



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News

2 June 2023

The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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This Upcoming Sunday

Trinity Sunday

First Sunday after Pentecost

4 June 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship (Bulletin)

Service: Holy Eucharist B

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Dana Carlson

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Lynn
Graham

Eucharistic Minister/Prayer Leader:
David Burton

Altar Guild: Lynn Graham

Coffee Hour Host: Luncheon

Cantor: Kailey Klimkowski

Soloists: Kailey Klimkowski and Ben South

LESSONS for Trinity Sunday - First Sunday after
Pentecost

New Testament – Genesis 1: 1-2:4a

Psalm – Canticle 13 (Sung)

Epistle – 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Gospel – Matthew 28: 16-20



<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Reflection

The Whole Story

Sometimes we need to step back and consider how events in our lives connect and relate to each other to recognize the Holy Spirit at work.

Sixteen years ago, I was ordained to the priesthood in the diocese I grew up in, been cared for, and supported throughout my discernment and ordination process. The joy of my ordination day was dampened by the reality that I was simultaneously being released to serve the church outside of that diocese. While being released allowed me to experience firsthand how God is truly with us wherever we go, and transforms human disappointments into life-giving holy moments, the sadness of leaving where I never felt called to leave remained.

I am grateful for the opportunities I have been given here at Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens; where I have come to know all of you and to experience the exciting creativity of campus ministry by serving a university community. The permission to be creative in how I reached out to our neighbors was liberating, and I will never take the trust I was given for granted. Ministry at Church of the Good Shepherd taught me a lot about balancing loving a parish and community.

So, when I stood behind the altar on Christmas Eve feeling God was calling me leave Good Shepherd, I felt a heavy sadness. For a few years now, I have been feeling called to ministry in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. I have prayed about this call, discussed it with spiritual directors, colleagues, and friends to make sure I was not feeling homesick. When my husband came home from church a few Sundays later expressing the same feeling about leaving Athens, then I knew the Holy Spirit is at work and it is indeed time for us to leave.

That is when I entered a most unusual life-giving search process. Contacting the transition ministers in Wisconsin was delightful because I know them. I soon found out there was only one parish with a full-time position available, and it is in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. From the moment I heard about St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Minocqua, Wisconsin, in the Diocese of Fond du Lac (the same diocese I was ordained in) I felt a curiosity that continues to draw me closer to the parish and town. Each step of the process has helped me learn how I have grown both as person and priest as well as learn about St. Matthias. On the last day of my visit to St. Matthias, I celebrated a Eucharist service for the search committee and vestry. At the time of the sermon, I spoke about how we've been writing the sermon for that service

together and it was time to preach it together. I invited each person to give one word that described our time together. The words I can remember from that day are: family, peace, love, joy, serendipity, renewal, hope. When it was my turn to speak, I had planned on saying life-giving because that is how I described the process. However, when I opened my mouth the word *home* came out. And I realized God is calling me back to where I come from, not as I was, but as I am now.

The search committee and vestry of St. Matthias completed their work on the same day Michael and I left Minocqua; they were even able to contact the Bishop of Fond du Lac, the diocese I was ordained in. Only three hours after we left Minocqua, the Senior Warden of St. Matthias called me to say the search committee unanimously recommended me as their next rector, the vestry unanimously voted in favor and the bishop gave his consent. Of course, I accepted the call. To receive this call and all the wonder and new life that comes with it, I must relinquish another.

The joy of Resurrection life is touched with the sorrow of loss. The two are so intertwined, they cannot be separated.

I am forever grateful for all the support from all of you at Church of the Good Shepherd, for our ministry together and will remember you all fondly as I now begin a new chapter, one that leads me back to where I came from. Or, as J.R.R. Tolkien wrote, "Roads go ever ever on, under cloud and under star, yet feet that wondering have gone, turn at last to home afar."

All of us have different stories, and the same Holy Spirit at work in our lives. I have shared my story with you as part of my goodbye, because wherever I go, you will always be part of my story and will be with me. It is my hope it might also help you recognize when the Holy Spirit has been at work in your life and the life of Church of the Good Shepherd, and to encourage you that now that I am leaving, Church of the Good Shepherd will be entering a search process too. I pray yours is as life-giving and Spirit-filled. If you are ever on a road that leads you near Minocqua, Wisconsin, I hope you will stop by St. Matthias and see us.

Many Blessings,

Mother Deborah

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, June 4, 10:30 a.m. - - Rev. Woolsey's last service (Sharing Cabinet)

Sunday, June 4, 11:30 a.m. - - Farewell Luncheon

Sunday, June 11, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Rev. Canon Michael Spencer, officiating)

Tuesday, June 13, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl in Nehls Hall

Thursday, June 15, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting

Sunday, June 18, 10:30 a.m. - - Morning Prayer (Discretionary Sunday)

Sunday, June 25, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Rev. Michael Ralph, officiating)

Tuesday, June 27, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl in Nehls Hall

Looking Ahead

Sunday, June 11, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Rev. Canon Michael Spencer, officiating)

Sunday, June 25, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Rev. Michael Ralph, officiating)

Schedules

Coffee Hour Schedule

June 4th	Luncheon
June 11	Lynn Graham
June 18	Lois Wagner
June 25	Dana Carlson

Open Dates for Altar Flowers

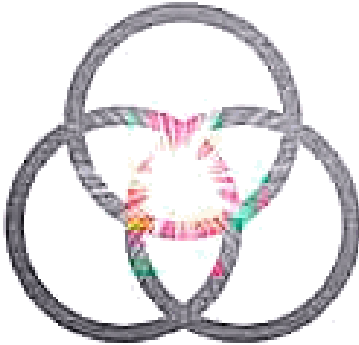
in June: 4th, 18th, 25th

[To Altar Flower Open Dates and Procedure.](#)

Notes & Announcements

Trinity Sunday

June 4 is a busy Sunday! Not only is it Mother Deborah's last Sunday at Good Shepherd, and the day we will baptizing Sophie Steen-Kiefer, it is also Trinity Sunday.



Trinity is one way we refer to God who is Three in One: Father, Son, Holy Spirit, One God.

This is not easy to understand, and it was never intended to be. You can read a lot about this doctrinal belief, and maybe it will help. But the truth is God is beyond our knowing or understanding. Just when we think we have it all figured out, when we are certain, something will happen that will make us wonder or ponder or dig deeper. That's okay.

Maybe it was never supposed be about knowing or understanding. Maybe, as it is suggested in the Creation story, it was just supposed to be about being in relationship with God, walking together in the cool of the evening. Or, as Ryan Casey Walker wrote in his book *Broken*, "We can't understand the Trinity by reading a book or hearing a sermon. The only way to begin to understand the great mystery of God is by opening our lives."

Hope you can join us Sunday to celebrate the Trinity, baptize Sophie, and say goodbye to Mother Deborah and Michael. You could say it will be a very Trinitarian Trinity Sunday at Church of the Good Shepherd!

June 4 is Mother Deborah's Last Sunday

Please join us in person or online for Mother Deborah's last Sunday at Church of the Good Shepherd. For those who have not heard, Mother Deborah has accepted the call to serve as the next Rector of St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Minocqua, Wisconsin.

Please join us as we say goodbye to Mother Deborah and Michael and wish them well.

Luncheon on Sunday, June 4

As a way of wishing Mo. Deborah and Michael Godspeed, the Marthas will serve a luncheon after church in Nehls Hall. The menu will include Chicken Enchilada casserole (gluten-free and not spicy), salad, bread, iced tea and cake. All one needs to do is show up with an appetite!

Mother Deborah and Michael's New Address:

Starting in mid-June 2023

The Rev. Deborah Woolsey and Michael Luelloff
11197 Tonya Drive
Woodruff, WI 54568

Please Pray for Mother Deborah and Michael during their move: they hope for an uneventful move.

Timeline for Mother Deborah and Michael

June 4 Mother Deborah's last Sunday at Church of the Good Shepherd.

June 6-8 Mother Deborah and Michael will pack up her church office.

June 12 Movers will load Mother Deborah and Michael's belongings into the moving truck to transport them to Wisconsin.

June 15-20 Mother Deborah and Michael's stuff will be delivered to their new house in Woodruff, Wisconsin.

July 2 Mother Deborah's first Sunday at St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Minocqua, Wisconsin.

What Happens After Mother Deborah Leaves?

The Rev. Can. Michael Spencer, the Canon for Transitional Ministry will be at Church of the Good Shepherd on Sunday, June 11. He will celebrate the Eucharist and preach at 10:30 am. Canon Spencer oversees the process of helping parishes find their next rector. He will be available after the service to answer questions and he will meet with the vestry.

Remember, if you can't be there in person, you can watch the service on the church's Facebook page.

Boiler Alert



As you probably know, we heat the church during winter with steam produced by boiler system in the basement. Our boilers, now 43 years old and well past their twenty (20) year expected life, are badly corroded and work only at 60% efficiency. In addition, we have a hot water heater that works

24/7. With rising utility costs, especially the recent announcement from AEP that electric rates will increase by about 30% in June, it seems a huge waste of our resources to have the water heater operating all day every day when the church facilities are being used less.

At its May meeting, the Green Committee presented to Vestry a proposal that (1) we replace those boilers along with (2) a more efficient system of providing hot water to the church. New boilers will be 95% efficient; a tankless/pilotless water heater will provide hot water only when needed for the restrooms, the Sacristy and the kitchen. The combined cost of both systems is \$39,996. Following discussion, Vestry decided, unanimously, that replacing both is urgent, especially that we are now in warmer months.

Vestry is asking for your help in financing the cost. To date, we have donations of \$5900, a diocesan Energy Efficiency (Creation Care) grant of \$5350, and a \$10,000 diocesan loan. We are also writing a grant proposal to the Church Foundation, but chances of getting that are less certain. Because energy utilities are expected to rise sharply this summer, we must try to keep our gas and electric bills as low as possible. Please prayerfully consider donating to this important project.

It was nice to see this little praying mantis fellow (total length about the width of a quarter) already at work keeping things under control in the garden.



Repeats & More

If you want to help the folks who have been negatively impacted by environmental disaster and war anywhere in the world please consider contributing to **Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)** which is the official ministry of the Episcopal Church. You can select which fund, such as Ukraine Crisis Response.



For Bishop Transition News and Updates



Church Sign announcing
Mother Deborah's arrival,
circa January 2015.

Contacts & Information

Contact Information

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895 (cell) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513 or by e-mail at macbuck@yahoo.com.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Dana Carlson, Junior Warden, at 740-664-2022 or by e-mail at carlsondana@hotmail.com.

For emergencies, please call Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513

NON-emergency messages can be left on the church's answering machine (740-593-6877). The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877) or barbara@chogs.org.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

[DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

This takes you to the Parish Home page where you can donate on line via PayPal. If you have a preference, please indicate on the the "Add special instructions to the seller" section the purpose of the donation—e.g. Covid Memorial, plate collection, etc.

Check out the Church's [YouTube Channel](#).

LIKE us on Facebook [Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 45701](#)

Office Hours:
10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701
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chogs@chogs.org
www.chogs.org

**The Diocese COVID
Guidelines request
all persons wear
masks inside the
church building
regardless of
vaccination status.**

Church of the Good Shepherd | 64 University Terrace, Athens, OH 45701

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