



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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, November 17, 2021

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

**WE BELONG TO JESUS, WE LIVE IN HIS KINGDOM,
AND HE FREES US FROM DEBT.**

We owe everything to God. Jesus, truly human and divine, owed God nothing but gave up everything for us. The result, according to Luther? "He has done all this in order that I may ... serve him in eternal ... innocence." There's that word again. We belong to Jesus, we live in his kingdom, and he frees us from debt.

Thanksgiving arises not because we owe it to God—even though we do—but spontaneously, because Jesus made us his own and frees us to "thank and praise, serve and obey." Amen! Or, as Luther paraphrased that word in this same explanation, "This is most certainly true." †

VOICES OF FAITH • LIVINGLUTHERAN.ORG

Worship Schedule -

November 21st: Our "Fall schedule" is in effect. This means we will have two Worship Services every Sunday until further notice. Feel free to choose from our 8am, or 10:30am service. Both services will be held INDOORS. Please bring a mask regardless of your vaccination status, as they will be required for all. Hymnals are now available for use again. Please note that if you are uncomfortable using the hymnals, there will be a limited number of freshly copied "Hymn Packets" available upon request at each service.

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

Also, 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



If you prefer to join us for prerecorded online worship instead, you can:

1) Go to the Good Shepherd website www.gslc-ct.org. Under "News & Events", click on youtube 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 it 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. From there, 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:



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

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

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



Thanksgiving is on Thursday, November 25th. Use this time to reflect on your blessings and enjoy the holiday with friends and family.

*** Reminder - Church office will be closed on November 25th and 26th** in observance of the holiday.

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes - will meet from 9:15am - 10am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The next classes will be held on November 28th.

Choir - will meet each Sunday at 9:55am to practice before the 10:30am service. Come sing with them!

Shepherd's Flock Quilters - generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. New members are welcome!

Book Club - will meet again on 12/7/21 at 2pm to discuss "The Storyteller's Secret" by Sejal Badani. "Whereabouts", by Jhumpa Lahiri is our selection for January.



On Saturday, November 13th, Gibiser Hall was the site of a Red Cross Blood Drive. The Red Cross confirmed that our drive was successful! We collected 39 pints, which can help save up to 117 lives!



*** THANKSGIVING MEALS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -**

Volunteers are once again needed to help pack Thanksgiving meals for the less fortunate. This will take place at the Salvation Army in Bridgeport on Saturday morning, Nov. 20th from 10am -12pm. The location is 30 Elm Street. Please contact Larry Black at: 203-257-0375 if you can help, or if you have questions.

We always have an enjoyable time!

*** HOLIDAY KIDS' PAJAMA DRIVE -
(4 TAGS REMAINING)**

Once again, Good Shepherd has teamed up with the Town of Monroe to help provide warm pajamas to local children in need. If you'd like to donate, please feel free to grab a gift tag from the wooden table in the narthex. If you don't feel comfortable coming into Church, call the office and Stephanie will set one aside for you and give you the details.



Please follow the instructions on your tag, wrap the gift and return it to Church by 11/28/21. (the social worker would like to pick up our batch here prior to the deadline.)

* Please note that this is a pajama drive, but you may include a gift card, book, or other small item with your pajama set. Thank you!



GSLC IS HOLDING A VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER

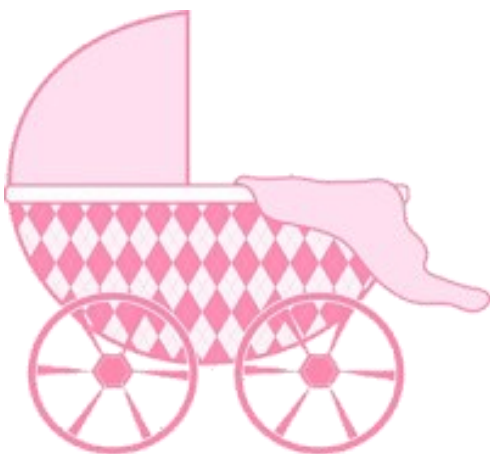
We are having a virtual baby shower for an Afghan family who recently settled in CT. The family is expecting a baby girl on December 27th. Since they only have a crib, they are in need of many items to care for the baby.

Anyone who would like to provide an item for the “Baby Shower” is welcome to take a card that lists needed items. These cards will be available beginning November 21st on the “baby table” in the righthand corner of the narthex.

Baby items can then be placed in the box on the table. If it is a larger item, it can be placed on the floor by the table. Newborn clothing and supplies will initially be needed, but other items such as: car seat, stroller, etc, would certainly be welcome.

Please note that not all necessary items have been listed, so if you find a gently used stroller, or other useful item, we would love to add it to the other baby gifts.

Thank you for considering to help a young family in need!



QUILTING -



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 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 quilters 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 GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION

1127 Royal Palm Beach Blvd.
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

www.thegoodshepherdfoundation.org



November 8, 2021

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

Dear Pastor Ryniewicz and the People of Good Shepherd,

My records show that we received another \$50 gift from the church and we again have the joy of thanking you for your partnership in our medical and water mission to the people of Haiti. We continue to be touched by your faithfulness in caring for those in need as our Lord did. Your support of The Good Shepherd Foundation has been invaluable. As you well know, you have enabled us to touch many thousands of lives with medical care that eases the suffering, and indeed saves the lives of men, women and children in Haiti.

We are sad to report that it looks like the Rotary International is renegeing on their October 22, 2020 commitment to grant our water project grant. We are still working out possible alternatives and will keep you informed. To say we are disappointed is the greatest understatement of a lifetime!

Sadly, the political situation in all of Haiti seems to continue to get worse, and our patients sometimes fear going out onto the roads to get to the clinic. The cost of gas is \$25 per gallon, making our clinic costs outrageous. Mercifully, our medical staff is still travelling to the clinic when they are able and continue to see patients and provide needed medications. We are hoping that we can get there soon, just to review what is happening in the clinic, but it does not look good yet. The staff keeps us well updated, but it is so much better with a hands-on visit.

God has been good to us through your faithful generosity and we thank you for this most amazing support in showing God's love. What a blessing you have been in so very many ways.

We pray in thanksgiving for your support, and, we continue to need your prayers. Please remember to include our work and the people we will be treating in the congregation's prayers during worship on Sundays. Both they, all the people of Haiti, and our volunteer staff, and the Haitian doctors and nurses need that spiritual support.

With gratitude,

Michele Sidney

Michele Sidney, President

Lurita + Bob

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert P. McGurn

*Hope you are well!
Would be delighted to
Come + talk at Church if
desired! L*

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

November 10, 2021

Dear Rev. Ryniewicz and members of the Congregation,

Thank you so much for supporting The Council of Churches with your generous donation of \$800.00 on October 29th, 2021. Throughout the past year, we have been grateful for congregations like yours, who have been incredibly supportive of our work, and because of your help, we look forward to 2022 with great optimism!

Your financial gift helps to bolster the Council's programs. We are able to:

- Provide intervention for youth and families in crisis through the Janus Center.
- Supply Howard, our Street Outreach Worker, with the resources of food and essential needs to homeless youth, to help get them off the streets and into stable housing.
- Supply fresh produce through our Mobile Market Truck to many, including senior citizens and college students.



As you probably know, the poorest among us, especially people of color, have suffered most through this pandemic.

THANK YOU for being part of this ministry, and helping us bring healthy food, safety, support, and new opportunities to those we serve!

With gratitude,

Tom Larson

Tom Larson
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer

*Rev. Ryniewicz -
Thank you and your congregation
for your continuing support.
Tom*

We acknowledge that no goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.

Advocacy * Food Access * Ecumenical & Interfaith * Re-Entry * Youth in Crisis



COVENANT TO CARE THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATIONS

If you are donating this year, please make sure your tote bags are in the narthex on Sunday, November 21st for pickup the following week.

Please include a Stop and Shop gift card, but nothing that will be perishable.

Thank you!

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 out to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church" with the notation, "Food For Summerfield".

Shepherd's Pantry

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.



ITEMS NEEDED AT THE MONROE FOOD PANTRY

At the Monroe Food Pantry, we strive to consistently provide healthy food options for our clients. We accept and appreciate all donations, and encourage **low sodium, low sugar, low saturated fat, vegetarian, and whole wheat** selections when possible. This helps our clients manage and prevent chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease.

- bread crumbs
- instant potatoes
- egg noodles
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- macaroni & cheese
- healthy snack items
- hot and cold cereal
- tuna
- canned chicken
- brown/white rice
- pancake mix & syrup
- peanut butter
- jams and jellies
- canned soup
- canned pasta
- salad dressing
- condiments
- baked beans
- refried beans
- broths and stocks
- canned fruit
- canned chili
- canned tomatoes
- canned beans & vegetables
- Ensure
- juice
- hot chocolate
- baking supplies: sugar, flour, brownie and cake mix
- decaf and regular: ground coffee, instant coffee
- decaf and regular: black tea, green tea
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr products, Ramen
- household cleaning supplies
- personal hygiene products
- feminine hygiene products
- frozen vegetables, and fresh produce
- pet food





2021 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

DONATE ►



You help provide 3,078 meals each day at the Mission.
**As we prepare for Thanksgiving, your help
is critical...**



It's been another challenging year for so many of our neighbors. That's why we want to make this Thanksgiving extra special for the men, women, and children who will turn here for a meal... and why your gift today makes such a difference!

Please give today to bless hungry and homeless neighbors with a nourishing meal this Thanksgiving season – **just \$2.50 each.**

\$50 = 20 meals & hope
\$100 = 40 meals & hope
\$150 = 60 meals & hope

BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION

Phone: 203-333-4087

Fax: 203-331-8984

E-mail: Info@BridgeportRescueMission.org

Mailing Address:

Bridgeport Rescue Mission
PO Box 9057
Bridgeport, CT 06601-9057



FINANCIAL NEWS -

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL -

All members should have received a 2022 Stewardship Appeal and Pledge Form in the mail. The Church hopes to receive the Pledge Forms back by Commitment Sunday on November 21st. If you still need one, there are extra Pledge Forms on the wood table in the narthex. You can also call Stephanie in the office for assistance. Thank you in advance for helping our mission and ministries thrive!



VANCO - 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!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS -

There are still some Financial Statements in the narthex that have not been picked up. If you can't get to the Church to pick yours up, call Stephanie in the office and she will gladly mail it to you.

*** Our offerings are down significantly. If you are able to donate, any amount would be very helpful and much appreciated!**

Sunday, November 21, 2021 Last Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm: 93 (2)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1

Gospel: John 18:33-37



1 Corinthians 1

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

John 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."