

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, January 27, 2020

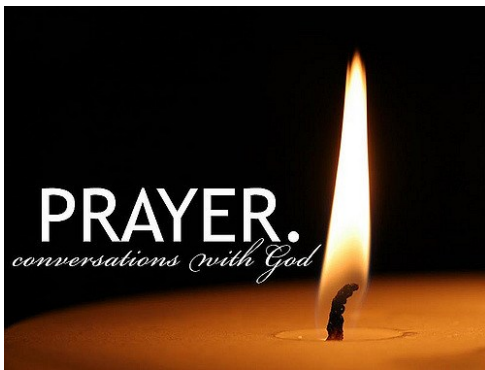
Walking Together or A Link in the Chain

As a Called and Ordained pastor of the ELCA I took vows at my ordination now almost 24 years ago. One vow stood out to me. Although its theological intent was clear. It was to inform the members of my congregation of Teaching Statements and acts of the national church and statements of the bishop in the synodical church. Lutherans, although they may think differently, are Not Congregationalists. In that denomination each congregation is an entity unto itself. All authority and polity is in the hands of each congregation. Hence - their name. Luther saw the evangelical catholic churches as part of the universal church not separate entities unto themselves. The word Synod means in Greek - "to walk together." Lutherans are part of the worldwide Lutheran World Federation, the national expression of the church The ELCA with its presiding bishop and a local synod with its bishop. A church wide Council and the Council of bishops are those given authority. So when our bishop - Jim Hazelwood sends out a statement, it is a duty of my Call as pastor to share that in the most timely way.

When the ELCA presiding bishop makes a Statement, again, it is my job to share that with all of you in the most timely way. Similarly I pass on news of our national church and our synodical church. It's my job. In the Model Constitution of the ELCA the President of each church council participates in this duty.

In this case, for now, Donna and I have performed our duty. Nina as Secretary sends the information out. Now some members may not like a statement much. They may even disagree with it. That's fine. But we will faithfully discharge the duties of our respective Office and Call and pass these things on to you who we deem are Lutherans by membership. All the congregations I have served tend to have a congregationalist attitude to varying degrees. Yet, we "walk together", a link in a very valuable chain. And in this I think we are healthier and more whole for our theology and our Lutheran polity. It's good to be a Lutheran !

LV
PD



A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Lauren, Ray, Tim, Joan, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Sarah, Miriam, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Tricia, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, Steve.

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.

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.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

 AUGSBURG FORTRESS



In the Nets of the Kingdom

Devotional for the week of January 24th, 2021

Jan, wandering seat to seat on the bus, was crossing state lines from Michigan to Wisconsin. Bruce had sent her the ticket. The two met at a church youth convention; now she was going to be his high school prom date. Here's how it happened: At the youth gathering, during each morning's worship, the two held the same green hymn book. During the afternoon Bible studies, sitting cross-legged in a circle on the floor, she read compellingly from her red leatherette Bible. For evening reflections, the prayers she pulled from her blue plastic packet of devotions swept the room. Bruce was bedazzled. That's why he bought the ticket. When Jan stepped off the bus, she shimmered, telling him how from seat to seat along Highway 2 she had saved souls, netting fourteen converts on a colorful missionary journey.

As delighted as Jan might have been, her proselytizing was not the kind of fishing for people Jesus was after when he passed along the Sea of Galilee, calling oily fishermen to "follow me." What shook Simon and Andrew, James and John, and countless women and men throughout the ages to—immediately, impulsively—give up their nets, quit mending, abandon boats, and leave families and homes?

Jesus' wild, sea-changing challenge demands courage. It dares us into a way of living, a manner of seeing, and a risk of not knowing but earnestly believing that when he asks us to step up, something more meaningful than all we have awaits us.

Jesus' "follow me" comes amid a lifetime of rigorous monotony, in which we are constantly casting nets to catch more of what never satisfies. Jesus' "follow me" is an epiphany. It is an invitation, not to "save souls," but to be gathered and to gather the weak and despairing, to minister to the ruined and abandoned, scared and starving, to show compassion to the mean and unloving, and to embrace the great, greedy, proud, and demanding; all of this awaits us in the nets of God's kingdom.

Devotional message and art based on the readings for January 24th, reprinted from sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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).

To join us for Worship online:

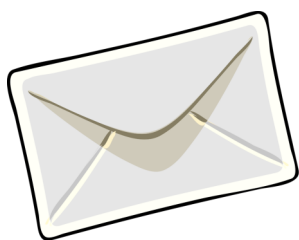
There are several options for you to join us for online worship:

- 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.

To join us for Worship in person: This Sunday, January 31st at 10:00 am. We will have Drive In Church, weather permitting (If it is a steady rain, the service is cancelled).

This is how it works:

- Pastor Doug will be on a platform at the rear (east edge) of the large, main parking area.
- Cars should park facing that direction (east – towards the wooded area) with taller vehicles closer to the main road. This will allow shorter vehicles visibility by parking in front of the taller ones.
- The radio frequency of the broadcast is **FM 94.9**. Please tune your car radio to that station to hear the worship service.
- You should stay in your vehicle and keep your windows closed.
- Bring your own bread (as you did for Outdoor Worship) for communion.
- You must wear a mask if you exit your vehicle.
- Other recommendations of social distancing apply when you are outside your vehicle.



**Financial Statements for 2020
and Offering Envelope Boxes for 2021**

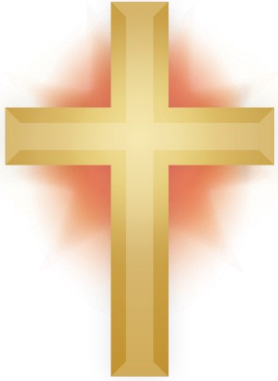
Year End Financial Statements and offering envelope boxes for the new year are available.

If you attend the Drive In Service, please stop in and pick yours up. If you would like to pick it up during the week, please make an appointment to stop by during office hours - Monday through Thursday, 9 am to noon. If those times are not convenient for you, just call the church office at 203-268-7596 or send an email so that other arrangements can be made.

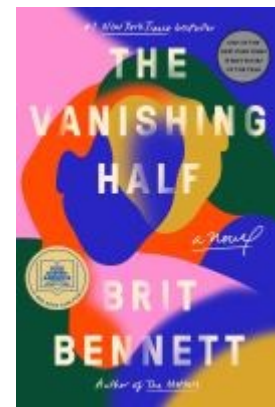
The statements will be mailed out next week if they are not picked up.



Upcoming Events



On **Sunday, January 31st** at the Drive In Worship Service, the Church Council and Officers of the Congregation will be installed for 2021. Our gracious thanks to Donna Duessel, Brian Immel, Tim Carlson, Roy Remlin, Thelma Cleland, Barbara Abraham, Trudi Black, Tricia Bobowick, Jeff Jackson, Karen Merrick, Renee Shoop and Riley Immel for their dedication and service to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



The Book Club is meeting on February 2nd at **1:00 p.m.** when we will discuss "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. In March, we will discuss "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett. We will either meet via Zoom or possibly indoors using the new handler system if the infection rates are low. We welcome new members!

Reaching Out, Serving Others:



Food for Summerfield

There is an ongoing need for nutritious food for the kids at Summerfield. Protein is especially needed. GSLC Council has challenged 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. If you wish to donate please write a check to GSLC with the notation "Food For Summerfield" or place cash in the Summerfield box.

News from

The Council of Churches
of Greater Bridgeport



Leveraging hope, changing lives.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
Presents

Winter Coat Drive

FROM JANUARY 11TH - FEBRUARY 15TH ONLY

We are accepting new and gently used winter coats youth and adult sizes small to extra-large.

DROP OFF LOCATION:

1718 CAPITOL AVE

BRIDGEPORT, CT

Drop off: Tuesday and Thursday ONLY between 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.

Please call: (203) 544-4015 once you arrive. All other calls regarding questions should be forwarded to Adilene Garcia at (203) 334-1121 extension: 13.

You must be wearing a mask over your mouth and nose at drop off

Coats dropped off on other days/times will not be accepted until the following drop off day between the times stated above.



Coats may also be dropped off at Good Shepherd and will be delivered to the Council of Churches. There will be a blue box at the front door of the church on Monday—Thursday mornings and Sunday during the Drive In service.

2020 Year End Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report - December 2020										
Contributions	December		YTD			Expenses	December		YTD	
	Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var		Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt
Pledged	37,524	24,605	204,819	189,990	14,829	Pastoral Ministries	7,623	7,890	91,902	94,684
Unpledged	1,710	2,460	10,820	18,999	(8,179)	Mortgage	1,130	1,130	13,554	13,554
Prior Year	0	0	10,805	0	10,805	Music & Worship	3,407	3,088	38,865	37,369
Loose Offerings	0	401	2,484	2,497	(14)	Benevolence	3,511	2,986	24,433	22,706
Church School	0	19	645	225	420	Property	1,239	1,954	6,251	9,850
Lent & Easter	0	0	960	1,937	(977)	Office	2,308	2,137	25,883	26,830
Other	0	413	5,115	3,108	2,007	Utilities	1,200	1,129	8,587	11,475
Thanksgiving	0	0	280	140	140	Christian Educ.	0	23	20	425
Advent/Christmas	345	1,964	405	2,164	(1,759)	Interim Pastor	0	0	0	0
						Evangelism	39	16	199	100
						Youth	0	0	0	0
						Stewardship	0	0	0	50
						Insurance	506	475	6,122	5,699
						Altar Guild	30	71	296	850
						Social Ministry	0	0	0	0
Total	\$39,579	\$29,862	\$236,333	\$219,060	\$17,273	Total	20,992	20,897	216,113	223,592
Variance	\$9,717		\$17,273			Variance	\$94		(\$7,479)	
	Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var		Dec'19	Dec '20	Var	
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$18,587	\$8,964	\$20,220	(\$4,532)	\$24,752	Cash/Investments*	62,447	63,289	\$842	
Future Seminarian Fund	19,254					Mortgage	94,159	68,616	(\$25,542)	
Capital Impr Fund	11,521					Pastoral Housing	29,115	-	(\$29,115)	
Bathroom/Sidewalk Repair	2,334					Equity Share	77,900	77,900	\$0	
Parking Lot Fund	29,616					PPP Loan	-	-	\$0	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	625									
Music Supplies	1,034									

* Excludes Memorial, Exchange, Intern, Pastoral Housing and Campership Funds

December Summary

Contributions were \$9,717 favorable to Budget as a \$15,000 one-time contribution was received in the month

Year-to-Date contributions are \$7,273 favorable to Budget (excluding the \$10,000 offering from 2019 received in 2020)

Expenses for the month were \$94 above budget

Year-to-Date expenses are \$7,479 favorable to budget due to favorable snow removal (\$1,900), oil expenses (\$2,000), custodial services (\$1,500),

pastor pension costs (\$1,000 - overbudgeted), bulletins/other M&W (\$1,500), pastor continuing education (\$1,500), electricity (\$800), altar guild (\$600)

and synod assembly (\$800) and unfavorable benevolence (\$1,700) and unbudgeted videographer expenses (\$2,900)

Year-to-Date Surplus is \$20,220 versus a Budget Deficit of \$4,532

\$21,100 Payroll Protection Plan Loan was Forgiven (recorded as non-operating grant)

Weekly Offering

As worship services are online and 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 Drive In 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 diligently on implementing online contributions and hopes to have it in place by next month.

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



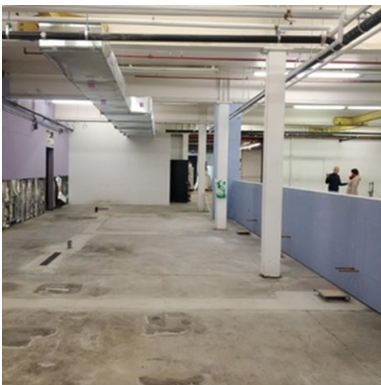
[Living Lutheran: Davey and Goliath](#)

For many children of the 1960s and 1970s, it was a familiar scene: Sunday-morning sunlight pouring in through the window as they sprawled on the living room floor. From the TV, a voice belted: “Oh, Da-a-a-vey.” The voice belonged to young Davey’s talking dog, Goliath, in the stop-motion animated series *Davey and Goliath* that premiered 60 years ago, in February 1961. Some audiences knew of its connection to the Lutheran church, but for millions of people around the world today, Lutheran or not, *Davey and Goliath*’s legacy continues. *Living Lutheran*’s feature story “An Animated Anniversary” lifts up what the iconic series did for the church and includes a timeline of milestones and quotes from Lutherans about what the series means to them. (“Congratulations, *Davey and Goliath*, on 60 years of not only entertaining children but showing love and grace and heart.”) [Read the full story here.](#)

News from The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport



Leveraging hope, changing lives.



The FEED Center is excited to announce that they will be moving into their new commercial kitchen the last week of January. The 3,700 sq ft space, located at 800 Union Avenue, will house an instructional kitchen for our CREATE classes, a production kitchen to make our food products, walk-in refrigeration and warehouse space for both the FEED Mobile Marketplace and our work combatting food insecurity, and a dedicated incubator kitchen for food entrepreneurs.

We look forward to the construction being complete and will be showcasing the space in a virtual tour. “I’m excited to see this day arrive, and grateful to everyone who has worked so hard to get us to this point. Our new commercial kitchen will allow FEED to meet the growing demand for its job skills training program and expand our ability to support new food businesses. We are eager to demonstrate how reclaimed food is the catalyst for economic prosperity, self-determination, and the health of those we serve, ” said Cass Shaw, President & CEO.

Congratulations

It's a boy!

Miriam Kursawe shares wonderful news on the birth of her new great-grandson, Nathan Thomas Kursawe on December 22, 2020. His proud parents are Amanda and Brian Kursawe. His delighted grandparents are Denise & Rick Chrismon and Brenda & John Kursawe.

It's a boy!

Nancy and Vic Johnson share very happy news. They have a new grandson Matteo Edward Nisianakis Jr. His proud parents are Michelle and Matteo Nisianakis.

Sunday, January 31 — Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Prayer of the Day: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111 (10)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28



They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.