



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JULY NEWSLETTER

2026

Volume 56, Issue 7

A Message from the Rector



Dear Good Shepherd Family,

I want to let you know that Glenn Meschko, our Director of Youth Ministries, has accepted a new call as Director of Youth Ministries at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston. Glenn's last Sunday with us will be July 26th when we will celebrate his seven years of ministry at Good Shepherd and send him off with our love and thanks. While we are sorry to see Glenn go, we are excited for him and Keri as they step into this new and wonderful opportunity. (Please see Glenn's letter to the congregation on the next page.)

Transitions are a regular part of life in ministry and although they often cause us to wonder about the future, they are always opportunities for growth and new life. We are blessed to have a thriving children's and youth ministries with so much to look forward to as we seek the next person whom God has called to step into this role. These next months will be a time of re-assessing where we are and what type of program will best support our youth in their life of faith.

I will be calling upon the leadership of The Rev. William Campbell, along with the Youth Advisory Committee to begin to vision our future together. Additionally, we will be calling on volunteers to assist us in the interim. Thank you all in advance for your support and understanding.

Please keep our Youth in your prayers as well as Glenn and Keri Meschko as they make their transition to Houston.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Milton +

A MESSAGE FROM GLENN MESCHKO

Dear Church of the Good Shepherd and St. James Episcopal School Family,

After much prayer and discernment, I have accepted a call to serve as Director of Youth Ministries at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston. My last day at Church of the Good Shepherd and St. James Episcopal School will be July 26.

It is difficult to put into words what my time here has meant to me. Serving as Director of Youth Ministries at Good Shepherd and teaching at St. James have been among the greatest privileges of my ministry. Together we have shared countless moments of faith, growth, laughter, worship, service, camps, retreats, mission trips, chapel services, youth group gatherings, and everyday conversations that have shaped both my life and the lives of the young people we serve.

Keri and I are especially grateful for the love, friendship, and support we have experienced during our time here. This community has been far more than a place of ministry and work. It has been a place where we have been encouraged, cared for, and welcomed as part of a church family. The relationships we have built here will remain a treasured part of our lives for years to come.

I am deeply grateful for the support, encouragement, and trust that you have shown me throughout my ministry here. To the clergy, staff, teachers, parents, volunteers, and congregation, thank you for partnering with me in the important work of helping children and young people grow in their faith and discover God's love for them.

To the students, thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey. Watching you grow into thoughtful, compassionate, and faithful young people has been one of the greatest joys of my ministry. I have learned as much from you as I hope you have learned from me.

While we are excited about this new chapter, leaving Good Shepherd and St. James is not easy. This church and school have become home to us, and the friendships and memories we carry with us will always hold a special place in our hearts. We leave with deep gratitude for the many ways God has worked through this community and for the privilege of sharing life and ministry with you.

Please know that Keri and I will continue to pray for Church of the Good Shepherd and St. James Episcopal School as you continue your mission of forming disciples, serving others, and sharing the love of Christ.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving alongside you. It has been an honor, a blessing, and a season of ministry that we will always cherish.

With gratitude and affection,

Glenn Meschko

CHURCH COMMUNITY

Confirmation Class for 2026-2027

Confirmation for our young church members occurs in the 6th grade. We will begin a new year of confirmation class for rising sixth graders in September. We believe that our young people are on a journey, and that at this age they are in a position to accept for themselves what was accepted for them at Baptism. The confirmation class is designed to provide spiritual direction and teach the traditions of the Church. If you would like your child to participate in Confirmation next school year, contact Sandy McCampbell at 361-779-7742.

If you are older than sixth grade, have never been confirmed, and would like to be, please contact Rev. William Campbell at 361-882-1735.



Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day. We wish you a happy and safe holiday weekend.



Summer Mode at Good Shepherd

Regular Sunday Worship Services:

8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Adult Sunday School on Scripture Readings:

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in the Parlor

Nursery and Kid's Zone on Sundays:

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Weekday Service:

Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.

Church Office Summer Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Morning Prayer will continue!

Breakfast Fellowship, children's Sunday school, other adult Sunday school classes, all choirs, and children's chapels will resume in the fall.

Give Before You Go!

If you are planning to be gone for an extended period of time this summer, please consider giving before you go. The church is dependent upon a consistent inflow of your contributions and pledge payments even in the summer months.

Three ways you can make a contribution:

Online at cotgs.org

On our Church App

Mail a Check to the Church Office



CHURCH COMMUNITY

Youth Summer Mission Trip to Kerrville

Thursday, July 16 - Saturday, July 18
For Youth in 6th - 12th Grade

Parents and Youth from Good Shepherd will be partnering with St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Kerrville as we serve families in that community with ongoing flood relief efforts.

Possible Projects Include:

- Plant grass along the river
- Cleanup and rebuild
- Deliver items
- Other projects as needed

Please keep this group of youth and parents in your prayers as they serve.



YOUNG FAMILIES BEACH EUCHARIST

Sunday, August 16
5:30 p.m.
Newport Pass Beach
on Mustang Island
(at the End of Zahn Road)



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

Sunday, August 16
10:30 a.m.

All students and teachers are welcome to come and receive a special blessing to start the new school year!



We Welcome Charissa Fenton to our Children's Ministries Team!

We are excited to add Charissa Fenton to our Good Shepherd Children's Ministries team! Charissa began her time with us the week before VBS...what a way to start! She comes to us from San Antonio and has recently completed her MA in Religion at Trinity Anglican Seminary. Additionally, she has a BA in Cinema and New Media Arts from Houston Baptist University. Charissa is the daughter of an Episcopal priest and was raised in Christ Episcopal Church, San Antonio. Be sure to give her a warm welcome when you see her around our campus!



Church of the Good Shepherd Women of the Word Summer Gathering



MEET for MAHJONG

**Sunday, August 2
12:30 - 3:00 p.m. in Munds Hall Auditorium**

Women of the Word is ready for their next fellowship gathering! Come for an afternoon of Mahjong! This is for women of the church and their friends. Bring a salad, appetizer, or dessert to share.

There will be: Open Play - Guided Play - Beginner Class

Debbie Newman is a Mahjong instructor and member of Good Shepherd. She will coordinate the event and teach the beginner class.

For Guided and Open Play, please bring your NMJL 2026 card.

For Beginners, all materials will be provided.

Use the QR code to Register Online or call the Church Office
(Suggested Donation is \$5)



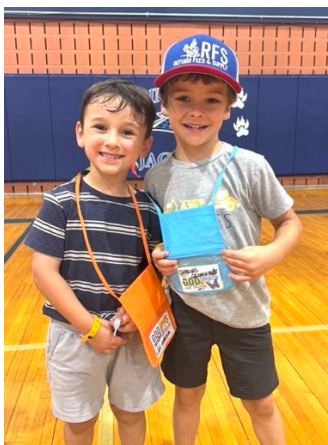
CHURCH COMMUNITY

Vacation Bible School was a Blessing to All!

Vacation Bible School 2026 was pure joy! We were able to spread the Word of God and the light and love of Jesus to 160 children from Good Shepherd, St. James, and beyond! The children, counselors, and adult volunteers were all blessed by this ministry.

Thank you to all of the wonderful adult volunteers and counselors who helped make VBS possible. You shined the light of Jesus through your faith, commitment, and love.

We would also like to thank everyone who gave donations to VBS whether it was a monetary donation, donating snacks, or creating our decorations. Everyone in our church community came together to bless our children.



A July 4th Message from our Bishops

...the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (Rev. 22:2)

Major anniversaries are opportunities for Christians to reflect, give thanks, and see where God has been working and moving in our lives and communities. As July 4th approaches, there are two anniversaries on the minds of many in the Diocese of West Texas this year.

This July 4th is the first anniversary of the devastating flood that claimed so many lives along the Guadalupe River last summer. As we approach this anniversary, we do so with feelings of both sorrow and gratitude. On this first anniversary, we mourn with those who lost family members and dear friends, neighbors and fellow parishioners, children and grandchildren, homes and a way of life. We pray with and for those who are heart broken. We also give thanks for the incredibly generous outpouring of love, financial contributions, prayers and hours of ministry which continue to bring healing, relief and hope to the Hill Country. Jesus taught, "blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." (Matt. 5:4). We pray that pausing to remember this anniversary in our congregations and homes will bring some small comfort to those who mourn, and remind us all that the God of Hope is with us.

This July 4th, America celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the declaration of her independence and the birth of our nation. We give thanks for those founders who had a vision of a country that could be, "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." We give thanks for the countless men and women in every generation who ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy: those who served in our Armed Forces; local, state and national political leaders; Civil Rights workers and Judges.

When a people have a big dream, they constantly live between the present and the "not yet." While America is a great nation, the American dream is not yet fully realized and fully experienced by all people. We have deep political divisions which need healing. Poverty still imprisons some. And we sometimes fail to live-into the truth that all people are created equal. We have work to do to realize the vision described by our founders, and the dream cast by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. America cannot rest until all experience the opportunities, freedoms, justice and peace for which every generation of Americans has aspired. This year we celebrate our 250th birthday, give thanks and recommit ourselves to obtain that beautiful vision for all people.

In the Revelation to John, the author is given a vision in which God makes God's home among mortals in a new Jerusalem. John describes that in this city runs a river, and on its bank grows the Tree of Life, whose leaves "are for the healing of the nations." This July 4th, let us pray for the healing of those who still grieve the tragedy of last summer's flood, and for the power to continue to work for their relief. May we give thanks for God's abundant blessings on our nation, the courage of those who made it possible, and the strength to continue to strive for liberty and justice for all.

Peace,

+David Read

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D.
Bishop of West Texas

+Angela Continas

The Rt. Rev. Angela Cortinas
Bishop Suffragan of West Texas

WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m.	Traditional Eucharist
8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Fellowship (<i>Resumes in the Fall</i>)
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Family Eucharist
5:30 p.m.	Come As You Are Service

Nursery For the Little Ones

6 months - 2 Years in the Nursery 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Kid's Zone is next door to the nursery for children 3 years-old through Kindergarten.

Sunday School Classes

Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Children Meet in the Water Street Classrooms - *Resumes in Fall*
Youth Meet in Munds Hall Auditorium - *Resumes in Fall*

Adults:
Living Word w/Rev. Black in the Parlor
All other adult classes resume in the Fall.

Weekday Services

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

Monthly Services

We offer a service of Holy Communion at the Trinity
Towers/Brookdale retirement community at 3:30 p.m. on
the first Sunday of every month.

St. James Chapel Services

(Resume in August)

Tuesdays at 8:05 a.m. Middle School Chapel
Tuesdays at 8:45 a.m. K- 4th Grade Chapel
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Preschool Chapels (4 services)
Thursdays at 8:05 a.m. All School Chapel

Parents are welcome at All School Chapel on Thursdays.