



CHURCH OF THE
Good Shepherd

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Welcome to the Church of the Good Shepherd!

We are excited you are here. Please visit the welcome table in the narthex following the service to learn more about ways you can join in.

If you have not already, please complete the Connect Card in the pew in front of you so that we can get to know you!

Young Adults Friendsgiving | Today!

Come hungry and join us for our annual Friendsgiving Feast today from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Whipple's home (4210 Peachway Dr Durham)! Invite friends to join in for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun!

We'd Love for You to Recycle Your Bulletin

Please place it and other unwanted papers in one of the plastic recycling bins located at the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you!



November 23, 2025 | 10:45 AM

Welcome & Announcements

CGS Food Donation Drive | Rachel Betts and Laura Dille

Call to Worship | CGS Adult Choir, *Come, Thou Almighty King*
Mark Whipple, Pastor of Community Formation

Song | *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Song | *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

Scripture Reading | Ruling Elder Ray Toher, Psalm 1:1-3, pg. 448

Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Dismissal of Children | (*Ages 3 to 3rd grade*)

Q: What is our prayer for our children?

A: To know and enjoy God and his Word.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Scripture Reading | John 15:1-10, pg. 901

Sermon | *The Vine and the Branches*

Simon Stokes, Lead Pastor

Series: Visions of the Church



Song | *Abide*

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon | Isaiah 44:22

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

Communion is for anyone who is united by faith to Christ and joined to any Christ-centered church.

Song | *Abide with Me*

We invite you to either join in singing or meditate quietly during this time.

Prayer of Response

Song | *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*

Benediction

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*White grape juice is located on the outer ring of the tray; red wine is on the inner rings.

The pre-packaged elements in the center of the tray are certified gluten free.

The baked bread is prepared using a gluten free mix. Cross-contamination with common allergens is possible.

GROW TOGETHER

Learn more at cgsonline.org or RSVP with the QR code below.

One Week Left to Register for the Women's Retreat

Registration is open for one more week for the Women's Retreat in Greensboro on February 13-14! Visit the CGS website to register by November 30. Contact Julie (julieburson@cgsonline.org) with questions.

Christmas Worship Jam Session | December 1

Welcome college students or anyone new to CGS! We would love to connect those who play an instrument or sing to the musical community at CGS. Join us at the church on December 1, at 7:00 p.m. to play and sing Christmas praise songs together. RSVP or contact Jen (jenwhipple@cgsonline.org).

Cookies + Carols | December 6

Bring a buddy and your Christmas cheer, and join us for yummy cookies, crafts, and carols as we kick off the 2025 Advent season with our friends 5 years and younger. (Festive attire highly encouraged.) Questions? Email RiLee (rileerobeson@cgsonline.org).

Christmas Service | December 14

Join the CGS Adult Choir, along with the CGS Community Choirs, and instrumentalists, on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. for *How Great Our Joy!* Enjoy selections from our choirs, readings for the Advent and Christmas season, and carols for you to sing! Bring your friends and neighbors. Children are welcome; reception following.

SERVE TOGETHER

Greening of the Church | November 29

You're invited to help us decorate the church for Christmas. All are welcome to help from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We'll have cookies and cocoa to kick off the Advent season together! Contact Julie (julieburson@cgsonline.org) with questions.

Alms Offering for Durham Rescue Mission | Next Sunday

We will be collecting alms on **November 30th** for the Durham Rescue Mission. As Durham's oldest and largest long-term homeless shelter, the Durham Rescue Mission provides food, clothing, training, biblical counseling, job placement, and much more to broken men, women, and children.

CGS FINANCES

For Fiscal Year Beginning 7/01/2025

Total Annual Budget:	\$610,168
Actual Contributions received as of 10/31/2025:	\$487,735



Please recycle. Thank you!

Scan the QR code to
register for an event:





CGS LEADERSHIP

ELDERS

Norman Acker
Doug Betts
Andrew Carlson
Stephen Eckel
Steve Jones
Dave Long
Kyle Osborne
Alex Robeson
Todd Rust
Ray Toher

DEACONS

Richard Alford
Stephen Balevic
Daniel Carter
Justin Davis
Dean Freck
Andrew Hassinger
Aaron Mitchell
Brian Prentice
Phillip Yelverton

SESSION ADVISORS

Michelle Bryan
Angie Heinrich
Alex Mitchell