

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, June 24, 2020

As we prepare to gather on July 5 at 9:30 for our Outdoor Worship we have a sense of excitement and a careful attitude which comes from a desire to keep self and others safe. In this issue of the Newsletter you will find a description of how we will do the Service as well as things you will need to bring and safety guides to follow. We will attempt to record the Service for those who are unable or who do not feel ready to gather in a group. It is important that you honor your own health needs and your own sense of readiness. It will be four months since we have celebrated Jesus' Eucharist together. Hardly imaginable. Yet we have by the Spirit's Power continued to be the church without walls. And this, we give great thanks to God for.

LV
PD



Dear Family in Christ:

As we prepare to worship together in person for the first time in months, our primary focus is to do so in ways that do not put anyone in harm's way. 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 or if you do not feel comfortable, please stay at home. We will record the service and make it available online for those who do not join us in person.
- 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.

We, the Worship & Music Committee, look forward to seeing you!

Devotional for the week of June 21, 2020

Jesus is more straightforward in today's gospel than we might want to hear. He makes it strikingly clear that there is danger in this life, especially in following Jesus in his way of love, mercy, justice, and compassion. There is danger because many forces oppose God's way because of fear, greed, and selfishness.

Just by saying these things, Jesus raises our anxiety and provokes our own worry. But he doesn't leave us there. In fact, he says outright, "Do not fear" (Matt. 10:28). And beyond that, he tells us why we do not need to be afraid: "You are valuable to God."

We might feel like cowards at times. Fear grips us. We find it difficult to act for the sake of the gospel when there is risk, be it physical, social, or financial. The word *coward* comes from the word for "tail," like an animal putting its tail between its legs. We want to put our tail between our legs and hide.

Jesus summons us to something else: courage. The word *courage* comes from the word for "heart." Sometimes we say to someone facing a difficult time, "Take heart!" Courage enables a person to act even though they are afraid. They act from their heart, their sense of who they really are. Jesus tells us who we really are: we are valuable to God, so our lives matter. We will not be forgotten or abandoned, especially when we face troubles. This is our heart, our courage.

Jesus also says, "It is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher" (Matt. 10:25). Jesus faced ridicule, rejection, suffering, and death for his commitment to God's kingdom of love. We are not alone in our attempts to walk the way of love, mercy, justice, and compassion. Jesus, our teacher, walks this way with us. Take heart!



Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.



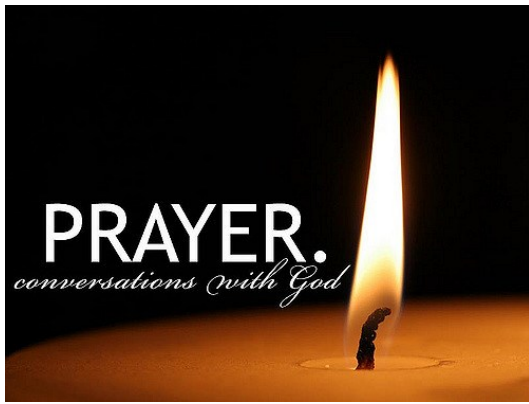
Weekly Offering

As worship services have been cancelled for the near future, if you have a chance, please send your offering to the church to help with our expenses. Thank you for your contribution!

There are different ways to contribute. You may write a physical check and mail it via the post office. If you write a check, please include your offering envelope to help the counters process it correctly.

Another option is to use your bank's online checking and have the bank issue the check and mail it—it's most often a free service offered by banks. Check with the bank you use to see if this works for you.

Let us know if you have any questions, we are always happy to help.



A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

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

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. Amen.

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

Simply email the church office at office@gslec-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).



Our gracious thanks to Connor, Billie and Daniel Flaherty for the beautiful landscaping at the front of the church! Mulching, weeding and trimming on a hot, humid day deserves extra appreciation!



Upcoming Events



Where: Zoom
need to RSVP to Donna Duessel for Zoom invite
anytime before 7 pm on Wednesday.

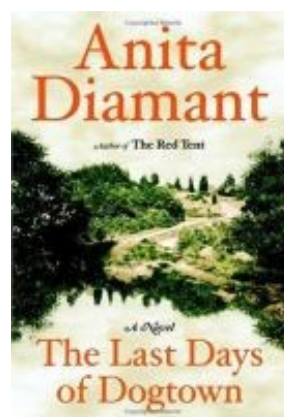
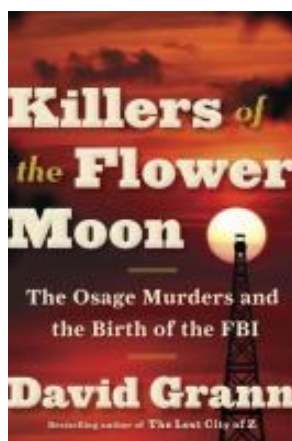
dduessel@hotmail.com

When: Wednesday at 7 pm

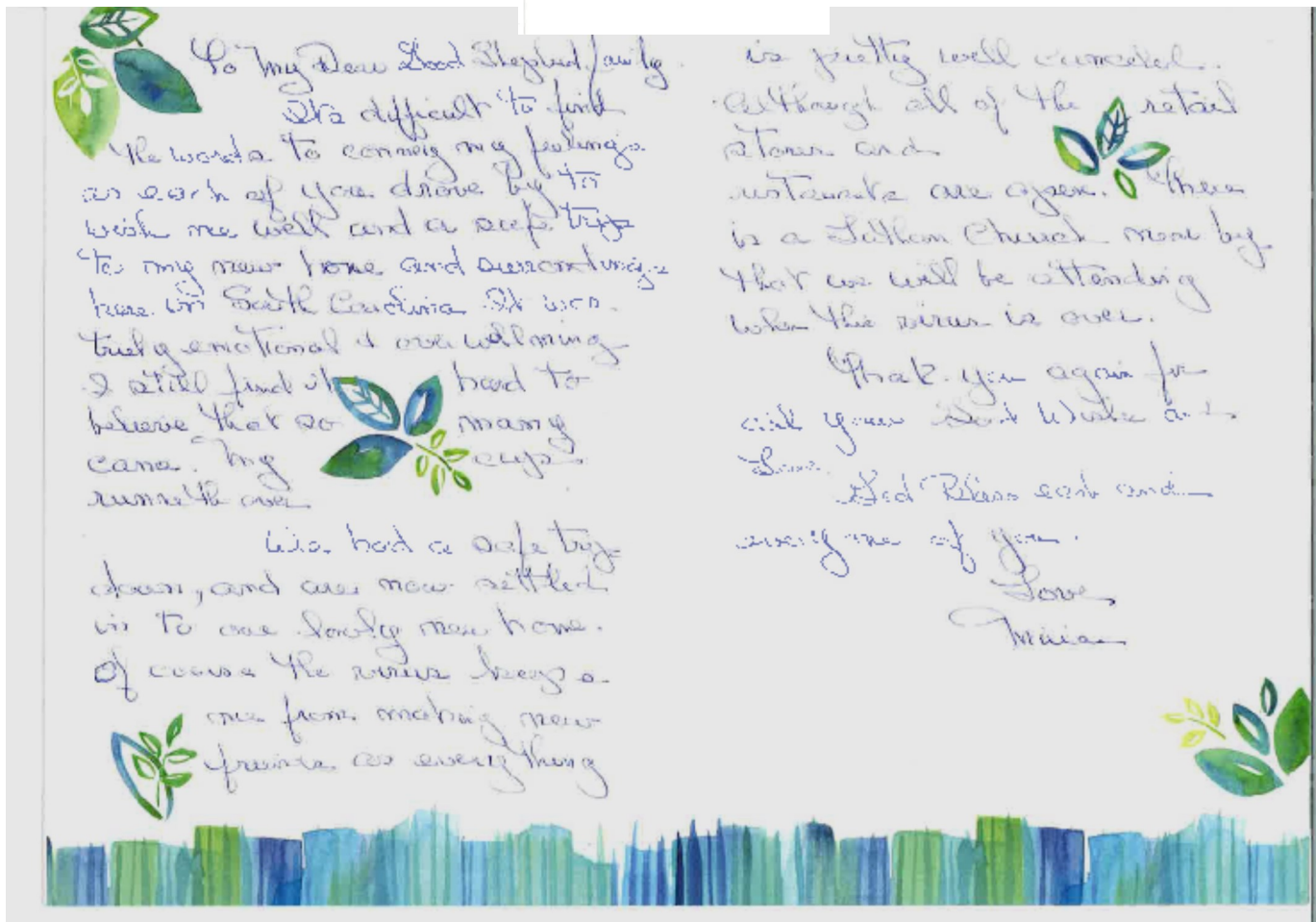
What: **PD's Potluck Bible Study** - We are exploring the gospel stories about the people who influenced Jesus, that is, how God formed Jesus and how God might form us.



The Book Club is meeting via Zoom and it was wonderful to "see" so many people! We will meet next on July 7th at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom and discuss "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann. In August, we will discuss "The Last Days of Dogtown" by Anita Diamant. 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.



THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU



Readings for Sunday, June 28, 2020

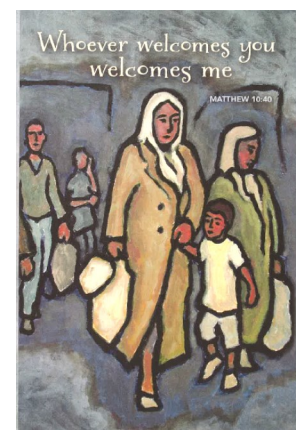
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42



[Jesus said to the twelve:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."