



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
September 25, 2024

MISSION STATEMENT: Good Shepherd is growing in: Faith and knowledge of God, ministry in our neighborhood, love for one another and support for those seeking Christ.

*Please check out the **church calendar** available on our website.*

www.goodshepherdwv.org

Reflections by the Rev. Lou Hays: A time for sabbath and family

By the time you read this, Michelle and I will be in the Netherlands. She, probably more than I, is in need of a break and some sabbath time away from all of the nonsense and trumped-up fear flushed into Springfield over the past couple of weeks.

Our time will be a combination of vacation, sabbath and connecting with family, something I commend to all of you. Many of you know that Michelle is Dutch. Her parents immigrated to the United States several years before she was born. Dutch is her first language (handy in the Netherlands, although many people speak English fluently) because her parents spoke Dutch at home.

All of Michelle's relatives on both sides of her family live in the Netherlands, except for her mother. Sadly, her father died over ten years ago of pancreatic cancer. So we try to travel to the Netherlands every couple of years, both to stay connected to her extended family and because it's a great country with so much to see and do.

For the first week we will be staying in Alkmaar, a typically charming Dutch small city with canals, beautiful old buildings and a famous cheese market. It's north of and relatively close to Amsterdam, making day trips there easy. And on Sunday, we will be worshipping in a parish in Alkmaar that's in full communion with the Episcopal Church. The liturgy will be very familiar, but the service will be in Dutch, so Michelle may have to whisper in my ear from time to time.



I suspect that most Episcopalians are aware that we are in full communion with the Lutherans (ELCA). I suspect that most Episcopalians have never heard of the Old-Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht. This denomination has Dioceses and parishes in the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Poland. We will be worshipping at the Parish of St. Lawrence in Alkmaar.

During our second week we will be staying in Arnhem. World War II buffs might be familiar with the disastrous Battle of Arnhem that was designed to end the war with Germany but seriously backfired on the Allied forces. On our final Sunday we will likely be worshipping in a nearby Church of England parish where the service will be in English, not Dutch. There are many CofE churches in Europe (and also Episcopal parishes) that serve a combination of expats and locals.

(Ed. note - Read more here: <https://anglicannl.weebly.com/who-we-are.html> and www.tec-europe.org)

I pray that you will all have a peaceful and joyful time while we are away. You will be in good hands with the Rev. Canon Jordan Trumble preaching and celebrating on September 29 and Jim Offenberger preaching and officiating on October 6. I will be back with you the following week. God bless you!

*If you have a pastoral need while Lou is away, call the office during office hours (Monday- Thursday 9-4:30).
At other times call Linda (304-210-5591) and she will connect you with someone to help.*

Shepherd's Closet Rummage

The October sale will be next weekend, October 4th and 5th, 9 AM – 1 PM. We will be selling household items, fall décor, and household linens as well as cold weather clothing. for the October sale. We have lots and lots of new items. Tell all your friends. All proceeds benefit our Adopted Families Christmas program.



Adopted Families

Adopted Families is our annual program to help local families who find it difficult or impossible to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. While we know that God's love is the most important gift, we demonstrate that love by making sure that every child in our program 'finds something special under the Christmas tree'. They also receive books, coloring supplies, a shoe voucher, a family game and ball, and toiletries, hats, gloves, socks and underwear for the whole family, a roll of gift paper, plus everything they need for a family Christmas dinner.



Applications will be available beginning next Tuesday, October 1. The program is for families with children age 0-18 who need help providing Christmas gifts for their kids. If families have been helped by this program both of the last two years, they are not eligible this year. Families should only apply to one local organization each year. If you know of a family in need, let them know about our program.

If you are interested in helping to purchase gifts, prepare food baskets, pack bags or help with the distribution, please contact Carol Lathrop (681-287-5333). If you would like to make a donation of items, please contact Tom Simpson (304-482-0804) to see what we need. To make a financial donation, send us a check with *Adopted Families* in the memo line.

Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

Intercessory Prayers

During your prayer time please use the lists below to remember those who have asked for our prayers:



Parish Prayer List

The People of Israel and Gaza	Marcia Doyle – healing	Eric Dailey – healing
The People of Ukraine	Peggy Roberts - healing	Peter Gevas – healing
Larry Hand—healing	Mary Gevas – healing	Heyward Roberts – healing
Becky Winans –healing	Dee Milhoan – healing	Shauna Hyde - healing
Jone Johnson – healing/strength	Diane Cottrill – healing	Ann Stevens– healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	David Cottrill - healing	Chris Heckman – healing
Vickie Dilley –healing/strength	John Stevens – healing	Audrey Kate York – healing
Amanda Morris - healing	Jay Lathrop – healing	Don Henthorne - healing



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces
Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk	John Stevens	David Nevins	Julia Lee
Judy McCoy	David White	Alana Dailey	Chris Angotti
Doris Lowe	Ellis Corra	Gary Greer	Wendy Meredith



Bible Study



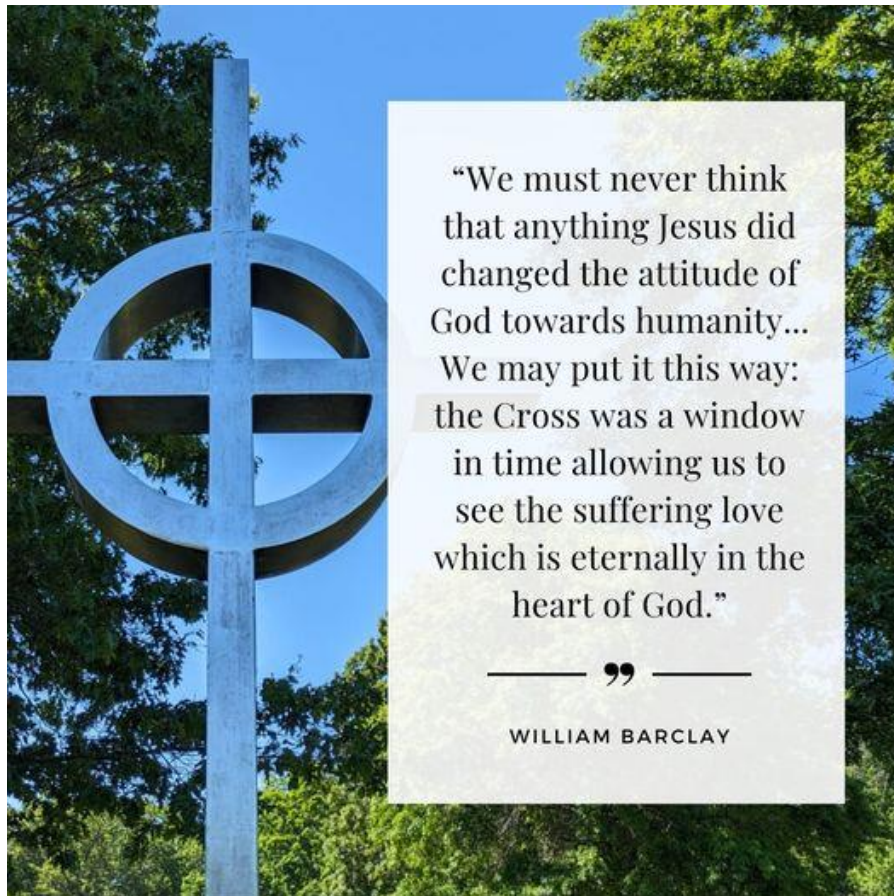
Wednesday Night Bible Study led by David Cooper meets most Wednesdays. There are two sessions. The group meeting from 5-6 PM is studying the Book of Judges. The group meeting from 7-8 PM is continuing a study of Hebrews. Both groups welcome new attendees. Let David know you will be there so he can let you into the building (304-494-8790).

Last Sunday Supper

This Sunday, September 29, is our next monthly meal. It falls close to the end of the month so we may have a big crowd. Some of our usual helpers will not be available so this is a perfect time for you to get involved – we need you! You can come at 1 PM to help set up the room and/or prepare the meal. You could stay all day as some do or you could leave when the food prep is done. Alternatively, you could come at 5:15 to begin serving at 5:30 and stay to help with clean-up.






Found on Facebook:



Food Pantry needs

- We continue to welcome your donation of used grocery bags – the standard size used at Kroger, Piggly Wiggly, Walmart, etc.
- If you eat out a lot and accumulate leftover **packaged** plastic utensils, we can use those since we put them in the homeless bags.
- Workers: We have a team that packs homeless bags weekly on Wednesday morning and they can usually use more help. Contact Joe Smith or Buck Harris for more info. We still need someone to fill food orders for housed clients on Tuesdays (morning or afternoon) as well as to sub when regular volunteers are not available (Mon., Tues. or Thursday). We also have openings for homeless bag distribution on Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning or just as a sub. Call Linda Crocker if you are interested in any of those opportunities.

Outreach Programs


- ♥ **Donuts** - We make day-old donuts available to our neighbors and the homeless. Thank you to McHappy's and to those who make sure the donuts are picked up each week. 
- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read. Your donations are always welcome or help yourself to a book if you spot a good one – they are there for anyone and everyone. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be September 29. Come help set-up and cook beginning at 1 PM or come help serve and clean-up at 5:15 PM. We begin serving at 5:30 and continue until 6:15 or earlier if we run out of food. We are usually out of the building by 7 or 7:15.
- ♥ **Food Pantry** – If you would like to help handing out the bags, the current 'holes' are Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning; we also need subs when someone is out of town or ill. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed. 


Inreach Opportunities

We show our care for other members as we listen to each other, spend time together, support each other in our church ministries, share a hug during the peace, help in times of need and celebrate special moments. Those who can't be here in person are also valued members of our congregation.

If you or a loved one would like a card, a visit, a meal, or a home communion, please call the office and we will connect you with someone who would love to be asked to help.



- ♥ **Pastoral Care**
Someone is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you need pastoral care outside office hours, contact The Rev. Lou Hays, Larry James, or Linda Crocker (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). Lou will be available on most Sundays, some Wednesdays and Thursdays and at other times for emergency needs. Additionally, the Eucharistic Visitors can offer a visit and/or home communion to those who can't come to church – just ask! 

- ♥ **Prayer Chain**
We have a group of people who pray for those having emergency situations – surgery, accidents, or other crises. Linda Crocker makes the calls using the One Call system when she is notified by a church member of an immediate need. If you want to be added to the prayer chain let Linda know (304-210-5591). **God hears all our prayers** – you don't need a special gift to pray for healing and comfort for those in distress. All prayer chain calls remain confidential. 

Altar Flowers:

Open dates for the rest of 2024 are Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24, & Dec. 29. Please contact the office to choose your date and to indicate if the flowers are in memory of someone or to honor a special person or event.



Contact Information:

The Rev. Lou Hays	304-428-1525, ext. 4	louisbhays@gmail.com
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator	304-428-1525, ext. 1	gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries	304-428-1525, ext. 5	LLBC100@msn.com
Larry James, Senior Warden	304-482-9661	blesense@suddenlink.net

One Call system 1-877-698-3261 This is the number to call if you need a message from the church repeated.