



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
December 3, 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

From the Rector

Advent is here! With its arrival, I have now been serving as your rector for one year. I am so grateful for all the ministries we have accomplished alongside one another and for the generosity you so freely share. You might recall that not long after I arrived, one of our youth and young adult crew asked if we could do a chili competition. We had planned to do it on Epiphany and weather forced us to cancel. Well, maybe we are asking for a blizzard (please no!), but we are going to try again.

On Tuesday, Jan. 6th at 6pm, we will have a brief prayer service recognizing the feast, complete with chalking the doorway, followed by a chili competition and Epiphany themed games. This is a wonderful event to bring children and grandchildren to, AND we learned some things from our last competition. This year, we will have a panel of judges in order to move the voting process forward a bit more efficiently. If you would like to serve as a judge, please let me or Linda Crocker know. I know it's barely even December, but I wanted to put this event on your radars. It will conclude no later than 8pm.



Speaking of Tuesdays, I am gauging interest in offering evening prayer opportunities, every Tuesday during Epiphany (so basically the months of January and February). Some of these might be traditional Episcopal evening prayer, but others might be an evening of centering prayer or of listening to classical music. Your church leadership was thinking of offering more opportunities for quiet reflection, and as these things take time to plan, I would be excited to know now if this is something that meets a longing you have for yourself. Please don't hesitate to tell me in person or to email Ginger with your interest. I was thinking these would be at 5:30 or 6pm and last about thirty minutes.

Warmly,

Katie Beth+

Special Notice! Please wear **PINK** to the services on December 14 – it is Rose Sunday. Katie Beth will be wearing her pink stole.

Coming Soon – The Christmas Pageant

Something new is going to happen on Sunday, December 21st. It is a revision (updated) Christmas pageant. Here's what we need:

People of any age to be an animal, an angel or a homeless person, Someone to be the star of Bethlehem. We won't need shepherds and kings this year.

Those playing Gabriel, Mary and Joseph have practices but for the rest of you, there will be one rehearsal to bring it all together. That rehearsal will be Saturday, December 20th, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Please let Carolynne Cooper (304-991-5540) know how you would like to participate. Thanks!



Shepherd's Closet Rummage



Thank you for all your donations this year that have filled our Rummage Room so it is overflowing with bargains. The last sale of the year is this weekend, Friday and Saturday, 9-1. The room will also be open next week for our Adopted Families only. Deb is having surgery later in December and due to a long recuperation will not have a sale again until April. Watch this space for information on when we will be able to resume accepting donations.

Pledges for 2026

Thank you to everyone who has already turned in a pledge card for 2026. Ginger will be preparing sets of offering envelopes later this month for all pledgers. If we don't have your pledge yet, please return it soon. If you are not ready to pledge, you can still have envelopes – just call Ginger and she will prepare a set for you.



Christmas Greetings edition of the Staff



Each year we encourage you to compose a Christmas greeting to share with your Good Shepherd family. It is a wonderful way to share your good wishes with members of the congregation as well as those who can't get here often or have moved away. Please email your greeting to Linda by Dec. 15 (LLBC100@msn.com) or write it on a greeting sheet on a clipboard in the Welcome Center during the next 2 weeks. This special edition of the Staff will be sent out Dec. 17.

Advent is about being prepared! Advent, Christmas and New Year Events for your calendar

Adopted Families – Dec. 8-10

Preparing the Building for Christmas – Thursday mornings, Dec. 11 and 18

Godly Play Event at Trinity – Dec. 20, 10 – 1 (must register)

Blue Christmas Service (Dec. 20 at St Paul's United Methodist at (for people experiencing grief, loss)

Christmas Pageant – Dec. 21 at 10:15 AM followed by Tree Decorating at 11:30 AM

Christmas Caroling – Dec 21, 5:45 PM

Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24 – 7 PM, beginning with music at 6:30. We will have 2 nursery attendants

Epiphany Chili Cook-Off preceded by brief service January 6 at 6 PM

Annual Meeting – Sunday January 25



Altar Flowers

The open flower dates are December 14 (Rose Sunday) and December 28. Altar flowers are \$40/vase; a vase for the columbarium (any Sunday all year) is \$30. Call Ginger to reserve your date and let her know what wording should go into the Sunday bulletin.

Christmas Flowers



Please help us pay for the poinsettias and flowers decorating the Church for the Christmas season. You may dedicate your donation in honor or memory of your loved ones. Write a check with Christmas Flowers in the memo line or use your Christmas Flowers offering envelope. Make sure we know your dedication for the bulletin. The deadline is Dec. 21st with no set fee.

Found on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cac.abq>


Center for Action and Contemplation

Founded by Fr. Richard Rohr and grounded in contemplative traditions.

Our FREE Advent Sit Meditations are back! These gatherings, streamed on YouTube, explore Fr. Richard Rohr's book "Preparing for Christmas." <https://tinyurl.com/4uhf7kzx>

"I've spent this Advent season in silent reflective days," writes a CAC community member named Elise. She continues, "I do not know where this path is leading, but I remain open to the Holy Spirit."

This Christmas season, we invite you to craft your own silent reflective space to create an opening for the Holy Spirit. Join us on YouTube for guided reflective meditations on December 7, December 14, and December 21, at 8:30 a.m. PT — or stream the video replay whenever works best for your busy schedule! <https://tinyurl.com/4uhf7kzx>



"Where is this God being revealed? Not in the safe world, but at the edge, at the bottom, among those where we don't want to find God, where we don't look for God, where we don't expect God. The way we've created Christianity, it seems like it's all about being nice, pretty, middle class, 'normal' and under the law. Here we have in the Gospel stories Jesus, Mary, and Joseph being none of those things. It might just be telling us we should be looking elsewhere."

—Daily Meditations, 2022

LIVE ONLINE 8:30 AM PT EVERY SUNDAY IN ADVENT
cac.org/events

Adopted Families



The last-minute preparations are underway for next week's annual distribution of Christmas joy to the families who have asked for our help (more than 40). Your donations of toiletries, other items, and money are all appreciated so much! Special thanks to the shoppers and organizers that pull it all together. We are still accepting monetary donations to help pay for shoe vouchers for the children — just write Adopted Families in the memo section of your check. Thank you!!!

Thanksgiving Offering

We have collected **\$155** for *Hunters Helping the Hungry*. If you still wish to contribute, there are envelopes marked 'Hunters' in the Welcome Center for your use.



Adult Forum

The book study on *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis will continue through Dec. 21. The group will discuss chapters 9-10 Dec. 7, chapters 11-12 Dec. 14, and finish the book Dec. 21. The group meets at 9 AM in the Junior High Room. There is a follow-up opportunity on Thursdays at noon before the 1 PM healing service.

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 Toni DeVore or Linda Crocker (see below for our contact information).. 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.



Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

Intercessory Prayers:

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



Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

The People of Israel and Gaza	Marcia Doyle – healing	Mary Gevas – healing
The People of Ukraine	Susan Allander – healing	Julie Stover - healing
Victims of gun violence	Nicole Combs - healing	Peter Gevas – healing
Buck Harris – strength/healing	Ann Stevens– healing	Diana Quick - healing
Dee Milhoan – healing	Tom Fielder – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength	Gene Allander – healing	Peggy Roberts - healing
Amanda Morris – healing	Amy Heckman – healing	Wanda Grace Mitchell –healing
Charles Sterchak – healing	Deb Hepburn-McKinney – facing surgery	
Ian Israelsen – job search	Joseph Fielder – continued healing	




Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Sterling Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

Hal Foss	Julia Lee	John Stevens	Judy McCoy	Wendy Meridith
Alana Dailey	Chris Angotti	Doris Lowe	Gary Greer	Lois Switzer
Faith Beha	Mirtala Smith	Everett Gilmore		

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 daily. 
- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read. Your donations are always welcome. We especially need cookbooks and kids' books. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, December 28. Come help set-up and cook 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 food bags to the unhoused or preparing food orders in the pantry for our housed clients, the current need is someone on Monday afternoon. We also need subs occasionally. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed. Also, **we need your used bags**, doubled if possible. 
- ♥ **Adopted Families** – see the article above

Contact Information:

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa	304-428-1525, ext. 4	rector.goodshepherdwva@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
Toni DeVore, Senior Warden	304-991-2259	drtd51@gmail.com

One Call system 1-877-698-3261

This is the way we notify our members of important announcements.
Caller ID will say that the call is from Good Shepherd but it is really from One Call.
Call the number above if you need a message from the church repeated.
If you are not receiving messages, contact Linda to be added to our call list.

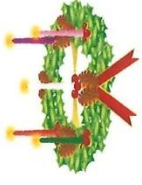
Miss Carolynne and Aubrey at the Last Sunday Supper






















with one of our guests in the background
(and our delicious meal in the foreground!)





Good Shepherd Advent/Christmas Calendar 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Make or find your Advent Wreath and light the 1st candle tomorrow	<i>Dec 1</i> Choose a new dinnertime grace to use during Advent	<i>2</i> Make ornaments from old Christmas cards. (just google it)	<i>3</i> Send Christmas cards to faraway friends 	<i>4</i> Write a Christmas greeting and send it to LLbc100@msn.com	<i>5</i> Count your Blessings while listening to Christmas carols	<i>6</i> St Nicholas Day Read a Christmas story
<i>7</i> Light 2 candles on your Advent Wreath Book Study @ 9:00 AM 	<i>8</i> Give thanks for our Adopted Families volunteers 	<i>9</i> Say a prayer for our Adopted Families 	<i>10</i> Invite someone to go on a winter walk 	<i>11</i>  Make cookies today for a neighbor	<i>12</i> Practice singing Christmas carols 	<i>13</i> Pray for family and friends as you wrap gifts 
<i>14</i> Rose Sunday Light 3 candles on your Advent Wreath Book Study @ 9:00 AM 	<i>15</i> Make some hot chocolate and share it with someone special 	<i>16</i> Spend 17 minutes just relaxing in front of your tree	<i>17</i> Call the office and offer to help hand out food sometime during the next 2 weeks	<i>18</i> Donate individual size food items to our Food Pantry for the homeless 	<i>19</i> Watch a Christmas movie 	<i>20</i> Plan time to relax with friends 
<i>21</i> Christmas Pageant, decorate the church tree, and Caroling at 5:45 to the homebound 	<i>22</i> Read Luke 2: 1-20 and set up your Christmas crèche 	<i>23</i> Give thanks for everyone who has sent you a Christmas card or gift	<i>24</i> Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM (music begins at 6:30)	<i>25</i> Merry Christmas Pray for those alone at Christmas	<i>26</i> Enjoy the wonder of a starry night 	<i>27</i> Put peanut butter on pine cones and hang them for the birds 
<i>28</i> Come help prepare or serve the Last Sunday Supper 	<i>29</i> Write "I love you" notes for your family and put them under their pillows	<i>30</i> Pray for all those who have lost loved ones in 2025 	<i>31</i> Cut out lacy snowflakes for your windows 	Jan 1 2026 Happy New Year! Praise God for blessing you with another year	Jan 2 Sing The 12 Days of Christmas one more time 	Jan 3 Epiphany is next Tuesday with a Chili Cook-off at 6 PM



Diocesan Advent Reflections

*This is a short reflection written by a member of the Diocese of West Virginia.
We give thanks for this year's writers who have offered their gifts to the Diocese in
this Advent season.*

**Wednesday in the First Week of Advent
December 3, 2025**

*Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the
works of darkness, and put on the armor of light,
now in the time of this mortal life in which your
Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great
humility; that in the last day, when he shall come
again in his glorious majesty to judge both the
living and the dead, we may rise to the life
immortal; through him who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



“Advent” comes from the Latin word “adventus” which means “having come toward.” As the collect for the first Sunday in Advent reminds us, Advent is the season in which we remember God coming toward us in the birth of Jesus Christ and also in which we remember that God will come toward us again with Jesus’ return. Advent is a season of watching and waiting and of the contrast of light and dark.

Many churches and homes display an Advent wreath during this season: a visual reminder, through light, of how much longer we must watch and wait before celebrating the birth of Christ. Each week as we draw nearer to Christmas, another candle is lit, and more light dispels the darkness. It’s no wonder that we are called to think of putting on the armor of light and of walking in the light of the Lord during this dark, wintery season. These words bring hope and guidance in what can often feel like dark times.

For some of us, it might be the first Advent without someone we love. As you gaze on the Advent wreath, may you remember how God has come to you in Jesus and God’s promise that Jesus will come again. May you remember that the light shines in the darkness, may you feel it’s warmth, and may you know that the darkness will not overcome you. May you watch and wait with all the expectations this season has to bring.

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa is Rector of Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, Parkersburg.