

*Happy  
New Year*



*and  
Epiphany*

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF**  
**The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**January 8, 2025**

**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](http://www.goodshepherdwv.org)

**A Reflection from the Rev. Katie Beth Miksa**

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

In just a few words, the Prophet Isaiah summarizes the theme of Epiphany tide. Epiphany means “glorious appearance” or “manifestation.” The Feast of Epiphany itself celebrates the revelation of Jesus as the Messiah to the wise men, evinced through the following of the star. The rest of the season continues to highlight these moments of manifestation—glorious moments where Jesus is recognized as the Messiah and the Son of God. Examples include the Baptism of our Lord and the Feast of the Transfiguration.

Throughout the Season after Epiphany, look for appearances of our Lord in your own life. Where has the light come in? How are you bearing that light to others? May this season be one of following the stars and discovering God in new and glorious places.

Katie Beth+

**Bearing the light in December**

- ★ Adopted Families served 42 families
- ★ Over 20 of us took Christmas joy in the form of Caroling to 4 member homes and 2 group homes
- ★ The youth and young adults treated us to a very tempting bake and craft sale
- ★ We enjoyed a revival of our traditional Christmas Pageant
- ★ We celebrated on Christmas Eve together in our beautifully decorated church with a wonderful augmented choir and musicians
- ★ We served the Last Sunday Supper to over 66 of our neighbors, housed and homeless on Dec. 29 and continued to run the food pantry and homeless bag ministry throughout the holiday season

## Annual Meeting: January 26

We will have one service on Jan. 26 at 10:15 AM, followed by our first annual meeting under our revised by-laws. Instead of 2 meetings each year we will just have this one in January. We will elect members to the Vestry, delegates to the next diocesan convention, and have a presentation on the 2025 church budget. Information on the candidates for these positions will be in the next issue of the Staff. See you there!



## Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas offering was a total of \$1690 to support our food ministry to the homeless. Thank you for your generosity!



## Shepherd's Closet Rummage



Thanks to Deb and her crew for having an after-holiday sale last weekend that raised \$168 towards the 2025 Adopted Families program. January and February will be a time of sorting and reorganizing in preparation for the next sale on the first weekend of March. If you would like to help or have questions about donations, call Deb's cell (1-518-637-1734).

## Altar Flowers:



Most dates in January and February are still available. We will not have flowers on the altar during Lent which begins on March 5<sup>th</sup>. You can have a small vase of flowers placed in the Columbarium on any Sunday. 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.

## Adopted Families



The distribution of gifts to our families went very smoothly and they were all very grateful. We are thankful for all our members and friends who contributed money, time and items to make it possible to bless these families with food, gifts and necessities so they could experience a joyful Christmas holiday. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

## Bible Study



Wednesday Bible Study groups led by David Cooper meets most Wednesdays, resuming after the Christmas break this week. There are two sessions. The group meeting from 4:15 – 5:15 PM is studying the Letter to the Romans. The group meeting from 5:15 - 6:15 PM is studying 2nd Samuel. Both groups welcome new attendees. Let David know you will be there so he can let you into the building (304-494-8790).

## 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:



The People of Israel and Gaza  
The People of Ukraine  
Peggy Roberts - healing  
Vickie Dilley –healing/strength  
Amanda Morris – needs liver transplant  
Jone Johnson – healing/strength  
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing

*Parish Prayer List*  
Marcia Doyle – healing  
Jay Lathrop – healing  
Peter Gevas – healing  
Heyward Roberts – healing  
Diane Cottrill – healing  
Chris Heckman – healing  
Ann Stevens– healing

Eric Dailey – healing  
David Cottrill - healing  
Dee Milhoan – healing/strength  
Shauna Hyde – healing  
Tim Dotson – strength/direction  
Mary Gevas – healing  
Forest fire Victims and firefighters






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

*Those needing healing from cancer*

Glen Kirk	Marlene Cox	David Nevins	Julia Lee
Judy McCoy	David White	Alana Dailey	Chris Angotti
Doris Lowe	Ellis Corra	Gary Greer	Wendy Meredith
Hal Foss	Charles Sterchak	John Stevens	



**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 Sunday, January 26. 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 6/6:15 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 need is someone on Tuesday morning. We also need substitute helpers 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 Larry James or Linda Crocker (see below for our contact information). Katie Beth is still arranging a dedicated phone number for pastoral care emergencies. 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.



## Contact Information:

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa 304-428-1525, ext. 4 [rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com](mailto:rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com)  
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator 304-428-1525, ext. 1 [gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com](mailto:gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com)  
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries 304-428-1525, ext. 5 [LLBC100@msn.com](mailto:LLBC100@msn.com)  
Larry James, Senior Warden 304-482-9661 [blesense@suddenlink.net](mailto: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.

## Calendar Dates

January 20 – Office Closed (Martin Luther King Jr Day)  
January 26 – Annual Meeting and Last Sunday Supper  
February 8 – Vestry Retreat  
February 9 – Souper Bowl Sunday (Our annual canned goods collection for the food pantry)  
February 15 – Installation of The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa as rector of Good Shepherd  
March 5 – Ash Wednesday  
March 31 – Reception of Jim Offenberger as Episcopal church priest



Found on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=celtic%20epiphany>)

## Epiphany By Christina Goergina Rossetti (1830 1894)

They have brought gold and spices to my King,  
Incense and precious stuffs and ivory;  
O holy Mother mine, what can I bring  
That so my Lord may deign to look on me?  
They sing a sweeter song than I can sing,  
All crowned and glorified exceedingly:  
I, bound on earth, weep for my trespassing -  
The sing the song of love in heaven, set free.  
Then answered me my Mother, and her voice  
Spake to my heart, yea answered in my heart:  
'Sing, saith He to the heavens, to earth,  
'Rejoice:  
Thou also lift thy heart to Him above:  
He seeks not thine, but thee such as thou  
art,  
For lo His banner over thee is Love.'

Image Joseph Christian Lavendecker ~

Shared from Celtic Christianity and Music



