



The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
OLNEY, MARYLAND
DECEMBER 24, 2025 | 7:00 PM

Holy Communion will be Continuous.

Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available upon request.

Holy Communion is...

- † The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ received “in, with, and under” the bread and wine for God’s People. *Matthew 26:26, 28*
- † Coming to the table believing the words “given and shed FOR YOU.”
Preparation might involve three questions:
Do I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? Am I sorry for my sins?
Am I ready to lead a new life?
- † God’s grace in “forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.”
Matthew 26:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 6:8-9; Romans 8:31-32



Alleluia. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Alleluia.

Matthew 1:21



Welcome to worship at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Please scan the QR Code to register as our guest. You can also sign the Guest Registry located at the entrance to our Sanctuary.

Please turn off all electronic devices during our worship together, so that we can give glory to God without distraction.

Nursery: The room located at the back of the sanctuary (with windows into the sanctuary), has been set aside for children to be able to play comfortably during Worship. At this time, we ask a parent to remain with their child while using this space. There is a sound system located on the wall to the right after entering the room which allows you to listen to the service.

Please feel free to ask an Elder to assist you as needed.

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The Nativity of Our Lord
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
December 24, 2025 | 7:00 PM

Welcome

Prelude

What Child is This

Shepherd's Bells

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation

LSB 151

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 151

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;
 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!
 Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels;
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit

- P** To us a child is born, to us a son is given,
 And the Government shall be on his shoulder.
 And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
- C** **Oh sing unto the Lord a new song;**
for He has done marvelous things.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** To us a child is born, to us a son is given,
 And the Government shall be on his shoulder.

And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Kyrie

LSB 186

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Refrain
Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 110:1–4; antiphon: v. 2a

¹The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

**²The LORD sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.**

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

³Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,
in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.

**⁴The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind,
“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.”**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Epistle

1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Proph - e - sied in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!

For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!
 God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain

On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save

us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Text (sts. 1, ref): tr. unknown, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Vincent Pisek, 1859–1930
 Text and tune: Bohemian, 15th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

15When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



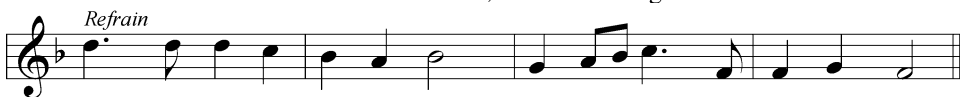
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King!”

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Sleep, my dear one,
Sleep, my lovely,
Warm and cozy, rest your head.
Mother's loving arms around you
Make a gentle loving bed.
Ill shall never touch thy sleeping,
None disturb thy slumber deep;
Sleep thou calmly, darling baby,
With your mother gently sleep.

Quiet slumber now shall bless thee
With its beauty, sweet and deep;
Why, my lovely, are you smiling,
Smiling tenderly asleep?
Are the heavenly angels smiling
on thee in thy slumber deep,
Smiling joyously upon thee,
with your mother gently sleep.

Christ is born.

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Offering

Stand





1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface (Full)

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

O holy, holy Lord of hosts,
Your praise the earth is singing.
Hosanna, blest is He who comes,
Salvation to us bringing.
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C **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.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

O Lamb of God who takes away
The whole world's sin, have mercy.
O Lamb of God, grant peace to us,
That we from sin may be free.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Sit

Distribution (*Continuous*)

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

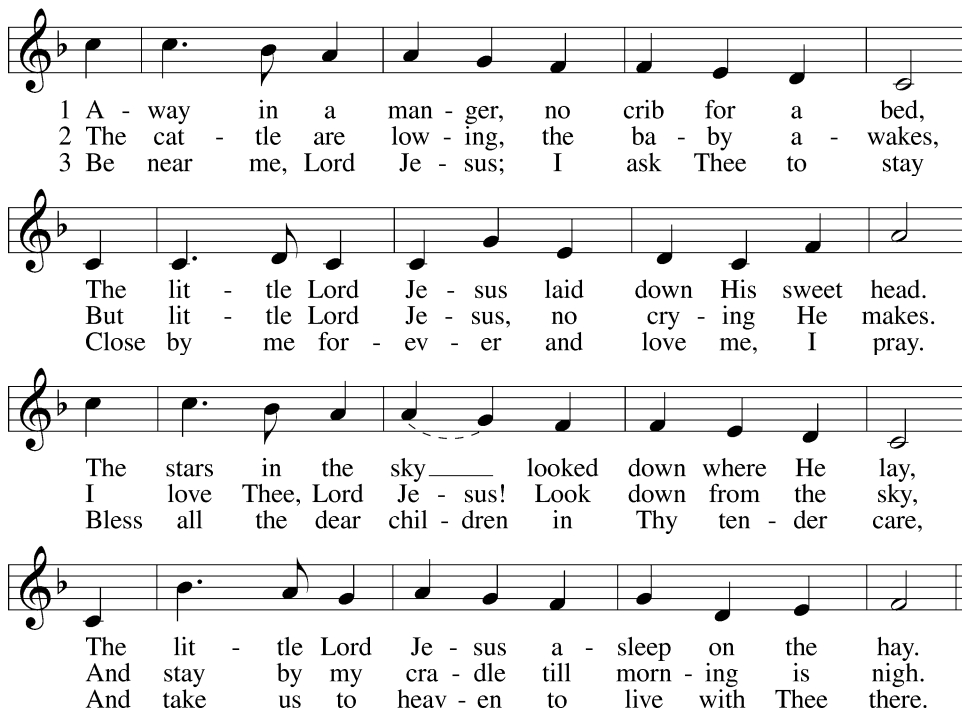
Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn

Away in a Manger

LSB 364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905
Text and tune: Public domain

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

LSB 199

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
C Amen.

Service of Light

The lighting of our candles from the Christ Candle represents the light of Christ spreading into the world as we, like the shepherds, go forth rejoicing and sharing the good news. As the light spreads through the congregation, please keep your lit candle upright while your neighbor dips their unlit candle towards yours.

Reading

John 1:1–14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
 all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
 peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! the Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863
 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

You may extinguish your candles as lights are raised.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Benediction

P 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.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Dismissal

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

This is the word of the prophet:
‘Unto us a child is born, unto
us a son is given.’ This is for
us the hardest point, not so
much to believe that He is the
son of the Virgin and God himself,
as to believe that this Son
of God is ours.... Truly it is
marvelous in our eyes that God
should place a little child in the
lap of a virgin and that all our
blessedness should lie in him.
And this Child belongs to all mankind.

—**Martin Luther**



The Christmas tree in our sanctuary was donated by Jean and David Krueger in memory of their son, Christopher Krueger.

The beautiful poinsettias which grace the Sanctuary were given by:

Ann & Bob Wolters	Dedicated to the Memory of Mr & Mrs Elmer Wolters & Mr & Mrs John Cameron
Ann & Bob Wolters	In Honor of Dovanon, Camero, Fiona, & Sean
Andy & Lisa Carpenter	In Memory of Andy's parents
Andy & Lisa Carpenter	In Memory of Lisa's stepfather
Cheryl & John Malina	In Honor of Kristen & Reid Laidlaw
Mary & Mike Rajnik	In Memory of Loved Ones
Carl & Jackie Schulten	In Memory of Duart Crabtree
Carl & Jackie Schulten	To Honor our faith family at Good Shepherd
Greg & Nina Mullen	To the Glory of God
Jim & Connie Strachan	In Memory of Our Parents
Chuck & Sherrie Dean	In Memory of Our Parents

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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