

# The Shepherd's Voice

DECEMBER 2025



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Announcements	2
75th Thank You	3
The Lawn Cross	4
75th Recap	5-8
75th Pictures	9-10
A Night in Bethlehem	11
Christmas Party -Ruth Guild	12
Eden Clinic	13
Christmas Dinner & Court of Honor- Trail Life	14
LHM Devotion	15
Birthdays/ Anniversaries	16
Calendar	17

## From The Pastor

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the assurance that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus' mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited for Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David's throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that's coming.

Months ago, people warned us that Christmas was coming. Did it help? From the days of John the Baptist, we have been warned that the day is approaching for Christ to come again. Are we ready? The coming One is not only the familiar Lord whom we know and confess as Savior but also the eternal judge before whom every knee will bow. We do not get our house in order because we are expecting guests but because we expect to be received in our Father's house and to be found faithful. This is why we confess our sin and are absolved of those sins. This is why we prepare by hearing His Word and receiving His body and blood. This is why we pray and do the works of the light before the night comes when no one can work. We are getting ready for the day we know is coming when we shall stand before the Lord.

- Pastor Simpson



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DECEMBER

- 5** - A Night in Bethlehem (5-7 pm)
- 6** - Christmas Caroling (1-3pm)
- 9** - Christmas Party by Ruth Guild (6:30pm)
- 15** - Christmas Dinner & Court of Honor by Trail Life (5:30pm)



**24 Christmas Eve (5:00pm)**

**25 Christmas Day (10:30am)**

**31 New Year's Eve (5:00pm)**

**Midweek Advent Worship Services (6:00pm)**

**Dec 14 Children Sing for Church Congregation**

**18 School Christmas Program/ School Gym  
10am or 6:30 pm**



*Christmas Holiday*

**Dec 22-31 Jan 1-2  
NO SCHOOL**



*My Sheep hear My Voice ... And they follow Me. John 10:27*



**The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was quite a special gathering!**

**Thanks to all who attended one or more of the Events Saturday and Sunday. We had 215 people sign the 75<sup>th</sup> Guest Register before the worship service and we served more at our Thanksgiving Dinner, Silent Auction, and Program.**

**All Praise and Thanksgiving to God for His many Blessings for 75 years.**

**Please consider supporting our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Projects. (The Lawn Cross, designed and created by Josh Grundmann was dedicated before service, Sunday.) Our other projects include: 2 Ranks for the Organ and an upgrade for our Church Kitchen.**

**Note on the memo line of your check "75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund".**

**Thank You!**

- ♦ **A Special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet showing and describing the Stained Glass, and other Sanctuary appointments is available; one per family. Get yours today after service.**
- ♦ **A Flash Drive with all the PowerPoint presentations is available for a \$5 donation.**

# The Lawn Cross

## (One of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Projects Completed)

As you may know in recent years the tree that used to be in the yard near the Sanctuary died. Then, one of our members carved the trunk of the tree into a cross. It has been there for several years, until the roots of the tree rotted so much, the cross was not able to stand.

Josh Grundmann, one of our members, among other attributes, is a creative person. One morning as he was preparing for worship, he looked intently at the outside of the hymnal in the rack before him. The gold cross caught his eye. He investigated the hymnal and turned to page ix which has information about the cover to find out more about the design of the cross. God worked in Josh's heart and creative ideas started to gel.

The explanation states "The dark, innermost portion of the cross is a reminder of the darkness of Good Friday, when our Lord humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross' (Phil. 2:8). The prominent gold leaf cross is a reminder of the resurrection of our Lord. God raised Him 'from the dead and gave Him glory, so that [our] faith and hope are in God.' (1Peter 1:21."

Josh's thoughts and ideas were then put into action, and he created and constructed the cross out of steel. His dad, John, also assisted and his Aunt Diana assisted by painting the cross. It was installed in the location of the previous cross, as we know it. "The Lawn Cross" was then dedicated on Sunday morning, November 16, 2025, before our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration worship service in the Sanctuary. It is a beautiful and welcoming site to remind us of and welcome our worshipers into the church to join us for worship. Thanks Josh, and to the Grundmann family for making this all happen to the Glory of God!



The Grundmann Family: (L-R) Diana, John, Josh, and Janice.



## 75th Anniversary Recap - - Oh, What a CELEBRATION!

### We Were so Blessed by God to Celebrate the Beginnings of The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Midwest City, Oklahoma!

Most of us were not here when it all began. Many that attended our Celebration events were not here for our 50th Celebration twenty-five years ago. Hopefully, you have had the opportunity to see the PowerPoint presentations over the decades that were presented before the 8 a.m. worship service and were also available via Livestream on our website [mylutheran.church](http://mylutheran.church). We have the decades of presentations now available on a flash drive if you would like to see it again or for the first time. Just let the church office know.

Our first event of the weekend was the **Confirmation Reunion** on Saturday from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. We were wonderfully blessed to have sixty attendees with thirty-five of those being Confirmands from previous years. It was great to see how the Confirmands connected with former classmates, previous and later years' classmates, etc. We took them on a tour of the church including the many stained-glass windows and other appointments in the Sanctuary. After lunch, they broke into decades of time and shared their stories of what happened in some of their classes, how they enjoyed being in the Youth Group activities, etc. We heard many stories in their lives of how God guided and directed them when they were just teens.



That evening we held a **Meet and Greet** time to meet past members and Pastors that have served here as well as those Sons of the congregation that have become Pastors. Approximately twenty-five attended and enjoyed the conversation, food, and fellowship.

Sunday was a big day. As mentioned previously, we had the **Dedication of the Lawn Cross** which was very appropriate to begin our big day of **Celebration**. We asked those worshipping with us to sign our 75th Anniversary Guest Register. We had 216 guests sign. It was wonderful to see the Sanctuary full of people and have so many worship with us. We were blessed to have Nathan Pierce who plans to attend Seminary next fall, read the Psalm for the day, and two Sons of the congregation to read the Old Testament and New Testament readings. They were Rev. Donald Hefta and Rev. Ernie Lassman. Rev. Dr. Joe Meyer, former pastor from 2005-2008 was the Proclaimer for the day. His sermon focused on our Bible verse for our 75th Anniversary, *"My Sheep hear my voice . . . And I know them, and they follow me."* John 10:27.



To augment the worship service the **Children from our School** sang two selections. *"Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord"* and *"I Am Jesus Little Lamb."* Mrs. Grace Rohwer, Music Director, accompanied them with her guitar and directed them to sing.



The Adult Sanctuary **Choir** also sang. *“Lead Me Like a Shepherd”* was the name of the selection. Jacob Bowen, Elder read some Scripture aloud to lead into the selection sang by the Choir. Holy Communion was also offered for the worshipers to partake in.



- ✚ After the joyful and uplifting worship service, all were invited to the Family Life Center to be served the Thanksgiving Meal that was prepared by the members of the 75th Anniversary Committee.
- ✚ The attendees were then seated at white clothed with royal blue table runners 'tables of eight. We served 224 people who graciously enjoyed the scrumptious meal.
- ✚ We also had a silent auction taking place during this time. An array of items was available with many shoppers participating. Also included were two \$500 gift cards to purchase tickets for a winner at the end of the day.
- ✚ Royce Junghanns served as Emcee for the 75th Anniversary Celebration Program.
- ✚ We were blessed with Linda Jones being able to speak to us and share what it was like in 1950 when the church began. At that time, Linda was only six months old. She was in her mother's arms (Laurine Goode-Schulz) when the photo was taken showing the original thirty-four members how The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church began.
- ✚ We had several Pastors speak or send a letter who had ties to our beginnings. Rev. Rick Mensing, served 1983-1991, Rev. Kevin Yoakum, (letter) who served from 1998-2003; Rev. Dr. Joe Meyer who served from 2005-2008, and Rev. Ron Simpson, who has been serving since 2009. Also, a “Roast” regarding Pastor A. Gerald Quiram 1968 – 1994 celebrating his 20th year in the ministry.
- ✚ We also had many Sons of the Congregation that have become Pastors to bring greetings or send a letter. Rev Ernie Lassman, Rev. Eric Allyn (letter), Rev. William Ferguson, (Deceased) {letter from his wife Karen}, Rev. Juergen Schwarz, (blessed by his wife Norma and family attending), Rev. Donald Hefta, Rev. Andrew Green (sent email best wishes), Rev. Dr. Matthew Tassey, Rev. Kyle McBee (letter) and Rev. Luke Scheele (video).
- ✚ We had a special presentation by Judy Pendley for the Mary Circle that designed and created a quilt to Honor All Veterans from The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

- ✚ Also had a number of citations given. Senator Brenda Stanley presented citations from Governor Kevin Stitt, House of Representatives Max Wolfley, and from the Oklahoma State Senate. Letters were received and presented for: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod President, Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO., Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN., Oklahoma District LCMS President, Rev. Dr. David Nehrenz, and Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour.
- ✚ The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has also had a number of men and women go into Church Worker positions. Those named are: (Teaching Ministry) – Lon Erwin, Barbara Lindemann Pieper, Kay Trump Johnson, Christine Allyn Schnegelberger, Gary Kuschnerreit, Susan Wendte, Bonnie Trump Wood, Mary Robnett Owens, and John Christman. As (Director of Christian Education), David Pendley.
- ✚ Vicars Served: Randy Raasch 1980-1981, Dan Weber 2006-2007, Andy Gimbel 2007-2008
- ✚ Directors of Christian Education Served: Ralph Danforth 1976-1978, Tom Christman 1982-2005, Steven Colclasure 2013-2014, Jai Millen (Intern) 2016-2017.
- ✚ We closed the Program with Thanksgiving in Celebrating our 75th Anniversary with all singing “Amazing Grace” accompanied by Rev. Dr. Matthew Tassey.



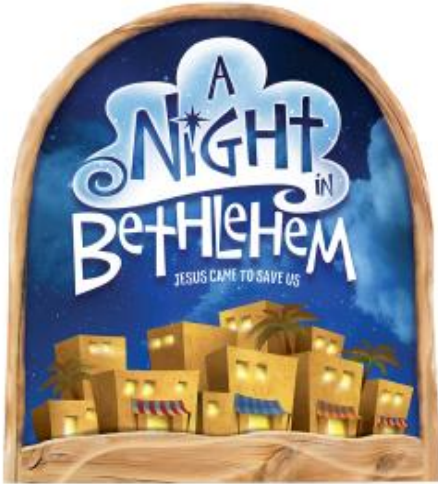
### **All Thanksgiving to God for guiding and directing all these happenings to His Glory!**

Many, many people participated in making it come to fruition. Thanks to ALL who assisted.

The 75th Anniversary Committee consisted of: Connie Grant, Chairman; Marilyn Alsip, Paula Anderson, Martha Casey – Deceased, Jo Chesher, Marguerite Christman, Jackie Dusavitch, Delores Helberg, Marla Junghanns, Lynne McNair, Gwen Madden, Gail Marlatt, Sue Ogle, Laney Pierce, Marian Stanfill, Pastor Ron Simpson, and Jim Tanner.







# A Night in Bethlehem

At A Night in Bethlehem, the children will explore the city at the time of Jesus' birth. Through hands-on experiences they'll find out about the most important baby ever—and learn that Jesus came to save us!

A Night in Bethlehem will be presented at  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
on Friday, December 5, from 5 pm to 7 pm

We invite you to be a part of this amazing evening as the children stroll through the streets of Bethlehem visiting Bethlehem Bakery, the Metal Shop, the Carpentry Shop, the Scribe's Tent, the Pottery Shed, the Painter's Hut—and most importantly, the stable where they will find Mary and Joseph, and the Baby Jesus!

Please see Ms Dana for  
registration forms.





## Join us at the Innkeeper's House

December 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm

in Fellowship Hall

for the Congregational Christmas Party

hosted by Ruth Guild

Visualize a night many, many years ago. The town of Bethlehem is swarming with disgruntled, tired people who have come to pay their taxes as ordered by the government. Every room in town is filled. We meet an innkeeper and his wife in their home . . .

After our program, we will enjoy a delicious holiday buffet, door prizes, and great fellowship.

This year our Angel Tree gifts will benefit Eden Clinic, a pro-life health and wellness center for young women expecting babies, located in Norman. Gifts may be placed under the tree. Checks should be written to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with "Eden Clinic" in the memo line.

Please join us  
as we celebrate



Our Savior's birth!

If you need childcare or a ride to the event, contact the church office at 405-732-2585 or Denise Ewing at 405-226-7386 by December 2.



## *Angel Tree Gifts*

Christmas Gifts for Eden Clinic

Eden Clinic is now connected with the Choosing Childbirth Grant, which enables monetary donations to be multiplied! The grant reimburses dollars spent by Eden Clinic for direct client care (clinic supplies, ultrasounds, educational materials, diapers, wipes, baby clothing, etc). Approximately 75% of Eden Clinic's total expenses are for direct client care. Over the course of one year, a \$100 donation has the potential to multiply to \$400 through monthly reimbursements!

Of course, Eden Clinic loves receiving material donations to pass along to mom's and families in their parenting programs.

**Gift Donations:** Onesies/sleepers (0-9 months), diapers, bibs, crib sheets, receiving blankets, socks, pacifiers, bottles, baby shampoo/lotion, infant brush/comb, children's Bible.

**Diaper cream is an item that is always in short supply.**

Please place gifts in the laundry basket by the Angel Tree.

**Monetary Donations:** Multiplied through the Choosing Childbirth Grant. Make checks payable to GSLC with "Angel Tree" in the memo line. Please place checks/cash in the box by the Angel Tree.

Donations will be collected through Christmas.

*Thank you for  
your support!*



# Christmas Dinner & Court of Honor

*TrailLife and AHG Troops OK-4077 are hosting a  
Christmas Dinner & a Court of Honor  
on Monday, December 15 @ 5:30pm  
and you're invited to join us!*



*The boys and girls will perform a flag ceremony,  
then we'll hand out the awards they've earned,  
and serve dinner. The event is open to members  
of the Charter (GSLC) and the school.  
We hope to see you there!*

**<< RSVP Required by 12/08/2025 >>**

RSVP: [TrailLife.OK4077@gslok.org](mailto:TrailLife.OK4077@gslok.org) or 405.831.7358



## "First"



Colossians 1:13-20

*He [God] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the Head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.*

I really love this passage for its descriptions of Jesus.  
How in the world did Paul manage to pack in so much good stuff about Him?  
It would take days to even start to unpack all the meaning in this passage!

But the one thing Paul keeps stressing is that Jesus is first. He is the uncreated God, through whom all things were created, and to whom they all belong—and yet He is also truly human, and thus the highest and most glorious, the first of all creation. He is first in the church, as our Head—and He is the first to rise from the dead, never to die again. In so many ways, Jesus is first—highest—most glorious. And then we come down with a thump to this: “making peace by the blood of His cross.”

Because Jesus is also first in another way—first in lovingkindness and mercy, beyond anything I could have ever imagined before I knew Him. Because Jesus knew what it would cost Him to bring us home to God, and He still did it. Pain? Shame? Fear and grief and abandonment? Jesus took it all, so that we might be at peace with God, forgiven and beloved. And He was not sorry.

And now that Jesus has risen from the dead, we have life in Him forever. We will never lose Him, or He us. Because Jesus is restoring all of God’s broken creation—not just us, but everything. When He is finished, there will be no more crying or grief or sorrow or death. We will be with Him in that new creation, and we will be full of joy. And we will celebrate Jesus, who is first in all things—and first in our hearts forever.

**WE PRAY:** Dear Lord, You are so high, and yet You loved me and came to save me. Thank You. Amen.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Do you know anyone who is “number one” in his or her field?
2. Would you expect someone who is first to make himself last? Why or why not?
3. Why does God call Jesus “beloved”? Would you use that name for Him?

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.

Send Newsletter Information to [secretary@gslok.org](mailto:secretary@gslok.org)

15

# DECEMBER

## 2025



*Happy Anniversary*

12/10 Mark & Kathy Webie

12/31 Pastor Ron & Cindy Simpson



### BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES





12/1 Melody Carter, Linda Williamson  
 12/7 David Alsip  
 12/8 Taneya Dossey, Shondreya Toomey  
 12/10 Jacob Bowen, Jackson Parker, Joy Parker  
 12/13 Daniel Dossey, Zoey Dossey, Diana Grundmann  
 12/15 Paula Anderson, Royce Junghanns  
 12/18 Gayle Brown, Connie Grant  
 12/20 Pat Northrup, Katie Parker



12/2 Jazmine Striegel  
 12/5 Hazel Barghols  
 12/5 Marilyn Carroll  
 12/10 Jacob Bowen  
 12/11 Norma Place  
 12/13 Beverly Moran  
 12/13 Brian Morton  
 12/14 Donna Lottman  
 12/19 Tammy Batchelor  
 12/19 Charles Murphy  
 12/20 Marla Junghanns  
 12/23 Louise Beasley  
 12/23 Geri Nast  
 12/26 DJ Dunn, III  
 12/26 Marilyn Hall

# DECEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY													
<div></div> <div>Go to <a href="http://www.gslocmwc.com">www.gslocmwc.com</a> click on the "Play Video" arrow.</div> <div>1</div> <div>5:30p Trail Life USA &amp; American Heritage Girls 6:15p Bell Choir Practice</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10:30a Staff mtg 1:00p <b>TABS</b> (Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study) 6:00p Elders 7:00p LWML Ruth Guild</div> <div>3</div> <div>10:00a Chapel 5:00p Confirmation 5:30p Fellowship Meal 6:00p MW of Advent 1</div>	<div>4</div> <div>12-4p Music Class (FH) 6:00p Choir Practice</div> <div>5</div> <div>6:00a <b>WEBS</b>— Week End(ing) <b>BS</b>  <b>Night in Bethlehem</b> 5-7pm</div>	<div>6</div> <div>1:00p-3 <b>Christmas Caroling</b></div>	<div>7</div> <div>8:00a Worship w/Communion 9:15a Bible study 10:30a Worship w/Communion</div> <div>8</div> <div>5:30p Trail Life USA &amp; American Heritage Girls 6:15p Bell Choir Practice</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10:30a Staff mtg 1:00p <b>TABS</b> (Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study) 5:00p <b>Congregational Christmas Party</b></div> <div>10</div> <div>10:00a Chapel 5:00p Confirmation 5:30p Fellowship Meal 6:00p MW of Advent 2</div>	<div>11</div> <div>9:30a Mary Circle Bible Study 12-4p Music Class (FH) 6:00p Choir Practice</div> <div>12</div> <div>6:00a <b>WEBS</b>— Week End(ing) <b>BS</b></div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible study 10:30a Worship <b>School Children Sing</b></div> <div>15</div> <div>5:30p <b>Trail Life USA Court of Honor/ Christmas Party</b> 6:15p Bell Choir Practice</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10:30a Staff mtg 1:00p <b>TABS</b> (Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study) 4:00p Parochial Ed Mtg.</div> <div>17</div> <div>10:00a Chapel 5:00p Confirmation 5:30p Fellowship Meal 6:00p MW of Advent 3</div>	<div>18</div> <div>12-4p Music Class (FH) 6:00p Choir Practice  <b>School Christmas Program</b> 10 am and 6:30pm</div> <div>19</div> <div>6:00a <b>WEBS</b>— Week End(ing) <b>BS</b></div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8:00a Worship w/Communion 9:15a Bible study 10:30a Worship w/Communion  <b>ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE</b> <b>WINTER BEGINS</b></div> <div>22</div> <div>5:30p NO Trail Life USA &amp; American Heritage Girls 6:15p NO Bell Choir Practice  — NO SCHOOL —</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10:30a NO Staff mtg 1:00p NO <b>TABS</b> (Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study)</div> <div>24</div> <div>5:00p Christmas EVE Candlelight Worship  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> — NO SCHOOL —</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10:30a Christmas DAY Worship w/Holy Communion  <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> — NO SCHOOL —</div> <div>26</div> <div>6:00a <b>NO WEBS</b>— Week End(ing) <b>BS</b></div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible study 10:30a Worship  <b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</b></div> <div>29</div> <div>5:30p NO Trail Life USA &amp; American Heritage Girls 6:15p NO Bell Choir Practice  — NO SCHOOL —</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10:30a NO Staff mtg 1:00p NO <b>TABS</b> (Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study)</div> <div>31</div> <div>5:00p New Year's Eve Candlelight Worship  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> — NO SCHOOL —</div>	<div></div> <div><b>REMEMBER GOOD SHEPHERD IN YOUR WILL!</b></div> <div><b>THE LUTHERAN HOUR</b> every Sunday at 9:00a on KQCV (800AM), or on XM's Family Talk Radio 170, or online at <a href="http://www.lutheranhour.org">www.lutheranhour.org</a> </div>	<div></div> <div><b>Weekly Bulletin</b> 12pm on Thursdays <b>Monthly Newsletter</b> 20<sup>th</sup> of every month. <a href="mailto:secretary@gslok.org">secretary@gslok.org</a></div>