



CHURCH OF THE

# Good Shepherd

---

**JANUARY 4, 2026**

---

**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!

**Please Recycle Your Bulletin**

Place your bulletin and other unwanted papers in one of the plastic recycling bins located at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!



---

January 4, 2026 | 10:45 AM

---

## Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship** | Mark Whipple, Pastor of Community Formation

**Song** | *This Is Amazing Grace*

**Song** | *Great Are You Lord*

**Scripture Reading** | Ruling Elder Kyle Osborne, Isaiah 40:3-8, pg. 599

## 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** | Mark 1:1-13, pg. 836

**Sermon** | *The Beginning of the Gospel*

Simon Stokes, Lead Pastor

Series: Learning the Way of Jesus

**Song** | *King of Kings*



## **Confession of Sin**

Father of mercies, we confess that we have sinned against you. Instead of loving our neighbor, we have looked down on them. Instead of serving you, we have demanded things from you. Forgive us. By your Holy Spirit, come and work repentance into our hearts. Help us to see you as you are: with outstretched arms, a loving heart, and power to save.

## **Assurance of Pardon | Micah 7:18-19**

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

## **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 | Altogether Good**

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

## **Prayer of Response**

### **Song | Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery**

## **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](http://cgsonline.org) or RSVP with the QR code below.

### **Sunday Morning Classes (SMCs) | January 11**

Join us for our new SMCs beginning January 11. Please see the flyer in your bulletin or visit the church website for additional information.

### **Youth News: Dark Games | January 11**

Middle and high schoolers are invited to join us on Sunday, January 11, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the youth room. Come spend time with friends and enjoy fun games around the church.

### **Women on Wednesdays Social | January 14**

All women are invited for a time of social fellowship at Monica Gainey's home (1002 Valley Rose Way, Durham, 27712) on January 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Drop in any time and bring any food or drink you'd like to share. Please reach out to Julie ([julieburson@cgsonline.org](mailto:julieburson@cgsonline.org)), with any questions.

### **Legacy Brunch | January 15**

Join us on Thursday, January 15, at 10:30 a.m., featuring a brunch buffet of assorted bagels with toppings and yogurt bowls, followed by a conversation with two parents on how life in our local school systems has changed over the past ten years and how we can support our families today.

---

## SERVE TOGETHER

---

### **Children's Worship Openings**

Children's Ministry is looking for 6 puppeteers, 3 guitarists, and 3 vocalists who would like to help lead Children's Worship. Please contact Angie ([angieheinrich@cgsonline.org](mailto:angieheinrich@cgsonline.org)) if interested and for more information.

---

## CGS FINANCES

---

For Fiscal Year Beginning 7/01/2025

Fiscal Year-to-Date giving as of 11/30/2025: \$786,462

Fiscal Year-to-Date budget as of 11/30/2025: \$762,710



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