

# Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

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

## AGNUS DEI

December 2015

***“Then  
suddenly  
the LORD  
you are  
seeking will  
come to His  
temple...”***

Malachi 3.1

***“Then suddenly the LORD you are seeking will come to His temple...”***

Malachi 3.1

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

In the Broadway musical *Fiddler On The Roof* and young man from Anatevka, a Jewish village in Czarist Russia, has just learned the Russian monarch has ordered all Jews to leave their homes and property. He asks his local Rabbi: *"Rabbi, wouldn't this be a good time for the Messiah to come?"* Many of us are asking the same question. I would add the question from Psalm 94.3: *"How long will the wicked, O LORD, how long will the wicked triumph?"* This question is asked by an observer, but in The Revelation, the question is asked by martyrs who have suffered at the hands of the Lord's enemies: *"How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until You judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"* (Revelation 6.10) Whether you're an observer or a victim, the waiting seems to be interminable.

So many of us are asking *"how long, Lord?"* not just for the answer to these momentous questions, but to our own unresolved physical conditions and familial situations. Our "problems" seem to pale in comparison to those around the world who are suffering persecution, martyrdom, displacement, loss of family, property, and hope. But pain is pain, and pain endured is difficult and challenging.

Bishop Mark reminded us on his recent visit that we can trust, rely on, and depend on the Lord and His promises to us. The Scripture remind us that we are pilgrims on planet earth, *"for here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking forward to the city that is to come."* (Heb. 13.14) During Advent we are reminded in Bible study, Scripture readings, devotions, music and sharing what we have with the needy, that God's promises of a Messiah and Savior was realized in the Incarnation of His Son Jesus Christ. We loosen our grip on things earthly to grasp what is eternal. As missionary-martyr Jim Elliot said: *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."* Advent is an opportunity to revisit the great prophecies and promises of God, and be encouraged and strengthened to persevere until the Lord Jesus returns in glory.

If you are seeking the Lord Jesus, I encourage asking Him to reveal Himself to you in unmistakable ways. If you know the Lord Jesus, I encourage you to seek new ways to share His transforming love with others.

We are securely Christ's own until He comes FOR EVER!

*Stan Burdock +*

Father Stan Burdock

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of the  
Good Shepherd**

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## ADVENT

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. 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.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Devotional Books for the Season of Advent are available on the table in the narthex.

## ADVENT CALENDARS

For the children of the church, Advent Calendars are on the table in the narthex. The children's names are on the calendars.

## Praying Through the Names of God

*Elohim*, Jehovah. Adonai. God's names inspire awe, reverence and worship in those who seek to know Him more personally. How does God make Himself known? The answer is Jesus, Immanuel, "God with us". To know Jesus is to know God. And Jesus is the fulfillment of all these names. He is the Creator God, our redeemer, our sanctification, the mighty conqueror, our intercessor and high priest, our friend, our refuge; a servant, savior, Son of Man, Son of God, our coming King, our "God with us".

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:  
Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son,  
and she will call his name Immanuel".

Isaiah 7:14

Jesus... Yeshua... Joshua... Christ... Messiah... Immanuel

Holy is Your name above all names, Jesus of Nazareth, our Immanuel! We praise and adore You, wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Immanuel. Your Abba Father gave You to us so that we might be saved. You left the majesty of heaven— You relinquished Your throne— to be born of a virgin and walk this earth in human form. Rabbi, Teacher, Holy One, You teach us to love Your Father above all else. You show us unending mercy. You forgive our sins. You are the voice of truth, the air we breathe, the living water and daily bread on which we thrive. We have no greater gift than You, Immanuel. Great is Your mighty power, Your beauty and splendor, Your compassion and forgiveness. Thank You for saving us from our sin by Your death and resurrection. Thank You for making us heirs to Your kingdom and for the promise of eternal life. You have written Your name on our hearts, Immanuel, and we are sealed to Your glory. There is no condemnation as we live in Your light to serve You in thought, word and deed. Now we know what it is to have God with us daily, and we are transformed by Your grace. The oracles prophesied about You. In the beginning, You are the Word. And in the final chapter Your rule is complete. Then all angels and men will bow to Your name, Immanuel. We are made in Your image for Your good purpose, and we love You. The peace You give us transcends all understanding and we cry Holy, Holy, Holy, Lamb of God! We rejoice in Your mystery and wonder. Walk with us, Jesus, all of our days. Tell us You love us just as we are, frail and broken, lost and sinful. Carry our burdens of pain, guilt, remorse and regret. Awaken in us the desire to know You more completely each day. You are the bright morning star and our evening prayer, the Alpha and Omega. We praise you Immanuel, and pray all things in Your holy name. Amen.

Your beauty is astounding, covering, surrounding.  
Wrap Your love around me, set my spirit free.  
Your majesty and wonder, Savior let it be.  
O Sweet Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Your beauty captures me.

My song

Jean Stinnett



~ HIGH TEA ~  
AN ENGLISH  
TRADITION  
~  
TEXAS STYLE!

This year we will hold our inaugural HIGH TEA on Sunday, December 6 - St. Nicholas Day, from 5:00-7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. All are invited to this festive celebration of Our Lord's Birth; enjoy the teas and pastries and other offerings, as well as some singing of Christmas carols, hearing the story about the real St. Nicholas as well as the Christmas Story from the Gospel of St. Luke. A wonderful time of fellowship is planned. We hope you'll be there! Sign up in the Narthex.



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Holy Eucharist  
will be December 24  
at 7:00 PM.

The Christmas Day  
Holy Eucharist  
will be December 25  
at 10:30 AM





### EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP

Those who are interested in exploring membership in the Anglican Church are invited to participate in a five week course by that name. On completing the five week course, those who wish to join the church will be welcomed at The Holy Eucharist on the Second Sunday of the month.

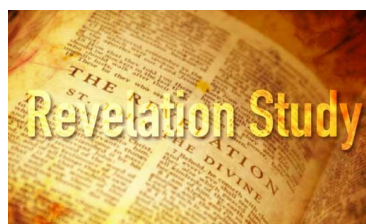


## Pizza

## & Salad

## Luncheon

Sunday, December 20 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 GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Our continuing study of the Book of Revelation will meet for the last time before Christmas on Wednesday, December 16, from 7:15-8:15 PM in the church library. The class will resume on Wednesday, January 6, 2016, same



**Sunday, December 20**  
**from 12:30-2:00 PM**  
**we gather to decorate**  
**the church for the**  
**celebration of our**  
**Lord Jesus' Nativity.**



## Concho Christmas Festival of Lights

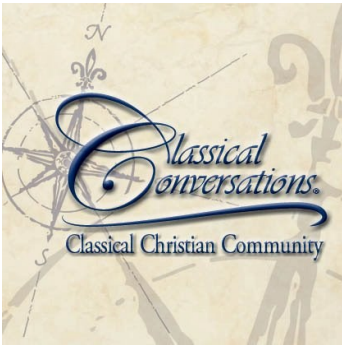
Sunday, December 20 from 6:00-10:00 PM our church is hosting the festival of lights along the river. We greet and wish folks a blessed Christmas, pass out candy canes, pencils and entry forms for a special drawing, as well as our church's brochure to all the visitors that evening. Folks are asked to sign up and serve for half hour blocks in teams of six. Two teams are needed. You may serve for as many half hour blocks are you like. Folks are asked to show up fifteen minutes prior to their serving time. Please sign up in the narthex of the church. Larry Weber is chairing this outreach, and would appreciate your taking part!

The Church Office will close at noon, December 24 and be closed December 25 in observance of Christmas.



### THE VESTRY MEETING

The Vestry will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 21, 2015, beginning at 6:00 PM in the church library. This meeting is open to all members of the congregation, where you have "voice but not vote."



## Classical Conversations

We are privileged to partner with the families of Classical Conversations providing space for their classes on Tuesdays and Fridays, as well as special training and family gatherings during the home school year.

Our relationship is such that there is an on campus Coordinator who is the liaison with the church. She communicates directly with the pastor or through the church secretary. If something should arise that concerns you about the Classical

Conversations, please bring it to Fr. Stan's attention. If he is not here, express your concern to Jenny in the office and she will relay it to him. Our desire is to support this Christian Home School Association and do all we can to make their stay with us not only productive by encouraging. Thank you for your prayers and

### ACGS ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DINNER



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
GENEROUS PARTICIPATION  
IN THE MISSION AND WORK  
OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH.



# 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 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. 20, in order to publish them in the Christmas Service Booklets. The poinsettias remain in the sanctuary during the Christmas season.



### **MINISTRY SAFE CERTIFICATION**

For the past five years, we have worked to ensure that children using the church facilities are as safe as they can be on our campus from predators. Many of you have received the Ministry Safe training, which is renewed every three years, and are certified to work with children on the church campus. Please note **only** those who apply and are trained, certified and approved by the Pastor and cleared through the application process may work with children of the church. Training and certification is an easy process and is provided at no charge to the individual. The church pays a flat fee for certified members. If you are interested in training and certification, please talk with Father Stan or Tony Bartl, the Vestry member overseeing Christian Formation.

### **ACGS Women's Monthly Luncheon**


ACGS women now meet once a month for lunch and fellowship. Please join us the second Thursday of the month at the *RiverView Restaurant at River Terrace*, 800 W Ave D at noon to accommodate those who work. There is a buffet served or you may order from the menu. The buffet is \$12.00.

### **ACGS Men's Monthly Breakfast**

ACGS men meet once a month for breakfast and fellowship the 3rd Saturday of the month at the *Peppercorn Grill*, 2715 Sherwood Way at 8:00 a.m. Please call Jenny in the church office to RSVP.

### **PROPERTY PRAYER TEAM**

As the new Junior Warden I have been learning how things work and where everything is. Good Shepherd has a wonderful campus to serve God. I would like to form a Property Prayer Team for those who feel the calling to help keep God's House in good order. If God has given you talents which will help make His house a better place of worship, prayer and fellowship please contact me at [goodshepherdjw@gmail.com](mailto:goodshepherdjw@gmail.com) or 832-414-9482. I foresee the team meeting once a month or as needed to pray, plan and act on issues involving the campus.



Meet Monday,  
December 7,  
at 6:00 pm in  
the Library.

## All Parish Retreat Scheduled

The Great House Retreat Center has been reserved as the location of our ALL PARISH RETREAT. The dates are April 8-10, 2016. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss this special time together growing in our knowledge and love of the Father through His Son Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.



### WELCOME PAUL AND DENISE HATHCER

On Sunday, November 15, Bishop Mark and Fr. Stan welcomed Paul and Denise into the fellowship of the Anglican Church.



## Wednesday Night Study

### IMMERSED IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

We kicked off our study on September 30, with the DVD "Revelation Illustrated". An artist's depiction of the scenes from The Revelation with the Scriptural text set to classical music. October 7 we began a 20-week study featuring a DVD presentation: "The Gospel in the Book of Revelation" by the

Rev. Dr. Rod Whitacre of Trinity School for Ministry. The second half of the hour will be a discussion of the class. Outlines will be provided for all classes. This study is the classical understanding the Church has had since the time of the Apostles. March 30 we begin a different take on The Revelation by the Rev. Dr. John Stott. This study highlights the Revelation of the Person of Jesus in the Book. All participants will use their own Bible and outlines or study guides for each person will be provided. This promises to be tremendously encouraging for all and it is strongly suggested that each person commit to participating in the entire series.

## *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!





### ANNOUNCEMENT & ARTICLE DEADLINES

The deadline to place an announcement in the weekly bulletin is Wednesdays at Noon and the deadline for the Parish Newsletter is the third Friday of the month. Submissions should be sent to Jenny at the church office, secretary.acgs@suddenlinkmail.com or drop it off at the church office Monday-Friday, 9-11:30AM or Noon-2:00PM. Thank you.



DON'T FORGET...

PROJECT DIGNIDAD

NEEDS DONATIONS OF NONPERISHABLE  
BREAKFAST AND LUNCH STAPLES :)

SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL HAVE 12 DAYS WITH  
NO LUNCHROOM OVER CHRISTMAS

## **Christian Formation Classes on Sunday Morning - 9:15-10:10 AM**

### **GENESIS, Continued...**

Tony Bartl is leading this class beginning September 20 - This class begun last Spring, is a continuation of a Study of the Book of Genesis. The class will meet in Classroom 1, which is near the Parish Hall. For more info, contact Tony at 254-756-0576 or [tonybartl@gmail.com](mailto:tonybartl@gmail.com).

### **To Be A Christian, *An Anglican Catechism*,**

Deacon June Smith in the Library. This is essential and systematic study of the Biblical Foundation of the Christian Faith. Those who wish to become confirmed members of the Church are encouraged to participate, and all are welcome. For more information, contact June at 234-5014 or [june.smith@angelo.edu](mailto:june.smith@angelo.edu).

### **CHILDRENS' CLASS**

This class is lead by Sheri and Rodney Brown and is held in the Christian Education Wing. For more information contact Sheri at 450-4781 or [rbrown@wcc.net](mailto:rbrown@wcc.net).

### **NURSERY CARE**

For children five and younger, nursery care is provided from 9:00-Noon. Sarah and Leann attend the children, and both are trained in child care and Ministry Safe. The Nursery is located across the hall from the Library. Children may be picked up at the Offertory and brought to the church to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with us.

### **CHILDREN IN THE SERVICE**

All children are welcome in The Holy Eucharist Services regardless of age. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to sit at the front near the sanctuary with children so that they can see and hear the service, and participate as fully as possible. Children are encouraged to learn how to worship as a community, and are valued as members of the Church. Crying kids are welcome too! The Nursery is provided as a convenience for parents and caregivers. If you find someone offering to help with your children, we have lots of "grandmotherly and grandfatherly" folks who are eager to put their loving skills to work.

# December Bible Readings

New Testament		Old Testament	
1.	▶ JOHN <input type="checkbox"/> 14:1-14	▶ REV. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-8	▶ JOB <input type="checkbox"/> 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
			▶ HOSEA <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
			<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6
			<input type="checkbox"/> 7-8
			<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12
			<input type="checkbox"/> 13-14
			▶ JOEL <input type="checkbox"/> 1
			<input type="checkbox"/> 2-3
			▶ AMOS <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
			<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
			<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
			<input type="checkbox"/> 7-9
			▶ OBADIAH <input type="checkbox"/> 1-21
			▶ JONAH <input type="checkbox"/> 1-4
			▶ MICAH <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
			<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5
			<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7
			▶ NAHUM <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
			▶ HABAKKUK <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
			▶ ZEPHANIAH <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
			<input type="checkbox"/> 3
			▶ HAGGAI <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
			▶ ZECHARIAH <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5
			<input type="checkbox"/> 6-9
			<input type="checkbox"/> 10-14
			▶ MALACHI <input type="checkbox"/> 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 14**



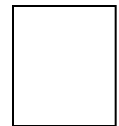
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