

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, April 28, 2021



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Worship

As the number of vaccinated people continues to rise and the rate of infection continues to fall, we are happy to have three options for you to worship with us:

To join us for Indoor Worship at 8:30 am: We are no longer requiring sign-ups. Our numbers have been small. Masks are required as is physical distancing. Inside, we cannot sing, but Vic sings the hymns so that it is a more meaningful experience of music. We now have a plastic protector on the altar, adding to our safe practices. Pastor Doug distributes Communion carefully but if you prefer to bring your own bread for you or your group that is fine as well. You certainly may greet and chat with others but please do so **once outside** the building.

To join us for Outdoor Worship at 10:00 am: The Service will be in the backyard of the church, chairs physically distanced. While masked outside we can now sing the hymns. Bring a chair, sunglasses, and wear layers. If you prefer you may bring your own bread for consecration but Pastor Doug will distribute communion to those who would like that. In the event of rain or storm, we will hold the 10:00 AM Service **inside** the church.

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.

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



Abundant Care

Devotional for the week of April 25th, 2021

One of the things that drew people to Jesus was that he was a master communicator. Drawing from examples of daily life, like shepherding, fishing, and growing grapes, he helped people see the connections between their story and God's story. He drew from very ordinary and familiar elements like bread, water, and light to describe how God is at work in our lives and the world.

If Jesus were using imagery from our world today, it's interesting to ponder what illustrations he might use to remind us of God's presence and grace. However, even though much has changed from the ancient world, the "I am" sayings of Jesus, like those found in today's gospel, are still amazingly relevant and tell us a great deal about how God moves among us.

When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), and describes how this shepherd cares for his sheep, he is naming God's abundant care for each and every one of us. Perhaps you don't always feel the immediacy of God's care. There are moments in each of our lives when our outlook is bleak, when God's provision doesn't seem obvious, and when we wonder where God is in the midst of a trying situation.

But as the good shepherd, Jesus does not wait for us to be able to name our needs and pain before he comes to heal it. Jesus knows each one of his sheep in all their particular uniqueness: "I know my own" (John 10:14). God the good shepherd anticipates our needs and gives generously so we may have life in Jesus' name. This is a promise we can depend on yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Devotional message and art based on the readings for April 25th, reprinted from [sundaysandseasons.com](https://www.sundaysandseasons.com).

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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.

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

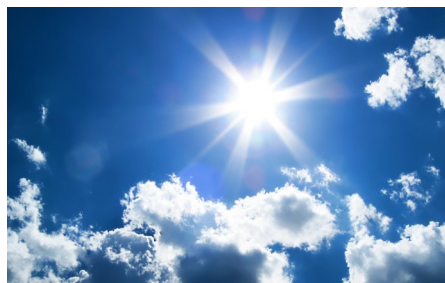
Do you wonder how to put a loved one, friend, neighbor, or yourself on the prayer list?

Simply email the church office at office@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).

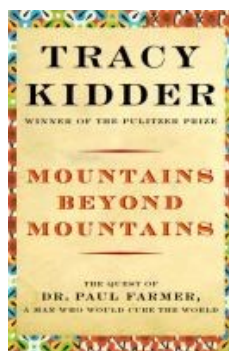


Adult Learning Forum

"Catching Up" catching up on very new and sometimes very ancient developments in Christian wisdom and understanding. The brain gets renewal by encountering novelty. The body and spirit are renewed by being physically together and sitting outside in the sunshine!

11 a.m. on Tuesdays - May 4, 11, 18, 25 you can come to any one or all. Wear layers.
Led by: Pastor Doug

Upcoming Events



The Good Shepherd Book Club is meeting on **May 4th** at **1:00 p.m.** when we will discuss "Mountains beyond Mountains" by Tracy Kidder. In June we will discuss "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich. We will outdoors weather permitting or indoors if needed. We welcome new members!

News from the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport

*Leveraging hope,
changing lives.*



Register for our Spring Fling Virtual Event "Be Our Guest"!

This virtual event will be held on **TUESDAY, MAY 25th at 7:00 PM!!!**

Until COVID is well behind us, we continue to put safety first, and our Spring Fling will be via zoom, with a virtual auction, where people will bid on ways to support our work. (You can also donate at any time on our [DONATE](#) page and select VIRTUAL SPRING FLING!)

It's Free to Register Here!

Janus Center Partners with Boys and Girls Club!



The Janus Center is happy to announce that we'll be partnering with the Boys & Girls Club in Bridgeport this summer starting June 21st - August 20th for the second year in a row. From our work last year, we are taking our collaboration a step further and we will be working predominately with sixth graders as well as the middle school cohort for 6 weeks. We are looking forward in discussing school readiness, mental health, overall health and wellness, personal safety, and family dynamics all in a group setting. We hope to partner with community partners to bring forth life skills, problem solving techniques, and inspire our youth with professional speakers from various professions.

If you are willing to come and speak about your professional role to the youth, please contact AdileneGarcia@ccgb.org for more information!

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.

The Food Pantry is looking for following items to fill out their inventory:

- canned fruit - apple sauce, mandarin oranges, peaches, pears, pineapple
- canned vegetables (regular AND low sodium) - beets, creamed corn, French cut green beans, olives, potatoes, spinach, Sauerkraut, sweet potatoes
- canned beans (regular AND low sodium) - cannellini, pinto
- baked beans - regular, pork, vegetarian, chili with beans, vegetarian chili, refried beans, vegetarian refried beans
- broth/stock (regular and low sodium) - chicken, beef, vegetable
- canned tomatoes (regular and low sodium) - diced, crushed, whole, puree/sauce, paste
- jarred pasta sauce
- whole wheat egg noodles
- Ramen - beef, shrimp
- baking supplies - bread crumbs, brownie mix, cake mix, flour, sugar
- packaged foods - Hamburger Helper, instant potatoes, Knorr pasta/rice sides, Pastaroni, Ricearoni
- salad dressing - balsamic, ranch, Thousand Island, Italian, blue cheese
- condiments - cooking oil, ketchup, mayo, yellow/brown mustard, pancake syrup, taco/hot sauce
- crunchy peanut butter
- beverages - black tea (regular and decaf), ground coffee (regular and decaf), hot chocolate, low sodium V8, Ensure, shelf stable milk
- paper towels
- personal hygiene products - deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, menstrual pads, bar soap, facial wash, razors, handsoap
- household cleaning items

Thank you for your support!



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.

Sunday, May 2 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the Day: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Gospel: John 15:1-8



1 JOHN 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

JOHN 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.