

The Shepherd's Voice

From The Pastor



At the beginning of the Church Year, many sang the hymn “Love Came Down at Christmas.” Indeed, the Bible says, “God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son” (John 3:16). It is only on Good Friday, however, that we discover the depth and power of God’s love in the cross of the Lord’s death. And so it was that ever since the beginning of His earthly ministry, after His Baptism, we are given clear hints about the true nature of God’s love. Initially people marveled at Jesus’ preaching and miraculous healings. Yet not only did the crowds quickly reject our Lord, but Satan also was actively opposing Him from the beginning. The love of God is the power of God to defeat Satan and free the world from the grip of sin and death. The standard of love is the cross of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul describes love in and through Christ. Substitute “Christ” for “love” and you get, “Christ is patient and kind; Christ does not envy or boast; . . . Christ rejoices with the truth.” This love of Christ is given to us and through us. “Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these” is the cross of Christ!

Throughout the season of Epiphany, we experience a sense of brightening. As we grow nearer to springtime, there is more daylight with each passing day. The world becomes brighter and brighter. As the weeks of this Epiphany season continue, we see our Lord Jesus more clearly, and we hear His words that speak to our hearts and lives. The well-loved hymn “Beautiful Savior” has the classic line “Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky” (LSB 537:3). God grant that brighter light shine forth in our lives as we reflect the wondrous light that is Christ, the Light of the world.

—*Pastor Simpson*

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James: A Manual for Maturity

What is the foremost wisdom book in the New Testament that we're going to begin studying this month? That would be **James**. "Not James!" you lament. "Didn't Martin Luther famously call James an epistle of straw?" You continue your protest. "Why, James only mentions Jesus two times—just *two times*! I'm with Luther," you say, "Compared to the likes of Paul and John, James is a theological lightweight!"

Not so fast. James has much to teach us about God's grace and our Spirit-empowered response. From the first to the last verse of his book, this half-brother of Jesus gives us one of the most practical pictures of the Christian faith in all the Bible. **James insists that we are saved by faith alone; but saving faith is never alone.** Faithfulness does not stop with a profession of faith but is a ticket to a life of continued transformation and service. To underscore this theme, James employs the word "mature" seven times in his five-chapter letter.

I'm calling this schedule, therefore, **James: A Practical Manual for Maturity**. The lineup of messages for each midweek Lenten worship is as follows:

March	5	Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm	Profiting From Your Problems (James 1:1–12)
	12	Midweek of Lent 1 7:00p	Feeding Your Faith (James 1:17–25)
	19	Midweek of Lent 2 7:00p	Believing Better (James 2:14–26)
	26	Midweek of Lent 3 7:00p	Taming Your Tongue (James 3:1–18)
April	2	Midweek of Lent 4 7:00p	Facing Your Future (James 4:13–17)
	9	Midweek of Lent 5 7:00p	Practicing Patience (James 5:7–11)
	17	Maundy Thursday 7:00p	
	18	Good Friday 7:00p	
	20	The Resurrection of Our Lord	Sunrise Service 7:00a Celebration Service 10:30a

Here is the plan for our Wednesday night topical study: Midweek Services during Lent are at 7:00 pm

James Among the Bible's Wisdom Books - (Ash Wednesday)

James: An Overview, Part 1 (Midweek of Lent 1)

James: An Overview, Part 2 (Midweek of Lent 2)

James and Paul (Midweek of Lent 3)

Liberty and Justice for All (James 2:1–13) (Midweek of Lent 4)

Wisdom from Above (James 4:1–12) (Midweek of Lent 5)

I invite you to be a part of these opportunities so that, together, we **mature** in our Christian faith. What an awesome way to begin the new year!

–*Pastor Simpson*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is turning 75 in 2025!!



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

75th Anniversary Celebration

November 16, 2025

"Led and Fed by The Good Shepherd for 75 years"



Upcoming Congregational Events

To Support the

75th Anniversary Celebration of GSLC

1. January 26th— Italian Dinner preceding Annual Voter's Meeting
2. February 14th — Valentine's Concert & Dinner— (see page 4)
 - [Concert by Edgar Cruz](#) from 3-5 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a . . .
 - [Valentine's Dinner](#)
 - [Menu: Apple-stuffed porkloin, roasted red potatoes, ginger honey carrot coins, tossed salad, dinner rolls, and Red Velvet cake.](#)
 - A Freewill Offering to cover the cost of the concert & dinner is appreciated
 - RSVP to Marguerite Christman (405-570-5506) by January 31st
3. March 2nd — "Shrove Tuesday" Pancake Dinner on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday, after late service, followed by the movie "Amazing Grace"
4. Watch for Additional Events
5. Time capsule for 100th Anniversary Celebration, including:
"Messages from ALL Members"
6. Plant a tree
7. Thanks to Everyone from the 75th Anniversary Committee:
Connie Grant, Chr, Jackie Dusavitch, Paula Anderson, Marian Stanfill, Jim Tanner, Gwen Madden, Marilyn Alsip, Marguerite Christman, Pastor Simpson
8. Charter Member, Laurine Goode-Schulz granddaughters: Melissa Cappi & Michelle Smith will be working with the Committee.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL VALENTINE EVENT AT GOOD SHEPHERD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025



Extraordinary Entertainment for the Scrumptious Valentine Dinner Event

Here is some info so you can be informed.

Who is Edgar Cruz?



"A Virtuoso on guitar - Edgar's wizardry on the fretboard leaves listeners in awe wondering how he does it...it's like he's playing an entire symphony with just his two hands!"

Edgar Cruz -- GUITARIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

Edgar Cruz performs more than 300 times a year and has played throughout America, Europe and South America. He has been a headliner at the prestigious Chet Atkins Guitar Festival every July in Nashville since 1995 and has been a strong icon at major art & music festivals in Oklahoma since the late 70's. Those who have witnessed Cruz's performance immediately become entranced at the precision, speed and complexity with which his fingers strike the strings of his guitar to create a symphony of sound unusual to just one instrument. He is very active with his audiences or equally happy performing background music. Nineteen CDs covering a multitude of genres and two award winning DVDs are currently available.

Edgar has been named Oklahoma's Top Performing Artist and/or Acoustic Guitarist for more than 10 years by the Oklahoma Gazette. He has received numerous civic acknowledgments for his contributions to various charitable events. Edgar holds a Bachelor of Music degree in guitar performance from Oklahoma City University and was also honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award from there in 2010. He was also added to the Hispanic exhibit at The Oklahoma History Center. His You Tube video of "Bohemian Rhapsody" has over 20,000,000 hits worldwide.



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT:

Valentine Dinner Evening beginning with the Concert by Edgar Kruz from 3 – 5 pm in Fellowship Hall. Followed by at 5:30 p.m. with:

A Scrumptious Dinner of: Apple-Stuffed Pork Loin with Red Roasted Potatoes, Ginger Honey Carrot Coins, Tossed Salad, Dinner Rolls, and Red Velvet Cake with or without Hot Fudge Sauce.

Invite your Friends, Neighbors, Relatives, etc. for this special event.

Help us Plan – Your RSVP Requested – Text or Call – Jackie Dusavitch – 405-482-0905

Freewill Offering for 75th Anniversary

75th Anniversary of The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Event.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer list addition:

John Powell— welcomes cards & letters as he battles a bone infection in his leg.
Current residence—
The Timbers Skilled Nursing Center
2520 S. Rankin Street
Edmond, OK 73013

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New Administrative Assistant Needed

January 31st is Sarah Jensen's last day at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as Administrative Assistant. "For personal financial reasons, I will be transitioning back into a nursing position. My membership will continue at GSLC. Thanks to Everyone for Your Help this past year and a half"
— God Bless, Sarah Jensen

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FYI: Ceiling Tiles have fallen down at least twice in the Narthex and been cleaned up by Jerry Bacon (thanks Jerry). Tiles have also fallen and been cleaned up inside the Sanctuary. We have "immunocompromised members" who have been and are on Chemotherapy or Radiation and we want them to be Safe.

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SPRING CHURCH WORKERS CONFERENCE

Watch for coming information about the Spring Conference!

Monday and Tuesday, **March 17-18, 2025.**

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Claremore will host

Rev. Harrison Goodman, from Higher Things, will be the guest speaker.

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**If you weren't able to vote at The Annual Voter's Meeting on January 26th
Please Consider — "How to become a Voting Member" below.**

How do I become a voting member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church?

You must be a baptized, confirmed member of our congregation. Attend a regular voters assembly, sign in, and state that you would like to become a voting member when the question is posed at the voters meeting.

Once you have requested to become a voting member the congregation will "vote" to have you as a voting member. At the next meeting you are eligible to vote. Both your request and the vote are documented in the minutes.

How many meetings do I need to attend?

After you have become a voting member, you must attend a minimum of 1 regular voters assemblies in a 12 month period (not including special voters meetings).

There was a period of time I didn't attend voters meetings for more than 1 year.

What now?

You may request reinstatement at a regular voters meeting. The same guidelines apply as if you are a new member.

How do you know if I attended a meeting?

Contrary to some belief, it's not by the covered dish you bring! There are sign in sheets out during the duration of the voters meeting. Those sign in sheets are official documentation of your attendance. If your name is not on the sign in sheet, you are not counted as "present"

Where do I find the official rules?

Good Shepherd has a constitution and by-laws that we adhere to. Just check with any council officer, or the church office to look at them.

SHARE YOUR HEART AND SOLE

LWML Oklahoma District SHOE DONATION 2024 – 2025



We are hosting a local **SHOE DRIVE** to help raise funds for the LWML OK District Recycling Fund.




Help us collect previously owned/gently used/or new **SHOES**.

We will begin

collecting **November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025**.

Our goal is mighty at **5,000** pairs – but for all these efforts we could receive close to **\$2500** towards our Recycling Fund: Which goes to Missions, Special Gifts Fund, and Leader Development expenses.

Please help us in our efforts by:

-  Setting aside now, any shoes you can donate
-  Sharing our efforts with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.
-  Getting the word out in your community, businesses, and on social media

The more people we reach the easier it will be to reach our goal! We believe in the power of community and have faith that God will lead us every step of the way. Thank You!!!

- ✓ Please bring your gently used or new shoes to Good Shepherd as soon as possible. We need them by Friday, January 31, 2025.
- ✓ Men's, Women's and Children's shoes, boots, etc., are accepted. (Do not accept ice skates or roller skates.)
- ✓ Have Questions? Contact Peggy Tarr 405.613.5779 or Marguerite Christman at 405.570.5506. Thank you for all your support!

"Fear-Conquering Faith"

January 18, 2025

During the building of the Golden Gate Bridge over San Francisco Bay, construction fell badly behind schedule because several workers had accidentally fallen from the scaffolding to their deaths. Engineers and administrators could find no solution to the costly delays. Finally, someone suggested a gigantic net be hung under the bridge to catch any who fell. Finally, in spite of the enormous cost, the engineers opted for the net. After it was installed, progress was hardly interrupted. A worker or two fell into the net, but all were saved. Ultimately, the time lost to fear was regained by replacing fear with faith in the net.

When it comes to faith, it doesn't matter how strong your faith is. It doesn't matter how intensely or passionately you believe in something; rather, the power of faith is the *object*. It's whether that person or thing in which you place your faith is *worthy* of faith, is capable of delivering on that faith, whether it has the capacity to hold on to you when your grip is about to perilously slip. On that Golden Gate Bridge, many very talented people did the very best to not fall, but fall they did. But when they fell into a net that could hold them—that could break their fall and even protect them—it changed the way they worked. They now worked by faith, not fear.

So, let me say it about as clearly as I can. When it comes to life and salvation, truth and wisdom, there is no object of faith that can match Jesus Christ. And if you are seeking to know God, His blessing, His protection, His grace—there is only one way to be certain of that. Ready? Look to Jesus and Him alone.

That's a pretty bold statement, isn't it? But before trying to challenge it, or deny it, or setting that claim aside, please take a good, hard look at Jesus in the Bible. Listen to what He says of Himself today. He says He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one else is that for you. Please read the book of John for a clearer picture of Him; it's less than 50 pages long. That's it! You could come to grips with Jesus today. I guarantee you will not find anyone like Him. There may be other religious teachers, philosophers, leaders, gurus, but there is no Savior like Jesus. You can work on that bridge of life yourself, or you can put your faith in the safety net of Jesus, the power of the cross, and the resurrection of Jesus, and then live life now in the fearlessness of knowing Him as your Savior. To that end, God bless you.

WE PRAY: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for Your willingness to be my Savior, to come into this life, and to give me Your eternal life as a gift of the cross and resurrection. Give me strength to live boldly for You. Amen.

From "Jesus Christ: a Savior Worthy of Faith!" a devotion from Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, former Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

The Word in Song

Follow this link for a Study on Hymns of the Day for Epiphany 2025

<https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/mWDhUSZq6xsKejJUURF74yHtUfwBRtAK>

(Hold Ctrl + Click on link)

Sample Hymn: Thy Strong Word (LSB 578) Study by Larry A. Peters

Introduction Light is so commonplace to us. We turn the switch on and darkness disappears. Sometimes it is hard to escape it. We even drive out to the country so that we can see the night sky unobscured by city lights. But it was not always so. Light and dark governed the lives of people. Today we are reminded how light and darkness still define us. This darkness is not just the absence of light, but is known as a broken world where problems outnumber solutions and sin cannot be broken by our invention or effort. We face the darkness of good we cannot do, of evil we cannot avoid, and of death that steals our lives away. We need a light that will shine in this darkness, a light the darkness cannot overcome, a light not of our own creation, but the Light that comes down from above (John 1:1–9).
 ☐ How does the imagery of darkness describe sin and its effects upon us? ☐ How does the imagery of light describe both who Jesus is and what He has come to accomplish? ☐ How does “light from above” illustrate both the limitations of our light down below and the divine intervention of God through His Son, our Light?

Exploring the Scriptures “The Light Comes from Above” is the motto of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The hymn “Thy Strong Word” is based on this motto. The motto is drawn from Matt. 4:16, part of a whole section of the Gospel where light is a prominent theme. The lessons for Epiphany 5A are focused on the same theme of light. ☐ Read Ps. 112:4. What light shines in the darkness? ☐ Read Is. 58:8. What light breaks through like the dawn? ☐ Read Matt. 5:14–16. What light gives glory to our Father in heaven? Light is one of the most prominent themes of Scripture. It is laid against the darkness in creation, and it stands in contrast to the darkness of sin and death. But light is not just an image. Jesus Christ is called the Light. The prologue to John’s Gospel retells creation from the vantage point of the Light who is Jesus Christ, the Word through whom all things came to be, and the Word who became flesh for us and our salvation. While we have become masters of certain kinds of light (largely through electricity), we still associate darkness as a place where fear dwells, where mystery is hidden and even where danger lurks. Having light still connotes safety, security, and comfort. ☐ In 1 Cor. 2:1–16 we read of the secret or mystery long hidden and misunderstood, but now revealed to us through the Spirit. How do the light passages of the other lessons for the day relate? Paul says that “we have the mind of Christ”; how is this the result of the “light from above” that comes in Christ? ☐ God has chosen to reveal the light of Christ to the world through means. What are those means by which Christ’s light continues to shine upon us? Could we be the means by which God’s light shines in the world (Matt. 5:14–16)?

Exploring the Hymn Background In 1954, Martin H. Franzmann . . . Follow above link for the rest of the story.

February 2025



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

2/4 Dean & Delores Helberg
2/17 Martin & Kiyoko Harke
2/18 George & Peggy Kiebach



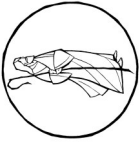
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2/1 Matthew McNair
2/2 Gwen Madden
2/2 Michael Norton
2/2 Wesley Ray
2/8 Andrea Leatherman
2/12 Deb Oliver
2/14 Betty Briscoe
2/16 Kara McNair
2/19 Donna Dolezel
2/19 John Grundmann
2/26 Jerry Beasley
2/27 Jackson Parker







Baptismal Anniversaries!

2/1 Louise Beasley
2/2 Laura Crain
2/13 Kathy Anderson
2/13 Lynne McNair
2/14 DJ Dunn
2/18 Manny Vasquez
2/19 Markus Carroll
2/19 Maxwell Carroll
2/26 John Ashford



February



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ministry Support through tithes, offerings, and donations can be given by either PayPal or credit or debit card. To access go to www.gslcmwc.com scroll down to "Help Our Cause" and click on "Donate Now."	 REMEMBER GOOD SHEPHERD IN YOUR WILL!	 Go to www.gslcmwc.com click on the "Play Video" arrow.	 SUBMISSION DEADLINES Weekly Bulletin 12pm on Thursdays Monthly Newsletter 20 th of every month secretary@gslcmwc.org	THE LUTHERAN HOUR every Sunday at 9:00a on KQCV (800AM), or on XM's Family Talk Radio 170, or online at www.lutheranhour.org	 Issues, Etc. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org , the LPR mobile app, and your favorite podcast provider.	1 9:00a CPR/First Aid Training
2 8:00a Worship <small>w/Communion</small> 9:15a Bible study/SS 10:30a Worship <small>w/Communion</small> PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD	3 5:30p Trail Life & American Heritage Girls 6:15p Bell Choir	4 10:30a Staff Meeting 2:30p TABS — Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study 6:00p Elders 7:00p LWML 6-9p Homeschool BB	5 9:15a P-2 Chapel 10:00a DS Chapel 5:00p Confirmation 5:30p Fellowship Meal 6:00p THE CHOSEN	6 6:00a TAMBS — Thursday AM Bible study 9:00a Mary Circle Bible study 12-3:00p Music Class FH 6:00p Choir Practice 6-9p Homeschool BB	7 6:00a WEBS — Week End(ing) BS	8 9:00a CPR/First Aid Training
9 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible study/SS 10:30a Worship 11:30a Parish Education TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD	10 5:30p Trail Life & American Heritage Girls 6:15p Bell Choir	11 10:30a Staff Meeting 2:30p TABS — Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study 6:00-9:00p DAR 6-9p Homeschool BB	12 9:15a P-2 Chapel 10:00a DS Chapel 5:00p Confirmation 5:30p Fellowship Meal 6:00p Topical Study	13 6:00a TAMBS — Thursday AM Bible study 12-3:00p Music Class FH 6:00p Choir Practice 6-9p Homeschool BB	14 6:00a WEBS — Week End(ing) BS 3:00-5:00p Valentine's Concert & Dinner VALENTINE'S DAY	15
16 8:00a Worship <small>w/Communion</small> 9:15a Bible study/SS 10:30a Worship <small>w/Communion</small> 12:00p Council	17 5:30p Trail Life & American Heritage Girls 6:15p Bell Choir	18 10:30a Staff Meeting 2:30p TABS — Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study 4:00p Parochial Education 6-9p Homeschool BB	19 9:15a P-2 Chapel 10:00a DS Chapel 5:00p Confirmation 5:30p Fellowship Meal 6:00p Topical Study	20 6:00a TAMBS — Thursday AM Bible study 9:00a Mary Circle Bible study 12-3:00p Music Class FH 6:00p Choir Practice 6-9p Homeschool BB	21 6:00a WEBS — Week End(ing) BS	22
23 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible study/SS 10:30a Worship	24 5:30p Trail Life & American Heritage Girls 6:15p Bell Choir	25 10:30a Staff Meeting 2:30p TABS — Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study 6:30p Ewing Small Group 6-9p Homeschool BB	26 9:15a P-2 Chapel 10:00a DS Chapel 5:00p Confirmation 5:30p Fellowship Meal 6:00p Topical Study	27 6:00a TAMBS — Thursday AM Bible Study 12-3:00p Music Class FH 6:00p Choir Practice 6-9p Homeschool BB	28 6:00a WEBS — Week End(ing) BS	