

West Shore Baptist Church

Newsletter

December 2025



From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

It happens like clockwork. Each October (sometimes November for the more type-B among us) all of my pastoral colleagues ask one another the exact same question: “What are you preaching on for Advent?” We want to know each other’s scripture passages, themes and titles. It is genuinely the only time of year that we get this nosey.

The reason for this fact-finding mission is extremely straightforward. The birth of Christ is recorded for us in 5 chapters of the entire Bible. Five. This is my 17th Advent as a preacher. 17 years telling the same Story, from at least 5 angles each year. That adds up to 85 sermons and 16 seasons of thinking (at least once), “can’t I just pull last year’s outlines? The facts didn’t change. And they probably won’t even notice.” 😊

And every Advent I am hit by the same remarkable truth: The Story is an old, old one that never changes. Yet, it gets sweeter, grander, more startling every single time we come to it. GOD took on flesh! Eternal Life was born to die. My Judge took my judgment. And the Gift that none of us deserve gave Himself freely for every person, of every nation, tribe & tongue, who will receive Him. There is no Story as phenomenal as this one. And, friend, it’s true.

This Advent my prayer for us is that we discover anew that the Good News that brings great joy really is for all people, at all times, including us. Maybe this year you come to Advent with sorrow tinging your celebrations. Perhaps you’ve had more doubts than certainty about God’s ability to keep His promises this past year. This might be a ho-hum season in your mind (after all, you’ve probably heard the Story even more times than I’ve preached it). Approaching the Story from any and all of those positions really does not matter.

It is Good News of great joy for all who come, regardless of how they come. Because this is the News that shouts “for God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.” Thanks for taking this Advent journey with me.

Love ya,
PK

P.S. I’ll be on vacation Dec. 25 – Jan.1, returning to the office on Jan. 2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



December Meetings

Advisory Council Meeting: Sat, Dec. 6, 9:00 AM

Board of Trustees Meeting: Mon, Dec. 8, 6:30 PM

Board of Deacons Meeting: Tues, Dec. 9, 6:30 PM

Mission Board Meeting: No Meeting

Christian Ed Board Meeting: No Meeting



Men's and Women's Breakfast: December 20th

Men's Breakfast 8:00am at Front Street Diner

Women's Breakfast 8:30am at West Shore Plaza Family Restaurant



BIRTHDAYS

3 – Meeka Barth	17 – Karine Lewis
3 – Stan LeQuire	19 – Holly Kindig
4 – Ryan Dunkle	19 – EJ Stevens
12 – Rachel Habacivich	20 – Jeff Waring
16 – Steve Curry	22 – Carol Keeney
17 – David Aleski	25 – Marilyn Skasko
	29 – Carol Rupp

ANNIVERSARIES

14 – Richard & Pat Zulaica
22 – Paul & Barb Schweiger
28 – Doug & Amy Hill



Church Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Kelly Legg

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The Deacon Board



Benevolence Fund:

Managing the church's Benevolence Fund is an important part of the deacon board's responsibilities. We are grateful for the many people in our congregation who contribute to this impactful ministry. Your generosity allows us to feed the hungry in our community and help struggling families get through tough times. **Our next collection will be held December 14.**

Fellowship/Coffee Café:

Do you have a favorite item or treat you'd like to share on Sunday mornings for our coffee café? Donations are greatly appreciated.

Prayer Ministry:

Our trained prayer ministers, identified by their yellow buttons, are happy to pray with you at any time and will be at the front of the sanctuary at the end of the service. You may also submit prayer requests for our prayer team on our church center app.

Church Center:

Have you visited westshorebaptist.churchcenter.com or downloaded the church center app on your smart phone or tablet yet? You'll find event sign-ups, group registration, online giving, prayer request submission forms, our pictorial directory (please opt-in) and much more!

Baptism:

Baptism is a significant step in the life of every believer. By faith, we symbolize our rebirth into Christ. By obedience, we follow the command to publicly declare our new life through the water. If you are ready to take your next step, please contact Pastor Kelly to begin baptism classes for our January 4th baptism service.

Spiritual Disciplines:

During 2025, the Diaconate identified four spiritual disciplines to assist all of us in further deepening our faith and spiritual life. These four align beautifully with our current vision as follows: Believe - Praying Scripture; Belong - Intercessory Prayer; Bridge – Justice; Become - Prayer Partners.

Beginning in January, the first two, praying scripture and intercessory prayer, will be introduced through bulletin inserts, Connections emails, and the monthly newsletters. We encourage every individual and family to make these first two disciplines part of your daily devotional time with God. We also encourage each community group to implement these disciplines as part of your regular meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Diaconate member.

Parents' Prayer Group:

The parents' prayer group will not be meeting in December but will resume its regular meetings starting in January.

Sunday Servant Signup:

We rely on willing servants using their gifts to make our ministry possible. From reading Scripture to greeting each person God brings through the doors, from caring for our littlest members to counting the offering, all of our ministry happens because of your willingness to use your gifts for God's glory.

As we prepare for 2026, please prayerfully visit [this link](#) to read about and sign-up by Dec. 7 for the ministry teams you can continue and/or begin serving on next year.

Board of Christian Education



Community Groups:

Community Groups are small groups who gather to apply the Bible to their lives, pray and build relationships. If you are interested in joining or launching a new group, contact the church office for more information.

Kids' Club:

Kids' Club meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm. We will not meet Dec. 24th or 31st. Open to students in grades 1st – 6th. See Maura Bihl or Pastor Kelly for details.

Sunday School Classes:

The Searchers class led by Tom Kennerly meets on the top floor of the education wing. Pastor Kelly is teaching "Does the Bible Really Say That?" in Davidson Chapel each Sunday at 9am until Dec. 14th. Beginning on January 11th, she will facilitate a discussion-based class called "I've Got a Question". Together we will discuss (and debate) how we live our faith out loud as we tackle the questions congregants submitted. Registration and more details to come in early December.

Pizza & Pottery:

Families with kids 18 & under, make your calendars for Family Pizza & Pottery Fun starting at noon on Sunday, Jan. 11th. More details and registration info to come soon. See Maura Bihl with questions.

The Mission Board



Clothes Closet:

The clothes closet will be open this month on Saturday, December 13th from 9am – 12 pm. Thank you to all who donated clothes to refill the closet. Volunteers are welcome and needed both mid-week and one Saturday a month. Please contact Dawne Strock for details.

Little Free Pantry:

Don't forget about our outdoor community pantry. Thank you for answering the call to keep our Little Free Pantry stocked. Next time you are shopping, consider buying an item or two to place in the pantry on your way into church.

Red Cross Blood Drive:

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive held at WSBC on **Monday, December 22nd from 12pm-6 pm**. If you wish to donate, visit their website at www.redcrossblood.org.

Blessing Bags:

Filled bags can be found in the lobby. Please help yourself to have one on hand to share whenever there is someone in need.

All Donations:

Just a reminder the food donation location is now in the closet in Fellowship Hall near the education wing exit on the 21st St. side. The shelves are labeled for your donations:

- New Hope Ministries Food Pantry (top shelf),
- Little Free Pantry (middle shelf),
- Blessing Bag (bottom shelf and floor).

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering:

The Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering provides emergency financial support for our ABCUSA clergy & missionaries. Envelopes are available in the pew. This offering will be received through the month of December.

The Link 4 Youth:

Can you help provide a meal for the students at The Link 4 Youth on Mon, Dec. 8 from 4-6pm? Volunteers will prep, serve and clean-up. The Mission Board budget covers reimbursement for food. Register on Church Center. See Bethany Malykh with questions.

Christmas For The Link:

The Link 4 Youth is in need of new recreation equipment for students who gather each weekday for homework, dinner & Bible study. Let's provide their Christmas wish list! Check out the [SignUp Genius](#) to choose which gift(s) you'd like to purchase. An Amazon link is provided for each wish list item. Claim it on SignUp Genius, buy it, and then bring your UNWRAPPED gift to the church lobby no later than Sunday, December 14.

Operation Christmas Child:

We did it. We had a goal of filling 60 boxes to be delivered all over the world to children who don't know the gospel. We delivered 68 boxes and that's not counting any done online. Thank you for your generosity and for giving a child hope, joy, and the chance to learn about Jesus.

The Trustee Board



Lower 21st Street Door

The lower 21st St. door will be locked until 10 AM on Sundays. For those individuals needing the elevator, please use the RING doorbell located on the side of the mailbox. Otherwise, please use the upper 21st St. door.

Christmas Offering:

The Board of Trustees have decided to designate our annual Christmas offering to Paxton Ministries which provides affordable housing and support services to adults in need with Christ-like love. Thank you for your generosity!

Help Needed for Chair Delivery:

Sunday, November 30th, immediately following the service help is needed to disassemble all of our current seating. Lunch will be provided. If you plan to help, please contact [CJ Wright](#) and he'll provide the list of recommended tools.

Wednesday, December 3rd at 8 AM volunteers are needed to help unload (via dolly), unstack and put out all of our new seating. Contact [CJ Wright](#) if you can help.