

# 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, August 25, 2021

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, we will go to our Fall schedule. That means we will have two Worship Services on Sundays. There will be an 8am service and another one at 10:30am. Details on indoor / outdoor will follow at a later date.

Please note that we will start Confirmation classes (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders) and Sunday school on September 12<sup>th</sup>, as well. The classes will be held between services, 9:15am-10am, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month.

The Worship Service Schedule, Confirmation Class and Sunday School Schedules shall stay the same until Christmas.

For those being Confirmed, some important dates are:

October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mini Retreat from 4-6pm. Pizza will be provided.

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation will be celebrated. We will gather for 10:30am Worship and hope to be outdoors.

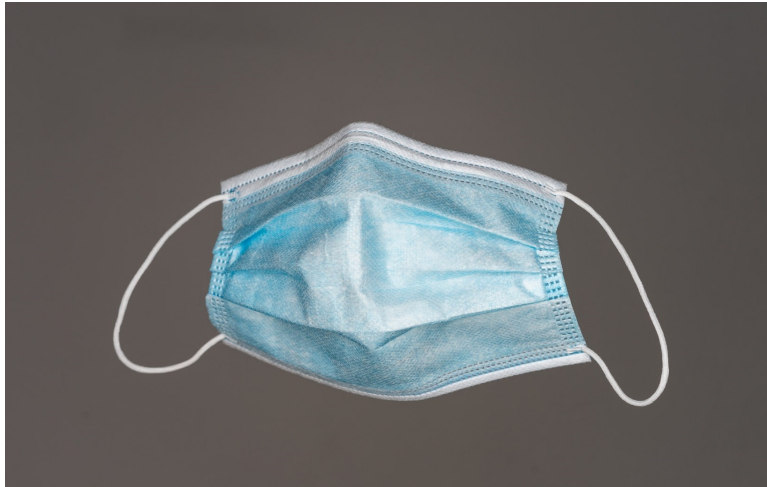
If you have not done so already, please contact Pastor Doug by text, or phone at 860-595-9560 to confirm attendance at the Retreat and Confirmation.

Finally, in September, we will hold a new Bible Study, “Unraveled”. This study includes powerful works of art to contemplate, as well as some rarely heard Bible stories. Stay tuned for details, as it promises to be a good one!

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**An update from the Worship and Music Committee:**



**\*FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL...PLEASE BRING A MASK IN CASE IT RAINS AND/OR WE HAVE INDOOR WORSHIP.**

**Due to the current circumstances, we must now revert back to wearing masks indoors during worship. Good Shepherd appreciates your patience and understanding during these challenging times!**

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

1) Go to the Good Shepherd website [www.gslc-ct.org](http://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.

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

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

## **Worship Schedule for in person worship: (subject to change)**

August 29th: 9:30am Worship INdoors

September 5th: 9:30am Worship OUTdoors

September 12th: **8am and 10:30am services begin for the Fall**, location to be determined.



### A Community of Prayer

*For those in need of healing and comfort:*

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

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

*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.*

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

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

Psalm 147 vs. 3

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

*Simply email the church office at [office@gscl-ct.org](mailto:office@gscl-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](mailto:dearynos@gmail.com)).*

## Financial News -

### **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!



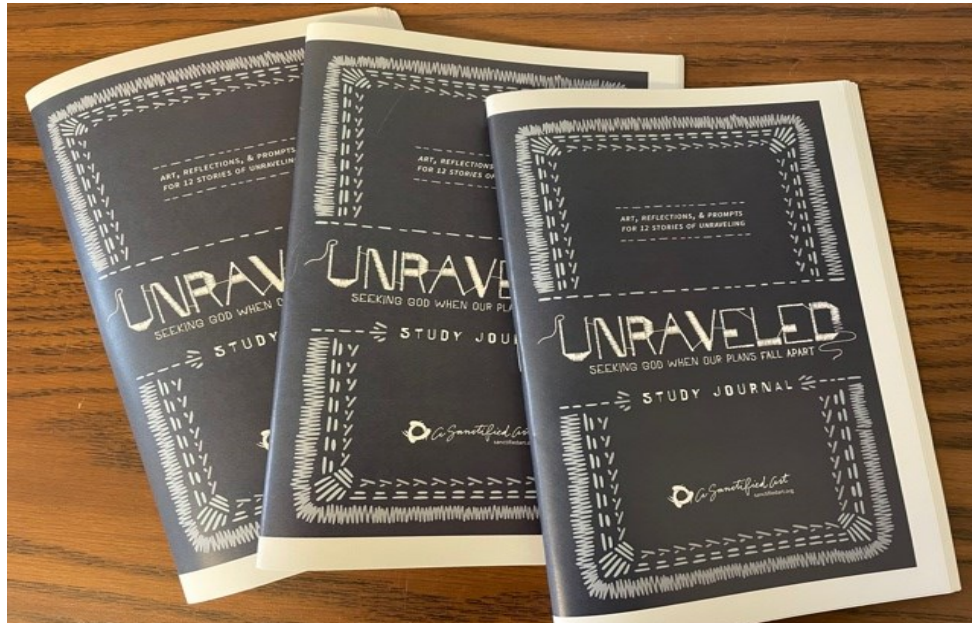
**\* Our offerings are down significantly. If you are able to donate, any amount would be very helpful and much appreciated!**

**\* Financial Statements are always Available Upon Request throughout the year. Please contact our Financial Secretary, Roy Remlin, and he will be more than happy to send you an updated report.**



## Upcoming Events -

A new Bible Study, “Unraveled”, will start in September. Stay tuned for more details, but if you can’t wait, Karen Jackson, or Pastor Doug should be able to answer your questions.

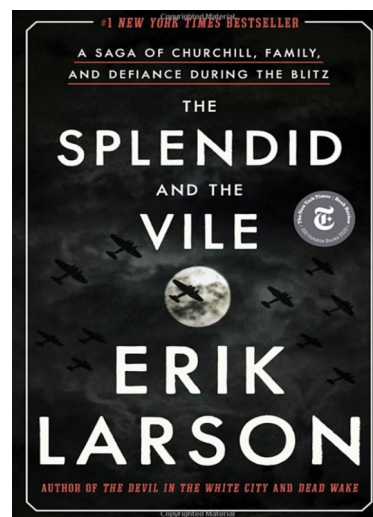


**The Good Shepherd Book Club will meet again on September 7th at 2:00 p.m.**

We will discuss “**The Four Winds**”, by Kristin Hannah. Weather permitting, we can meet outdoors, or indoors (with masks) if that is preferable.

We welcome new members and look forward to seeing all of our avid readers on 9/7/21!

On **October 5th at 2:00pm**, we will discuss “**The Splendid And The Vile**”, by Erik Larson.



## Shepherd's Flock Quilting Schedule -



The Shepherd's Flock Quilters generally meet at 10 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. We invite anyone 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 by phone at (203)426-0005 if you wish to come on Wednesday. If you prefer Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at (203)482-5598.

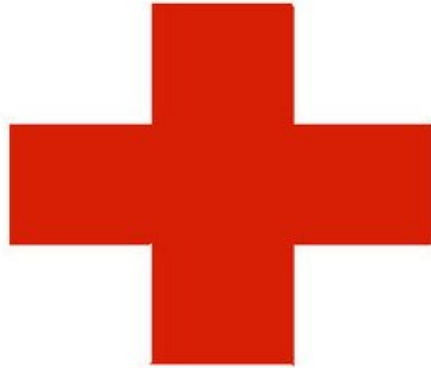
There is no limit to the number of people at this time, but we would like to ensure that someone will definitely be there to work with you. If you can tie a knot, you can do this! A variety of talents can be used; we are happy to show you how to sew tops, tie, trim, and design tops if you wish to join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

## Lost And Found -



\*If this happens to be yours, please call Stephanie in the office to claim it.

**Volunteer needed -**



**American  
Red Cross**

***Together, we can save a life***

The Good Shepherd will host a Blood Drive in Gibiser Hall on 11/13/21.

We are looking for a volunteer to run this event. This means readying the hall in advance and unlocking the Church for the Red Cross at about 6:45am that morning. The volunteer does not need to stay at the Church during the drive, as the Red Cross brings their staff to run it. The volunteer would need to do a quick building check / light cleanup afterwards and lock up the Church at around 2pm, or 2:30. If interested, please see Donna, or call Stephanie in the office to discuss details.



**Fundraiser** - Please see below and reach out to Donna Hoffman at: 203-240-1606 if you would like to donate to her fundraiser to benefit Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center.



[SUPPORT ME](#)

On September 11th, I will be participating in the Closer to Free Ride for the third time! I'm participating because I'm determined - determined to deliver support and hope to those who need it most.

**100 percent** of the dollars I raise for the Closer to Free Ride will directly support patient care and research at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. Smilow is Southern New England's premier cancer hospital and is the only comprehensive cancer facility in the Northeast – bringing together both inpatient and outpatient care in one hospital.

I have set my goal to raise at least \$250 and I hope you'll help me reach (or even exceed) this goal.

Thank you for your support!

I encourage you to visit my personal Closer to Free Ride fundraising web page online.

Warm regards,

Donna

## Reaching Out, Serving Others

COVENANT TO CARE - BACKPACKS - THANKS AGAIN!

We had 100% fulfillment of the backpacks requested for Covenant to Care school supplies. Thank you for your continuing commitment to these kids. It means a lot to them and their parents and caregivers.





## Monroe's Food Pantry Update -

Over the last year and a half, the Monroe Food Pantry has been able to provide uninterrupted services to our clients because our volunteers have demonstrated exemplary dedication and commitment. This has helped us reliably assist our clients and their families as they have faced new challenges posed by COVID-19. In 2020, we served 183 families with more than half of them shopping with us monthly.

According to the Connecticut Food Bank, Fairfield County has a food insecurity rate of 9.9%, Monroe has a food insecurity rate of 6.7%, and the average cost of a meal has increased 20 cents from last year's estimate and is now \$4.06. To support our clients, I am running the Sprint for Monroe for the 4<sup>th</sup> time and seeking sponsorships for the race. A donation of \$25 would provide 6 meals for a family and \$50 would provide 12! My goal this year is to collect \$3,000 that would provide 739 meals to our clients.

In other Food Pantry news, we are pleased to announce that we are holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> Wiffle Ball Fun Day at Monroe's Wolfe Park on September 25<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by Newtown Savings Bank and Jensen Tire, Auto & Marine. This is another fundraising and community event where all donations and sponsorships will benefit Monroe Food Pantry clients. Further information can be found on the Monroe Food Pantry Facebook page.

Check donations can be made out to and mailed to the Monroe Food Pantry at 7 Fan Hill Road, Monroe CT 06468, with "Sprint for Monroe" written on the note line, and online donations can be made under "Donations to Support Monroe COVID-19 Response Effort" at <http://monroect.org/donate>. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support,

  
Kathleen Turner, MSW



## Shepherd's Pantry

### The need is great!

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.



## **PLEASE HELP THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION IN AIDING HAITI**

As many of you know, a devastating 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti at 8:30 am on August 14, 2021. It has been reported that over 2,000 people lost their lives and those injured have surpassed 10,000. Medical help is sorely needed to save as many people as possible.

The Good Shepherd Foundation has been successfully providing medical assistance to people in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake and we are needed now more than ever. We have medical and nursing staff in Haiti who are ready and willing to travel to the southern and hardest hit areas of the country. It costs just over \$US 5,000 to provide medication and supplies as well as the salaries, transportation, lodging and food for four nurses, a pharmacy assistant, and two doctors to provide a three-day clinic to serve the injured in this badly affected area. This is where you come in. Any amount that you can send, will help. To make a donation, please enter this website in your browser:

<https://www.thegoodshepherdfoundation.org/donation-pledge/> Then, click the first "DONATE" button and specify "EARTHQUAKE RELIEF" as the "special instructions to the seller." Even if you can't donate, please share this with as many of your friends and family members as possible. You can also mail a check if you prefer to:

The Good Shepherd  
1127 Royal Palm Beach Blvd  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

**Thank you and may God bless you as you bless others.**



The Good Shepherd Foundation left for Haiti on Monday to provide assistance and aid, but they are still in desperate need of funds to support their efforts. |



"Please note that almost 100% of your donation will go to support medical care for the victims of this earthquake. The medical staff is local and trusted by those who have been personally working with them for ten years. There is no government agency involved in any way. Caregivers and patients are the direct recipients."

- Linda McGurn, Vice President, The Good Shepherd Foundation



## **Sunday, August 29, 2021    Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Prayer of the Day: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Psalm 15 (1)

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



### **James 1:17-27**

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

### **Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."