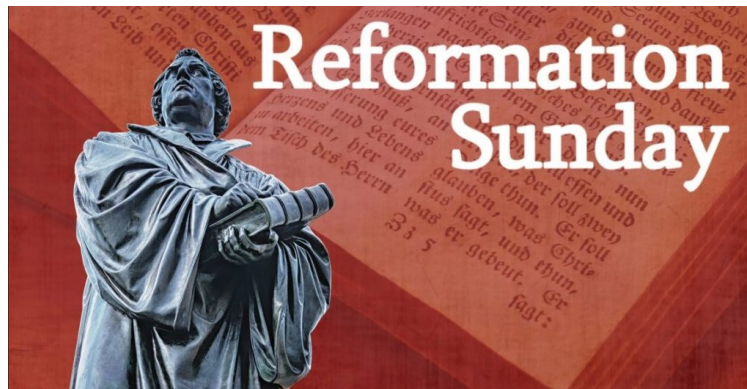




## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, October 27, 2021

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



We are about to celebrate Reformation Sunday.

The tradition is to wear red.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.

In two weeks, it is All Saints Day. We will remember and write the names of those Saints, now in God's heart. We will celebrate Eucharist with them in the Communion of Saints.

These are important celebrations. I encourage you to spend some time in the days ahead, contemplating the meaning they have for you.

LV  
PD

## Worship Schedule -

**October 31st:** 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:dearynos@gmail.com)





# YOUR SUPPORT MADE A DIFFERENCE!

*Thank you!*

## TWO \$75,000 MATCHES WERE MET!

Your support helped us achieve our first \$75,000 match by the end of January 2021. Inspired by our donors response, we secured a second \$75,000 challenge and by June 30, 2021 your generosity allowed us to meet that goal too!

### \$300,000

Your generous support raised \$300,000 which allowed our programs to continue to deliver services, food, financial support, and our advocacy work!

### 75TH ANNIVERSARY DONORS

**595 DONORS SUPPORTED THE COUNCIL THROUGH OUR ANNIVERSARY APPEALS!**

- 147 donors generously increased their support.
- 153 were welcomed as new donors!
- 295 sustaining donors continued their generous support.

### 3 MILLION SERVED

Your support has directly improved the lives of over three (3) million children and adults through our Hunger Outreach Network, the Janus Center, Proyecto Nueva Vida, our Street Outreach Team, and Raising the B.A.R. that provide services, education, food, clothing, housing, and financial support to Greater Bridgeport.

### NEWS + UPDATES

Visit our new website to see our award winning videos that highlight our great programs and to see what we are up to as we head into our 76th year serving Greater Bridgeport!

[www.ccgb.org](http://www.ccgb.org)

## COMMUNITY SUPPER MINISTRY -



**I am Peg Wesche and I'd like to take a few minutes to tell you about -**

**Community Suppers** for those who are not aware of this ministry.

A number of years ago when Pastor Schwarz was with us we began serving suppers at First English Lutheran Church in Bridgeport. Not only did we serve but we also had to bring all the food, prepare the meal, serve and clean up afterwards. When First English lost their pastor and no longer were doing suppers we were retired for a while.

When we were informed that Golden Hill Methodist Church in Bridgeport was offering community suppers we once again became involved along with different civic organizations and churches. We did not have to bring the food as it was provided along with a menu to follow. We have to cook the main meal, slice and butter bread, mix salad and place servings of dessert on small paper plates. Sometimes there are other tasks needed to be done and if there is time we are more than willing to perform them. We serve the first Wednesday of every other month. Our job is to prepare the meal and another group comes to do the serving and clean up.

During the Pandemic our members from Good Shepard took a hiatus. Golden Hill no longer was serving the meals in the big dining hall. Instead meals were and still are packaged and placed in bags to be given to clients at the door as they no longer are able to enter the building. About the last 4 months Good Shepherd has returned to Golden Hill to prepare the meal, package it and clean up. There is no group to come after us at this time.

From time to time we do have students from Middle thru High School come to help, observe and perhaps earn some type of points towards their college resume.

We usually serve at Golden Hill beginning the first Wednesday in February, April, June, August, October and December. If you have any interest in learning more or serving, please let any volunteer now serving know. (Barbara Abraham, Billie Flaherty, Doris Schwarz, Dave Wang, Eileen and Howie Holleran or Peg Wesche)

Thank you!





**Sunday School and Confirmation Classes** will meet from 9:15am - 10am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

**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.

**"Unraveled" Bible Study** - will meet every Thursday at 11am and 7pm. No prior knowledge required. Feel free to join this Bible Study at any time!

**Book Club** - will meet next on 11/2/21 at 2pm to discuss "Sunflower Sisters", by Martha Hall Kelly. New members welcome!

**Blood Drive** - 11/13/21 in Gibiser Hall.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

**\* Volunteer Needed** - We still need some help hosting our Blood Drive, scheduled for November 13th. It won't be hard and can help save lives! Please consider helping out! Feel free to call Stephanie in the office for more details.

## MEMBER NEWS -



\* Donna Duessel and her Sunday school students were hard at work last weekend baking Reformation Pretzels for our Church crowd. It was a fun lesson for the students and the Church members got to enjoy a delicious treat!

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**QUILTING** - The Shepherd's Flock Quilters generally meet at 10 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. We invite everyone 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.

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## St. Vincent Medical Mission

Please pass the word! Tell your family. Tell your friends.

**Saturday, November 6, 2021 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Cesar Batalla School, 606 Howard Ave, Bridgeport, CT**

### **Fall Health Care** for all

Walk in, no appointments taken, no insurance needed

- Free immunizations (e.g., Covid, Flu, Pneumonia)
  - Free blood work (e.g., blood tests, blood pressure)
  - Free foot care
  - Free medical equipment (e.g., walkers, canes)
  - Free clothing (e.g., new shoes, coats, masks)
- 



### **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 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





## QUILTING MINISTRY -

I am Barbara Abraham and, on behalf of our leader Ellie Noll and the rest of the Shepherd's Flock quilters, I am here to talk about our quilting ministry and to thank you for the support we receive from all of you. Making quilts that go all over the world is just one of the many traditions of outreach that is in this congregation's DNA.

My first recollection of working on quilts is of me and Peggy Wesche laying squares of fabric on the floor to place blocks in a pleasant design. At that time, Ellie brought all the supplies in her van each time we met. She had the fabric, cut the squares, and after we designed the top, she sewed the top at home. She and her mother Sam sandwiched the top with the batting and backing fabric. The rest of us tied the quilts, then Ellie took them home, made binding, sewed it on one side and brought it back for us to sit around a table and sew the binding to the other side. We did not make many quilts in those years, but it was a start.

When we were able to have an area in the back of Gibiser Hall to keep the fabric and Ellie began teaching us how to sandwich and then trim the tied quilts, the pace picked up. Having the Thrivent grant to buy storage shelves and people put the shelves together, helped us get better organized.

Ellie and Vic's kids came one quilting day in May and brought 2 sewing machines for us to use. I think that was her Mother's Day gift. Jill Schmidt donated a Singer machine in a table. Having those machines meant that no one needed to take home the two pieces of fabric that need to be sewn together to make the quilt backing and people who did not have machines at home could work on sewing quilt tops during our quilting sessions.

When Sam passed away at the age of 102, we challenged ourselves to make 102 quilts. We did, and I believe that we have made at least 100 quilts every year since.

There are about 15 of us who are involved in making the quilts, but I have to tell you, we feel the great encouragement of the entire congregation and we feel responsibility to this ministry which sends quilts to people we will never know who are in circumstances where a quilt may be comfort, warmth, or something to carry their belongings in.

The pandemic affected our getting together two Saturdays a month for quilting, but Church Council allowed us to meet in groups of 3 with masks, windows open, fans on and with cleaning protocol so we could get back to quilting. We were grateful for the opportunity to meet and keep the quilting process going, but at a time when almost everything was being done by computer, having contact with real people was wonderful, especially for those of us who live alone. Working in small groups every week on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday has enabled us to be as efficient as ever. Ellie's tradition of teaching others how to design, sew, sandwich, tie, and trim the quilts means that we can use what we have been taught to move the process along for the next group.

Eileen took up the job of sorting through material that goes together and taking it home to iron, cut into 10" squares and place 49-54 squares in a bag for designing. That makes it easy for people to use those bags of squares to design the tops. Five or six quilters take designed tops home to sew the squares together. Others sew tops in Gibiser. After they are sandwiched, tied, and trimmed, Nina takes every quilt - she folds over the binding and sews it down to finish the process. Inspired by the way Ellie would take scraps home and sew them into quilt tops, some of the quilters do that also. It is always so much fun to see bits and pieces of fabric we recognize in a quilt top we are tying.

This past July was the first time that we became an in-gathering location for the Lutheran World Relief truck to come to Good Shepherd. Other congregations brought their boxes of quilts and kits to be loaded onto the trucks with ours. Again, volunteers from the congregation came through to help load those trucks. Lutheran World Relief was not able to have the in-gatherings in 2020, so the warehouses badly needed inventory of quilts. If you visit the Lutheran World Relief Facebook group you will see that there are postings every week of the blessing of quilts in all parts of the country—all happy to see their quilts moving on to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse where they will be shipped all over the world.





We have been fortunate to have material donated by members of the congregation, from friends of Shepherd's Flock quilters and from families of people who were quilters that passed away and left a lot of fabric. And, because they became aware of us through the in-gathering, a church in Danbury shared a supply of batting that they had been given from a company who was going out of business. We do look for fabric everywhere. When the lounge was redone a few years ago, we took apart the old curtains and cut them into squares and put smaller pieces in scrap quilts.

For me, being part of the Shepherd's Flock Quilters has enabled me to form wonderful friendships and it has encouraged me to develop quilting skills. The most important thing is knowing that our quilts go as a blessing from Good Shepherd to touch others all over the world. Aside from Lutheran World Relief, over the years we have given some quilts to local families where there was a need, to Summerfield Methodist, sent some to California for those displaced by wildfires, etc. and this year, to our high school graduates.

Thanks to all of you who encourage us with your words, your smiles at our quilts, your contributions, and your help when we need it to build shelves, or to make boxes, fill them, and load them onto trucks. Together, we are all doing God's work.

If you wish to join us in the making of quilts, let me know and I will put you on our email list. If you can tie a knot, you can do this --

# Financial News -

## Financial Statements -

Roy Remlin has printed out Financial Statements for our members. You can get yours by stopping by the wood table in the narthex when you are at the Church. If you are not able to get to Church and need your statement, please contact Stephanie in the office to request that it be mailed out.

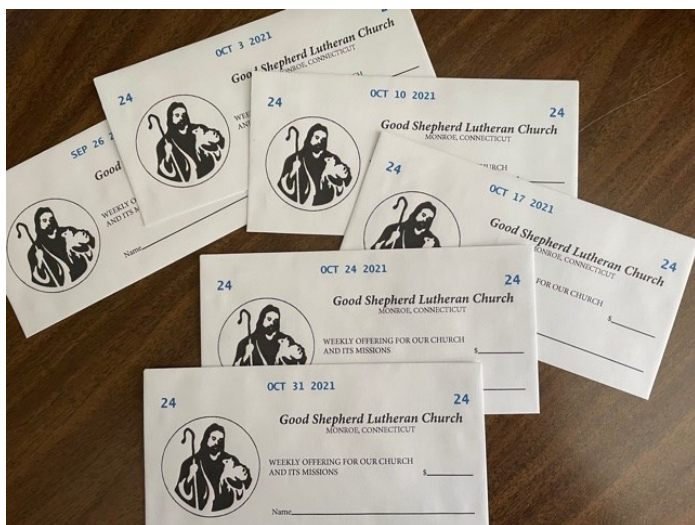
## VANCO - a secure ELCA preferred online giving platform -

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](http://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!



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

## **Sunday, October 31, 2021 Twenty - third Sunday after Pentecost**

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you have taught us in your Son that love fulfills the law. Inspire us to love you with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength, and teach us how to love our neighbor as ourselves, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Psalm: 119:1-8 (2)

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34



### **Hebrews 9:11-14**

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

### **Mark 12:28-34**

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.