

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, September 9, 2020

Catching Up With Clare

I want to catch you all up with our seminarian and my daughter Clare.

Clare completed studies for her M.Div. (Master's in Divinity, the ministerial degree) at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California in May. She was slated to go on her final year full time Internship in Pennsylvania but the sight did not seem a good fit and the pandemic has, of course, affected the Internships of many seminarians in all denominations. So she declined that placement.

Clare has a great interest in Chaplaincy ministry (as opposed to congregational ministry). This is a specialization that requires professional training of hundreds of clock hours and supervision by an accredited supervisor. As things tend to work out sometimes, such an opportunity presented itself at San Francisco Hospital. Clare has begun a one year Residency there assigned to the pediatric wing of the hospital. She will work with patients, families and staff doing pastoral counseling and crisis management. It will be hard yet fulfilling. Then, just as she was settling in, yet another opportunity presented itself. Clare was offered a part time Internship at the University Lutheran Church. Sooo, it will be a very, very busy year for her. She may have to stay for another past that but both positions offer health insurance and enough stipend to live on. She will keep her seminary apartment too.



Right now, her mother and I are most concerned about the fires and smoke - filled air in California as well as the heat wave there. Clare keeps a packed suitcase by the door in case there is a need to evacuate quickly. We know she has a good head on her shoulders and is a very planful, competent person. We check in regularly each week as does her sister, Catherine.

I am asking you for your prayers for Clare.

I have no doubt that she will make you all proud.

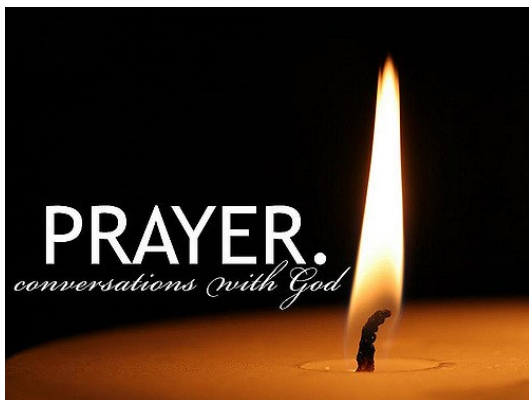
LV
PD

Every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. we will have the an Outdoor Worship Services at Good Shepherd on the back lawn behind the sanctuary, weather permitting. We are committed to our goal of having no spread of the contagion due to our gatherings. With this in mind, we ask you to observe the following guidelines:

- 1) If you do not feel well, if you do not feel comfortable, or if you are in a high risk category, please stay at home. We will record the service and make it available online.
- 2) The building and restrooms will not be accessible. We anticipate that our worship service will be approximately 45 minutes long. Please plan accordingly.
- 3) Please put on your face covering before leaving your vehicle. You will be expected to wear it throughout your visit.
- 4) Please bring: a lawn chair, face covering, and portion of bread for communion for every person in your group.
- 5) Please plan to arrive between 9-9:15. There will be a table at the entrance where you may leave your offering.
- 6) Ushers will guide you to your worship space, starting with front rows and moving toward the back. You will be assigned the next available spot to set up your chairs. Your chair should be positioned so that your feet are on the white line in front of you and so that you cannot reach your neighbor (maintaining six feet of distance.) Please stay seated until worship begins.
- 7) Please refrain from unnecessary movement through the worship space to allow everyone to get set up while maintaining social distancing.
- 8) Please understand that singing has been shown to be one of the riskiest activities at this time. We will NOT be singing during this service. This will be very difficult for some, so if you must, please hum softly or mouth the words without using your voice.
- 9) We will pass the Peace without physical contact.
- 10) For Holy Communion, you will be asked to get out the bread you brought with you. Pastor will consecrate it from the altar and signal you when you should eat it. No wine will be available. As Lutherans, we believe that Christ is present to us in, with, and under both the bread and wine, so in times such as this when it is not safe to share a common cup, the sacrament is fully available and complete in the consecrated bread.
- 11) When the service has ended, you may stand and pack your chairs and belongings but please remain in place until directed by the ushers to leave. The back row will exit first, followed by remaining rows from back to front. Please do not linger to socialize; go directly to your vehicle and depart.
- 12) A recycling bin and trash can will be placed near the entrance to the worship space. Please deposit your disposable masks and any trash in the appropriate container.
- 13) In the event of inclement weather, the service will be cancelled. You may assume that if there are thunderstorms or torrential rain in the forecast, there will be no service. Check our Facebook page and/or the church website for updates if the weather seems questionable.



Please remember that we are all handling these unprecedented times in the best ways we know how given our unique circumstances. Some will feel more comfortable than others, some face greater risks than others. Please be respectful of these personal differences and lift each other up as we move into gathering in community again. We are taking a conservative approach so that as many people as possible may feel safe in joining us. Please follow any directions given by our ushers.



A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Ingeborg, Bill, Vicki, Peg, Marie, Karen, Pat, Billie, Audrey, Catherine, Elizabeth, Ray, Gordon, Miriam, Sarah, Chuck, Timmy, Bruce, Karl, Kendra, Mary Helen, Carolyn, Irma, Patricia, Cate, Misty, Julia, Sydne, Anna, Roy, Judy, Marilyn, Scarlet, Jason, Brian.

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.

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. Amen.

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@gsic-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).



Upcoming Events

Members are always welcome to join the upcoming Committee Meetings -

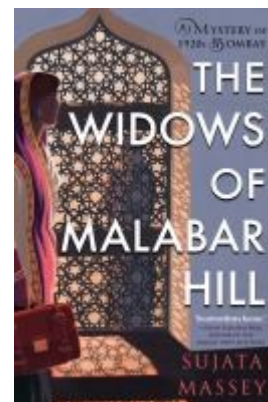
Monday, September 14 - Worship & Music Committee Meetings via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Charlie Simon, Chair.

Monday, September 14 - Finance Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. (venue to be determined) Contact: Vic Noll, Chair.

Monday, September 21 - Church Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m via Zoom. Contact: Donna Duessel, President.



The Book Club is meeting via Zoom and it is wonderful to "see" so many people! On October 6th at **1:00 p.m.** we will discuss "The Widows of Malabar Hill" by Sujata Massey. We welcome new members! Reply to this newsletter or contact Karen Jackson to be sure to be included in the discussion. The sessions are by invitation only to ensure internet safety guidelines are followed.



We're sharing thanks and good news from The Good Shepherd Foundation:

THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION
1128 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., Suite 347
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

www.thegoodshepherdfoundation.org



July 8, 2020

The Rev. Douglas Ryniewicz
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
466 Elm Street
Monroe, CT 06468

Dear Pastor Ryniewicz and the Good People of Good Shepherd,

Once again we have the joy of thanking you for your continued partnership in our medical mission to the people of Haiti. We thank you so much for listening to our story update in mid-March (the last time McGurns attended Sunday worship!) and for your support of The Good Shepherd Foundation with your gift of \$795.48 from your Lenten coin banks and additional collections. This gift, along, with the gift from your anonymous donor and your check for \$5,471 in May, come to a total of \$8,266.48 from your church. This will provide more than 5 full days of medical clinic. You have clearly outdone yourselves in the midst of a pandemic!

We had great news last week. As you know, we are on the verge of receiving an International Rotary Grant for \$60,800 to build 13 latrines and repair or build 17 wells in this community. Our final step is to complete a hydrogeological study at a cost of just under \$4,000 that Rotary is requiring. The contract for the hydrogeological study is already signed and the study is underway. Our water expert will be coordinating the field work with the engineering company recommended by Rotary in July. This Grant is just another example of the amazing presence of God in this whole miracle. He has sent us all that we needed, as we needed. We never could have believed that such a small, grassroots organization could achieve so much in 8 short years. With your assistance, love and hands, God has led us each step of the way in caring for the people of rural Haiti. We cherish our partnership and ask you to continue praying for us.

We hope you and all your families are well and managing during this dreadful pandemic. Just imagine what it is like in Haiti! We were able to provide 60 hand washing buckets with chlorine tablets to help prevent the spread of infection. We are starting to see some symptoms of Covid 19, but of course have no testing capabilities. We are also increasing our clinics to every 2 weeks for a short time, as the National Health Agency has requested we only see 150 people in one day and we are turning away 50-100 people at each clinic. We can increase our clinics for a short time, as long as our funds hold out. We are told to expect the virus to peak in mid-July.

We continue to pray in thanksgiving for your support and we continue to need your prayers.

Michele Sidney

Michele Sidney
President

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert P. McGurn

Wau! Bob + Linda

*Real about your Sunday
service plans. Saved god.
We are sticking w/ weekly till after
surgery!*

cc Karen Jackson

SEASON OF CREATION 2020

*Renewing, repairing
and restoring*
our commitments to God,
to one another
and to all of creation.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 13, 2020

National Bishop Susan
Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada

+ Pentecost 15 (Lectionary 24)

Exodus 14:19-31 | Psalm 114

or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 |

Romans 14:1-12 |

Matthew 18:21-35



*Lord, if another member
of the church sins against me, how often should I
forgive?* Matthew 18:21

At the 2018 Bishops' Academy, theologian Cynthia Moe-Lobeda reminded us of our call to "neighbour love," to love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself. She went on to say that if God loves the creation, then we must think of creation as our neighbour.

I am reminded of this when I read today's lesson. What if Peter had rephrased his question to Jesus as "Lord, if a neighbour sins against me, how often should I forgive?" Or, what if the neighbour asking the question was creation asking about us? How many times should creation forgive us for overfishing, deforesting, polluting, endangering species, desertification, commodifying or even just not paying attention? Whether it is seventy-seven times, or seventy times seven, we are past the breaking point.

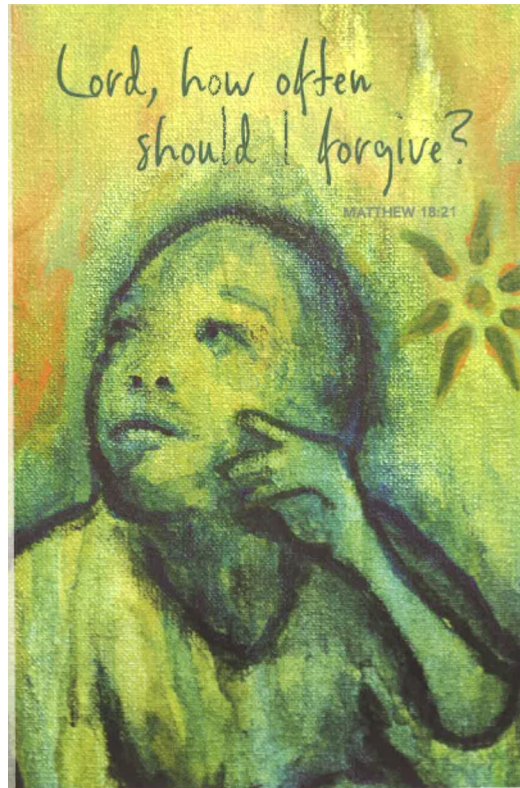
The 1854 speech attributed to Chief Seattle included these words: "Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves.. The earth is precious to [God], and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator."

How long until we don't just know it in our heads, but know it in our hearts, and change the way we treat the creation, our neighbour?

Creator, we pray that you would help us touch the earth gently. Turn us from our ways of commodifying the earth and consuming its riches without thought. Amen.

Suggested hymn: "Touch the Earth Lightly?"
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 739)

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Readings for Sunday, September 13, 2020

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."