

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
**December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Welcome to Shepherd of the Lakes!

The members of Shepherd of the Lakes are very pleased to have you worship with us today. We invite you to join with us in worshipping the Triune God: the Father who created us, the Son who redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit who sets us apart to be God's people through his powerful word. Our church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a group of Lutheran churches committed to the Bible's teaching about life and salvation.

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**God speaks to us from the Scriptures:**

**The First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

*The similarities between the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus are striking: a gracious gift to his mother; the boy Samuel was dedicated to the Lord's service, ministering in the Tabernacle. By grace he would grow "in favor with God and men." By grace he would willingly carry out the "Father's things/business" all the days of his life.*

**The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 111**, on page 106 in your hymnal

**The Epistle Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18**

*It is fitting that the Author of Salvation should make his One and Only Son like those he came to save. As our brother, he knows our weaknesses and temptations. Yet, in service to God, he carried out the Father's will.*

**The Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:15a)

**The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52**

*Though Jesus willingly obeyed Mary and Joseph, more striking is his willing obedience to the Father's will.*

**Applying God's Word to our Lives this Week:**

**Sermon Text:** Colossians 3:15a

**Sermon Theme:** Let the peace of God rule in your hearts!

**STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS TO US**

Worship service attendance for Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> was 42. 30 received the comfort of Holy Communion. Our hearts acknowledged God's love for us in all he has blessed us with and showed our trust in his continued blessing by offering him \$1150.00 (Christmas Eve 22/ \$455.00) for the work of his church.

*"Whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God!"*

**GOD'S PEOPLE GROWING AND SERVING**

**Usher/Altar Guild Schedule**

January 3rd — 1\*

January 10th — 2

January 17th — 3\*

January 24th — 1

January 31st — 2

\*denotes Communion Sunday

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**Today's Theme** With his perfect life lived in our place, Jesus restored peace between us and God.

**Midweek Bible Class** Because of the Christmas and New Year holiday the midweek Bible Class will resume January 6th at 10am.

**OUR PATH OF  
WORSHIP**

"The Common Service"  
**P. 15**

**PREPARATION p.10**

**Opening Hymn: #49**

**Confession of sins: p. 15**  
**Prayer and Praise: p.16**

**THE WORD**

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
**Psalm 111, page 106**

Hebrews 2:10-18  
**Verse of the day, p. 18**

Luke 2:41-52  
**Gospel Acclamation p. 18**

**Apostle's Creed p. 18-19**

**Hymn of the Day: #41**

The Sermon

The Offering

Prayers p. 20

**Hymn: #42**

Closing Prayer

Blessing p. 25

**Closing Hymn: #62**

**Next Sunday** Worship – 9am/Bible Class – 10:15am

Congress extends provision for tax-free gifts to charity from IRA

For those aged 70½ or older, it is once again possible to make a tax free gift directly from your IRA to any WELS ministry.

On December 18, 2015 Congress passed legislation to extend the IRA charitable rollover for 2015 and beyond. Up to \$100,000 per year can be transferred directly from an IRA to one or more qualified charities free from federal and potentially state income tax.

A WELS member can take advantage of this tax benefit by directing their annual required IRA minimum distribution directly to WELS Foundation. WELS Foundation will then distribute their gift per the donor's instruction to any WELS ministry including their local congregation, WELS missions or schools. (For a complete listing refer to the WELS Yearbook.) We encourage donors to speak with their tax and financial professionals before requesting a qualified charitable distribution from their IRA.

For more information on how you can make this tax wise gift to any WELS ministry contact your WELS Christian giving counselor, mission advancement representative, or WELS Foundation (800-752-8940). Your WELS Christian Giving Counselors are John Graf ([john.graf@wels.net](mailto:john.graf@wels.net), or 414-899-8173), and John Kenyon ([john.kenyon@wels.net](mailto:john.kenyon@wels.net), or 414-405-9226).

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# Shepherd of the Lakes Ev. Lutheran Church

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