



Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

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

AGNUS DEI

January 2022

CARE TO SHARE!

"And the peace
of God, which
surpasses all
understanding,
will guard your
hearts and
your minds in
Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:7, ESV)

Do you remember as a youngster hollering "Ready or not, here I come?" The new year is here whether we are ready or not. It reminds me of the t-shirt slogan, "May you have "precedented" times again!" While we are living in constantly changing times, we can affirm with Paul, ". . . which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been trusted to me." (2 Tim. 1:12, ESV). We can have complete confidence in God and in our faith. God's grace gives us the ability to remain faithful to him and to sustain us from any event or adversity. We have the "peace that surpasses all understanding" (Phil. 4:7) that "the world cannot give" (John 14:27). What are we to do with the wonderful gifts God has given us? We are to embrace them and give them away to those who need the love of the Lord.

We can give the love of Christ by giving others our undivided attention and our best efforts whenever carry out a task. As a church, we can honor God with reverent worship. Invite your friends to be a part of our faith family. Everyone needs a healthy spiritual family. We can also participate in our **Pray and Go** outreach program. You don't have to knock on any doors, you don't have to talk to people when they are going about their lives—all you have to do is to pray for an address and then leave a door-hanger which states they have been covered in prayer. Jenny has designed excellent door hangers. When we pray for the community in a specific manner, God smiles upon our efforts. Please talk to Josef or Sara Rauch about how you may participate and change lives for eternity.

We soon will be offering Christian programs which will touch peoples' lives when they are hurting. When you see a hurt, you can respond with an appropriate invitation. **Divorce Care** is a 13-week program we will be offering on Monday nights. Going through a divorce is one of the most difficult and frustrating experiences many people have to endure. Christ can heal the broken-hearted and transform lives. We will also be offering **GriefShare**, for those who

(continued)

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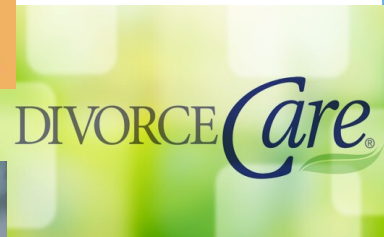
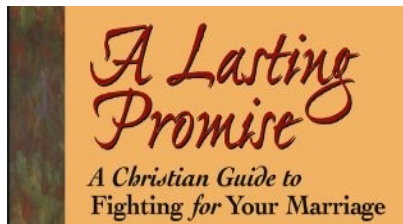
www.anglicanngs.com

Send articles, announcements
and feedback to
admin@anglicanngs.com

have experienced the loss of a loved one. This Christ-based course is also 13 weeks-long and helps to bring hope and healing. Our **Lasting Promise** relationship seminar is a time tested skill-based training which helps improve the quality and longevity of a couple. Since it seems that about 90% of our happiness in life corresponds to whom we are partnered, it makes a lot of sense to work to make the relationship better. I worked extensively with **A Lasting Promise** program when I served with the Navy and Marine Corps. I can say with confidence that this program presents the difference that makes a difference.

Let's start 2022 off on the right step! Make a commitment to actively participate in Sunday School, worship services, Wednesday night discipleship/Eucharist, Saturday Night Praise, and inviting others to our services and community programs. When you participate and share the life transforming love of Christ, you are sharing the gift of life, love, and eternal peace!

Fr. Hal



ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd will be held following our **10:30am** service, **Sunday, January 30, 2022.**

The meeting will include lunch. The church is providing fried chicken. You are asked to bring a side, salad or dessert. There is sign-up sheet in the narthex to indicate you are attending and are bringing to the lunch.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 14TH

All those who chair or lead a ministry organization in the parish are asked to prepare a year-end report no longer than 150 words to be placed in the ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH. These may also be shared at the Annual Meeting. Please complete the report as a Word Document and forward it to Jenny, the parish administrator, at admin@anglicancgs.com Deadline is **Friday, January 14, 2022.**

WEEKLY PLATE OFFERINGS SCHEDULE

Each Sunday of the month our cash plate offerings will be designated for one of our mission outreach organizations.

The schedule of weekly offerings is as follows:

- 1st Sunday of the Month—Discretionary Fund
- 2nd Sunday of the Month— PHC
- 3rd Sunday of the Month—La Gran Familia
- 4th Sunday of the Month—Casa Bethesda
- 5th Sunday of the Month—Meals for the Elderly

The Church Office
will be closed
January 17, 2022
In observance of
Martin Luther King Day.



Meet the first
Saturday of
the month at
10am in the
Conference Room.

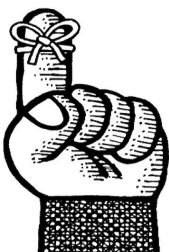
(Unless the first Saturday falls on a holiday)

*The February meeting will be
held on Saturday, February 8th.*

THE JANUARY 2022 VESTRY MEETING

is Monday,
January 24th
at 5:30 PM in the
conference room.

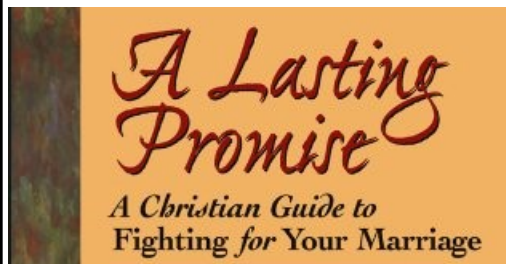
We at Good Shepherd are a prayerful congregation. Aside from prayer lists within each Sunday bulletin, the Intercessory Prayer Group maintains a lengthier list which goes out weekly by email with frequent updates. If you would like to receive this list by email, contact Jean Stinnett at stinnetttranch@zipnet.us.



DON'T FORGET OUR
*PROJECT DIGNIDAD COLLECTION DAY IS
THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.*
PLEASE BRING YOUR NON-PERISHABLE
DONATIONS TO BE BLESSED.

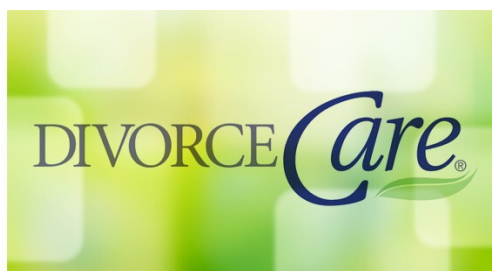
PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR OUR 2022 OUTREACH PROGRAMS
GRIEF SHARE, DIVORCECARE, AND A LASTING PROMISE.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from these time-tested support groups, please contact the church office at 325-949-6260 or email: admin@anglicancgs.com to sign up. We want to help you on your journey toward recovery. *Childcare will be provided upon request.*



A Lasting Promise - Christian PREP for Couples, is designed to teach the proven strategies of PREP from within a solid Christian framework, starting with foundational biblical teachings on marriage.

This seminar offers reflections on how to enhance anyone's marriage over the long term and avoid divorce and is an invaluable resource for all couples who want to upgrade their marriage and make sure it is a promise for life. **We will hold 4 Saturday workshops in 2022, January 29, April 30, July 30, and October 29.** Each workshop will begin at 9:00 and run until 4pm. *Lunch will be provided.*



DivorceCare is a safe place where caring people come alongside you as you find healing from the pain of separation or divorce. At this 13-week, video-based support group program, you'll find helpful counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and practical tools for decision-making.

Each Monday, you'll watch a 30-minute video filled with practical suggestions from counselors and other experts on divorce recovery. Plus you'll hear from people who've experienced a marriage breakup and who share what's helped them. Their insights will help you make wise decisions as you move forward. **Our Spring session begins Monday, February 7, 2022.** Each week we'll meet from 6:00—7:30pm.



GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life.

Our GriefShare Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm. **Our Spring session will begin on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.** You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin. You will be able to continue with GriefShare through the next 13-week cycle and view any of the videos you have not seen.



Holy Eucharist and Bible Study

For those who are interested in following the 2 Timothy, Titus study, it is Live on Facebook, **Wednesdays at 4:00 PM.**



We will have a "History of Christianity" study for those attending the **Wednesday 6:00 PM** service.

We will continue our Christian Formation study on **Sunday mornings at 9:15am.**



If you would like to provide altar flowers, **please write your name and the Sunday of your choice, also what you want printed in the bulletin** on the flower chart on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Flowers are purchased from Southwest Florist and are billed directly to the signer(s) for approximately \$45.00. You may contact the florist if you would like to choose special flowers but it may incur additional cost.



*All are invited to join us for
Praise & Prayer Fellowship
in the Nave at 5:30pm each Saturday.*

**FOR A SERVICE OF PRAISE
MUSIC AND PRAYER**

It's crazy how the presence of God can completely change your mood and attitude in an instant. One worship song, one whispered prayer, one scripture verse can take you from the absolute worst mindset to a place of such peace and joy. There is nothing like the presence of God.

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.

LIVING WITH JESUS: REFLECTING ON THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The origin of the word Christmas can be traced back to Old English in 1050, meaning the Mass of Christ. Christ means "the anointed one," or Messiah: Jesus. In the Middle Ages -mass (shortened to -mas) meant feast day. Christmas is the festive day of Jesus' birth, celebrated December 25th since 336 during the reign of the emperor Constantine, who designated Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Some sources indicate Constantine's intentions were to displace pagan practices at the time when the winter solstice played heavily into heathen traditions. Thus, the date of December 25th became standard for celebrating the nativity of Christ. How interesting it is that we celebrate the birth of the Light of the world shortly after the longest night of the year!

Christmastide

"The twelve days of Christmas" brings to mind the catchy and frustratingly silly Christmas song. We all delight in trying to remember the next verse. The roots of this playful song are undetermined. Some trace it back to France in the seventh century. Others try to associate symbolism to Christianity. But theology disputes the theory that it is somehow a coded message of Scriptures or history from the Holy Bible.

Whereas Advent is the season of anticipation and preparation during the four weeks building up to the birth of our Lord Jesus on December 25th, Christmastide (also known as Twelvetide) is the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany (the coming of the Magi) from December 25th to January 6th. This season was set in the second Council of Tours in 567.

Tours, France was considered the geographical center of Christianity in medieval times. Several Councils of Tours met from the fourth through eleventh centuries to establish guidelines and regulations for clergy, feast and holy days, the liturgical calendar, and worship in the Roman Catholic Church. Different denominations now celebrate Christmastide either formally or informally. Some recognize certain saints' days. But basically this is a festive time to commemorate the nativity of Jesus.

In our modern secular world, life returns to normalcy on December 26th. Stores reopen and people return to work. Gifts are returned or put away. Christmas trees appear forlorn. Leftovers fill the refrigerator. Red and green decorations seem to fade in their glory and we each begin a list of resolutions for the New Year.

If this holy season were just seen as commercial, we are left with a hollow void. The missing element is the living God: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us.

Christmas carols are beautiful and poetic statements of faith. They affirm our beliefs and fill us with joy. The melodies are timeless, flawless, indelibly etched in our memories. Alone or in unison with other voices, there is no good reason not to sing, hum, praise, and rejoice in Jesus all year long. Let us continue to enjoy this beautiful music during the holy time of the year.

Noel

The word noel means Christmas. Noel derives from the Latin word natalis, meaning birth. It came from the medieval French word nael into the old English word nowel. Originally a reference to the joy we feel at the birth of Jesus Christ, let us join the French in saying *Joyeux Noel!*

The First Noel, the history

In hymnals this Christmas carol is attributed to anonymous author or authors unknown. Quite possibly several people in different cultures over centuries attributed to the lyrics we know today. This is not unusual in the history of timeless hymns or melodies which were translated from one language into another as Christianity spread throughout the world. The tune, called THE FIRST NOEL is credited as an English melody from the seventeenth century. Now in public domain, it belongs to each of us.

The first Noel, the lyrics

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Refrain

And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain

Then entered in those Wise Men three, fall reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. Refrain.

Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:8-14

Jean Stinnett

JOIN US FOR OUR SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:15AM



Come join us at 9:15 in the conference room every Sunday morning for an introduction to spiritual direction. Each week a scripture is prayerfully chosen for group reflection. This reflection compliments the formation theme of the week (i.e., yearning, attention, beholding). Individuals are invited to share what awareness the Holy Spirit is highlighting for them in their own lives. Thus, with His leading, a group atmosphere is fostered that engages our minds, hearts, experiences, and our need for community. The goal of each study is to allow God to meet each person where they are in the journey toward unity with Christ (Eph 4:1-16).

**IN
THIS
ISSUE**

AGNUS DEI



- Pastor's Message
Care to Share!
- Annual Meeting & Dinner—January 30, 2022
- ACGS Outreach Programs and Schedules
- Living With Jesus:
Reflecting On The Twelve Days of Christmas
by Jean Stinnett

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January Birthdays

1/1 Jo Lieber
1/3 Katie Harrison
1/5 Diane Findlay
1/12 Scott Reisdorfer
1/15 Caroline Benson
1/17 Karen Czarnecki
Paul Foxcroft
1/25 Jay Dunteman
1/28 Jean Yarbrough



February Agnus Dei Deadline is January 14th



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