

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, October 14, 2020

Here Is What We Are Working On!

We have worshipped together all through the last seven months of the Covid pandemic. Our recorded Services have been nourishing for many. Our Outdoor Services have gone very well and we are to be congratulated for the care in compliance to habits that help keep each other safe. Or I should say safe - er since any gathering involves some element of risk. As late Fall now begins to turn towards Winter, I want you to know that dedicated servant-leaders in the congregation and I have been thinking, meeting and planning together for the coming season.

Drive-in church will be an experiment into what many churches have been doing these past months. In this plan, we will worship inside our cars in the GSLC parking lot. We will have tuned to a particular setting on car radios so that we can hear through the church microphones. we won't get out of our cars but we will celebrate Eucharist together once again bringing our own bread for consecration. This model offers some degree of togetherness and shared Worship and the experience of something quite unique!

Worshipping Back Inside the Church which is of course what we all miss the most. A new special filtration system can be added to our existing heating-fanned air system. This offers some degree of added protection inside the worship space and the Narthex only. Masks and physical distancing will still be required and carefully planned. We will also have to clean in between Services. Other details providing additional safety measures will be added. We will follow the custom in use in churches around us of "taking reservations" so that we know how to plan for attendance. There are still a lot of details for us to plan this move back inside and I am so grateful for all those working hard to nail these details down! Ideally and with hope, this inside model would be able to use for Christmas Eve Worship but at this point we are still not sure; more information will come to you as it develops.

We are living through a tough, tough time that we never imagined would happen. I hope you too appreciate and show appreciation for those here who have been putting time, treasure and talent into seeing that the Worshipping nature of the church of Jesus and its Mission is provided for.

LV
PD

This Sunday morning and throughout October, we have changed the time for the Outdoor Worship Service to 10:00 a.m. to help keep us warm. 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 these *updated* guidelines:



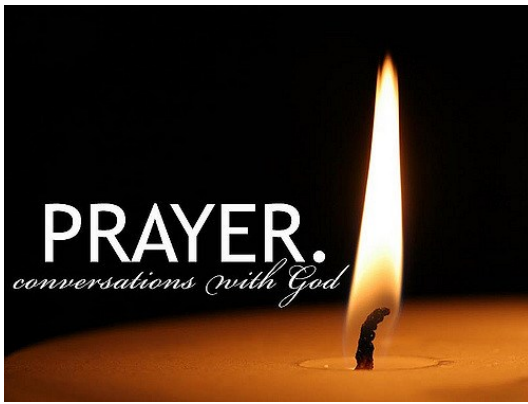
- 1) If you do not feel well or if you do not feel comfortable, please stay at home. The service is available online for those who do not join in person.
- 2) Please put on your face covering before leaving your vehicle. You will be expected to wear it throughout your visit.
- 3) Please bring: a lawn chair, face covering, and portion of bread for communion for every person in your group.
- 4) Please plan to arrive between 9-9:15. There will be a table at the entrance where you may leave your offering.
- 5) *Please choose a spot at least six feet from other family groups. Your chair should be positioned so that your feet are on the white line in front of you. Please stay seated until worship begins.*
- 6) Please refrain from unnecessary movement through the worship space to allow everyone to get set up while maintaining social distancing.
- 7) 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. Please hum softly or mouth the words without using your voice.
- 8) We will pass the Peace without physical contact.
- 9) 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.
- 10) When the service has ended, please do not linger to socialize; go directly to your vehicle and depart.
- 11) *The church is now open if you need to use the bathroom. Please use the designated bathroom and sign in to help us ensure the bathroom is cleaned regularly.*
- 12) 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 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.

To join us 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.



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@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.

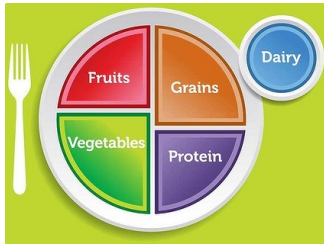
For privacy, only the first name of each individual will be listed.

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).

Reaching Out, Serving Others:

Kids at Summerfield Methodist Need Our Help



Pastor Gaston has made us aware of a critical need for nutritious food for the kids at Summerfield. Protein is especially needed. GSLC Council has decided to challenge 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. We are hoping to begin the program in October as the need is critical. Pledge card, specific envelopes and a box for directed contributions will be available in the coming weeks. If you wish to donate without making a pledge, please write a check to GSLC with the notation "Food For Summerfield" or place cash in the Summerfield box. More detailed information on the program will be available shortly.



Upcoming Events

October 19 - Church Council meeting at 7:30 pm



The Book Club met outdoors in October. On November 3rd at **1:00 p.m.** we will discuss "The One" by John Marrs. We welcome new members!



JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW...

Entertainment + Impact Update + Support our Future

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST, CHRIS COOGAN

A multi-talented entertainer who, as a masterful pianist, composer, performer, teacher, choir director and producer, is rooted in the jazz and gospel traditions

ccgb.org/virtualfundraiser
Zoom link will be sent to attendees



Consider making an impact by donating at ccgb.org/donate

All proceeds from the evening's virtual paddle raise auction will support the vital programs of CCGB
The evening is underwritten by an anonymous member of The Stewards Society

NEW Virtual Event! **What The World Needs Now...**

...is just about a month away! Please register to reserve your spot and hear about what The Council has been doing, enjoy wonderful music and help support our future!



**2021 Encourage One Another
Annual Stewardship Appeal**

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing. – 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Dear family of God at Good Shepherd,

The apostle Paul writes, "Encourage one another and build up each other." While we have been learning a lot of new ways to do that work, it's the work that our churches have been doing all along: encouraging one another within our congregation, building up the neighbors in our communities, strengthening our relationships with one another wherever we go.

Our congregation has continued in ministry through these times, staying connected, holding safe, sacred space through a time with a lot of unknowns and uncertainty. For example, we have continued our support for the Summerfield United Methodist Church in Bridgeport. The Summerfield congregation has been significantly impacted by COVID-19 and the associated economic downturn. Not only have we made monetary donations to Summerfield, but we have also provided school supplies, donated lightly used clothing, and contributed 20 recently sewn quilts to Summerfield.

This is just a sample of the impact of our ministry in this challenging year. Your participation, passion, and financial support are part of helping us continue to be the church in these times.

You are an important part of this work in all the ways you share your gifts. Today we are inviting you to invest in this ministry with your financial pledge so that we can continue to encourage one another and build up our community to share God's love and grace. Our current 2021 draft budget reflects a 5 percent increase in costs over last year. This increase is primarily attributable to salary increases and to health insurance premiums for Pastor beginning mid-year. Please prayerfully consider making a personally meaningful pledge this year.

Please return your pledge cards by October 25. We will celebrate together in our worship on Sunday, October 25 and we hope you can join us!

Whatever your gift, together we are the body of Christ in this place, encouraging one another, reminding one another that God continues to be at work among us in this shared ministry!

Sincerely,

Reverend Doug Ryniewicz
Pastor

Billie Flaherty
Stewardship Leader

In gratitude, I/we intend to give to God's work in and through *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church* a total of \$_____ for 2021 (annual gift).

Name _____

I/we intend to give our gifts:

Weekly____ Monthly ____ Quarterly ____ Semi-Annually____ Annually on _____

____ **I would like to receive donation envelopes.**

____ **I would like more information about how to set up electronic giving.**

Make life easy and checkless – set up auto monthly payments through your bank.

There is a reason why I cannot pledge:

____ I am currently facing a difficulty. ____ I would like the pastor to contact me.



Readings for Sunday, October 18, 2020

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.