

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
January 3rd, 2016

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.

God speaks to us from the Scriptures:

The First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7

The LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, appears to Abram at the age of ninety-nine to again confirm his gracious covenant and promise. This time, the Lord changes his name to Abraham saying, "I have made you a father of many nations."

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 148 on page 121 in your Hymnal

The Epistle Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Thousands of years had passed, generations had come and gone, since the promise made by God in the Garden. But all those years were not wasted, but preparatory. Finally, when everything had been perfectly prepared, God kept the Garden Promise and sent his Son.

The Verse of the Day: Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia. (Psalm 98:3b)

The Gospel Reading: Luke 1:68-79

Zechariah had learned to trust God's promises. After months of silence, he bursts forth to sing of God's promises kept. Blessed be the God of Israel who has come to redeem his people.

Applying God's Word to our Lives this Week:

Sermon: **Luke 1:68-79**

Theme: Zechariah's song of praise is our own!

Holy Communion: In Holy Communion we are receiving Jesus' true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, new life, and salvation. But that's not all. We also receive strength, encouragement, and comfort knowing that in this sacrament **we are at one with our God** through Jesus' death on the cross for our sins, **we are one in faith with those communing beside us**, and **we are joined with all the saints**, who share our common faith. For this reason we practice **close communion**, inviting only WELS or ELS members to partake of the sacrament so as not to call into question the communion that we share. **If you are a visitor, please speak to Pastor Seelow before communing.**

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Worship service attendance for Sunday, December 27th was 22. 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 \$1633.75 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 10th — 2

January 17th — 3*

January 24th — 1

January 31st — 2 *denotes Communion Sunday

NEWS AND NOTES

Today's Theme We celebrate with joy how God has fulfilled all his promises.

Council Meeting The council will meet next Sunday following Bible Class.

Midweek Bible Class Our midweek Bible class continues this Wednesday looking at "Dealing with the sins of society."

THANK YOU Thank you to everyone for their kind words, cards, and gifts this Christmas season. It is a joy and privilege to serve you here at Shepherd of the Lakes. We wish you all God's richest blessings in this new year!

— Pastor and Rebekah, and Eileen

Next Sunday Worship – 9am; Bible Class 10:15; Council Meeting 11:00

**OUR PATH OF
WORSHIP**

"The Common Service"
PREPARATION p.10

Opening Hymn: #50

Confession of Sins: **p. 15**

Prayer and Praise: **p. 16-17**

THE WORD

Genesis 17:1-7

Psalm 148, page 121

Galatians 4:4-7

Verse of the day, p. 18

Luke 1:68-79

Response, p. 18

Nicene Creed p. 18-19

Hymn of the Day: #37

The Sermon

Create in Me p. 20

The Offering

Prayers, p. 20

**THE SACRAMENT
p.21-23**

Distribution Hymn: #42

THANKSGIVING p. 24

Blessing, p. 25

Closing Hymn: #45

Shepherd of the Lakes

Ev. Lutheran Church

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2016

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