

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

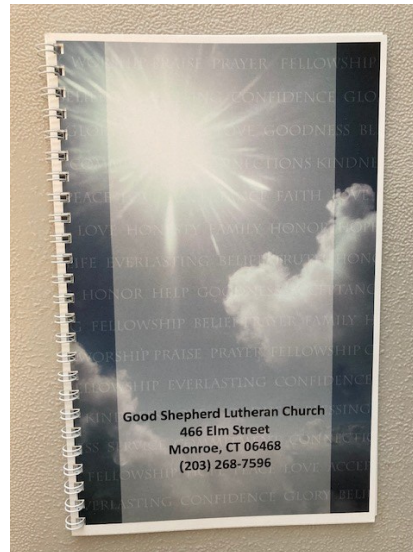
*Our mission is to be more visible, to become more connected,
and to draw closer, with Christ as our center.*



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



Wednesday, August 12, 2020



"As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is my delight." Psalm 16

Connections to others is an important gift given to those who are part of a Christian community. While we cannot yet worship in the building, we are encouraged to stay connected to each other. Council members call you by phone as do I. Our intent of course is to be a tangible sign of connection. You are connected here. Another way I will encourage you to keep connection in Spirit; pray with your church directory as I do. Look through the names and faces and pray for all of your church family. Feel your sense of the Body of Christ that you and they are a part of. Please pray for me as your pastor and the difficult constraints that pandemic puts on me that makes doing ministry as I would love to do ministry impossible for now.

Keep in your prayers the Council, Nina, Vic and Kylie as well as those who record the Worship Services and those who prepare the yard for Outdoor Worship. We are not in the building but we are the church, perhaps more than ever.

LV
PD

On **Sunday, August 16 and 30 at 9:30 a.m.** we will have the next Outdoor Worship Services at Good Shepherd on the back lawn behind the sanctuary. 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.

Important
Message

Weekly Offering

As worship services are online and/or outdoor for the near future, if you have a chance, please submit your offering to help with our expenses. Thank you for your contribution!

There are different ways to contribute. You may bring it with you to the outdoor worship service or you may mail it if you are worshipping online with us or you may 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 your bank to see if this works for you. In addition, our Finance Commit-

Reaching Out, Serving Others:



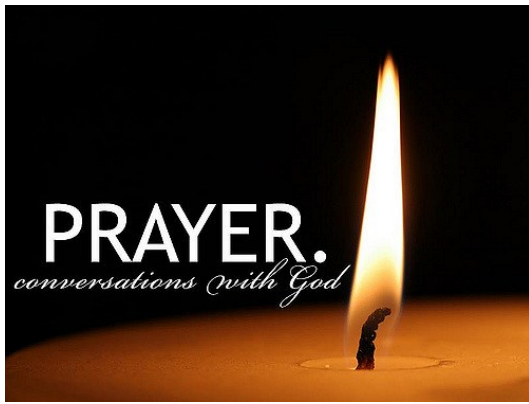
Every year at this time we have been requested to fill backpacks with school supplies for all of the children our Covenant to Care social worker services. Due to the constraints of the pandemic we cannot do this now. DO NOT DESPAIR.....We still get to shop for those backpacks and colored pencils!

Summerfield needs support for their children. They are serving 22 elementary age children and 16 high school youth. All are in need of everything schools request. Whatever you can buy is awesome. You do not need to do a whole backpack full if that is too much. Any supplies are appreciated! If you choose not to shop but wish to participate, we will shop for you. Just send funds marked for that purpose.

We will begin collecting at this Sunday's outdoor worship service. There will be a bin near the driveway. If this is not convenient, we will figure out how to leave a bin at church for your use. Or call Donna Duessel or Trudi Black to make some arrangements. We will make it work!

Also, please check your pantry. Any extra staple foods are needed as well. Protein is greatly appreciated. Canned tuna or chicken is great. Also some canned vegetables and healthy breakfast items are needed. These children get too much starch and fast food in their diets.

Your help has been outstanding and Pastor Gaston is so grateful. Thank you so much for continuing your support.



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.

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@gsllc-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).



Trees and branches were down throughout the area after Tropical storm Isaias including at Good Shepherd. Our thanks to Dave Wang, Scott Chin, Sue Chin, and Jeff Jackson for their hard work removing the fallen trees and branches.



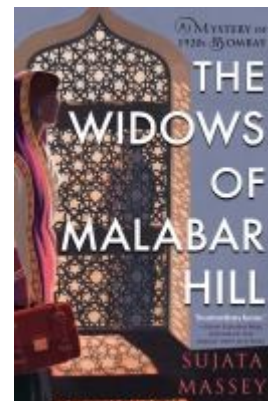
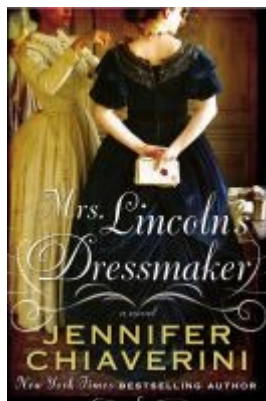
Upcoming Events

We are meeting via Zoom this Thursday August 13th for the next session of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raise the Bar: Becoming Anti-Racist Summer Study and Discussion Series. Please complete and submit the online form at www.ccgb.org/bar and a Zoom invitation will be sent to you prior to each session. If you have any questions, please speak with Donna Duessel.

You're
Invited



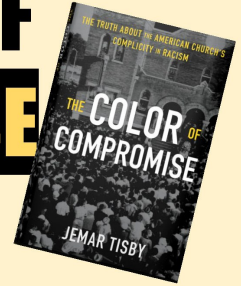
The Book Club is meeting via Zoom and it is wonderful to "see" so many people! On September 1st at **1:00 p.m.** we will discuss "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini. Please note the change in time. In October, we will discuss "The Widows of Malabar Hill" by Sujata Massey. We welcome new 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.



CCGB's Raise the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist Summer Study and Discussion Series

THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE

BY Jemar Tisby



What:

Video Presentation and Guided Discussion

Through five facilitated sessions of video clips and discussion we will be introduced to the "history of how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices." In the videos Jemar Tisby "outlines the kind of bold action needed to forge a future of equality and justice" requiring us to think through "concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church." (Amazon and TCOC Video Series descriptions)

When:

Thursday evenings – 7:30 – 9:00 pm

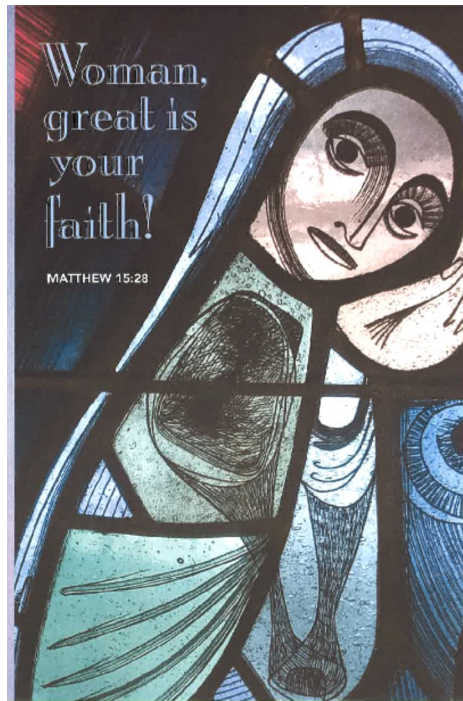
July 2, July 16, July 30, August 13, August 27



Registration:

Complete and submit the online form at www.ccgb.org/bar

The Zoom link and email reminders will be sent prior to each session.



Readings for Sunday, August 16, 2020

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.