



REPORT

December 2024

Luke 2:1-20, ESV

The Birth of Jesus Christ

² In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³ This was the first registration when[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. ⁴ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁵ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁶ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,[b] who was with child. ⁷ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁸ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



FROM OUR FAMILY AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN TO YOURS,

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Classroom News

Pre-School

The preschool class and I would like to thank everyone who attended the Veterans Day program. They worked hard at learning their songs and were excited to perform them for everyone. We are now practicing for our Christmas program which will be held on December 19th. Hope to see everyone there. Hope everyone has an amazing Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Ms. Samantha Johnson



PreK

During the month of November in Pre-K, we had our Veterans program to give thanks to those who served. Pre-K through 3rd grade had a fire safety day and got to meet Sparky! We have been talking about things we are thankful for and helping others. I am thankful for my amazing class this year and their parents. Our class helped decorate boxes for the food drive and we will be collecting can goods now through December 19th. Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Alesha Baumann



Kindergarten

Kindergarten has had a busy month. We continue to learn our Bible verses and have our weekly visit with Pastor and weekly chapel.

In math we have been working on addition, ordinal numbers, the days of the week and graphing. This month in social studies and science, we visited the country Guatemala with our friends, Aniya, the cricket and Milo, the sandpiper. While visiting Guatemala, we learned about the foods they eat there, especially corn tortillas. We even had some for a snack. We also learned about different kinds of turtles that live there. We had fun making some turtles that we displayed on our art wall. In reading and phonics, we continue to learn more sight words and we are starting to read. The kids are so proud of themselves and I'm so proud of them.

The kindergarten class and I would like to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Dana Johnson





To provide a quality, Christ-centered educational experience which allows children in our communities to grow, flourish and become outstanding young adults.



1st Grade

The FIRST GRADERS had a fun and busy month in November! Our class led one of the Wednesday morning Chapels with a THANKSGIVING theme. We will be preparing for Christmas! We will be learning about the importance of the ADVENT SEASON for Christians. A portion of our classroom will be transformed into a cozy space with a bulletin board fireplace, along with homemade stockings, made by the children (Shhh! It's a surprise!). Feel free to come upstairs and join in a carol or two as we will be practicing for our School Christmas Program some of the time. On behalf of the entire class, we wish you a VERY JOYOUS CHRISTMAS!

Mrs. Grace Rohwer



2nd & 3rd Grade

Our class has been busy with their classroom studies. In October, we worked on learning the Apostle's Creed and studying Martin Luther and the Reformation. Now, in addition to our general studies. Our attention turned to our gratefulness at Thanksgiving and every day, and to Christmas, and to the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The children are excited to tell the Christmas story during their program on December 19th.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from our class to you!

Mrs. Gail Marlatt

4th & 5th Grade

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah the Lord." Luke 2:11

Merry Christmas

From 4th and 5th Grade and Mrs. J

Mrs. Marla Junghanns



6th, 7th & 8th Grade



Ms. Belinda Harke



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."



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Introduction to the Arts Classes

The children have enjoyed working on their art projects that were influenced by such artists as Dale Chihuly and Vincent Van Gogh. We are now turning our attention to the artwork of Charles Pratt.

Charles "Charlie" Pratt, of the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribe in Oklahoma, was an award-winning, self-taught American Indian sculptor and metalsmith. The Indian Arts and Crafts Association named Charles Pratt its artist of the year in 1985 and 2004, and he received its lifetime achievement honor in 2002. He earned more than 400 awards during his career, and his work is in private and public collections around the world. One of his sculptures was on view in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building during the 1995 bombing. The wood and metal piece survived and is displayed in the administrative offices of the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

Ms. McNair and I are enjoying the children and their introduction to the arts. What a blessing it is to see the twinkle in their eyes when they share and tell about the artwork that they made!

Merry Christmas!

In prayer and care,

Mrs. Sue Ogle and Ms. Lynn McNair



This work is crafted using welded brass, along with settings of lapis, blue and green turquoise, and other stones as the kernels.

Early Childhood Center (ECC) News

Are Your School-agers Needing Care During the Christmas Break?

Ms. Niece Pearson, ECC Director, has informed us that if you have school-agers who will be needing care during the Christmas break, check in with her and the ECC office to find out more information. The ECC staff join together in wishing you all, "Merry Christmas!"



THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to all who made the recent Community Fund Raising Event at Swadley's BBQ a very successful evening! Swadley's generously donated to us proceeds in the amount of **\$380.49**. We are so very grateful for their support of this fund raising event. Anytime you happen to be at their restaurant, take the time to say, "Thank you!", on behalf of the children and youth that we serve at Good Shepherd.



Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!



6905 SE 29th St., Midwest City, OK 73110



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Veterans Day Observance

On Friday, November 8, 2024, in honor of their service to our country, Veterans were invited to attend the annual Good Shepherd Lutheran School's Patriotic Program and Luncheon. The children performed patriotic songs, followed by a luncheon. We wish to thank Jim and Gail Marlatt for providing the smoked brisket.



Army



Marine Corps



Navy



Air Force



Space Force



Coast Guard



National Guard



Midwest City Food Pantry Needs Our Help!

The Midwest City Food Pantry is running very low on canned goods and peanut butter (16oz or less). We would like to help them throughout the rest of November and December. So, we are asking the students to bring only canned goods and/or peanut butter anytime from now until December 19th. Your child may bring their items and place them on the table outside the upstairs elevator.

LET'S GO RAMS!! Let's fill those shelves. Between all the classes, Pre-School through 8th, let's make it our goal of collecting 100 items!

Blessings,
GSLs Staff

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

The hours for the weekly Wednesday afternoon food pantry, in the Good Shepherd Lutheran School Gym, have changed. Please make note of the new hours: 3:00pm – 5:15pm Thank you!



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**November 25th – 29th
Thanksgiving Holiday
NO SCHOOL**



**Sunday, December 15th
Students Sing for Church Congregation
10:15am – 11:30am, Church Sanctuary**



**School Children’s Christmas Program
“The Christmas Story
in Song and Verse”
School Gym
Thursday, December 19th**

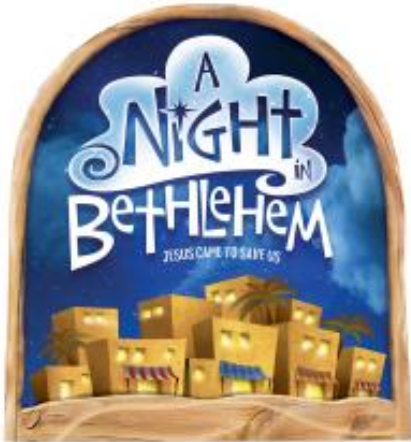


**Dress Rehearsal Performance, 10:00am – 11:00am
Evening Performance, 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

**December 23rd – 31st
Christmas Holiday, NO SCHOOL
January 1st – 3rd
Christmas Holiday, NO SCHOOL
January 6th
Professional Development Day
NO SCHOOL**



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A Night in Bethlehem

At A Night in Bethlehem, kids and their families 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 6, from 5 pm to 7 pm

We invite you to be a part of this amazing evening as the children and their families 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!

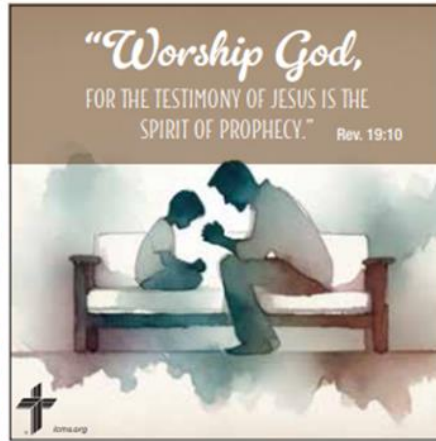
Please see Ms Dana for registration forms.



Dec 1: Advent 1



Dec 8: Advent 2



Dec 15: Advent 3



What is Advent?

The church divides the year into different seasons that emphasize the life of Christ and the life of the church. Beginning on Sunday, December 1, 2024, we will enter the season of the church year called Advent. Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas and continuing to Epiphany January 6, 2025.

The focus of Advent is two-fold. On the one hand, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world as both God and Man so that our sins might be forgiven. On the other hand, we anticipate the day when Jesus will return to Earth and bring an end to this world. Those will be scary days, but we can look forward to the end of the world with hope because through faith in Jesus, the end of this world will mean the beginning of a new life with Christ for eternity.

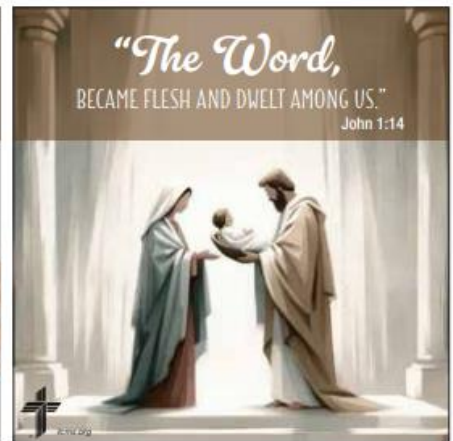
Advent, then, is a time for us to repent and believe. Knowing that Jesus was born to forgive our sins, we repent (admit our failures to God) and believe that we are forgiven because of the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf. Also, knowing that Jesus is coming back, we repent and believe that when He returns, He will give us eternal life.



Dec 22: Advent 4



Dec 24: Christmas Eve



Dec 25: Christmas Day



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“Come and see!”

There are some awesome things happening east of the cross!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, School and Early Childhood Center

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Sunday Advent Services Begin

December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Evening Advent Services

December 4th, 11th, 18th

Annual Congregational Christmas Party

December 3rd, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Night in Bethlehem

December 6th, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

(See registration information on a previous page)

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 5:00pm

Christmas Day Service,

December 25th, 10:30am

Are you looking for a **church home**?
Are you seeking a place to go to worship?
Are you wanting to be in **fellowship with
other Christians**? You are cordially invited
to **come join us** in worship and fellowship.

Come and see.

We'd love to have you.

Church:

700 N. Air Depot Blvd.
Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110
Phone (405) 732-2585
Website:[h](#)



Church Services:

Sunday Worship: 8:00AM & 10:30AM
Bible Study & Sunday School: 9:15AM

Wednesday Midweek:

Confirmation, 5:00pm
Fellowship Meal, 5:30pm
Adult Bible Study 6:00pm – 7:00pm
& Children's Class

School:

Phone (405) 732-0070
Fax (405) 732-3977
Website: www.MyLutheran.school
E-mail: schoolsecretary@gslk.org
School Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8:15 AM - 3:45 PM

Early Childhood Center:

Phone (405) 732-7667
Fax (405) 732-3977
Website: www.MyLutheran.school
E-mail: eccdirector@gslk.org
Early Childhood Center Hours:
Mon-Fri: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM



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“Food for Thought” Poster Gallery

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The most important instructional resource will **ALWAYS** be the teacher. Not the technology, activities, or programs.

The teacher!

—TOM LOUD, School Founder & Director

edu



"Next time you admire the wonderful things God has made, remember ((YOU)) are one of them." *healing memo therapy*



Thank You Lord

I can't say anything else but thank you for everything you've done for me and for my family.

AMEN

Thoughts & Quotes



A single caterpillar crawling on the sidewalk has the power to halt an entire Pre-K class in its tracks. It ALSO has the potential to turn into a great impromptu lesson on caterpillars, being kind to smaller life forms, not stomping on them, and letting them go so they can go back home to their mom when you're done observing them.

It's possible to find learning moments even in the distractions.

—Deana Sanders, Pre-K Teacher

WE ARE TEACHERS



Appreciate everything...

| <h1 style="color: red; text-align: center;">December 2024 Activities</h1> | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| 1 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible Study/SS 10:30a Worship | 2 | 3 | 4 Chapel | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible Study/SS 10:30a Worship | 9 | 10 | 11 Chapel | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible Study/SS 10:30a Worship/ Children Sing | 16 | 17 | 18 Chapel | 19 Christmas Program/6:30pm-7:30pm | 20 End of 2nd Quarter | 21 |
| 22 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible Study/SS 10:30a Worship | 23 | 24 ECC Closed/ Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm Christmas Break/School Closed | 25 ECC Closed/ Christmas Day Christmas Day Service @ 10:30am | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible Study/SS 10:30a Worship | 30 | 31 | 1 ECC Closed/ New Years Day NYE Service 5:00p | 2 Classes Resume Jan. 7th | 3 | |

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Raising Our Children in the Faith

The Lutheran Witness, December 18, 2023 / By Erik Lunsford and Karla Lunsford

Following a recent bout of minor illness, we found ourselves working through a collection of mathematics worksheets, reading comprehension pages, and spelling lists with our first-grade daughter. We came to an exercise that asked about our family's holiday traditions. Our daughter recalled that our family's Christmas tradition is to go to church on Christmas Day. Thanks be to God.

Bringing little ones to church week after week is not always easy. In fact, at times, it is downright difficult. Has everyone had breakfast? Are my pants ironed? Where are my son's dress shoes? They are lost again...

Reading devotions at home brings similar challenges. There is homework to be completed. Dinner dishes to be washed. Instruments to be practiced. Emails to be returned. The list goes on...

Yet, God has trusted these little souls to our care for their time here on earth. The psalmist tells us in Psalm 145:4, "*One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*" So, we teach them the faith at home. We read them the Bible. We point them to Christ at every opportunity. And we take them to our Lord's house where our precious children can hear our faithful pastors preach the Word.

I think this is why we were overjoyed with our daughter's homework answer. Our family's teaching, our pastor's preaching — despite the daily distractions — had commended Christ to her and made it obvious that He is the most important part of our holiday. As sinners, praise God that His Word and Spirit are working.

When our children were small, our pastor shared with us that for his family, God's gifts come first on Christmas morning. No gift under a tree can compare with the gift of eternal life given freely to us through Christ's death and resurrection. In whatever traditions we instill, that's exactly the message we want to communicate and the faith we want to pass on.

Celebrate the Nativity of our Lord in God's House. Hear His Word, which makes us holy. Receive the Sacrament and bring your children. Going to church is not leaving your family's holiday behind. Tell them at home the reasons behind the traditions and make it your tradition not just on Christmas, but every Sunday. Let your week start with Divine Service and center your life on it. Center your children's lives on it.

Is there a greater gift you could give them?