



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
March 4, 2026

Our mission: To **Worship** God, to **Serve** our neighbors, to **Proclaim** the Good News

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

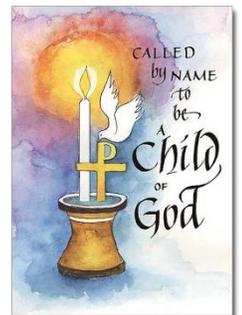
www.goodshepherdwv.org

From the Rector

This coming Sunday, we have the joy of celebrating Laetare Sunday, one of the two official **pink** Sundays of the year. The Latin word “Laetare” means “Rejoice” and the day celebrates a respite from the austerity of Lent. Not only do we invite you to wear **pink** and rejoice with us, but we also invite you to renew your baptismal vows. We will have the honor of welcoming Eleanor May Heckman, great granddaughter of Tom and Linda Simpson, into the community of Christ through the sacrament of baptism. It is a time for us to remember the moment we ourselves entered into Christian community, and the commitments we have made as a result.

In the Episcopal tradition, baptism is both a celebration of new life in Christ and a formal entrance rite into the body of Christ, commonly called the Church. The commitment to renounce sin and turn to Jesus as our Lord may be made by individuals themselves, who are of age, or on behalf of a small child by loving parents and Godparents. Godparents are individuals selected by the family who promise to assist the immediately family in raising the child to know and love God and to know how much God loves them.

Episcopalians are often asked, if a decision is made on behalf of a child, where is the child’s ability to own the choice? There is a deep understanding in our tradition that at some point, no matter how much one is brought up in the love of God, a decision must eventually be made by the one raised in the tradition to own being a member of Christ’s community for themselves. When that happens, we offer the sacramental rite of confirmation. It’s an opportunity for an individual to go before the bishop and their faith community and reaffirm one’s commitment to live by the baptismal vows family members affirmed on their behalf so many years ago. Is confirmation necessary? For the most part, no. Is it a meaningful sacramental rite that many people find life giving and joyful – absolutely.



Historically, the church used Lent as a time of preparation for baptism and, later, confirmation. This means it is an especially great time to contact me if you are interested in learning more about baptism or confirmation. For 2026, our confirmations will take place on May 31st. There is so much more to the richness and history of our faith, and our particular flavor of Christianity, than a short staff article can cover. Please know I am always excited to be asked about sacraments and sacramental rites of the church. My prayer for you this season is that you live ever more into your baptismal vows.

Katie Beth+



Remember that the time will change early Sunday morning. **Spring forward** so you are not late for church!

Shepherd's Closet Rummage



Deb is recovering nicely from her surgery and appreciates your prayer support. Deb says she is ready to accept donations of household items (especially bedding) and small furniture. She is also ready for your donations of spring clothing. The first sale of 2026 will avoid Easter weekend so it will be the 2nd weekend in April – Friday and Saturday April 10 and 11.

Prayers of the People in Lent

Thank you to those who have offered to write a version for one of the Sundays in Lent – Brian Switzer, Toni DeVore, Linda Crocker, and Warren Peascoe. We will have baptismal prayers this week on March 8 and the Lenten prayers will continue March 15 and 22.



Easter Flowers



We welcome your donations to provide flowers for the church for Easter. If you have pledge envelopes you can use the Easter Flowers envelope. Otherwise, you can give a check with Easter Flowers in the memo line. Please include a note with information on the dedication that you would like to have in the Easter bulletin such as “In thanksgiving for...” or “In memory of”. There is no minimum donation required.

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

Lenten Prayer by Henri Nouwen

How often have I lived through these weeks without paying much attention to penance, fasting, and prayer?

How often have I missed the spiritual fruits of the season without even being aware of it? But how can I ever really celebrate Easter without observing Lent?

How can I rejoice fully in your Resurrection when I have avoided participating in your death?

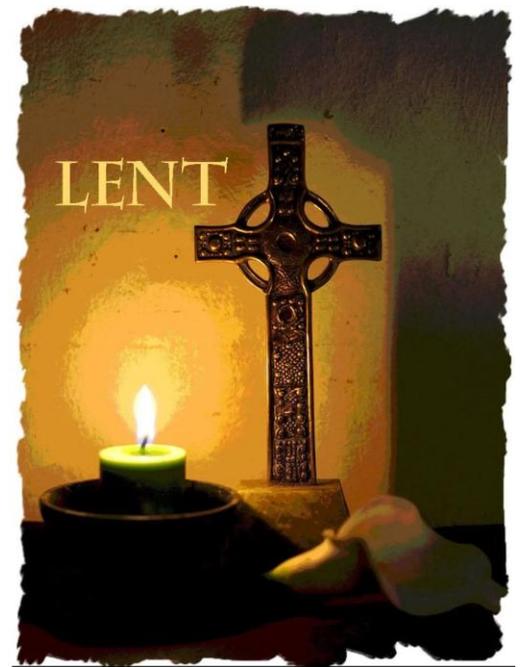
Yes, Lord, I have to die—with you, through you, and in you—and thus become ready to recognize you when you appear to me in your Resurrection.

There is so much in me that needs to die: false attachments, greed and anger, impatience and stinginess....

I see clearly now how little I have died with you, really gone your way and been faithful to it.

O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen.

(From A Cry for Mercy: Prayers from the Genesee, Orbis) Photo by BM Boyle



Books for children

Are you thinking about spring cleaning yet? Are any neighbors having garage sales? We need a lot more children's books for our Little Free Library. Babies, toddlers, beginning readers, growing readers, teens, we need them all. Kid's magazines are good too. But, do not go out and buy new books. They go so fast that it isn't worth it. If you can find some really cheap used books let me know. Thanks for your help. Linda



Easter Egg Hunt



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be after the Easter service on Sunday April 5. We have **plenty** of plastic eggs but welcome donations of candy or small toys/favors to put inside. Please drop off such donations at the office no later than Palm Sunday. Thank you!

Watch Vigil – April 2-3

Each year we team up to keep watch at the side altar from 9 PM Maundy Thursday until noon on Good Friday in one-hour shifts. Our goal is to have at least one person here for each hour. A sign-up board is available in the Welcome Center. This is a special time to sit in silence and candlelight, praying and reflecting on the sacrifice our Lord made for each of us.



Ledra Tanner

We have recently been informed of Ledra's passing on February 18. Ledra and various family members attended Good Shepherd for many years. A Celebration of Life for Ledra will be at Trinity Episcopal Church on Juliana Street this Saturday, March 7 at 1 PM with visitation at Trinity at noon and a reception at Trinity following the service. Please keep Ledra's family and friends in your prayers.

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. 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). 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.



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.

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	Dee Milhoan – healing
Amanda Morris – healing	Margy Yokum – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Gene Allander – healing	Peggy Roberts – healing	Crystal Proper – healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	David Lathrop - grief	Diane Cottrill - healing



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Sterling Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

Hal Foss
Faith Beha
Ellen Faymon

John Stevens
Mirtala Smith

Alana Dailey
Everett Gilmore

Gary Greer
Charles Sterchak

Lois Switzer
Wilbur Lemmon

Deaths

Vickie Dilley, Ledra Tanner, Yvonne Lathrop

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 kids' books (see above). 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, March 29. 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 and Thursday morning. 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. 
- ♥ **Reading Camp – 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 READ!** Time to start planning this year's one- week space-themed camp for struggling elementary-age students. Contact Linda to help.

Coming Up:

March 4 – Lenten Potluck, study and worship (and continuing on Wednesdays through March 25)
March 8 - **Pink** Sunday and Baptism
March 29 – Palm Sunday and Last Sunday Supper

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	drtld51@gmail.com

A note from Linda about the Rector's Day Off

Katie Beth has Monday as her day off. To enable her to have a relaxing break, please do not send a text message on Mondays *unless it is an emergency*. If something comes up that you want to share (before you forget it?) and for all routine matters, you can send an email (see above) for her to read on Tuesday. If you prefer to text, wait until Tuesday. Thank you for supporting Katie Beth in this way.

