



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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, November 24, 2021

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

At my Ordination 24 years ago, and again at my Installation at Good Shepherd eight years ago, I made vows to keep my congregation in touch with the wider Lutheran church. The church exists in a world communion:

LWF, a national expression - ELCA, which has a Presiding Bishop.
A synodal expression - the New England Synod.
And a local expression - Good Shepherd.

When I pass on statements from all three, this is meant to keep us in awareness and dialogue as one link in a chain, and to have meaningful holy conversation. The nation right now seems incapable of such conversations. People fly off the handle, become outraged easily. This is not how it is to be with us - the followers of Jesus. Can we do better than the world seems to do?

Listening, thinking, bringing issues to prayer?

Dear God, I hope so. A lot may be riding on us doing so.

LV
PD

* For reference:

A pastoral message on the Rittenhouse acquittal

Dear church,

In the book of Leviticus we read: "You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor" (19:15).

Our social message on Community Violence urges us to become more involved in countering the reality and fear of violence in our communities and our neighbors' communities, pursuing justice and seeking peace no matter how long the journey or complex the challenge.

When a child is allowed to become a vigilante without recourse, we are forced to confront the idols of our society: guns, violence and white supremacy. To be sure, this is not about one person, but indeed about all of us, together.

Today's acquittal is an injustice. It points to the disorder in which we all live. As we seek to restore justice; so also will we restore God to God's rightful place at the center of our life together.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*** Happy Thanksgiving to all!**

LV
PD



Worship Schedule -

November 28th: This is the first Sunday of Advent. We will have two Worship Services every Sunday until further notice. Feel free to choose from our 8am, or 10:30am service. Both services will be held INDOORS. Please bring a mask regardless of your vaccination status, as they will be required for all. Hymnals are now available for use again. 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.

Also, please keep our committee in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to provide guidance to the best of our abilities. We are delighted that our congregation has remained healthy through this crisis and look forward to the day when these considerations are no longer necessary.

Yours in Christ,

The Worship and Music Committee
Susan Chin, Chair



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

1) Go to the Good Shepherd website 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!

A Community Of Prayer -

For those in need of healing and comfort:



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Miriam, Rosemary, Paula, Sarah, Misty, Jim, Darcy, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, the Wilk family, Linda, Todd, Noreen and family, Maureen, Lynn, Barbara, Scott, Johanna, Glen, Durbin, Marie.

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.

Do you wonder how to put a loved one, friend, neighbor, or yourself on the prayer list?

Simply email the church office at office@gsic-ct.org, or give us a call at 203-268-7596. If you would like a prayer card sent to your loved one, friend or neighbor, please include the full name and address. 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. You can reach him by text, or phone at: 860-595-9560. His email is: dearynos@gmail.com



Thanksgiving is on Thursday, November 25th. We, at Good Shepherd, are very grateful for the members of our Congregation and wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving! Please use your holiday to reflect on your blessings and enjoy each moment with friends and family.



*** Reminder - Church office will be closed on November 25th and 26th** in observance of the holiday.

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes - will meet from 9:15am - 10am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The next classes will be held on November 28th.

Choir - will meet each Sunday at 9:55am to practice before the 10:30am service. Come sing with them!

Shepherd's Flock Quilters - generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. New members are welcome!

Book Club - will meet again on 12/7/21 at 2pm to discuss "The Storyteller's Secret" by Sejal Badani. "Whereabouts", by Jhumpa Lahiri is our selection for January.



GOLDEN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



* COMMUNITY SUPPER - 12/1/21 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -

Our next Community Supper at Golden Hill Methodist in Bridgeport is coming up. Volunteers are needed to help prep and serve on 12/1/21 at 2:30pm. Join the carpool and help the less fortunate enjoy a good meal! The sign up sheet is hanging in the narthex. You can also call the office for more information.



* HOLIDAY KIDS' PAJAMA DRIVE -

Once again, Good Shepherd has teamed up with the Town of Monroe to help provide warm pajamas to local children in need.

We are so excited to report that all the tags have been taken! **Please follow the instructions on your tag, wrap the gift and return it to Church by 11/28/21.** (the social worker would like to pick up our batch here prior to the deadline.)

Please note that this is a pajama drive, but you may include a gift card, book, or other small item with your pajama set.

Thank you for brightening a child's day!



GSLC IS HOLDING A VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER

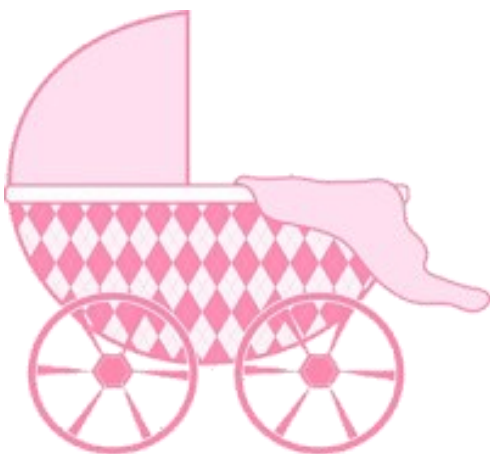
We are having a virtual baby shower for an Afghan family who recently settled in CT. The family is expecting a baby girl on December 27th. Since they only have a crib, they are in need of many items to care for the baby.

Anyone who would like to provide an item for the “Baby Shower” is welcome to take a card that lists needed items. These cards are on the “baby table” in the corner of the narthex.

Baby items can then be placed in the box on the table. If it is a larger item, it can be placed on the floor by the table. Newborn clothing and supplies will initially be needed, but other items such as: car seat, stroller, etc, would certainly be welcome.

Please note that not all necessary items have been listed, so if you find a gently used stroller, or other useful item, we would love to add it to the other baby gifts.

Thank you for considering to help a young family in need!



COVENANT TO CARE CHRISTMAS GIFTS -

Name tags for Christmas gifts are clipped to a white clipboard on the table in the narthex. Please PRINT your name and phone number on the list next to the child's name, and attach the corresponding gift tag to your wrapped package.

Gifts are due December 19. Thank you!



QUILTING -



The Shepherd's Flock Quilters generally meet at 10 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. We invite everyone to join us!

Please contact Barbara Abraham by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321 if you wish to come on Monday morning. Contact Ellie Noll by phone at: 203-888-7009, or Eileen Holleran at: 203-426-0005, if you wish to come on Wednesday. If you prefer Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598.

There is no limit to the number of quilters at this time, but we would like to ensure that someone will definitely be there to work with you. If you can tie a knot, you can do this! A variety of talents can be used; we are happy to show you how to sew tops, tie, trim, and design tops if you wish to join us.



COVENANT TO CARE THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to those that donated! Due to your generosity, some local families will now be able to enjoy the holiday without worrying about the financial burden.

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 out to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church" with the notation, "Food For Summerfield".

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.



ITEMS NEEDED AT THE MONROE FOOD PANTRY

At the Monroe Food Pantry, we strive to consistently provide healthy food options for our clients. We accept and appreciate all donations, and encourage **low sodium, low sugar, low saturated fat, vegetarian, and whole wheat** selections when possible. This helps our clients manage and prevent chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease.

- bread crumbs
- instant potatoes
- egg noodles
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- macaroni & cheese
- healthy snack items
- hot and cold cereal
- tuna
- canned chicken
- brown/white rice
- pancake mix & syrup
- peanut butter
- jams and jellies
- canned soup
- canned pasta
- salad dressing
- condiments
- baked beans
- refried beans
- broths and stocks
- canned fruit
- canned chili
- canned tomatoes
- canned beans & vegetables
- Ensure
- juice
- hot chocolate
- baking supplies: sugar, flour, brownie and cake mix
- decaf and regular: ground coffee, instant coffee
- decaf and regular: black tea, green tea
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr products, Ramen
- household cleaning supplies
- personal hygiene products
- feminine hygiene products
- frozen vegetables, and fresh produce
- pet food





Greetings to Calumet Nation!

As we head into the Thanksgiving and Advent Days, we here at Calumet want to invite people to consider a few things:

1. Christmas Giving Ideas....

Calumet has created a 2021 "Christmas Giving Ideas" online store. Sweatshirts, tees, ornaments & other gifts — and **Gift Certificates for the one you love** — are available. **To peruse the online options, type this into your browser: www.calumet.org/giving/gifts2021**

2. Holden Evening Prayer — Advent 2021

Calumet Nation is invited to participate in Holden Evening Prayer on the Wednesdays of Advent at 7:30 PM. This is a beautiful, 25-Minute service which includes singing, prayers, a reading, and a pastoral reflection. Calumet is partnering with Nativity Lutheran in North Conway NH and Freedom Christian Church in Freedom, NH.

Learn more by typing this into your browser: www.calumet.org/advent2021

3. Calumet Book Club for Advent — “Enrique’s Journey” by Sonia Navarro

The Calumet Book Club is hosting a **DEC 16** book discussion. The book: Pulitzer Prize winner “Enrique’s Journey” by Sonia Navarro. Pour a cup of tea, light a candle, and enjoy the conversation on Zoom. Calumet is thankful to Pastor Jon Hopkins of Concordia Lutheran in Concord, NH for his co-leadership. Here is a brief description of the book:

"Enrique’s Journey recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers. As Isabel Allende writes: “This is a twenty-first-century Odyssey. If you are going to read only one nonfiction book this year, it has to be this one.” Now updated with a new Epilogue and Afterword, photos of Enrique and his family, an author interview and more, this is a classic of contemporary America."

Learn more by typing this into your browser: www.calumet.org/calumetbookclub

Help us spread the word and invite others who you think would have interest!

Boom Chicka Boom!

Knute Ogren
knute@calumet.org
he/him/his

Be good.

PS.....

Calumet is a 501c3, not-for-profit, ministry of the Lutheran Church. Your year-end gift to Calumet can be a big help to our efforts to keep grounded, to keep safe, to keep focused, and to keep Calumet Nation connected to one another. To make a gift, visit www.calumet.org/give. To make a gift of stock, to gift your RMD from an IRA, or to learn about remembering Calumet in your estate plan, contact ginger@calumet.org. Thanks!

FINANCIAL NEWS -

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL -

All members should have received a 2022 Stewardship Appeal and Pledge Form in the mail. Kindly place your pledge form in an envelope and return it to Church at your earliest convenience. If you still need a form, there are extras on the wood table in the narthex. You can also call Stephanie in the office for assistance. Thank you in advance for helping our mission and ministries thrive!



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, 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!

*** Our offerings are down significantly. If you are able to donate, any amount would be very helpful and much appreciated!**

Sunday, November 28, 2021 First Sunday of Advent

Prayer of the Day: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you to live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: 25:1-10 (1)

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36



1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."