

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, June 23, 2021

We share the 'NO!' of Jesus when we reject:

- Religion which 'proves' itself by miracles, answered prayer, worldly goods or dogma.
- Religion which validates itself by worldly standards of success, money and effectiveness
- Religion which promises certitude, life without struggle, risk or doubt
- Religion which asks us only to believe creeds and doctrines
- Religion which is only for our comfort
- Religion which offers 'the joy of Jesus' without giving, serving, growing, being transformed and without celebrating worship with the community of believers
- Religion which avoids the biblical themes of sharing food and comfort with the poor and oppressed
- Religion which remains silent in the face of wrong doing
- Religion which teaches 'going to heaven when I die' as the main reason to believe in God
- Religion which provides divine approval for the assumption of a particular nation, economic system, or race
- Religion which avoids teaching the cross as the way of life we are to follow.

Hopefully - some thought to ponder this week.

LV,
PD



Welcome, Stephanie!

Stephanie Klein became Office Administrator (part-time) as of June 21. She and her family live in Monroe and she has been a police officer, dispatch office and Officer Friendly for the Westport Public Schools. She left work so that she could be home with the children and was very involved as a volunteer at her children's school and in Monroe Travel Basketball.

You will find Stephanie friendly and easy to talk to. She will be training with Nina to learn how to perform the tasks of the position. During her first week of work, we would like to slowly introduce her to the people she is most likely to interact with and then for everyone to get to know her.

We invite you to prepare a paragraph and send it with a picture of yourself to the email address office@glsc-ct.org so that she can put that in a folder as she works to get to know each of us. If you don't or prefer not to use the computer, you may choose to mail a note to Stephanie at the church address letting her know who you are, what you are involved in at GSLC, anything you want her to know about you and include a picture if you wish.

None of us feel capable to describe what Nina has meant to us in the way she has done her job and just for who she is. The really great thing is that Nina and Ken are not going away – they will be here. They will also be free to take part in whatever they want to at Good Shepherd or other groups, to travel, to relax and to enjoy their retirement. We appreciate Nina's willingness to stay on in the position as she shares her expertise with Stephanie in the transition.

Welcome to Stephanie and thanks for so much, Nina!



An update from the Worship and Music Committee:

The Worship and Music Committee continues to monitor Covid-19 conditions and regulations. We are committed to providing a safe and comfortable environment for as many people as possible. To achieve this, we will by necessity be taking a conservative approach as we begin to return to what we once considered normal. While we all long for worship as it used to be, we must remain vigilant for the good of all.

We continue to consider the advice of those in governance, especially at the state level; of those in the scientific community, especially the CDC; and of our partners in the ELCA; local congregations and Bishop Hazelwood. We strive to make our recommendations based on the best and most current information available to us.

In our meeting on June 2, we decided that our summer schedule will once again consist of a single service every Sunday at 9:30, beginning on 6/20. In order to accommodate those who prefer indoor worship and those who prefer outdoor worship, we will be alternating between venues. Please see the schedule below. In the event of inclement weather, including heavy rain or extreme heat, we will worship indoors. Check the Facebook group and watch for email for any changes.

For indoor worship, we will continue to require everyone in attendance to wear a face covering. Even though the state mandate has been lifted, we want to encourage everyone to feel safe in our worship space. As vaccination rates increase and infection rates decline, we will reconsider this policy. We do not make this recommendation lightly, but feel it is still in our collective best interest to maintain the practice for now. Masked individuals may sing softly, and we will begin providing single use worship sheets that include the words to the hymns. Please be reminded that we have a new air handler helping to keep the space well ventilated.

Outdoor worship will continue to be mask-optional with singing allowed. Single-use worship sheets will be provided.

Online Worship will continue. We will continue to tape and post the video online for you to watch at your convenience.

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.

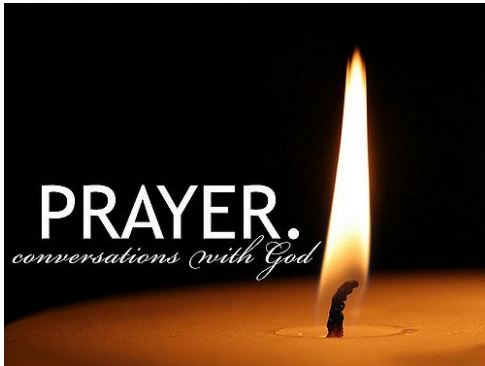
Whichever worship choice works best for you, we are delighted to have you worship with us!

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

Summer Worship schedule for in person worship: (subject to change)

June 27: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
July 4: 9:30 Worship INdoors
July 11: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
July 18: 9:30 Worship INdoors
July 25: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
Aug 1: 9:30 Worship INdoors
Aug 8: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
Aug 15: 9:30 Worship INdoors
Aug 22: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
Aug 29: 9:30 Worship INdoors
Sept 5: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors



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.

A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

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

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

Do you wonder how to put a loved one, friend, neighbor, or yourself on the prayer list?

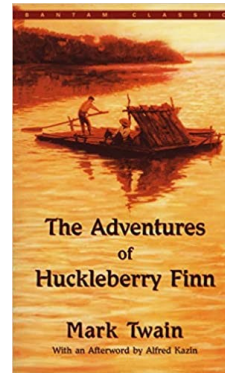
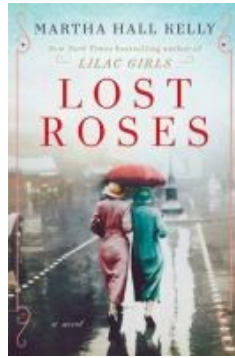
Simply email the church office at office@gsllc-ct.org. If you would like a prayer card sent to your loved one, friend or neighbor, please include the full name and address. Prayer requests may also be made by phone (203-268-7596) and will be included by the church office.

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



The Good Shepherd Book Club is meeting on **July 6th at 2:00 p.m.** when we will discuss "The Lost Roses" by Martha Hall Kelly. In August we will read "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain. We will meet outdoors weather permitting or indoors if it's preferable. We welcome new members!



Here's a win/win opportunity:

Help defray the costs of fabric, batting and shipping, while taking a chance to win a quilt of your choice. Good Shepherd's quilting ministry, led by our capable and talented Ellie Noll, has for many years been sending quilts worldwide for warmth and comfort to those in need through Lutheran World Relief. The quilts, made throughout the year by many helpful and willing hands, will be blessed at the church in July. The winner of the raffle will be drawn at that time and will have the pleasure of having "the pick of the litter". Please see Eileen Holteran to purchase your tickets @ \$2 for 1 or \$5 for 3 or \$10 for 7. They will also be available at the in person worship services.

Blessing of Quilts will be on **Sunday, July 11th** at the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Quilts for High School Seniors - The Shepherd's Flock Quilters have decided to honor our high school graduates with quilts to remind them that they are always surrounded by God's love. We are going to bless the quilts on Sunday, July 11th. We would love for the high school seniors to come to church between 9 & 9:15 a.m. to pick out a quilt from our stash that we will present to them during the 9:30 church service.

Lutheran World Relief Quilt Ingathering

Good Shepherd is the site of the next Quilt Ingathering in Connecticut. We will be the drop off location for quilts July 13th to July 17th and the following week they will be picked up and on their way to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland and then on to people in need here in the United States and worldwide.

We have lots of quilts that have been completed and are ready to be boxed up! Our sincere appreciation and admiration to the Shepherd's Flock Quilters for their faithful dedication to helping those in need!

If you have time during the week of July 13th to 17th and can be at church to let in the drop off groups, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have questions, Barbara Abraham is our LWR Liaison and is happy to help.

Reaching Out, Serving Others:

Shepherd's Pantry



The need is great!

The Monroe Food Pantry provides emergency food assistance for needy individuals and families in Monroe. Their clients receive one week's worth of food per month and they serve more than 100 households per month.

The Social Ministry and Community Outreach Committee invites you to contribute items to the Shepherd's Pantry located in the narthex. You may drop them off on Sunday mornings. The items are delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry once a month.

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.

WALK THE WALK 2021

REGISTER HERE



Camp Calumet is hoping you can help by registering for "Walk the Walk 2021" which starts July 1st and ends on August 31st. The goal: 1,500 registrants, trekking 200,000 miles over 62 days to raise \$106,250 or more for Calumet. Registration for "Walk the Walk 2021" goes from May 20 to June 30. Each registrant receives an official "Walk the Walk 2021" T shirt. It's easy to participate from wherever you are. To learn more, visit www.calumet.org/giving/walkthewalk

Two quilts, a microwave, a laundry basket of clothes and housewares and \$140 were delivered to Jesmar at Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport for Eric and Carmen. Thank you for your generosity!



*Leveraging hope,
changing lives.*



Sunday, June 27 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Psalm 130

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43



2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.”

So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.