

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the  
**HEAVENLY REST**

God's Love. For All.

*Heavenly Rest is dedicated to serving and creating community by proclaiming the good news of God's love for all. New here? Please fill out a welcome card from the back of the pew or on our website at [heavenlyrestabilene.org/visit](http://heavenlyrestabilene.org/visit).*

**LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Exploring Spiritual Treasure**— Join us on Sunday, December 1, the first Sunday in Advent, as Fr. Doug Thomas talks about the Church Calendar. Exploring Spiritual Treasure is about faith, discipleship, and community; it is also the road to confirmation. EST begins at 9 o'clock in Gerhart Hall with breakfast. Stay for this presentation and some excellent table conversation! See you there!

**Hands-On Outreach** - Our church is excited to offer a special Holiday Bag for families in need this holiday season. Each bag will contain seasonal items to help bring joy to the table during this special time of year. This year, what we need most is financial donations to help us provide holiday meals to families in need. Specifically, your generous contributions will allow us to purchase hams, which are an essential part of the holiday bags we distribute. Every donation, large or small, matters. Donations can be dropped off at the church office. Thank you for your generosity and support in helping us make this season brighter for our neighbors in need!

**Walk in Love: Stewardship 2025** - We are in the midst of stewardship season at Heavenly Rest when we invite you to consider your financial commitment to this place for the coming year. This year's theme is "Walk in Love," borrowed from the most frequently used offertory sentence at Heavenly Rest. This is not the only reason "Walk in Love" is a natural choice for a stewardship theme. At its heart, stewardship is about discerning how we are connected to the Church and one another. It is about ensuring that Heavenly Rest remains a place where people can show love to one another week in and week out. Stewardship is, in other words, about walking in love.

**Angel Tree** - A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took an angel from the tree! This important ministry supports children with a parent in prison, bringing joy and gifts during the holiday season. Please return your unwrapped gift with the angel attached by December 8. Join us for a parish wrapping party on December 11th! For more details, contact Mother Amanda at [awatson@heavenlyrestabilene.org](mailto:awatson@heavenlyrestabilene.org).

**Christmas Flowers and Music Donations** - As we prepare for Christmas, you will have the opportunity to give flowers or music in memory of or thanksgiving for a loved one. If you would like to give flowers or music this Christmas, please place a donation in the envelopes found in the pews or contact the church office. Sunday, December 15 is the last day to submit names.

**Join the Streaming Team!**

- Directors needed!
- NON-TECHNICAL volunteers to serve as directors.
- Become part of the Streaming Team.
- Help Heavenly Rest's global outreach
- Contact Bill Young at 325-660-2947 or [byoung76@gmail.com](mailto:byoung76@gmail.com).

**Advent Prayer Stations** - Our Advent Prayer and Activity Stations are designed with ALL ages in mind and for those with children to experience as a family. There are two activity stations: making a family Advent Wreath for your home, with children making their version, and making an Advent Storytelling Calendar. Other stations invite you to pray and respond as you reflect on the nativity scene, angels, shepherds, and magi. There will also be a Quiet Space for young children to explore nativity sets, books, and puzzles. These will be available in Gerhart Hall through December 22nd. You are welcome to visit anytime the building is open or to stop by the office during the week, and a staff member will open it for you.

**Advent Quiet Night** - This Wednesday, December 4th, we invite you to join us for a peaceful evening of rest and reflection. In the midst of the busy Advent season, take a moment to step away from the hustle and bustle. Our Advent Quiet Night will feature quiet time for personal reflection, crafting, and the calming sounds of Barbaradon's harp music. We will also share poetry and have time for meaningful conversation with friends.

***Mark Your Calendars!***

**Wednesday, December 11 | Angel Tree Wrapping Party at 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 15 | Parish Christmas Pageant and Party at 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 22 | Caroling at Lyndale at 2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 24 | Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., & 10:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 25 | Christmas at 10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Sunday, December 1st

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I (Nave)\*  
9:15 PM Exploring Spiritual Treasure, Preaching the Good Word\*  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Nave & livestream)\*  
1:00 PM Morning Prayer in Swahili  
2:00 PM Daughters of the King  
7:00 PM Evening Prayer  
7:30 PM Encounter - Young Adult Ministry

### Monday, December 2nd

8:30 AM Morning Prayer  
5:30 AM Breakfast on Beech Street  
10:30 AM Hands-On Assistance  
6:00 PM Education for Ministry

### Tuesday, December 3rd

8:30 AM Morning Prayer  
9:30 AM Thrift House Opens (closes at 4:30 PM)  
10:00 AM Sewing Circle  
10:00 AM Staff meeting  
4:00 PM Contemplative Prayer  
7:00 PM Abilene Pipers  
8:00 PM Unity Group AA

### Wednesday, December 4th

8:30 AM Morning Prayer  
9:30 AM Thrift House Opens (closes at 4:30 PM)  
10:30 AM Hands-On Assistance  
5:15 PM Wind Down Wednesdays  
5:15 PM Children's Music/Choristers Rehearsal  
5:30 PM Eucharist with Prayers for Healing (Chapel)  
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper  
6:30 PM Wednesday Night Program  
6:40 PM Canterbury Ringers Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 5th

8:30 AM Morning Prayer  
9:30 AM Bible Study  
9:30 AM Thrift House Opens (closes at 4:30 PM)  
12:00 PM Men's Brown Bag  
1:00 PM E.S.T. Mentor Meeting  
8:00 PM Unity Group AA

### Friday, December 6th (offices closed)

8:30 AM Morning Prayer  
9:30 AM Thrift House Opens (closes at 4:30 PM)  
9:30 AM Hands-On Grocery Distribution  
10:30 AM Hands-On Assistance

### Saturday, December 7th

8:30 AM Swahili Prayer Meeting  
9:00 AM Altar Guild  
10:30 AM Afternoon Children's Choir Rehearsal  
4:30 PM Aleluya Kwaya Rehearsal

### Sunday, December 8th

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I (Nave)\*  
9:15 PM Exploring Spiritual Treasure, Coffee Talks, Preaching the Good Word\*  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Nave & livestream)\*  
1:00 PM Morning Prayer in Swahili  
5:00 PM Heavenly Rest Youth  
7:00 PM Evening Prayer  
7:30 PM Encounter - Young Adult Ministry

*\*nursery care is available for ages 0-4*

*View a detailed schedule at [heavenlyrestabilene.org/calendar](http://heavenlyrestabilene.org/calendar).*

## PRAYERS

### THANKSGIVINGS

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Helen Andrews, Isabella Bass, Lucy Craig, John E. Estes, Isaac Mashauri, Don Roberts, Anne Tippens, Lucille Wallace, Marie Wallace

### INTERCESSIONS

Edward Peterson, Don Balch, Catalina Marino, Sandy Graham, Rusty Plochek, LaTosha, Elon Mues, Crystal and Abigail Keet, Elton & Carolyn Jernigan, Andrew Behrends, Jamie Rains, Jeffy Herman, Billie Nichols, Dorothy Guerra, BJ Madrid, Daron Brown, Jim Cox, Bryson Tyler, Joan Akin, Diana Ligon, Mike Mansell, Lorelei Lantz-Profit, Russell McKeever, Francois Mulanda, Evelyn Niblo, Suzie Ramsey, Fabiola Mulanda, Michelle Fernung, Clark Mariani, Mike Hogan, Giovanni Maravilla, Andreas Martinez, Barbara Payne, Jim Pizzorno, Freda Kennedy, Carolyn Jean Johnson, Jade Diaz, Shane Jones, Martha Timms, Tessa, Tommy Lindley, Sarah Biles and daughter Claire, Ann Tippens, Chris Thomas, Ron Rathbun, George Bijelic, Tom and Sharon Riley, Britt McIntyre, Andrew Hubbard, Keith Boyd, Dolores Bivins, Chris Parker, Freddie Wagner, Sharon Doty, Mary Lou Robertson, Glen Funkey, Shannon Carleton, Angaza Alembo, Donna McDonald, Shiann, Sydney and Everett Taylor, Zach Hackel, Elon Mues, Anne Hart, Hannah Dale, Jacky Dominguez, Emmeryn Golden-Smith, Sandy Graham, Ramona Rodriguez, Stan Alcorn, Larry and Leta Bell, Steve Davis, Judy Batts, Rusty Plochek, Elizabeth Burton, Ben Mendez, Gerry Lawler, Anthony Elmore, Debbie Beeksma, Rachel Marderosian, Jamie Dunn, Karen Surovik, Beth Shoemaker, Janet & Phillip Jergins, Christopher Choate, Adley Burden, Jim McBride, Jerry Bell

**For deployed military and first responders:** Michael Paisley, David Broyles, Jr., Joshua Mehaffey, Weaver Lilly, Health Care Workers, Members of the Abilene Fire, Police, and Sheriff's Departments

**For the recently departed:** Glen Pyeatt, Ruth Caldwell, Sister Mary Francis Deulen, Delaney Kae Hoag, Diane Cavanaugh, Dave Bashford, Patty Rae Wellborn, Craig Churchill, Jeff Newman



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*Is there something you would like to share with the church? Please submit announcements and materials to the Communications office.*

*Contact Austin Hackel at [ahackel@heavenlyrestabilene.org](mailto:ahackel@heavenlyrestabilene.org).*