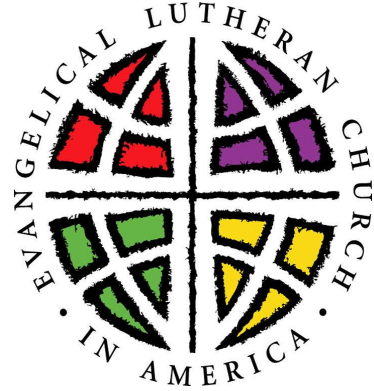
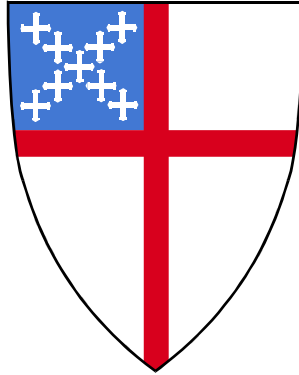


The Agnus Dei



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

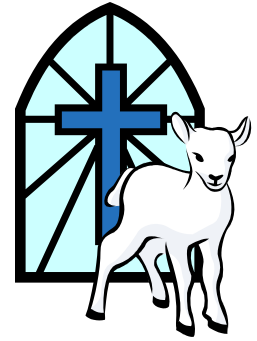
The Rev. Bill Wright, Assisting Episcopal Priest

Vicar Diane Terrazas, Lutheran Pastor

Mrs. Candi Wolfe, Parish Secretary

Mrs. Charlene Bustos, Choirmaster & Organist

January 2008



Dear Friends,

A new year always brings thoughts of new beginnings and fresh starts. This new year also makes me think of this time last year and where we were as a church. Talk about a fresh start! Our first service as a reconstituted parish took place on Sun., Jan. 6, 2007. I remember so well the beauty of that service in a community of family and friends at United Campus Ministries. When we came to Christ Lutheran about a month later, Esther Wooten and I were going to make plans for just a month or so, to see how it worked out. So far, so good! Almost a year later, we are still worshipping with our Lutheran sisters and brothers and are currently planning the coming year's calendar. It's such a joy to serve this blended congregation!

In the days and weeks to come, there will be much talk of dioceses breaking off from the Episcopal Church, and while it is troublesome, it has been coming for some time. As I told you in an e-mail communication shortly after the Diocese of San Joaquin voted to leave the Church, talk of leaving is nothing new. There are three dioceses in particular which have been wanting to leave at least since 1976, when the General Convention accepted the ordination of women: San Joaquin, Ft. Worth, and Quincy, IL. A fourth (Pittsburgh) has been associated with the Anglican Communion Network and its bishop, Robert Duncan, was the Network bishop who wanted to be the bridge between the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. He is currently trying to lead his diocese out, as well. It's important to remember that there are 110 dioceses in this country and abroad, with @ 7,100 parishes, so this is a relatively small number who have voted to leave. All of this is to say that while some may allude to the doom of the Episcopal Church, the majority of dioceses and parishes are staying put and trying to work things out. We know that we don't all have to agree on everything in order to worship together. That has always been one of the strong points of the Episcopal Church! I encourage you to read an article by **Arkansas Bishop Larry Benfield** elsewhere in this newsletter. It will provide some good historical insight into the situation, as well.

In honor of new beginnings, I encourage you this year NOT to make new year's resolutions, which are often easily broken. Instead, try to make a new year's commitment, as writer Marilyn Wilkerson suggests. By making a commitment to reading the Bible, praying, and spending more quiet time with God, she reminds us, all of the other things we need to do often fall into place. Besides the commitment to a closer personal relationship with God, I also encourage you to make a new year's commitment to the Body of Christ, His church. Locally, your time, talent, and treasure are ways we can give back to God some of what He has given us. This community of God gathered around Word and Sacrament needs your heart and hands in the coming year. But the church worldwide also needs our help. Be sure to take a look at the "**What Can One Person Do?**" insert in this newsletter to see how you can make a difference internationally in the lives of others.

I look forward with great expectancy to the surprises and blessings God has in store for us this year. While we can't see the future, we trust in God's vision for us as we strive to be the people He has called us to be. God's grace and peace be with you in 2008!

In Christ,

Celia+

Thank You to Our Retiring Vestry Members

The last two years at Good Shepherd have been difficult for everyone, but especially for those who have served on our vestry. Not only are they trying to do what is best for our church; they listen and try to respond to the needs and concerns of other members of the congregation.

Julie Wilkerson and Don Griffis have played significant roles in helping to keep our church together and keep things running smoothly. Both have been active in giving their time and talents. Julie has been a member of Good Shepherd since 1998 and has served as treasurer, Sunday school teacher, and worship server coordinator. Don has been a member of Good Shepherd for 37 years and has served on the vestry six times. He has been our Senior Warden, liaison to the Bishop and other committees, and is currently on the search committee for finding a new Bishop.

With that said, everyone knows that both have given unselfishly to their church and their God. We have been truly blessed to have them serve our church. Please give them a big “thank you” when you see them!

2007 was a great year of giving!

Thank you parishioners for your support of all the great missions in San Angelo and throughout the country. We may be a small group, but we are mighty and very giving. Below are the totals for the year that we have given to great causes:

Project Dignidad	\$1,416.00	Episcopal Relief & Development	\$246.00
Quilting Mission	\$668.55	United Thank Offering	\$183.36
COSA/Sal. Army	\$200.00	UCM (checks to Good Shepherd)	\$55.00

Annual Congregational Meetings

EPISCOPAL: Sun., Jan. 13, after service — lunch and meeting in Sanctuary afterward

LUTHERAN: Sun., Jan. 27 — meeting in Sanctuary after the service

Please make every effort to attend these important meetings! If you have a report to be included in the Annual Report of either congregation, please get these in by Jan. 4 to Candi Wolfe (Episcopal) or Bobbie Baldwin (Lutheran).

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Epiphany <u>Episcopal Service</u> 10:45	7	8 <i>Tuesday Bible Study at 9:30</i> <i>Holy Eucharist 11:00 a.m. At Christ Lutheran</i>	9	10	11	12
13 <i>1 Epiphany</i> <u>Episcopal Service</u> 10:45 <i>(Episcopal Annual Meeting)</i>	14	8 <i>Tuesday Bible Study at 9:30</i> <i>Holy Eucharist 11:00 a.m. At Christ Lutheran</i>	16	17	18	19
20 <i>2 Epiphany</i> <u>Lutheran Service</u> 10:45 DOK—2:00 p.m. <u>Christ Lutheran</u>	21 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday</i>	8 <i>Tuesday Bible Study at 9:30</i> <i>Holy Eucharist 11:00 a.m. At Christ Lutheran</i>	23	24	25	26 <i>Feast of Santa Angela Prayer Service—11:00 a.m.</i>
27 <i>3 Epiphany</i> <u>Lutheran Service</u> 9:00 a.m. <i>(Lutheran Annual Meeting)</i>	28	8 <i>Tuesday Bible Study at 9:30</i> <i>Holy Eucharist 11:00 a.m. At Christ Lutheran</i>	30	31		

This is the article I mentioned in my letter on p. 2. It helps to put the situation in our Church into perspective. Thanks to the Rev. Bill Wright for forwarding it. — Rev. Celia

A Message from Bishop Larry Benfield of Arkansas 11-26-07

This week I have read several books about a fourth century group of North African Christians called the Donatists. What brought them to the attention of the rest of the Christian world is that they were upset with the actions of certain bishops. During Christian persecutions these bishops had caved in to pressure and had turned over copies of the gospels to the authorities for destruction. Now that the persecutions were over, they attempted to return to their job of leading congregations and ordaining new bishops.

The North African Donatists were furious, so furious in fact that they refused to be in communion with the bishops and refused to be in communion with anyone the bishops had ordained or even baptized. These Donatists established their own churches, ordained their own bishops, and for almost one hundred years became the predominant expression of Christianity in that part of the world.

Finally the larger church, especially in the person of Bishop Augustine of Hippo, brought an end to the madness. He stated that the church's life is not dependent on the purity of its clergy. Our common unity as Christians is more important than the purity, or lack of it, in our individual actions. As a commentator on the crisis stated, what the Donatists failed to do was to choose Christian charity over truth, his way of saying that the Donatists failed to recognize the power of unconditional love to trump our fallen human condition.

It is a story that every Christian needs to hear, no matter in which age we live. Unconditional love trumps fallen humanity, as it trumps everything, even death itself. The story of Jesus' crucifixion and subsequent appearance to his disciples as they gathered together is testament to that truth. Too many of us harbor old grudges and ignore others. Too many of us get mad at the church (or mad at God) and stay away from the connection with others that we as humans need so much. In their own ways, such actions turn us into Donatists.

I hope that as we all get ready for the challenges of the Christmas season, we start to understand why it was that Augustine said the way of the Christian is to choose charity and union over discord and isolation, and why that has been the message of Christianity ever since. So to live can become very good news indeed.

+ + +

Our thanks to the individuals and parishes in this diocese and around the country who have contributed financially to the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd! We could not continue in our ministry if it were not for the generosity of our friends in Christ. God's blessings to you in the new year!

In Thanksgiving and in Memory...

Thank you to everyone who has donated and supported the Sewing Group/Mission. With your help we will continue to sew and teach others.

To the Glory of God and in memory of Opel Braswell, a donation was given to the sewing fund by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Camp.

To the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the graduation of Sterling Knittel and Ben Ellery in May 2007, a donation was given to the hymnal fund by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gregg.

To the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the baptism of William Allan Best in May 2007, a donation was given to the hymnal fund by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gregg.

To the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ministry of Celia and Chris Ellery to the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, a donation was given to the hymnal fund by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gregg.

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, Adam Watkins, Jack Cronfield, Jordan Boyd, Josh Beard, Roland Allen, Jr., David Moos, Derek Rabuck**

Sunday & Weekday 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.

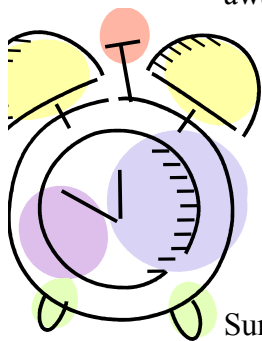
Adult Bible Study — Tues., 9:30-11:00 (FH)

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

**** Be sure to get your membership information in to the Good Shepherd office if you wish to vote at our Annual Meeting. You must be a confirmed member in good standing to vote, but all may attend the meeting. ****

Choir Rehearsal Schedule for the new year

New choir rehearsal schedule for the NEW YEAR is listed below. 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). May everyone have a blessed new year! —*Charlene Bustos, Organist & Choirmaster*

Candidates for Vestry 2008 (2 openings)

Judith Lester

I am married to Andrew Lester and have been a member of Good Shepherd since 2002. My passion is quilting and sewing, and I am very active in serving the community through the art of teaching others how to do the same. I conduct quilting missions in Mexico which have taken off, and teach fabric activities in San Angelo for children. I have published five books on quilting and design, and I have been invited to participate in an upcoming writers conference in San Angelo.

Chris Lupton

Chris Lupton was born in England in 1949 and was baptized and confirmed in Saint Mary Magdalene Church of England where his family attended church and where he was a choirboy. Chris and Maggie moved to the USA in 1974 and were blessed with three boys. Chris and Maggie moved to San Angelo in 1984 where Chris accepted a job with the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research Center. Chris, Maggie and the boys joined Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in 1985. Chris has taught Sunday school and has served as Superintendent. He has been a regular member of the choir and also served one appointed tour of duty on the vestry (following the resignation of Don Franks) during which time he was Treasurer. Chris has also served on several ad hoc committees over the years and, like all the other Good Shepherd Episcopalians, is anxious to reach a favorable resolution on the church building issue. If elected, he will work with the other vestry members and the diocese to attain this goal

Pilar McKeel

I am married to Thomas McKeel and we have three wonderful children. I have been a member of Good Shepherd since 2001, and I have served in the following areas of the church: Altar Guild, Children's Sunday school, Daughters of the King, Youth programs and activities, Co-coordinator for the United Thank Offering. I enjoy traveling, reading, volunteering at Ft. Concho and am pursuing a Art-History degree at ASU.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND THE EPISCOPAL ANNUAL MEETING, ON JAN. 13 AFTER THE 10:45 SERVICE! We will begin with a potluck lunch for everyone, then we will meet in the sanctuary for the business of the church, including electing new vestry members.

Happy Birthday

Fran Gregg Jan. 19

Mildred Sheldon Jan 22



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.

December tithes as of 12/27/8 \$ 19,585.00

This includes \$9,925.00 that was given from outside donations.

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



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.

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

January 2008

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