

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
February 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

Psalm 141:2

“Let my prayer be counted as incense before you and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.”

One of the changes implemented in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) was the option for lay people to craft their own Prayers of the People. This was considered revolutionary in Episcopal circles. The BCP's intent in including the various forms was to provide flexible frameworks that the congregation could use to inspire the crafting of their own petitions. This is why p. 383, the first page of the Prayers of the People, explains the “bones” for the prayers, starting with prayer for the Universal Church and moving on down through prayers for the departed.

Recently some folks have expressed interest in crafting the Prayers of the People for our Sunday worship. Lent seems like the perfect time to give it a try. There are four Sundays in Lent available (the actual dates are listed elsewhere in this edition of the Shepherd's Staff). If you would like to choose a Sunday in Lent, please reach out to Linda at llbc100@msn.com to get on the schedule. Please note we are looking for folks to craft the entire set of the Prayers of the People for that Sunday, not just one or two individual prayers. We also expect them to follow the format laid out on p. 383, and for the response to be “Lord, have mercy” as that is the most appropriate Lenten response. The language need not look like that on p.383 or anything else in the prayer book. What matters is that the subjects listed are prayed for, and additional subjects may be added as desired, being mindful of length.

My hope is that this is another opportunity for you all to take ownership of and leadership in your own worship services. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions on the actual writing of the prayers, Linda is doing the scheduling.

Warmly,

Katie Beth+



Annual Meeting

Congratulations to our new Vestry members and Delegates to Diocesan Convention.

Carolynne Cooper, Karen Miller and Carla Werry were elected to 3 year terms on the Vestry and Bob Crocker and Karen Miller will represent us at next fall's Diocesan Convention. Trish Pritchard has been appointed as a Trustee.

Senior Warden Toni DeVore gave a short overview of 2025 at Good Shepherd, highlighting our first full year of Katie Beth's ministry with us, the amazingly successful Capital Campaign, and our many ministries while also suggesting ways we can build on these to connect with more potential volunteers and members.

Katie Beth explained the Narrative Budget and Bob Crocker gave a brief report on the Capital Campaign.

The meeting was recorded. Contact the office if you would like us to send you a copy of the recording or copies of the Narrative Budget and/or Operating Budget.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage

Deb is recovering nicely from her surgery and appreciates your prayer support. She has been spotted in the Rummage Room already but asks that you hold donations for a few more weeks as she and her helpers clear up from Christmas and excess winter clothing.



Souper Bowl Sunday – Feb. 8

Each year we use the date of the NFL Super Bowl to collect food, including soup, for our food pantry. Try to watch for sales on useful items so we can collect a lot without putting too much strain on your budget. Things to look for include:

Packs of individual fruit cups, pudding cups, peanut butter/cheese crackers, juice boxes, cereal boxes, granola bars, instant oatmeal

Canned soup, dinners like ravioli, spaghetti o's with meatballs, spaghetti sauce, vegetables, pie filling

Boxes of pudding or jello mix, brownie mix, hamburger helper, rice-a-roni, scalloped or mashed potato mixes, saltine crackers

64 oz. bottles of juice

3 or 10 ct packs of dried milk

Pancake mix and syrup



Gather your items and bring them to church Feb. 8 or to the office Monday-Thursday this week or next.

Thank you!

Plans for Lent

We will say 'good-bye' to Epiphany with our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, Feb. 17, beginning at 5:30 PM and ending at 6:30. Come for pancakes and sausage, burning of the palms and a pancake flipping race (if we get some competitors). There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for set-up, cooking, or clean-up.

Ash Wednesday is the following day, Feb. 18, with services at noon and 7 p.m. Come prepare yourself for a meaningful Lent.

Prayers of the People in Lent

As explained in Katie Beth's article above, we would like to have 4 people volunteer to write their own version of the Prayers of the People for several of the Sundays in Lent. Those dates are February 22 and March 1, 15 and 22. **Please let Linda know if you would be willing to do this and which date or dates would work for you by next Wednesday, February 11.** Linda needs to prepare the Worship and Welcoming schedule for March and April by Feb. 15th since she will be away at the end of the month.

Wednesday nights in Lent: Join your church community for a potluck meal beginning at 6 PM followed by a program with Katie Beth "*Walking As Jesus*". We will explore how in our work, volunteering, or even in the grocery store, we can practice being Jesus to and for other people. We will finish by 8 PM.

Found on Facebook: This is one of the hymns we sang on Sunday

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=122109664106716979&set=a.122106710210716979>

Christ, be our light.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. *Christ, be our light!...*

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Christ, be our light!...*

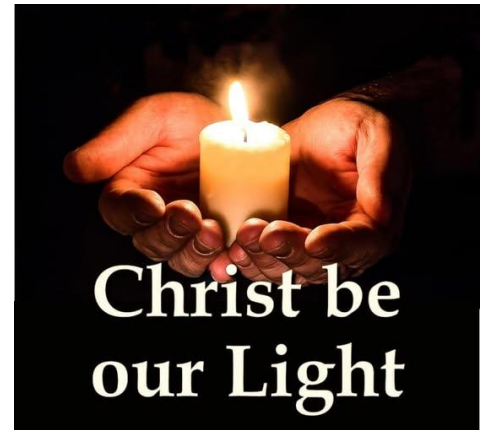
Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Christ, be our light!*

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. *Christ, be our light!*



Words and music: Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)

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.

Welcoming a note or call

Ledra Tanner: 1-740-856-5995 4022 Shervin Way, Converse, TX 78109

♥ **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.



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
Tom Fielder – healing	Amanda Morris – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength	Gene Allander – healing	Peggy Roberts - healing
Wanda Grace Mitchell –healing	Barry Morris - healing	Joseph Fielder – continued healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	Crystal Proper – healing	Lynn Budno – healing
Margy Yokum - 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	Charles Sterchak	Roger Myers

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. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, February 22. 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. 
- ♥ **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.

Dates Coming Up:

February 8 – Souper Bowl Sunday – Annual collection of non-perishables for our Food Pantry

February 17 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – details to follow

February 18 – Ash Wednesday. Services at Noon and 7 PM

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