



# Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

Reaching Individuals and Families of the Concho Valley with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ!

## AGNUS DEI

December 2016

*“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it for ME!’”*

Matthew 25.40

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Beloved of the Lord,

The Knights of Columbus began an ad campaign in the 1960’s which simply stated: *“Keep Christ in Christmas.”* It was in reaction to the creeping, now galloping, secularization of American culture. Their campaign continues. But it begs the question. How is one to Keep Christ In Christmas? Never use “Xmas,” increase the number of outdoor nativity scenes, always greet others publically with “Merry Christmas!” Is it about restoring symbols? Or embracing the reality of being a follower of Jesus? Is there a deeper way to keep the Lord at the center of our celebration of His Nativity?

A Missionary fellowship which includes Anglicans began the **Advent Conspiracy**. The following is from their website: [www.lovefortheleast.org/resources/advent-conspiracy/](http://www.lovefortheleast.org/resources/advent-conspiracy/)

**“Advent Conspiracy:** Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All. *“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it for ME!’”* (Matthew 25.40) **Advent Conspiracy** is an annual Seasonal rebellion, putting Jesus back in Christmas, showing the difference He makes to a broken, hurting world. Advent Conspiracy sets us Christ followers apart as we *Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give MORE and Love All*. Practically, we reduce our normal spending on gifts, parties, food, etc. We then take these savings -- ten percent for example -- and use them to show Christ’s love among the poor and least in tangible ways.”

Fr. Jerry and the Love for the Least team will provide gift packages for Christian refugee families in the ISIS ravaged areas with gift packages. The cost for one package is \$75; \$50 of which provides a whole family with a month of food and some Christmas sweets the remaining \$25 covers toys for the children of a refugee family. Forms and envelopes are available in the Narthex, or you may download them from the website. Envelopes provided so donations are sent directly to Love 4 the Least.

There are also many other worthy charities where your giving directly impacts the lives of those in need. “Good King Wenceslaus” is a traditional Christmas Carol that tells of a tenth century Czech King and martyr who braves a wintry storm on St Stephens’ Day (Dec. 26) to give alms to the poor. This follower of Jesus exemplifies the followers of Jesus who throughout the centuries generously and sacrificially give of themselves to care for the poor and needy when we celebrate the Gift of God’s Love in sending His Son at Christ Mass. We can all Keep Christ in Christmas as we put Jesus first in our lives, and participate in the Advent Conspiracy as we: *Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give MORE and Love All*.

A Grateful Co-Conspirator,

*Stan Burdosh* +

Father Stan

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## ADVENT, SEASON OF EXPECTANT WAITING

Advent is a time of special preparation for the Celebration of our Lord Jesus' Birth with prayer, study of the Word of God, alms giving and serving the poor. Most Christians keep the season of Advent, the four weeks and Sundays preceding Christmas, or in Eastern Orthodox churches, the forty days preceding Christmas. The word Advent comes from Latin *adventus*, from *advenire*, from ad- to + *venire* - to come. The liturgical colors are purple or dark blue. The First Sunday in Advent is the first day of the Church's year. This year Advent Sunday is Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Third Sunday is called "Rose" Sunday, and the third or rose candle is lit on the Advent Wreath to signal that we are half way through the Season. Pink Roses adorn the reredos behind the Altar. The last Sunday is known as "Lady Sunday," as we contemplate the Incarnation of the Son of God in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Mary the mother of Jesus serves as a model for the Church which brings Jesus to the world, and the individual disciple who surrenders themselves to live in and live out the will of God. Scripture readings at services the first two weeks focus on the promises of Jesus' Second Coming in Glory, while the final two weeks focus on the prophecies concerning His Nativity in obscurity.

## CHRIST'S MASS - The Etymology Of The Word Christmas



Many of our Christian Christmas traditions have Anglican (English) roots. "Christmas" is a shortened form of "Christ's mass". It is derived from the Middle English *Cristemasse*, which is from Old English *Crīstesmæsse*, a phrase first recorded in 1038 followed by the word *Crīstes-messe* in 1131. *Crīst* (genitive *Crīstes*) is from Greek *Khrīstos* (Χριστός), a translation of Hebrew *Māšīah* (מָשִׁיחַ), "Messiah", meaning "anointed"; and *mæsse* is from Latin *missa*, the celebration of the Eucharist. The form *Christenmas* was also historically used, but is now considered archaic and dialectal; it derives from Middle English *Cristenmasse*, literally "Christian mass". *Xmas* is an abbreviation of *Christmas* found particularly in print, based on the initial letter chi (X) in Greek *Khrīstos* (Χριστός), "Christ", though numerous style guides discourage its use; it has precedent in Middle English *Χρῆς masse* (where "Χρ" is an abbreviation for Χριστός). You may also see this "Χρ" in symbols on vestments, paraments, Bibles, religious books, and in stained glass windows.

# COWBOY CHRISTMAS

Last year's Christmas Tea was a wonderful success. We are going to do something entirely different this year. We are having a "**Cowboy Christmas**". There will be songs, carols, poetry and some really good food. This year on the menu we are having stew, cornbread, biscuits, cobblers, cookies, cocoa, coffee and all the trimmings. Please mark your calendars for **December 3rd** from 5-7pm in the Parish Hall. That is on a Saturday. It will be a great time of fellowship and to celebrate the Christmas season with our church family. We hope you will plan to attend.



There is a sign up list in the Narthex so we will know how many plan to attend. We also have a sign up sheet for those willing to help with the food. For more information, please call Sharon Weber 949-3116 or Anngie McWilliams 651-6457.

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Each year we decorate the sanctuary of the church for the celebration of our Lord's birth. You can help beautify the Altar area (Sanctuary) by donating to the Poinsettia Fund. A donation of any amount is welcome. Please fill out an envelope and form, listing your name, the name of person(s) you wish to remember as a memorial or in thanksgiving, and place it with your donation in the offering plate or turn it in at the church office. The last day for submitting memorials and thanksgivings is Sunday, Dec. 18, in order to publish them in the Christmas Service Booklets. The poinsettias remain in the sanctuary during the Christmas season.



The term Christmastide refers to the Twelve Days of Christmas the Church celebrates the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and it culminates on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, or the day that the Christ is manifested to the Magi who represent the all the Gentile, or non-Jewish peoples of the world.



## COME TO BREAKFAST ~ WE'RE INVITED

Pastor Greg and the Men's Fellowship of the Church of the Nazarene invite us to join them for breakfast on Sunday, December 4 from 9:30-10:00 AM in their parish hall. The Church of the Nazarene is directly across West Beauregard Avenue from our campus. There is a sign up sheet in our Narthex. There's no charge and reservations are appreciated.

# THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

**Sunday, December 18, 2016**, we invite all to lunch of pizza and salad



from 11:45-12:30 PM and from 12:30-2:00 PM

to join in decorating the church for  
the Christ's Mass Celebrations.



## **Sunday, December 18 at Noon a Pizza and Salad Lunch**



will be served in the Parish Hall. The church will supply  
pizza and you are asked to bring a salad to share.

Please sign up in the narthex so we can be sure to have enough pizza ordered.

## THE VESTRY MEETING

The December regular monthly  
Vestry meeting will be held on  
Monday, **December 19th**,  
beginning at 6:00 PM in the  
conference room. This meeting  
is open to all members of  
the congregation.

The Church Office will  
be closed Monday,  
December 26th.



## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Christ's Mass Eve Candle Light  
Holy Eucharist  
Saturday, December 24, 2016 at  
7:00 PM

Christ's Mass Day Festival  
Holy Eucharist  
Sunday, December 25, 2016 at  
10:30 AM

There will be no Holy Eucharist  
at 8:00 AM on Christ's Mass Day,  
December 25<sup>th</sup>.

## JESUS, LIKE NO OTHER

“So now, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith in his promises, we can have real peace with him because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. For because of our faith, he has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to actually becoming all that God has had in mind for us to be.” Romans 5:1-2 The Living Bible

Into this world a Child was born like no other in all eternity. From virgin birth, grace emerged — The Word made flesh: truth manifested in human form, forgiveness and mercy personified, Son of God glorified. Hosanna in the Highest! A baby changes everything. The gift of redemption walked the earth, God’s perfect love complete. Worthy is the Lamb! Holy Jesus, Keeper of my soul, I praise Your name above all names. Great is Your power and wonder Messiah, Holy Anointed One, Jesus the Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords. Hallelujah! Teacher, Rabbi, Savior, Friend: Your truth endures forever. Through Your life and ministry I have hope. In Your faith, I have peace. Because of Your shed blood, I am a child of the Most High, heir to Your kingdom in heaven. Redeemer, we are desperate for You. Millions of voices sing Your praise. Our hearts are filled with love, and we long to worship You forever.

O Lord Jesus, let me meditate upon Your love for me. Where You lead, I will follow. You set a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You route the devil from my path and deliver me from evil. You forgive my sins with abundant mercy overflowing. You prepare my place in Your mansion. Blessed Immanuel, God With Us, make me more like You. Give me the mind of Christ. Comforter, be with me in every sorrow. Healer, remove all dis-ease and negativity which is not of You. Mediator, stand in the fires of turmoil and tribulation beside me. Intercessor, pray for me each day. Mighty Warrior, surround me with chariots of fire and Your host of guardian angels. Prince of Peace, change my heart. Glorious and bright Morning Star, lead me into Your light. Savior, sanctify my soul and keep me holy for Your good will. Son of God and Man, transform my life in Your abiding love. Because of Your grace, I am worthy. Because You love me, I am more than I can be without You. Master, bless this faithful servant to do all the good works which You have designed for me. By the power of the Holy Spirit I am equipped for Your good purpose. I will worship and adore You all my days.

Lord Jesus, shake me from the dust. Saturate me with Your saving love. Graft me into Your holy Vine so that my fruit is delightful to You. Sustain me with Your Holy Spirit so that I may walk in Your ways. Whisper Your peace in the silence. Break the chains of fear and shame that anchor me in sin. Remove my garment of guilt and pride, and dress me in the splendor of Your grace. Robe me in the knowledge that I am Yours, and crown me as Your righteous heir through faith. Because of You, Lord Christ, I am reconciled and redeemed. May all I do, think and say bring honor and glory to You. Thank You blessed Immanuel, God With Us, for being my own. In Your mighty name I pray, In Christ alone, amen.

Jean Stinnett



Fr. Jon and Dale Stasney will lead our **ALL PARISH RETREAT, Friday, January 13 through Sunday, January 15, 2017** at The Great House, Junction, TX.

Our theme will be "Jesus our Healer." We will begin with Supper at 6:00 PM on Friday, and dismiss no later

than Noon on Sunday. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex so you can make your reservation early. Rooms have a variety of beds, so please make special note of the type of bed in your room so that you can bring the correct linens. Additional information will be available in January. There is no charge to participate, but all are asked to make a generous donation to the ongoing work of The Great House ministry.



### *PASTORAL HOLIDAY*

Father Stan and Eileen will be on holiday from December 26 through January 3. If pastoral care is needed, please call Deacon June at 234-5014.



DON'T FORGET PROJECT DIGNIDAD NEEDS DONATIONS OF  
NONPERISHABLE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH STAPLES :)

SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL HAVE 12 DAYS WITH NO LUNCHROOM OVER CHRISTMAS



## **Pregnancy Help Center Concert for Life**

**Saturday, January 28, 11am—4pm**  
**Angelo Bible Church**  
**3506 Sherwood Way**

- Showcasing local musicians
- Silent Auction/Raffle
- Chili When It's Chilly Snackbar
- Come-and-Go

All proceeds to benefit Pregnancy Help Center



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST – “BREAKFAST WITH OSWALD”

Our monthly Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be held **December 17, 8:00-9:00 AM**, at the Peppercorn Restaurant on Sherwood Way. We have a new format: ordering and eating breakfast from 8-8:30 AM, and then reading and discussing a meditation from Oswald Chambers best-selling My Utmost For His Highest. A copy of that day's meditation will be available for each person, or you may purchase a copy of the entire book on Amazon or at a local bookstore. Hastings may have a copy, and they are going out of business with 30-40% off all stock. We will read that offering that corresponds to the date of our breakfast. Chambers is a no nonsense follower of Jesus and will challenge us as we seek to live in step daily with the Holy Spirit.

## THE VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Vestry Nominating Committee will meet December 3, 12:30-1:30 in the conference room.

### NOTICE



Please feel free to use the RO water dispenser in the kitchen. We are no longer stocking bottled water.

Also, the ice maker in the kitchen uses RO water and is for the congregation's use.



Meet Monday

December 5

at 6:00 pm

in the

Conference Room

## *Intercessory Prayer*

Do you believe in the power of prayer? Does prayer really change things? Does God intervene in our lives today?

Every Thursday morning at 10:00 AM we meet in the chapel of Good Shepherd to bow before the LORD in adoration, thanksgiving and intercession. We come together and lift our concerns and petitions to the King of kings, and LORD of lords. We know that God is always with us, but when we do what He says, and gather in His Name, we are keenly aware that He truly is in midst of us and we are overwhelmed by His Holy Presence.

Sometimes we come in need of prayer ourselves, sometimes we come with heavy hearts and long lists of petitions, sometimes we pray out loud, and sometimes we are silent and open our hearts to receive. ALL THE TIME, God hears and answers.

We would love to have you join us on a regular basis, or just stop in when you are able. We will pray for you and your needs, and you can pray for us.

The answer to above questions is yes, yes, and yes!

Thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia!!!

Come and see!



## December Bible Readings

New Testament		Old Testament	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN 14:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> REV. 1:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> JOB 23
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> 14:15-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:9-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 24
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> 14:22-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-26
4.	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:18-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 27
5.	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:9-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 28
6.	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:18-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:14-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 29
7.	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 30
8.	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:12-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 31:1-23
9.	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:25-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 31:24-40
10.	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 32
11.	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:6-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 33:1-11
12.	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:20-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 33:12-33
13.	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 34:1-20
14.	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:19-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 34:21-37
15.	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:28-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 35
16.	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 36:1-15
17.	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:17-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 36:16-33
18.	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:28-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 37
19.	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:38-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 38:1-21
20.	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 38:22-41
21.	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 39
22.	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:19-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 40
23.	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:24-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 41:1-11
24.	<input type="checkbox"/> 21:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 41:12-34
25.	<input type="checkbox"/> 21:15-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	<input type="checkbox"/> 42
			<input type="checkbox"/> HOSEA 1-3
			<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6
			<input type="checkbox"/> 7-8
			<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12
			<input type="checkbox"/> 13-14
			<input type="checkbox"/> JOEL 1
			<input type="checkbox"/> 2-3
			<input type="checkbox"/> AMOS 1-2
			<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
			<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
			<input type="checkbox"/> 7-9
			<input type="checkbox"/> OBADIAH 1-21
			<input type="checkbox"/> JONAH 1-4
			<input type="checkbox"/> MICAH 1-3
			<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5
			<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7
			<input type="checkbox"/> NAHUM 1-3
			<input type="checkbox"/> HABAKKUK 1-3
			<input type="checkbox"/> ZEPHANIAH 1-2
			<input type="checkbox"/> 3
			<input type="checkbox"/> HAGGAI 1-2
			<input type="checkbox"/> ZECHARIAH 1-5
			<input type="checkbox"/> 6-9
			<input type="checkbox"/> 10-14
			<input type="checkbox"/> MALACHI 1-4

## December Birthdays

12/2	Tom Thornton
12/2	Karla Gould
12/13	Jenny Schroeder
12/16	Erica Peddy
12/25	Lori Smithwick
12/27	Henry McWilliams
12/27	Stan Burdock
12/29	Lucia Smith
12/29	Anita Reisdorfer
12/30	Drew Peddy



**January Agnus Dei  
Deadline is December 16th**



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