

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

*Our mission is to be more visible, to become more connected,
and to draw closer, with Christ as our center.*



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



Wednesday, January 20, 2020

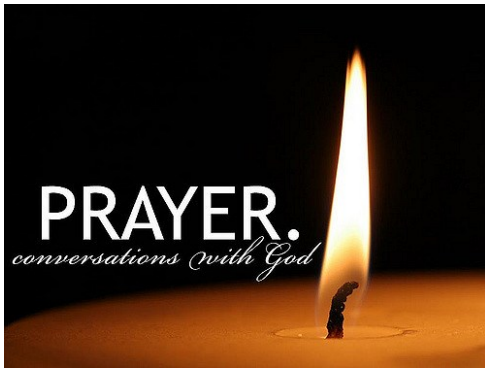


Ming the clam was 507 years old, the oldest living animal on earth - that is, until scientists accidentally killed Ming while trying to figure out his age.

The psalms are filled with the prayer-writer's wonder and awe at the things and events of creation. I have had two members of this congregation who, like me, love sunrises and sunsets. We exchange pictures taken on our iPhones or cameras. We see beauty and wonder in these events. We marvel at how the people moving around us can fail to be touched as they drive hurriedly around us. Ignoring and uncaringly dissecting are not the attitudes toward nature that awaken us.

An Episcopal priest friend has become pulled to northwest Connecticut's hiking trails. He takes his family along with him to begin to form them in wonder and awe at God's creation. If I have any resolutions for the New Year, it will be to spend more time in such spaces. For, as the psalmist says "wonder and awe are the beginnings of Wisdom." Here's to getting outside more!

LV
PD



Pour out your Spirit on all people living with illness, as well as their loved ones and caregivers. Help them to know that you claim them as your own and deliver them from fear and pain; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Lauren, Ray, Tim, Joan, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Sarah, Miriam, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Tricia, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, Steve.

Military (on active duty), Fire fighters, and Police: Ryan, Teddy, Tyler, Ben, Kenny, Brian, Bill, Ken, John, Glen, and Vic.

Front Line workers in the COVID-19 pandemic: Diane, Alicia, Brittany, Loretta, Jay, Alyssa, Monica, Rachel, June.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of + Janet Reck +.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

An invitation to Daily Prayer at 12 noon



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I invite you to join me every day this week at 12 noon for a time of prayer for peace and calm in our nation.

Whether you choose to read/pray one of the prayers below, or simply pause for a moment of intention, silence, or meditation, it doesn't matter. Just let us all enter into a moment where we ask that peace and calm prevail.

The nation

Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our sovereign and our Savior. Amen. (ELW, p. 77)

Responsible citizenship

Lord God, you call your people to honor those in authority. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW, p. 77)

Conflict, crisis, disaster

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (ELW, p. 76; ELW Prayer Book for the Armed Services, p. 30)

Bitterness, anger

Lord God, when we are assaulted by the troubles of life, and the deep waters of anger threaten to overwhelm us, do not let us sink. In your great compassion, hear us and help us. Deliver us from anger's power over us. Lead us out of bitter silence and hurtful words so that we may speak the truth in love. Heal every heart set on vengeance, and show us the way to honesty and reconciliation; through the one who has shown us both impassioned zeal and forgiving love, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW Prayer Book for the Armed Service, p. 29)

Bishop Hazelwood

Do you wonder how to put a loved one, friend, neighbor, or yourself on the prayer list?
Simply email the church office at office@gslc-ct.org. If you would like a prayer card sent to your loved one, friend or neighbor, please include the full name and address. Prayer requests may also be made by phone (203-268-7596) and will be included by the church office.
For privacy, only the first name of each individual will be listed.

Do you have something you would like to discuss with Pastor Doug?

Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Doug Ryniewicz by cell phone (860-595-9560—text if you like!) or by his email (dearynos@gmail.com).

To join us for Worship online:

There are several options for you to join us for online worship:

- 1) go to the Good Shepherd website www.gslc-ct.org. Click on youtube on the menu under News & Events to be directed to our church's YouTube page.
- 2) go to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Good-Shepherd-Lutheran-Church-220717937953573/> Scroll down until you see the post with the current "Church Service (date)" click on this to be directed to our church's YouTube page.
- 3) To find us directly on Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/> enter Good Shepherd Monroe CT in the search field and you will be directed to our page, then select the worship video you would like to see. Subscribe to our channel to make it even easier.

To join us for Worship in person: This Sunday, January 24th at 10:00 am. We will have Drive In Church, weather permitting (If it is a steady rain, the service is cancelled).

This is how it works:

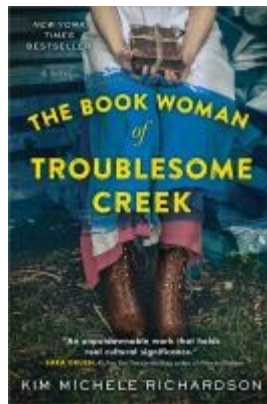
- Pastor Doug will be on a platform at the rear (east edge) of the large, main parking area.
- Cars should park facing that direction (east – towards the wooded area) with taller vehicles closer to the main road. This will allow shorter vehicles visibility by parking in front of the taller ones.
- The radio frequency of the broadcast is **FM 94.9**. Please tune your car radio to that station to hear the worship service.
- You should stay in your vehicle and keep your windows closed.
- Bring your own bread (as you did for Outdoor Worship) for communion.
- You must wear a mask if you exit your vehicle.
- Other recommendations of social distancing apply when you are outside your vehicle.



Offering Envelope Boxes for 2021

The boxes for the new year are on the table in the narthex. If you attend the Drive In Service, please stop in and pick yours up. If you would like to pick it up during the week, please make an appointment to stop by during office hours - Monday through Thursday, 9 am to noon. If those times are not convenient for you, just call the church office at 203-268-7596 or send an email so that other arrangements can be made.

Upcoming Events



The Book Club is meeting on February 2nd at **1:00 p.m.** when we will discuss "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. In March, we will discuss "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett. We will either meet via Zoom or possibly indoors using the new handler system if the infection rates are low. We welcome new members!

ADVICE FROM FROSTY, THE SNOWMAN



By Lillian Sortland Tesoriero

December 9, 2020

So, folks, now that we're in a "new normal" during this global pandemic, I humbly suggest that you do as I do:

- . Stay in place
- . Stay cool
- . Spend time outdoors
- . But don't get too much sun!
- . Don't touch your face
- . Observe the travel ban
- . Be well rounded
- . And everyone "nose" carrots are good for you!
- . Last, but not least, even though everyone knows that 2020 stinks, stank, and stunk, for heaven's sake, aim to be a jolly happy soul!

Stay safe,
Frosty

Reaching Out, Serving Others:

News from

The Council of Churches
of Greater Bridgeport



Leveraging hope, changing lives.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
Presents

Winter Coat Drive

FROM JANUARY 11TH - FEBRUARY 15TH ONLY

We are accepting new and gently used winter coats youth and adult sizes small to extra-large.

DROP OFF LOCATION:

1718 CAPITOL AVE

BRIDGEPORT, CT

Drop off: Tuesday and Thursday ONLY between 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.

Please call: (203) 544-4015 once you arrive. All other calls regarding questions should be forwarded to Adilene Garcia at (203) 334-1121 extension: 13.

You must be wearing a mask over your mouth and nose at drop off

Coats dropped off on other days/times will not be accepted until the following drop off day between the times stated above.



Coats may also be dropped off at Good Shepherd and will be delivered to the Council of Churches. There will be a blue box at the front door of the church on Monday—Thursday mornings and Sunday during the Drive In service.



Food for Summerfield

There is an ongoing need for nutritious food for the kids at Summerfield. Protein is especially needed. GSLC Council has challenged the congregation to provide funds for the purchase of nutritious food. GSLC will match donations from members for up to \$250 per month. Pastor Gaston has told us that \$500 per month would meet their nutritious food needs. If you wish to donate please write a check to GSLC with the notation "Food For Summerfield" or place cash in the Summerfield box.

Happy Birthday Pastor Doug



I was stunned and touched to the heart by the balloon birthday surprise ! Also fun and hilarious! Thanks everyone for the celebration, texts, cards, emails, and posts!

LV,
PD



Where Nothing Is Expected

Devotional for the week of January 17th, 2021

At one of his life's worst intersections, when legs trembled and steps were mired in bogs of doubt, his companion looked into the man's hollowing eyes and said, "I believe in you. I know you." Have you ever needed such a word?

The list is painfully long that names all of the circumstances and places from which it is assumed nothing good can come. Perhaps you have compiled your own catalog of those who fall short, the irredeemable neighborhoods, or the situations beyond hope in the life of others. Perhaps you find yourself on someone else's list, among those whose life and plight has been dismissed as "nothing good." So it was thought of Jesus, whose life was rooted in the hillside soil of a sidetracked town—Nazareth—where nothing remarkable, not much at all, was expected to grow up. That town and its people were on the "unfavorable" list.

It is a riddle of scripture that the likes of Philip (or Peter, John, James, and Andrew—those gospel familiars) would, seemingly without discernment or a second thought, leave everything when Jesus interrupted his settled life and bid him, "Follow me." For Nathanael, it was different. He took an honest and reasonable step back. He knew all the talk about nothing good coming from Nazareth.

So many of our stories wither and so much of who we are dies when we are confronted with the "I know about you" list of painful failures instead of a loving, hopeful invitation to "come and see" (John 1:46).

There is a mighty mercy, an opening of heaven itself before our very eyes, a retelling of each "Nazareth" in our lives if we dare to "come and see" Jesus. Then that painful, long, imposed or self-inflicted list is no longer our truth because we, in seeing Jesus, begin to see ourselves and others as Jesus does. An epiphany happens: "I believe in you."

Devotional message and art based on the readings for January 17th, reprinted from sundaysandseasons.com.

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Sunday, January 24 - Third Sunday After Epiphany

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12 (6)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20



Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

