



Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church

715 E. Lamar Blvd.
Arlington, TX 76011

Welcome to Shepherd of Life

www.bluelamb.org - 817-460-0631

We are thrilled that you have chosen to spend the morning with us. As we worship, pray, and sing together, we hope that God's Spirit will fill your heart, and bring you joy and peace.

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30-Traditional Service, 9:45 - Sunday School & Bible Study,
11:00-Family Service

Childcare is available throughout the morning for children up to 3 years old. The nursery is located at the east side of the narthex. A cry room is available just off the west side of the narthex near the doors to the sanctuary.

We practice Open Communion. Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

Please give us the opportunity to send you a personal thank you by filling out one of the yellow cards found in the pew and placing it in the offering plate.

Table of Contents

8:30 AM Service	Page 3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Page 9
Worship Participants	Page 9
Youth & Family Page	Page 10
Hymns	Pages 13-18
Prayers of the Church	Page 19
11:00 AM Service	Page 20

Shepherd of Life Administrative Staff

Senior Pastor	John Foster	(817) 395-2432
Associate Pastor	Mark Hadley	(817) 915-4001
Intern Pastor	Jonathan Lys	(979) 255-4148
Director, LSSC	Rachel Adams	(830) 660-2382
Communications & Office Coordinator	Andrea Wolz	(817) 658-8555
Office Manager	Tammy Nadaskay	(817) 217-7056
Music Director	Eddie Creel	

***"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."
Romans 12:11***

November 28, 2021

8:30 AM Service

Prelude

Welcome

Leader: "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you." (Isaiah 54)
On this first Sunday of Advent, may the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness (*Congregation stands*)

Leader: Most merciful God,

People: **We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Entrance Hymn

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

Page 13

Apostolic Greeting

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Advent Litany

Leader : Jesus Christ is the light ' of the world,
People: **The light no darkness can ' overcome.**

Leader: The Spirit and the ' church cry out:
People: **Amen. ' Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: For with you is the foun ' tain of life,
People: **And in your light ' we see light.**

**“Joyous light of heavenly glory, loving glow of God’s own face,
You who sing creation’s story, shine on every land and race.**

**Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way.
Loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.”**

Prayer of the Day

(Congregation may be seated)

Special Music **“God Himself is with Us”** *Bell Choir*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

[The Lutheran Church believes that the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written inspired Word of God. Shepherd of Life follows the lectionary, and the lessons may be found on the back of this worship bulletin.]

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16 Back Cover

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God!**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath Page 8

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-12 Back Cover

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

(Congregation stands)

**“Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.”**

Gospel Reading	Luke 1:67-71,78-79	Back Cover
Before Reading:	“Glory to you, O Lord.”	
After Reading:	“Praise to you, O Christ.”	

(Congregation may be seated)

Message	PEACE ON EARTH, CAN IT BE?	<i>Pastor Mark Hadley</i>
Hymn of the Day	"Love Has Come"	Page 14

Opportunities for Growth and Service

Joys and Concerns

(If you have a prayer concern or prayer of thanksgiving you would like included in the bulletin, please call the church office.)

Prayers of the Church

(The following verse will be sung before and after the prayers of the church)

**"Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God."**

Apostle's Creed *(Congregation stands)*

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the *holy catholic Church the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**the true Christian Church at all times*

THE GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[By our tithes and offerings we say “Thank You” to God for all of our blessings. Your offerings support Shepherd of Life's ministry here, in our community, and around the world through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you for prayerfully considering your sacrificial response.]

Offering Prayer

Presider: Merciful Father

People: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

[The Lutheran church believes that Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine, and that through the reception of this sacrament, we receive the forgiveness of sins. You do not have to be a member in order to receive the Lord's Supper at Shepherd of Life. All are welcome! If you prefer to receive grape juice, simply point to the second communion assistant who will also be holding grapes for our children.]

(Sung to the tune “What Child is This”)

Leader: What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

People: This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna is given!

Leader: What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious love is given?

People: This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Word of God is given!

Consecration of the Elements

The Lord's Prayer

(Congregation may be seated after prayer)

Communion Hymns

"Come, Let Us Eat"

Page 15

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Page 16

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Page 17

Doxology

**"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."**

Benediction

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

Page 18

Dismissal

Leader: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a savior would be born, a king in the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

As followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this candle to remember that as he came to us in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people. We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for his return.

Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us. Help us to prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming. Bless our worship. Help us live holy and righteous lives. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen

During the lighting of the Advent wreath we sing:

**“Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.”**

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY SERIES

SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

November 28

The Virgin Mary with Pastor John

December 12

The Wise Men with Pastor John

December 19

The Angels with Pastor Mark



LET EVERY HEART

Prepare



Advent Service Wednesday, December 8th
at 6:00 PM followed by
Wine and Cheese Fellowship at 7:00 PM



11/28

Betty Boling

11/29

David Foster
Alexandra Selene

11/30

Jon Christensen

12/1

Victoria Dryg
Alexandra Dryg
Sharon Sowa

12/2

Charles Plasket
Marie Phillips
Valerie Burton

12/3

Kristen Tindall

12/4

Beverly Dittmer
Charlotte Bailey

Happy
Anniversary



11/30

Joshua & Kristen
Cobler

12/4

Joe & Bonnie Johnson

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS



8:30 AM

Minister Assistant

Sherri Wade

Altar Guild

Sandra Phillips

Greeter

Scott Fields

Prayer of the Day

Tami Parker

Reader

Kim Doege

Ushers

Joe Johnson &
Chris Wade

11:00 AM

The Jorgensens

Candy Collins, Kay Fox,
Karen Vavrin

The Jorgensens

Connie Martino-Woehr

Jeannie Patty

Scott & Carol Bernhart

Shepherd of Life's Youth and Family Page

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT 11:00 AM



Christmas Program Rehearsal dates

Sunday, November 28th at 9:45 am
Sunday, December 5th at 9:45 am
Sunday, December 12th at 9:45 am

The program takes place during the 11:00 service on Sunday, December 12th



**We are ready to party on
Sunday, December 19th!**

**Don't miss our Children's Birthday Party for
Jesus and Christmas party for our Junior
High and High School students!**

CONGREGATIONAL Meeting

Sunday,
December 5th
9:45 - 10:45 AM

Part of the new business at this year's meeting will be voting on whether to make our current Sunday morning schedule permanent. Please review the following resolution in preparation:

Whereas denominations and congregations everywhere continue to experience a decline in membership and participation; and

Whereas the current church leadership (Pastor John Foster, Pastor Mark Hadley, Intern Pastor Jonathan Lys and the church council) are committed to the following four goals:

- To increase our congregation's commitment to God's word and the spiritual growth of our members by involving more people in bible study.
- To nurture our children's love for God and their connection to the entire church by encouraging more families to worship together.
- To strengthen the unity of our church and the relationships between our members by creating regular fellowship opportunities on Sunday mornings.
- To recapture the joy and the energy of singing and worshipping together by moving from three lesser attended services to two greater attended services; and

Recognizing that this new schedule requires both changes and sacrifices the church leadership seeks your understanding, prayers and support for the goals outlined above in the pursuit of our shared goal of strengthening the ministry and mission of our church. Therefore be it resolved that Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church will make the current morning schedule permanent.

- + Worship Service at 8:30 AM
- + Education and Occasional Fellowship Events at 9:45 AM
- + Worship Service at 11:00 AM

HOLIDAY SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 5th

Christmas Cookie and Candy Exchange
Annual Meeting - 9:45 - 10:45 AM

(There will be no Progressive Dinner this year)

Wednesday, December 8th

Advent Service at 6:00 PM
Wine & Cheese Fellowship at 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 12th

Christmas Program 11:00 AM

Friday, December 24th

Candlelight Communion Services
4:00, 6:00, & 11:00 PM

Sunday, December 26th

One Service Only at 11:00 Lessons and
Carols, Pajamas and Hot Chocolate.

Christmas Cookie & Candy Exchange NEXT SUNDAY



Coffee Time

Today's coffee time & refreshments are given by
Chuck Chambers in
celebration of his birthday.

Poinsettias

Poinsettia sign up sheets are now in the narthex. Cost per plant is \$10. Sign up soon! Quantities are limited!



Gifts are in the \$30.00 range.

We will also be accepting unwrapped gift donations for those who want to participate but are unable to get an angel

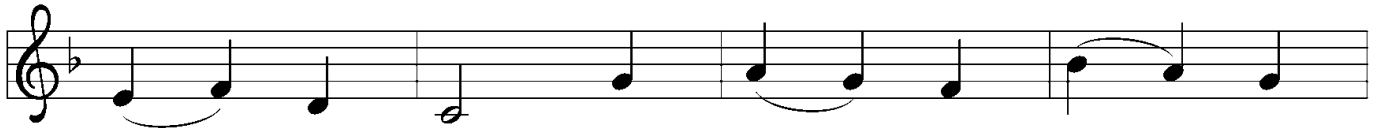
TODAY — Adopt an Angel

DECEMBER 5 through 12 — Return gifts in a gift bag
(no wrapping paper please)

Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Public Domain

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Used with permission under One License #A-739317

Come, Let Us Eat

Leader or All



- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
- 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
- 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
 come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
 in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
 rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
 in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt.

Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

Text sts. 1–3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

STS 1–3 used with permission—One License A-739317

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Used with permission under One License #A-739317

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Refrain



so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
 that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

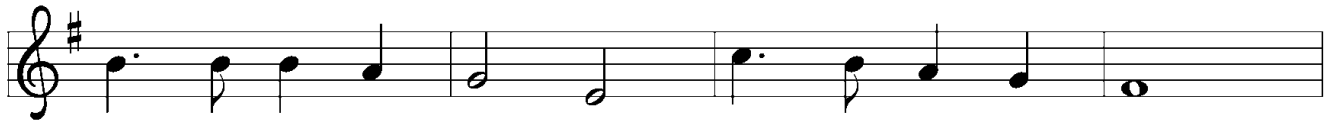
Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

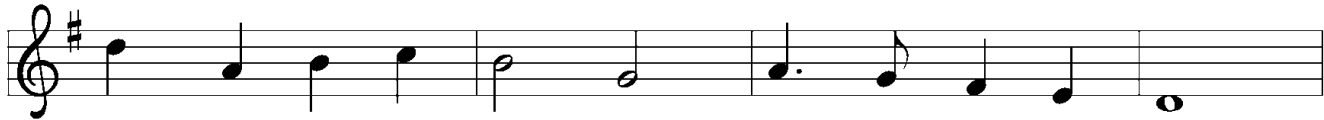
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Used with permission One License # A-739317

On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Public Domain



Caring Ministries

Let us come before Him with Thanksgiving...

For the patience that comes to us through the waiting

For I am the Lord who heals you...

- *For Bruce & Tyna Oslie's daughter, Angie who is experiencing unrelenting seizures and vertigo and seeking solutions following surgery*
- *For Val Hicks who is beginning radiation treatments soon*
- *For Kay Fox who is still experiencing severe back pain*
- *For Phyllis Hecht who is recovering from an ablation*
- *For Robin Lee recovering from knee surgery*
- *For Hank Briggs who is recovering from back surgery*
- *For Delores Downard who is receiving chemo*
- *For Judi Christensen who is having a biopsy of her thyroid*
- *For Lauren Lien who is recovering from knee replacement surgery*
- *For Flo Walzer who is recovering from a partial hip replacement*
- *For Rhonda Banks' friend, Roger who is in serious condition in the ICU*
- *For Norma Hadley who has begun infusion treatments for cancer*
- *For Joanne Hedrick's sister, Cathy who has been diagnosed with cancer*

Your continued prayers are appreciated for...

Valerie Burton's daughter, Liz; Cathy Dismore's sister, Marti; Dave Fox's sister, Mary; Eric Moore's cousin, Scott

The Lord is filled with Compassion for...

- *If you have a prayer request please contact Judy Pfretzschnier at jajohn16@att.net.*
- *We have prepared meals in the Administration Building. Feel free to take one to someone who needs it.*
- *There are prayer shawls in the chapel available for you to take to someone who is in need of comfort.*
- *Our James 5 Ministry can arrange pre-surgery prayers in our chapel for you. Contact Cathy Racette at grammashepherd@sbcglobal.net.*

11:00 AM Service

Call to Worship

Welcome

Leader: "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you." (Isaiah 54) On this first Sunday of Advent, may the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(Congregation stands and sings)

Entrance Hymn **"Hark, the Glad Sound!"**

Page 13

Prayer of the Day

(Congregation may be seated)

Special Music **"God Himself is with Us"**

Bell Choir

Children's Message & Prayer

(Your Children, ages 3 to 9 years, are invited to join us for Children's Church and will be back in time for communion with their families)

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

[The Lutheran Church believes that the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written inspired Word of God. Shepherd of Life follows the lectionary, and the lessons may be found on the back of this worship bulletin.]

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

Back Cover

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Page 8

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-12

Back Cover

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

(Congregation stands)

**"Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia."**

Gospel Reading Luke 1:67-71,78-79

Back Cover

Before Reading: **“Glory to you, O Lord.”**
After Reading: **“Praise to you, O Christ.”**

(Congregation may be seated)

Message PEACE ON EARTH, CAN IT BE?

Pastor Mark Hadley

Hymn of the Day **"Love Has Come"**

Page 14

Opportunities for Growth and Service

Joys and Concerns

(If you have a prayer concern or prayer of thanksgiving you would like included in the bulletin, please call the church office.)

Prayers of the Church

(The following verse will be sung before and after the prayers of the church)

**"Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God."**

Apostle's Creed *(Congregation stands)*

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the *holy catholic Church the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[By our tithes and offerings we say "Thank You" to God for all of our blessings. Your offerings support Shepherd of Life's ministry here, in our community, and around the world through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you for prayerfully considering your sacrificial response.]

Offering Prayer

Presider: Merciful Father

People: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**the true Christian Church at all times*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

[The Lutheran church believes that Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine, and that through the reception of this sacrament, we receive the forgiveness of sins. You do not have to be a member in order to receive the Lord's Supper at Shepherd of Life. All are welcome! If you prefer to receive grape juice, simply point to the second communion assistant who will also be holding grapes for our children.]

(Congregations Sings)

**"What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna is given!"**

Consecration of the Elements

The Lord's Prayer *(Congregation joins hands)*

(Congregation may be seated after prayer)

Communion Hymns

"Come, Let Us Eat"

Page 15

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Page 16

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Page 17

Doxology

**"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."**

Benediction

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

Page 18

Dismissal

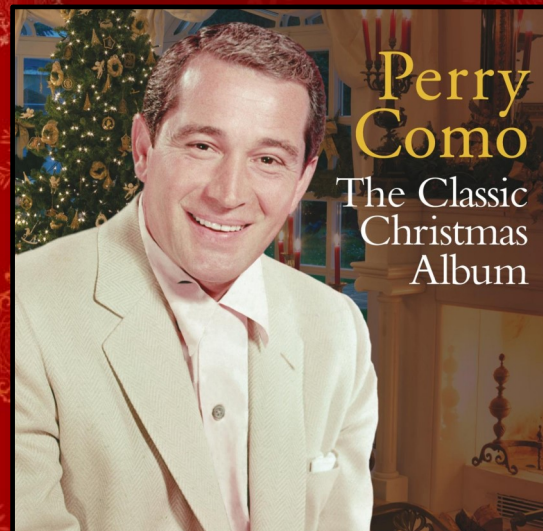
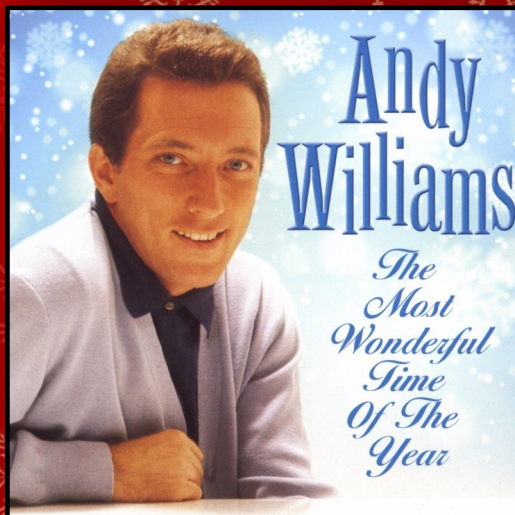
Leader: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

The Back Page

When it comes to Christmas songs, here are a few of Pastor Mark's favorites...



FIRST READING – Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

SECOND READING - 1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

GOSPEL READING – Luke 1:67-71,78-79

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."