



Agnus Dei

**Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
and Christ Lutheran ELCA**

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“A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’” (Isa. 40:3) Dec. 2011 - Jan. 2012

From Your Rector

Dear Saints of God,

As the above quote from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah reminds us, Advent is indeed a time to make preparations for welcoming the Lord into our hearts. This time of year, though, it's often difficult to see our way clear to do that. Loud music fills the air everywhere we go; traffic is terrible; aisles are crowded; people's nerves are on edge. How in the world can we prepare the way for the Lord with all of those distractions going on?

One of the best ways to prepare our hearts for the Lord is to schedule time for Him. With all of the busyness this time of year brings, why not put "time with God" at the top of our list? Time spent in silence with God is a way to be refreshed and renewed. And while we're at it, why don't we also pause to consider, as Mike Slaughter tells us in his book by the same name, that Christmas is not your birthday, but Jesus' birthday? When we pause to consider that, we might also want to think about what Jesus' wish list might look like! The things He asks from us are difficult to find at the store, seemingly simple things that you can't really put a price on: peace-making, love for our neighbors, compassion for the poor and needy.

Making these items a priority may not only make the entire Christmas season more joyful but also more humbling and meaningful. The One who humbled Himself and came to us in the form of a tiny baby is also the One who calls us from our quest for the things of this world to spend some time with Him in pursuit of God's kingdom on earth.

Over the next few weeks we'll be looking at Mike Slaughter's book together at sermon time, seeing what we can make of his insights into Advent and Christmas. On Wed. nights, we will be looking at meditations from another of the great spiritual masters, Henri Nouwen, so I encourage you to get one of the meditation books available in the office. Our time together this Advent will be a special time as we wait patiently with anticipation for the good things God has in store for those who await His coming.

God's blessings,
Celia+



The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Episcopal Bishop; The Rev. Dr. Kevin Kanouse, ELCA Bishop; The Rev. Celia Ellery, Rector; Mrs. Candi Wolfe, Parish Secretary; Mrs. Charlene Bustos, Choirmaster & Organist; Valerie Queen, Lutheran pianist

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS!

Laurie Garnes

Chuck Lewis

Georgina Sanglier



We are blessed and thankful for your commitment to the Lord and to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church.



Our thanks to Judy Moore Lester and Jill Ryan for their work on our new Good Shepherd banner. We carried it proudly at the Diocesan Convention in Midland!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our Episcopal Annual meeting will be January 22nd after the church service. We will review our budget, review the previous year activities, and discuss our goals for 2012.

We would like to thank Sherry Halfmann and Don Griffis, who will be going off the vestry, for dedicated service to Good Shepherd. We wish you the very best in the coming year!

We will be nominating and electing two new vestry members at the annual meeting. **If you are interested in serving on the vestry, please contact Rev. Celia or Don Griffis, Sr. Warden.** Vestry members must be 18 years old, be confirmed communicants in good standing, and be able to attend most vestry meetings.

There will be a Children's Program on Christmas Eve at the beginning of our 7:00 service, as well as a children's sermon. Mrs. Craddock and Mrs. Howard will be working with the children to get them ready. If your child would like to participate, please let one of them know. It will be a special time to show Jesus how much we love Him!

Advent Services continue through December 21st

Please join us for our Advent midweek services every Wed. at 5:30 p.m. We will begin with an evening prayer service, followed by a soup/salad pot-luck dinner at 6:00 p.m. and end our evening with a study of Henri Nouwen's Advent meditation booklet called *The Lord is Near*. These may be purchased for \$2.00 each in the church office.



BISHOP MAYER'S VISITATION
SUN., DEC. 11

Please join us on Dec. 11th to welcome our Episcopal Bishop, The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer. Bishop Mayer will be confirming Laurie Garnes & Chuck Lewis, and will be receiving Georgina Sanglier. We are very blessed to have these three individuals join our Episcopal congregation.

We will host a **reception luncheon** after the church service on Dec. 11th, and all are welcome to attend.



+++	Dec. 7 (Wed.) 5:30 p.m.	Dec. 11 (3 Advent) Confirmation	Dec. 14 (Wed.) 5:30 p.m.	Dec. 18	Dec. 21 (Wed.) 5:30 p.m.	Dec. 24
Sunday Notation	Lutheran Rev. Ellery	Episcopal Bishop Scott Mayer	Lutheran Rev. Ellery	Lutheran Rev. Nancy (4 Advent)	(Lutheran) Rev. Ellery	Lutheran Rev. Ellery Christmas Eve
Vestry-in- Charge	Don Griffis	Robert Garza	Sherry Halfmann	Mike Ryan	Ann Bullion- Mears	Brad Dannheim
Altar Guild	XXX	Hope Garza	XXX	Jill Ryan	XXX	P. Nicholson
Epis. Reader & Chalice Bearer	XXX	Hope Garza	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Chalice Bearer only	XXX	XXX	XXX	Mary Dee Price	XXX	Chris Ellery
Organist	Jan Kelsey	Charlene	Jan Kelsey	Valerie Queen	Jan Kelsey	Valerie Queen

Prayer List: *Gene Mowrey*

Jenna Ryan, Sallie Helms, Beverly Junell, George Wiley, Georgina Sanglier, Jo Stinebaugh, Sylvia Baldwin, Deanna Mayfield, Jeannie Beck, Judith Hakes, Cathie Blank, Tanya Gue, Tammy Rainey, Myers family, Clara Proctor, Cowan Probandt, Christine Hunter, Merrissa Follman, Jennifer Lind, Dale Chase, Kathy Rivera.

Deployed military:

Derek Rabuck, Vidal Garza, Ford Bennett, Jake Freeman, Renea Hermesmeier, Jon Dobbins, Stephen Bright, Mike McCoy, Chris Allgeier, and Logan Lopez.

Our Government:

President, Barack; Governor, Rick; Mayor, Alvin.

December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <u>Rector's</u> <u>Day Off</u>	3
4 Episcopal Communion <i>(2 Advent) 10:45 a.m.;</i> Rev. Ellery Sunday School 9:30 <i>a.m.</i> <u>Episcopal Vestry Mtg.</u>	5 10-12 Quilt- ing group	6 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study	7 Wed. Advent Services 5:30 service; 6:00 pot-luck dinner; 6:45 Study 7:30 P.M. Choir Practice	8	9 <u>Rector's</u> <u>Day Off</u>	10 Hang- ing of the Greens 4:30
11 Bishop's Visit Episcopal Communion <i>(3 Advent) 10:45 a.m.;</i> Bishop Scott Mayer, Rev. Ellery Sunday School 9:30 <i>a.m.</i>	12 10-12 Quilt- ing group	13 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study <u>Lutheran</u> <u>Council</u> <u>Mtg., 6:30</u>	14 Wed. Ad- vent Services 5:30 service; 6:00 pot-luck dinner; 6:45 Study 7:30 P.M. Choir Practice	15	16 <u>Rector's</u> <u>Day Off</u>	17
18 Lutheran Communion 10:45 a.m. (4 Advent); Rev. Nancy York Sunday School 9:30 <i>a.m.</i>	19 10-12 Quilt- ing group	20 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study	21 Wed. Advent Services 5:30 service; 6:00 pot-luck dinner; 6:45 Study 7:30 P.M. Choir Practice	22	23 <u>Rector's</u> <u>Day Off</u>	24
25 Episcopal Commu- ion 10:45 a.m.; Rev. Ellery 10:45 a.m. Happy Birthday, Jesus!	26 <u>Office Closed</u>	27 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study	28	29	30 <u>Rector's</u> <u>Day Off</u>	31
(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)						

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for Christmas baskets until Dec. 18th for Project Dignidad. We will also be collecting mittens, hats, scarves, and gloves for St. Mary's Blessing closet for Christmas until Dec. 18th. Boxes for each charity are located in the narthex. Thank you for helping!

January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Lutheran Communion</i> <i>10:45 a.m.; Rev. Nancy York</i> <u>NO Sunday School</u>	2 <i>Church office closed.</i> <i>Happy New Year!</i>	3 9:30 a.m. <i>Adult Bible Study</i>	4 <i>7:30 P.M. Choir Practice</i>	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i> <u>Rector's Day Off</u>	7
8 <i>Episcopal Communion</i> <i>10:45 a.m.; Rev. Ellery</i> <i>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</i> <u>Episcopal Vestry Mtg.</u>	9 <i>10-12 Quilting group</i>	10 9:30 a.m. <i>Adult Bible Study</i> <i>Lutheran Council Mtg. 6:30</i>	11 <i>7:30 P.M. Choir Practice</i>	12	13 <u>Rector's Day Off</u>	14
15 <i>Lutheran Communion</i> <i>10:45 a.m.;</i> <i>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</i>	16 <i>10-12 Quilting group</i>	17 9:30 a.m. <i>Adult Bible Study</i>	18 <i>7:30 P.M. Choir Practice</i>	19	20 <u>Rector's Day Off</u>	21
22 <i>EPISCOPAL ANNUAL MEETING AFTER CHURCH</i> <i>Episcopal Communion</i> <i>10:45 a.m.; Rev. Ellery</i> <i>10:45 a.m.</i> <i>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</i>	23 <i>10-12 Quilting group</i>	24 9:30 a.m. <i>Adult Bible Study</i>	25 <i>7:30 P.M. Choir Practice</i>	26	27 <u>Rector's Day Off</u>	28
29 <i>Episcopal Communion</i> <i>10:45 a.m.; Rev. Ellery</i> <i>10:45 a.m.</i>	30 <i>10-12 Quilting group</i>	31 9:30 a.m. <i>Adult Bible Study</i>				

Recipe from Kay Holland * 7 Up Ham* (My boys' favorite)

Large, fairly thick slice of ham. The grocery stores have these already sliced in the pork section. Prepared mustard – right out of the bottle/jar. Brown sugar, can of 7-up. Diet won't do. In an electric skillet, brown the ham slice on both sides. (Uncovered) Lower heat. Squirt mustard on top of ham. Just a stream will do. Cover with brown sugar and make a paste on top of the ham. Pour 7-up around edges. Cover and simmer 20 minutes or so. Serve with mashed potatoes.

October Financials

Total Income

\$ 8,782.00

Total Expenses

\$ 8,776.76

November Financials

Total Income

\$ 7,574.00

Total Expenses

\$ 11,314.60

October Vestry

Minutes are posted on
the bulletin board by
the kitchen.



December Birthdays

<i>Jill Ryan</i>	<i>Dec. 13</i>
<i>Sterling Knittel</i>	<i>Dec. 13</i>
<i>Amber Northam</i>	<i>Dec. 23</i>
<i>Tom Gregg</i>	<i>Dec. 31</i>

January Birthdays

<i>Ken Edborg</i>	<i>Jan. 1</i>
<i>Richard Zollett</i>	<i>Jan. 3</i>
<i>Natalie Craddock</i>	<i>Jan. 8</i>
<i>Sylvia Baldwin</i>	<i>Jan. 14</i>
<i>Doug Wells</i>	<i>Jan. 14</i>
<i>Billy Craddock</i>	<i>Jan. 18</i>
<i>Fran Gregg</i>	<i>Jan. 19</i>
<i>Sarah Ellery</i>	<i>Jan. 25</i>
<i>Julius Bricker</i>	<i>Jan. 26</i>

January Anniversaries

<i>Mr. & Mrs. John Hilton</i>	<i>Jan. 2</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Bobbie Baldwin</i>	<i>Jan. 19</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Chase Holland</i>	<i>Jan. 25</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Ken Edborg</i>	<i>Jan. 26</i>



"Hanging of the Greens"

Please join us Saturday,
Dec. 10th at 4:30 p.m. to
decorate the church. At
5:30 we will have a pot-
luck dinner, and after that
we will have a gift ex-
change for those who
would like to participate.
We hope you join us for
this time of fellowship.

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December 2011/January 2012

"Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine...." (Eph. 3:20)