

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 2, 2021

When you can honor and receive your own moment of sadness or peace and fullness as a gracious participation in the eternal sadness AND fullness of God, you are beginning to recognize yourself as a participating member of this One Body of Christ St. Paul speaks so well of. You are moving from I to "lives in me Christ Jesus."

The illusion that God is separate from our lives begins to lose its power.

I've been reflecting on this for the past few weeks with some good results. I pass it on for your reflection.

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Worship

The Worship and Music Committee is working on updating our worship requirements as we continue to navigate through the pandemic. Please have patience as we are doing our best to follow state and federal guidelines and keep our community safe. We are happy to have three options for you to worship with us:

To join us for Indoor Worship at 8:30 am: Masks are required as is physical distancing. Inside, we cannot sing, but Vic sings the hymns so that it is a more meaningful experience of music. We have a plastic protector on the altar, adding to our safe practices. Pastor Doug distributes Communion carefully but if you prefer to bring your own bread for you or your group that is fine as well. We are going to experiment with distributing wine as part of the Eucharist in a safe manner. We will prefill individual cups with wine. If you are more comfortable not taking wine, please don't. You certainly may greet and chat with others but please do so once outside the building.

To join us for Outdoor Worship at 10:00 am: The Service will be in the backyard of the church, chairs physically distanced. Masks are no longer required for outdoor worship. Bring a chair and sunglasses. **We have contracted with NaturaLawn Tick Ranger and the worship area and surrounding borders are now being treated to keep attendees safe from ticks.** Pastor Doug will distribute bread at communion. You may continue to bring your own bread to be consecrated during the celebration of the Eucharist. We are going to experiment with distributing wine as part of the Eucharist in a safe manner. We will prefill individual cups with wine. If you are more comfortable not taking wine, please don't. We will provide more information at the services. In the event of rain or storm, we will hold the 10:00 AM Service inside the church.

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.

Whichever worship choice works best for you, we are delighted to have you worship with us!



A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Tim, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Sarah, Miriam, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Tricia, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, Steve, the Wilk family, Linda, Todd, Noreen and family, Maureen, Lynn.

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@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).

*In
Loving
Memory*

A seated memorial service in honor of Trudi Marie Black will be held on Saturday, June 12th at 10:30 am. It will be outdoors at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Monroe, CT. Those wishing to speak briefly will have the opportunity to do so. Following the celebration of her life guests are invited to join the family for a buffet luncheon at Roberto's Restaurant in Monroe at 12:30 pm. Guests planning to attend the luncheon are asked to RSVP to Larry Black at laryblak@aol.com by June 1st.

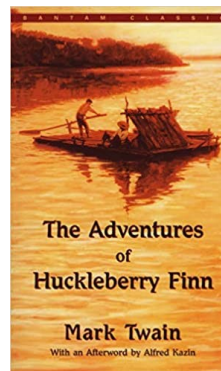
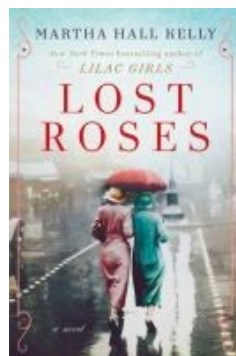
Upcoming Events

PICNIC

Church Council has announced the Annual Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship Service will be held at Wolfe Park in Monroe on **Sunday, June 13th**. Bring your lawn chair and set up at 9:30 a.m. for an inspiring outdoor worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a delicious cookout. We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers. In our continuing effort to keep everyone safe, we will be masked and wear gloves when we serve them to you. We also ask you to bring your own side dishes as we will not be having a potluck with side dishes to share. Save some room for dessert - we will hand out ice cream cups.

Please email or call the church office (203-268-7596) if you are attending or respond to the private Good Shepherd - Monroe Facebook page invitation by June 9th so that we know how much food to purchase.

We are excited to see everyone and look forward to being together!



The Good Shepherd Book Club is meeting on **July 6th** at **1:00 p.m.** when we will discuss "The Lost Roses" by Martha Hall Kelly. In August we will read "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain. We will meet outdoors weather permitting or indoors if it's preferable. We welcome new members!

Reaching Out, Serving Others:



Shepherd's Pantry

The need is great!

The Monroe Food Pantry provides emergency food assistance for needy individuals and families in Monroe. Their clients receive one week's worth of food per month and they serve more than 100 households per month.

The Social Ministry and Community Outreach Committee invites you to contribute items to the Shepherd's Pantry located in the narthex. You may drop them off on Sunday mornings. The items are delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry once a month.



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.



Lutheran World Relief Quilt Ingathering

Good Shepherd is the site of the next Quilt Ingathering in Connecticut. We will be the drop off location for quilts in late July and the following week they will be picked up and on their way to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland and then on to people in need here in the United States and worldwide.

We will keep you posted on the dates and activities.





As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we are celebrating Pride month and are invited to Reconciling Work's 2021 Virtual Pride! Between now and the end of June there will be fun virtual events and opportunities posted each week including raffle drawings, Reconciling in Christ video stories, special social media events, and more.

ReconcilingWorks Virtual PRIDE Events: To find information about all events, resources, and PRIDE merchandise visit www.ReconcilingWorks.org/VirtualPRIDE2021.

1. PRIDE 2021 Worship Resource
2. Weekly PRIDE Prayers
3. Online Support of PRIDE Resource
4. Rainbow stole raffle open 5/21-6/14. Winners for the three clergy stoles and one deacon stole will be announced live on Facebook at 12 pm CT June 14th!
5. We will be sharing videos from three RIC partners from the US and Canada in late May and early June.
6. Special Social Media memes to share focusing on the following. Make sure you like and follow ReconcilingWorks on Facebook @ReconcilingWorks and on Instagram @ReconcilingWorks
 - a. LGBTQIA+ Community - all month
 - b. Harvey Milk Day - May 22
 - c. Remembering Pulse Night Club - June 12
 - d. Emmanuel 9 - June 17
 - e. Juneteenth - June 19
 - f. PRIDE Prayers - every Sunday
 - g. Stonewall Riots - June 27
7. Special PRIDE 2021 & RIC merchandise
8. Give OUT Day. On the nation's only day designated to LGBTQIA+ giving ReconcilingWorks will be raising funds to have our most popular resources translated into languages other than English.
9. Special Facebook LIVE event: more information to be announced.

Sunday, June 6 Second Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Genesis 3:8-15

Psalm 130

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Gospel: Mark 3:20-35



2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke" —we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Mark 3:20-35

and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."