
Welcome to Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church and School

To KNOW Christ, To SHARE Christ, To SHOW Christ

7860 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32256
904-641-8385 ♦ email: sotwatjax@aol.com ♦ www.sotwjax.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS! We welcome all who worship with us and pray the Lord will bless our worship together. We give thanks to God for the Spirit leading in your life, drawing you to Shepherd of the Woods on this day. Regardless of what is happening in your life, the Good News of Jesus Christ and of His love and forgiveness is for you! May our gracious Lord feed you in spirit and truth and may you be renewed in faith and hope.

If you do not have a church home, we invite you to join us again in worship, fellowship & service. We offer worship services each week on Saturdays at 5:30pm and Sundays at 8:30am & 10:30am - We look forward to welcoming you back!

Yellow Connection Insert - Please complete the yellow connection insert to let us know you worshiped with us today and place in the offering plate in front of the baptismal font as you leave.

Want more information? Visitors who are interested in learning more information about Shepherd of the Woods, or who want information on joining, may indicate that on the Yellow Insert.



Restrooms are located just outside the first set of sanctuary doors on the left.

Cry Room is available with a speaker at the back of the sanctuary for a brief "time-out" for restless worshippers. *Please bring children to worship if they are able!*



Christmas Greetings!

Dear Friends,

It is so good to have you join us for worship this Christmas. We welcome you into an exciting and vibrant community in Christ who gather in His name each week. We hope you will enjoy your time with us today and consider returning often.



At Shepherd of the Woods, we consider the Bible as source and norm for life and the basis for our growth in faith. We believe that ***ministry is faith in action***, and it is our joy to serve in Christ's name. and it is our joy to be in service to our Lord and our neighbor. We have an active community outreach and care program to offer our gifts in service and love to people in our neighborhood, throughout Jacksonville and beyond. We welcome your participation as a gift to you and from you.

We seek to KNOW Christ so that we may SHARE and SHOW Christ in our daily lives, letting HIS light shine through us and that HE may be glorified. If you have any questions concerning our community of disciples, our faith or our ministry here, please contact us at 904-641-8385. If you have no church home, we hope you'll consider joining with us in mission and ministry and that we'll see you next week. Thanks again for joining us in worship.

Peace in the name of the newborn King and our SAVIOR!
Pastor K. Phillips
Senior Pastor



Ministry is Faith in Action - Here are just a few highlighted ministries we are involved in and invite you to participate!

WORSHIP

- Traditional and Non-traditional worship and choirs
- Praise Band
- Bell Choir
- Prayer & Praise prayer services

FELLOWSHIP

- Dinners & Events
- Congregational Cruises
- Game Nights

YOUTH & CHILDREN

- Christian Day School
- Children's Programs
- Jr & Sr High Youth Programs
- Confirmation Classes
- Youth Mission Trips
- Vacation Bible School

DISCIPLESHIP

- Children's Sunday School
- Adult Sunday School
- Youth Sunday School
- Men's & Women's Bible Studies
- Men's & Women's Retreats
- Midweek Bible Study
- Lutheran Studies

OUTREACH

- Meals On Wheels
- Angel Aid
- PACE Center for Girls
- Lutheran Disaster Relief
- LWR Quilting Program
- City Rescue Mission
- Beaches Mission House
- Lutheran Social Services
- Hunger Relief initiatives
- Hartfelt Ministries
- Annual Yard Sale to benefit the Peru Mission
- Annual Pumpkin Patch to benefit outreach ministries
- Peru Mission Trips

Notes and Upcoming Events

Remain informed! Please provide your email address to receive the most current information regarding worship and community notes. Send an email to sotwjax@aol.com or use the Yellow Insert and ask to be subscribed to Shepherd of the Woods email notifications, daily devotions and prayer requests emails.

Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran School & Preschool – We offer a caring, faith-based program for children 2-years through Second Grade. Our School is fully accredited, and oversight is provided by DCPS. We honor the McKay Scholarships and we are a free-VPK provider. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Angie Ervin, Admissions Director at Admissions@sotwschool.com or 904-814-5234.

Food Pantry Needs - our “Shepherd Shelves” in the Gathering area serve many in our local community every week. We appreciate all donations. Currently, we are most in need of the following: canned meats & tuna, canned soups and stews, canned fruit, and canned beans and breakfast cereals. If you can provide any items, please leave them in the barrel next to the food shelves. Thank you for your care of others.

“#SIPBoldly”!! Lutheran World Relief Farmers Market Coffee is coffee direct-from-farmer to you! Our support of the impactful program continues as we offer both our “traditional” coffee and rotating LWR products during fellowship each Sunday. We have a supply of all four varieties on hand for purchase or you can order by going online to LWR.org. **These make great gifts!!**

Mark Your Calendars – Epiphany worship & Fellowship Meal – We will gather on Wed, January 4th to celebrate the Epiphany, a day when we commemorate the arrival of the Magi to Bethlehem, recognizing that the birth of Jesus was significant for ALL people. As a community we will share a fellowship meal at 5:30pm followed by worship at 6:30pm. We invite you to join this special celebration. If you are able to join us for dinner, please RSVP using the Yellow Insert. Be sure to invite a friend or neighbor!

Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study – All men are invited to the monthly gathering on Sat, Jan 7 at 8:00am. Zoom is also offered beginning at 8:30am. The current study is “Messianic Prophecies in the Psalms Fulfilled in the New Testament.” Bring a friend!! Please RSVP using the Yellow Insert.

The NEW 2023 Charts are available in the Gathering Area for those who wish to sponsor the Altar Flowers, Communion Elements or the Eternal Candle during the year. These can be offered in honor of someone special or in memory of a loved one. Flowers are \$35 per arrangement and sponsoring Elements, or the Candle is \$10.

The Flowers, The Communion Elements, and The Eternal Candles are given to the glory of God

The flowers are sponsored by Doreen & George Halvorsen in honor of Lisa Simpson and in loving memory of Mary Halvorsen

The Candle and the Elements are sponsored by Anne Delegal in loving memory of John Delegal, Jr.



NEW in 2023

In the spring of 2023, we will begin offering Alpha, an international program designed to share who Jesus was and what he can mean with those who are not connected to the faith or the Church. It will be an opportunity for anyone who is seeking greater understanding about life, God, or Christianity to attend and meet others who are also seeking. Over twelve weeks guests develop their own beliefs and direction.

Alpha creates a space for honest and open conversations about life’s biggest questions. Everyone is welcome and no questions are off limits. Alpha is by the Church, for the Church, and through the Church, but it is run worldwide in many settings—homes, cafés, restaurants, prisons, and more. Just this past year, more than 300 churches have run Alpha, sharing the hope of Jesus with more than 16,000 people!

Is there someone you know who you would invite to this program? Perhaps you are seeking a greater understanding and a connection? We encourage you to pray about this new (to us) and innovative way to reach others and further the mission and ministry of the Church. Perhaps you would like to assist – in addition to inviting others, you can share your time and gifts by attending the 12-week program as a helper or in preparing a meal one or more weeks.

Stay tuned for more information including dates and opportunities to serve or participate.

A Snapshot of Mission and Ministry at Shepherd of the Woods



TO KNOW CHRIST JOHN 10:14-15

- † We can know Christ because He first knew and loved us.
- † We are created and called to a relationship with Christ.
- † We are claimed through Baptism.
- † Rooted in the Word we grow through worship, study, and prayer.

To KNOW Christ - Bible Studies for Adults, Youth & Children

ADULTS

- ♦ **Bible Study Class** — Sundays 9:45am, in the Shepherd Center (Augsburg Series) and Annex (Crossways Series)
- ♦ **Midweek Bible Study** — Wednesdays 6:30pm, and on Zoom
- ♦ **Men's Bible Study & Breakfast** — usually held first Saturdays at 8:00am
- ♦ **Women's Bible Studies** — 2nd & 4th Mondays, 10am and a new evening study 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:30pm
- ♦ **Daily Devotions** — emailed every morning at 5am. To subscribe: email SOTWatJAX@aol.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH

- ♦ **Children's Class** — 4yrs — 6th Grade Children are dismissed from worship after Holy Communion at the 10:30 service. Additional opportunity at 9:30am during the Family Hour
- ♦ **Confirmation Class** — for 7th & 8th Grade meets at 9:30am
- ♦ **Senior High Class** — 9th — 12th Grade Bible Study meets at 9:30am
- ♦ **Youth Life** - 7th — 12th Grade youth participate in monthly activities, service projects, summer camps & weekend retreats.
- ♦ **Vacation Bible School** — is offered every summer to the community.
- ♦ **Summer Camp** — is provided to our young ones through our day school ministry.



TO SHARE CHRIST COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

- † Let your light shine.
- † We share what God has done for us with others.
- † We seek to share Christ in all of our Relationships.
- † We are called to share the Gospel at all times, using words if necessary.

To SHARE Christ - Opportunities to connect Faith & Life

Fellowship - Join us after worship for a time of fellowship and watch for special events!

Waving - is done before all services. Come early next week and join in on the fun!

Choirs - Traditional Choir - Tuesdays 6pm, the Bell Choir - Tuesday 7:15pm, the Praise Band /Choir Thursdays 6:30pm.

Peru Mission — Each year we take 1-2 mission trips to serve in partnership with our mission congregation in Tarma & Hauncal Peru to support them in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Day School — Our early learning center is dedicated to developing the minds, growing the hearts, and nourishing the spirits of all our students. We currently serve 2-year-olds through 2nd grade where children focus on loving, learning and serving!

Alpha Outreach — Exploring Christian faith basics. Coming Soon!

Senior Ministry — Seniors are connected for study, education, fellowship, and service.



TO SHOW CHRIST MATTHEW 25:30-46

- † Ministry is Faith in Action.
- † We are blessed to be a blessing.
- † We are called to love and serve as we have been loved and served by Christ.
- † We are the feet and hands of Christ.

To SHOW Christ - Ways we share the Love and Care of Christ

Lutheran World Relief Quilting Ministry meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 1:30pm to connect sewn quilt tops to lining and backing. No sewing ability or experience needed. Cutting Kits and Sewing Kits are available to take home.

Mission House Meal Ministry — cook and serve dinner on Fifth Tuesdays and regularly collect socks, and toiletries for them.

Meals on Wheels — volunteers deliver meals to elderly clients in our area. If you would like to be on the team to deliver once each month, please contact the church office.

Peru Mission — our Tarma pastor, congregation and support team continue to serve the people of Tarma with worship, an after-school program, food assistance and help to the disabled community. Next mission trip January 4-17, 2023.

Food Pantry — we offer a small supply of non-perishable food in the Gathering Area for those that visit seeking support.

Benevolence Ministry — supports mission work being done locally, domestically and internationally.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (24th)

5:00pm – **Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service**
7:00pm – **Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service**
9:00pm – **Lessons & Carols Worship Service**
11:00pm – **Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service**

SUNDAY (25th)

8:30am – **Christmas Day Worship Service – live-streamed**
9:30am – **NO** Family Hour Bible Study Classes
10:30am – **Christmas Day Worship Service**
Approx. 10:50am – **NO** Children's Sunday School for 4yrs – 6th Grade – Shepherd Center

MONDAY (26th)

Church and Day School Offices will be closed

TUESDAY (27th)

6:00pm – **NO** Choir Rehearsal
7:15pm – **NO** Bell Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY (28th)

6:45pm - Midweek Bible Study – Matthew

THURSDAY (29th)

6:30pm – Choir/Band Rehearsal

SATURDAY (31st)

5:30pm – Traditional Worship Service

SUNDAY (1st)

8:30am – Worship Service – live-streamed
9:30am – **NO** Family Hour Bible Study Classes
10:30am – Worship Service –
Approx. 10:50am – **NO** Children's Sunday School for 4yrs – 6th Grade – Shepherd Center

UPCOMING

MONDAY (2nd)

Church and Day School Offices will be closed

TUESDAY (3rd)

6:00pm – Choir Rehearsal
7:15pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY (4th)

5:30pm – Congregational Epiphany Fellowship Meal
6:30 – Epiphany Worship Service
6:30pm – **NO** Midweek Bible Study – Matthew



Be sure to Like and follow us on Facebook for current news and activities!

Church: facebook.com/Shepherd-of-the-Woods-Lutheran-Church-School

Day School: facebook.com/SOTWSchool

Pumpkin Patch: facebook.com/Shepherd of the Woods Pumpkin Patch

Be sure to "Check in" too!

The lovely poinsettias that add beauty to our properties and sanctuary this season are offered to the glory of God in loving memory of...

*Our loved ones by the Luther Family
Our loved ones by Lillian Braden
Cindy by George & Carol Lacharite
Harry Vickers by Lois Vickers
LaRue Slavic by Ed & Susan Slavic
Donald Gauger by Cynthia Gauger
James Lenhart by Shirley Lenhart
Virgil DeVolder by Donna DeVolder
Flo Gali by Fran Pepis
Erica Johnson by Carol & John Johnson
Meagan Exon by Lois Reineke
Rose Kuchta by Jacqueline Kuchta
Judith Ann Lane by Darlene Papa
Helen Hatala by Jim & Joanne Kresge
Uriah Funk by Jennifer & Carl Johnson
Our parents and Patrik Heinholt by June & Ken Scheurer
Lois Walters and Margie Gordy by Doris Gordy
Joseph Samuel Mjogolo by Festo & Noella Mjogolo
Lee Krotzer and Anna Rogge by Angie Krotzer
Hayden Neil Stimpson and Dorothy May Gorman by Michelle Pearson
Col. George S. and Margit V. Royal by George Royal
Barbara Miller and Robert Rowe by Leslie Lockwood
Mary Halvorsen and John Simpson by The Halvorsen Family
My parents by Lisa Simpson
Violet, John, Mike and Steve Burris, and Ray, Arlene, Gene and
Raymond Chicowski by Bob & Julie Chicowski
Elise Higbe, Jim Crump and Tim Miller by Jackie Hudson
Bob & Verna Brecht, Bill & Vera Miller, Sue Weinberger and Elaine Pence
by Cheryl & John Brecht*



And Offered to the glory of God in honor of...



*Stephen P. Royal and Brandon J. Royal by George Royal
Keri Buscemi by Fran Pepis
Shepherd of the Woods by George & Carol Lacharite*

And Offered to the glory of God in thanksgiving for...

*God's blessings by Doris Purnell
Jesus Christ by Jim & Joanne Kresge
Offered to the glory of God by Barb & Gary Kovar
Family and Friends by Lillian Braden
All of God's blessings by Tom & Shirley Huke
My family by Eileen Gleim
Our Lord Jesus Christ by Tom & Marti Baggs*

