

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.

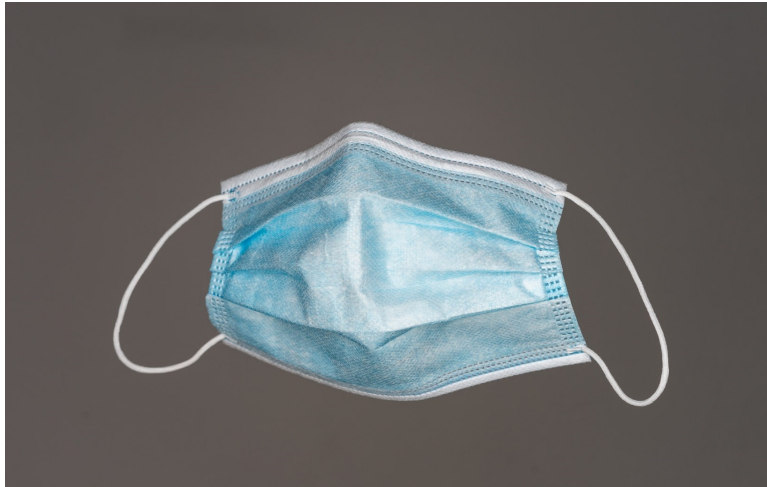


Wednesday, September 1, 2021



**HAVE A HAPPY, SAFE AND BLESSED
LABOR DAY WEEKEND!**

An update from the Worship and Music Committee:



***FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL...PLEASE BRING A MASK IN CASE IT RAINS AND/OR WE HAVE INDOOR WORSHIP.**

Due to the current circumstances, we must now revert back to wearing masks indoors during worship. Good Shepherd appreciates your patience and understanding during these challenging times!

There are several options for you to join us for prerecorded 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

Worship Schedule for in person worship: (subject to change)

September 5th: 9:30am Worship OUTdoors

September 12th: Our "Fall schedule" will begin and shall stay the same until Christmas. This means we will have two Worship Services on Sundays. There will be an **8am service** and another one at **10:30am**. Details on indoor / outdoor will follow at a later date.



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, 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 and Durbin.

Military (on active duty), Fire fighters, and Police: Ryan, Teddy, Tyler, Ben, Kenny, Brian, Bill, Ken, John, Glen, and Vic.

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.

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@gsic-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).

Financial News -



VANCO - ELCA PREFERRED ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM –

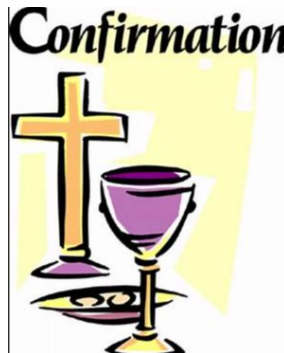
Please feel free to try our online giving platform, Vanco. Vanco is an ELCA preferred vendor, that gives you the option of using their free mobile app to make donating to Good Shepherd easy and contactless. Simply download the Vanco Mobile App, select "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Monroe" and follow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

Upcoming Events -



September 12th - Please note that we will start Confirmation classes (7th & 8th Graders) and Sunday school on this date. The classes will be held between services, 9:15am-10am, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month.

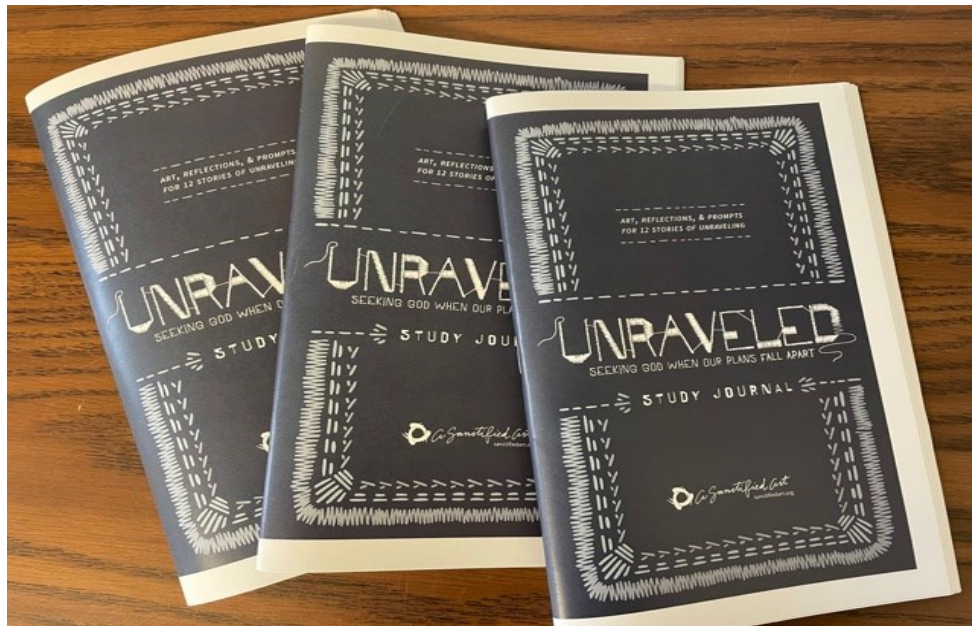
For those being Confirmed, some important dates are:

October 3rd – Mini Retreat from 4-6pm. Pizza will be provided.

October 10th – Confirmation will be celebrated. We will gather for 10:30am Worship and hope to be outdoors.

If you have not done so already, please contact Pastor Doug by text, or phone at 860-595-9560 to confirm attendance at the Retreat and Confirmation.

A new Bible Study, “Unraveled”, will be starting in September. Stay tuned for more details.

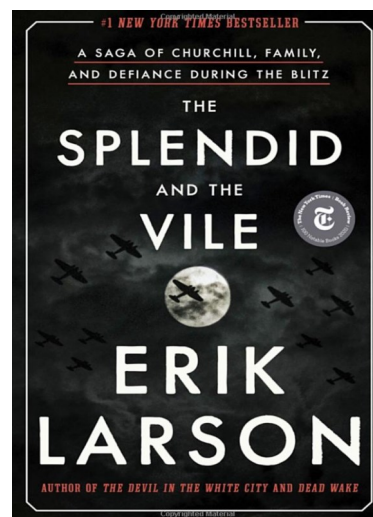
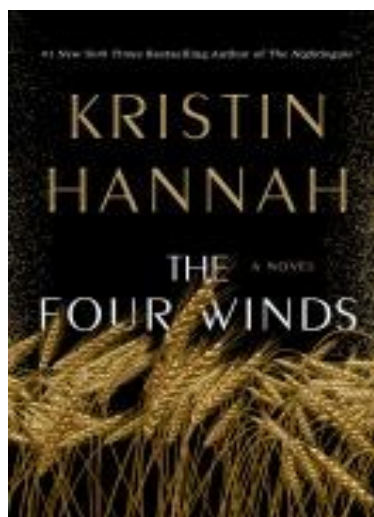


The Good Shepherd Book Club will meet again on September 7th at 2:00 p.m.

We will discuss **“The Four Winds”**, by Kristin Hannah. Weather permitting, we can meet outdoors, or indoors (with masks) if that is preferable.

We welcome new members and look forward to seeing all of our avid readers on 9/7/21!

On **October 5th at 2:00pm**, we will discuss **“The Splendid And The Vile”**, by Erik Larson.



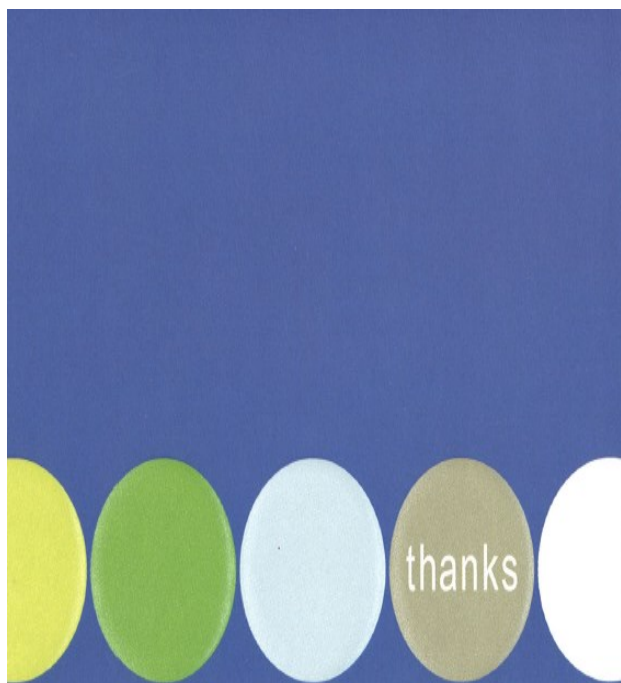
Shepherd's Flock Quilting Schedule -



The Shepherd's Flock Quilters generally meet at 10 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. We invite anyone to join us. Please contact Barbara Abraham by phone, or text at (203)305-0321 if you wish to come on Monday morning. Contact Ellie Noll by phone at (203)888-7009, or Eileen Holleran by phone at (203)426-0005 if you wish to come on Wednesday. If you prefer Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at (203)482-5598.

There is no limit to the number of people at this time, but we would like to ensure that someone will definitely be there to work with you. If you can tie a knot, you can do this! A variety of talents can be used; we are happy to show you how to sew tops, tie, trim, and design tops if you wish to join us.

A Word Of Thanks -



Dear Good Shepherd's Flock Quilters,

I just wanted to write and say thank you for the quilt. It is so so thoughtful and I really appreciate that you guys thought to give me such an amazing gift. I love the design and colors... It truly is a work of art. I hope all is well!

Best,

Christopher Lindsay

Volunteer Needed -

We still need some help hosting our Blood Drive. It won't be hard and can help save lives! Please consider helping out!

**The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.**



**American
Red Cross**

The Good Shepherd will host a Blood Drive in Gibiser Hall on 11/13/21.

We are looking for a volunteer to run this event. This means readying the hall in advance and unlocking the Church for the Red Cross at about 6:45am that morning. The volunteer does not need to stay at the Church during the drive, as the Red Cross brings their staff to run it. The volunteer would need to do a quick building check / light cleanup afterwards and lock up the Church at around 2pm, or 2:30. If interested, please see Donna, or call Stephanie in the office to discuss details.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend -



TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Time is running out to sign up for the final 2021 in-person Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend presented by the Northeast Area. The Weekend is planned for October 15-17, 2021, at the lovely Hyatt Place Pittsburgh/Cranberry, a half hour north of Pittsburgh. The Weekend has helped over 3 million couples improve their communication and closeness in marriage by giving couples tools to keep nurturing their love.

The hotel needs our count ASAP, so go to www.GodLovesMarriage.org NOW, and reserve your spot before rooms have to be released. The registration fee has been waived for this year, so you pay only the amount for 2 nights in your group-rate hotel room and 5 meals for each of you which for this Weekend is: \$298, so only \$149 per person. Also, scholarship funds are available for anyone in need. Simply e-mail or call us at the information below before you register.

Weekends begin at 8 PM on Friday night and end at approximately 3 PM on Sunday. Simply go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, click on the October 15-17 Weekend at Hyatt Place, fill out the form, and pay with a credit card, or mark the option to pay by a check, and you will be given an address to mail it. Don't miss this opportunity to create a more intimate and joyful marital relationship! For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, fjschamber@comcast.net or call: 724-325-3166.

Monroe's Food Pantry Update -

Over the last year and a half, the Monroe Food Pantry has been able to provide uninterrupted services to our clients because our volunteers have demonstrated exemplary dedication and commitment. This has helped us reliably assist our clients and their families as they have faced new challenges posed by COVID-19. In 2020, we served 183 families with more than half of them shopping with us monthly.

According to the Connecticut Food Bank, Fairfield County has a food insecurity rate of 9.9%, Monroe has a food insecurity rate of 6.7%, and the average cost of a meal has increased 20 cents from last year's estimate and is now \$4.06. To support our clients, I am running the Sprint for Monroe for the 4th time and seeking sponsorships for the race. A donation of \$25 would provide 6 meals for a family and \$50 would provide 12! My goal this year is to collect \$3,000 that would provide 739 meals to our clients.

In other Food Pantry news, we are pleased to announce that we are holding our 2nd Wiffle Ball Fun Day at Monroe's Wolfe Park on September 25th, sponsored by Newtown Savings Bank and Jensen Tire, Auto & Marine. This is another fundraising and community event where all donations and sponsorships will benefit Monroe Food Pantry clients. Further information can be found on the Monroe Food Pantry Facebook page.

Check donations can be made out to and mailed to the Monroe Food Pantry at 7 Fan Hill Road, Monroe CT 06468, with "Sprint for Monroe" written on the note line, and online donations can be made under "Donations to Support Monroe COVID-19 Response Effort" at <http://monroect.org/donate>. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support,


Kathleen Turner, MSW



Shepherd's Pantry

The need is great!

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.



After the earthquake, The Good Shepherd Foundation has been trying to make a difference by helping the people of Haiti.

Thanks to your generosity, the Good Shepherd Foundation quickly mobilized to respond to the incredible humanitarian crisis facing the southern region of Haiti following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake of August 14th. Our team of 12 Haitian doctors and nurses embarked on a 3-day medical mission to the hard-hit areas of Port-a-Piment, Coteaux and Les Anglais. Our team treated a total of 964 patients for a wide range of conditions including various traumas, infected wounds, extreme hypertension, and exposure and lack of sanitation related illnesses such as upper respiratory infections, gastroenteritis, and asthma.

Our medical team wants to make another trip next week. We are nearly half way there with our funding for a second trip, but need your generous help to make it happen.

To make a donation, please enter this website into your browser:

<https://www.thegoodshepherdfoundation.org/donation-pledge/> Then, click the first "DONATE" button and specify "EARTHQUAKE RELIEF" as the "special instructions to the seller." Even if you can't donate, please share this with as many of your friends and family members as possible. You can also mail a check if you prefer to:

The Good Shepherd
1127 Royal Palm Beach Blvd
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

Thank you and may God bless you as you bless others.



"Please note that almost 100% of your donation will go to support medical care for the victims of this earthquake. The medical staff is local and trusted by those who have been personally working with them for ten years. There is no government agency involved in any way. Caregivers and patients are the direct recipients."

- Linda McGurn, Vice President, The Good Shepherd Foundation

Sunday, September 5, 2021 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146 (2)

Second Reading: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37



James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."