

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025

FM Radio 89.9

9:00am

AS WE GATHER - A SON AND HEIR OF GOD

To the rest of the world, we are simply people with a different faith, but we have an identity that is unique: We are God's children, calling out to Him, "Abba! Father!" As He did with our forebears, we hear in the Old Testament Reading, He remembers His covenant. Even when danger threatens, as it did for the holy family, He is with us to protect and guide us. In fact, we are not only God's children; with Jesus, His only-begotten Son, we are also heirs of the promise, which He kept for us. That is merry news indeed!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

(Please stand)

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING SONG: JOY TO THE WORLD (JOYFUL, JOYFUL)

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INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14

Pastor O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, "the fullness of time," that is not true in our personal lives.

Congregation **Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands, forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.**

Pastor We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.

Congregation **Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.**

Pastor We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.

Congregation **Forgive us for not giving Your leading us "a glorious name," forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.**

Pastor Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, "Abba! Father!" As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

SONG: CLEAN

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, although we are fallen creatures, You have shown us Your great love.
Congregation Grant us to see Your Son, Jesus Christ, as both our Lord and our Brother and to call to You as dear children speak to their loving Father;
Pastor through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 63:7–14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”
And he became their Savior.
⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
¹⁰But they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.
¹¹Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,
¹²who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,
¹³who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.
¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13–23

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

Congregation **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SONG: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

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(Sit)

SERMON: THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHRISTMAS

(Stand)

APOSTLES’ CREED

Congregation I believe in God,

the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us go to our heavenly Father in prayer. For the church, that the news of Christ’s birth among us would bring joy to many people, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who have rebelled against all that our caring God has lavished upon them and that He would open their hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation	Lord, have mercy.
Pastor	For those who have not heard about Jesus' birth, about our Savior's willingness to be a servant of the Most High, or about their own salvation, that God would surround them with people of faith and the Gospel Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
Congregation	Lord, have mercy.
Pastor	For all who tend fields, raise animals, distribute food, or work in supermarkets and roadside stands, that they recognize that they work to alleviate hunger and do what pleases our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
Congregation	Lord, have mercy.
Pastor	For the leaders of the nations, those who bear arms, and all who run toward harm to help those who need aid and rescue, that they stop at nothing to establish and maintain peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Congregation	Lord, have mercy.
Pastor	For those near and dear to us, that God would alleviate suffering and pain, sadness and grief in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
Congregation	Lord, have mercy.
Pastor	Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of our elder Brother and Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Congregation	Amen.

(Sit)

OFFERING

Your continued tithes and special offerings are appreciated and support God's work at Good Shepherd. You may give by plate, by mail, or make a secure gift online by scanning this QR code with your smartphone.



OFFERTORY: THE FIRST NOEL

+ SACRAMENT +

LORD'S PRAYER

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

BENEDICTION

Pastor	The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Congregation	Amen.

CLOSING SONG: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

DISMISSAL

Pastor	Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
Congregation	Thank be to God!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Altar flowers

are placed by the Hoffmanns

NEEDING OUR PRAYERS for body, soul, and spirit:

(names in italics are new or have a new development)

Adams family; Hester Allen; Jeanette Allen; Josh Allen; Frank Altland; Sonya Alwine; Annette Anderson; Tina Bell; Darlene Bentzel; Cathy Booz; Rachel Booz; Tammy Bosley; Braydon; Bill Bucher; Nancy Buckley; Chris Candisky; Jeffery Cogan; Dawn Coley; Rose Cooper; Dona Dellinger; Joyce Devan; Cookie Eaves; Judy Eckenrode; Dave Eicholtz; Jane Esterby; Bob & Marge Filangeri; Pastor Thurman Frey; Jack & Donnalene Gingerich; Bob and Sandy Hahn; Wayne & Allyson Hoffmann; Alice Jakupciak; Bob Jakupciak; Beatrice Jeanette; Sandy Knisely; Linda Latif; Geoff Lyman; Joe Miller; Randy Miller; Neenan family; Norma Orsie; Dave Polimeni; Yvonne Rudacille; Bev Sanders; Ken Sanders; Denise Sater; Tom Shearer; Bill Smith; Cary Smith; Pat Smith; Bill Svobota; Beth Ann Thompson; Joe & Donna Toomey; Elizabeth Turner; Rick Weidner; Ella Weisbord; Williams family; John Wills Jr; Cole Young

Let's remember our Homebound Members in Prayer too: Will & Chris Candisky; Denise Eckert; Bob & Sandy Hahn; Patty Hoshall; Jo Reese; Doris Ruesskamp; Pauline Schaefer; Donna Siple; Joe & Donna Toomey; Sharon Warnecke; George Yovich

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are glad you are here today and hope you have found a warm welcome. If you are our guest, please sign our guest book at the Welcome Center; we would like to thank you for worshiping with us and would appreciate your feedback on your experience today. This bulletin includes the Order of Worship, which is also projected on-screen. Our nursery, located down the hall to the right, is available to parents with young children and offers comfortable chairs, interactive play space and a TV monitor to follow worship. Childcare volunteers are also available for those who wish to return to the sanctuary.

TROUBLE HEARING? Assistive listening devices (personal receivers/earpieces) are available upon request of the AV booth

FOOD AND BEVERAGES IN SANCTUARY: Please refrain from bringing any food or beverage into the sanctuary except for water. Thank you.

AS WE WORSHIP, please be sure your phone is silent.

CAN'T BE HERE IN PERSON? Join us online at the Good Shepherd Youtube channel: [Good Shepherd Lutheran Church York, PA](#). Alternatively, you can tune into the service on your car radio at 89.9 FM from our parking lot.

DECEMBER LOCAL MISSION: Bell Socialization Services' mission is to provide an environment of support and empowerment where people can improve their quality of living. You can find out more at bellsocialization.com. If you would like to support this mission, please write "Local mission" on your donation.

THANK YOU TO MY GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY: I was so surprised in October when I was given the honor of Deacon Emeritus. Your thoughtful cards and gifts were overwhelming and appreciated. I truly enjoyed the honor of being Head Deacon for numerous years. Last but not least, the cake and punch were delicious. Gods Blessings to you and your families. - Herman A. Dreyer, Jr., a.k.a. "DREW"

PAYING IT FORWARD: Getting the help you need when you need it is important, in some cases life-saving! Good Shepherd is privileged to serve our community in partnership with Christian Counseling Associates; caring, Christ-centered, biblical counsel is offered to those looking for help in difficult times, especially during the holidays. Good Shepherd has been blessed to welcome guests in worship because CCA counselors affirm the value of a caring Christian community as part of the healing process and encourage them to visit. Some of those who need help are uninsured or facing financial hardship; they aren't turned away, but are served because of the generosity of people like you who understand the importance of this ministry and want to help others. As we celebrate the gift of life in this season of Christmas, will you consider a life-changing gift for someone that may be sitting next to you in worship? The Foundation for Christian Counseling needs your support. Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code and follow the link or go to <https://ffcc4u.com> to learn more. (Brochures for CCA, the 24/7 Help Line, and Information cards may also be found on the Table in the Narthex)



GET ON THE STREAM TEAM! If you can volunteer once a month at 11am and push buttons, we need you! Training offered. Contact the church office for details.

SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN AUXILIARY is looking to be more connected with Good Shepherd. Interested in being the Good Shepherd – SpiriTrust liaison? Please contact the auxiliary for more details. 717-855-2179

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT FIRST SAINT JOHN'S today Sun. Dec. 28 at 4:00pm. Details available on the narthex table!

2026 FLOWER CHART: If you would like to sponsor flowers on the altar for the coming year, please sign the chart in the hall. The charge is again \$38.50 for two vases. The LWML will order them for you. Beat the rush and order now.

LWML 2026 PLANNING MEETING BRUNCH is scheduled for **Sat. Jan. 10** at 9:30am. If there is snow, the meeting will be cancelled.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH is a sister LCMS congregation in Parkton, MD, previously served by Pastor James Banach. They invite you to come celebrate as they welcome Pastor Eric Goodwin on Sun. Jan. 11 at 4pm with a Rite of Installation, followed by a reception. For details, please call 410-343-1665.

FAMILY NIGHT is scheduled for **Sat. Jan. 17** at 5:30pm. We are planning a fun-filled evening! More information to come.

CALL THE HELPLINE: 1.866.482.LIFE (5433) If you or someone you know is wrestling with depression/anxiety, substance abuse, thoughts of self-harm, marital difficulties, or is struggling in any way, please give them the number above to call 24/7. Confidential, Caring, Christ-Centered help is literally a phone call away! Call the number or scan this QR code to learn more. Cards are available on the chest of drawers in the Narthex.



ASSISTANT DEACON: We are looking for a volunteer, especially one who attends the 9am service on a regular basis, to serve as the Assistant Deacon. The primary duties are assisting in preparing for Communion and making sure the candles are properly lit. If you are able to serve in this capacity, please contact one of the following: Perley Allen, Stephen Firlik, Rod Joseph or Pastor Brian.

2026 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE READY: You will find them on the circular tables in the narthex. Please note they are organized by number this year, not by surname. These are for use in 2026 only.

Pray for your fellow members and friends this week:

Monday – Pratt; Tuesday – Reese; Wednesday – Robbins;

Thursday – Rock; Friday – Rodrigo; Saturday – Rojahn

The Week Ahead

Date	Time	Event
Sun. 12/28	9:00 am	Alternative Worship Service
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
Tues. 12/30	9:30 am	Good Shepherd Quilters
Sun. 1/4	9:00 am	Alternative Worship Service
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class

Psalm 111

Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!

Organist: *Rachel Booz*
Scripture Reader: *Jen Cooper*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Rev. Brian K. Smith
C/T: 585-301-8564 – yorkshepherd@verizon.net
Church office: 2121 Roosevelt Ave. York PA 17408 – 717-764-4746
gsyork.wixsite.com/goodshepherdlutheran