

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1600 Fowler Avenue, Berwick, PA (570) 752-3737  
Pastor Troy Spencer (717) 645-5365  
Sunday morning worship, 8:30AM  
[www.goodshepherdberwick.org](http://www.goodshepherdberwick.org)  
Facebook: @GSLCBwk  
Instagram: @gslcberwick  
YouTube: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Berwick



**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 15, 2024**

## ***Good Morning and Welcome !***

### ***About our church***

*We are a group of Christians who do our best to live our faith. Sometimes we falter and we often fall short of the glory of God. Because of this, we celebrate God's abundant grace poured out through the love of Jesus Christ. It is this same love that inspires us to carry out our mission statement - **reaching out to all proclaiming God's love in Jesus Christ** - so that everyone would know of the freeing, redeeming, calming, peaceful love of God.*

### ***About our worship***

*Here at Good Shepherd, we marry the reverence of "high liturgy" with a relaxed, contemporary feel. What does that mean? First, the word - liturgy - means "the work of the people." So our worship is our collective effort to place God on the throne of our hearts. Second, the word - high - refers to the high degree of reverence given to God's presence in our midst. You may see people bow toward or before the altar and the cross or tracing the sign of the cross on their bodies at certain points in worship. You may also notice people clapping in celebration or responding to a question Pastor Troy asks in his sermon. Join in as you feel comfortable!*

### ***Navigating our bulletin***

*Italicized text is there to help orient you to our worship. Plain text (like this) is meant for the leader to read. Plain, bold text (**like this**) indicates the congregational response. Join in as you feel comfortable!*

*We do use a hymnal here at Good Shepherd. You will find a green and blue hymnal in the pew rack in front of you. Each hymn is numbered. Join in the singing as you are comfortable!*

## **COUNCIL UPDATE**

The Congregational Council is in active discussion with our Synod representatives and our colleagues at Christ Episcopal Church to begin the Call process. If anyone has questions please feel free to contact John Widger via phone 570 204-1286 or email at [jwidg54@gmail.com](mailto:jwidg54@gmail.com).

*Music Prelude*

*Call to Worship*

*Rise in body or spirit*

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

*Hymn: Green No 31 - "Wake, Awake"*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world,  
reviving creation, arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our  
neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the  
Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our  
ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we  
may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spir-  
it, one God, now and forever.

*Please be seated*

## Word

### FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:  
Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

*Raise in body or spirit*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according Luke the 3rd Chapter

**Glory to you O Lord**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

<sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**  
*Please be seated*

**Musical Moment - Diane and Caroline Wasser**

**Sermon - Pastor Troy Spencer**

**Choir Anthem - "Immanuel, God With Us "**

*Raise in body or spirit*

***The Confession of Faith - The Apostles Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

#### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. (*We pray especially for ...*) Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

### ***Sharing of the Peace***

The Peace of the Lord be with you always  
**And also with you.**

### **Oh God, we pray for your healing**

Kristian Keefer, David & Sandy Campbell, Bonnie Fausnaught, Donald Fausnaught, Sara Bower, Charlotte Wands, June Swida, Rachel, Glenbrook Residents, Kim Nespoli, Bonnie Bandics, Brent Spencer, Pray for Peace in our Country, All victims of violence, Kerri Shadle, Bruce Gilbert, Helen Lenowsky, Margaret & Joseph Sarafin, , Lucas Walker, Romona, Bonnie Carey, Joey Dilucca, Family of Dan McCormick, Melva Chamberlain and family, Michelle Leiby, Dave and Melody Fuller, Beth Hartranft, Toni and Carole Phillips, Ashlyn Spiker, Alan's Family, Family of Andrea Ridall, Jan Hoida, Family of Mark Shaw, Family of Michael Bastian, Lori Stehle, Family and Friends of Mark Krempa, Family of Steve Hampton, Family of Ellen Green, Congregation of Hidlay Lutheran Church

### **MEAL**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### *The Great Thanksgiving*

Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.  
Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.  
Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### *Holy, Holy, Holy*

☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and 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.

### *The Words of Institution - from 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

On the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'



*The Lord's Prayer*

**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**

*Please be Seated*

*Invitation to Communion*

*Hymn - Green No. 39 - "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"*  
*Caroline Wasser - "Mary Did You Know"*

*Post Communion Canticle*



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Post Communion Prayer*

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

***Sending Blessing -***

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and  
forever.

**Amen.**

***Hymn - Green No. 34 - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel "***

***Dismissal***

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The worship is over, now let the service begin!*

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***Oh God, we thank you for our celebrations***

**Birthdays**

Jodi Walp	12/15
Natalie Orlando	12/17
Sara Bower	12/18
Clem Ritter	12/18
Ron Eyer	12/19

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**Anniversaries**

Clem and Romona Ritter	12/19/70
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**Worship Leaders for Sunday December 15, 2024**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Troy Spencer
Assisting Minister	Dr. John Widger
Communion Assis	Beck Dows
Lector	Skip Gogle
Usher	Marilee Ungemach, Stephanie Jones
Acolyte	Addy Berlin
Altar Guild	Robert & Marilyn Ungemach
Counting	Romona Ritter, David DeHaven
Depositor	Jackie Titus
Lock/Unlock	Jan Hoida
Live Stream Tech	Brenda Sterner

## **Worship Leaders for Sunday December 22, 2024**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Troy Spencer
Assisting Minister	Beck Dows
Communion Assis	Stephanie Jones
Lector	Addy Berlin
Usher	Sam DeFinnis, Lorraine DeFinnis
Acolyte	Cody Welliver
Altar Guild	Robert & Marilyn Ungemach
Counting	Romona Ritter, David DeHaven
Depositor	Jackie Titus
Lock/Unlock	Jan Hoida
Live Stream Tech	Brenda Sterner

**The Love Offering for December  
will go to our Holiday Outreach Vision**

**The Sanctuary Candle December is sponsored  
by the Wark Family**

**The Flowers are Sponsored by  
The Wark Family in Memory of Eileen Briggs**

## **Weekly Announcements**

- **December 15th** - 8:30am - Worship Service  
Children's fellowship hour after service featuring a Bible story  
The Chosen" in the Parlor following services
- **December 15h** - **5:00pm** - **Sunday Funday**
- **December 17th** -10:00am - Jesus and Java
- **December 17th** - **6:00pm** - **Youth Group**
- **December 18th** - 10:00am - Guided Prayer - CC
- **December 18th** - 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal
- **December 18th** - 7:00pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal
- **December 19th** - 6:00pm - Caroling - Meet in Church lot
- **December 22nd** - 8:30am - Worship Service  
Children's fellowship hour after service featuring a Bible story  
The Chosen" in the Parlor following services
- **December 24th** - 8:30pm - Special Music  
9:00pm - Candle Light Christmas Eve Service

## Announcements

Offering envelopes are ready for pick up in the Narthex

### **Nativity Display Open House with Diane Wasser**

Sunday, December 15th - 10-11am

Tuesday, December 17th - 6-8pm

Wednesday, December 18th - 10am - 2pm & 5-8pm

Sunday, December 29th - 10-11 am

**Thursday, December 19th - 6:00pm - CAROLING** - meet in the Church Parking lot

**Sunday, December 15th - 5:00pm -**

**Sunday Funday - Please join us for a meal and some fun Fellowship.** We will be making Gingerbread Houses

**Tuesday, December 24th - 9:00pm -**

**Christmas Eve Service. Services will begin at 8:40pm with special music, including instrumentalists, hymns and our choir, to prepare the way of the coming of the Lord.**



**Wednesday, December 25th  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

### Upcoming Book Study -

**Monday February 3,10,17,24 - 6:00pm in the Parlor  
“ Twelve Ordinary Men” by John MacArthur.**

Learn more about how twelve common men went on to transform lives and change the world as they followed in Christ's footsteps and how we can do the same.

There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex

Deadline for sign up is January 14th

Last Week's Offering	
Budgeted Offering	\$ 1,538.46
Actual Offering	\$ 1,119.00
Difference	\$ -419.46
Attendance	71