



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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, July 27, 2022

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



COVENANT TO CARE BACKPACKS -

If you would like to provide backpacks and school supplies for our Covenant to Care kids, please take a name tag from the clipboard in the narthex this coming Sunday. There are only 6 kids on our list this time around.

Please print your last name and phone number on the clipboard list if you take a tag, so I can follow up if needed.

The due date is August 14th. Thank you for helping support these kids as they start a new school year!

-Jane Fieberts



Worship Information -

*** Good Shepherd is currently on "Summer schedule". This means that one service is held every Sunday at 9:30am. Choir practice is at 8:45am. Please join us!**

Hymnals are available for use. 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.

*** Masks are no longer required at any time ***

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!

Prayer List -

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Cliff Jr., Audrey, Miriam, Andrea, Robert, Kathy, Beverly, Doree, Amy, Mark, Scarlet, Ryan, Sharon & Rosemary.



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



8/2/22 - Book Club at 2pm. See below for details.

8/3/22 - Golden Hill Community Supper. Sign up sheet is in narthex.

*** Choir practice - every Sunday at 8:45am.**

*** Shepherd's Flock Quilters** - generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. * Please contact Barbara Abraham by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321 if you wish to come on a Monday morning. If you'd like to join on a Wednesday, contact Ellie Noll at: 203-888-7009, or Eileen Holleran at: 203-426-0005. If you prefer to quilt on a Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598. Anyone is welcome!

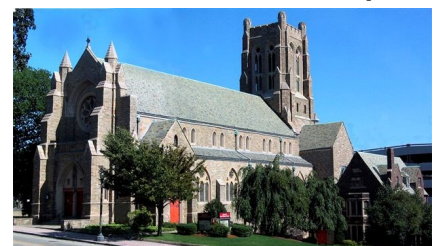
AUGUST BOOK CLUB -



Our next Book Club has been announced. Please join us on **August 2nd at 2pm** to discuss "The Lions Of Fifth Avenue", by Fiona Davis. All are welcome!

GOLDEN HILL COMMUNITY SUPPER -

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the Golden Hill Community Supper is on **August 3rd**. Please contact Peg Wesche for more information, or sign up on the sheet hanging in the narthex.





Kindness of Strangers

Several years ago, I was in a car accident. The other driver and I suffered only minor injuries, but our vehicles were badly damaged. I had never been in a car accident before, and I was terrified and overwhelmed. A woman who was several cars ahead of the accident heard the crash and stopped to make sure everyone was okay. When she saw my distress, she told me that she had been in a similar accident before, so she understood my situation and how I was feeling.

The woman and I talked while we waited for the police and a tow truck to arrive. Although it made her late to her mother-in-law's birthday party, the woman remained with me for over an hour to support and guide me through the necessary steps following the accident. She told me what to expect at each stage of the process, gave me advice, and told me about her own experiences. She was a calming and comforting presence.

Before she joined me, I had felt totally alone. Knowing that I had a kind and supportive companion helped me immensely. The fact that she shifted her plans to help a stranger makes her actions even more remarkable. And she was not the only stranger who helped me. It was a sweltering July day, and as we stood waiting in the sun, several people reached out to us. A homeless man who was sitting several yards down the road brought over bottles of water. Two people who were leaving a nearby store gave us granola bars. One driver called out to us from his car to see if everyone was okay and to let us know that he was praying for us. And several people stopped to make sure we were alright and ask if we needed anything.

As I recall the kindness of these strangers, I think of the many examples in scripture of people who cared for others and the ways their care enriched the lives of those around them. Tabitha (Dorcas) helped other widows and people in need in her community. She was so loved by her community that when she died they requested that Peter raise her from the dead, and her life and death brought many to the faith (see Acts 9:36-43). I think also of Rahab, who assisted the two Israelite spies and hid them from soldiers who sought to kill them. As a result

of her actions, she and her family were spared when Jericho was raided (see Josh. 2 and 6:22-25). And I recall the wealthy woman who offered Elisha food, made a room for him in her home, and allowed him to stay there. Because of her care for him, Elisha promised that she would have a son and later revived her son following his death (see 2 Kings 4:8-37).

Having heard these stories my whole life, I have always known that I should strive to be kind and caring toward others, including strangers. But until the day of my car accident, I didn't know how it felt to be on the other side — the one receiving care and kindness. The care shown to me after my accident has changed the way I interact with strangers in need. It often seems easier to turn a blind eye and continue on my way or simply to say, "I'm sorry, I'm not able to help." But I am beyond grateful for the people who decided not to turn away from me when I needed help. And when I remember the difference their actions made for me, I feel a tug to stop and do what I can.

The woman who helped me probably doesn't know what an impact she had on me. She may not even recall stopping that day. But this highlights the importance of always treating others with kindness and love. Our simplest actions can change a person's situation or mindset. We never know how much someone may need us and the effect our action might have on her life. Even when it doesn't seem easy or convenient to stop and offer help, it is worth it.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. When has a stranger shown you an unexpected and much-needed act of kindness? What did this teach you about kindness? How did it change the way you show kindness to others?
2. Of the examples from scripture above, which stands out to you the most? Why?
3. What are some of the risks of offering care and kindness to others? What are some of the rewards?



— Amy Densk
Assistant Editor, *The Upper Room*

**A BIG THANKS TO OUR QUILTERS FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF VERNON, CT -**

6-27-22

Dear Stephanie,

Thank you so much for
all your help arranging and
rearranging the delivery
of our Birts and quilts!

Please pass on our
thanks to Barbara as well,
and the woman who
waited with her until Lynn
and Gary arrived. (They
didn't know her name)
We're so grateful to have
an Ingathering site in CT!

With prayers for an
abundance of God's Blessings
for you all, and the work
that you're doing to make
it easier for so many of
us to get our offerings
to LWR, Charlene Schutz



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



School of Lay Ministry Accepting Applications

Interested in learning more about the teachings and life of the Lutheran Church? Want to gain new skills for serving your congregation? Consider enrolling in the New England Synod's School of Lay Ministry. The School of Lay Ministry is designed to educate and equip lay people for enhanced participation in congregational and synodical life through personal spiritual development, biblical enhancement and life-long learning.

The School consists of a two year program with one year devoted to bible study and the other, to theology and church history. This rotating curriculum allows new participants to join each fall. Each year begins and ends with a retreat at Calumet (the Synod's outdoor ministry site in Freedom, New Hampshire) in September and May. All registrations are due by Aug. 15 and require a signature from your pastor and initial deposit toward tuition.

Brochures and registration forms are available on:

- the school website www.nesynodslm.com , just click on the appropriate horizontal tab.
- the Synod website www.nesynod.org under “**Resources.**”

For further information please contact Beatrice Santiago, Dean of the School of Lay Ministry – LucyB390@yahoo.com.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Situation Report: Ukraine and Eastern Europe

More than four months after Russian troops invaded Ukraine, fighting continues to intensify and humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate. The United Nations estimates that at least 24 million people — more than half of Ukraine's population — will need humanitarian assistance in the coming months. In addition to continuing to meet the immediate needs of arriving refugees, our partners in the region support those fleeing the violence in Ukraine and provide assistance in psychosocial care, pastoral care, housing, job searches, language study, school admission, legal services, cash assistance and other key integration support for individuals and families. Read the full situation report from Lutheran Disaster Response at blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/.

Stewardship Kaleidoscope — Register Today

The 2022 Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference will be held in person in Savannah, Ga., Sept. 26-28, with a livestreamed participation option as well. Stewardship Kaleidoscope explores stewardship in its many colorful dimensions! This annual conference offers plenary speakers, workshops, worship experiences and networking opportunities for all who are passionate about stewardship and generosity. [Register today](#) for the best rate. Group pricing and special discounts for first-call pastors attending in person are available. Visit StewardshipKaleidoscope.org to learn more.

Journal of Lutheran Ethics

Behind on your summer reading? *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* (JLE) book reviewers provide brief essays that help you stay up to date with what's being published. learn.elca.org/jle/category/book-review/ Recent books reviewed include the novel *Crossroads* by Jonathan Franzen, *Amending the Christian Story: The Natural Sciences as a Window Into Grounded Faith and Sustainable Living* by Ron Rude, *I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times* by Monica Guzman — to tickle your curiosity with just a few. [Visit JLE](#), a place for seminary and university students, pastors and bishops, theologically informed lay people, advocates, and activists. (www.elca.org/jle)

*** These are not live links. Please type sites directly into your web browser to get more information.**

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.

* From the Monroe Food Pantry...

Kids are home for the summer, so we can use several items to help our local families:

Snack items (like chips, pretzels, etc.)

Juice (apple, cranberry, etc.)

Condiments such as ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, mayo

Salad dressing (Ranch/Thousand Island/French/Balsamic)

Canned fruits and vegetables

Brownie and cake mix

Egg noodles

Instant potatoes

Cooking oil

Strawberry jelly

Rice and pasta sides

Sugar

Flour

Oatmeal, original and instant

Coffee

Tea

Jarred pasta sauce

Jell-O and puddings

Toiletry items (deodorant/shampoo/conditioner/soap)

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Cleaning products

Laundry detergent



Thank you for your support!

Ways to Help Summerfield -

Snacks for Summerfield are needed! We are collecting snacks for the youth of Summerfield. If you would like to donate, please add your snack items to the marked blue bin in the narthex.



Also, there is an ongoing need for nutritious food/protein for the kids of Summerfield. GSLC Council has challenged the congregation to provide funds for the purchase of nutritious food. GSLC will match donations from members 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". Thank you!



*** Financial Statements** are still available on the wood table in the narthex. They cover the period through 4/30/22. If you can not get to Church and need yours mailed, please contact the office.

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!

Sunday, July 31, 2022 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12(3)

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21



Colossians 3:1-11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."