God, word of life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia! Lord and Savior**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 17: 11-19**

P: The holy Gospel according to St Luke, the 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter

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

<sup>11</sup>On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRESENTATION FROM Carl Bard, Wood to Wonderful, gifts for children at risk

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** # 689 Praise and Thanksgiving

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

R: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 into hell.**

**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.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

P: Generous God, we thank you for the legacy and gift of the church. Make our proclamation clear, our generosity bold, and our community rich in welcome. We raise grateful hearts for the body of Christ where we find belonging. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Creator of the earth, the bounty of creation reveals your abundant love. Provide safety and shelter for all wildlife. Save us from the waste of natural resources. We raise grateful hearts for the earth, our home. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of all nations, make all tribes and lands places where justice and inclusion is realized and celebrated. Protect any who are vulnerable and feed all who hunger. We raise grateful hearts for civil rights and just leaders. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Healing God, you see us and are moved with compassion. Attend to those who are sick or dying, surround with love all who are lonely and despairing, and comfort those in need as we lift their names to you, either aloud or in our hearts. . . We raise grateful hearts for your lovingkindness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of the welcome table, you gather people to be shaped by your word. We pray for ministries that notice and respond to human needs: food banks, shelters, community resource centers including the local churches in the West Berks Mission District. We raise grateful hearts for these organizations. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of life, you raise those who have died to new life in Christ. We remember especially Clement, Bishop of Rome and Miguel Agustín Pro whom the church commemorates today. We raise grateful hearts for the lives and faithfulness of all the saints. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## OFFERING

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** Doxology – Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Blessed are you, Maker of all things.

**C: As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

R: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as you have taught us to pray.

**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**

**SENDING**

**\*SENDING**

P: God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.



**\*SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of peace, who creates all things and calls them good, who makes us alive in Jesus, and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,   
✚ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN** # 881 Let All Things Now Living

**\*THE DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE:**

**Coffee and Fellowship** – Sundays at 10:30. Come for a cup and sit in the Gathering to chat and meet people. Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa will be served each Sunday (no coffee cups in the Sanctuary).

### Congregational Meetings

- December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Informational – hand out of Budget, Council members
- December 17<sup>th</sup> – Voting - Budget, Roster of Council, Items of concern

We extend a hearty welcome to our visitors today. Please fill out a Pew card with your contact information. If there is any way we can be of service to you, please inform us. There is Visitor information on the Gathering table. Please see someone if you are interested in more.



### Prayer List – please include these people in your prayers

Kathy Buckley	Matthew Carl	Margaret Hinkel
Aubrey Horning	Kathy Huegler	Russell & JoAnne Lutz
Mike Morrissey	Duane Mauer’s family - George & Dolores	
James Runkle Jr.	For the Daubert family, Christine Carl in memory of Alma	

## Food Pantry

**Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>**

The Muhlenberg Churches collaborative food distribution ministry is held here at Good Shepherd Lutheran on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month.

Dry goods and canned food donations from members are needed to augment the food that is received from Helping Harvest. Please support this ministry by bringing in your donations and placing them on the white stand in the Gathering Area. The Holidays are especially difficult for families. We are serving over 130 clients each month. Thank you for responding to God's call to "feed my sheep."

TABS - helping those with Cancer. Don't forget to save your aluminum tabs. They are greatly appreciated. We have the container on the Gathering Table for your donations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Advent Sundays

November 26<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Communion services  
December 10<sup>th</sup>, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Please see the order sheets on the Gathering Table. Deadline for placing orders is December 4<sup>th</sup>. Cost per plant is \$10. Also, there is an opportunity to sponsor the Christmas Tree. If you wish to donate to that cost, please check the box on the form and submit it to the office.



## Christmas Preparation / church decorating

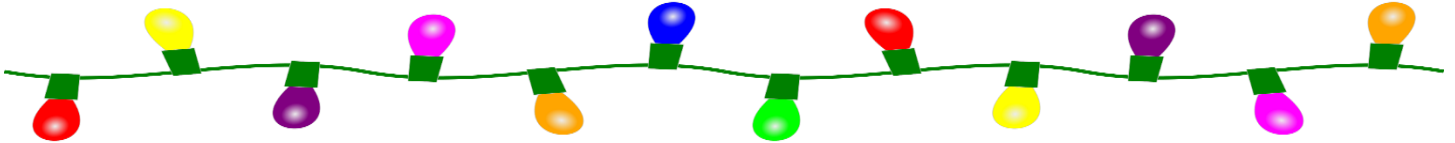
will be after the service **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

The committee would appreciate help from the congregation if anyone can stay later that Sunday. The more hands, the quicker the work is done.

**ADVENT BREAKFAST – Everyone welcome.**  
December 9<sup>th</sup> 8 AM to 11 AM



**Muhlenberg Township - Lights Tour - 5:30 - 8:30 PM - December 9<sup>th</sup>**



The Church is a stop for the Holiday Light event on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Car loads of people will tour the Extraordinary Lights on Display. We are an ingathering for the Muhlenberg Community Food Pantry. For every non-perishable food item donated to the Pantry, the participants receive a cookie and cup of hot chocolate (or coffee, tea or water).

The Fellowship Hall should be alive with guests stopping to warm-up and have a treat. Even if you are not touring the lights, come and spend an evening of fun meeting your neighbors.

**W/ELCA Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 12 Noon – Christmas Party. Bring a wrapped gift (value @ \$10) to exchange with others.



***Christmas Eve Sunday December 24***  
***Candlelight Communion Services***

At Good Shepherd ELC – 4 PM

At Calvary Lutheran – 7 PM and 10 PM

***December 31, 2023 – Service of Lessons and Carols***

**UPCOMING IN JANUARY**

**JANUARY 7 – SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY – THE WISE MEN’S JOURNEY**

**January 28 – Annual Congregational Meeting with Committee Reports**  
**Do you shop at the Redner's? We accept Redner's Quick Shop and Redner's Markets tapes when you use the Redner's card for grocery purchases. (Redner's cards also discounts gas purchased at Redner's.) A small percent of the "Save A Tape" amount comes back to the church to sponsor W/ELCA projects. Please see Harry if you have questions.**

Interested in sponsoring **flowers** or a **bulletin** on Sundays?

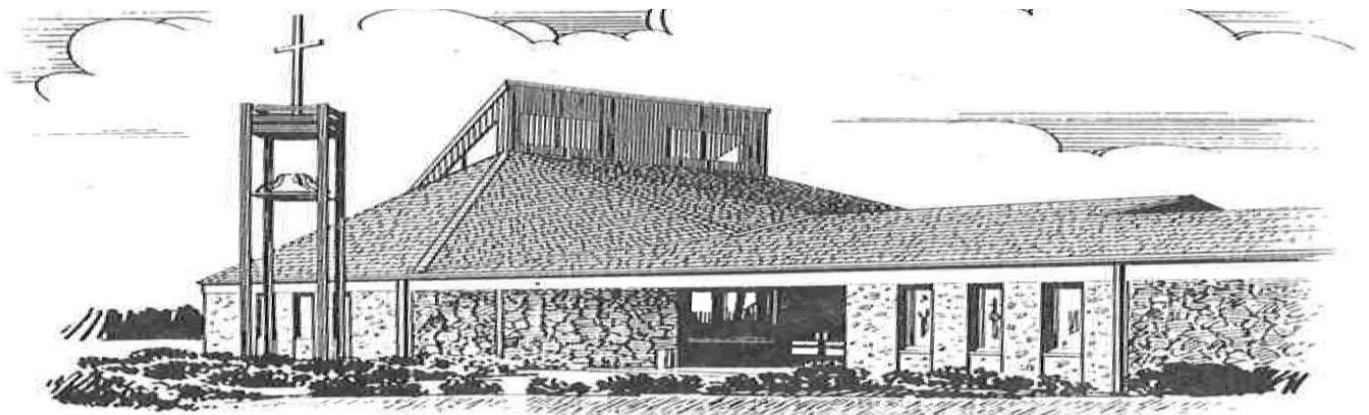
Sign-up in the book on the lectern in the Gathering area. Bulletins \$15 per Sunday. Flowers are \$10 per vase. Specify the week you want to sponsor and what item you want. Flowers are yours, take home or donate to a shut-in.

**Council Members for 2023** President - Lynn Shollenberger V.P. - Gary O'Brien  
Secretary - Cathy Meck Treasurer – John Wanner  
Council – James Culley Helenna Lutz Rodney Haupt  
Duane Maurer Allyn Swavely Betty Nelson Harry Walters

**November Council Meeting on Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM.**

**NEW PHONE NUMBERS TO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE - Please call 610-926-5338 when you have a question or leave information for the Church Admin (JoAnne). This new phone accepts text or calls, leave a message.**

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS – New phone number for Children's Programs (Preschool, Kids Kirner, Summer Camp) is 424-650-2931. The phone accepts calls, voice mail, and/or text messages. Leave a message if no one answers.**



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Established in 1845

Reading, PA