



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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



Please help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas this Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, after the 10:30am Service. All are welcome!

Christmas Eve Worship will be on December 24th at 5:30pm.

No Service on Christmas Day, December 25th.

LV
PD



*** There are two in person Worship services every Sunday. Please choose from the 8am, or 10:30am service.** *As the weather begins to worsen, please check our Facebook Page for any updates / changes.



*** Please note our new changes to online worship.**

Each 10:30am service is now live streamed through Zoom. You can watch by clicking here, or typing the following into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82868752832?pwd=UXZaMEZyNXhCWGpLOHAra0xBcW9XQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 6875 2832

Passcode: 956806

*** Please note that this link will be the same every week, so feel free to copy and paste it. For your convenience, it will also be sent out in our weekly worship email.**

If you prefer to watch this service at a more convenient day / time, you can wait until after it is uploaded to You Tube Sunday afternoon and:

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) 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.

*** Zoom worship is new to all of us. Please be patient with the process and ask if you have any questions!**

Prayer List -

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Helen, Cliff Jr., Audrey, Miriam, Hassinger Family, Ray, Lane Family, Lee Family, Kevin, Margaret, Desi, Bill C's Family, Todd, Nicolette, Mike's Family, Kelly, Sue, Andrea, D.A., Robert, Kathy, Beverly, Doree, Amy, Mark, Scarlet, Ryan, Louis, John, 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



12/11/22 - Sunday School and Confirmation classes will be held at 9:15am. Also, please feel free to stay after the 10:30am Service today to help us decorate for the holidays!

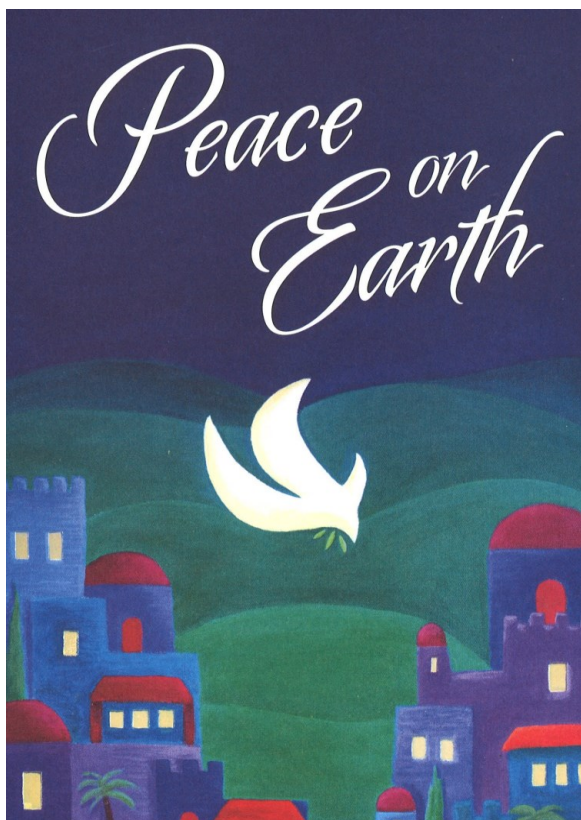
12/24/22 - 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service. There will **NOT** be a service on Christmas Day.

* **Choir practice** - held on Sundays at 9:30am.

* **Shepherd's Flock Quilters** - generally meet at 10am each Monday, and Saturday. **QUILTING WILL NO LONGER TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAYS.** * For quilting on Mondays, please contact Barbara by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321. If you prefer to quilt on a Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598.



* Envelope Boxes for 2023 are available for pickup on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take your box next time you visit Good Shepherd. Thanks!



May the *peace* of God surround you and
your loved ones during this holy season,
and may it move us forward — together —
with *love* and *grace*.

Merry Christmas,
Elizabeth L. Eaton

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
and the churchwide organization staff

Wednesday, December 7

Genesis 15:1-18

Just before the dawn breaks

Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens
in a land that is not theirs. (v. 13)

In the middle of God's promises to give childless Abram descendants to number more than the stars, Abram slips into a deep sleep, and a "terrifying darkness" descends on him (v. 12). Then God speaks to Abram in this sleep, this state of unknowing, revealing that the beginnings of fulfillment of this promise will take place in the pain and horror of enslavement in Egypt.

How often do we want to jump ahead to the good part? To move quickly through the discomfort, grief, tension, changes, and awkwardness to see the newness being revealed? These few lines in the middle of God's promises and the covenant with Abram remind us that God's goodness is often revealed amid the messes and tragedies of life, amid situations of cruelty and suffering as well as in joy. God makes a covenant to stick with us in all circumstances—in the cross and resurrection, while we wait in the Advent unknowing, and when we sing God's praise on Christmas.

Your promises are trustworthy and true, O God. Give us
hope and trust to sustain us in the waiting. Amen.

Prayer concern: Survivors of human trafficking

Psalms 21; Matthew 12:33-37

Thursday, December 8

Isaiah 35:1-10

A godly commute

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way. (v. 8)

Living near Washington, DC, means driving on an interstate highway called the Capital Beltway and experiencing some truly spectacular traffic and inventive driving maneuvers! People argue about which drivers from one of the three areas (Maryland, Virginia, or metro DC) are the worst, but collectively, it's quite a mess.

Ancient highways were dangerous places, roads in the wilderness full of bandits and wild beasts. But the road God makes for God's people is the kind of way not even a weary, inexperienced, or downright foolish traveler can be lost on. In the end, it's not so much about the road but our traveling companion. In Jesus, God has been on the journey of human life, and through the Spirit, God continues to travel with us, accompanying us on the winding road. There may be delays, tolls, hazards, and even other travelers to watch out for, but God, who is making our way, won't allow us to stray or stay broken-down on the side of the road for long. God will travel with us and lead us home.

When the way is frightening or unclear, O God,
remind me of your presence on the path of life. Amen.

Prayer concern: Transportation workers and officials

Psalms 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS GIFTS -



Thanks to all who took a Salvation Army Christmas gift tag!

Gifts / tags are due back and to be checked in to GS by December 11th. Presents should NOT be wrapped, but wrapping paper may be included for parent use.



COVENANT TO CARE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

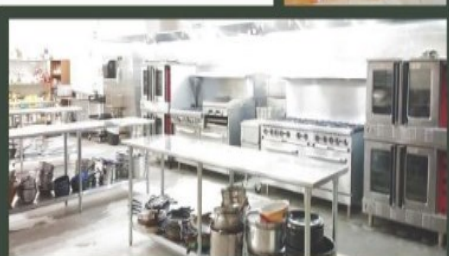
Covenant to Care Christmas gifts are due December 18. Please wrap your gift(s) and place them next to the front doors of the church on the side opposite the Salvation Army donations. Be sure the name tag is attached.

Thanks to everyone for providing Christmas joy for these kids.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport Enews



With the light of your soul
you can illuminate the
darkness of this world.
We are Human Angels [Book]



Top to bottom, left to right: Janus Director Carla Wright celebrating Martin Luther King at one of the schools Janus serves. The FEED Center's commercial kitchen at 800 Union Avenue. Farm-fresh food being prepared by staff for the Mobile Market stop at Housatonic Community College. One of our CREATE culinary students working on food presentation. The Janus Center's after school enrichment and mentoring programs.

www.ccggb.org

YOUR DONATIONS SUPPORT

\$500

- Half of the tuition for a culinary student
- One week of emergency shelter for a homeless youth

\$250

- Get two guns off the street through our gun buyback program
- Essentials for four homeless youth sheltered in our Host Homes

\$150

- Feed a family of four for a week
- ID and bus pass for someone returning from prison

\$100

- Weekly cost of our 24/7 hotline for youth in crisis
- Fill the gas tank of our Mobile Market Truck for a week

\$50

- Support our anti-racism work
- Food cards for homeless youth

\$25

- Provides the first set of clothes for someone returning from incarceration
- Supports an unplanned community need

QUESTIONS?

The Council of Churches of Greater
Bridgeport, Inc.
1718 Capitol Ave.
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604
203-334-1121

39th Annual ANGEL APPEAL



Turning Faith
into Action

Leveraging hope, changing lives



HONOR THE ANGELS IN YOUR LIFE

Dear Friends,

We invite you to participate in our annual ANGEL APPEAL by making a gift to the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport in honor or in memory of the angels in your life who have inspired, encouraged, or partnered with you to make a difference in our community.

The challenges experienced by our neighbors are significant, but hope abounds! For 77 years we at The Council have been committed to meeting the unmet community needs which our neighbors face. We can't do our work without you; your financial support allows us to continue to meet those needs.

Thank you for your continued support of our work.

Tom Larson
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO

Rev. Curtis Farr
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

FEED CENTER

- Mobile Market delivers fresh produce into Greater Bridgeport's food deserts.
- CREATE teaches students culinary skills while becoming ServSafe certified.
- During COVID, over 12,000 meals were prepared and distributed to those in need.

JANUS CENTER

- 24 hour hotline to support youth at risk or experiencing homelessness.
- Workshops of bullying, human trafficking, dating violence, and social media, serving 1000+ students.
- Street Outreach and Host Homes provide essential services and shelter to runaway and homeless youth.

PROYECTO NUEVA VIDA [PNV]

Provides bus passes, critical photo ID's, first sets of clothes, and support to community members returning to our community from incarceration.

RAISING THE BAR & BUILDING BRIDGES

- Anti-racism workshops for members of the community.
- Chaplain services to the Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center.

Please reference back panel of this brochure to see how each donation directly helps to support your community and neighbors.

YOUR GENEROUS GIFT HELPS YOUR NEIGHBORS

Yes I want to donate!

To donate online, visit www.ccgb.org/angelappeal
To pay by check, fill out the form below.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of:
\$ _____

Direct my gift to support:

- ☐ General
☐ FEED Center
☐ Janus Center
☐ PNV- Returning Citizens
☐ Raising the BAR & Building Bridges

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Is this an honorary or memorial gift?

☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of

Recipient name: _____

Send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

www.ccgb.org

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.

*Monroe Food Pantry Needs -

- Juice (apple, cranberry, etc.)
- Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup
- Canned Vegetables (corn, carrots, olives, peas, green beans, etc.)
- Canned Beans (kidney, pinto, chickpeas, cannellini, black)
- Grape Jelly, Strawberry Jam
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr Pasta/Rice Sides, Macaroni & Cheese
- Egg Noodles
- Rice (brown or white)
- Hot & Cold Cereal
- Breadcrumbs (Italian or regular)
- Canned Tomatoes (crushed, whole, diced, stewed, paste)
- Chicken, Beef, or Vegetable Broth
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Fruit (regular or low sugar - preferably in juice)
- Baked Beans, Refried Beans, Pork and Beans, Chili with or without beans
- Baking Supplies - including sugar & flour
- Syrup (regular or sugar free)
- Pancake Mix
- Jarred Pasta Sauce
- Salad Dressing (any flavor)
- Ground Coffee, Tea (regular, decaf), Instant Coffee & Hot Chocolate
- Canned Soup
- Ensure
- Snack Items
- Personal hygiene products - including feminine hygiene products. **We are particularly low on bars of soap, toothpaste, floss, shampoo / conditioner, and deodorant**
- *Household cleaning supplies



Any donation is appreciated. Thank you!

Ways to Help Summerfield -



Snacks for Summerfield are needed! We are collecting snacks for the youth of Summerfield. If you would like to donate, please add your snack items to the marked blue bin in the narthex.

Also, there is an ongoing need for nutritious food/protein for the kids of Summerfield. GSLC Council has challenged the congregation to provide funds for the purchase of nutritious food. GSLC will match donations from members 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!

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!

Sunday, December 11, 2022 - Third Sunday of Advent

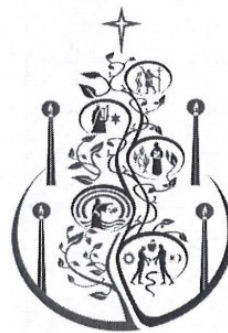
Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10(8)

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11



James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.