

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, November 25, 2020



For such a time as this

So once again it is the Advent/Christmas time. Advent the season of dreams, the looking within, hope and longing and Christmas the glad news that God is with us and the celebration of the coming of the Child. This year it will probably be quite different for us. Big family and friend gatherings will not be held. Our Worship will continue to be very different. Some of the shine of the Holy Season may be rubbed off. A good thing to remember: for two thousand years it has always been Advent/Christmas in a difficult time somewhere and for someone. Christians have kept the Season during plague and famine, war and immigration, places of violence and oppression. Some of our carols and hymns were written in such a time as this. If the faith core of Christmas is truly the center then it must be most true in difficult and challenging times. Or it is no truth, it is just a shiny bauble that we manufacture. Christ came and comes and will come for just such a time as this. We can open our Christmas gifts early: faith, hope and love are the gifts you are receiving. God gives who God is. Perhaps great meaning - a faithful meaning of the season is for just such a time as this.

LV,

PD

To join us for Worship online:

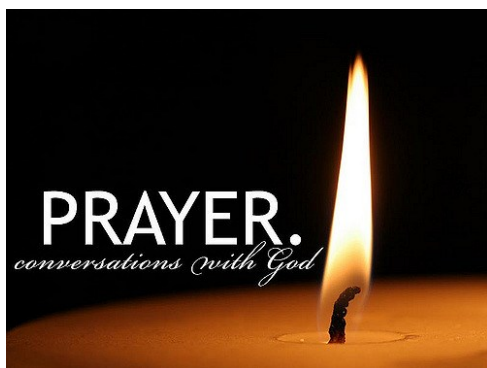
There are several options for you to join us for online worship:

- 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, November 29th 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.



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: Lauren, Ray, Tim, Joan, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Sarah, Miriam, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Tricia, Cate, Cecilio.

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).

Advent Lighting



We will meet together via ZOOM at 5:00 pm on Sunday afternoons to light our Advent wreaths beginning on **Sunday, November 29th**. The weekly wreath lighting meetings will be about 10–15 minutes.

Here is the Zoom invite and password.

Topic: Good Shepherd Advent

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84654520497?pwd=YVdkcEZRWdwU1hXRHILZEg3enA0QT09>

Meeting ID: 846 5452 0497

Passcode: GSLAdvent

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84654520497#,,,,,0#,,476037716# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,84654520497#,,,,,0#,,476037716# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 846 5452 0497

Passcode: 476037716

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd3PY1Desa>

Here is the service we will follow for the first Advent Wreath Lighting. It is adapted from a Celtic Advent Liturgy from the Faith and Worship website:

Advent 1 - The Creative Breath

Responses are in **bold print**

(A few moments of silence)

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.'

'... And the Spirit (*the breath*) of God was hovering over the waters.'

(John 1:1-3, Genesis 1:2)

Lord of the morning

of dawn chorus

rising sun

mist on water

Lord of the noontime

of chattering voices

laughter and fun

sparkling water

everyone

Lord of the evening

of quiet breeze
setting sun
gentle waters
day that's done

O Lord, our Lord

How majestic is your name in all the earth

You have set your glory above the heavens

And from the lips of children ordained praise

O Lord, our Lord

How majestic is your name in all the earth

Light the first candle

Let us pray:

Creative God, breath of all life

Through whom all things

are created and sustained;

all sons and daughters

flocks and herds,

all birds of the air

and fish of the sea

You walked this earth

as child and Creator

You touched the soil

quenched your thirst

embraced this world

brought life and light

love and laughter

into dark and death-filled lives

Creative God, breath of all life

Through whom all things

are created and sustained

We bring to you our sacrifice

of a contrite and willing heart

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,

Who orders all things mightily;

To us the path of knowledge show,

And teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come again and with us ever dwell

'Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he answers him from his holy heaven with the saving power of his right hand.

'Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

'They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.'

(Psalm 20:6-8)

(**A moment of silence** - During the silence, you may like to read and reflect on the words that have been read, gaze at the candle - or simply enjoy the peace and calm)

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts
That the God who breathed this world into being
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing
Is the God who entrusted his life
to the care of ordinary people
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the power of Love

A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore

Scripture reading

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The Holy Gospel according to Mark

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cock-crow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

(Intercessions - A circle prayer.

Imagine throwing a pebble into the center of a pond, and the circles of ripples that move out from the center.)

Let us pray.

We pray firstly for those closest to us, our immediate family and closest friends - for their health, needs, joys and fears.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

We pray for our extended family and friends who we might not see each week - for their love and concern, for their wellbeing.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

As the ripples reach out toward the land we pray for those who we only have contact with annually or less - for a blessing this Advent-time

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

And as the ripples reach their furthest point we pray for this world and its people - for the needs of this week and the future.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Who speaks to us through thunder and whisper

Who loves us as if there were but one of us to love

Hear the prayers of our hearts

Lord, thou hast given us thy Word for a light to shine upon our path;

grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching,

that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Jerome, c 342 - 420)

Amen.

Go in peace, serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.





Upcoming Events



The Book Club is meeting on December 1st at **1:00 p.m.** we will discuss "The Secrets We Kept" by Lara Prescott. We will either meet indoors if the infection rates are low and the new air handler system is installed or via Zoom or outdoors if the weather permits. We welcome new members!



Sunday, December 13 - Annual Congregational Meeting - details on attending will be forthcoming.

thank you!

2020 - Monroe Food Pantry Gardens needed more than ever.

The corona virus has affected all of us, but some more than others. Monroe residents who lost loved ones, lost their jobs, or contracted the virus needed help more than ever. The Monroe Food Pantry was there to provide that help in the way of food. Again this year, the gardens at the food pantry grounds and at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church provided hundreds of pounds of fresh chemical free vegetables. Firewood is also provided for those who need it.

Our thanks to those who helped tend the gardens: Rob, Sue and Pete.

We also thank those who donated supplies: Bruce, Shari, and Staff at Benedict Agway Home & Garden; Pat and Donna O'Hara at O'Hara's Nursery; and my neighbors Kate, Darrin and little Gia.

May God bless them and all who are affected by this terrible virus.

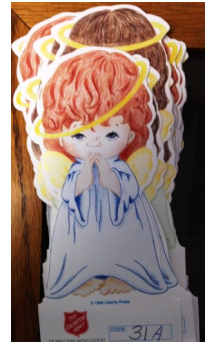
Dave Wang

Reaching Out, Serving Others:



Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts are due back tagged but not wrapped by **Sunday December 6**. Please put them in the narthex. I will arrange for pickup that week. It is nice to include wrapping paper for the gift but not necessary.

Trudi Black



Covenant to Care Christmas Gifts

For Christmas, we have a plastic bin out in front of the church in which you are invited to deposit unwrapped toys that will then be distributed according to need. Deadline for gifts is **December 13**.

The bin will be available Monday through Thursday from 9 am to noon, Saturday from 10 am to noon, and Sunday morning during worship. Here are some suggested items:

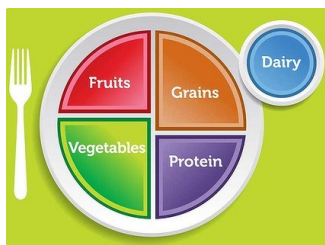
- Books (fiction and non-fiction)
- Card games
- Board games and electronic games
- Puzzles
- Journal sets
- Art, jewelry, nail, and craft kits
- Science kits
- Building sets and Legos
- Kid/family DVDs
- Ear headphones/headsets
- Remote control cars
- Action figures and Transformers
- Bath products/toys
- Barbie dolls/baby dolls (no stuffed animals)
- Gift cards



Thank you for your generosity in continuing these outreach efforts, especially under the current circumstances. Blessings for a happy and healthy holiday season to all!

Jane Fieberts

Food for Summerfield



Pastor Gaston has made us aware of a critical need for nutritious food for the kids at Summerfield. Protein is especially needed. GSLC Council has decided to challenge 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.

Prayer of the Day: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection waken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings for Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.



Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."