



Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Cross and Staff Newsletter

May- June 2025

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Regular Events

Sundays

Holy Eucharist at 10 AM
Followed by Coffee Hour

Mon., Wed., & Fri.

Office Hours, 10 AM to 2 PM

Alternate Sundays

Christian Education for Youth –
May 18th; June - Gari will be out of town.

Second Sunday of each Month

Ingathering for Outreach
Vestry Meeting: all are invited.

Tuesdays

Catholic Charities meets upstairs.

Thursdays

Community Closet 10 AM to 1 PM

Fridays

Father Corwin In, 9 AM to 1 PM
Community Closet 10 AM to 1 PM

Special Events

Vestry Meeting: was moved to May 17, 2025, this month to allow for Mother's Day and be part of the Vestry Retreat.

Sat., May 31, 2025, 2-4pm: The Celebration of Life for Pat Dewey will be held under the tent, on the Warnock Meadow, at the Ox-Bow School of the Art campus in Saugatuck.

Sat., June 14, 2025, 10am – dusk: Bridgefest – Please, volunteer to sit an hour at the church's tent to share water and conversation.

From the desk of Father Corwin...

Whitsunday (also known as Pentecost) is on June 8th this year, and the next morning, we move into the nearly half year-long season sometimes called "Ordinary Times." Or, as a young friend once called it, "The Green Bean Season" because the liturgical color is green, and it is long like a bean.

I truly like Ordinary Time. There are no major holy days (such as Easter, Christmas, etc.) during the next months until November, when we observe Thanksgiving and the season of Advent. That gives us an opportunity to more leisurely and intentionally explore our faith and relationship with Jesus. Without facing a busy calendar looming ahead of us, without rushing from one project to another, we can pause and meditate over some of our most beloved passages from the Bible, or more intentionally pray for others and ourselves.

Beyond that, Ordinary Time, here in the northern hemisphere, means more favorable weather and a chance to get outside. We can get up before dawn and welcome the chorus of birds or go for a short walk then just as twilight settles in, say our 'goodnights' to them. Or, perhaps a walk, even around the block, and intentionally look at the beauty that surrounds us.

The French have tremendous respect for their Flanneurs who set out for a stroll, with no intentional destination nor time to return. They take their time, leisurely looking at people, places, and things, perhaps spending an hour or so to have coffee at an outdoor café, or wandering in and out of shops. They don't rush. They don't have a goal.

We could imitate them, you know, although it might take a few attempts to get comfortable not having a clock or agenda. I encourage you to give it a try, if only because it opens up new possibilities for us to see the goodness that God has placed in our world. Above all, the good people we will see when we go out.

+GC Stoppel

VESTRY NOTES

Notes from the May 17, 2025, Vestry meeting.

Treasurer Report

Our general fund looks solid with no outstanding bills.

The question was asked if the memorial contribution for Mary Ann Ferris could be used for altar guild items such as oil candles for the candelabra. Thought will be given.

Sr. Warden Report

The suggestion was made regarding using a little time at Coffee Hour to discuss topics. Also, it is important to practice our policy to give time for thought before taking a final vote on things that will affect the total congregation.

Wendy expressed the positive feeling she had about the Vestry Retreat before the meeting began.

Jr. Warden Report

1. **Signs.** Now that Jim Kauppi is back, Ray will work with Jim and Dan to install the replacement signs at the end of the walks.
2. **Univents.** Ray will change the univents to air conditioning when the weather is warmer for more than a day.
3. **Memorial Garden Tube.** Ethan had checked on a different style tube, but was unable to find what he thought would work.

Rector's Report

Fr. Corwin was unable to attend but sent his thoughts.

1. He gave a thank you to all who worked in the Memorial Garden from the leveling of the statue to the planting of the flowers and vegetables.
2. He asked if the church would have a table for Bridgefest.
3. Jan Meyers' family will have her committal in the Garden at 2pm on June 7, 2025. Earlier that day, there will be a baptism of John and Judy McMahon's great grandchildren.
4. He informed the vestry that Vicky Barber felt she needed to step down from the vestry. A replacement will be needed.

Old Business

A design and cost for the flagpole and pavers will be brought to the Vestry at their June meeting.

Vestry Retreat

The Retreat began with each member sharing what brought them to the Episcopal church.

From there, they shared events that they felt kept the church lively, fulfilling, and/or interesting. Thoughts went to events that helped with spiritual growth, church camp and youth weekends around the diocese, events like the church hayride and pig roast, centering prayer, and community outreach.

Discussion centered on why the church is present in the community but not drawing new members. A suggestion was that we need to be more intentional and inviting.

When discussing how we can create events of a nature that would bring people to church, the first thought was that we need to leave our comfort zones. The "branding" of the church needs to be more visible. We need to learn how to invite others without recruiting them. We are now able to reach different audiences through Facebook and Instagram. We could do some fun dinners and have a service of thanksgiving for specific ministries.

The final question was "Do we *really* want to grow? What does positive growth look like? Members envisioned more children, multi-generations of families, greeters to welcome those who enter on Sundays, and a welcoming presence online at the beginning of each service.

Some calendaring of events was done beginning with participating in Bridgefest in June, inviting others to pie making in July, making a bigger deal of pre-fair pie sales in August, working at the Fair Booth or informing others to stop at the booth in September, a campfire/sing along on the front lawn in October, a Thanksgiving dinner in November, and Santa Shop in December.

The Vestry invites EVERYONE to think about activities that we could do to invite the community.

Special Thanks

We would like to express our gratitude to those of you who help keep this parish running smoothly every day of the week. There are too many to name, but we would like to express a special thanks:

To everyone who had a hand in pulling off the Easter service and festivities.

To Gari and Breeze for their work in the Garden. Getting things perfect for Easter.

To Jim Wendt for gently removing our squirrel visitors.

To Ethan, Ray, Sarah, other elves for leveling the fountain.

To Elma, Adam and Terry for working on the garden and grounds.

To Ray for working through the boiler electronic conversations

Praying for Others



“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18

Currently we are praying for: Mark & family; Brenda; Joan; Chuck; Sue; Vicki; Dan; Arthur; Randy Tripp; Tim & Marsha; Jim and Louise; Harold; Mary Ann; Cindy; Joslynn; Jeff; Angie; Jim & Bonnie; Ron; Jama; Piper; Dave Green; Stephany; Lori; Craig Phillips; Jelecia; Terry; Tyler & family; and the family & friends of Chuck Wray. In addition, let’s remember those in the military, police and first responders, plus teachers and students as they prepare to return to the classroom, and our shut-ins

May Birthdays

5 Ethan MacDonald
11 Quinn Simmons
12 Steve Winters
19 Jeffrey Simmons
20 Ian Galbreath
26 Alex Ashba
29 Ann Stough



Looking Forward:

June Birthdays

3 Terri Kelly
5 Amber Pettee
6 Brian Cook, Atticus Hornback
11 Linda Kauppi, Richard Krickow
17 Mike Buese
19 Ardy Ballard

Our Ongoing Outreach!

Thank you to all who support our outreach efforts.

Food Pantry Donations: The 2nd Sunday of each month, an ingathering is taken of non-perishable food items plus monetary donations for activities in Allegan. The May collection for the Allegan Food Pantry was \$70. Thank you everyone! These funds will assist in meeting food scarcity needs across Allegan County. May is Cereal Month for the Food Collaborative. Yum!!

Community Closet: Visitors sign in, and on any given Thursday or Friday between 10am and 1pm, individuals and families “shop” for necessities. Hundreds of articles of clothing leave the Clothes Closet each day it is open. Thank you to the Clothes Closet team for sorting and hanging donations, directing visitors, and providing a friendly place for people to meet their needs. The Closet can always use donations of clean, gently used towels and sheets

Baby Closet: Lynne, Ardy, Jama, and Ann continue to oversee the Baby Closet. The Baby Closet still needs hand knitted or quilted small blankets. If you are not a knitter, crocheter or sewer, you might wish to make a monetary donation. Even with grants, the need is larger than the awards.

Good Shepherd Baby Closet 2025 distributions

| Month | Caregivers | Layettes | Pack&Play | Car Seats | Newborn diaper kit | (size 1-6) | (Pull-ups) |
|----------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| January | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| February | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| March | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| April | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Celebris Ensemble with Jane Kozhevnikova

By Gari Voss



Jane left her piano bench to add her lovely alto voice to the festival choir to perform *A Prayer of Jane Austen: Celebrating Jane Austen at 250* that was composed by Jane and Joel Snyder. Jane designed the wonderful string undertones that blended with the choir.

On May 10, 2025, Celebris Ensemble held a special concert at the Bethany Reformed Church in Kalamazoo. The feature of the concert was *A Prayer of Jane Austen: Celebrating Jane Austen at 250*.

The first “Act” highlighted the sound of Celebris and included shorter pieces – *Jubilate Deo* by Orlando Lassus and *Alleluia* by Elaine Hagenberg. These were followed by *April Rain Song*, an absolutely lovely piece by Joel Snyder and Jane Kozhevnikova. *Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One* by Healey Willan was followed by the winner of the Celebris composition competition, *Love is Enough* by Lydia Jane Pugh. The Act was ended with *Jesus, the Sinner’s Friend* by Joel and Jane.

After a short break during which a string ensemble was added along with the Festival Choir, the group presented Joel’s and Jane’s composition of *A Prayer of Jane Austen*. The seven segments bring to music prayers that were discovered in Jane Austen’s diaries. The prayerful compositions were a wonderful meeting of voice and strings. The full video of the piece performance is at https://youtu.be/aVKctQuI6fY?si=I5Aum5Jw_JpmTrgS

The fourth moment, *We Have Been Blessed*

We have been blessed
Far beyond anything we have deserved.
We acknowledge these mercies
And our unworthiness of them.

Around the Building

Adam Does Detailing



Recently Adam was commissioned to detail Elma's car. He was able to get her vehicle looking in tip top shape while she was here in the office planning for Holy Week. He was super quick and efficient, and comes highly recommended. If you need detailing: Adam is your guy. He is in the church directory or you can call the office for his contact information.



Easter Memorials 2025

In Memory Of:

Ron Miner, Matt Houtkooper, Maurice and Ruth Johnson, George Johnson
From Betty Miner

Margo Roberts & Lois Ankney
From Ethan MacDonald

Ed & Beverly Gibson and Glenn & Betty Winters
From Lynne Winters

Angel Scootie-Boy II, the John Adams family & the Nameche family
From Miss Kate

Norman & Rosemary Lewis, Patricia Flynn Keeler, Albert & Mary Granat, Don Berryman, Walter M. Pabis, Ray Burza, Shirley Burza and Wayne & Evelyn Grigg
From Ray & Dede Lewis & Family

Eleanor, Walter, Wayne, Ernest, Maria, Stanley, Charles, George, Wally, Rosemary, James, Barbara, Connie, and Don
From Gari Voss

Marvin, Ralph, Harriet, Jan, Wilma
The Voss Family

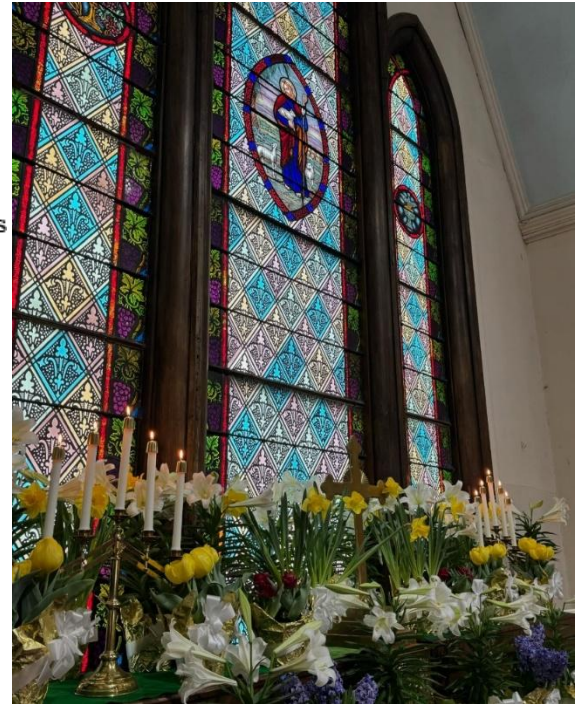
Pat Dewey
From G. Corwin Stoppel

Lex Hummel
Sally Hummel

Katie White, Willie & Stefan, Jim Pyle, Bobbie Wenzel, Mary Ann Ferris, Joan Northrup, Kathryn Mankin, Arthur Frederick, Jan Meyers, Jim Joyce, Ken Mills
Ann Stough

Mary Granat, Evelyn & Wayne Grigg, Arthur Frederick, George Johnson, Carol Hiscock, Joan Northrup, Kathryn Mankin, Marvin Voss, Patricia Dewey, Mary Ann Ferris
Elma Rosenberg

Jana Tibbitts
Judy & Jim Wendt





April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

Did you notice the blue flags lining the walkway to Winchester Hall in April? Good Shepherd has worked with Safe Harbor to bring awareness to child abuse for the last few years. Each Flag represents a reported victim of child abuse from the previous year.

Safe Harbor is dedicated to bringing hope and healing to victims of child abuse in Allegan, Barry, and Van Buren Counties, offering free services such as therapy, medical exams, victim advocacy, and child interviews. In 2024, 390 children received support, with 20 benefiting from the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program. To continue this vital work, 15 volunteers are needed to serve Allegan and Van Buren counties. Through classroom presentations, 7,397 children learned how to recognize safe and unsafe touches, while 108 adults received free training to help identify and report abuse. This April, during Child

Abuse Prevention Month, Safe Harbor reinforces its commitment to protecting and empowering children in the community.

Visit Safe Harbor website at <https://safeharborcac.org/> to learn how you can help!

Easter Eggs!

Carrie & Matt Burza, Steve Lewis, Ian Galbreath, and Sarah & Jeremiah Rahn hid over 400 Easter eggs for the Children of Good Shepherd to find on Easter Sunday.

Many thanks for the donated candy. Without your help, we couldn't have pulled off such an amazing event. Thanks to Dede for stuffing the eggs over the last couple weeks as candy was brought in.

Top left: Ian Galbreath hiding an egg a little too well.

Top right: Brian Spaulding showing his bounty, for himself and a Friend, as his grandmother, Lynne winters takes a photo.

Bottom: Grandchildren of a friend of the church as they hunt together for eggs in the garden.



Easter Service 2025



We had a packed house for Easter coffee hour!

Stressman Ophoff Wedding

Friday, May 9th, 2025, Lissa Stressman Ophoff and Earl Ophoff became one, in a quick but beautiful service. With their closest loved ones in attendance, they said their heartfelt “I Dos”. Father Corwin officiated while Elma Rosenberg attended as witness. Congratulations to the happy couple.



Community Closet Expands Hours

The Community Closet has officially extended its schedule, now offering an additional day to serve the community. Starting Thursday, May 1st, 2025, the closet will be open twice a week—Thursdays and Fridays—from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Each day will now be staffed by dedicated volunteers. Sue Buese, Judi McCall, Chris Thomas, and Celeste Cummings will continue running the closet on Fridays, while Sally Hummel, Sarah Rahn, and Tina will take charge on Thursdays.

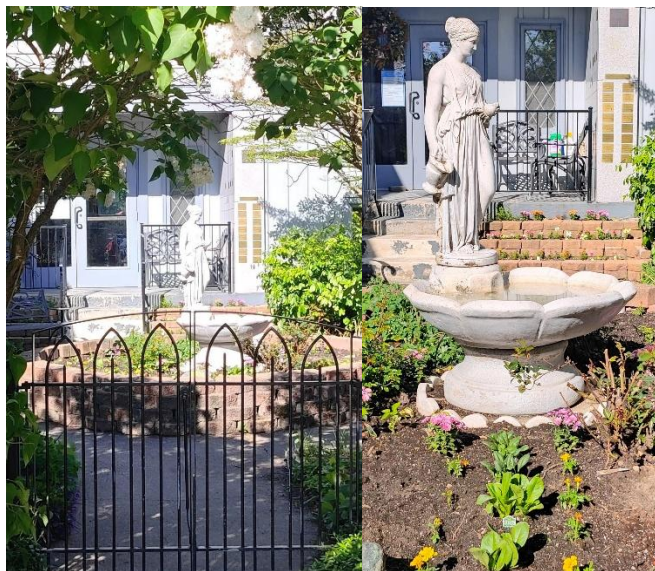
With this expanded schedule, the Community Closet remains committed to providing support to those in need. Stop by on either day to see how this dedicated team is making a difference!

Mother's Day Brunch

Many Thanks to the men of Good Shepherd for their part in making Mother's Day memorable for the women of the Parish. An especially big thank you to Ethan and Ian for taking the lead and putting on a beautiful display. I almost didn't want to take anything from the platters and ruin the well thought out presentation.



In the Garden



Thanks go out to everyone who had a hand in beautifying the Garden before Mother's Day. To Ethan, Ray and Adam for leveling the Fountain. To Gari, Elma, Breeze and Terry for their hard work in putting the brick retaining walls back up, for planting and thinning flowers and plants and cleaning up the fountain to a like new shine. Wonderful job all the way around.

As a special perk this year, lines of beans, sweet peppers, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, and even a couple red cabbages were planted with the hope we could use some for coffee hour or to give away.

May the Fourth be with you!

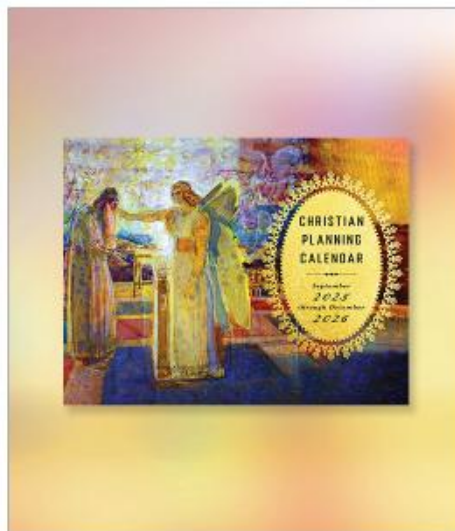


Debbie Foune and Wendy Simmons showed up and showed out with their May coffee hour. In recent years May 4th has been known as “Star Wars Day”. Debbie and Wendy put together an amazing Star Wars themed spread with incredible items from Grogue in his pod flyer in deviled egg form to Wookiee Cookies. Thanks, so much ladies, for the out of this world effort!

2026 Calendars

A 16-month calendar built around religious observances, featuring fine art images of angels for every month.

This calendar features seasonally appropriate images of angels. Each month—from September 2025 to December 2026—includes religious observances from the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Orthodox Christian, Islamic, and Jewish calendars, along with secular holidays.



2026 Christian Planning Calendar

These calendars were brought to the attention of the office. If there is any interest in them or if you'd like the church to order these, please leave a note for Sarah in the office.

Thank you!

Church of the Good Shepherd
101 N. Walnut Street
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Jane Kozhevnikova made a special trip to the Kalamazoo area to participate in the debut of *A Prayer of Jane Austen* that was composed by Jane and Joel Snyder. The duo collaborated on the vocals, and Jane added the string accompaniment.

Jane sent a Facebook message: “Grateful for the wonderful time with the Celebris Ensemble and Festival Singers last week in Michigan! We premiered our extended choral piece co-written with Joel Snyder, *A Prayer of Jane Austen*, as well as a couple of shorter choral pieces Joel and I wrote. Many thanks to all the musicians for their hard work! 🎵 The full video of the performance is here: https://youtu.be/aVKctQul6fY?si=I5Aum5Jw_JpmTrgS.”