

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, December 2, 2020



We have a hymn in the ELW. It is called "Cold December Flies Away." December does usually does fly away because so much goes on in it. I hope it's not too cold though.

We will have two Drive In Worship Services on Christmas Eve. A lot of planning and energy is going into these Services. Pray for all those servant/leaders who are committed to making Worship meaningful to us.

I pray that December is the month filled with Good News, many blessings, new opportunities, Healing and Love for you all.

LV
PD

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.

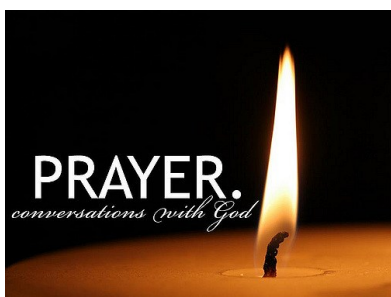
To join us for Worship in person: This Sunday, December 13th at 10:00 am. We will have Drive In Church, weather permitting (If it is a steady rain, the service is cancelled).

Please note: There will be no drive-in church on **Sunday, December 27th** to give the worship set up/clean up team a week off. Please worship with us with the YouTube service for that Sunday. We thank Karen & Jeff Jackson, Sue Chin, Vic Johnson, and Pastor Doug for setting up the Purple Pastor Pavilion, key boards and sound system that allows us to safely worship together at Drive In Church.



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.



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.

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.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

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.

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).

Advent Lighting



We will meet together via ZOOM at 5:00 pm on Sunday afternoons to light our Advent wreaths beginning on **Sunday, November 29th**. The weekly wreath lighting meetings will be about 10–15 minutes.

Here is the Zoom invite and password.

Topic: Good Shepherd Advent

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84654520497?pwd=YVdkcEZRWdwU1hXRHILZEg3enA0QT09>

Meeting ID: 846 5452 0497

Passcode: GSLAdvent

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84654520497#,,,,,0#,,476037716# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,84654520497#,,,,,0#,,476037716# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 846 5452 0497

Passcode: 476037716

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd3PY1Desa>

Here is the service we will follow for the second Advent Wreath Lighting. It is adapted from a Celtic Advent Liturgy from the Faith and Worship website:

Advent 2 - Light and Darkness

Responses are in **bold print**

(A few moments of silence)

'Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.'

(John 1:3-5)

In the beginning, Lord

I was alone

Like the earth

before your Spirit moved over the waters.

I was formless and empty

and darkness filled the depths of my heart.

Then, it was as if you declared

'Let there be Light'

and out of the darkness

I began to see hope

like a shimmering ray of love

breaking through the parting clouds

at the conclusion of the night.

In the beginning, Lord I was alone

but when I saw you in the light I was no longer afraid.

You held out your hand

and though I had a choice

I had no choice

because to refuse

was to embrace again the darkness.

In the beginning, Lord I was alone

now I am again a part

of your creation

loved, wanted, needed, family.

In the light of your presence

I hold out my heart that others

might glimpse through it your reflection

and be drawn from the darkness that I once embraced

into the light of your sunrise

the brightness of your face

Lord Jesus, Son of God, Savior of the world

All: Be the center of all that we are, and the life that we lead

Lord Jesus, Light in this dark World, illuminate our hearts and minds

All: Be the center of all that we are, and the life that we lead

Light the first and second candles.

'There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.'

(John 1:6-9)

(A moment of silence - During the silence, you may like to read and reflect on the words that have been read, gaze at the lights - or simply enjoy the peace and calm)

In the lonely places

The wilderness

Where we stand forlorn

Windswept and alone

Your voice calls out

Prepare a way for the Lord

In the dark places

The shadows

Where we hide our fears

Embrace our tears

Your voice calls out

Prepare a way for the Lord

For the desert places in which we walk

The streets we roam

The paths we cross

Guide our feet

Take us to places

Where you would go

Give us words that you would use

That in this Advent season

Of promise and preparation

We might point the way with John the Baptist

To the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

O come, Thou Day-spring, from on high,

And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell**

Scripture reading: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Intercessions - A circle prayer

Circle us, Lord

Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark world

Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation

Enable us to be victors over sin and despair

Enable us to become that which you would desire

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle us with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms

Protect them in each moment of their daily lives

Protect them in the decisions that they face

Protect their homes and relationships

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle our families with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle this nation with Advent love and hope

Create a desire to listen to the Advent message

Create a willingness to understand and respond

Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle our nation with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation

Where there is sickness and disease bring healing

Where there is hunger and despair bring hope

Where there is torture and oppression bring release

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle this world with the light of your presence

Lord, you have given us your Word for a light to shine upon our path;

grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching,

that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Jerome, c 342 - 420)

Amen.

Go in Peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 13 - Annual Congregational Meeting at noon will be held via Zoom. To attend the meeting, using your computer or smart phone—you may click on the link below or using your telephone, you may call the number below. Please note it is not a toll free number so charges may apply. A pdf copy of the Annual Report will be sent to you next week.

Topic: Good Shepherd Annual Meeting

Time: Dec 13, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)



Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88454905663?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88454905663?pwd=ZitLY1o5Wm9vdHE4YmM0dkFwUTgwZz09)

[pwd=ZitLY1o5Wm9vdHE4YmM0dkFwUTgwZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88454905663?pwd=ZitLY1o5Wm9vdHE4YmM0dkFwUTgwZz09)

Meeting ID: 884 5490 5663

Passcode: GSLAnnual

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,88454905663#,,,,,0#,,740751421# US (New York)

+13017158592,,88454905663#,,,,,0#,,740751421# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 884 5490 5663

Passcode: 740751421



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To Pastor Doug and all my friends at Good Shepherd,
Thank you all for my get well cards, phone calls and prayers during my recovery from my back surgery in October. I am so blessed to have you all in my life and your kindness is much appreciated. God bless you all and keep well.

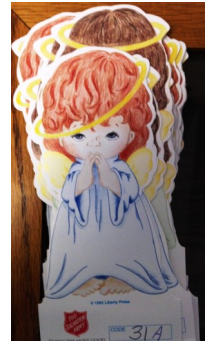
Joan Doherty

Reaching Out, Serving Others:



Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts are due back tagged but not wrapped by **Sunday December 6**. Please put them in the narthex. I will arrange for pickup that week. It is nice to include wrapping paper for the gift but not necessary.

Trudi Black



Covenant to Care Christmas Gifts

For Christmas, we have a plastic bin out in front of the church in which you are invited to deposit unwrapped toys that will then be distributed according to need. Deadline for gifts is **December 13**.

The bin will be available Monday through Thursday from 9 am to noon, Saturday from 10 am to noon, and Sunday morning during worship. Here are some suggested items:

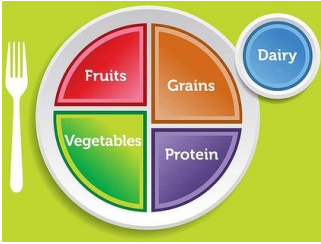
- Books (fiction and non-fiction)
- Card games
- Board games and electronic games
- Puzzles
- Journal sets
- Art, jewelry, nail, and craft kits
- Science kits
- Building sets and Legos
- Kid/family DVDs
- Ear headphones/headsets
- Remote control cars
- Action figures and Transformers
- Bath products/toys
- Barbie dolls/baby dolls (no stuffed animals)
- Gift cards



Thank you for your generosity in continuing these outreach efforts, especially under the current circumstances. Blessings for a happy and healthy holiday season to all!

Jane Fieberts

Food for Summerfield



Pastor Gaston has made us aware of a critical need for nutritious food for the kids at Summerfield. Protein is especially needed. GSLC Council has decided to challenge 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.

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings for Sunday, December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8



The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."