

# News From The Good Shepherd



Dear Friends in Christ:

During this reflective season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the nativity of our Lord. It is also a time to reflect on so much more. Advent which means “coming” can be thought of in several ways. Actually, three themes come to mind.

First, we look to the final coming of our Lord, at the end time. This is usually the theme for our reading during the first two Sundays of the season. Various writers try to explain what the end time might look like, and it is described in very symbolic images. It describes what we call the apocalypse. The word means revelation. The end time is being revealed to us. We don’t know when this will happen or exactly how but know that the world is hurting and broken and one day God will usher in his kingdom of healing, light and justice. In the meantime, we are all invited to look for the many ways God is present in our midst, the many ways God is working even now to bring this world to completion. So, this coming, is the final coming to our journey.

Second, and far more popular, is our celebration of Christ’s first coming into our midst. The incarnation. On the second and third Sundays of the season we are called to prepare our hearts and minds to see the true meaning of this blessed event. John the Baptist takes a prominent role here asking us to prepare for the Messiah. Advent 4 centers around Mary and her ready willingness to bear the redeemer of the world. And of course, our readings for Christmas come from the Gospel of Luke. And always near the end of the Christmas liturgy I read from the Gospel of John, “And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”

Third, during Advent, and maybe most importantly, let us look and be aware of the many ways the - presence of our risen Lord comes to us each day. Christ comes to us in the presence of one another through the indwelling of the Spirit deep within us and among us. Christ is especially present in the poor, the outcast, the lonely, the sick and the hungry. Christ is very present when we gather to share his Body and Blood, through the Word proclaimed, in our joys and in our sorrows. He comes to us in our times of quiet, in times of prayer, meditation, in our readings, and in the many and varied ways we experience his love and grace, especially through one another.

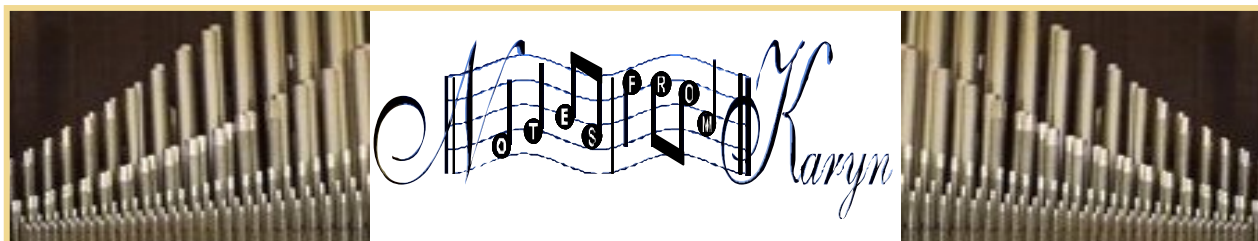
What a season of waiting is this season of Advent! We wait to celebrate his first birth, we wait for the time when all things we be made new, but let’s not wait for his coming each day because He is already here.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” Jn 1 :5.

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” Jn 1:14

May you be richly blessed during this Advent Season.

Faithfully



***“O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant!”***

A Blessed Advent to all of you! What a joy to start the New Church Year on Advent I with the return of our pipe organ!!! It is a thrill to play once again. I hope to share and demonstrate the changes that were made during an Adult Education session in January.

Meanwhile, in December we have the return of a “live” Christmas Pageant! Our youth and some adults will present the Pageant on Advent III (Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>). After church the youth will have pizza and I hope many will stay to decorate the Christmas tree in the narthex, play games and then go caroling to shut ins. Please let me know if your child plans to join us and if there are any parents willing to drive. I have caroling books to use.

***December 24<sup>th</sup> is an unusual Sunday this year:***

**At 9:00 am we have a liturgy to celebrate Advent IV.**

**At 3:45 pm we meet in the church to sing carols before the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve liturgy begins. It will be wonderful to have the Brass Ensemble play along with the carols for a festive time of worship. The Youth Choir will also provide some beautiful music and lead the carols that we sing.**

**At 6:45 pm we meet again to sing carols in the church. This is followed by the 7:00 pm liturgy during which our Adult Choir will provide music and lead the singing.**

On December 31<sup>st</sup> we have our liturgy of Lessons and Carols! A beautiful time to relive the Christmas story with scripture and carols sung between the readings.

That evening we welcome in the New Year with a New Year’s Eve liturgy.

And at all these liturgies we worship with our wonderful pipe organ.

Let’s raise our voices in praise and thanks to God for the gift of His Son with the heart-warming and joyful music of the Advent and Christmas season!

***“O praise ye the Lord!  
All things that give sound  
Each jubilant chord reecho around!  
Loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,  
And sweet harp, the story of what he hath done!  
(Hymn 432 verse 3)***

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the Good Shepherd**

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Good Shepherd Webster



@FrLanceRobbins

# Advent Prayer

Emmanuel

Our world waits in longing for your light,

In the midst of darkness, reveal your light.

As we long for lasting peace in the midst of violence,

Be with us.

As we long for families to be reunited, Be with us.

As we long for enemies to be reconciled, Be with us.

As we long for cures and healings, Be with us.

As we long for decent jobs and economic security,

Be with us.

Fulfill the deepest longings of your people and dispel the  
darkness in our hearts and in the world. Let your Word  
ignite the hope the world needs to bring to life your love  
And justice. Amen.

## Christmas Schedule:

<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>9am Advent IV 4pm and 7pm Liturgies (with carol singing 15 minutes prior to each service)</b>
<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>10am at St. Andrews Chapel</b>
<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>10:15am Lessons &amp; Carols New Year's Eve Liturgy at 7pm</b>

## GOOD SHEPHERD VESTRY

By Diane Castle Babcock, Senior Warden

The vestry met on Thursday, November 16th. Tom Yourch reported on the structural condition of St. Andrews chapel. He and Pete Rothfuss collaborated to present a slideshow of photos that Tom took of the crawl space beneath the building and the attic. He said that there is no insect damage and there are no emergency repairs that require our attention. There is a foundation crack that Tom said can be fixed with an Epoxy kit. The roof is in good condition. Tom will provide the vestry with a quote for the needed repairs to the building.

Pete Rothfuss reported that the St. Andrew's Chapel commission was concerned about the condition of the floor and asked what the capacity is of the building. The vestry did not have information regarding the occupancy limit, so Pete Rothfuss will contact the fire marshal to obtain a certificate of occupancy.

Tom Yourch also did an evaluation of the downstairs kitchen at Good Shepherd. He reported that the sink does not work. We need to purchase a sewer ejection pump and replace the grease trap. These issues with the basement sink may eventually affect the function of the sink in the parish hall. The vestry will request that Chris Nuccitelli obtain at least two quotes for the work that needs to be completed.

Pam Meyris and Kris Murray will proceed with purchase of prayer books and hymnals as needed. Many thanks to both these ladies who did a thorough inventory of the books, assessed their condition, and procured quotes for the prayer books and hymnals. We will use money from several memorial funds to cover the cost of the books.

The vestry discussed quotes provided by Chris Nuccitelli for stripping and cleaning of the parish hall and music room floors. All are in agreement that the work needs to be done. The vestry has decided to table this project until 2024 because this expense was not budgeted and we want to be assured that we have adequate funds to cover the expense.

Bruce Dunn presented a budget worksheet for 2024. He projects that there will be a \$30,000 increase in basic operating expenses. He stated that much of the increase comes from a rise in utility costs. It was suggested that we contact Crossfield Heating to conduct an energy audit. The \$30,000 increase does not include necessary repairs to the building.

Our next two meetings will be December 14th and January 18th. During these meetings we will be working on the 2024 budget. We depend on pledged income to determine what we can afford to spend on repairs, ministries, and salaries. Thank you to all those who have turned in their pledges for 2024. If you haven't pledged yet, it's not too late. The vestry, in concert with the marketing committee and Invite, Welcome, and Connect have developed plans to grow our church family and make our presence known in the community. With your support, we can realize our goals.







We have all worked very hard to complete our fall/winter projects. The group cut, sewed and completed sewing 90+ fleece hats for A Meal and More and any other organization that needs them. The Stitches have really enjoyed sewing neck pillows for the ill and those in hospice. It is so wonderful to have had such colorful and fun fabrics donated to us for this project. Twenty-six pillows were delivered to Webster Comfort Care on Monday. We will be delivering some Christmas spirit to our church's home bound when we give them the Christmas trees that we created and decorated with fun miniature decorations. Fifteen trees will be delivered next weekend. Our groups have a lot of ideas for next year and we will be working on our on-going projects also. Please join us if you can. No experience needed. We meet on Thursday mornings at 10 AM in the church basement. Please contact Pam Meyris if you have any questions. [pmeyris@rochester.rr.com](mailto:pmeyris@rochester.rr.com)

January's title for the Book Club will be. **The All American** by Susie Finkbeiner. Here's a brief blurb about it from the book's back cover: "It is 1952, and nearly all the girls Bertha Harding knows dream of getting married, keeping house, and raising children. Bertha dreams of baseball. She reads every story in the sports section, she plays ball with the neighborhood boys--she even writes letters to the pitcher for the Workington Sweet Peas, part of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. When Bertha's father is accused of being part of the Communist Party by the House Un-American Activities Committee, life comes crashing down. But dreams are hard to kill, and when Bertha gets a chance to try out for the Workington Sweet Peas, she packs her bags for an adventure she'll never forget. Join award-winning author Susie Finkbeiner for a summer of chasing down your dreams and discovering the place you truly belong.

Here is the full list of our planned readings (subject to change) for 2024:

Jan 25 - **The All-American** - Susie Finkbeiner

Feb 22 - **Homefront** by Kristen Hannah

Mar 28 - **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus

Apr 25 - **A Life Intercepted** by Charles Martin

May 23 - **The Last Green Valley** by Mark Sullivan

Jun 27 - **Camera Girl: The Coming of Age of Jackie Bouvier Kennedy** by Carl S. Anthony

No meeting in July

Aug 22 - **The Winemakers Wife** by Kristen Harmel

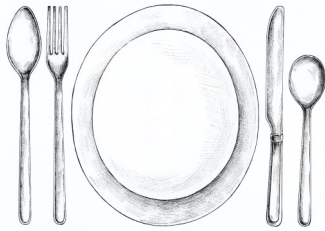
Sep 26 - **Chicken Sisters** by KJ Dell'Antonia

Oct 24 - **Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver

No meeting in November

Dec 12 - **Mistletoe Inn** by Richard Paul Evans





## MEAL MINISTRY

by Debra Nelson

Please call Debra Nelson at (585)671-5581 if you know of anyone in our church family who needs to have their meals prepared and delivered to their home AND/OR you are interested in preparing OR delivering meals to those in need.



## LET'S REMEMBER A FEW OF THE FORGOTTEN THIS CHRISTMAS

Located 16 miles south of Rochester, the Industry Residential Center (IRC), is an accredited facility by the American Correctional Association. The youth served there are male, adjudicated, juvenile delinquents who are placed with the Office of Children and Family Services by Family Court. It consists of two campuses known as Upper Campus and Lower Campus. Upper Campus is an 80-bed facility which houses 'Raise the Age' youth. Lower Campus is a 50-bed facility that houses youth adjudicated prior to the age of 16. These boys are in modern, single-story units that have a large multi-purpose area that can be used as program space in the evenings and on the weekends. Each campus has a separate education building and several vocational shops, outdoor recreation fields, and gardens.

Good Shepherd parishioner Richard Laidlaw, who serves on the advisory board of visitors for this institution, would like to be able to bring some Christmas gifts to the youth there and wonders if parishioners would like to help him do this. To adhere to the facility's safety and security procedures, NO items may be gift wrapped, made of metal or glass and not have sharp edges, metal bindings or staples. There must be NO aerosol containers or pump bottles, and NOT contain alcohol as an ingredient. Further, they must be in their original packaging and NOT be previously used. One thing more: NO dice.

Okay, so what does this leave you as possible gifts? The facility suggests hair shampoo & conditioner products such as Dove and Pantene and Moroccan Argan Oil; deodorant/anti perspirants such as Degree and Gillette; oral hygiene items in 4oz. tubes such as Arm & Hammer, Colgate or Crest; Chapsticks; and body & wash lotions such as Axe, Irish Spring, Equate, and Cocoa Butter. Calendars are okay, provided they lack spiral or staple bindings. If these practical items don't strike you as much fun for a Christmas gift, there are always board games like checkers, chess, Dominos, Monopoly, playing cards, trivia card games and Uno. Also: crosswords, sudoku and word searches plus jigsaw puzzles from 300 to 1,000 pieces. And let's not forget sports equipment: basketballs, footballs, and soccer balls.

A designated table for these items will be set up in the Narthex where your donations may be left, starting Sunday Dec. 10 and running through Sunday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please email Dick Lailaw at [dlaidlaw237@gmail.com](mailto:dlaidlaw237@gmail.com)/ Thank you.

# THE BEST STORY: An Imperfect Christmas Pageant



Proudly presented by the Children of Good Shepherd (and assorted grownups!)

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the 10:15 am Eucharist

happy  
birthDay

Kathy Rivera  
Jill Burch  
Kim Yourch  
Kaitlyn Koneski  
Hannah Bauerschmidt  
Larry Therkildsen  
Stephen Meyer  
Eleanor Bauerschmidt  
Gordon Wilbert

Debra Nelson  
John Van Hooydonk  
Jack Brennick  
Madeline Peterson

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Pam Russo  
Kris German  
Bill Comella  
Pat Delperdange  
Larry Howe  
Andrea Lorenzo  
Sherri White  
Shayna Tokar-Schinaman  
Lisa Robinson  
Gary Richardson  
Deb Anderson  
Terri Edwards  
Rolin Peets

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12/31



**From: The Good Shepherd Meal & More Team**

**Advent Food Drive**

Are you looking for a fun way for your family to learn the spirit of giving? Why not make a continue the GS Christmas tradition putting aside something at each meal? Set aside a box to fill with your family's donations – and give one item each day of Advent. It can be food from your pantry, other necessary items, or even \$1 a day - which you can turn into a gift card to help the soup kitchen. Please share your blessings with A Meal & More by filling an "Advent Box!"

Please help OUTREACH fill gift bags for those served at A Meal and More! The holiday gift collection needs deodorant for 80 men & 25 women by 12/13.

Please bring your week of donations to church each Sunday: December 3, 10, 17, and 24. All donations go directly to serving the marginalized and homeless our Good Shepherd team serves at A Meal & More. If you have any questions, please call at 585-671-5581.

The following items are needed:

- Juice boxes, water bottles, or other individual drink containers for bagged lunches
- Fruit juices (Bottles of apple, orange, cranberry-apple)
- Beef and chicken broth, chicken noodle soup, vegetable soup
- Frozen or canned vegetables such as green beans, corn, peas, mixed vegetables – commercial size
- is recommended
- Canned fruit – applesauce, mixed fruit, peaches
- Deodorant for holiday gift bags

Perishable foods are needed, too! (Please put a post-it on the table in the Narthex telling us your perishable donations are in the FREEZER in Fellowship Hall)

- Deli meat such as turkey, ham, bologna ... and cheese for making sandwiches
- Holiday HAMS & Turkeys

\*Large or commercial sizes are preferred, but all donations will be gratefully accepted.

\*Gift cards to BJs, Wegmans, Walmart, (or Visa or MasterCard) are also accepted and appreciated!

Please put them in Chris Nuccitelli's or Debra Nelson's mailbox or hand them directly to them.

**LET'S MAKE THIS OUR BIGGEST HOLIDAY DRIVE EVER!!**

A Blessed Christmas to all our parish contributors of food, money, personal items, prayers, time, and LOVE!



**AS SEEN AT  
GOOD SHEPHERD**



**(and beyond)**



Veteran's Day was celebrated in the Parish Hall with a special display



On November 19, special music was provided by Kathy Stokes (right) and two of her family: sister Beth Dinan (left) and daughter the Rev. Keisha Stokes (middle)



On November 10, about 30 Good Shepherd parishioners attended Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester. Rabbi Peter Stein (far right) led a tour of the building and gave us a close-up look at a Torah scroll.



At a Meal & More, long-supported by Good Shepherd parishioners, November 5<sup>th</sup> was Chef Cordero Rivera's final day. We will miss him.



Sunday Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> saw the return of Good Shepherd's organ following its upgrade. Here, Karyn plays the 10:15am Prelude: Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring."



As a fundraiser, the Outreach Committee is currently selling antique dolls in the Narthex, a few of which are pictured. Perhaps one might make a good Christmas gift.

## HOLIDAY CHIMES CONCERTS

Led by Director Dr. Karyn Robbins, Good Shepherd's two chime choirs – the 4-member Chime Quartet and the 14-member Chime Choir – offered two holiday concerts in early December. The first was held at the Irondequoit Public Library on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The second was held at Good Shepherd on December 6<sup>th</sup> also at 7pm, attended by over 50 parishioners. In all, 22 musical pieces were presented from arrangements by Frances Callahan and Martha Lynn Thompson.

The performers were: Jill Daddis, Beth Dinan, Greg & Holly Hartline, Cheryl Kuberka, Carol Markham, Olivia & Sara Markovitz, Meg Marsh, Sally Nash, Lenore O'Sullivan, Joanne Palermo, Fr. Lance Robbins, Kathy Stokes, Bev Strohm, and Laura Rosato

