

# 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 8, 2020



Our first Outdoor Worship Service went very well. I say this because the folks who attended were conscientious in keeping to safety rules. All wore masks, Scott Chin had taken time and planning to mark out socially distanced seating. There was cloud cover and a nice active air breeze. Everyone remembered to bring a chair and some bread for Eucharist. If we had seen such a thing, no singing, no hugging, back in January, we would all have been quite shocked! Yet it is no longer the January Church. None of us knows when that might ever return. But we have hope. Forty members attended. The Service was recorded and has been uploaded for you to use it to Worship. Click this link <https://youtu.be/60ovt8w7Gr4>.

We continue to be the church despite the fact that we cannot all meet in the building! Help us all to stay connected and to stay Good Shepherd together. Someday we will remember these days and rightfully feel proud and good about how we responded to the Spirit within and among us. As the Worship and Music Committee, we have decided to offer the recorded Worship Service on YOUTUBE (as we have been doing) every week. That means that even when we hold Outdoor Worship we will still provide the recorded Worship Service on Sunday. We will not record the Outdoor Worship.

**Our next Outdoor Worship Service will be Sunday, July 19 at 9:30.**

LV,

PD

On **Sunday, July 19th at 9:30 a.m.** we will have an 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.

## Devotional for the week of July 5, 2020

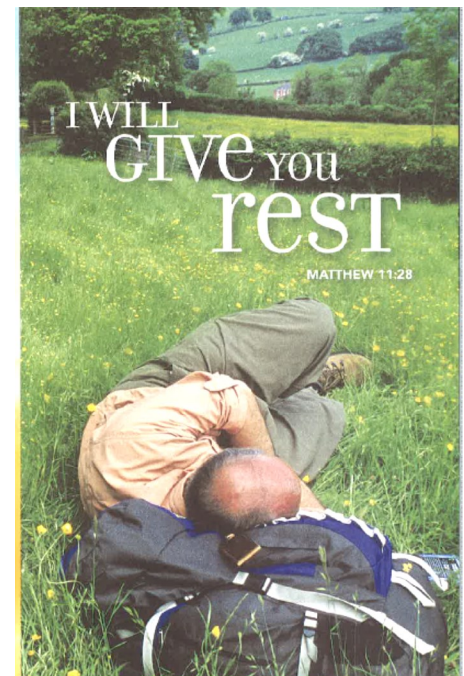
What kind of rest is Jesus promising when he says, "Come to me, all you that are weary" (Matt. 11:28)? It isn't about a day off, though given Jesus' faithfulness to the Jewish Torah, sabbath rest is surely part of his vision for human life. But Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me" (Matt. 11:29). These are words that mean work: a yoke is what you put on oxen so they can pull a plow. These words don't sound like rest! But they invite us to do the work that really matters, instead of the work that only wearies our bodies and souls.

Jesus invites us to take on his teaching and his way of working for the kingdom. He is gracious to those who follow him in this labor. He does not put impossible tasks on people or reject people because they are not perfect. This is how he brings rest for weary souls. This is what makes his burden light.

Jesus also invites his followers to join him in doing the work that matters, the labor that satisfies: loving our neighbor, caring for the needy, seeking justice for those excluded, feeding the hungry, forgiving those who do harm, seeking liberation for people who are oppressed, teaching others that God is love for all. This is work that might make your body weary but will give life to your soul. This work might make you tired by the end of the day, but it is the kind of tired that feels satisfying and leads to good, restful sleep.

To follow Jesus is to find ourselves working for the things that matter to our hearts and to God. What a gift to follow such a gracious, gentle, and humble Lord.

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## Weekly Offering

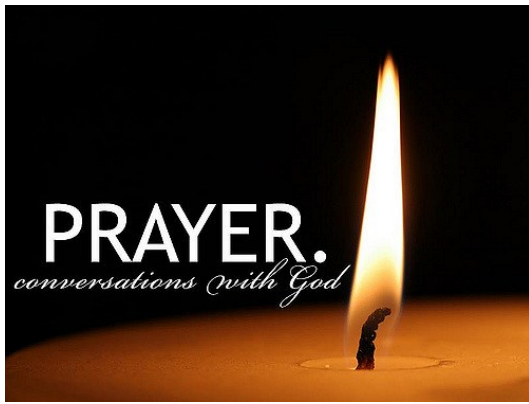


As worship services are online and/or outdoor for the near future, if you have a chance, please submit your offering to help with our expenses. Thank you for your contribution!

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.

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





## 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@gslc-ct.org](mailto: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](mailto:dearynos@gmail.com)).*



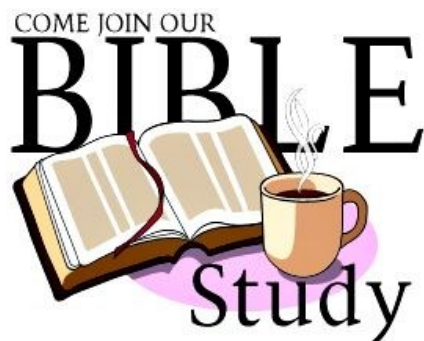
***Congratulations*** to Stephen & Rachel Bspuda on the birth of their son Stephen. His proud big sister is Caroline. His grandparents are Linda & Steve. Stephen Timothy was born on his grandfather's birthday. This is Great grandmother's, Peg, 12th Great grandchild.

*May God's light shine on him, and fill his years with health, happiness, and walking always with his Lord.*



## Upcoming Events

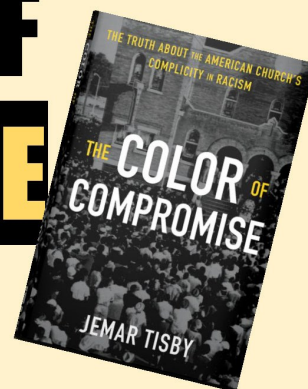
The Wednesday evening Bible Study has moved to Thursday evenings for the next few weeks and joined the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raise the Bar: Becoming Anti-Racist Summer Study and Discussion Series. Please complete and submit the online form at [www.ccgb.org/bar](http://www.ccgb.org/bar) 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.



### 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



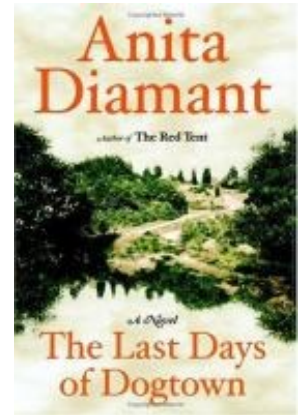
#### Registration:

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! In August we will discuss "The Last Days of Dogtown" by Anita Diamant. 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 12, 2020

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:1-13

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

