

Shepherd's *Voice*

Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - LCMS January 2026

The 'ABCs of Advent'

Absolution – God's Gracious Word of Forgiveness

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," (1 John 1:9, ESV).

In the quiet of Advent, we prepare our hearts for God's coming, and His gift of absolution shines as a beacon of grace. This sacred act, where sins are forgiven through the spoken Word, assures us of God's merciful presence. When we confess our failings, God does not turn away but draws near, offering a promise: "Your sins are forgiven." This is no mere ritual but a divine encounter, where God's love washes over us, cleansing guilt and restoring peace.

Absolution is God's voice breaking into our brokenness, a gift that frees us from shame and fear. In Advent, as we await the Christ Child, this forgiveness reminds us that God's presence is not earned but given freely. Through the words of a pastor God declares us whole, inviting us to live boldly in His grace. This gift transforms our waiting, turning sorrow into hope. We are not alone; God is with us, His presence a steady promise of renewal. As we light Advent candles, absolution glows as a light in the darkness, reminding us that God's mercy is ever-present, ready to embrace us in love.

Prayer – Merciful Lord, in this season of anticipation, help us to humbly confess our sins and receive Your gift of absolution with grateful hearts. Let the assurance of Your forgiveness wash over us and fill us with peace. Strengthen our faith as we wait for Your coming, and guide us to live each day in the joy of Your redeeming grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Brian K. Thieme
Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, Mo.
Missouri District

January Church Events

- 1.03 AA 6 pm
- 1.06 Mission Committee
- 1.07 Adult Bible Study 10 am
AA 6 pm
ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm
- 1.10 AA 6 pm
- 1.11 Church Council meets following worship
- 1.12 LWML 1 pm
- 1.13 Heritage Hall 10 am
- 1.14 Adult Bible Study 10 am
AA 6 pm
ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm
- 1.15 Worship Committee 4:30 pm OR
- 1.17 AA 6 pm
- 1.20 Worship Committee 4:30 pm
- 1.21 Adult Bible Study 10 am
- 1.21 AA 6 pm
- 1.21 ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm
- 1.24 TRIVIA Night 5 pm door open/Games at 6 pm
AA 6 pm
- 1.25 Quarterly Voters Meeting and lunch
- 1.28 Adult Bible Study 10 am
AA 6 pm
ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm
- 1.31 AA 6 pm

Sunday Events

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. led by Pastor Lanning
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

PET Project

At this time, they are no longer accepting empty pill bottles.

Please bring in your clean empty cans and clean, dry plastic milk jugs or other plastic jugs that have handles.

Please make sure your jugs are clean and dry inside.

Special thanks to volunteers who braved the winter cold and snow putting up the frame and over 2,200 lights. This year we set the frame one day and completed the 22 strands of tree lights on another day. Thank you to Thrivent for sponsoring the cost for new LED lights so Good Shepherd could invite the community to celebrate Jesus as the Light at Christmas.



Musical Gifts

This Advent and Christmas season we were blessed by the musical talents of many in our congregation. On December 21st the Men's Choir treated us by singing "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" (words and music by Adger M. Pace & R. Fischer Boyce.



On Christmas Eve, Kim and Abigail Rainey sang "***O Come, All You Unfaithful***".

"O Come, All You Unfaithful" song by Sovereign Grace Music – used with permission

Jon, Donna, Katie Hoek Pastor Lanning, Curt, Star, Danny Nadler and Kin, Abby and Colton Rainey met at Good Shepherd on Tuesday, December 23 to go caroling and share Christmas greetings with others from our congregation. Musical selections were performed for Judy Mahieu, Cheryl Steffans, Sheryl Bartels, Ed & Ernestine Ramsey, Norma Keil and Margaret Parker.



Thank you to our talented members for sharing your music with others!

Thank you for sharing!!



Many thanks to the generous members of Good Shepherd as we collected items for the Lutheran Family and Children's Services Giving Tree (left) and the Centralia Chamber Angel Tree (right).
The recipients greatly appreciate your gifts.

Thank YOU!

First, to the members of Good Shepherd for the Christmas Gift of Centralia Chamber Bucks. I was amazed at the number of businesses I can shop at, (including my vet!!) and one of my favorite stores. This gift is really appreciated, and I will have fun shopping.

Second, a grateful and heartfelt thank you to those who volunteered to assist with the Christmas Eve dinner. I really appreciate the time and efforts put into this by Wendy and Allen Fischer, Gerry Sydow, Russell Stelzer, Randy Simmons and my good friend Susan Prewitt (who wanted to help). I am thankful for Thrivent for the Action Team Grant to help purchase the pizza. I appreciate the members who came to the dinner, who donated funds to help cover the cost and those who prayed for this event. We served 29 meals in house and had 6 home deliveries.

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 AA 6 pm
4 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion	5	6 Mission committee 7 pm	7 Adult Bible Study 10 am AA 6 pm	8	9	10 AA 6 pm
11 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Service	12 Women's Guild meet at 1:00 pm	13 Heritage Hall 10 am	14 Adult Bible Study 10 am AA 6 pm	15	16	17 AA 6 pm
18 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion	19	20 Worship Committee 4 pm	21 Adult Bible Study 10 am AA 6 pm	22	23	24 AA 6 pm
25 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Service	26	27	28 Adult Bible Study 10 am AA 6 pm	29	30	AA 6 pm



January Birthdays

Verda Adkisson 1.4
Tim Billings 1.12
Audrey Seider 1.15
Debra Kim Decker 1.15
Daniel Nadler 1.16

January Calendar

January 01: Circumcision and Name of Jesus
 Text: Luke 2:21

 January 04: Second Sunday after Christmas
 Text: Luke 2:40-52

 January 06: The Epiphany of Our Lord
 Text: Matthew 2:1-12

 January 11: The Baptism of our Lord
 Text: Matthew 3:13-17

 January 18: Second Sunday after the Epiphany
 Text: John 1:29-42

 January 25: Third Sunday after the Epiphany
 Text: Matthew 4:12-25

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Cheryl Steffans – health issues; **The Garrett Family** – Barn Fire; **Theodore Rojas** – recovering; **Vivian Diener**–health issues; **Patti Martinez**–breast cancer; **Dan Keil** (Norma Keil’s son)–burns to hands and face; **Prayers for those with health issues; prayers for caretakers; Bob Maseman**–thyroid cancer treatment (Judy’s brother in law and Steve’s uncle); **Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan**–recovering; **Cammie Cunningham (Olivia Hoek’s mother)**–cancer treatments; **Those affected by the flooding; Skip Elkin**–health issues; **Reverend Tim and Erin Schulte; those grieving recent loss of family or friends; Terry Plank**–undergoing chemo treatments; **Mike Hyde**–recovering from hip fracture; **Tammy Morgan**–(Sherry Morse’s daughter) – health issues; **Christina DeJesus**–health issues; **Brenda Belt** (Henry Rainey’s sister) –Stage IV Cancer; **Grace**–health issues (friend of Hannah Lanning); **Steve Buckert**–recovering; **Jenni Murray**-Margaret Parker’s daughter-recovering; **Ron Borgman; Dick St. John**–Brenda Moss’s father–health issues; **Kim & Terry Decker**–health issues; **Ed & Ernestine Ramsey; Judy Mahieu; Kyle Lutz**–recovering from kidney/pancreas transplant; **Bonnie Berthelsen; Mark Ramsey; Calvin Stemme**–treatment for cancer; **Julia Rainey; Jane St. John; Dennis & Jackie Nadler; Susan Harris; Wayne Nolan**–stepfather of Jeff Jaeger; **Michelle Smith**–daughter of Jane St John; **Arla Benskin**–daughter of Mary Brechler.

Missionaries - MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term)

Community Prayers: Father Mike Coleman; Evie Ross–infant needs heart transplant; **David**–health issues; **Bernie Ryan** – health issues; **Charlene**–esophageal cancer; **Shelley R.**–melanoma; **Geri Ward**– health issues; **Gerry Southard**–health issues, **Kim Smith**–health issues.

ARMED FORCES: Veterans of Armed Services – especially those suffering from PTSD and anxiety; **Christopher Thompson**, U. S. Navy – cousin of Hannah Lanning; **Brandon Lowery**, U.S. Navy–brother of Rachel Rojas; **Donevin Leonard**, U.S. Marine Corps–grandson of Russell & Jacki Stelzer; **Chris Chism**, U.S. Navy–son of Vickie & Eric Chism; grandson of Barbara Fischer; **Brittany Macklin**–great-niece of Ernestine Ramsey.



**LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES**
www.lhm.org

JANUARY

January 4

"Knowing and Being Known in a New Year"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved. John 17:3

January 11, 2026

"Solidarity"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes. Romans 6:5

January 18, 2026

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Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

To be announced
TBD

January 25

"Cross Words--Words of Power"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

A crossword puzzle uses an answer only once, but Christ is the answer for all people in every place and time.
(1 Corinthians 1:17-18)

Broadcasting

Columbia, MO

KMCV 100.9 FM Sunday Mornings at 8:00am

Moberly, MO

KWIX 92.5 FM Sunday Afternoons at 1:30pm

Serving The Lord

Officiant: Pastor James Lanning

Board of Elders

Jeff Jaeger (573) 682-0902

Gary Seider (573) 489-6629

Mark Nygren (763) 274-4308

Board of Trustees

Brenda Moss (573) 682-7117

Henry Rainey (573) 823-9777

Matthew Rojas (573) 999-9051

**Church Fellowship Hall and Church
ballfield scheduling & maintenance**

Catherine Simmons (573) 819-1272

Email: office@goodshepherdcentralia.org

churchupdates

Be sure to check "Church Updates" for the latest church news and prayer requests, as well as serving and giving opportunities at Good Shepherd. Sign up and register at www.churchupdates.org

Financial and Attendance

November 23
Attendance 43
 Current \$ 1,520.00
 Building \$ 567.32
Total \$ 2,087.32

November 26, 2025
Attendance 32
 Advent Offering \$ 172.00

November 30
Attendance 31
 Current \$2,671.00
 Building \$ 250.00
Total \$2,921.00

December 3
Attendance 29
 Advent Offering \$ 439.00

December 7
Attendance 38
 Current \$ 1,550.00
 Building \$ 390.00
Total \$ 1,940.00

December 10
Attendance 31
 Advent Offering 265.00
 Current \$300.00
Total \$300.00

December 14
Attendance 37
 Current \$ 785.00
 Building \$ 40.00
Total \$ 825.00

December 17
Attendance 28
 Advent Offering \$ 1440.00

December 21
Attendance 64
 Current \$ 1,350.00
 Building \$ 440.00
Total \$ 1,790.00

December 24
Attendance 76
 Advent Offering Available next month

December 28
Attendance Available next month
 Current \$
 Building \$
Total \$ Available next month

Current
 10% of our current offerings are sent to Missouri District for missions. The remaining 90% is used for GSLC budget expenses.

Building
 100% of money designated for building stays in our congregation for budget expenses.

Other November/December Deposits

11/26/2025	Advent Offering	\$ 172.00
11/30/2025	Advent Offering	\$ 90.00
11/30/2025	Book Sales	\$ 14.00
11/30/2025	Christmas Treat	\$ 10.00
12/03/2025	Advent	\$ 439.00
12/07/2025	Advent	\$ 190.00
12/07/2025	Christmas Treat	\$ 10.00
12/07/2025	Campus Shared	\$1,250.00
12/10/2025	Lutheran Witness	\$ 20.65
12/10/2025	Christmas Treat	\$ 100.00
12/10/2025	Advent	\$ 265.00
12/14/2025	Advent	\$ 700.00
12/14/2025	Christmas Treat	\$ 20.00
12/17/2025	Advent	\$ 144.00
12/21/2025	Lutheran Witness	\$ 61.65
12/21/2025	Advent	\$ 600.00



Pastor James Lanning

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