

# 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.



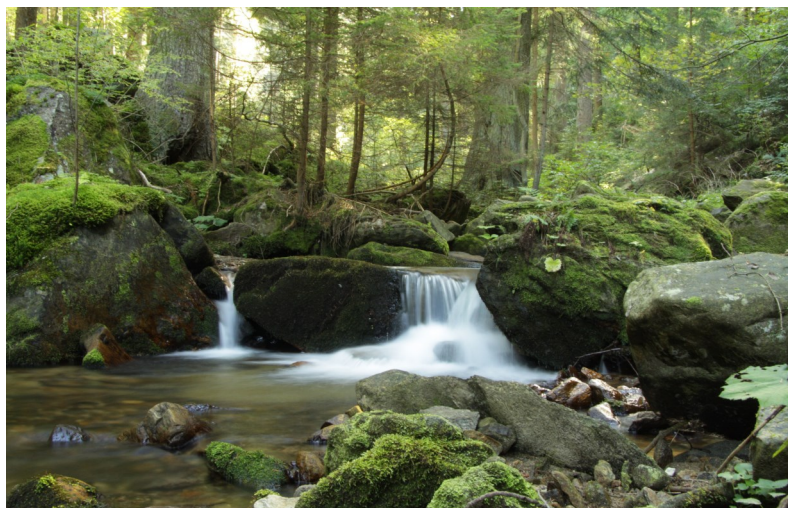
### Wednesday, July 15, 2020

#### Good Gifts

Summer is a good time, an easy time, to be mindful of the goodness of the earth. Yet we are aware, if we want to be, that the health of the earth is in grave danger. Little seems to be done to steward the good gifts of creation. In fact, much is being undone. Christianity bases worship in the things of nature. In fact, we first come to know God through nature. We remember each year, pregnancy, birth, a mother and a child. we use water, fire, light, oil, bread, wine, the rough wood of the cross, palms, ashes, we speak of rushing wind and dirt. Jesus' parables offer images of wheat, grain, seeds, lakes, mountains. Yet one popular author and speaker who claims to be a Christian tells us "God's given us charge of this earth. Use it, rape it, do with it what you want to because God will create a new heaven and a new earth as the bible tells us." Such a view is a mockery of how the Christian lives as a very part of creation which God has blessed and declared " good." In this season of summer, let us give thanks over creation as we do the same over the bread and wine of Eucharist. Grateful for a summer's day.

"Merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence and grant that we, remembering the account we must give one day, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." ELW p.63

LV  
PD



On **Sunday, July 19th at 9:30 a.m.** we will have the next Outdoor Worship Service 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.



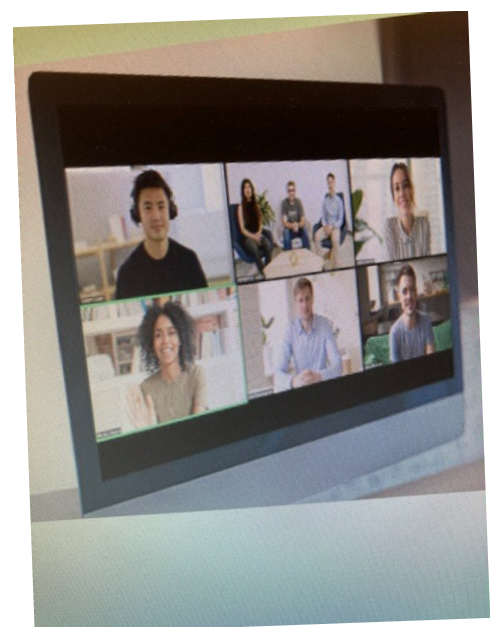
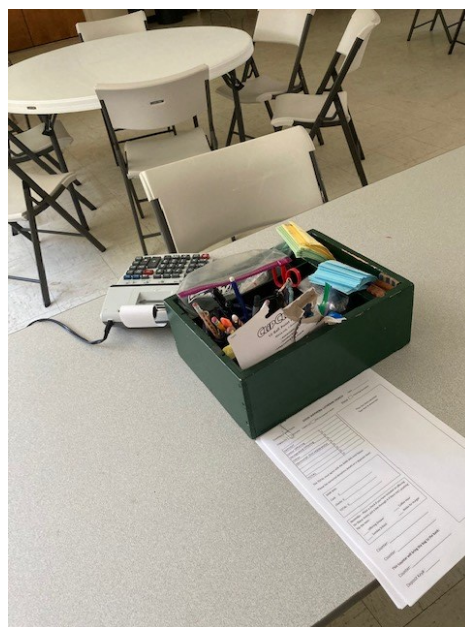
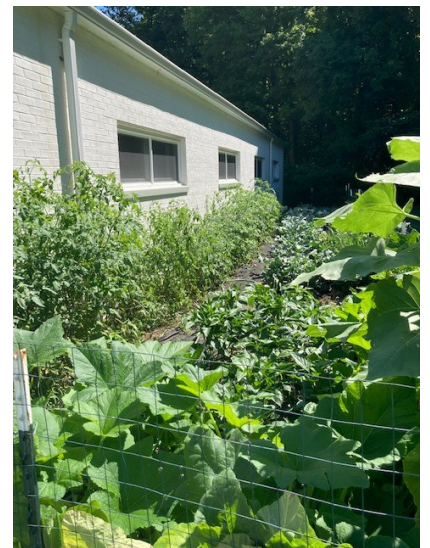
## Weekly Offering

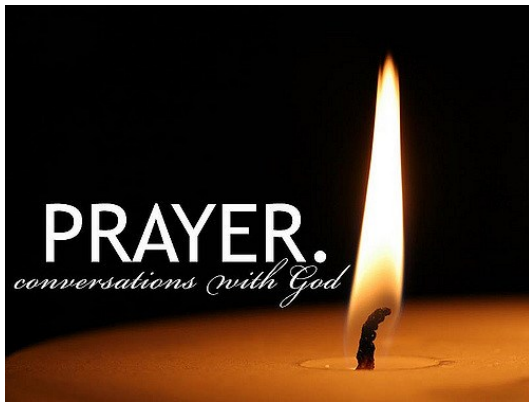
As worship services are online and/or outdoor for the near future, if you have a chance, please submit your offering to help with our expenses. Thank you for your contribution!

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 Committee is working on implementing online contributions by this fall.

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

**Activities are happening at Good Shepherd during the pandemic with social distancing and safety precautions in place.** Our gracious thanks to dedicated members who are making masks, trimming the parking lot to provide adequate parking, growing vegetables for the Monroe Food Pantry, quilting for those in need of comfort, counting our offerings, hosting and participating in Zoom committee meetings, book club meetings, bible study and more.





## 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, Roy, Judy, 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@gsic-ct.org](mailto:office@gsic-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](mailto:dearynos@gmail.com)).*



Congratulations to Matt and Erin Johnson on their wedding on Saturday, July 11, 2020. The weather was beautiful for the wonderful event. Vic and Nancy Johnson are his happy parents.





## Upcoming Events

We are meeting via Zoom this Thursday July 16th 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](http://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 or Pastor Doug.

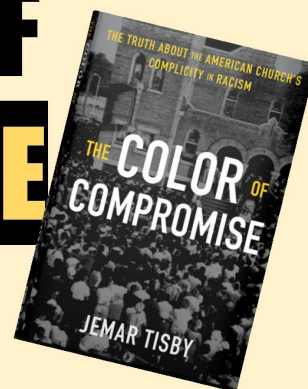
You're  
Invited



### 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



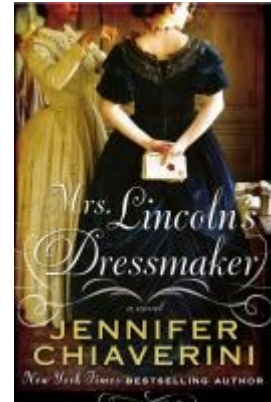
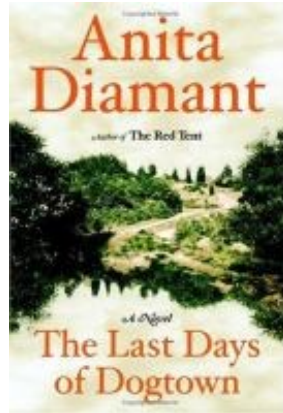
#### Registration:

Complete and submit the online form at [www.ccgb.org/bar](http://www.ccgb.org/bar)

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



**The Book Club** is meeting via Zoom and it is wonderful to “see” so many people! On August 4th at 1:30 p.m. we will discuss “The Last Days of Dogtown” by Anita Diamant. In September we will discuss “Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker” by Jennifer Chiaverini. 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.



Readings for Sunday, July 19, 2020

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

