



THE CHRISTMAS SHEPHERD'S STAFF

www.goodshepherdwv.org



The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator
December 17, 2025



Worship — Serve — Proclaim!

CHRISTMAS

Saturday December 20

10:00 AM Seeds of Faith Godly Play Event at Trinity
4:00 PM Blue Christmas service at St Paul's UMC



Sunday, December 21—Advent 4

8:00 AM — Holy Communion
10:15 AM — Holy Communion with music and Christmas Pageant
11:45 AM— Decorate the Church—tree, poinsettias
5:45 PM — Christmas Caroling with the Youth — Everyone is invited to participate

Wednesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

9 AM—1 PM— Office Open
6:30 PM—Pre-Service Music and Carols
7:00 PM—Christmas Eve Service



Sunday, December 28— 1st Sunday of Christmas

10:15 AM — Holy Communion
5:30 PM—Last Sunday Supper

We hope everyone will be able to attend these services/events with their friends and family. If you can't get out, the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve service will be streamed on Facebook, as are all 10:15 AM Sunday morning services.

Sunday January 4—2nd Sunday of Christmas

10:15 AM Holy Communion



Tuesday January 6—The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

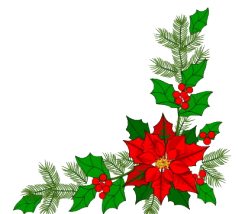
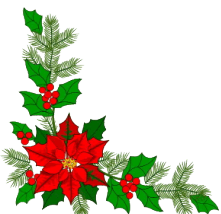
6:00 PM—Short Epiphany Service, Chili Cook-Off & 12th Night Event

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Offering this year will be used to support our Feeding Ministry to the Unhoused. We continue to see a tremendous number of food requests from this population. You may use your Christmas offering envelope or donate by check (note Christmas offering in the memo line) or place cash in the offering plate on Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The church will be decorated for Christmas for our in person and online enjoyment. Please remember to send in your donations for flowers ;
we need to receive them no later than Sunday Dec. 21
so the names of your loved ones can be included in the bulletin.





From the Rector

One of my favorite questions I like to ask folks around this time of year is “What Christmas traditions do you have in your family?” While I honestly cannot recall specific traditions that lasted year after year in my own family, I will never forget those from my friend Andy’s. I remember going over to his house to help decorate their tree, and out came their beer can, yes *beer can*, angel ornaments. Google “pop can angel ornaments,” and you can get the idea. 16-year-old me tried to control the look of incredulity (and probably a little horror thrown in) no doubt flickering across my face as I asked his mom, “Do these go on the tree, too?” I will never forget her answer: “Of course, honey, if you aren’t laughing at Christmas, is there even joy in the room?” While I definitely believe joy can be present without laughter, the point was well taken. The beer can angels were a reminder to not take ourselves, or our traditions, too seriously. A little laughter alongside the fancy silver crosses and pretty glass baubles could surely not hurt.

One of the traditions that is huge in my family is Epiphany. My mom spent several years living in Munich. In that part of Germany, children dress up as the three kings and move around neighborhoods singing carols, collecting alms (and sometimes candy), and offering doorway blessings. Mix that in with a good dose of Cajun culture, which involves delicious king cakes and parades, and one is destined for a joyous remembrance of the search—and eventual finding—of the infant king of kings. As a result, we will try ‘take two’ of our Epiphany celebrations this year. (We were snowed out last year.) Please join us at 6pm on Jan. 6th for a brief Epiphany prayer service complete with a rendition of *We Three Kings* and doorway chalking, followed by a chili cook off, Epiphany games, and plenty of King Cake. I realize this might be the second Shepherd’s Staff in which it has been mentioned; can you imagine that might be because it’s a tradition I have grown to love? Please do share your traditions and stories with me, especially if they involve something as delightfully random as beer can angel ornaments. I would love to know what has brought your family joy over the years. And I hope to see you on Epiphany.

Katie Beth+

Office and Pantry Hours Dec. 22nd through Jan. 4th.

The office will be open Dec. 22 and 23. We will also be open 9 AM - 1 PM Dec. 24 and re-open January 5. The food pantry will be open Monday and Tuesday Dec. 29 - 30, including a food delivery Dec. 30 (can you come help?), as well as 9-1 PM on Dec. 31. Please call Linda (304-428-1525, ext. 5) to schedule a time to help with the Food Pantry or homeless bags on those days since some of our regular helpers will be away.

Pledge Envelopes for 2025 (for those who have turned in a pledge card) will be ready for you to pick up in church beginning at the Christmas Eve service. Remember not to use them until after January 1st.

Pastoral Emergency?

If you have a pastoral emergency while we are closed, don’t hesitate to call Senior Warden Toni DeVore (304-991-2259) or Parish Ministries Coordinator Linda Crocker (304-210-5591). Linda is also available for prayer chain requests at the same number.

May God's love surround
you this season.

Toni DeVore
and
Joe Smith



A very Merry Christmas
and a Joyous New Year!

Carolynne & David
Cooper



My heart greatly
rejoices and with my
song I will praise him
Psalm 28:7b

Merry Christmas.
Tom Blissett

Have yourself
a merry Christmas.

Leslie
Lindholm

The Bible is a gift
from our Creator
(The Truth)

Travis James

May you
have a
blessed
Christmas
filled with
family,
friends, and
JOY.

Bob, Linda,
and
Eva Crocker

Wishing
all a Holiday
filled with Joy and
Laughter

Trish & Ron
Pritchard

May you have a blessed
Christmas and most
happy New Year
Bob & Josie
Wildi

I wish the
church a happy
Christmas and
New Year's!

Dennis
Kingsley

Wishing you the spirit of Christmas, which is **joy**;
the hope of Christmas, which is **peace**;
and the heart of Christmas, which is **love**.

Sam Church





The people walking in
darkness,
have seen a great light.
Isaiah 9:2

Warren and Judy
Peascoe

Merry Christmas to our
Good Shepherd Family.
Have a wonder filled
Christmas and a most
blessed 2026.

Dave, Jone and Lia
Johnson

We wish
you a blessed
Christmas and
a fantastic new
year.

John and Carol
Lathrop

May God's love
be incarnated
in you again this
Christmas.

Art and Linda
Bennett

Peace

Patsi and
Brian
Switzer

Merry
Christmas
Greg Cigal

Many Blessings.
Love you all.
Will miss you like
crazy!

Deb Hepburn-
McKinney

May the Peace of God
be with you this
Christmas season.

Larry
& Ava
James

We wish our Good
Shepherd family a
wonderful Christmas
and a year filled with
peace, joy and love.

Tom & Linda Simpson





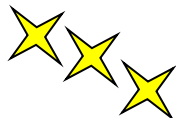
Wishing
you
God's Blessing
in the New Year.
Merry Christmas.

Ginger
Smith



Love, joy & peace
to you & yours.

Buck & Sally Harris



LOVE WAS BORN AT CHRISTMAS

May the love that was born
that night shine brightly in
your heart this Christmas
and
throughout the New Year.

Darlene Slusher



May the light of
Christmas
shine in our lives.

Vickie Bono



We thank
God for "the gift" of our
Good Shepherd family and
the friendship we share
through Christ.
Merry Christmas. Love,
Mary Gevas and
Denise



Blessings
to all!

Cathy
Freed



We
wish
all of our
Church Family
& beyond a Very
Merry Christmas

Teresa Little
& Colin

"For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten
Son..." There is no greater
love. This Christmas season
remember that God loves us
more than we could ever
imagine. Just think how
pleased He will be to see you
pass along some of this love to
others. May you and your
family be blessed with good
health, peace and joy as we
honor and celebrate the birth
of our Lord and Savior, Jesus
Christ.

Alan Parks



Season's
greetings
and
Merry
Christmas!

Roberta
Green
&
Hal Foss



Arf, Arf
Maggie
says
Woofy
Christmas
to all!

Have a Blessed Christmas!



Contact Information:

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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

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