



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

A Note from Our Pastor

Have you ever discovered something new that had been right in front of you all along? If it didn't evoke an "I can't believe I never saw it before!" then perhaps it gave you a moment to appreciate the depth of something that had been hidden in plain sight.



As we begin Advent, a season anticipating the coming of Christ, a favorite hymn for many is "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." As far back as I can remember, I've enjoyed singing this Advent hymn, but I never knew that within it, something had been hidden in plain sight.

The Lutheran Hymnal (©1941-red/blue cover) included it as hymn #62, but with only 4 verses. Lutheran Book of Worship (©1978-green cover) added the 5th verse to hymn #34, then Lutheran Worship (© 1982-blue cover) included 7 verses in hymn #31. Our newest LCMS hymnal, Lutheran Service Book (© 2006-burgundy cover), not only includes it as hymn #357, but on the opposite page includes a piece of the story behind the song.

The Great "O" Antiphons are a series of responsive prayers, spoken in daily worship for 7 days (December 17-23) in preparation for Christmas. Based on Isaiah's prophecies, they reveal the different titles given to the Messiah:

O *Sapientia* (O Wisdom) [Isaiah 11:2-3; 28:29](#)
O *Adonai* (O Lord) [Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22](#)
O *Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse) [Isaiah 1:1; 11:10](#)
O *Clavis David* (O Key of David) [Isaiah 9:6; 22:22](#)
O *Oriens* (O Rising Sun) [Isaiah 9:1](#)
O *Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations) [Isaiah 9:5; 2:4](#)
O *Emmanuel* (O God With Us) [Isaiah 7:14](#)

The Great "O" Antiphons may be traced back to the 8th century. According to Professor Robert Greenburg of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definitive purpose—a **secret code hidden within the Latin Titles of Christ**. This code aims to heighten the expectation of Christ's coming, add a new depth and intensity to Advent worship, and bring worship to a joyful conclusion on Christmas Eve.

By the 12th or 13th century, the antiphons were paraphrased and set to music, which became the beloved hymn we know today. I imagine most of us have sung the corresponding verses, but haven't spoken the antiphons in worship...until now.

Join us for worship: Sunday mornings (Nov. 30, Dec. 7,14,21), Wednesday evenings (Dec. 3,10,17), and Christmas Eve (Dec. 24). In one of our services, you'll discover and decode this Christmas message hidden plain sight for nearly 13 centuries. Come worship and welcome the one whose coming was proclaimed by angels and shepherds, whose return we anticipate and whose titles we proclaim every time we sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

The Great "O" Antiphons of Advents

The Hymn Verse		The Antiphon
O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go		O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all cre- ation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.
O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe.		O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: Come with an outstretched arm and re- deem us.
O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.		O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage: Come quickly to deliver us.
O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery		O Key of David and scepter of the house of Is- rael, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.
O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing night; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight		O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting: Come and enlighten those who sit in dark- ness and in the shadow of death.
O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace		O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:.* Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.
O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.		O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:.* Come and save us, O Lord our God.



NEEDING OUR PRAYERS

Adams family; Hester Allen; Josh Allen; Frank Altland; Sonya Alwine; Annette Anderson; Tina Bell; Darlene Bentzel; 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

Chris & Will Candisky

Denise Eckert

Sandy & Bob Hahn



Our Homebound Members



Patty Hoshall

Doris Ruesskamp

Donna Siple

Sharon Warnecke

Joanne Reese

Pauline Schaefer

Donna & Joe
Toomey

George Yovich

MULTI-AGE SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have completed our Bible in Life series with these final lessons.

1. "The Cost Of Greatness" - James and John asked Jesus for special treatment. They wanted to rule with Jesus in places of honor - at Jesus' right and left sides. Jesus told them "Whoever wants to become great among you, must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." (Mark 10:43-44) Jesus calls us to serve others each day.
2. "Free To Forgive" - Philemon had a runaway slave named Onesimus. He stole from his master and was in prison with Paul, who taught him about Jesus. Paul wrote to Philemon asking him to forgive Onesimus and welcome him as a fellow believer. As Christians, we are called to forgive those who have wronged us.
3. "Cooperation Or Conflict?" - In John's letter to Gaius, he advises him to show hospitality to fellow believers as they passed through town. This was part of God's work. Diotrephes refused to welcome these traveling believers and was a hindrance to the work of God. We are to show hospitality to others.





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.



Church Photo Directory

Thanks to all who have scheduled their photo appointment for the Good Shepherd directory. The good news is that we have added an additional day, Monday, December 8th to the schedule. You have 3 options for sittings; 1) you can schedule yourself using the instructions placed at the welcome center, 2) you can schedule at Sunday worship services and 3) you can contact Larry Kaetzel at 717-818-7708 or email: ljkaetzel@gmail.com



Total sales for Giant and Weis gift cards through November 9 were \$22,475. The Building Fund received 5% or \$1,123.75. These cards make great gifts for the upcoming holidays! See Tom Shearer or Marilyn von Schlichten any Sunday after church to purchase.

Young at Heart will gather on Wednesday, December 3rd at 11:30. After our lunch, we will pack cookies for the Live Nativity. Please note, this is in place of our regular meeting date on December 10th. Lots of helping hands will make the work go quickly. Not to mention the delicious cookies we will get to sample! The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.



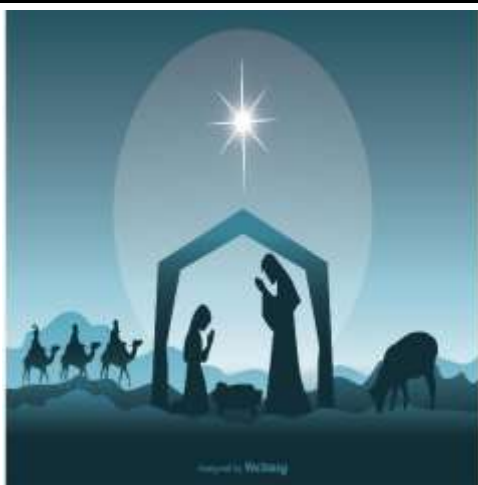
Stewardship Moment as presented by the Apostle Peter

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:8-11

Lesson from Peter: Love one another; show hospitality. As good stewards, use your gifts to serve one another and in everything let God be glorified.



Stewardship Note: Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Thanks-giving Sunday for 2026, pledging to faithfully support the work of Good Shepherd in 2026 through your regular offerings. The Stewardship team has plans to send out mid-year giving statements to let you see your progress.



Live Nativity Dec. 7th, 5-7p.m.

Help celebrate Jesus' birth by serving, attending and inviting your family, friends and neighbors. Important dates:

Bring cookies to church by Dec 2nd

If you are to be in costume, please be at the church by 4:00 p.m.

Structure setup begins Dec 1st @ 10:00 a.m.

Advent Mid-Week Worship Meals

The Fellowship Committee will be preparing and serving meals on Dec. 10th and 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU SIGN-UP. WE MUST KNOW THE COUNT SO THAT SUFFICIENT FOOD CAN BE PREPARED.** (Please notice the meal for Dec. 3 has been cancelled.)

The Parousia: The Return of Christ - 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 and 5:1-4

4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first, 17 then we who are alive and remain, together with them, shall be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

Speculation concerning the Return of Christ has always been a hot topic among various Christian groups and even among non-believers. Paul points out that such speculation is foolish. It would be like trying to determine when a thief would break into your home. Far more practical would be preparedness rather than speculation. Of primary importance in Paul's teaching concerning the Return of Christ is that of giving comfort and encouragement to God's people. The apostle wants believers to know that the faithful departed will not miss out on the Resurrection simply because they have not lived to witness Christ's return. They have not been abandoned by the Lord. These teachings concerning Christ's return are also meant to renew and encourage us in our Christian faith.

In 4:15, Paul writes, "We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep." The Greek word for 'coming' is *παρουσία* (par-oo-see-ah). This word has in view a physical presence and could also be translated as 'arrival', 'presence', 'coming' and 'advent'. It is more than just a casual appearance, for it denotes importance, such as a royal visit. The Parousia - "the coming of the Lord", will be a literal, physical return of Christ on the Last Day.

In 4:17, he goes on to say, "We who are alive and remain, together with them, shall be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." This phrase 'caught up' is one word in the Greek, which literally means 'to snatch' or 'to seize', but it also means 'to steal' and 'to plunder'. It generally carries with it the idea of force and implies the element of suddenness so that there is no opportunity to resist. The example that I like to use is that of someone grabbing a small child who is about to run into the street in front of a car, thus saving the child's life. Our understanding of this phrase is important, since it points not to the secrecy of Christ's Return, but rather to its suddenness.

The reference to "The Day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night" in 5:2, does not infer a secret return or 'secret rapture' as some evangelicals believe. "A thief in the night" is better to be understood as also teaching the unexpectedness of Christ's Return, since a 'thief' will attempt to break in when not expected. Paul's overall teaching starting at 5:1 has to do with preparedness. Since that Day is unknown to us, our preparedness is based on living out our Faith by obedience to God's Holy Word and not on making predictions.

In Peter's final letter prior to his martyrdom, he uses language similar to that which Paul uses. In 2 Peter 3:10, we read, "But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up." This passage clearly indicates that there is no 'seven-year period' between 'a secret rapture' and the final Day in which Christ returns and cleanses his creation of all unrighteousness. When Christ Returns the Consummation takes place.

Perley

LWML

LWML Ladies Holiday Dinner

Join us for the LWML Ladies Holiday Dinner on **Tuesday December 2nd** at 5:30pm at Olive Garden. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.—please add your name if you plan to attend! We look forward to an evening of fellowship, laughter, and holiday joy.

Our 2026 Planning Meeting will be held on **Sat. January 10th @ 9:30 am** (Brunch)
If snow - meeting cancelled

LWML Meeting will be held on **Mon. Jan. 12th @ 6 pm.** Post Christmas Party.

Family Night scheduled for **Sat. January 17th @ 5:30 pm.** More information to follow.
We are planning a fun filled evening.

Ushers for December Lori Bowman, June Downs, Sheila Denny & Nathan Street
Acolyte for December Jase Blechertas

Ushers for January Dave Blechertas, Fred Rudacille, Scott Mokris and Dian Wisotzkey
Acolyte for January Chelsea Street

Our gift card sale was a success! A total of 281 cards were purchased, earning \$573.96, for LWML missions. Thank you for supporting us!



Outreach

"Here we go a caroling!"

Singers and musicians, please join us at Pine Manor on **Tuesday, Dec. 16th.**

We will car pool from the church, leaving at 5:15 and returning about 6:30. The residents have supplied a wish list as requested. Items range from a 7-day pill container to sweatpants. Toiletries such as shampoo, body wash and deodorant are also appreciated. If interested in helping to fulfill these wishes, please take a snowflake displayed on the Christmas tree in the narthex. Return wrapped or unwrapped gifts by **Sunday, Dec. 14th.**

Any questions, please contact Kathleen Firlik or Alesa Joseph.

Come and sing a joyful noise with outreach.



December Local Mission:
Bell Socialization Services



SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECTS

Operation Christmas Child - 2025

Thank You!

The **48** shoeboxes packed with your prayers and love have begun their long journey to needy children around the world. They will surely be appreciated! *Samaritan's Purse* gives these *Operation Christmas Child* gifts to children in more than 170 countries. They work with local churches in those countries and territories to deliver them and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with boys and girls and their families. A lot of the children will also take part in a follow-up program called, "*The Greatest Journey*". Through 12 exciting lessons that are taught by volunteer teachers, millions of children will learn how to follow Jesus and share Him with others. Because of your caring and sharing you are a part of this great mission effort!



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Harvest Home 2025



The Sunday School collected grocery cards and monetary gifts from November 2nd through November 16th. A posters and a basket were in the Narthex. The monetary gifts were used to buy grocery cards to give needy individuals and families to help them have a joyful Thanksgiving celebration.

Our offering was \$138 in cash. From the *October Local Mission envelope* and, our Bakers for Christ Apple Dumpling sale we received \$662. The cash and gift cards total we received was \$800. Thank you to all who contributed. And thanks again to our Bakers for Christ for making those delicious and profitable apple dumplings!

Eight individuals/families were helped: 11 adults and 12 children, 23 very grateful people.

Thank you to all who had *Hearts Full of Thanks and Giving!*

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Men's Breakfast

There is **NO** breakfast in December 2025.

The next Men's Breakfast will be Friday, January 30, 2026 at 8:00 AM!

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SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

And [Christ] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. - Ephesians 4:11-16

Apart from preaching a false gospel, the greatest destroyer of a local congregation stems from gossip and backbiting among members. Gossip can easily destroy lives, homes and jobs, as well as personal service and public ministry within the church. Gossip within a church is like a cancer - It will spread and cause suffering.

Interestingly, though some newer Bible translations may have the word 'gossip' in them, there is no one word in either the Old or New Testament that can rightly be translated as 'gossip'. The words that are used to describe gossip are varied and worth noting. Here are just a few of them:

Talebearer - (Hebrew - rakiyl), one who is a 'slander'; 'carry tales'; 'talebearer'.

Whisperer - (Hebrew - nirgan), one who secretly whispers malignant stories.

Babbler - (Greek adjective - σπερμολόγος), an 'idle babbler', but interestingly this word literally means 'a seed-picker', as what birds would do.

Backbiting, slanderer - (Greek - καταλαλιά), denotes malicious talk that tears down another's reputation.

Whisperer - (Greek - ψιθυριστής), a whisperer; a sneaky gossip; a backbiter.

Tattler - (Greek - φλύαρος), designates a person whose talk is empty, meddlesome, and injurious—an indiscriminate chatterer whose words lack edifying substance.

The remedy for gossip is speaking the truth in love, as described in the above passage. We must remember that if we have a complaint or problem with another brother or sister, malicious gossip is not the answer. We are obligated to go to that individual and seek reconciliation. In matters of sin, we are to follow the principle laid out by our Lord:

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector." - Matthew 18:15-17

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

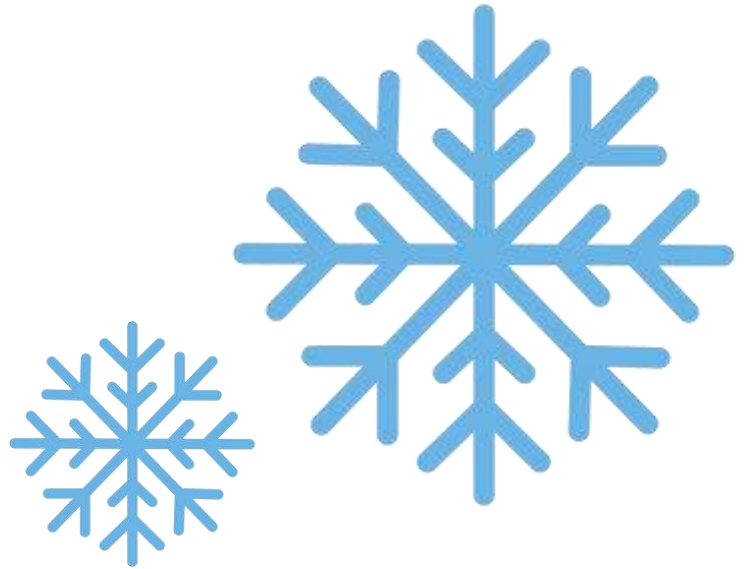
1—Philip Knisely
2—Julie Rosenau
3—Sheila Denny; Barbara Diana; Pat Smith; Marge Filangeri
4—Scott Rosenau
6—Kathleen Firlik; Koby Rodrigo
7—Sonya Alwine; Ryan Snell
8—Carol Altland; Danielle Bowman; Rinnie Wilson
10—Tina Bell
14—Sharon Warnecke
15—Bev Sanders
16—Kurt Kessler
20—Abby Kennard-Bentzel
23—Frankie Looks
30—Joy Shelton; David Sindlinger
31—Marilyn Costabile

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2—Jim Bogart; Edie Warther
3—Tom Shearer
4—Shirley Dreyer; Rod Joseph
6—Thom Landis Jr
8—John Jakupciak
15—Debbie Eicholtz
19—Sandy Hahn
20—Lynn Bednarz
24—Yvonne Cable
25—Mark Crone
26—Allyson Hoffmann
27—Christine Barmoy; Chadd Ettline; Charmaine Maul; Patrick Neenan; Yvonne Rudacille
29—Wayne Hoffmann
30—Kyle Sheridan

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

16—Tabitha & David Baughman
21—Joy & Jon Williams



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

6—Christine Avila-Smith & Pastor Brian Smith
19—Sandy & Bob Hahn
25—Christine & Chase Barmoy
29—Lisa & Chad Street

December 2025

December 2025							January 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30	Dec 1 10:00am Structure set-up begins for Live 6:30pm Augsburg Confession study 6:30pm Elders Meeting	2 9:30am Good Shepherd Quilters 5:30pm LWML Holiday dinner (Olive Garden)	3 11:30am Young-at-Heart 6:00pm Advent Mid-Week Worship 7:00pm Advent service	4 9:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study 10:00am Women's Bible 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Chime Choir	5	6
7 5:00pm Live Nativity	8 2:00pm Photo-taking for church directory 6:00pm LWML meeting 6:30pm Augsburg Confession study	9 9:30am Good Shepherd Quilters	10 6:00pm Council Meeting 6:00pm Advent Mid-Week Worship Meal 7:00pm Advent service	11 9:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm Chime Choir	12	13
14 7:00pm Confirmation class	15	16 9:30am Good Shepherd Quilters 5:15pm Caroling at Pine Manor	17 6:00pm Advent Mid-Week Worship Meal 7:00pm Advent service	18 9:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm Chime Choir	19	20
21 7:00pm Confirmation class	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 7:00pm Confirmation class	29	30 9:30am Good Shepherd Quilters	31	Jan 1, 26	2	3

January 2026

January 2026							February 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 26 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm Chime Choir rehearsal	2	3
4 7:00pm Confirmation class	5 6:30pm Elders Meeting	6 9:30am Good Shepherd Quilters	7	8 9:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm Chime Choir	9	10 9:30am LVMML Planning Mtg
11 7:00pm Confirmation class	12 6:00pm LVMML meeting	13 9:30am Good Shepherd Quilters	14 11:30am Young-at-Heart 6:00pm Council Meeting	15 9:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm Chime Choir	16	17 5:30pm Family Night
18 7:00pm Confirmation class	19	20 9:30am Good Shepherd Quilters	21	22 9:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm Chime Choir	23	24
25 7:00pm Confirmation class	26	27 9:30am Good Shepherd Quilters	28	29 9:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm Chime Choir	30 8:00am Men's Breakfast	31

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E-mail: gs_york@verizon.net

Sunday Worship:

In-person or Livestream

9:00 Alternative

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional

Follow the Good Shepherd with us!

«Name»

«Street»

«cityzip»

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Smile,
you
are
loved!