

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Holy Eucharist Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

The assembly stands at the ringing of the bell.

At the entrance by the font:

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Introduction

- P You came to turn the hearts of all to love of God and neighbor.
- C Lord, come and save us.
- P You come to enrich us with gifts of grace and knowledge.
- C Lord, come and save us.
- P You will come on a day we cannot know, bringing redemption for all your faithful.
- C Lord, come and save us. Amen.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1, 6, and 8)

VENI, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.

- O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Refrain

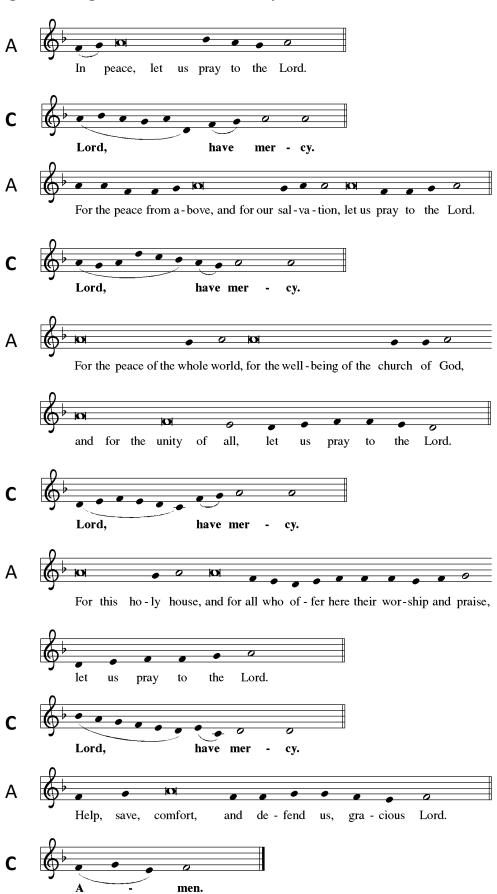
Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.
- C And also with you.

Entrance Antiphon

- P Let the clouds rain down the Just One,
- C and the earth bring forth a Savior. (Isaiah 45:8)

To be sung in dialogue with the assembly.



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Prayer of the Day

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading Isaiah 7: 10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

A A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

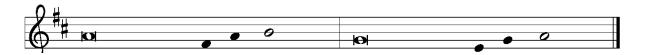
- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

The refrain will be sung by the Cantor and repeated by the assembly. The Psalm is sung antiphonally with congregation singing verses in bold. The refrain is then repeated as indicated $\bf R$.

Psalm Refrain



Psalm Tone



¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh, stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³Restore | us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴O LORD | God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R

⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand, the one you have made so strong | for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you; give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

19 Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears; you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

Second Reading Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

A A reading from Romans.

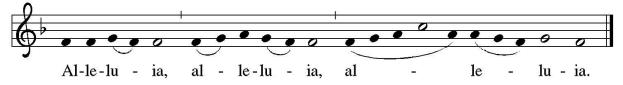
¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

The cantor introduces the acclamation. The assembly will repeat the acclamation. Following the verse, the acclamation is sung again by all.



Verse Tone



Cantor

The virgin shall conceive and | bear a son,* and they shall name | him Emmanuel. (Matt. 1:23)

Gospel Reading Matthew 1: 18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

P The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.



¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



The assembly may be seated.

Sermon

C

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came The assembly stands at the last stanza.

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame: "All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee; thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
 "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
 "My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
 Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God. begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers Of The People

Hearing the Word of God in Scripture and in Preaching moves us to pray for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish, and our special concerns. The intercessor moves to stand with the assembled people of God, as a rich symbol of the petitions truly being the Prayers of the People.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

A God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Response at the conclusion of the prayers of the people:

C Amen.

Peace

The words of the Peace are an ancient solemn blessing signifying the reconciliation that we have with God and, through Christ, with one another. Please do not use this time for casual greetings or conversations.

- P Blessed be Christ, our peace, who breaks down the walls that divide. The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

Please share some sign (a handshake, an embrace, etc.) with one another as you exchange the greeting of peace.

Greeting: Peace be with you. Response: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory

Offering plates are located by the font and inside the West Nave and Chapel entrances. Offerings may also be made electronically by scanning the QR Code:



Offertory Song ELW 295

Of A Father's Love Begotten (verses 1 through 3)

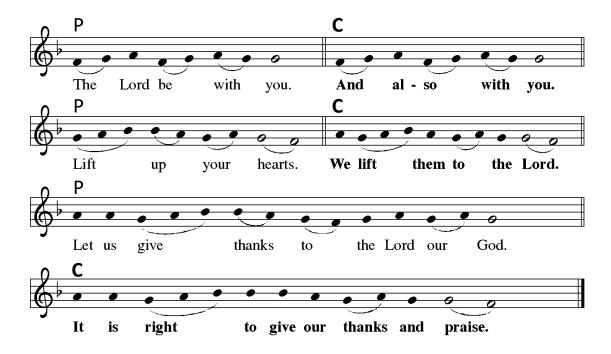
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

- Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.
- Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.

Offertory Prayer

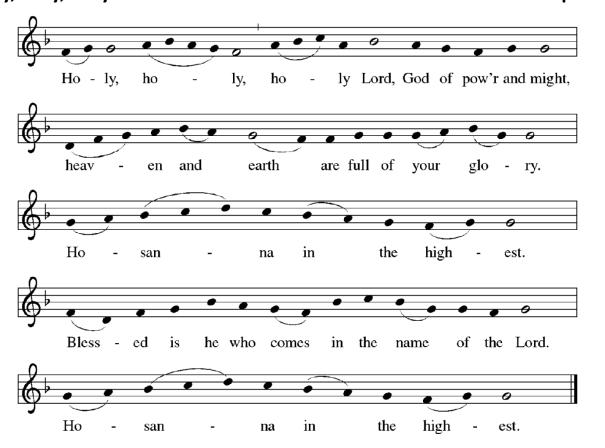
- P Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
- C Blessed be God forever!
- P Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.
- C Blessed be God forever!
- A Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

 Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.
- C Amen.



Preface Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 162

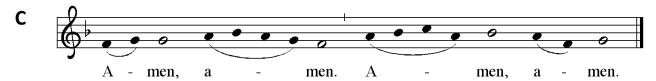


Eucharistic Prayer

At the Presiding Minister's invitation, "Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith."



The Eucharistic prayer concludes, "Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever."



The Lord's Prayer

C

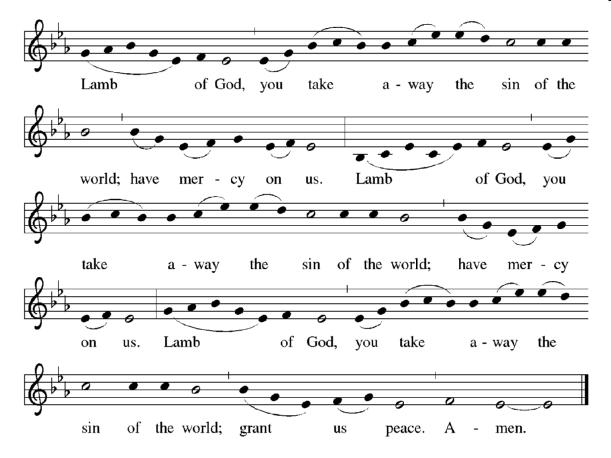
ELW p. 163

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

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.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Lamb of God ELW p. 164



Invitation to Communion

- P This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.
- C Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

The assembly may be seated.

Communion Of The Faithful

All baptized Christians are invited to share faithfully in the Holy Eucharist. In this sacrament, by the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit, we receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ along with the bread and wine for our forgiveness and salvation, as we celebrate our unity with Christ and all the saints.

Please come by the center aisle as directed by the ushers.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say, "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you," and each person may respond, "Amen."

Song After Communion

ELW 295

Of A Father's Love Begotten (verses 4 and 5) The assembly stands.

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

- 4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.
- Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

- P May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.
- C Amen.

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her king;
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Silent Prayer and Dismissal

- A The Liturgy is ended. Go in peace. Keep awake.
- C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Material from the following sources is acknowledged: Graphic, Introduction, Invocation, Greeting, Prayer of the Day, First Reading, Psalm Refrain, Psalm Tone, Psalm, Second Reading, Glory to You, Praise to You, Gospel Reading, Offering Prayer, Dialogue, Preface, Holy, Christ Has Died, Amen, Lamb of God, Blessing, Dismissal from SundaysAndSeasons.com ©2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000731.

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A warm welcome to our visitors in the Name of Christ.

We seek to minister to all who become a part of our community in Christ as we worship together. We are pleased to have you share in our worship and ministry and sincerely hope you will return. Please sign the guest register in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor.

- The liturgy and worship book page numbers are printed in the worship folder.
 Please join in the responses as indicated. You may stand as you are able where
 indicated or remain seated. Hymns marked with ELW are in the red hymnal,
 Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Hymns marked with wov are in the blue soft
 cover hymnal, With One Voice.
- A rest room with baby changing area is located off the Narthex of the Nave.
- The guest register and devotional booklets are in the Narthex.

Holy Eucharist

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Nave Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation meets today at 9:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

Last Week

Our praise and thanksgiving to God for our many blessings are reflected in our tithes and offerings each week.

Spending Proposal Per Week \$4,793.00 Total Received 5,106.50 Difference 313.50

This Week

C al a	2:20 a may Mariel and Contract (Navia Mariel	
Sunday December 21	8:30 a.m. Word and Sacrament (Nave/YouTube—Link may	
4 Advent	be found at <u>www.goodshepherdpaxtang.com)</u> 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Room)	
4 Auvent	11:00 a.m. Word and Sacrament (Nave)	
	11.00 a.m. vvoid and Sacrament (Nave)	
Monday	6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	
December 22		
Wednesday	Church Office CLOSED, 9:30 a.m. Chapel Service CANCELED	
December 24	3:00 p.m. Word and Sacrament (Nave/YouTube—Link may	
Christmas Eve	be found atwww.goodshepherdpaxtang.com)	
	5:00 p.m. Word and Sacrament (Nave)	
	7:00 p.m. Word and Sacrament (Nave)	
	11:00 p.m. Word and Sacrament (Nave)	
Thursday	Church Office CLOSED	
December 25		
Christmas Day		
Saturday	5:00 p.m. Word and Sacrament (Chapel)	
December 27		
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Word and Sacrament (Nave/YouTube—Link may	
December 28	be found at www.goodshepherdpaxtang.com)	
1 Christmas	5:30 p.m. Living Room Dialogue (Gathering Room)	

Daily Readings

Isaiah 33: 17-22; Revelation 22: 6-7, 18-20; Luke 1:46b-55
Z Samuel 7: 18, 23:29; Galatians 3: 6-14; Luke 1:46b-55
Isaiah 9: 2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2: 11-14, Luke 2: 1-14
Isaiah 62: 6-12, Psalm 97, Tutus 3: 4-7, Luke 2 [1-7]8-20
2 Chronicles 24: 17-22; Psalm 17: 1-9, 15; Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60; Matthew 23: 34-39

Ca. Droyerbs 9: 22 21 1 John E: 1 12 Dealm 149

Sa Proverbs 8: 22-31, 1 John 5: 1-12, Psalm 148

Su Isaiah 63: 7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2: 10-18, Matthew 2:13-23



Worship Dedications

The bulletins are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ by Mary and Fred Sprunk.

The lamps are burning to the Glory of God.

Christmas at Good Shepherd

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Word and Sacrament

3 p.m. with Choir/live-streamed Christmas Preludes begin at 2:45 p.m.

5 p.m. and 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. All services in the Nave

Sunday, December 28

Word and Sacrament for the First Sunday of Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

One service at 9:30 a.m. in the Nave/live-streamed

Live-streamed worship services may be found on the Good Shepherd YouTube channel access via the link at www.goodshepherdpaxtang.com

Announcements

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS all those who, because of illness or infirmity, are unable to be with us for worship. Your prayers, cards, and visits to them are invited so that Christ may be glorified by the manner in which his people care for one another.

PRAYER CHAIN: Good Shepherd members lift up prayer requests throughout the week. If you have a prayer request you wish to share, or if you would like prayer requests to include in your daily devotions, please contact Edna Hafer or Dix McCauley.

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE: Contributions may be made via eCheck or Credit Card by scanning the QR code with your smart phone or by clicking on the GIVE NOW button at <u>goodshepherdpaxtang.com</u>.



THE 9:30 A.M. CHAPEL SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 IS CANCELED.

NOTICE OF 9:30 A.M. SERVICES: Good Shepherd's Church Council has announced there will be single services at 9:30 a.m. for the next 3 consecutive Sundays:

December 28, January 4, and January 11. The Sunday after Christmas traditionally is a single service of Lessons and Carols. In addition, our church council members will be installed during worship on Saturday, January 3 or Sunday, January 4. Then, on Sunday, January 11, we will honor our Office Administrator Beth Fine with a luncheon program following that single 9:30 a.m. service.

A TRIBUTE TO BETH FINE, EXTRAORDINARY OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Join us on Sunday, January 11, 2026, to celebrate the nearly six years of loyal service by Beth Fine, our office administrator and friend. Beth has resigned her position at Good Shepherd to take a paid pastoral internship with Big Spring Presbyterian Church in Newville. This will allow her to complete field work prior to becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder (lay pastor) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We will hold one service at 9:30 a.m. in the Nave on January 11 and then move to All Saints Hall for a luncheon provided by the Hospitality Committee. There will be a brief program to honor Beth as well as plenty of time for everyone to offer good wishes for Beth's new venture. There also will be a basket for those wishing to leave a card or personal note. Please r.s.v.p. by filling in the response form (on page 23 of the bulletin) and placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the church office by Sunday, January 4.

From the Broader Church and Community

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES UNITED—VOLUNTEER PERSONALLY! As we enter the season of Advent within the Christian Calendar we remember the steps that Mary and Joseph made as they sought refuge in Bethlehem. Knocking on doors seeking a space to rest and being told over and over there was no room. We also are entering the season of the Men's Winter Overnight Shelter hosted at Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven. For the next few months men will come to Safe Haven looking for room to rest. We need your help to welcome them in each night. We are looking for volunteers to assist in welcoming and offering the room at Safe Haven as guests come in off the street. You'll assist in the evening's intake, welcoming and directing the men as they arrive. These volunteer shifts begin at 6:45 p.m. each night and wrap shortly before 10pm. Recruit your church, your business, your small group to volunteer for a night or commit to cover a week. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at volunteer@ccuhbg.org

COMMUNITY AID DONATIONS NEEDED: Community Aid typically experiences low donation levels at the end of the year. Donations of gently used clothing, shoes, electronics, and toys may be dropped off at any Community Aid center. When you make your donation, please note Good Shepherd's partner number—10055—so the church will receive appropriate credit for donations.

Beth Fine Celebration Luncheon Sunday, January 11, 2026 11 a.m. in All Saints Hall

please return by Sunday, January 4, 2026

Name(s)	
Number Attending	

Serving God's People at the Liturgies

Preaching and Presiding The Rev. Kathleen J. Baker, STM

Organist Nicholas P. Werner

Assisting Ministers 8:30 a.m. Marcia Freed-Dankman

11:00 a.m. Susan Master

Cantor Julie McCauley

The Parish Staff

Kathleen J. Baker, STM, Pastor Nicholas P. Werner, Director of Music Beth C. Fine, Church Administrator Kester T. Sobers III, Pastor Emeritus Herbert O. Fowler, Cantor Emeritus

The Church Office is open

Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Phone: (717) 564-0385

Email: goodshepherdpaxtang@gmail.com

Web Site: www.goodshepherdpaxtang.com

Pastor Baker may be reached at home at (717) 213-9443 and by email at goodshepherdpastor@gmail.com

The Evangelical Lutheran **CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**3700 Rutherford Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111

