

Good Shepherd Gazette

December 2024



A Letter From The Undershepherd

Pastor Edward Killian

Happy New Year! Happy church New Year, that is. Advent is the beginning of the Church Year calendar, and it addresses the people of God waiting for God to keep His promises. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “arrival” or “approach.” The expected arrival in Advent Season is the coming of the Messiah the Old Testament people have waited for. During Advent, we focus on waiting well for Him to come.

The Old Testament people had waited for the Messiah for ages. God had promised that in due time the Messiah would come, and yet for four-hundred years between testaments there were no prophets. God had made them promises, but then went silent. God’s people lived by faith that the Messiah would come. Even though God did not speak from the sky, He spoke through His Word. The world was hostile to God’s people, and violence and corruption ruined everything. Yet still, in the face of it all, God’s people waited and believed.

Our time is not unlike their time. God has made us promises, but does not speak from the sky. He has sent no prophets, and so we must listen to the voice of His Word alone. In a world that is hostile to us, where violence and corruption have ruined everything, we are called to wait and to believe. Like the Old Testament people, we are called to wait well.

But how do we wait for someone who has already come? By waiting for Him to come again. The Old Testament people waited, and were not disappointed. Jesus Christ came and did all that the Old Testament said that He would do, namely dying, rising again, and atoning for the sins of all mankind for all time. Jesus Christ has promised us that He will return to take us to heaven, where all death is banished and life lives! Jesus will do for us all that He has said He will do. We will not be disappointed. Jesus is surely coming. Be patient. Wait.

Happy Advent, and Merry Christmas!

Advent: Preparing for the Coming King

There are four weeks in which we wait for the coming of our King; each week receiving the gift of hope, peace, joy, and love. Join us for our Midweek Advent Vespers Services, where the theme will be ***“The Prophets Testify: The Promise of Christmas”***.

In addition to feeding the soul, the ladies of the Good Shepherd take pride in also feeding the body as well! Join us before Vespers for our annual Advent Suppers at 6pm. It is a great opportunity for fellowship!

Celebrate Christmas here at the Good Shepherd! We are blessed to have an exceptional Organ Recital on Christmas Eve, followed by a service where you get to sing all your favorite Christmas Hymns!

Poinsettias are available to dedicate for \$10! Order a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!



First Midweek of Advent - Wednesday, December 4 @ 7pm

Second Midweek of Advent - Wednesday, December 11 @ 7pm

Third Midweek of Advent - Wednesday, December 18 @ 7pm

Christmas Organ Recital - Tuesday, Dec. 24 @ 3:30

Service of Lessons & Carols - Dec. 24 @ 4pm

The Nativity of Our Lord - Wednesday, December 25 @ 10am

Monthly Missions

In November, the Good Shepherd partnered with Lutheran Social Services to help aid in their annual Holiday Food Drive. We were able to donate a whole car load of food to help those in need this holiday season!

For the month of December, we are teaming up with Lutheran Social Services to collect toys for their Christmas Toy Drive! Help us bring a little joy to the local children this Christmas. Donate new unwrapped toys for children ages 1-12 and/or gift cards for teens \$20 each for either Walmart, Target, or In & Out.

We will be collecting until December 8.



Meetings & Gatherings

Sunday, December 8th - Church Council Meeting

Sunday, December 15th - Congregation Voter's Meeting & Church Decorating

Calling all Good Shepherd Members! Come together after service to hear what is going on in your church, opportunities to get involved, and approve the budget. After the Voter's Meeting, we will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas! Lunch will be provided for those who stay.

LWML Pacific Southwest District Retreat in Phoenix January 24-26

Early Registration is open until Dec. 5th! Contact Moira for more info!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 Bible Study 8:30am Divine Service 10am
2	3	4 Advent Supper 6pm Advent Vespers @ 7pm	5	6	7	8 Bible Study 8:30am Divine Service 10am *Last days to donate to the toy drive.
9	10	11 Advent Supper 6pm Advent Vespers 7pm	12	13	14	15 Bible Study 8:30am Divine Service 10am Voter's Meeting
16	17	18 Advent Supper 6pm Advent Vespers 7pm	19	20	21	22 Bible Study 8:30am Divine Service 10am
23	24 Christmas Eve! Organ Recital 3:30pm Service of Lessons and Carols - 4pm	25 Christmas Day! The Nativity of Our Lord - Divine Service 10am	26	27	28	29 No Bible Study Divine Service 10am
30	31 New Years Eve!	1 New Years Day!	2	3	4	5 Bible Study 8:30am Divine Service 10am