

WORSHIP SERVANTS-December 18
Worship Coordinator/Organist: Phyllis Eggers
Choir Director: Loren Johnson
Lector: Barb Headley
Greeters: Mardy Groskreutz
Communion Assistants: Rich & Sandy Stolte
Coffee Host: Don & Mardy Groskreutz
Coffee Treats: Linda Schlitt
Tellers: Mary Banken & Annette Gaskill
Ushers: Gary Wallace & Austin Condon
Altar Care: Annette Gaskill
Flower Arranger: Jan Trunnell
Acolyte: Isaac Paswaters
Communion Bread Host: Nancy Condon

WORSHIP SERVANTS-December 24
Worship Coordinator/Organist: Phyllis Eggers
Choir Director: Loren Johnson
Lector: Wolf Pfauss-Novak & Others
Greeters: Susan Anderson, Peter & Anna Bockhaus
Communion Assistants: Rich & Sandy Stolte
Coffee Host: No Coffee
Coffee Treats: No Treats
Tellers:
Ushers: Mark Lorenz & Al Olson
Altar Care: Marion Dougherty & Kelly Brown
Flower Arranger: Jan Trunnell
Acolyte:

WORSHIP SERVANTS-December 25
Worship Coordinator/Organist: Phyllis Eggers
Choir Director: Loren Johnson
Lector: Youth & Others (Please sign up)
Greeters:
Communion Assistants:
Coffee Host:
Coffee Treats:
Tellers:
Ushers: Mike Van Brunt & Don Lickfett
Altar Care: Marion Dougherty & Kelly Brown
Flower Arranger: Jan Trunnell
Acolyte: Isabelle Paswaters



Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church
2000 Ptarmigan Trail
Estes Park, Colorado 80517
Worship at 9:00 a.m. Education Hour at 10:30 a.m.
Phone: (970) 586-3900 Web Site: www.smlc.us
Pastor Ron Bockhaus Cell phone: (970)232-5922

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2011

ELW - Setting 2

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS - *Our congregation is happy to have you sharing in today's worship. Please acknowledge your presence by signing the Guest Register and filling out one of the visitor identification cards. We practice open communion at Shepherd of the Mountains Church. Your participation in the Eucharist is by Christ's gracious invitation, not obligation. For persons desiring a non-alcoholic substitute during communion, the center ring in the communion tray contains glasses of grape juice. You are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation following the worship service.*

The Holy Spirit gathers us into the unity of our baptism
Take time during the Preludes to prepare your heart and mind for worship

PRELUDES

Phyllis Eggers

"Magnificat"- J.F. Damdrieu
"Joseph est bien Marie"- C.B. Balbastre
"Canon de Noel" arr. - J.M. Martin
 (Barbara Headley, Piano)
Prelude on "Kingsfold"- Fedak/Koury

CHIMES

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
In you Son, Emmanuel,
you have shown us your light
and saved us from the power of sin.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Increase our longing for your presence,
that at the celebration of your Son’s birth
His Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,
for He is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.
Amen**

ADVENT RESPONSE

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

*Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.*

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIA GARDEN

Please sign up below if you would like to provide a poinsettia plant for Christmas Eve. The **deadline to sign up** for a poinsettia is **today, Sunday, December 18.**

The cost for each plant is \$8.00. Please make a check payable to the church with a note on the memo line “Poinsettia.”

You may take your Poinsettia plant home following the worship service on Christmas Eve.

Name _____
(please print clearly)

Phone number _____

____ Given to the Glory of God in celebration of the
Nativity of Christ.

____ Given to the Glory of God and in loving memory
of _____
(please print clearly)

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:

If you would like to provide a poinsettia plant for our Christmas Eve Worship Service, please fill out the form which is on page 19 of the bulletin. Follow the instructions on the form, tear it off the bulletin, and turn it in to an usher or place in the offering plate. The cost is \$8.00 for each. Those who order a poinsettia plant may take their plant home after the Christmas Service on December 25th. **Today, Sunday, December 18th** is the **deadline** to sign up for a poinsettia.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee invites all interested members to join in a planning session for the Lenten and Easter season. If you have ideas for meaningful ways to observe Lent and Holy Week, please call Lynette Johnson at 586-2192 by January 8th so she can set up a meeting time in early January. Thank you!

OUR WEBSITE

The SMLC website is the best place to catch up on information, please know that you have access to our SMLC web site on the internet. Our address is: **www.smlc.us**. This address is posted on our weekly worship bulletin. Our web site is provided for us at no charge, including technical support, by Lutherans Online. The main purpose of it is to engage visitors, as well as people of our community, with information about services available at SMLC. It is also designed to give our members additional opportunity to plan ahead. Please check our website at your convenience, and if you have any ideas for the website, please let our creative and industrious Web Master, Bob Rising, know. Thank you! - The Witness Committee

CAN YOU HELP ON CHRISTMAS EVE?

Christmas Eve is a time when people attend church. Say what you will, many come to the Christmas Eve Worship Service that normally don't attend. Therefore, we as a church have the opportunity to reach out to people on Christmas Eve we normally don't have and so we want to be sure to do our best on that night. I'm asking for one additional Greeter to stand outside the building and open the door for people as a sign of welcome. Also, I'm requesting two additional ushers for Christmas Eve. We will have extra seats to manage and candles to light. And also! --one additional communion server who will distribute the bread along with me. In summary that is: one additional outside greeter; two additional ushers, and one additional communion server. Please sign up on the chart near the kitchen to help. Thanks! P. Ron

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Red Hymnal #251

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

Tune: "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re-lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for-ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;



dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday	December 18	9:00 a.m.	4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service
		10:00 a.m.	Fellowship and Coffee
		10:30 a.m.	Adult Forum
Wednesday	December 21	11:45 a.m.	Prayer Group at the church
		7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	December 22	9:30 a.m.	Quilters
Friday	December 23	3:00—7:00	Community Corner Café
Saturday	December 24	11:00 a.m.	Organist Rehearsal
		7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday	December 25	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service of Carols, Readings and Reflections
		10:15 a.m.	Fellowship and Coffee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

The Wednesday noon prayer group meets at the church on Wednesdays at 11:45 AM for about an hour to enjoy a respite from the busy week by nurturing and enriching each other's prayer lives. Everyone is welcome at any time – on a regular, seasonal, or intermittent basis.

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

As the end of the year approaches, please remember to fulfill your 2011 pledges and any special gifts to the general fund of the Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church. **December 25th is the last Sunday of the year.** I will make a special deposit on December 31st to catch last minute contributions that are mailed or dropped off at church. Thank you, Ruth Turner

THANK YOU

Thank you everyone - for praying for my father, Richard Anderson, his wife, Shyrlee Anderson, and the entire family. God has blessed us richly, as Richard is; over his infections, off of all the major tubes, able to eat by mouth, making tiny improvements each day, and gaining strength in order to work hard to get moved to rehab. His road to recovery will be quite long and hard, but he is determined to move from the long term acute care hospital to the rehab facility and then eventually home. Our best guess is that he will have to remain in the hospital until at least February 2012. Please continue to keep Richard in your prayers. Thank you! - Vanessa Paswaters

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Please stand if you are able

SENDING HYMN

Red Hymnal# 266

“All Earth is Hopeful”

CHIMES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Phyllis Eggers

Postlude on “Vom Himmel hoch”- arr.– W. Held

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MISSION STATEMENT

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a Christian fellowship open to all people. Here faith in Christ is nurtured and shared, life in grace cherished, spiritual growth encouraged, and loving service practiced.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 97

FLOWERS TODAY: Are given by Ralph and Nancy Knoll.

AMPLIFIER AVAILABLE TO AID IN HEARING- Check with the ushers.
Large-print bulletins and children’s bulletins are also available.

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST you would like included in the worship service please fill out a Prayer Request Card on the welcome table in the narthex and give it to an usher

ALL WORSHIPERS are invited to stay following the worship service for fellowship and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

(Read Responsively)

ALL: You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)

WOMEN ^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

MEN ⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will | call me blessed;

WOMEN ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me,
and holy | is your name.

MEN ⁵⁰**You have mercy on | those who fear you,**
from generation to | generation.

ALL *You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)*

WOMEN ⁵¹You have shown strength | with your arm;
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

MEN ⁵²**casting down the mighty | from their thrones**
and lifting | up the lowly.

WOMEN ⁵³You have filled the hungry | with good things,
and sent the rich | away empty.

MEN ⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,

WOMEN ⁵⁵the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

ALL *You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)*

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25–27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept

POST-COMMUNION SONG

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

*Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.
God for whom we wait,
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day
when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Send us forth to make known your deeds
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated

COMMUNION SONG

Holy Child within the Manger

Carol at the Manger

*Once again we tell the story - how your love
for us was shown,
when the image of your glory wore an image
like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and
fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle every
land and race.*



MEDITATIVE MUSIC

Please stand as you are able

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His holy and precious blood strengthen you and keep you unto everlasting life.

Amen.

secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION SOLO

“The Annunciation” - arr. Tom Fettke

Lori Burnham

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26–38

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

“Greetings, favored one!”

Pastor Ron Bockhaus

**Please stand as you are able*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Red Hymnal #581

“You Are Mine”

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

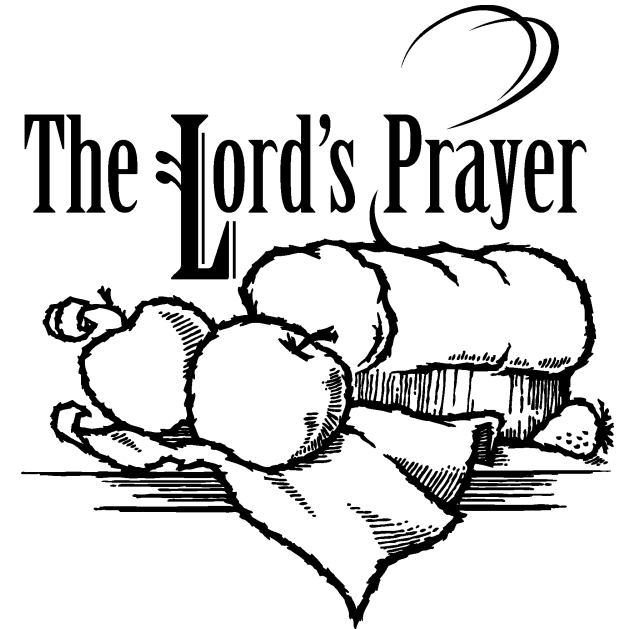
Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

The communicant may say, “Amen.”



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Walking in the light of the coming Savior, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who await God's justice.

A brief silence.

Pour out your Spirit on the church, that its leaders and all the baptized may answer your call to be bearers of the revelation of your love for the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore wetlands and forests, waterways and the vast sky, mountains and canyons, and enable us to live in harmony with the natural world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Unseat from their thrones those who use their power to exploit others, and raise up leaders in our nation and throughout the world who will work for justice and peace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Look with favor on the sick (*especially*), the lonely, victims of war and of domestic violence, the homeless, and those living in poverty. Fill them all with good things.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Remember with mercy the children of our congregation, that their excitement and anticipation during this season matures into joy and lasting peace in the revelation of the gift of your Son. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving for the faithful witness of Mary and all the saints who have responded to your steadfast love, inspire us also to be servants of your will.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING *Our gifts for those in need and for the mission of the church are gathered*

MUSICAL OFFERING

“This Child, Emmanuel” - arr. Jeremy Walton
(With Lynette Johnson on Flute)

CHOIR

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times
and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
Almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise
of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make
all things new in the day when he comes to judge
the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
With the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.