

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

To reach out to all, proclaiming God's love in Jesus Christ

1600 Fowler Avenue, Berwick, PA (570) 752-3737

Sunday morning worship, 8:30AM

www.goodshepherdberwick.org

Facebook: @GSLCBwk

Instagram: @gslcberwick

YouTube: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Berwick



Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4th, 2026

8:30am

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 asked in the 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

Thank you to all who volunteered to serve on the Call Committee. The Council has selected - Addy Berlin, Michele Ouimet, Kim Scheirer, and Peggy Yeastedt as our Call Committee.

Please feel free to contact John Widger at either 570-204-1286 or jwidg54@gmail.com. You can also contact any council member for updates on the Call Process

Music Prelude

Call to Worship

Rise in body or spirit

Processional Hymn- Green No. 51 - "From Heaven Above"
(vs 1, 3, 13, 14)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin. Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and
despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in
our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your
presence among us; we have not always embraced your message
of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for
those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that
harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good
news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of
your salvation. Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you. Christ's presence redeems
the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and
be glad! **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your
incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in
all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise
shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am
going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from
the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together; a great company,
they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with
consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks

of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." ¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM: 147:12-20

¹² Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars¹ of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command¹ to the earth,
a word that runs¹ very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!
Amen.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the⁴ praise of his glorious grace that he

freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Rise in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation



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

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according John the 1st Chapter
Glory to you O Lord

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light,

so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

Sermon - Pr. Wayne Muthler

Hymn No. 645 - "There's A Star in the East"

Rise 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and

resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in new life. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Oh God, we pray for your healing

Kristian Keefer, David & Sandy Campbell, June Swida, Donald Fausnaught, Charlotte Wands, All victims of violence, Pray for Peace in our Country, Glenbrook Residents, Mary Hoida, Emma Shaffer, Lisa Shellhammer, Shari Slowick, Val Donahue, Holly Fry, Terri Cooper, Shawna, Diane Wasser, Ray Sterner, Bettyanne, Doug Johnson, Dr. Susan Gunther, Rob Kobbe, Gloria Ermish, Joanne Bower, Eleanor Prueitt, Bruce Gilbert and family, Tina Roth, Josephine O., Carole Phillips

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always

And also with you

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary..... Therefore, we angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en 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.

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

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

Invitation to Communion

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

Please be seated

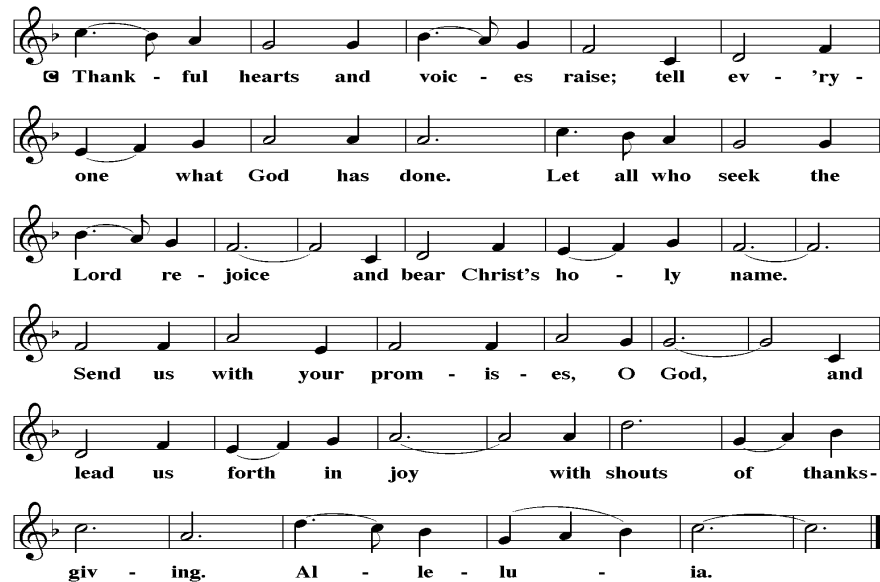
Hymn: Blue No. 642 - "I Wonder As I Wonder"

Rise in body or spirit

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you to live in His grace **Amen**

Post Communion Canticle -



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Prayer

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen**

Sending Blessing

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

Hymn: Green No. 71 - “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

The worship is over, now let the service begin!

* * * * *

Oh God, we thank you for our celebrations

Birthdays

**Jackie Titus 1/04
Cheri Mitstifer 1/08**

* * * * *

Love offering for January will go to the Youth

***The Sanctuary Light for January is sponsored
In memory of Susan DeHaven
by David DeHaven***

* * * * *

Worship Leaders, Sunday, January 4th, 2026

Presiding Minister	Pr. Wayne Muthler
Assisting Minister	Beck Dows
Communion Assistant	Dr. John Widger
Lector	Jan Hoida
Usher	Vance Ouimet, Donna Lynn
Acolyte	Chris Kemp
Choir Director	Jan Hoida
Organist	Jackie Titus
Altar Guild	Kim Scheirer, Peggy Yeastedt
Counting	David Jacoby, Scott Berlin
Depositor	Jackie Titus
Lock/Unlock	Jan Hoida
Live Stream Tech	Brenda Sterner

Worship Leaders, Sunday, January 11th, 2026

Presiding Minister	Fr. Fred Stevenson
Assisting Minister	Marilee Ungemach
Communion Assistant	Beck Dows
Lector	Marla Harris
Usher	Brent and Lisa Carder
Acolyte	David DeHaven
Choir Director	Jan Hoida
Organist	Jackie Titus
Altar Guild	Kim Scheirer, Peggy Yeastedt
Counting	David Jacoby, Scott Berlin
Depositor	Jackie Titus
Lock/Unlock	Jan Hoida
Live Stream Tech	Brenda Sterner

Last Week	12/28/2025
Budgeted Offering	\$ 1,538.46
Actual Offering	\$ 1,193.00
Legacies (Crouse)	
Difference	\$-345.46
Attendance	45

Weekly Announcements

- **Sunday, January 4th** - Undecorate the Church after service
- **Tuesday, January 6th** - 6:00pm - NO WELCA
- **Tuesday, January 6th** - 6:00pm - Sons of Zebedee
- **Wednesday, January 7th** - 9:00am - Bible Study
- **Wednesday, January 7th** - 5:00pm - Embracing God's Family
- **Thursday, January 8th** - 6:00pm - Committee Meetings
- **Thursday, January 8th** - 7:00pm - Council Meeting
- **Sunday, January 11th** - Congregational Meeting after Service
- **Monday, January 12th** - 6:00pm - Making eggs
- **Tuesday, January 13th** - 9:00am - Coat Eggs

- 2026 Offering Envelopes are located on the Table in the Narthex
- 2026 - Sign up sheets for Bulletin Sponsor, Flowers, and Sanctuary Candle are available on the main entrance bulletin board. The Fellowship signup sheet is on the table in the Narthex