



Good Shepherd & Our Saviors Lutheran Parish

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



THE MESSAGE

January & February 2024

Dear Beloved Children of God,

As we begin the new year, we will spend time in the season of Epiphany. The church celebrates the day of Epiphany on January 6, twelve days after Christmas. The church recalls the story of the wise men who came from the East searching for a king born under a star. They met with King Herod in Jerusalem and ascertained that a king was to be born in Bethlehem. Herod directed them to continue their search for this new king. "When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road."

(Matthew 2:10-12 NRSV)

The wise men risked much and traveled far to pay homage to the king born under a star in Bethlehem. They came offering their gifts, only to be overcome with joy, not grasping that it was Jesus who provides the greater gift to the world. Aha! God was revealed to the wise men!

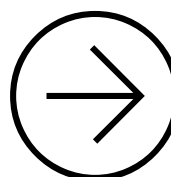
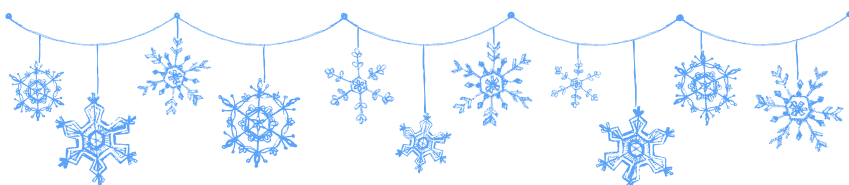
EPIPHANY: The Season of Aha! - The texts of the Revised Common Lectionary used by churches throughout the world during the Sundays after the Epiphany include wonderful stories of those who (like the wise men) have "Aha!" moments. We experience similar Aha moments when we say, "So that is what God is up to!" as we discover and claim the gifts of discipleship in our baptism. How is Christ made known today?

Each year on the Sunday after January 6 (Epiphany), the church celebrates the baptism of Jesus and hears a clear affirmation of God's love for him, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17 NRSV)

All four gospels describe this significant event in the life of Jesus. In baptism, the Holy Spirit came to Jesus, and His mission on this earth was launched.

In our baptism, we too are claimed as God's beloved children. In our baptism, we too receive the Holy Spirit, transforming our lives and launching our mission. That mission is made known in the gifts of discipleship which we are given and to which we commit our lives as we affirm our baptism.

"In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith love, and obedience to the will of God."



Look inside for more info on:
Sunday School - - Giving Opportunities - Raise the Roof - Confirmation - Youth Group - Music - Worship - Call Committee - Headwaters Collab - Mission Outreach

MARILYN'S MESSAGE (CONT'D.)

At baptism, the presiding minister places water upon the person in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized and offers these words, "Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

To be sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever is significant and lifechanging. As we affirm our baptism, we are asked the following question: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and
- to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each of us responds: "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me." This response sounds like a New Year's resolution for daily living. This response is not an obligation, but rather a five-fold gift from God. Each gift contains the potential of blessing.

May you be blessed daily! Marilyn

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT OUR SAVIORS



**Sunday School at Our
Saviors begins
January 14th**

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Please remember to check on the cemetery funds. Donations are the only funding to manage the expenses of each cemetery. This includes, mowing and maintenance.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The roof project is steadily moving forward.

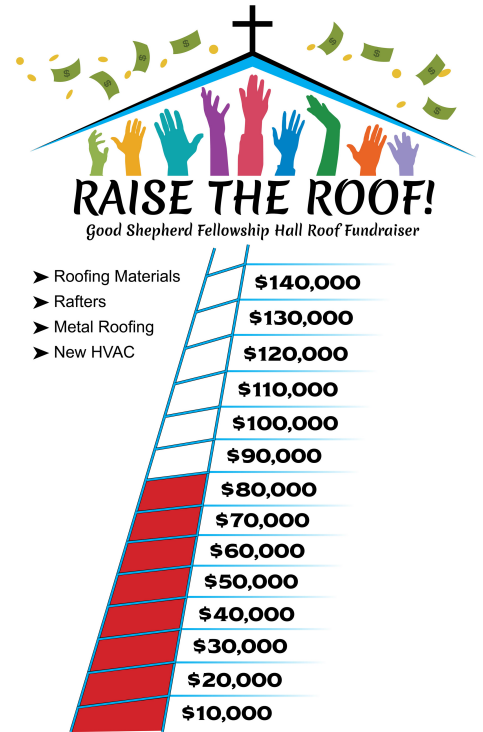
We have **currently raised...**

\$ 86,708.80 for the project.

Our goal is \$15,000.00

19.2 rafters have been sold,
we need a total of 52.

We are going to begin ordering heating and electrical equipment at the beginning of the year.



THRIVENT

Good Shepherd Church can receive dollars annually through Thrivent Financial when Thrivent members designate their Choice Dollars to our church. Thrivent members, please remember to make your designation annually to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! It is fast, easy, and comes at no cost to members.

Thank you for supporting our church in this unique way!

Giving made EASY

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



Scan the code above to give electronically!

FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

The Good Shepherd and Our Saviors Call Committee will be interviewing a candidate in early January. Please continue to send prayers in support of this journey.

Thank you.

Office Hours

Kay:

Tuesday - Friday
8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Marilyn:

Wednesday 1:00 - 5:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 a.m.- 12 noon

Pastor Mark:

Tuesday 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD STEWARDSHIP

October

Gen. Fund beginning balance 10/1/23

\$ 52,521.79

Good Shepherd Receipts

\$ 20,955.37

Our Savior's Receipts

\$ 738.48

Expenses

\$ 9,696.84

End balance 10/31/23

\$ 63,299.73

November

Gen. Fund beginning balance 11/1/23

\$ 63,299.73

Good Shepherd Receipts

\$ 9,195.27

Our Savior's Receipts

\$ 747.62

Expenses

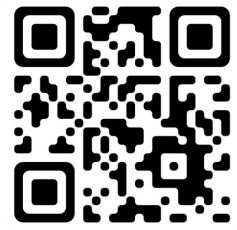
\$ 7,387.75

End balance 11/30/23

\$ 65,854.87

Giving made EASY

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



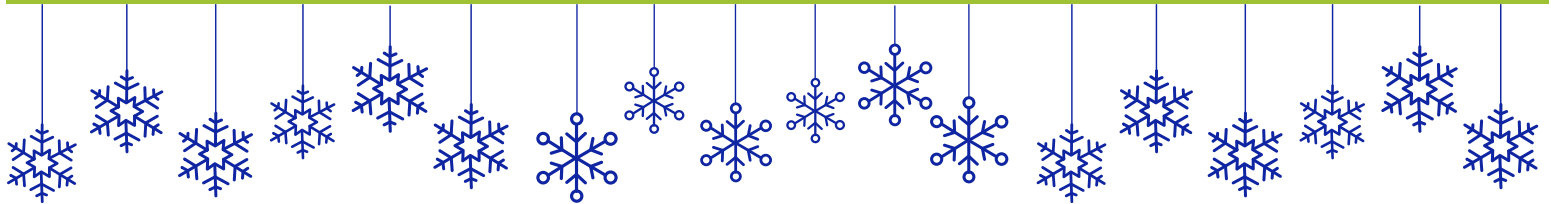
*Scan the code above to
give electronically!*

Good Shepherd Annual Meeting

Lunch to follow provided by the Youth

JANUARY 21, 2024 | 12:00 NOON | FOLLOWING WORSHIP

(in the event of inclement weather - meeting will be moved to February 4th)



Our Saviors

Annual Meeting

JANUARY 28, 2024 | FOLLOWING WORSHIP

(in the event of inclement weather - meeting will be moved to February 11th)

I AM A CHILD OF GOD

Good Shepherd Sunday School

January 7th:

Sunday School Begins

What are we learning? We will spend January learning about David and Goliath. We will study each lesson utilizing different teaching elements - cooking, movie, crafts, and more. February will be spent on bible lessons and memory work. Can't wait to see you all there!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT GOOD SHEPHERD



At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, we believe Sunday School, in addition to Worship, is a great way to help parents raise children in faith.

MISSION OUTREACH @ GOOD SHEPHERD

Our Mission Outreach Committee provided Advent Calendars and Study Guides for our congregation families for use during the Advent Season. This year, the Giving Tree was set up to raise funds for CG students in need of cold weather gear including boots, hats, gloves, jackets, and snow pants. We were given a list of 28 children in need of these items and more. The tree was decorated with envelopes with a dollar amount to be used to purchase the needed items in the needed sizes for these children. As the envelopes were removed from the tree they were replaced with decorations. This year we raised \$1,170.00. THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS DONATIONS clothing items were purchased for each child in need. THANK YOU!

As members of the ELCA we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way we can share that love with others. Our first project in 2024 will be for the Sunday School Children to purchase an animal for the ELCA Good Gifts Program with their Sunday School offerings. The children will choose the gift to purchase either a goat \$50, chicks \$10, a piglet \$30, or a cow \$500.

Plans are for us to participate in the Food Drive for our local Clearwater County Food Shelf in March.



ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS
CATALOG



MISSION OUTREACH IN OUR COMMUNITY



Befrienders are lay volunteers who provide pastoral care to people in difficult and transitional situations, such as illness, loneliness, or loss of a loved one. They embody the caring presence of God and of the faith community. Interested? Contact Pastor Mark at 218-694-2631 to register.

Upcoming classes:

February 3rd 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
February 4th 1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
February 10th 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Register by
January 25th!**

YOUTH @ GOOD SHEPHERD

Confirmation We are going to make a few changes with confirmation for the winter and spring. We will be meeting each week at Good Shepherd. Our group lesson will still be given by Pastor Mark via zoom, but we will do our small group work offline and together. There are many kids that don't seem to need dinner, so we are looking at not providing dinner. We will meet from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. We will need parents to assist as small group leaders.

As a reminder...First Wednesdays are a part of confirmation, and the locations will change each month. We have attached a calendar for your reference.

During Lent, we will be responsible for attending worship at 5:30 p.m. and then serving dinner following worship. We will provide more information with the schedule and assigned dates.

Youth & Confirmation Schedule

January

3 - First Wednesday @ Faith Lutheran

- 10 - Class @ Clearwater, Faith, & Good Shepherd
- 14 - Youth Sunday
- 17 - Class @ Clearwater, Faith, & Good Shepherd
- 24 - Class @ Clearwater, Faith, & Good Shepherd
- 28 - Youth Gathering Mandatory Parent/Youth Meeting
- 31 - Class @ Clearwater, Faith, & Good Shepherd

February

7 - First Wednesday @ Cease Funeral Home

- 11 - Youth Sunday
- 14 - Ash Wednesday @ Faith and Good Shepherd
- 21 - Lenten Service and Supper @ Good Shepherd
- 28 - Lenten Service and Supper @ Good Shepherd

Youth Sundays

Youth in Confirmation and attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans will be participating in Youth Sundays beginning in January. The purpose of Youth Sundays will be to get the youth more involved in the worship planning and execution. The idea is that each group will meet with the worship committee to plan one Sunday in their month. They will learn about the worship planning process and participate in the service.

They will also host coffee hour with the assistance of their families. These coffee hours will include a free will offering so the youth have an additional opportunity to raise money for the youth gathering trip.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE

the table

Young Adult Gathering

July 12 - 21, 2024



Youth will be serving cinnamon rolls during coffee hour on Youth Sundays to raise money for the Youth Gathering!

Headwaters Collaboration

A NW MN Synod Area Missions Conversation



Have you heard of Area Mission Conversations (Strategy Tables)?

What?

They are Christ-centered gatherings with guided and focused conversations around what God is up to in specific areas. Among many topics, such discussions focus on maximizing the mission and ministry at participating sites and creating opportunities to share ideas, energies, leadership, and resources for Christ's Church. Currently, Pr. Rebel is facilitating an Area Mission Conversation with seven churches in the northwestern Minnesota also known as the Headwaters Collaboration.

Why?

The Headwaters Collaboration was created in response to the congregations' needs, including:

- Leadership (both rostered and lay)
- Finding ways to support and respect each congregation's traditions, histories, and identities
- Desiring to collaborate for the sake of the Gospel

Over the last eight months, this team has dreamed, prayed, created, trusted, wondered, implemented, and have been spiritually committed to one another and the health of their congregations.

How?

Knowing that every congregation is unique in who they are and where they serve, this process is designed to be flexible and contextual. The mission strategy process helps congregations reclaim their own identity while listening deeply to the community around them. The knowledge gained from intentional listening helps shape a plan for the future. It also provides a foundation for continued discernment about where God is leading them.

Who?

The churches involved in this collaboration include:

- Bethel Lutheran Church, Bagley
- Clearwater Lutheran Church, Shevlin
- Faith Lutheran Church, Bagley
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Clearbrook
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Leonard
- Solway Lutheran Church, Solway
- Zion Lutheran Church, Bagley



Next?

Each church will meet with their church council to review their commitment and their next steps. The Headwaters Collaboration will be presented to their congregations during their respective annual meetings. This collaboration is congregation-ally led and it is up to each congregation to determine their desire to move forward. The collaboration will gather at the end of January reporting the feedback from their congregations and will supply two congregants that will serve as liaisons.

For more information please contact:

Rev. Rebel Hurd, Director for Evangelical Mission, Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Direct Office Phone: 218-299-4447. Email: rebelhurd@cord.edu

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

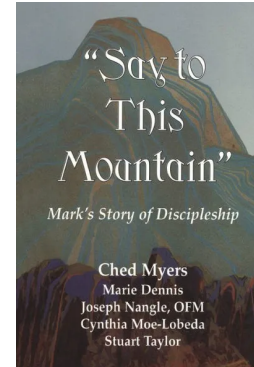
"Say to this Mountain"

Mark's Story of Discipleship

6pm Tuesdays, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Clearbrook

Our Sunday morning gospel readings for 2024, or "Year B" in the Lectionary cycle, will focus on the Gospel According to Mark. We invite you into a deeper appreciation of St. Mark's gospel during this year as we use Ched Myer's book "Say to this Mountain" Mark's Story of Discipleship as a lens for studying Mark's work. Here's our schedule for January into Lent:

- Jan. 9 Intro & Chapter 1: "The First Call to Discipleship"
- Jan. 16 Chapter 2: "Jesus the Healer"
- Jan. 23 Chapter 3: "Jubilee!"
- Jan. 30 Chapter 4: "Binding the Strong Man"
- Feb. 6 Chapter 5: "Sowing Hope"
- Feb. 13 Section #1 Summary "Our Discipleship Journey"



Ched and his co-authors write: "There are two kinds of stories. One kind of story aspires to entertain and distract its audience. Such stories assume readers who are passive spectators. In North American culture today, we are most familiar with these kinds of stories—Movies, political speeches, and the six o'clock news all maintain an essential distance between the performance and the audience. The other kind of story intends to change the audience. It invites spectators to become "spec-actors" those who are so engaged by a story that they want to become a part of it. The Gospel According to Mark is that kind of story. It beckons readers to "have ears to hear" and to "see" and "follow." This book invites readers into a process of reflecting on Mark's gospel, a process we believe can become a journey of transformation. We, as authors, believe in the power of Mark's story of Jesus to turn spectators into spec-actors."

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee members include: Marilyn Grandstrand (SAM), Willie Larson, Sue Simms, Bonnie Borene, Heidi Johnson, and TruDee Torgerson

Our responsibility as a Worship Committee is to ensure we have prepare for pulpit supply, hymns, and communion. Sue Simms has taken on the responsibility of communion, preparation, and training - however, we are always looking for volunteers.

We will continue with recording and streaming services on Sundays.

Thank you to each and every person who helps to keep our church a warm and welcoming place to worship. May we continue to grow in our faith and follow the path God has planned for us.

God be with us each and everyone



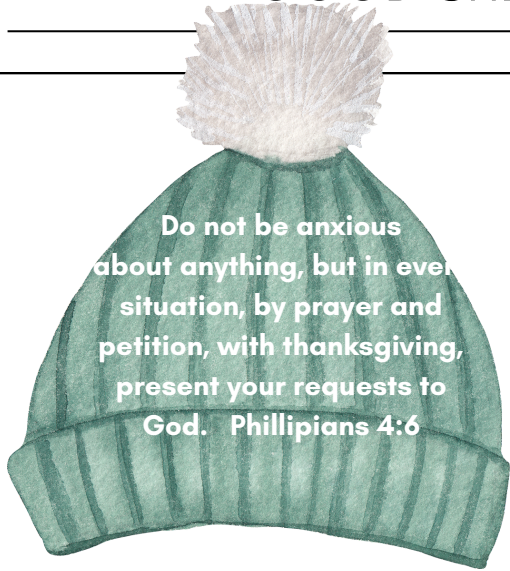
January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
 <p>1</p>		<p>2</p> <p>Pastor Mark Office Hours 3:30 – 7:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Marilyn's Office Hours 1:00 – 5:00 pm</p> <p>Youth & Confirmation First Wednesdays @ Faith Lutheran 6 – 7:30 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 8 am</p> <p>Marilyn's Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>Good Shepherd 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School Our Saviors 11 am Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Good Shepherd Church Council 7 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pastor Mark Office Hours 3:30 – 7:30 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Marilyn's Office Hours 1:00 – 5:00 pm</p> <p>Confirmation @ Good Shepherd 6:30 – 7:30 pm</p> <p>Choir 6 – 7 pm Bells 7 – 8 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bible Study @ Faith 10 am</p> <p>Marilyn's Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	
<p>14</p> <p>Good Shepherd 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School Our Saviors 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Rosemaling @ Our Saviors</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pastor Mark Office Hours 3:30 – 7:30 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Marilyn's Office Hours 1:00 – 5:00 pm</p> <p>Confirmation @ Good Shepherd 6:30 – 7:30 pm</p> <p>Choir 6 – 7 pm Bells 7 – 8 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible Study @ Faith 10 am</p> <p>Marilyn's Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	
<p>21</p> <p>Good Shepherd 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 12 noon GS Annual Mtg. (Lunch to Follow)</p> <p>Our Saviors 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Annual Meetings!</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pastor Mark Office Hours 3:30 – 7:30 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Marilyn's Office Hours 1:00 – 5:00 pm</p> <p>Confirmation @ Good Shepherd 6:30 – 7:30 pm</p> <p>Choir 6 – 7 pm Bells 7 – 8 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>OS WELCA</p> <p>Bible Study @ Faith 10 am</p> <p>Marilyn's Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	
<p>28</p> <p>Good Shepherd 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School</p> <p>Our Saviors 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 12 noon OS Annual Mtg.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pastor Mark Office Hours 3:30 – 7:30 pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Marilyn's Office Hours 1:00 – 5:00 pm</p> <p>Confirmation @ Good Shepherd 6:30 – 7:30 pm</p> <p>Choir 6 – 7 pm Bells 7 – 8 pm</p>	<p>Kay's Office Hours Tuesday – Friday 8:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.</p>			
<p>Youth Gathering Meeting 1 pm – MANDATORY</p>							

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Men's Breakfast 8 am Marilyn's Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	2	3
4 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School Our Saviors 11 am Worship	5 <i>YORK MATHS SUNDAY</i>	6 Pastor Mark Office Hours 3:30 – 7:30 pm	7 Marilyn's Office Hours 1:00 – 5:00 pm Youth & Confirmation First Wednesdays @ Cease Funeral Home 6 – 7:30 pm Choir 6 – 7 pm Bells 7 – 8 pm	8 Bible Study @ Faith 10 am Marilyn's Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	9	10
11 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School Our Saviors 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	12 Good Shepherd Church Council 7 pm Rosemaling @ Our Saviors	13 Pastor Mark Office Hours 3:30 – 7:30 pm	14 Marilyn's Office Hours 1:00 – 5:00 pm Ash Wednesday 5:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 – 7:30 pm Bells 7:30 – 8:30 pm	15 Bible Study @ Faith 10 am Marilyn's Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	16	17
18 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School Our Saviors 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	19 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School Our Saviors 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	20 Pastor Mark Office Hours 3:30 – 7:30 pm	21 Marilyn's Office Hours 1:00 – 5:00 pm Lenten Worship & Supper 5:30 pm Worship Supper to Follow Choir 6:30 – 7:30 pm Bells 7:30 – 8:30 pm	22 OS WELCA Bible Study @ Faith 10 am Marilyn's Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	23	24
25 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School Our Saviors 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	26	27 Pastor Mark Office Hours 3:30 – 7:30 pm	28 Marilyn's Office Hours 1:00 – 5:00 pm Lenten Worship & Supper 5:30 pm Worship Supper to Follow Choir 6:30 – 7:30 pm Bells 7:30 – 8:30 pm	29 Bible Study @ Faith 10 am Marilyn's Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.		

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH



Do not be anxious
about anything, but in every
situation, by prayer and
petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to
God. Phillipians 4:6

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