

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Highlights

[New Church Year](#)

[Upcoming](#)

[Sunday Participants](#)

[Christmas Services
Participants](#)

[Christmas Services](#)

[Fish with Coin
Revealed](#)

[Annual Meeting](#)

[Lunch Report](#)

[Kitchen Project](#)

[Cakes](#)

[Big Read](#)

[Get Connected](#)

Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

[E-News guidelines](#)


[Back Issues](#)

[Diocese S Ohio](#)

[Episcopal News](#)

[Service](#)

[Episcopal Cafe](#)

 [Like us on Facebook](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Altar Flowers
How to Order](#)

CHURCH OF THE



GOOD SHEPHERD

Good Shepherd E-News (20 December 2018)

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio--seeking to know and serve Christ in loving service to the campus, the community, and the world.

This Sunday, 23 December 2018



Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

The new Church Year begins with the Season of Advent. Advent is a word that means "coming" or "arrival." While it is often connected with preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, Advent is also a time when we make space for our longing for Jesus to come again. It is a time when we acknowledge that we are still waiting for God's Kingdom to be fully realized in a world of sin, loneliness, and pain.

The color for the season is purple or blue. The Advent Wreath is how we keep track of where we are in the season and can remind us how we wait for Christ's coming again: with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Upcoming Events

Preparation for Christmas services - - Sunday, December 23, 12:00 p.m.

From our friends
in St. Luke's
Episcopal Church
in Mérida,
Mexico.

"José's Weekly
Reflection"

[ENGLISH](#)

[SPANISH](#)



**Your Kroger
Plus card can
help the
Church**

CrossRoads Cafe



Closed for
Winter Break,
Reopens
January 14

**Big Read
Schedule**

To this week's
United Campus
Ministry
Happenings

Christmas Family service - - Monday, December 24,
4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve service - - Monday, December 24,
10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day service - - Tuesday, December 25,
11:00 a.m.

Free Lunch - - Wednesday, Dec. 26, 12:00 noon

No Choir Rehearsal - - Wednesday, December 26

No Choir Rehearsal - - Wednesday, January 2

Choir Rehearsal - - Wednesday, January 6, 9:30
a.m.

8:30 a.m. Eucharist - - Sunday, January 6, Chapel

Prayer Shawl Meeting - - Tues., Jan. 8, Betty Larson

Free Lunch - - Wednesday, January 9, noon

Choir Rehearsal - - Wednesday, January 9, 9:30
a.m.

Second Sunday Brunch - - Sunday, January 13,
noon

Free Lunch - - Wednesday, January 16, noon

Discretionary Sunday - - Sunday, January 20

Vestry meeting - - Thursday, January 24, 7:00 p.m.

Afternoon Eucharist - - Sunday, Jan 20, 4:00 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Meeting - - Tuesday, Jan 22, Julie
Nehls

Free Lunch - - Wednesday, January 23, noon

Annual Meeting - - Sunday, January 27, 12:00 noon

Free Lunch - - Wednesday, January 30, noon

Donate



Participants scheduled for This Sunday, 23 December 2018, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Altar Guild: Zelma Coleman, Julie Nehls, Lynn Graham

Altar Flowers: Chuck and Harolyn Brient

Coffee Hour:

Eucharistic Visitor week of December 23 - Allyn Reilly

10:30 a.m. Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Richard Carlson

Eucharistic Ministers: Allyn Reilly (Prayer Leader) and Lynn Graham

Ushers: Anne Braxton and Julie Nehls

First Crucifer: Sharon Huge

Second Crucifer: Pely Brient

Lessons: for the Fourth Sunday of Advent - Micah 5:2-5a, Canticle or Psalm (Sung); Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45, (46-55).

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

Please Include in Your Prayers

In our world, we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; we pray for peace with justice throughout the Middle East. We pray for all people affected by natural and environmental disasters. We pray also for the people who are suffering from war, especially all asylum seekers, immigrants, and refugees. We pray for Donald, our President, and John, our Governor, the Supreme Court, and the members of Congress.

In our diocese, we pray for Thomas, our Diocesan Bishop, and Nedi, our Assisting Bishop. We pray also for Grace, Pomeroy; All Saints', Portsmouth; and St. Francis, Springboro.

In our parish, we pray for Good Shepherd's continued growth, for our

Rector, the Rev. Deborah Woolsey, for our Associate Priests, the Rev. Leslie Flemming, the Rev. Katharin Foster, and the Rev. David McCoy, and for our ministry to students, the university, and the community. We pray for our friends at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mérida, Mexico.

Those for whom our Prayers are Requested: * Chic, Don, Jennifer, Jody, Jonas, Karen and Rayna, Kris, Kristi, Weston, Linda, Pam, Andrew, Jane, Louise, Stephen, Stephen, Zelma, Julie, Chris, Sally, Norm, Tom, Jan, Pat, Doris, Molly and Mateo, Ivan, Alejandro, Candace, Carolyn, Lalena, Bill, Miriam, Wayne, William, Patty, Sharon, Monya, Patricia, Dan, David, John, Doug, Mark, Robert, Andrew, REGS, Don, Jim, Laura, Consuelo and family, and we pray for all who care for them.

Anniversary: Michael and Maureen Wootton (12/26)

Birthdays: Joanne Larson (12/12), Shawn Parsons (12/25), B. J. Cottrill (12/28)

Thanksgiving for the birth of Kaiya Elizabeth Callison to Bethany Miller Callison and Mac Callison and **thanksgiving for the birth** of Eowyn Rose Carlson, daughter of Jeroch and Karen Carlson.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Ira Zook, founder of the Singing Men of Ohio, and his wife Joan, by Chuck and Harolyn Brient.

* Full names for this section are not published online but are in the Sunday bulletin and will be read at the 10:30 service. If you have a name to be added to the prayer list, Lynn Graham maintains this information. Lynn may be reached at 740-593-5098 or grahammowery@aol.com.

Gospel

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:39-45(46-55)



In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the

fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

Participants Scheduled for Christmas Services

4:00 P. M. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Altar Guild - Lynn Graham

Lector - Lynn Graham

Eucharistic Ministers - Jack Flemming (Prayer Leader) and Lynn Graham

Ushers - Curt and Terrie Sherman

First Crucifer - Sharon Huge

Second Crucifer - Pely Brient

LESSONS for Christmas Eve 1 - Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
www.lectionarypage.net

Eucharistic Prayer - II-B

10:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Altar Guild - Lynn Graham

Lector - Alex Buckley

Eucharistic Ministers - Dana Carlson (Prayer Leader) and Lynn Graham

Ushers - Chris Eaton and Bruce Martin

Thurifer - Peter Buckley

First Crucifer - Bella Martin

Second Crucifer - Owen Buckley

Gospel Book - Ana Martin

LESSONS for Christmas Eve - Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97 (sung); Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20. www.lectionarypage.net

Eucharistic Prayer - II-B

11:00 A.M. CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Altar Guild - Lynn Graham

Lector - Jack Flemming

Eucharistic Minister - Jack Flemming (Prayer Leader)

First Crucifer - Lynn Graham

LESSONS for Christmas Day - Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98 (said); Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12); John 1:1-14. www.lectionarypage.net

Eucharistic Prayer - II-B

Christmas Services at Church of the Good Shepherd

There will be three opportunities to attend worship services celebrating Christmas at the Church of the Good Shepherd this year. Each is a different and unique service that celebrates the joy and wonder of Jesus' birth.

Please note that Mother Deborah and Marsha Reilly have heard the feedback that the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service is too long. In response, they are working together to change that service to make it

shorter and still retain a sense of joyful wonder that they hope is accessible to people of all ages.

Christmas Eve December 24

4:00 p.m. Early Service

Abbreviated service that still celebrates the joy of the day and features favorite carols and Holy Eucharist.

10:30 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service

Beautiful Christmas hymns, candlelight, sermon, Holy Eucharist. A glorious celebration of Christ's birth.

Christmas Day December 25

11:00 a.m. Said Service

A quiet Holy Communion service.

Whichever service or services you attend, each offers an opportunity to come close to the Mystery of the Incarnation, and we hope you will join us this Christmas.

Jesus and the Fish with a Coin in its Mouth Revealed Matthew 17:24-27

Congratulations to the two people who took the time to look up the story of Jesus and the fish with a coin in its mouth. It's an odd story and one most folks are unfamiliar with. Scholars and commentators have no firm explanation on this story. The most intriguing one I heard was from the perspective of the fish, who saw a coin fall through the water one day and later was told by God to find the coin, pick it up with its mouth, and swim to a hook in the water and bite the hook, and then Peter pulled the fish from the water. The fish spit the coin in



Peter's hand, and he returned the fish to the water, having what he needed to pay the temple tax. The moral was: sometimes God might ask us to do things that seem odd or don't make sense to us, but our obedience is integral to someone else's life. I've heard people tell me about the time they picked up milk at the store when they didn't need it but felt the call to buy it, and upon leaving the store came across someone who needed the milk but had accidentally left their money at home, or similar stories. Those accounts remind me of this story from Matthew, and I can see why it is categorized as a miracle, even if we

never find out if Peter did as Jesus instructed.

When they reached Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the temple tax?" He said, "Yes, he does." And when he came home, Jesus spoke of it first, asking, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of earth take toll or tribute? From their children or others?" When Peter said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the children are free. However, do that we do not give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook; take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a coin; take that and give it to them for you and me" (Matthew 17:24-27)

Annual Meeting January 27

Please join the Rector, Wardens, Treasurer, and Vestry for the Annual Meeting of the Church of the Good Shepherd Sunday in Nehls Hall January 27 following the 10:30 am service.



Wednesday Free Lunch Report



On Wednesday, December 19, Group 3 served 30 people pizza, fruit, vegetables, and cake. (The old cabinets and appliances in the kitchen had vanished into the night in these mysterious vehicles -- more photos below).

The lunch volunteers were Zella Nisley, Thaddeus Semsel, Lois Wagner, and Lynn Graham.

Please remember the hungry in our community in your prayers. To become involved in one or more of the four lunch teams, please speak to Phyllis Dean, Zelma Coleman, or David Burton.





Some of the new storage cabinets have been installed the past couple of days in preparation for the folks who were in today to measure for counter tops. Note the "farmer's" style sink. Also the unused protruding water and gas lines were cut and sealed to be covered by the new floor, and some electrical work is about to commence.



We all know that **Good Shepherd does CAKES** -- here are two recent cakes -- left, the Shermans' cake at Second Sunday Brunch two weeks ago, and right, Nikhil Dhinagar's appreciation cake last Sunday.



Repeat Material Below

Big Read with the Diocese of Southern Ohio: Luke and Acts



Starting the first of the new church year, we have been invited to join our diocese in the new Big Read. It is the hope of our bishop that by everyone in the diocese reading the same books of the Bible together we will grow as a diocese and be part of the Beloved Community initiative that focuses on reconciliation. This is also part of the Presiding Bishop's challenge to Practice the Way of Love by devoting time to Learn, Turn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Rest, Go.

This year, the Big Read will be on Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. We will participate in the Big Read by publishing the weekly schedule that breaks each book down into sections. On each Sunday, Mother Deborah will facilitate a conversation on the weekly reading after the 10:30 a.m. service. All are welcome to read along and participate in the weekly conversations.

Big Read Schedule Week of:

Dec. 3 Luke 1-3
Dec. 10 Luke 4-6

Feb. 4 Acts 2-4
Feb. 11. Acts 4-6

Dec. 17 Luke 7-9
Dec. 24 Luke 10-11
Dec. 31 Luke 12-14

Feb. 18 Acts 7-9
Feb. 25 Acts 10-12

Jan. 7 Luke 14-17
Jan. 14 Luke 17-20
Jan. 21 Luke 21-23
Jan. 28 Luke 23-Acts 1

March 4 Acts 12-14
March 11 Acts 15-17
March 18 Acts 18-21
March 25 Acts 22-27

Pastoral Care

Because of health care privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to call your priest or parish when you are in the hospital. That means that if you want a visit from Mother Deborah or a Lay Eucharistic Visitor (a parish member who has some training) you need to call and ask for a visit. For emergencies please call Mother Deborah's cell phone 937-689-8895. If you would prefer prayers instead of a visit, just call and ask for prayers.



Mother Deborah's cell number is 937-689-8895.

Her personal email is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <revdebwoolsey@gmail.com>, and the email through the church is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <revdeborah@chogs.org>.

Mother Deborah has found that people like to communicate in many ways, so she is reachable on Facebook (<https://facebook.com/deborah.woolsey.12>) and on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/DeborahWoolsey>).

Also, here is the link to the Church of Good Shepherd's **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Episcopal-Church-of-the-Good-Shepherd-45701/554345594588086?fref=ts>. Once you get on the page, just LIKE it if you are already a Facebook person. Otherwise you will need to create a Facebook account first.

And the Church of Good Shepherd's Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/CHOGSofAthens>.

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 David Burton, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5634 or by e-mail at drabeja02@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 The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

NOTE: NON-emergency messages can be left on the church answering machine (740-593-6877).

Office Hours:

10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (closed Friday and Saturday). 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

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