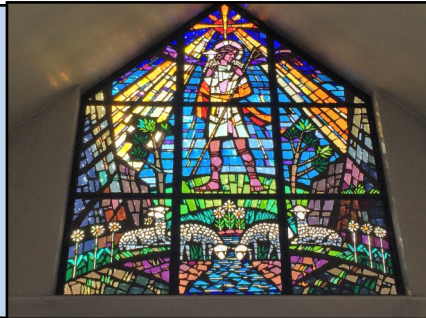


The



Call

Dearest spiritual friends,
Times are changing.

Advent is upon us. The colors in the chancel will go to blue. Blue. The color of the sky. We bring our faces up to look at the sky. It is a hopeful position. It is a position of paying attention and seeing beyond ourselves. Seeing others.

When Mary heard of her pregnancy with Jesus, she had hope. She didn't understand everything that was to happen, yet she replied, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

And when Mary visited with Elizabeth, she was very specific about why she had hope.

*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.
(Luke 1:47-55)*

Meditate on these words. Consider the hope that they offer. Keeps your heads up. Look at where God is working in this world. God's church does not have a mission. God's mission has a church. Pay attention to where God's angels are leading you.

2025 brought the celebration of my 25th anniversary of ordination. And 2025 brought our Church Administrator, Beth Fine, to discern her own call to ministry. This new church year will bring a change in staff and (I'm sure) other changes that we cannot predict. And, yet, we do not cower in fear. We move forward in faith knowing that the work of God's church goes on. We are strengthened and led to live through these days with the hope of Mary ringing in our ears.

Peace, and many blessings,
The Rev. Kathleen J. Baker, STM

Parish Staff:

Kathleen J. Baker, STM, Pastor
 Nicholas P. Werner, Director of Music
 Beth C. Fine, Church Administrator
 Kester T. Sobers III, Pastor Emeritus
 Herbert O. Fowler, Cantor Emeritus

Church Officers:

Fred Sprunk, President
 Sue Bricker, Vice President
 Don Lausch, Treasurer
 Dix McCauley, Secretary

Congregational Council Members:

Bill Baum, Greg Borzok, Karen Borzok, Sue Bricker,
 Dix McCauley, Robert Roller, Fred Sprunk, and Ann
 Vazquez

The Call is a monthly publication of
 The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
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 Harrisburg, PA 17111
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 website: www.goodshepherdpxtang.com
 Pastor: Kathleen J. Baker, STM
 The editor reserves the right to edit for brevity and clarity.



December Birthdays

December 2 Georgia Rehm

December 6 Sallee Rowe

December 9 Alan Jacobs

John McAnaney

December 12 Michael Zeigler

December 14 Lorraine Wilson

December 16 Scott Cordner

Dan Gleiter

December 20 Alexander Dankman

December 25 Barbara Weaver

December 28 Lindsey Dermes

December 31 Kyle Boyd



Our prayers are with
Marissa Dankman
 and

Nicolas Minasian

who were united in marriage
 on Saturday, October 18, 2025
 at Moonstone Manor, Elizabethtown
 with Pastor Baker presiding.

**Congratulations and
 Best Wishes!**

Farewell to Beth Fine

Church Administrator
 Beth Fine will depart
 Good Shepherd in
 early January 2026.



Beth has shared her
 many gifts and talents with our
 congregation since February 2020.

Beth and her family will join us for
 worship on Sunday, January 11,
 2026. There will be one service that
 day, at 9:30 a.m. in the Nave,
 followed by a luncheon in All Saints
 Hall.

Be sure to wish Beth as she moves on
 to other challenges in 2026 as she
 pursues her call to lay ministry in the
 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Stewardship Update

On November 9, Intent Cards were received for time, talent, and treasure. We had a very positive response, and we thank those who expressed their intentions for the 2026 Campaign. Our goal is to strengthen the ministry within our church. Your intentions will help Good Shepherd meet the goals to provide spiritual, financial, and physical support. Intent cards may be submitted through December, and additional cards are available in the Narthex and in the literature racks outside the Chapel.

—Greg Borzok



From Our Treasurer: October Financials

	2025	
	OCT	YTD
Giving	19,971	212,004
Spending	23,003	204,868
Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,032)	7,136
BALANCES		
General Fund		27,884
Exchange (Restricted)		32,224
Memorial		18,634
Mission Investment Fund	33,105	
Investments	413,900	

December Readings

- 12/01** Genesis 8: 1-19, Romans 6: 1-11, Psalm 124
12/02 Genesis 9: 1-17, Hebrews 11: 32-40, Psalm 124
12/03 Isaiah 54: 1-10, Matthew 24: 23-35, Psalm 124
12/04 Isaiah 4: 2-6; Acts 1: 12-17, 21-26; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
12/05 Isaiah 30: 19-26; Acts 13: 16-25; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
12/06 Isaiah 40: 1-11; John 1: 19-28; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
12/07 Isaiah 11: 1-10; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19; Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12
12/08 Isaiah 24: 1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-12; Psalm 21
12/09 Isaiah 41: 14-20; Romans 15: 14-21; Psalm 21
12/10 Genesis 15: 1-18; Matthew 12: 33-37; Psalm 21
12/11 Ruth 1: 6-18, 2 Peter 3: 1-10, Psalm 146: 5-10
12/12 Ruth 4: 13-17, 2 Peter 3: 11-18, Psalm 146: 5-10
12/13 1 Samuel 2: 1-8, Luke 3: 1-18, Psalm 146: 5-10
12/14 Isaiah 35: 1-10, Psalm 146: 5-10, James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11: 2-22
12/15 Isaiah 29: 17-24, Acts 5: 12-16, Psalm 42
12/16 Ezekiel 47: 1-12, Jude 17-25, Psalm 42
12/17 Zechariah 8: 1-17; Matthew 8: 14-17, 28: 34; Psalm 4
12/18 2 Samuel 7: 1-17; Galatians 3: 23-29; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
12/19 2 Samuel 7: 18-22; Galatians 4: 1-7; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
12/20 2 Samuel 7: 23-29; John 3: 31-36; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
12/21 Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80: 17-7, 17-19; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25
12/22 Isaiah 33: 17-22; Revelation 22: 6-7; Luke 1: 46b-55
12/23 2 Samuel 7: 18, 23-29; Galatians 3: 6-14; Luke 1: 46b-55
12/24 Isaiah 9: 2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2: 11-14, Luke 2: 1-14
12/25 Isaiah 62: 6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3: 4-7, Luke 2: [1-7] 8-20
12/26 2 Chronicles 24: 17-22; Psalm 17: 1-9, 15; Acts 6: 8—7: 2a, 51-60; Matthew 23: 34-39
12/27 Proverbs 8: 22-31, 1 John 5: 1-12, Psalm 148
12/28 Isaiah 63: 7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2: 10-18, Matthew 2: 13-23
12/29 Jeremiah 31: 15-22, Luke 19: 41-44, Psalm 20
12/30 Isaiah 26: 1-9, 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18, Psalm 20
12/31 1 Kings 3: 5-14, John 8: 12-19, Psalm 20



Away in a Manger

***Away in the manger,
no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head...***

My mother's book, "Famous Hymns: With Stories and Pictures" has this Christmas hymn as one of its selections. It was exciting to read that Martin Luther wrote it for his 5 children. Catherine von Bora was very efficient and managed their finances, so Martin could concentrate on his ministry. Music was important to their family especially during the Christmas season. Luther would play the lute, and everyone would sing.

Some of Luther's famous hymns are "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" and "We Praise You Jesus at Your Birth". He was a prolific writer of hymns. His hymns were used as ways to teach his congregation about faith.

When I looked up the hymn for more information for this article, I was surprised to learn that Luther didn't write "Away in a Manger." Apparently, James Murray wrote the melody for this hymn in 1885. It was known as "Luther's Cradle Hymn." Actually, there are many worldwide melodies. There originally were 2 verses until there were 3. The words are anonymous. Also, in 1885, it was included in a song book published in Pennsylvania. It is known for being a song of Jesus' humble beginning, laid in a manger. Luke 2:7. In Latin, "manger" means "to eat." It was a crib, feeding trough, food box, holding hay for animals. We see paintings, photos, crèche,

and live recreations of this manger scene throughout the Christmas holiday. It's a story of giving and love.

***Be near me Lord Jesus;
I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever,
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven
and live with Thee there. Amen.***

Wishing you, from Good Shepherd's
Women of the ELCA ,
A MERRY CHRISTMAS 

—Lois Griffiths

W/ELCA Upcoming Event: Tuesday, December 9 9:30 a.m. Cookie and Candy Packing All Saints Hall

Good Shepherd's Women of the ELCA will be doing our annual Christmas cookie and candy containers for our homebound members. If anyone would like to donate homemade cookies, please bring them to the ASH kitchen by Sunday, December 7.

We will be packing the containers on Tuesday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. in All Saints Hall

—Lois Griffiths



**Family Promise Host Week is POTENTIALLY
January 4 – 11, 2026. Mark your calendars now.
I will let you know when it is finalized!**

Welcome New Partners

Three new churches have joined as FPHCR partners, through assisting St. Peter's Lutheran, Middletown. Welcome to Church of God, Middletown; Faith Outreach Center, Middletown; and Messiah Lutheran, Harrisburg. Without all our vital partners, we couldn't do what we do!

Family Update

Shayon, Nadia and family continue to do well. They keep working towards their goals and will visit extended family over Thanksgiving.

Graduate Update

Jen and her two daughters graduated from the program about two years ago. Jen works for a local nonprofit. Yesterday, I called that nonprofit seeking assistance for a family, and she answered the phone. What a surprise! It was so great to talk with her and get an update. She and the girls are doing really well!

Raise Right Fundraising Opportunity

FPHCR has an opportunity for folks to shop AND assist us.

Earn on all your holiday shopping and gifting when you buy gift cards or shop online through Family Promise HCR's RaiseRight program!

The money you're already planning to spend on things like gifts, wrapping paper, stocking stuffers, groceries, travel, and more, can help you earn toward donating to Family Promise. It adds up fast! Here's how to earn:

Buy gift cards from RaiseRight and use them to pay for all your holiday expenses. Every gift card purchase from RaiseRight earns up to 20% back!

Shop online through RaiseRight—log in to your RaiseRight account, click through to shop directly on a brand's website, and earn upon completing a purchase.

Dine locally—link a credit or debit card in your RaiseRight account to earn 5% every time you dine at thousands of restaurants nationwide and pay with your linked card.

Book travel through RaiseRight—save *and* earn by booking hotels and car rentals using RaiseRight's travel site.

Plus, you can **earn extra by combining earnings!** Shop online through RaiseRight, then buy a gift card too.

Haven't joined our RaiseRight program yet? Sign up at raiseright.com and use the enrollment code **XW3T9TLEPHWE**.

—Georgia Rehm

Christmas Angel Tree and Wreath Now in Narthex

The Mission and Ministry Committee is supporting one family whose children attend the Swatara Middle School and the Paxton Home Ministries residents for the Advent season in preparation for a Merry Christmas.

Christmas Wreath—Please see the wreath display in the Narthex. Detach a star and sign your name on the wreath sign-up sheet beside the number of the star. A donation amount of **\$20.00** is the requested amount for a bathrobe. Checks are to be made out to Good Shepherd, with “Paxton bathrobe” on the memo line. **The check, along with the star ornament** is to be inserted in an envelope to be mailed to Good Shepherd or put in the offering plate at church. **Checks must be received into the church office on or before Sunday, December 14, 2025.**



Christmas Giving Tree—Please see the display in the narthex. Detach a Christmas ball ornament off the tree. Depending on the number of the Christmas ball ornament, sign your name and telephone number on the sign-up sheet beside the number of the chosen ornament.

Christmas Ball Ornament (Family of 8)

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|
| 1. | Female (age 17) | Sweater and leggings, size M women's |
| 2. | Female (age 17) | Sweatshirt (with or without hoodie) and pants, size M women's |
| 3. | Female (age 17) | Target gift card |
| 4. | Male (age 16) | Shoes, size 10 M men's |
| 5. | Male (age 16) | Sweater and pants, size S men's |
| 6. | Male (age 16) | Sweatshirt (with or without hoodie) and pants, size S men's |
| 7. | Male (age 13) | Shoes, size 9 1/2 M men's |
| 8. | Male (age 13) | Sweater and pants, size S men's |
| 9. | Male (age 13) | Sweatshirt (with or without hoodie) and pants, size S men's |
| 10. | Female (age 12) | Sweater and leggings, size S women's |
| 11. | Female (age 12) | Sweatshirt (with or without hoodie) and pants, size S women's |
| 12. | Female (age 12) | Target gift card |
| 13. | Female (age 2) | Clothing, size 5T |
| 14. | Female (age 2) | Shoes, size 11 (child's) |
| 15. | Female (age 2) | Likes Puzzles, blocks, Bluey and Barbie |
| 16. | Male (newborn) | 2 boxes of diapers—size 1, 2, or 3—and wipes |
| 17. | Male (newborn) | Clothing, size 3-6 months |
| 18. | Male (newborn) | Clothing; size 3-6 months |
| 19. | Mom | Giant Gift Card (food) |
| 20. | Mom | Target Gift Card |
| 21. | Mom | Walmart Gift Card |
| 22. | Mom | Aldi's Gift Card (Food) |

Please purchase and bring your UNWRAPPED gift with a gift bag and tissue paper to Good Shepherd **on or before Sunday, December 14, 2025**. When you bring your gift to Good Shepherd, please make sure **the ornament is visually attached** to the gift bag and place it around the Giving Tree in the narthex. **Gift cards** are to be given to Susan Master or Georgia Rehm. If you have any questions, please see Susan Master or Georgia Rehm.



Souper Supper Fellowship Advent Vespers

We will mark the days of our waiting for our Lord by gathering for a weekly soup supper followed by Holden Evening Prayer. Please join us and invite friends and family to All Saints Hall for supper on Wednesdays,

December 3, December 10, and December 17 at 5:30 p.m. followed by worship at 7 p.m. in the Nave . The services will be live streamed on the Good Shepherd YouTube Channel—the link is available at www.goodshepherdpxtang.com.

—Vicki Delp

Advent Devotionals Available

The Season of Advent begins November 30, 2025. If you have not yet picked up a copy of this year's daily devotional, please take one with you today. Each entry in this booklet was written by a member of our Good Shepherd family. In addition, there are several Advent devotionals available which are geared toward young people. Feel free to take one for the youngster in your life. These Advent booklets are located in the Narthex.

May the messages on the pages of these devotionals inspire this Advent Season as we wait in wonder for Emmanuel, God with us.



—Vicki Delp

Advent Social Hour—December 14

Mark your calendars for the Advent Social Hour, to be held in All Saints Hall on **Sunday, December 14** during the Sunday school hour from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Please bring your favorite food item to share. Beverages will be provided.

Please bring Christmas Angel Tree gift(s) for the Swatara Middle School family at that time. All are welcome.

—Susan Master



Why We Do What We Do

Good Shepherd Stained Glass Windows

The first stained glass windows in churches appeared during the Renaissance. They were used to teach the catechism, since only the nobility could read. The pictures in the windows were used to tell the stories. Liturgical churches have significant symbols:

- the Cross
- the number 3 symbolizes the Trinity
- the number 4 symbolizes the Gospels and four corners of Earth
- the number 5 symbolizes Christ and the four Gospels
- the number 7 symbolizes the days of creation
- the number 8 symbolizes creation plus one for the covenant of Baptism
- the number 13 symbolizes the 12 Apostles and Christ
- the circle symbolizes the Alpha and Omega, without end
- the square is another symbol of 4/Gospels
- the triangle is another symbol of 3/Trinity

Good Shepherd has 9 stained glass windows in our Nave. This month, we highlight two related to Advent and Christmas:

Window One—Annunciation Window (right)

You see the angel Gabriel telling a kneeling Mary that she will be bearing the baby Jesus. Note the lilies. They represent Purity/Mary. The dove indicates the presence of the Holy Spirit. Note candles (The Holy Trinity). The colors of gold and red represent the presence of God.



Window Two—Nativity Window (left)

Note the hidden cross—foretelling the death of Christ. (Side note—if flocks were in the fields as Christmas songs indicate, this would be summer, not winter.)

—Gary Wendt



Christmas at Good Shepherd

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Word and Sacrament

3 p.m., 5 p.m., and 7 p.m., and 11 p.m.

All services in the Nave

(3 p.m. service is also live streamed)

Sunday, December 28

Word and Sacrament

for the First Sunday of Christmas

Service of Lessons and Carols

One service at 9:30 a.m. in the Nave/live streamed

www.goodshepherdpxtang.com



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania**

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Advent Day Apart

at The Wittel Farm



All are invited to a day of prayer and meditation in preparation of the birth of the Christ child.

ADVENT DAY APART

Saturday, December 6

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Wittel Farm

Join us for an Advent Day Apart—In the busyness and bustle of this season, we invite you to take time for reflection, contemplation, silence, and stillness. With hope, we will spend some time enjoying the outdoors, too. Registration fee of \$15 includes lunch.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS IN THE BARN

Sunday, December 21

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Wittel Farm

Join us for an intimate evening of scripture, hymns and songs, prayers, and joyful music. We gather in the barn around a manger for this annual tradition, with candlelight, hot cocoa, and cookies.



***For more information and to register online:
www.lutherancamping.org***

Workshop News

It’s official! Prayer Shawl Ministry has officially joined Workshop on the **second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 to noon!** Feel free to bring a lunch and socialize with Workshop attendees during lunch. We spent November’s meeting moving all the Prayer Shawl Ministry’s belongings/donations to ASH and finding a place for everything down there. **Welcome!** If you would like to join us for Prayer Shawl, we would welcome you!

On December 9, Mission and Ministry and W/ELCA will be meeting in ASH to pack cookies for the shut-ins.

On December 16, we will enjoy our Christmas Luncheon. We will be leaving the church by 11:30 a.m. to travel to Leeds Restaurant for our luncheon. Remember to let Georgia know by Sunday, December 14 if you will **NOT** be attending!

We will take a break December 23 and 30 and reconvene January 6, 2026.

—Georgia Rehm

Worship Sponsorships

	Flowers \$25	Bulletins \$30	Lamps \$10
December 7	no flowers		
December 14	no flowers		D. McCauley
December 21	no flowers		Davis
December 28	poinsettias		

A central calendar is also posted in the Narthex of the Nave . Sign up on that calendar and turn in the form to the office. We can also do double dedications.

Sponsorship Form

Please return this slip with your contribution to the church office. Dedications are printed in the bulletin each week. For Sunday, _____ 2025/2026

_____ Flowers \$25

_____ Bulletins \$30

_____ Sanctuary Lamps \$10

_____ To the Glory of God

_____ In Memory Of

_____ In Honor Of

_____ In Celebration Of

Submitted by: _____

Amount: _____ Deadline: Wednesday a.m. prior to the upcoming Sunday



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	2 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) Hospitality Committee (p.m. meeting in Gathering Room)	3 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 11 a.m. 250th Anniversary Committee (Gathering Room) 5:30 p.m. Souper Supper (ASH) 7:00 p.m. Advent Vespers (Nave/YouTube) 8:00 p.m. Keystone Band (ASH)	4	5	6 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
7 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave /YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Room) 11 a.m. W & S (Nave)	8 (Gathering Room) 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH) 6:30 p.m. Council (Gathering Room)	9 9:30 a.m. Workshop / Prayer Shawl Ministry (St. Lydia/ASH) 9:30 a.m W/ELCA Candy Packing 10 a.m. Ready for School... (Sts. Peter/Paul)	10 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 5:30 p.m. Souper Supper (ASH) 7:00 p.m. Advent Vespers (Nave/YouTube) 8:00 p.m. Keystone Band (ASH)	11	12 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter/Paul)	13 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
14 JAN. CALL DEADLINE 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave /YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Advent Social Hour (ASH). 11 a.m. W & S (Nave)	15 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	16 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for School... (Sts Peter/Paul)	17 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 5:30 p.m. Souper Supper (ASH) 7:00 p.m. Advent Vespers (Nave/YouTube)8 :00 p.m. Keystone Band (ASH)	18	19 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter/Paul)	20 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
21 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave /YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Room) 11:00 a.m. W & S (Nave)	22 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Church Office CLOSED 3 p.m., 5 p.m. 7 p.m., 11 p.m. W & S (Nave)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Church Office CLOSED	26	27 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
28 9:30 a.m. W & S Service of Lessons and Carols (Nave/YouTube) 5:30 p.m. Living Room Dialogue (Gathering Room)	29	30	31 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel)			



Poinsettias for Christmas

We spend only funds designated for seasonal decorations. Nothing is ever spent from the general fund. Please return this coupon with your contribution (any amount would be appreciated) to the church office (or in the offering plate) if you'd like to contribute toward this effort. Dedications will be printed in the back of the bulletin at Christmas.

DEADLINE: December 14.

To the Glory of God: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Submitted by: _____ Amount: _____

Our Purpose

To be the eyes, ears, hands, feet, and voice of Jesus.

Guiding Principles

When you see us at our best, you will see us in worship and living our faith by being:

welcoming/accepting

generous and giving

supportive and caring

active/involved

joyful

spiritual/faithful

*Adopted by the Congregation Council of
Good Shepherd on October 11, 2020*



Church Office

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday

Phone: 717-564-0385

email: goodshepherdpxtang@gmail.com

website: www.goodshepherdpxtang.com

Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Saturday (Chapel)

8:30 a.m. Sunday (Nave)

11:00 a.m. Sunday (Nave)

9:30 a.m. Wednesday (Chapel)