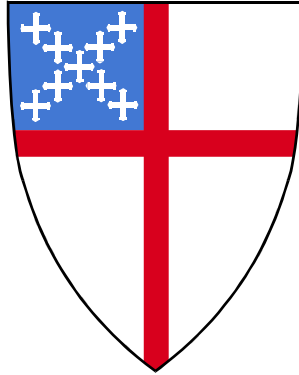


The Agnus Dei



Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd
& Christ Lutheran Church
ELCA

3417 Sherwood Way

San Angelo, TX 76901

325-212-5087 & 325-949-3221

The Rt. Rev. C. Wallis, Ohl, Jr., Episcopal Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Kevin Kanouse, ELCA Bishop

The Rev. Celia Ellery, Episcopal Priest-In-Charge

The Rev. Bill Wright, Assisting Episcopal Priest

Vicar Diane Terrazas, Lutheran Pastor

Mrs. Candi Wolfe, Parish Secretary

Mrs. Charlene Bustos, Choirmaster & Organist

December 2007



“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.”

—*Hymnal 1982, # 76*

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year, church year, that is! It seems that in the middle of all of our busyness this time of year, it’s easy to forget that Advent is the beginning of the new cycle of seasons in our church. As with any new year, there is awe, expectation, and excitement, mixed with a little bit of trepidation at what the coming year will bring.

I imagine Mary felt much the same way when she found out she was carrying a child by the Holy Spirit. In Matthew’s Gospel, the angel of the Lord appears to Joseph, not Mary, and tells him not to be afraid to take her as his wife, that the child Mary is carrying is from the Holy Spirit and that “he shall be named Emmanuel, which means, God is with us” (*Matt. 1:20, 23*). Glad tidings indeed, as the hymn tells us!

I’d like to encourage you this Advent season to take some time to slow down, not just every now and then when you have some free time, but instead, schedule time into your day to be quiet and listen. Often, our prayers become one-way, with our doing all the talking. Instead, be still and listen, without expecting anything. As you sit in the quiet, with the TV off, the cell phone off, the computer monitor off, try being still and quiet for several minutes. It’s harder to do than it seems. Five minutes of quiet might seem like an eternity, but you’d be surprised what God can reveal to you in five or ten minutes of silence. I believe that noise often distracts us from the still, small voice of the Spirit. Especially during Advent, I pray that you will make room in your schedule and in your heart for our Lord to come in.

I also encourage you to attend our Taize service on Wed., Dec. 5, at 7:00 p.m.. It will be an evening of music, readings, prayer, and silence: a very quieting way to begin Advent. The music of Taize and the slow pace of the service have a way of penetrating to the deepest places in our souls, refreshing us with God’s peace.

“Prepare the way of the Lord,” cries John the Baptist. Let us strive to do the same.

In Christ,

Celia+

Stewardship

We were blessed to have Rev. Bill Wright be our guest speaker for our Stewardship Dinner that was held Nov. 10th. As Fr. Bill explained, when you tithe and are committed to Christ and the church, the Lord always has a way of blessing you more than what you gave. However, God loves you if you choose to tithe, and he still loves you if you don't! The point is to give thankfully. We would like to thank Fr. Bill and his wife, Pat, for being such sincere supporters of our church. *If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office at 212-5087. We need to collect all pledges by Dec. 15th so we can prepare our budget.



Fellowship at Convention

Our thanks to Lutheran friends for adding to the joyful music with the combined choirs of Emmanuel, Good Shepherd, and Christ Lutheran. Also thanks to Judith Lester & Mike Ryan for the new banner and holder with stand (at the left, second from the front).



Holiday Schedule



Sun., Dec. 2nd, begins the season of Advent. We will have evening prayer each Wednesday of Advent at 7 p.m. Potluck dinner begins each Wed. at 6 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 2nd Episcopal communion at 10:45 a.m. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.

Wed., Dec. 5th Taize service at 7:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:00.

Sun., Dec. 8th, we will have the hanging of the greens at 4:00 p.m., pot-luck dinner at 5:00 p.m. and gift exchange at 6:00 p.m..

Sun., Dec. 9th Lutheran service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.

Sun., Dec. 16th Lutheran service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.

Sun., Dec. 22nd, Meet at 6:30 p.m. in Christ Lutheran parking lot to go Christmas caroling to our shut-ins.

Sun., Dec. 23 Episcopal communion at 10:45 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Mon., Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) — Episcopal communion at 7:00 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 25th (Christmas Day) — Episcopal Communion (said service) at 11:00 a.m.

Sun., Dec. 30th Lutheran communion service at 9:00 a.m. Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

**The church office will be closed Mon. & Tues., Dec. 24th & 25th.*

Prayer List

Please remember these in prayer: Margaret Kauh, Jean Ray, Josette Lamphiere, Bill Griffiths, Zachary Cockburn, Marjorie Broome, Mary Godbold, Margaret Wells, Milly Way, Jasper, Phil & Jackie, Rebecca, Carolyn & Tiffany, Roy Lacy, Jenna Ryan, David & family, Dorene Edborg, Joe Burk, Johnny, Conchita, Clairise, T. J., Cathie Keller, Pat Wright, Jack Best, Georgia King, Franklin Schadle, Earlene Ham, Tom Curran, Justin Shaw, Sarah and children, Leo Paul, Mildred Sheldon, Dean Bolen, Justin Paschich, Crystal & Brian Purington

Deployed Military: Janelle Bustos, Vidal Garza, Jessica Macias, John Griffis, Jake Freeman, Seth Marquez, Adam Watkins, Jack Cronfield, Jordan Boyd, Josh Beard, Roland Allen, Jr., David Moos, Derek Rabuck





Congratulations and many blessings to our new members of the Order of the Daughters of the King who were inducted in September (Emmanuel) and November (Good Shepherd). (Front row) Pilar McKeel, Hope Garza, Candí Wolfe, Judith Lester, & Gail Camp, (Second row) Marissa Danhiem, Phyllis Rose, and Lockie - Sue Bissett . Through Christ we are here to serve with prayer, service and evangelism. Please contact Fran Gregg (949-7747) for more information or for prayer concerns.

What is Taizé ?

As Advent begins, you may be asking yourself what you can do to more fully experience the meaning of the season. Taizé (pronounced teh-ZAY) is a prayer service that emerges from an ecumenical community of monks in Taizé, France. Brother Roger, Taize's founder, arrived in the village of Taizé, France in 1940. In the midst of World War II, he dreamed of creating a community where reconciliation was a daily reality. He began by giving shelter to refugees of the war, especially Jews. Brother Roger recognized that the search for reconciliation was within each individual as well as within the community. Initially, the Taizé founder lived alone, until brothers from various Protestant and Catholic backgrounds followed. Today, as an ecumenical monastic community, Taizé is a sign of reconciliation. People from around the world, especially young people, come to Taizé looking for meaning in their lives as they prepare for responsibilities in their own communities.

Taizé prayer is a quiet simple way of prayer designed for people of all Christian traditions. These meditative candlelit services include simple chants sung repeatedly; rich silence; and prayers of praise and intercession.

With the ever increasing stresses in our lives, this prayer service focuses specifically on Gods love, mercy and compassion for us. Please join us for a Taizé service on **Wed., Dec. 5, at 7:00 p.m.**

Sunday & Weekly Classes offered at Christ Lutheran & Good Shepherd

Sunday School: (9:30-10:30 a.m.)

Pre-K thru K — Nursery

Adult Bible Study — Fellowship Hall

Weekday: College (UCM) — Mon., 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study — Tues., 9:30-11:00 (FH)

Youth — WEDNESDAY @ 6:00 p.m., Baker Street Coffee Shop

December 2007

		1	
2	1 st Sunday in Advent Episcopalian Svc. Rev. Celia Ellery w/communion	3	4 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Communion Svc.
5	1 st Wed. in Advent Advent Service 6:00 p.m. - meal 7:00 p.m. - worship Rev. Celia Ellery	6	7
8	Hanging of the Greens 4:00 p.m. Greens 5:00 p.m. Meal 6:00 p.m. Gifts	15	14
9	2 nd Sunday in Advent Lutheran Svc. Rev. Bill Wright w/communion	10	11 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Communion Svc.
12	2 nd Wed. in Advent Advent Service 6:00 p.m. - meal 7:00 p.m. - worship Rev. Bill Wright	13	20
16	3 rd Sunday in Advent Lutheran Svc. Rev. Bill Wright w/communion	17	18 9:30 a.m. Bible Study a.m. 11:00 Communion Svc. Council Meeting 5:30
23	4 th Sunday in Advent Episcopalian Svc. Rev. Celia Ellery w/communion	24	7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service w/communion
30	9:00 a.m. Svc. Lutheran Svc.	31	
19	3 rd Wed. in Advent Advent Service 6:00 p.m. - meal 7:00 p.m. - worship Rev. Bill Wright	26	25 Christmas Communion Service 11:00 a.m.
22	21	27	28
29	29		

REFLECTIONS ON STEWARDSHIP *(given on Nov. 11, 2007)*

One of my favorite quotations from Scripture is a little-noticed statement of Jesus: "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions" (*Luke 12:15*). It is well worth putting on the doorposts of our homes and on our walls.

I was once called to a parish that was in desperate financial trouble. The bishop had warned me that their finances were terrible as had their search committee and Vestry. Actually the finances were much worse than I had been led to believe. There were no reserves and what came in on Sunday had to be used to pay the bills. We had a campus of seven buildings. Three had been completely abandoned and the ceiling had fallen on the library in one of those buildings. Our building debt was over \$700,000 with large monthly mortgage payments. The congregation that had once been quite large numbered only about 200 people.

About two months after I arrived we had a serious Vestry meeting in which we were going to decide whether to petition the diocese for the parish to become a mission or to close. One member of the Vestry remembered stewardship education he had a year before. Churches were encouraged to love their neighbors as they loved themselves, meaning that, in a materialistic society, striving to give 50% of their income away for the development of outreach ministry would be the norm.

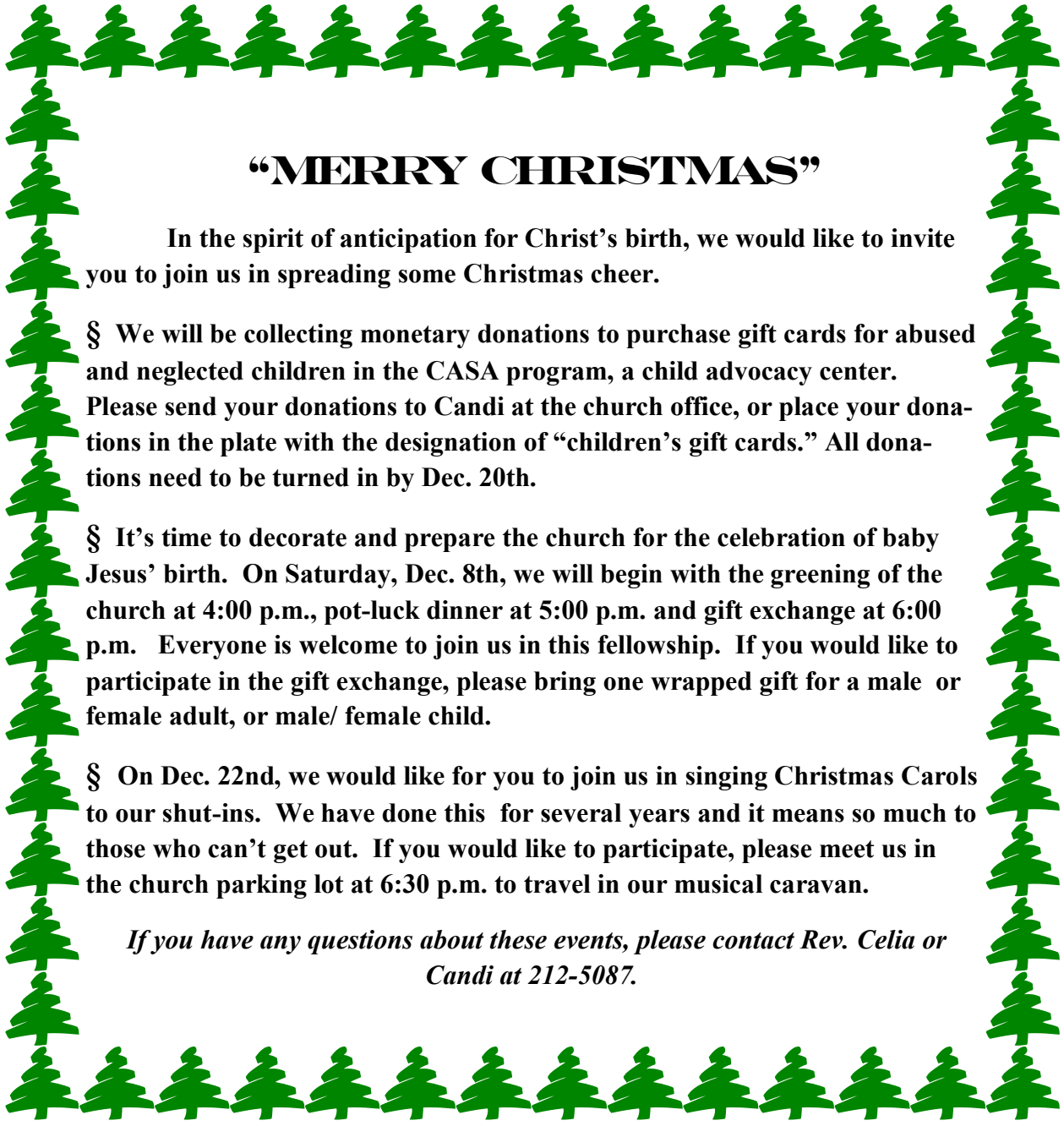
We had nothing to do except go to our closure with style. So the Vestry checked our outreach and found we were giving away 13% of our income - all to the diocese. Since we could not afford to give the 13%, Vestry determined that we would give away 15% and then up our outreach giving by 5% a year until we reached 50%. The result was stunning. The parish began celebrating God's bounty to use and developing giving outside the parish and for outreach ministries. We put all seven buildings back into condition and into use. A new play school was started with many scholarships so that children whose families could not afford play school might attend. The \$500,000 mortgage was paid off and real progress was made on the \$200,000 mortgage loan that would be retired shortly after I left the parish. We also attracted people who wanted to see the church developing its outreach ministry and who were involved in all kinds of community ministries as well as parish ministries. When I left we were supposed to be giving 35% to outreach that year, but the parish was actually giving 42% and was financially stable. We had seen God's work in our midst as we tried to love our neighbors as we love ourselves in relation to where we spent our income and developed our parish ministries.

I have found three biblical standards for giving: The *tithe* (10%), *100%* (The story of the rich, young ruler - see *Luke 18:18-30*) and *proportionate giving* (a percent of our income as an offering of thanks giving for all that God has given us - see *Deuteronomy 16:10*).

The Episcopal Church has long encouraged its members to accept the biblical tithe as a minimum goal for personal giving with proportionate giving as a way to reach a tithe over a period of time. It is a way to put our money where our theology is, so to speak. God is generous and our giving is our response of thanksgiving for all that God has given us. Also Good Shepherd Episcopal is going through exciting times with our new friends and family, Christ Lutheran Church. There is much to do and dynamic ministry to develop together. We invite you to assist in that opportunity and make your pledge to Good Shepherd.

If you tithe, God will love you. If you do not tithe, God will love you. Our gift is not an attempt to convince the God who already loves us to love and accept us. It is our offering of thanksgiving to God for the bounty we have received just as the Sunday congregational service of the Holy Eucharist (*Thanksgiving*) is to thank God for God's bounty and call to serve in his name.

Bill +



“MERRY CHRISTMAS”

In the spirit of anticipation for Christ’s birth, we would like to invite you to join us in spreading some Christmas cheer.

§ We will be collecting monetary donations to purchase gift cards for abused and neglected children in the CASA program, a child advocacy center. Please send your donations to Candi at the church office, or place your donations in the plate with the designation of “children’s gift cards.” All donations need to be turned in by Dec. 20th.

§ It’s time to decorate and prepare the church for the celebration of baby Jesus’ birth. On Saturday, Dec. 8th, we will begin with the greening of the church at 4:00 p.m., pot-luck dinner at 5:00 p.m. and gift exchange at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us in this fellowship. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring one wrapped gift for a male or female adult, or male/ female child.

§ On Dec. 22nd, we would like for you to join us in singing Christmas Carols to our shut-ins. We have done this for several years and it means so much to those who can’t get out. If you would like to participate, please meet us in the church parking lot at 6:30 p.m. to travel in our musical caravan.

If you have any questions about these events, please contact Rev. Celia or Candi at 212-5087.

***** Don’t forget to say “Merry Christmas” this month. With all the hustle and bustle stress can be overwhelming for some. However, if you make an effort to smile and pass along goodwill, it is sure to spread Christ’s Spirit.**

*****Remember the elderly and shut-ins. Your phone call, Christmas card or visit make their day.**

Take time to slow down and enjoy the real Spirit of Christmas.

*****Participate in Advent and follow the Advent calendar that is enclosed. It can be fun and exciting for all your family members, besides being a good way to remember others in need through Project Dignidad.**

Remember Project Dignidad this holiday season!

The holidays are very hard for some who are less fortunate, whether it is being laid off from work, having increased utility bills, or parents simply trying to provide something extra for their children at Christmas. One of the faithful ministries in San Angelo that helps others is Project Dignidad. It is an ecumenical ministry that serves people in emergency situations with food, utilities, and prescription drugs. Most of the items they provide are donated by others. So please help us help others by donating to Project Dignidad.

Items especially needed:

- **canned meat, spaghetti, peanut butter, chili**
- **beans (not green beans; they have cases of those)**
- **Ramen noodles (instant soup)**
- **canned corn, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and other items for Christmas baskets.**



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” **Matthew 25: 35-36**

Muchas Gracias!

In Thanksgiving and in Memory...

We are thankful for **Mr. Mike Hunter** who gives so much time and love to our churches. Mike will be retiring from civil service at Goodfellow Air Force Base on December 21st. He has served a combined total of 42 years of active and civil service to the Air Force. Congratulations Mike, and many blessings in your future!

We give thanks for our combined choir that provides such beautiful music for our church. We are very blessed to have this group of amazing people who also participated at the Episcopal Convention.

To the glory of God and in memory of **Sol Lockett**, donations were given to the Hymnal Fund by Ruth Lockett and Mr. & Mrs. Keith Howell.

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop (from BCP, p. 818)

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 96:1-2

**1 Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.**

**2 Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.**



Ever wonder where or why hymns were written? Here's some information about the hymn "We Three Kings". Information was obtained from *52 Hymn Story Devotions* (2000) written by Lucy Neeley Adams.

This beloved hymn, so popular with children who portray the wise men bearing gifts to the newborn Christ, was written in 1857 by John Henry Hopkins. Hopkins was born in 1820 in Pennsylvania. He was an ordained Episcopal minister, and also a leader in developing hymnody for the Episcopal denomination. He was the first instructor in church music at General Theological Seminary in New York City. The hymn "We Three Kings" is the most well-known song from Hopkins' publication of *Carols, Hymns and Songs*.

Choir Practice Schedule for December:

Wed., Dec 12th & Dec 19th — after the Wed. night 7:00 service, @7:45 p.m.

New choir rehearsal schedule for the NEW YEAR! Everyone is welcome to join us when you can--we love 'part-timers' who can only come once in awhile! So please don't stay away 'cause you can't make it every week!

THURSDAYS in 2008 -- 7:30 P.M.

Jan 3rd	Feb 7th
Jan 10th	Feb 21st
Jan 17th	Feb 28th
Jan 24th	


Sunday morning rehearsals are at 10:00 A.M. Come join in singing God's praises--and making a joyful noise!

Questions? Please give a call -- 374-7678 (cell) or 651-5043 (home). —*Charlene Bustos, Organist & Choirmaster*

Note: Remember that we will go Christmas caroling on Saturday, Dec. 22nd to our shut-ins and nursing homes. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the church parking lot. See you there!



Advent 2007 -- Being a light to others!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec. 2 Light your Advent wreath. ++++++ <u>Ecumenical</u> <u>Service & dinner at St. Paul Pres. at 6:00 p.m.</u>	3 Find a box at home to hold food for Project Dignidad.	4 Write some Christmas cards together.	5 Give someone you love a hug.	6 Add a can to your box for every table in your house.	7 Go outside at night with your family & look at the stars.	8 <u>6:00 p.m.--</u> <u>Dinner, decoration, and gift exchange at Christ Lutheran</u>
9 Light your Advent Wreath. ++++++ Everyone share a joyous event in her/his life over dinner.	10 Add a can to your box for every family member in your house.	11 Say a prayer for everyone who sent you a Christmas card.	12 Say a prayer for all who are sick.	13 Add a can to the box for <u>every</u> trashcan in your house.	14 Drive around and look at Christmas lights.	15 Visit someone in a nursing home or hospital.
16 Light your Advent Wreath. ++++++ Take your box to church for Project Dignidad!!!	17 Pick up a few personal hygiene items for nursing home patients.	18 Each family make an ornament to give to nursing home.	19 Put together a nursing home gift bag.	20 Say a prayer for all who are lonely.	21 Bake cookies together, but remember to save some for the nursing home!	22 <u>Christmas</u> <u>Caroling at Nursing Home</u> <u>6:30 p.m.--</u> <u>Meet in parking lot.</u>
23 Light your Advent Wreath. ++++++ Make a birthday card for baby Jesus!	24 <u>Come to church at 7:00 p.m. to wish Baby Jesus a happy birthday!</u>	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	27	28	29	30

Happy Birthday

Sterling Knittel Dec. 13
Jill Ryan Dec. 13
Amber Northam Dec. 23
Tom Gregg, Jr. Dec. 31



If you are new to our church, or you did not see your birthday/anniversary, please contact Candi at the church office so we can collect your information.

November tithes as of 11/25/07 \$ 8,553.47



If you would like to read the vestry minutes from the October meeting, please find them posted on the bulletin board near the parish hall.

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
& Christ Lutheran Church ELCA
3417 Sherwood Way
San Angelo, TX 76901

December 2007

“Glory to God,, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine...” (BCP 60).