



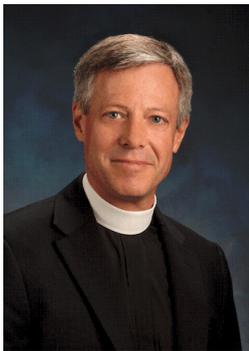
THE GOOD SHEPHERD

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Volume 49, Issue 12



THE STORY: READ IT AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME



In Advent, we remember our Story. Our liturgy, our powerful lectionary readings, prepare us for the coming of Jesus. They proclaim Him as the culmination of God’s great plan of salvation and God’s rescue mission to the human race...beginning with Abraham and Sarah, continuing through the patriarchs and prophets, the Kingdom of David, the exile and return, and John the Baptist, all coming together in Bethlehem at the birth of our Lord. As Fr. Phillips Brooks wrote in ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’: “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”

This year, what begins in Advent will continue throughout the year, as we Journey together through *The Story*. As many will recall, *The Story* is our story, our scripture, from the beginning to the end, but told in a chronological sequence so we can see God’s great plan of salvation as it unfolds before us. *The Story* is so much more than a book. It is a complete guide to the Bible for all ages and stages of faith, from our newest disciples to our most experienced apostles. New to all this? *The Story* will help you embrace all of scripture, without getting bogged down in Leviticus! Seasoned Bible-reader? *The Story* will help you see new connections, new depth, in each reading. Parents of young children? *The Story* will equip you to tell our story to your children. We will walk through *The Story* in our Liturgy, and it will be the center of our Christian education program for adults, youth and little ones. Every week all ages will learn about the same episode from *The Story*, so we can talk about them together on the car ride home, at the dinner table, even while we’re out shopping.

We are so pleased to be offering *The Story* in 2020. On January 12 we will have an ‘Orientation to the Story’ in Munds Hall at Sunday School time. We’ll get an overview of this powerful journey that we’re embarking on. Books for adults, young folks, and little ones will be available for those who need them. Come out, share the excitement as we take our first steps together into our story, *The Story*.

Philip+

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



ADVENT 1

Sunday, December 1

Holy Eucharist - 8:00 am, 10:30 am & 5:30 pm

Candle Making & Chili Supper

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Munds Hall Auditorium

Come make candles for Advent and bring a pot of chili, cornbread or dessert to share. Fun for the whole family!

ADVENT 2

Sunday, December 8

Holy Eucharist - 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 5:30 pm

Caroling at Trinity Towers

4:00 p.m. at 101 N. Upper Broadway

ADVENT 3

Sunday, December 15

Holy Eucharist - 8:00 am

The Christmas Pageant

10:30 am service (No Holy Eucharist)

Join us for this festive re-enactment of the birth of our Lord, Jesus. All children and youth are invited to participate! Please bring cookies to share in the Parlor.

Lessons and Carols

5:30 pm in the Sanctuary (No Holy Eucharist)

A festival of music and scripture in the sanctuary (This service will take the place of our "Come As You Are" service.)

ADVENT 4

Sunday, December 22

8:00 am, 10:30 am & 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist
(No Sunday School and No Breakfast Fellowship)

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

Two Services Christmas Eve:

4:30 p.m. Christmas Carols

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

10:30 pm Christmas Carols

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Offering beautiful music, scriptures, and a Eucharist celebration.



CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25

10:30 am Christmas Day Service

Join us for this joyful worship on Christmas morning. This is a quiet and reflective service.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

⚡ ADVENT ⚡ CHILI SUPPER

Sunday, December 1
6:30 p.m.
Munds Hall Auditorium



Bring a pot of chili,
cornbread, or
dessert to share.

Chili Cook-Off for
those interested!

Music & Fun for
the Whole
Family!

BRING THE HEAT!

Women of the Church

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Musical presentation by St. James Scholars,
followed by a Christmas Sing-a-Long.

Tuesday, December 10

12:00 noon Luncheon
Munds Hall Auditorium

(No Business Meeting this Month)

Suggested Lunch Donation: \$10.00
Free Valet Parking
Nursery Available with Reservation

rsup to the Church Office at 361.882.1735



Christmas Pageant

"The Best Little Christmas Pageant in South Texas!"

Please join us for our annual Christmas Pageant put on by the
Youth and Children of Good Shepherd.

Sunday, December 15
10:30 a.m.
in the Sanctuary
(No Holy Eucharist at this Service)

This is a meaningful and joy-filled service for our congregation.

Lessons & CAROLS

Christmas Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 15
5:30 p.m.

at Church of the Good Shepherd



Featuring Adult Choir and Handbell Choir of
Church of the Good Shepherd

The Ministry of Music of the Church of the Good Shepherd
presents a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.
Our adult choir and handbell choir will present this service
of joyful preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus.

This Lessons and Carols Service will take the place of our regular
5:30 Sunday "Come as You Are" Service.

MISSION & OUTREACH

ANGEL TREE for Children at Kostoryz Elementary

We have placed paper angels on small white trees in the Narthex and in the Church Office with the names and ages of children at Kostoryz Elementary who are in need. Please take an angel if you can and then buy the items for that child, place it in the gift bag, and bring it to the Church Office. (Gift bag provided.)



There is a sign-up sheet with the angel trees. It is important to put your name on the sign-up sheet so we know who has committed to each child. Each gift bag should include **one jacket, one pair of shoes, and one or two toys.** (Sizes and interests are indicated on the paper angels.)

Deadline to bring gifts to the Church is December 16th.

CAROLING AT TRINITY TOWERS



Bring the whole family and spread the joy of Christmas!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
4:00 P.M.

TRINITY TOWERS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
101 N. UPPER BROADWAY

WHEELCHAIR RAMP MINISTRY

Monday, December 21

8:00 a.m.

Location to be Announced

The Episcopal Ministries of Corpus Christi join together each month to build wheelchair ramps for families in need in our community. The location will be announced soon. Email Doug Wayland if with questions dwayland@stx.rr.com.

SALVATION ARMY MOBILE CANTEEN

Monday, December 23

5:30 p.m.

Munds Hall Auditorium

The Salvation Army Mobile Canteen is a vital outreach to the homeless in our community. Come join us in preparing meals and delivering them on the streets of our city. Call the Church Office at 882-1735 if you have questions.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who put together shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. You are a blessing to the children who will be receiving your thoughtful gifts and your prayers. Our congregation provided 62 boxes for children around the world.



Coming Back to Good Shepherd in 2020



THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

We are going through the whole Bible in 2020! There is no better way to grow your faith than to know and live in God's Word.

The Story is a resource that makes the Bible more readable and understandable than ever! All of the stories of the Bible have been collected from a contemporary translation and are placed in chronological order, so it reads like a novel. Each chapter is connected with the last, so that God's great deeds and dealings with our world are told in one seamless narrative. If you have ever wanted to better understand the Bible, or experience its transforming power, you will never have a better opportunity.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Stewardship

BY THE NUMBERS

2020

1,300,000 Stewardship Budget for 2020

963,000 Amount Pledged for 2020 so far

337,000 Pledges Needed as of November 22, 2019

74% of Stewardship Budget Received for 2020 so far

470 Total Number of Good Shepherd Member Households

176 Number of Pledges returned for 2020 so far

294 Number of Church Member Households not yet pledged

245 Number of Pledge Cards returned Last Year (For 2019)

100% Goal of Household Participation

* All figures are as of November 22, 2019.

VESTRY NOMINEES FOR 2020

The following members of the church have graciously agreed to be nominated for vestry. We will vote on 6 new vestry members at our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 26th.

Tiffany Batchelor
Jennifer Childers
Jimmy Clark
Ben Donnell
Carrie Gilley
Charles Kaffie
Scott Landreth
Dana Madry
Laurelyn Pohlmeier
Henry Sapp
Nowery (Boo) Smith
Elizabeth Stewart

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"MINI CLASS" FOR YOUNG PARENTS

"Our Faith and Our Brain"

Led by Youth Minister, Glenn Meschko

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Dobbins Hall Classroom

Sundays, November 17 - December 8

(4 Weeks)



There have been some amazing findings regarding the brain. Like brain development, there is faith development. We will spend four weeks discussing the relationship between brain growth and spiritual growth...each operates in stages. We will talk about what that means for children and youth, ages birth to eighteen. Our first class will begin November 17, and our last class will take place December 8.

This is a great opportunity for all parents in all stages of parenting.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT INFORMATION

Sunday, December 15

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

CHILDREN: (3 years - 5th Grade)

All children are invited to participate in our annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 15th. This is a meaningful and joy-filled pageant for the entire congregation. Children ages 3 - 5th grade are encouraged to participate.

Parts will be assigned on the Sunday before the pageant - December 8th. We will practice our parts during Sunday School, so be sure to attend that day!

On the day of the pageant, please come to Foster Hall to get dressed at 9:30 a.m.

YOUTH: (6th -12th Grade)

All youth are invited to participate in the pageant. If you have a youth that would like to be part of this special re-enactment of the birth of our Lord, Jesus, please call Glenn Meschko in the Church Office at 882-1735. We would love for you to participate!

Rehearsal will be Saturday, December 14th at 1:30 for Middle School and 2:00 for High School.

On the day of the pageant, please come to the Youth House to get dressed at 9:30 a.m.

KINGDOM KIDS

No Kingdom Kids in December.
Please join us in January.

CHRISTMAS EVE FOR CHILDREN



CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

We will offer a special children's Christmas Eve service in the Children's Chapel at 5:00 p.m. for children age 3 through 2nd grade. There will be Christmas liturgy, stories, music and more that is age-appropriate.

Children will join their parents in the sanctuary for communion.

CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITION

For generations little ones have left their shoes around the Courtyard just before the Christmas Eve services, only to find them filled with candy as they depart after the service.



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



A Message from the Youth Minister

A few weeks ago our High School group took a walk to the bay to worship. It was a time for students to reflect on their lives and on God. It was simple, but also profound as we invited God to be with us at that moment. As I participated in this unique style of worship, I began to think about our students. There are so many voices that they hear these days. Voices telling them to succeed, overachieve, conform, and to be the best person they can be. These qualities are important to make it in the world today, but there is a price of pressure that comes with it. As we participated in the very simple way of worship, I saw clearly that this is where God can show up; in these quiet and simple ways of being in God's presence. It is important for our students to have these opportunities of reflection. George Webster played the guitar as we sang along and praised God together. Father William Campbell presented the Eucharist. It was one of those nights that God was present. He was there in a very simple and profound way. We may never be able to gauge or understand what impact that night had on our young people. What we do know is God was with us that night.

+In His Peace,
Glenn Meschko



Then he was told, "Go, stand on the mountain at attention before God. God will pass by." 1 Kings 19:11-12

ADVENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR YOUTH

Sunday, December 1: Advent Chili Supper at 6:30 p.m. and Fun in the Gym 7:15 - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 8: Christmas Carols at Trinity Towers at 4:00 p.m.

Middle School Christmas Activity: Meet at "Get Air" at 5:30 p.m.

Cost is \$15 and pizza will be provided.

Saturday, December 14: Christmas Pageant Practice for Youth in the Sanctuary

Middle School Begins at 1:30 p.m. and High School Begins at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 15: Christmas Pageant at 10:30 a.m. (Arrive at the Youth House at 9:30 a.m.)

High School Christmas Party - Progressive Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

We will begin at the Liles' home. Wear an ugly Christmas sweater and bring a white elephant gift (\$10 or less)

WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist (Rite I)
8:45-9:30 a.m. Breakfast Fellowship
9:30-10:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m. Family Eucharist (Rite II)
5:30 p.m. "Come As You Are" Eucharist (Rite II)

Nursery For the Little Ones

0 - 2 Years in the Nursery 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
3 Years - Kinder in Children's Chapel 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
From Children's Chapel they join their families in Church before Communion.

Sunday School Classes

Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Children Meet in the Water Street Classrooms
Youth Meet in the Water Street Classrooms
Adults:
Large Group w/Rev. Black & Rev. May in Munds Hall Auditorium
Young Families w/ Glenn Meschko in Dobbins Hall Classroom
Small Group w/Rev. Fuller in Munds Hall Library

Weekday Services

Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. Midday Eucharist (Rite II)
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Monthly Services

Church of the Good Shepherd offers a service of Holy Communion at the Trinity Towers retirement community at 3:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month.

St. James Chapel Services*

Tuesdays at 8:05 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer (Middle School Chapel)
Tuesdays at 8:40 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer (Lower School Chapel)
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. St. James Preschool Chapel
Thursdays at 8:10 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer (All School Chapel)

* During the school year

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