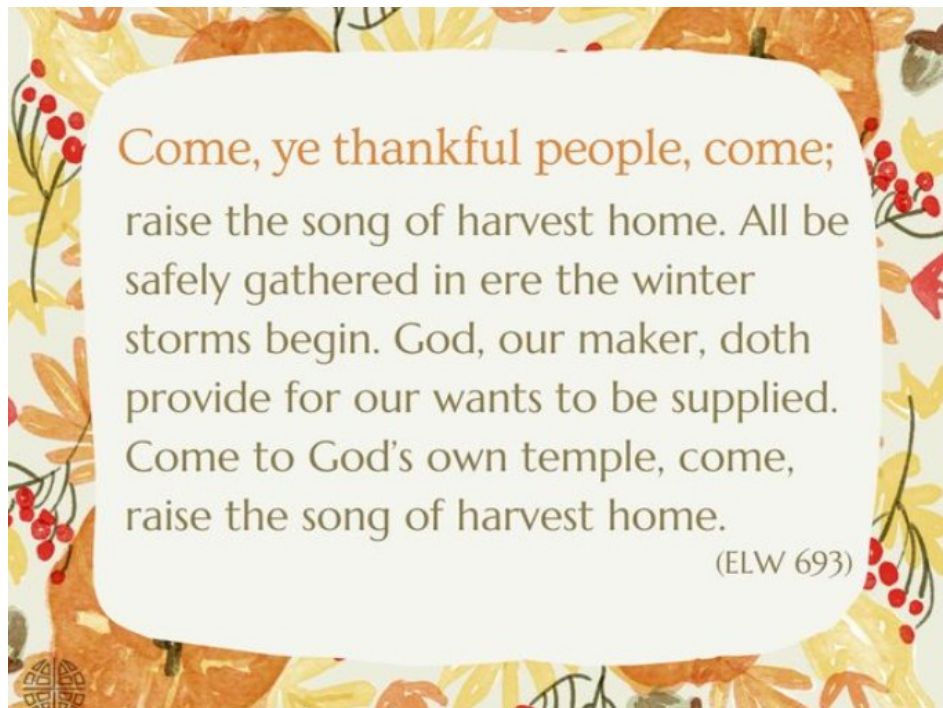




**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Our mission is to be more visible, to become more connected, and to draw closer, with Christ as our center.



* For the next Confirmation Class on November 14th, we will continue watching the biblical story of Moses in the movie, "The Prince of Egypt".

* Thursday, November 11th, will be the final session of our "Unraveled" Bible Study. Please join us for the conclusion at either 11am, or 7pm! Then, we will take a break for winter.

Advent is coming....

LV
PD

Worship Schedule -

November 14th: Our "Fall schedule" is in effect. This means we will have two Worship Services every Sunday until further notice. Feel free to choose from our 8am, or 10:30am service. Both services will be held INDOORS. Please bring a mask regardless of your vaccination status, as they will be required for all. Hymnals are now available for use again. Please note that if you are uncomfortable using the hymnals, there will be a limited number of freshly copied "Hymn Packets" available upon request at each service.

Please continue to read Friday's weekly "Worship E-mail", or check our Facebook Page for any updates / changes.

Please keep our committee in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to provide guidance to the best of our abilities. We are delighted that our congregation has remained healthy through this crisis and look forward to the day when these considerations are no longer necessary.

Yours in Christ,

The Worship and Music Committee
Susan Chin, Chair



If you prefer to join us for prerecorded online worship instead, you can:

1) Go to the Good Shepherd website www.gslc-ct.org. Under "News & Events", click on youtube 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 it 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. From there, select the worship video you would like to see. Subscribe to our channel to make it even easier.

Whichever worship choice works best for you, we are delighted to have you worship with us!

A Community Of Prayer -

For those in need of healing and comfort:



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Miriam, Paula, Sarah, Misty, Jim, Darcy, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, the Wilk family, Linda, Todd, Noreen and family, Maureen, Lynn, Barbara, Scott, Johanna, Glen, Durbin, Marie.

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.

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, or give us a call at 203-268-7596. If you would like a prayer card sent to your loved one, friend or neighbor, please include the full name and address. 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. You can reach him by text, or phone at: 860-595-9560. His email is: dearynos@gmail.com



Sunday School and Confirmation Classes will meet from 9:15am - 10am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The next classes will be held on November 14th and November 28th.

Choir - will meet each Sunday at 9:55am to practice before the 10:30am service. Come sing with them!



Shepherd's Flock Quilters - generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. * No quilting on 11/13/21, as the blood drive will be utilizing Gibiser Hall.

"Unraveled" Bible Study - This Thursday, 11/11/21, will be our last Unraveled study. Join us for the conclusion at either 11am, or 7pm.

Blood Drive - 11/13/21 in Gibiser Hall from 7:45am - 1pm.

Book Club - will meet again on 12/7/21 at 2pm to discuss "The Storyteller's Secret" by Sejal Badani. "Whereabouts", by Jhumpa Lahiri is our selection for January.



* BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE -

On Saturday, November 13th, Gibiser Hall will be the site for a Red Cross Blood Drive.

Thank you to all that made appointments to donate, or helped spread the word. Our blood drive appointments at Good Shepherd are all booked up and you are all truly lifesavers!

Also, a huge thank you to Donna D. and Bob M. for offering to open, close and ready the building for the Red Cross!



*** THANKSGIVING MEALS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -**

Volunteers are once again needed to help pack Thanksgiving meals for the less fortunate. This will take place at the Salvation Army in Bridgeport on Saturday morning, Nov. 20th from 10am -12pm. The location is 30 Elm Street. Please contact Larry Black at: 203-257-0375 if you can help, or if you have questions.

We always have an enjoyable time!

*** HOLIDAY KIDS' PAJAMA DRIVE -**

Once again, Good Shepherd has teamed up with the Town of Monroe to help provide warm pajamas to local children in need. If you'd like to donate, please feel free to grab a gift tag from the wooden table in the narthex. If you don't feel comfortable coming into Church, call the office and Stephanie will set one aside for you and give you the details.



Please follow the instructions on your tag, wrap the gift and return it to Church by 11/28/21. (the social worker would like to pick up our batch here prior to the deadline.)

* Please note that this is a pajama drive, but you may include a gift card, book, or other small item with your pajama set. Thank you!

OUR PARTNER MINISTRY - THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION



I'm Karen Jackson and as our congregational spokesperson for what has become our partner ministry to The Good Shepherd Foundation in Haiti, I'm here to thank you all for your continuing and amazingly generous support for this vital health ministry in this, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the world's poorest. As most of you know, for the past 5 or more years, as part of our 6 week Lenten journey, we have focused on raising money to support the Foundation's efforts to provide basic health care clinics and clean drinking water to the people in the remote Gran Saline area of Haiti. The challenges these people face are monumental, only made worse by recent events; yet another devastating earthquake followed by the assassination of their president leading to increased chaos and the rise of violent gang activity. As you have no doubt heard in the news, conditions in Haiti have become ever more dire. Due to the dangerous situation there, most non-profit aid organizations have left the country.

However, there is positive news to report: despite these seemingly insurmountable obstacles, The Good Shepherd Foundation continues to serve the desperate needs of their community. Due to the very remote location of the clinic and the very dedicated Haitian doctor and nurses who serve it, the clinic has still been able to serve an average of 180 people every 3 weeks!

Gang violence in the countryside has become an increasing threat to both staff and patients. It's a no win situation. If the staff does not make the dangerous trip to the clinic, their patients don't get life-saving treatment and medications and they also lose essential income. Patients and staff risk a lot in leaving the relative safety of their homes but the potential loss of critical medical care and/or income keep both staff and patients coming. God continues to bless this ministry through a small but very dedicated staff and support from people like us thousands of miles away.

So, an update to what is happening in the community...

In addition to providing previously unavailable medical care to the area, The Good Shepherd Foundation realized that unsanitary drinking water in that region was a major factor in prevalent chronic diseases. The focus of their mission expanded to repairing old non-functioning wells, creating new, more easily maintained wells and building sanitary community latrines. Our generous Good Shepherd flock has been a primary provider for these initiatives. In the last 2 years alone, we have raised over \$15,000 which has not only paid for the ever increasing cost of patient care, (primarily due to transportation issues getting medicines) medical equipment, new wells and a latrine, but also other things not before thought possible. Foundation director Linda McGurn attributes one of their most recent "miraculous additions" to our congregation: thanks to our donations, they now have solar powered electricity and running water, unheard of in that area! They now have the ability to keep medications like insulin which require refrigeration in a small refrigerator at the clinic and also have the luxury of a small x-Ray machine. Truly a miracle!

In addition to our ongoing clinic support, earlier this year members of our congregation generously responded to the clinic staff's urgent request for funding to enable them to make the dangerous journey to the area affected by the earthquake and provide medical care to the desperate victims. All they needed was money for gas and supplies, their time was volunteered. We were able to collect over \$2000 in donations, making it possible for more than 2,000 earthquake victims to be treated and cared for over 6 days. Your generosity is a God-given gift of healing to a hurting people! Thank you!

The local medical team of The Good Shepherd Foundation truly have a love of their fellow country folk and feel called by God to serve them as best they can, sometimes at great risk to themselves. Our ability here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Monroe, Connecticut to help make that possible is truly a blessing and also a calling. Thank you all for your continued prayers and generous giving, lives are being saved because of you!





COVENANT TO CARE THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATIONS

If you are donating this year, please make sure your tote bags are in the narthex on Sunday, November 21st for pickup the following week.

Please include a Stop and Shop gift card, but nothing that will be perishable.

Thank you!

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 out to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church" with the notation, "Food For Summerfield".

Shepherd's Pantry

The Monroe Food Pantry provides emergency food assistance for over 100 needy individuals and families in Monroe each month. The Social Ministry and Community Outreach Committee invite you to contribute items to the Shepherd's Pantry located in the narthex. You may drop them off during office hours, or on Sunday mornings. The items are delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry once a month.



ITEMS NEEDED AT THE MONROE FOOD PANTRY

At the Monroe Food Pantry, we strive to consistently provide healthy food options for our clients. We accept and appreciate all donations, and encourage **low sodium, low sugar, low saturated fat, vegetarian**, and **whole wheat** selections when possible. This helps our clients manage and prevent chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease.

- bread crumbs
- instant potatoes
- egg noodles
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- macaroni & cheese
- healthy snack items
- hot and cold cereal
- tuna
- canned chicken
- brown/white rice
- pancake mix & syrup
- peanut butter
- jams and jellies
- canned soup
- canned pasta
- salad dressing
- condiments
- baked beans
- refried beans
- broths and stocks
- canned fruit
- canned chili
- canned tomatoes
- canned beans & vegetables
- Ensure
- juice
- hot chocolate
- baking supplies: sugar, flour, brownie and cake mix
- decaf and regular: ground coffee, instant coffee
- decaf and regular: black tea, green tea
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr products, Ramen
- household cleaning supplies
- personal hygiene products
- feminine hygiene products
- frozen vegetables, and fresh produce
- pet food





2021 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

DONATE ►



You help provide 3,078 meals each day at the Mission.
**As we prepare for Thanksgiving, your help
is critical...**



It's been another challenging year for so many of our neighbors. That's why we want to make this Thanksgiving extra special for the men, women, and children who will turn here for a meal... and why your gift today makes such a difference!

Please give today to bless hungry and homeless neighbors with a nourishing meal this Thanksgiving season – **just \$2.50 each.**

\$50 = 20 meals & hope
\$100 = 40 meals & hope
\$150 = 60 meals & hope

BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION

Phone: 203-333-4087

Fax: 203-331-8984

E-mail: Info@BridgeportRescueMission.org

Mailing Address:

[Bridgeport Rescue Mission](#)
PO Box 9057
Bridgeport, CT 06601-9057



FINANCIAL NEWS -

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL -

All members will be receiving a 2022 Stewardship Appeal and Pledge Form in the mail soon. Please be on the lookout for your packet. The Church hopes to receive Pledge Forms back by Commitment Sunday on November 21st. If needed, there are extra Pledge Forms on the wood table in the narthex. Thank you in advance for helping our mission and ministries thrive!



VANCO - ELCA PREFERRED ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM -

Please feel free to try our online giving platform, Vanco. Vanco is an ELCA preferred vendor, that gives you the option of using their free mobile app to make donating to Good Shepherd easy and contactless. Simply download the Vanco Mobile App, select "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Monroe" and follow the prompts to donate.

If you are hesitant to download the app, just go to our website, www.gslc-ct.org, scroll down to the Vanco link, click and donate.

The traditional ways of giving, like bringing, or mailing envelopes to Church still stand. Vanco is just another way to make giving easy. If you do choose to use Vanco for online giving, please know that the Church will incur a fee per transaction. However, you can offset this cost by selecting the "cover processing fees" option at checkout.

If you are interested, but have questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie in the office!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS -

There are still some Financial Statements in the narthex that have not been picked up. If you can't get to the Church to pick yours up, call Stephanie in the office and she will gladly mail it to you.

*** Our offerings are down significantly. If you are able to donate, any amount would be very helpful and much appreciated!**

Sunday, November 14, 2021 Twenty - fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm: 16 (9)

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8



Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.[And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds', he also adds, 'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.' Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

A Call to Persevere

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.