

# Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

101 Walnut Street  
Allegan, Michigan 49010

## Cross and Staff

December 2017 / January 2018

Advent to Christmas to Epiphany

### Coming Events

**Wednesday, December 13:**

2 P.M. – Julie Hunter Party  
Volunteers Welcome!

**Saturday, December 16:**

9:30 AM: Women Rising UP

**Advent 3**

**Sunday, December 17:**

10:00 AM: Eucharist  
11:30 AM: Greening the church

**Advent 4**

**Sunday, December 24:**

10:00 AM: Morning Prayer

**Christmas Eve**

**Sunday, December 24:**

7:00 PM: Lessons and Carols  
7:30 PM: Christmas Eucharist  
All are welcome!

**Martha's Concert**

**Friday, December 29:**

7:00 PM: Good Shepherd Church

**Christmas 2**

**Sunday, December 31:**

10:00 AM: Eucharist

**Epiphany**

**Sunday, January 7:**

10:00 AM: Eucharist

**Epiphany 2**

**Sunday, January 14:**

10:00 AM: Eucharist  
11:30 AM: Vestry Meeting  
All are welcome!

**Epiphany 3**

**Sunday, January 21:**

10:00 AM: Eucharist  
11:30 AM: Annual Meeting  
All are welcome!

**Epiphany 4**

**Sunday, January 21:**

Snow Date for Annual Meeting

### The Watch, The Arrival, The Manifestation

Well, the “Holiday Season” has arrived, though it seems to be arriving earlier and earlier each year if you watch the decorations in stores... For Christians, this is the beginning of the Church’s year. Advent which runs into Christmas which turns into Epiphany. According to a 1940 hymn,

*Advent tells us Christ is near;*

*Christmas tells us Christ is here;*

*In Epiphany we trace all the glory of his grace...*

The waiting for the birth of Christ allows us to wait/watch for the darkness to pass. Recently, a priest spoke of darkness as being a blessing to some and a fear to others. The readings remind us to stay awake in this darkness - not because of fear but of anticipation. The anticipation is not because we fear that the darkness will consume us, but because of the joy in the knowledge that with Christ the darkness will pass.

What kind of watchfulness does Jesus want us to have? This anticipation can allow us to “do what is required as we wait.” But, what is required? Prayer, study, self-reflection...? It was suggested that there are 2 required elements. First, practice joy that makes us resilient and sustains us. Second, practice justice that ensures that everyone has a place here and now and in the future.

Advent can truly be a time of joy when we share the true meaning of Christmas with those who have lost their connection to God through Christ. A time to invite others to attend church, or to just share the simplicity of God’s love and grace in our lives.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent plus Christmas Eve which gives us multiple opportunities to invite others to celebrate the arrival of Christ into our lives. This invitation can move into Epiphany where the Magi announce the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (Matthew 2:1-12). An epiphany is “the sudden realization or comprehension of the (larger) essence or meaning of something.” You can be that Magi who guides another to the true understanding of having Christ in their life. Who helps them move from watching and waiting to the arrival and into comprehending the meaning.

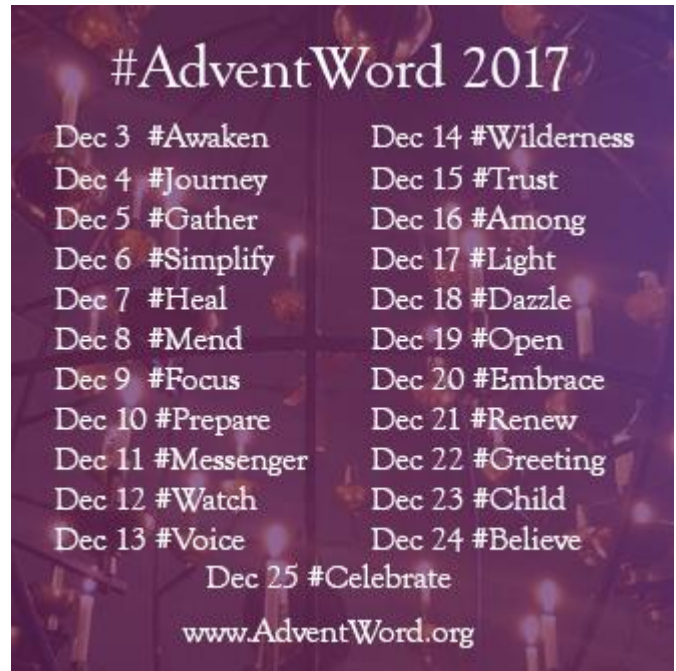
Invite family and friends to celebrate Christ in our lives.

## Vestry Notes

During the Vestry Meeting on December 10, several items were discussed:

- Advent 4 and Christmas Eve Services:**  
Both fall on **December 24<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Advent 4** will be celebrated at **10 A.M.**  
**Christmas Eve** will be celebrated with **Lessons and Carols at 7:00 P.M.** followed by **Eucharist at 7:30 P.M.**
- The Balance Sheet** shows a \$2,545.52 as of November 30, 2017.
- Supplemental Clergy:**  
Fr. Bill Fleener will be with us on Christmas Eve. For January – March 2018, Rev. Dean Beckwith will celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, and Fr. Bill will celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Fr. Bill will celebrate during Holy Week and Easter. Fr. Bill shared that he has decided to retire from supplemental ministry after Easter 2018.
- Shared Ministry:** The Rev. Canon Bill Spaid spoke with the congregation on November 26<sup>th</sup> to answer questions about the concept of Shared Ministry. Judy shared that St. Barnabas in Kalamazoo and St. Mark's in Paw Paw are ready to move forward. December 10 at 3 PM, Judy and Sue Squiers-Frank will attend a meeting to see if we are ready to move forward with them.
- Music Studio:** Before the space used by Martha can be used, the ceiling will need to be repaired, the floor will need to be finished, and the window trimming will need to be updated.
- Christian Formation:** Dates need to be set for the Inquirer Class and Lenten Series. Nursery attendants will be sought to watch the nursery each Sunday for those who wish to use it.
- Outreach:**  
\*\*The Delano Foundation awarded the Baby Closet \$6000 to continue its ministry.  
\*\*Two families will receive Christmas Baskets this year.  
\*\*The Julie Hunter Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> under the guidance of Chuck and Linda Pullen.
- Vestry 2018:** No one has stepped forward to be a Vestry member. The Vestry cannot operate with fewer than 6 vestry members.
- Altar Flowers:** The calendar is up for 2018. Flower donations are \$15, and lamp oil is \$5. (Note: This is the minimum amount for a Sunday, a larger donation is always welcome.)

## Christmas is Almost Here



Even if you did not set an Advent Wreath, you may wish to take a few minutes each day to reflect. If you would like to receive these words on which to reflect, you may go to: [www.adventword.org/sign-up](http://www.adventword.org/sign-up).

This will take you to the Anglican Communion's Global Advent Calendar that began with Sunday, December 3, 2017, with images and meditations available via email, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. An announcement goes out at 5 a.m. each day. You are invited to share your responses to the meditations and images to the aggregated prayer walls within the advent calendar. These are beautiful and from all around the world.

"As monks we pray with images of Jesus in icons. #AdventWord helps teach everyone how to pray with images as we prepare for the coming of Emmanuel. We developed #AdventWord to bring joy. We have passed it on to Virginia Theological Seminary to work with the Anglican Communion Office, and we are excited to see #AdventWord being offered to a wider world."

James Koester SSJE, Superior,  
The Society of Saint John the Evangelist.

## Have another blessed year!

### Birthdays

December 9:	Tom Lange
December 11:	Lily Herlihy
December 15:	Brandon Ferris
December 16:	Edye Pyle
December 19:	Laura Sprague
December 21:	Stefan White
December 22:	Jim Wendt
December 27:	Jeff Northrup Elizabeth Sinden
December 30:	Dean Ferris
January 5:	Justin Brower
January 7:	Hannah Granat
January 9:	Kim Wheat
January 11:	Mike Pettee
January 12:	Julie Northrup
January 17:	Cindy Pyle; Shawn Herlihy
January 23:	Becky Gibson
January 23:	Jana (Wendt) Tibbitts
January 26:	Steve Tibbitts
January 27:	Betty Miner
January 28:	Max Spicer
January 29:	Adam Iehl
January 31:	Elizabeth White
January 31:	Teresa White

## 12 Days of Christmas

Many of you have heard the song of the 12 Days of Christmas. What do you really know about the 12 days?

1. When is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Christmas?
2. What is another name for the second day of Christmas? How do the British celebrate it?
3. Who do we remember on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Christmas?
4. What is the Feast of the Holy Innocents?
5. Why do we celebrate Thomas Becket on the 5<sup>th</sup> day?
6. Who is Frances Joseph Gaudet?
7. Most European countries call New Years Eve 'Silvester.' Where did this name come from? (Roman)
8. What did Jesus receive on January 1?
9. Who was the first Anglican bishop?
10. What did Jesus receive on the 10<sup>th</sup> day?
11. Who is celebrated on the 11<sup>th</sup> day?
12. The 12<sup>th</sup> day is sometimes called \_\_\_\_\_ Eve.
13. What does Epiphany mean?

There are many explanations for the 12 Days, and what the gifts referred to in the song may represent, but most can only agree on who/what is celebrated in the Christian Calendar.

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue, or at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lectionary-calendar/2017-12>)

## Server Schedule

(If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please arrange for a substitute.)

	Dec. 17, 2017	Dec. 24, 2017	Dec. 31, 2017	Jan. 7, 2018	Jan. 14, 2018
<b>Clergy</b>	Rev. Dean Beckwith	Fr. Bill Fleener	Fr. Bill Fleener	Rev. Dean Beckwith	Fr. Bill Fleener
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	Kate Nameche	Kate Nameche	Kate Nameche	Judy Buchanan	Kate Nameche
<b>Crucifer</b>	Gari Voss	Wendy Simmons	Gari Voss	Ray Lewis	Wendy Simmons
<b>Lector # 1</b>	Judy Buchanan	Sue Buese	Wendy Simmons	Gari Voss	Ann Perrigo
<b>Lector # 2</b>	Sue Buese	Judy Buchanan	Sue Buese	Ann Perrigo	Wendy Simmons
<b>Lector # 3</b>	Wendy Simmons	Kandi Gibson	Ann Perrigo	Kandi Gibson	Judy Buchanan
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Everyone – green church	All	Dede Lewis	Dede Lewis	Gari Voss
<b>Usher</b>	Ray Lewis	Betty Miner/Jim Wendt	Kandi Gibson	Jim Wendt	Ray Lewis
<b>Vestry Duty</b>	Korree Johnson	KandiGibson / Judy Buchanan	Kandi Gibson	Korree Johnson	Wendy Simmons
<b>Musician</b>	Siqi Li	Pufan Wang	Siqi Li	Siqi Li	Katherine Plier
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Wendy Simmons		Gari Voss	Lewis & Burza	Sally & Lex Hummel



## Christmas Blessings

We have been blessed! Each Christmas Eve brings something new along with the comfort of the rich traditions of Lessons and Carols and the Eucharist to celebrate Christ's birth.

We pray that with the service of 7:00 PM for Lessons and Carols and the Christmas Eve Eucharist at 7:30 PM, this will allow for more families to attend.

What memories do you have of Christmas Eves past? I can remember a full choir loft and the singing of the Christmas Cantata under the direction of Paula Pugh Romaneau; Bill Stout singing the first verse of Silent Night; A Christmas Pageant that featured Bishop Bennison, Father Bierlein and Joe Neiman as the 3 Kings; Nan Voss (age 6 or 7) singing *Oh, Holy Night*; singing the carols with my sisters, brother and mom; Jay Oetman's melodious hymns; and the list goes on...

What are your memories?

May this Christmas add to those memories of sharing and proclaiming with family and friends the arrival of Christ to a world that is seeking light.



## 12 Days of Christmas

### Answers

If you were unable to answer the Quiz questions, here they are:

1. December 25<sup>th</sup>
2. Boxing Day – celebrate people who do service like your post person; also celebrate St. Stephen, the 1<sup>st</sup> martyr.
3. St. John the Apostle
4. We remember all the innocent boys killed by Herod.
5. St. Thomas was Archbishop of Canterbury and was killed when he opposed the King.
6. Frances Joseph Gaudet: Educator and Prison Reformer.
7. 'Silvester' Day comes from Pope Sylvester I. (Roman Catholic)
8. Jesus received his name on January 1.
9. Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah: First Indian Anglican Bishop, Dornakal, 1945. *Celebrate mission.*
10. William Passavant: Prophetic Witness, 1894. *Be filled with the Holy Spirit.*
11. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the 1<sup>st</sup> American saint, is remembered.
12. The 12<sup>th</sup> day is sometimes called Epiphany Eve.
13. Epiphany basically means to have an awakening or understanding.

These come basically from the Anglican calendar. In several cases, other Christians are celebrated in the Roman Catholic church.

**A Special Thank You** to **Gary Clark** who repaired our snow blower for no charge. Many of us have taken our lawn mowers, and other machines to Gary for repair. He is located on the corner of M-37 and 118<sup>th</sup> Ave.