

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 5, 2020



I have been very interested in reading what is called Celtic Christianity. The ancient Celts had a form of Christianity brought by Patrick and this form incorporated a lot of ancient Celtic thought forms and practices. Christianity needs to be enculturated into the people of the lands where it takes root through preaching of the gospel. But after some hundreds of years, the Celtic lands were re-catechized by preachers from the pope in Rome. They were taught to give up their forms and beliefs and accept an official more Europeanized Christianity. However, their first Christianity never disappeared. It is being reclaimed and offers many good things to us. You may want to read more about this. August is the festival of Llamas. July was called "the hungry month" because in July the provisions stored for the winter were all used up. But August promised the first fruits of the earth, berries and fruits. It is the first ripening. These Christians were very much a part of the earth and its rhythms. Many of you are part of this awareness as you garden, go berry picking, enjoy the warmth of summer. Here is a Celtic Christian prayer for the Llamas season, mindful of all those near and far who are hungry and live where food is insufficient.

For everything that emerges from the earth, thanks be to you O God. Holy Root of Being, Sacred Sap that rises, Full Bodied Fragrance of earth's unfolding form. May we know that we are of You. May we know that we are in you. May we know that we are one with You, together One. Guide us as nations to what is deepest, open us as peoples to what is first, lead us as a world to know what is dearest, that we may know the holiness of Wholeness, that we may learn the strength of humility, that together we may live close to the earth and grow in grounded glory. Amen.

"Praying With The Earth" by Rev. John Philip Newell, 2011

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-

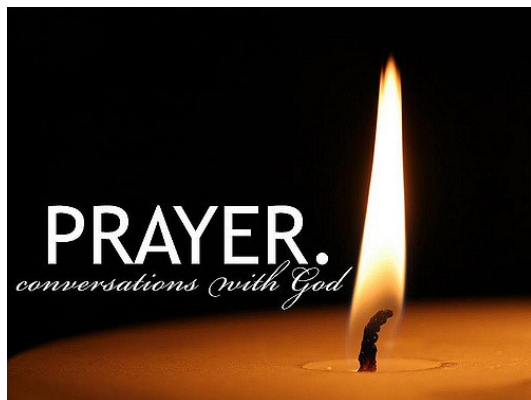


A big thank you and hug to all my Good Shepherd friends for sending me cards, messages and phone calls! I am doing very well...just a tad tired. No cancer and all is normal! Thank you for your prayers and concern! I am looking forward to getting back to church when the time is right! Thanks to Pastor Doug for keeping in touch with me throughout this crazy time!

Vicki Creutz



We congratulate Billie Flaherty on her graduation from the two year Synod School of Lay Ministry! Billie and her peers in formation attended weekend retreats, met in study groups, read and studied books and tapes including the bible. We are happy and grateful to Billie's commitment to deepening the understanding of her Christian Lutheran faith



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@gscl-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).



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.

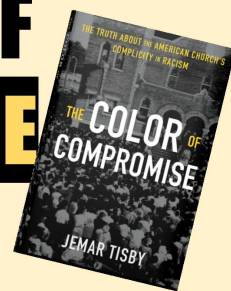
You're
Invited



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.



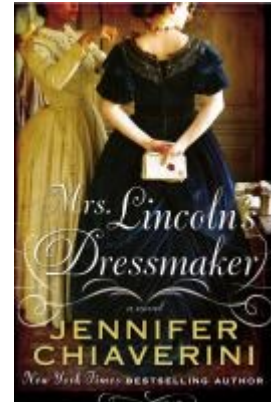
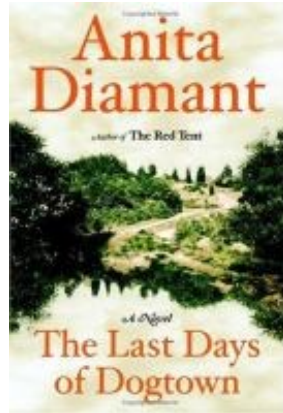
August

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship Worship is available online at www.qslc-ct.org , Youtube, and Facebook	3 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only	4 1:30 pm Book Club via Zoom	5 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only	6	7	8 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only
9 Worship is available online at www.qslc-ct.org , Youtube, and Facebook	10 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only	11	12 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only	13 7:30 – 9:00 pm The Color of Compromise Bible Study via Zoom	14	15 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only
16 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship Worship is available online at www.qslc-ct.org , Youtube, and Facebook	17 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only 7:30 pm Church Council Meeting	18	19 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only	20	21	22 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only
23 Worship is available online at www.qslc-ct.org , Youtube, and Facebook	24 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only	25	26 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only	27 7:30 – 9:00 pm The Color of Compromise Bible Study via Zoom	28	29 Shepherd's Flock Quilters by appointment only
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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, August 9, 2020

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

