

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

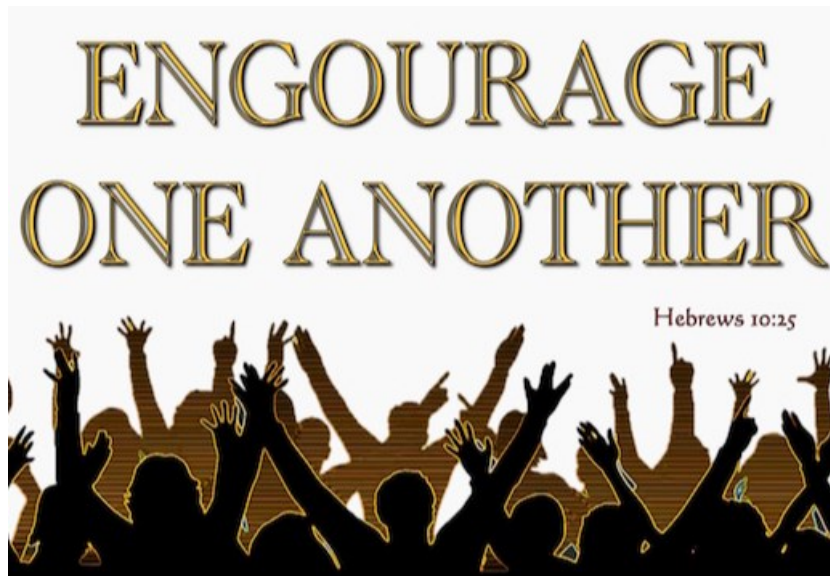


*Our mission is to be more visible, to become more connected,
and to draw closer, with Christ as our center.*



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

Wednesday, September 29, 2021



Do not give up meeting together as some are now in the habit of doing, but instead, try coming to the Assembly and "encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:25

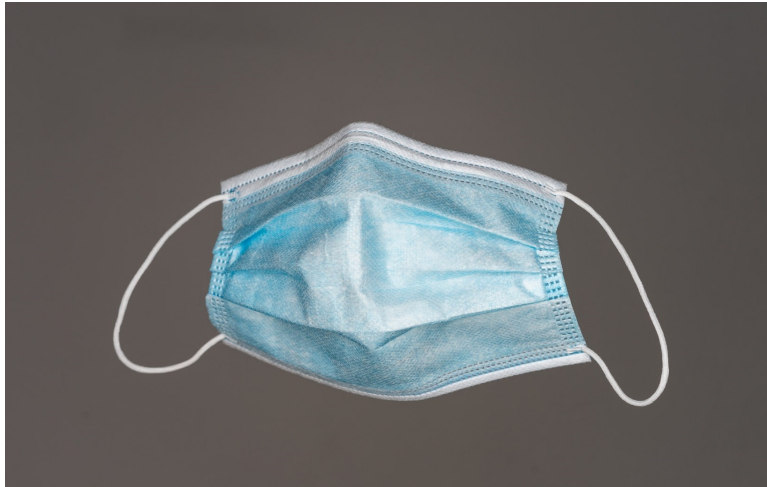
The persecution of Christians was the cause of some staying away from the Assembly. The author writes to keep them from developing this "habit".

We are persecuted now as well by Covid and some of the health measures we have had to take to Worship more safely. "I don't like it now , I only like it as it was in 2019." This is a response not worthy of a baptized follower of Jesus. All of our lives, we are shown to die ourselves and live as Christ. If you are vaccinated and can wear a mask for 40 minutes - the Assembly at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church needs to have you come on Sunday and try "encouraging one another."

It is a time of crisis in the life of congregations...including ours.
The community needs you.
And so DO I.

LV
PD

An update from the Worship and Music Committee:



***FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL...PLEASE BRING A MASK TO UTILIZE DURING INDOOR WORSHIP.**

Regardless of vaccination status, we must now revert back to wearing masks during indoor 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. 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:



October 3rd: Our "Fall schedule" is in effect. This means we will have two Worship Services every Sunday until further notice. Please choose from:

* **8am INDOOR service with masks, or**

* **10:30am OUTDOOR service.** (weather permitting)

Please continue to read Friday's weekly "Worship E-mail", or check our Facebook Page for any updates / changes.

A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Miriam, 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.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalms 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, 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



BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION

Expanding Hope. Rebuilding Lives.



VOLUNTEER

Put your God-given talents to work!

[VOLUNTEER >>](#)



THANKSGIVING NEEDS

Drop off food donations for local families!

**Meeting basic needs today. Restoring hope for tomorrow.
Transforming lives forever.**

We provide meals, groceries, clothing, shelter, and services to anyone suffering from poverty, addiction, or homelessness. All are welcome!



Donation Center



Community Pantry



Volunteer Spotlight

For more information, contact us at Volunteer@BridgeportRescueMission.org.

Upcoming Events -



October 3rd -

8am Indoor Worship with Masks

9:55am Choir practice

10:30am Outdoor Worship, weather permitting.

4-6pm Mini Confirmation Retreat from 4-6pm. Pizza will be provided.

October 5th - The Good Shepherd Book Club will meet at **2:00pm** to discuss "The Splendid And The Vile", by Erik Larson. (Next book club will be November 2nd at 2:00pm to discuss "Sunflower Sisters" by Martha Hall Kelly. New members welcome!

October 7th - "Unraveled" Bible Study at 11am and 7:00pm. Join at any time!

October 10th -

8am Indoor Worship with Masks

9:15am-10am Sunday School and Confirmation Classes meet.

9:55am Choir practice

10:30am Outdoor Worship, weather permitting. Confirmation will be celebrated.

October 14th - "Unraveled" Bible Study at 11am and 7:00pm. Join at any time!

October 17th -

8am Indoor Worship with Masks

9:55am Choir practice

10:30am Outdoor Worship, weather permitting.

October 21st - "Unraveled" Bible Study at 11am and 7:00pm. Join at any time!

October 24th -

8am Indoor Worship with Masks

9:15am-10am Sunday School and Confirmation Classes meet.

9:55am Choir practice

10:30am Outdoor Worship, weather permitting.

* Shepherd's Flock Quilters will meet every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 10am. All are welcome!



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

A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed

An online benefit for ELCA World Hunger



“A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed”

You're invited to [celebrate World Food Day](#) with “A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed,” featuring Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and guidebook author and travel TV host Rick Steves. This online benefit for ELCA World Hunger will take place on **Thursday, Oct. 14**, at 7:30 p.m. Central time. Special guests include the Rev. David Beckmann, who is being honored for his lifelong service to end hunger; the Rev. Rebel Hurd; Willie and Anne Langdji; and the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla. There will also be performances by Rachel Kurtz, Peter Mayer and the St. Olaf Choir.

As a church, we remain focused on supporting our neighbors near and far as the pandemic continues disrupting and impacting lives. At this event, you will learn about the ways ELCA World Hunger is responding.

When: Thursday, October 14, 2021

Time: 7:30 p.m. Central Time

Format: Zoom webinar

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Kenyeri, Manager, Development Events, at jennifer.kenyeri@elca.org

MEMBER NEWS -



One of our members, Janet Szulga, has moved and is acclimating to her new home. She would welcome a card, or note to help her warm her dwelling. You may write to Janet at:

*** PLEASE CALL OFFICE FOR ADDRESS***

Thanks,
PD

CHOIR HAS STARTED SINGING AGAIN -



The Choir will be singing at the 10:30am Worship Services.
(outdoors, weather permitting)

If you would like to join them, please come at 9:55am to practice and sing with them!

Shepherd's Flock Quilting Schedule -



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 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.

**The Center for
Family Justice**

**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE VIGIL
IN-PERSON**

OCTOBER 14, 2021 AT 6PM

★ **BEARDSLEY ZOO,
CAROUSEL BUILDING**

★ **Honoring Survivors,
Inspiring Action**

**The Center for
Family Justice**
Hope Starts Here.

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.

- Juice (apple, cranberry, etc)
- Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup
- Canned Vegetables
- Grape Jelly, Strawberry Jam
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr Pasta/Rice Sides, Macaroni & Cheese
- Egg Noodles
- Rice (brown or white)
- Hot & Cold Cereal
- Bread Crumbs
- Canned Tomatoes (crushed, whole, diced, stewed, paste)
- Chicken, Beef, or Vegetable Broth
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Fruit (regular or low sugar - preferably in juice)
- Canned Beans, including baked & refried
- 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
- Household cleaning supplies



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 to GSLC with the notation "Food For Summerfield", or place cash in the Summerfield box.



Living Lutheran

By Angela T. Khabeab



Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

My father taught me how to pray the Lord's Prayer when I was a little girl—much too young to understand what trespasses or forgiveness meant and too young to read the words in the Bible for myself. I've also taught the Lord's Prayer to my children, for two main reasons: because I promised I would at their baptisms, and because my father taught it to me.

Forgiveness is an inescapable aspect of the human condition, touching nearly every facet of our lives. Yet it seems as if the concept of God's forgiveness has been co-opted by pop culture, which has left it somewhere between a buzzword and a spiritual practice. For people of faith, forgiveness is more than a self-help step to a better you. Forgiveness is a sacred, miraculous activity of divine origin.

However, when we hear news stories of heinous, racist acts of violence, an expectation for forgiveness often follows closely. Witness these examples.

On June 17, 2015, white supremacist and ELCA Lutheran Dylann Roof entered [Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church](#) (often called "Mother Emanuel") in Charleston, S.C. He sat with church members for about an hour during a Bible study. After gaining the trust of his fellow Christians, Roof, hoping to initiate a "race war," executed nine members of Mother Emanuel. As I look back over 20 years, I don't recall demands to forgive Osama bin Laden and the perpetrators of 9/11. After this massacre, the families of the Emanuel Nine were immediately asked about forgiving Roof. It's almost as if this faith community needed to prove its readiness to forgive in order to demonstrate its right to pursue justice in a domestic terrorist attack.

In 2018, Amber Guyger, a uniformed, off-duty police officer in Dallas, mistakenly entered the apartment of Botham Jean, a Black man, thinking it was her own. When she saw Jean sitting on his couch, eating ice cream, she assumed he was an intruder. She shot him twice, killing him.

During Guyger's trial, Jean's brother, Brandt, declared his forgiveness of her and said he didn't want her to go to jail. He was praised by some as being an ideal Christian.

More recently, during the trial and sentencing of Derek Chauvin, I had numerous conversations and interviews during which I was asked about forgiving him.

Fortunately, forgiveness and justice aren't mutually exclusive. They may be both/and. We can forgive someone and still hold them accountable for their actions. Isn't that what God's justice requires of us? I've prayed the Lord's Prayer nearly every day of my life, and I'm still not sure I fully comprehend what our Savior means when he teaches us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." As we stand in the shadow of 9/11, I notice an absence of conversation on forgiveness. As I look back over 20 years, I don't recall demands to forgive Osama bin Laden and the perpetrators of 9/11. What strikes you when you hear the words "forgive bin Laden" or "forgive terrorists"?

Perhaps it sounds more palatable coming from our Savior. Jesus encourages us to "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you ... pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:27-28).

To be clear, forgiveness can't erase pain, nor does it eliminate the need for justice. Injustice doesn't escape God. And forgiveness isn't easy or instantaneous. But whether we choose to move toward forgiveness or not, forgiveness remains God's gift to us, and the spirit of God empowers us to share that gift.

I've prayed the Lord's Prayer nearly every day of my life, and I'm still not sure I fully comprehend what our Savior means when he teaches us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

I may not know exactly what God's forgiveness is, but I am sure what it is not. Forgiveness is not a weapon to be wielded against people who have experienced generations of oppression. Nor is forgiveness a distraction to deter members of the nondominant culture from speaking truth to power or seeking God's justice this side of eternity.

We are able to forgive our enemies not because we feel like it or because we are so good and holy, but because Jesus entered humanity and, through his life, death and resurrection, brought forgiveness to the entire world.

Financial News -

Financial Statements -

Roy Remlin has printed out Financial Statements for our members. You can get yours by stopping by the wood table in the narthex when you are at the Church. If you are not able to get to Church and need your statement, please contact Stephanie in the office to request that it be mailed out.

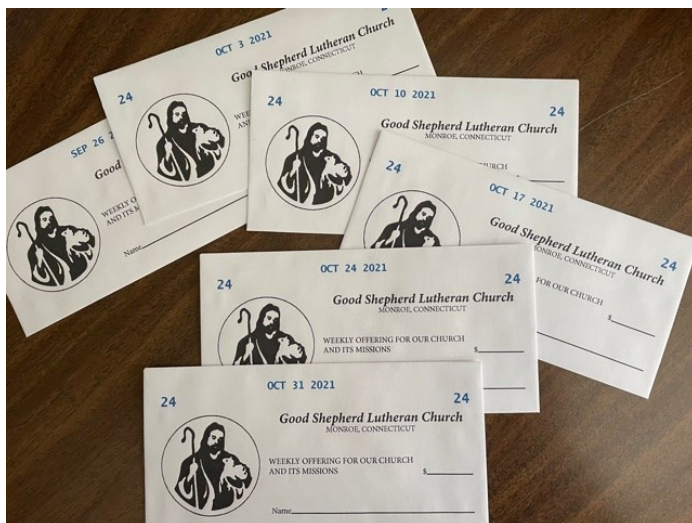
VANCO - a secure ELCA preferred online giving platform -

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, October 3, 2021 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8 (5)

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16



Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."