

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



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, March 23, 2022

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



“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold.  
It was summer in the sun and winter in the shade.”  
Charles Dickens

In our part of the world, Easter is on our minds - the earth wakes up and laughs in flowers. Happy Spring!

LV,  
PD

\* Sunday School / Confirmation Class Update -

- \* Confirmation class will be held this Sunday, March 27th.
- \* NO Sunday School (K-6) this Sunday, March 27th.





## **Worship Information -**

**We have two regular in person Worship Services per week. They are held on Sundays at 8am and 10:30am. (See calendar for Holy Week schedule)**

Hymnals are available for use. Please note that if you are uncomfortable using the hymnals, there will be a limited number of freshly copied "Hymn Packets" available upon request at each service.

Please continue to read Friday's weekly "Worship E-mail", or check our Facebook Page for any updates / changes.

**\* Masks are no longer required at any time \* (note that the Pastor and Communion Assistant will still wear masks during Communion Distribution.)**

**If you prefer to join us for prerecorded online worship instead, you can:**

1) Go to the Good Shepherd website [www.gslc-ct.org](http://www.gslc-ct.org). Under "News & Events", click on youtube 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 it 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. From there, select the worship video you would like to see. Subscribe to our channel to make it even easier.

Whichever worship choice works best for you, we are delighted to have you worship with us!

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## **Prayer List -**

**Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:**

**Audrey, Miriam, Doree, Amy, Scarlet, Ryan, Sharon & Rosemary.**

**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. You can reach him by text, or phone at: 860-595-9560. His email is: [dearynos@gmail.com](mailto:dearynos@gmail.com)



## COVENANT TO CARE EASTER BASKETS -

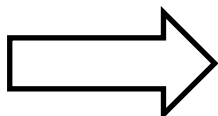


Name tags for Easter baskets are attached to a white clipboard on the table in the narthex. (Look for the colorful Easter Bunny) Please PRINT your name and phone number on the list next to the child's name, and attach the corresponding gift tag to the basket you wish to donate.

**Baskets are due on Palm Sunday, April 10. Thank you!**

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**THIS WEEKEND!**



**PLEASE SIGN UP,  
OR SPREAD THE  
WORD!**



### **Blood Drive**

#### **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

Held in the Church Hall  
466 Elm Street  
Monroe, CT 06468

**Saturday, March 26, 2022  
7:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or  
visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and  
enter: GoodShepherd to schedule an appointment.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.





**3/26/22 - GSLC Blood Drive - \* NO quilting today \***

**3/27/22 - NO Sunday School for K-6. Confirmation classes WILL BE HELD AT 9:15am.**

**3/30/22 - Last Lenten Zoom Bible Study at 7pm.**

**4/5/22 - Book Club at 2pm. The selection is, "Finding Chika", by Mitch Albom.**

**4/10/22 - Palm Sunday Services at 8am and 10:30am.**

**4/14/22 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm.**

**4/15/22 - Good Friday Service at 7pm.**

**4/10/22 - Sunday School & Confirmation classes held at 9:15am.**

**4/10/22 - Covenant To Care Easter Baskets are due.**

**4/17/22 - Easter Sunday Services at 8am and 10:30am.**

**4/24/22 - Sunday School & Confirmation classes held at 9:15am.**



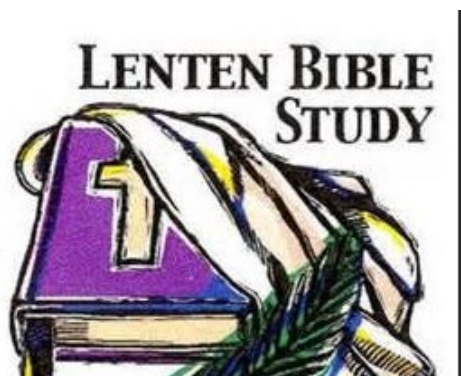
**\* Choir practice will be every Sunday at 9:45am.**

**\* Shepherd's Flock Quilters - NO QUILTING THIS SATURDAY, 3/26, but we** generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. \* Please contact Barbara Abraham by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321 if you wish to come on a Monday morning. If you'd like to join on a Wednesday, contact Ellie Noll at: 203-888-7009, or Eileen Holleran at: 203-426-0005. If you prefer to quilt on a Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598. Anyone is welcome!



## **\* Lenten Bible Study -**

**Please join Pastor Doug by Zoom on Wednesday, 3/23/22, at 7pm to discuss "The Parables Of Jesus"! The last class will be on March 30th.**



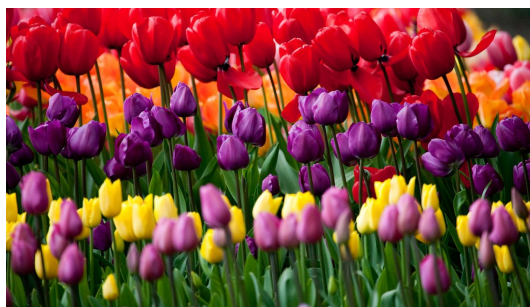
**\* CHECK OUR PRIVATE FACEBOOK PAGE, OR EMAILED NEWSLETTER FOR ZOOM LINK.**

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## **\* Easter Flowers -**

**We will have Easter Lilies and other Spring flowers decorating the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you would like to contribute to the "Easter Flower Fund", please contribute by Palm Sunday, April 10th. The suggested donation is \$10. All members that donate, are welcome to take a plant home after the Easter Services.**

**Please see bulletin board in the narthex for \*Easter Flower Fund" envelopes.**



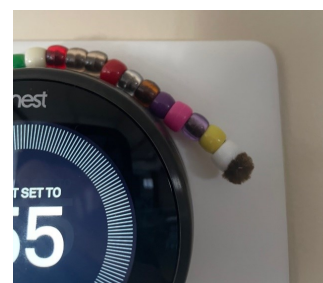


## PRETZEL DAY UPDATE -

Donna Duessel and 14 of our youth were hard at work here on "Pretzel Sunday" last weekend. 6 batches of dough were made, along with many happy memories. A big thanks to Lisa Pelella for manning the ovens!

The group also had fun making and hiding Lenten caterpillars.

Please remember the "Caterpillar Prayer", when you find one hidden at the Church! "Let us be Lenten Caterpillars, devouring the Word of God and transforming into Easter Butterflies".







## **GSLC YOUTH MEMBER TO AID UKRAINE -**

My name is Kylah Baron and I am an 8th grade student at Madison Middle School. I am also a Girl Scout. For my Silver Award project, I am making bracelets with Ukrainian colors and sunflower charms. I would like to sell them and give the proceeds to Lutheran World Relief to aid the people of Ukraine during this difficult time. I would like to collect \$5 per bracelet, but I am happy to take donations of higher amounts. 100% of the money is going towards the charity. I will be at GSLC on March 27th and April 3rd before and after the 10:30am service with my collection. If you cannot make it but would like a bracelet, you can contact me through my mother's email at: [KEBaron@aol.com](mailto:KEBaron@aol.com) and I can set one aside for you. Thank you for supporting my project and this important need.



## **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!**

Church Council has announced that our Annual Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship Service will be held at Wolfe Park in Monroe. The date is Sunday, June, 26th. More details to follow, but please mark your calendars as we would love to see you there!





GSLC Members and Friends,

**To date, our generous members have already donated \$3000 towards our Ukraine / Match donation drive. This is in addition to the \$500 that the GSLC quilters have already given.** To further take advantage of this wonderful matching gift program, GSLC is still collecting funds for Ukraine. Thank you to all that have already donated! If you haven't contributed yet, but are willing and able, **the deadline for the match has been extended.** Please mail, or bring your donation to GSLC by 4/10/22 with a notation to send it to LWR/Ukraine-Match. **You can also give online by typing: [lwr.org/match](http://lwr.org/match) into your web browser.** If you can't donate, please help by spreading the word!

Thank you!!!

## YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED

Thanks to the leading generosity of Nelsonville Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church in Amherst, WI — and now joined by incredible congregations across the country — all congregational gifts given through Lutheran World Relief will be doubled — up to **\$422,000!**

**Your love will provide food, shelter and emergency funds for refugees impacted by the Ukraine crisis.** We expect that our initial response will also include supporting critical health needs through the provision of medical supplies or support for emergency medical services. **And thanks to the generosity of Lutheran congregations across the country, we will be air-lifting Mission Quilts and Personal Care Kits already pre-positioned in our Dubai warehouse.** These urgently needed supplies will reach Ukrainian families who have fled for safety.

Gifts can be made online at [lwr.org/match](http://lwr.org/match) or by mailing to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write "Ukraine Match" in the memo line.



## **The Good Shepherd Foundation:**

### **An unexpected beginning for a miracle clinic in Haiti!**



Who would have thought that a desperately needed health clinic in the remote regions of Haiti would have had its beginning at a religious retreat center at Medjugorji, Bosnia-Herzegovina, a revered site of mystical apparitions of the Virgin Mary? The history of the clinic can only be described as a Spirit-led sequence of events:

- \* American nurse, Michelle, formerly of Haiti, goes on a pilgrimage to Medjugorji for spiritual guidance in hope of starting a desperately needed clinic in her homeland.
- \* Pastor Bob McGurn and wife, Linda, travel to Medjugorji at the same time looking for discernment and spiritual guidance with Bob's approaching retirement.
- \* Linda, as a recently retired professional fund raiser for multiple hospitals and private schools, was looking for discernment in her next "vocation" in life.
- \* Michelle is looking for a fundraiser.
- \* BOOM! An instant and dramatic connection was made; bringing together a Florida nurse, and a clergy couple from Connecticut for the soon to be shared mission of bringing healthcare and clean water to an impoverished community in Haiti. It certainly was the work of the Holy Spirit then and that work only continues to grow and expand, thanks to dedicated leadership, a faithful staff, prayer and generous support from all of you!

As we at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church have made The Good Shepherd Foundation our focus of support during our Lenten journey for many years, we are continuing that support this year with the goal of raising \$4,000. As the cost of care has risen due to complex and sometimes dangerous circumstances, our donations are needed more than ever to continue this vital and life-giving ministry. This may seem an ambitious goal, but in reality, is only half of the \$8,000 we were able to raise last year! Please continue your support as we go forward during this season of Lent. We ARE helping to make miracles continue to happen in Haiti!!

Watch for more information to come in future newsletters about the new and exciting developments at the clinic. The miracles continue!

## Shepherd's Pantry -

The Monroe Food Pantry provides emergency food assistance for over 100 needy individuals and families in Monroe each month. The Social Ministry and Community Outreach Committee invite you to contribute items to the Shepherd's Pantry located in the narthex. You may drop them off during office hours, or on Sunday mornings. The items are delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry once a month.

**\*\* THE MONROE FOOD PANTRY NO LONGER ACCEPTS COUPONS \*\***

**PLEASE DO NOT DROP COUPONS OFF AT GSLC. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE FOOD PANTRY, PLEASE SEE THE MONTHLY LIST OF NEEDS.**

**THANK YOU!!!**

## MARCH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS -

Canned fruit: apple sauce, mandarin oranges, pineapple, peaches

Canned meat: Solid White Tuna, Spam, Sardines

Canned vegetables: beets, olives, sauerkraut

Baking Goods: pancake mix, brownie mix, sugar, flour, corn muffin mix

Condiments: cooking oil, brown or yellow mustard, mayo, ketchup

Salad Dressing: Italian, Balsamic, Blue Cheese, French, Thousand Island, Ranch

Staples: Jelly (strawberry or grape), Peanut Butter (crunchy)

Low-sodium Progresso soups: (vegetable/split pea/minestrone/clam chowder/tomato/bean/beef/sausage)

Snacks - any kind but people seem to like breakfast bars, chips, crackers, popcorn

Coffee (regular or decaf)

Tea (regular or decaf)

Oatmeal (regular and flavored)

Juice (apple/cranberry, etc.)



Seltzer / V8

Ensure

\*\*We have had such great response for toiletry items. However, due to demand, we are starting to run low on: shampoo/conditioner/deodorant/razors/soap

\*\*We are also starting to run low on toilet paper, and paper towels.



## 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 out to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church" with the notation, "Food For Summerfield". Thank you!

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## VANCO - ELCA PREFERRED ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM -



Please feel free to try our online giving platform, Vanco. Vanco is an ELCA preferred vendor, that gives you the option of using their free mobile app to make donating to Good Shepherd easy and contactless. Simply download the Vanco Mobile App, select "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Monroe" and follow the prompts to donate.

If you are hesitant to download the app, just go to our website, [www.gslc-ct.org](http://www.gslc-ct.org), scroll down to the Vanco link, click and donate.

The traditional ways of giving, like bringing, or mailing envelopes to Church still stand. Vanco is just another way to make giving easy. If you do choose to use Vanco for online giving, please know that the Church will incur a fee per transaction. However, you can offset this cost by selecting the "cover processing fees" option at checkout.

If you are interested, but have questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie in the office!



## Sunday, March 27, 2022 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Prayer of the Day:** God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32 (11)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



### 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"