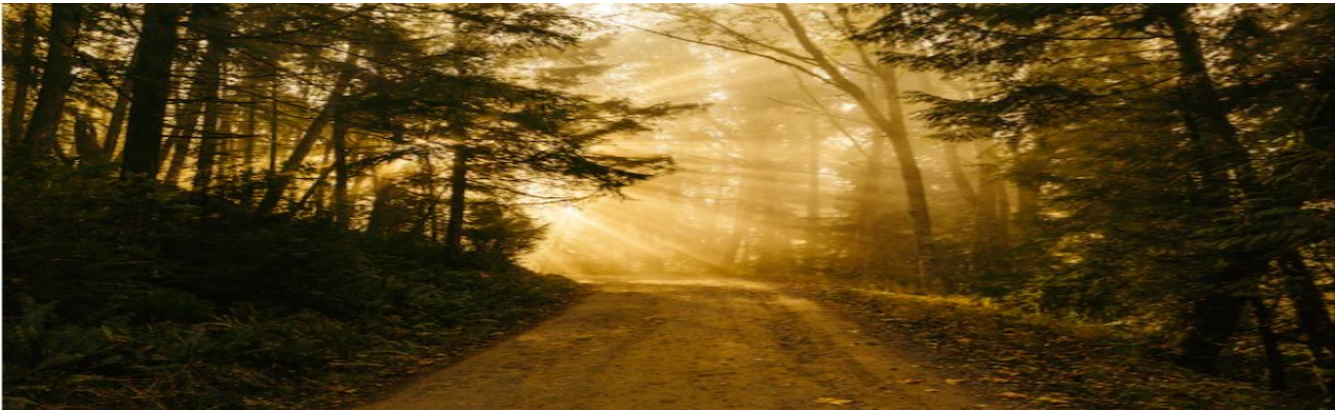


**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update** **Wednesday, August 24, 2022**

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



### **Let Us Pray:**

**O God, you have called us, Your servants, to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through new perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The church is called now to make a new path by walking. We are the ones we have been waiting for.**

**LV,  
PD**



## **Worship Information -**

**\* Good Shepherd is currently on "Summer schedule". This means that one service is held every Sunday at 9:30am. Choir practice is at 8:45am. Please join us!**

Hymnals are available for use. 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.

**\* Masks are no longer required at any time \***

**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!

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## **Prayer List -**

**Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:**

**Helen, Cliff Jr., Audrey, Miriam, Nicolette, Mike's family, Kelly, Sue, Andrea, A, Robert, Kathy, Beverly, Doree, Amy, Mark, Scarlet, Ryan, Sharon & Rosemary.**



**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)



**9/6/22 - Book Club at 2pm.** We will discuss "People We Meet On Vacation", by Emily Henry. Please join us!

**9/11/22 - Regular Worship schedule starts back up. There will be two services. Please choose from the 8am, or 10:30am service.**

**9/11/22 - Sunday School and Confirmation classes will begin for the Fall.** They will be held at 9:15am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

**\* Choir practice** - Currently held every Sunday at 8:45am. Starting 9/11/22, practice will be at 9:30am.

**\* Shepherd's Flock Quilters** - generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. \* Please contact Barbara Abraham by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321 if you wish to come on a Monday morning. If you'd like to join on a Wednesday, contact Ellie Noll at: 203-888-7009, or Eileen Holleran at: 203-426-0005. If you prefer to quilt on a Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598. Anyone is welcome!

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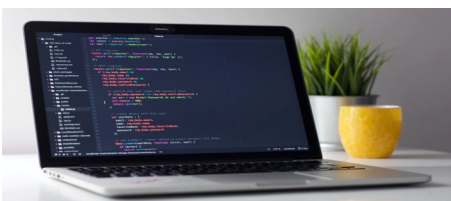
## PLEASE HELP! VOLUNTEER WEBMASTER WANTED -



If you have experience with web development and JavaScript, Good Shepherd can certainly use your help!

Technology is moving fast and we need someone that can ensure our webpage is up to speed.

If interested, please contact Stephanie for more information at: [office@gs-lc-ct.org](mailto:office@gs-lc-ct.org) Thank you!



## MEMBER NEWS -



**\* Please keep Helen and the Nordvall family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Lauren Nordvall. Private Burial for immediate family only.**

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**\* Good luck to Kylie as she heads off to college! Also, thanks to all of our members and friends who stopped by to wish her well!**



**WESTERN CONNECTICUT  
STATE UNIVERSITY**



# AN INVITE FROM COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY -



**COMMUNITY**  
BIBLE STUDY



A Non-Denominational Women's Bible Study  
Of Exodus, Leviticus & Numbers

**Meeting: Thursdays 9:30-11:30**

Starting September 8, 2022 at:

BEACON HILL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

371 Old Zoar Road, Monroe, CT

Online evening ZOOM discussion group Wednesdays 6:30-7:45 pm

Full Program: for babies 6 mo. -High School

## OUR CLASS OFFERS:

Individual Study, Encouraging Discussion,  
Effective Teaching, Insightful Commentary,  
& Caring Community  
ALL are Welcome!

**\* Contact Sue at:  
SueCLamb@yahoo.com  
with any questions.**

For More Info, Email: [CBSNewtownMonroe@gmail.com](mailto:CBSNewtownMonroe@gmail.com)

Follow Us On FACEBOOK: CBSNewtown/Monroe, CT

Register Online: <https://newtownmonroe.cbsclass.org>



# Living Lutheran

## DEEPER UNDERSTANDINGS

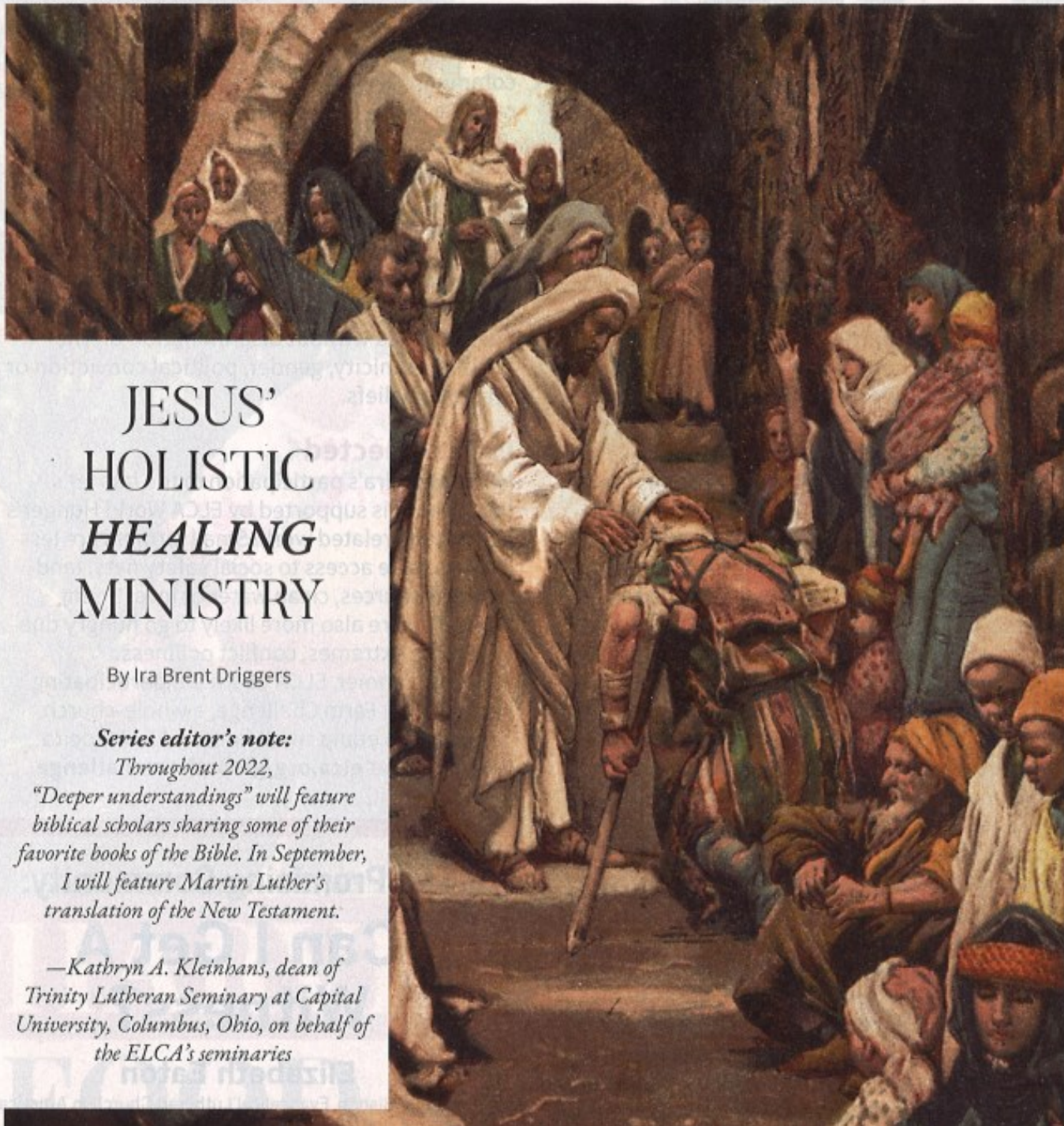
### JESUS' HOLISTIC HEALING MINISTRY

By Ira Brent Driggers

#### **Series editor's note:**

Throughout 2022, "Deeper understandings" will feature biblical scholars sharing some of their favorite books of the Bible. In September, I will feature Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament.

—Kathryn A. Kleinhans, dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, on behalf of the ELCA's seminaries





My personal faith has always had a strong intellectual component. How we understand and articulate our faith matters. More specifically, how we understand and articulate the person and work of Jesus Christ matters. For this reason, the church has always benefited from ministers dedicated to the life of the mind.

But the life of the mind has its limitations. Faith is not only believed intellectually but, more important, lived out in service to others. Jesus calls us to theological thinking not as an end in itself but as vital intellectual support for the real mission of God, which is the healing of broken humanity.

To my mind, no biblical book makes this point more effectively than the Gospel of Mark, where Jesus' healing mission takes center stage. Right belief "about" Jesus matters but not nearly to the extent we might expect. What matters most to Mark's Jesus is the "kingdom of God" (1:14-15), a phrase Jesus borrows from his Jewish heritage to describe creation *as God has always intended it*.

In Mark, God's kingdom is no longer strictly a future phenomenon for which we hope and pray but, remarkably, something Jesus *begins to inaugurate in the present* through his healing ministry. Mark's Gospel implies that human brokenness is not part of God's will for creation—when Jesus heals, he restores creation to its original goodness. To experience Jesus' healing is to experience God's future kingdom in the here and now.

Asked about Jesus' healing ministry, most Christians think of how he miraculously cured physical infirmities. In Mark, Jesus heals a withered hand, leprosy, paralysis, blindness, deafness and extensive hemorrhaging. He even brings a recently deceased girl back from the dead. Various summary verses show that Jesus heals physical infirmities well beyond these individual cases (1:32-34; 3:10; 6:54-56).

### **A healed community**

We must be pastorally sensitive to the way we apply these stories today because physical *difference* is not always experienced as *brokenness*. Still, we can appreciate how Mark's Jesus respects and cares for human bodies. Since God created us to be embodied creatures, it makes sense that the kingdom of God would honor that embodiment.

But Jesus' healing ministry also has a deeply spiritual dimension. For example, Jesus offers forgiveness to sinners, going so far as to say, "I have come to call not the righteous but sinners" (2:17; see also 2:5). This statement locates the reconciliation of sinners at the very heart of Jesus' mission. Through his ministry of exorcisms, Jesus also battles the demonic world on behalf of a vulnerable humanity, liberating those whose bodies and souls have been possessed by Satan's minions (3:22-27).

## **What if we not only followed Jesus into a broken world but found him already there?**

If Jesus' healing of physical infirmities underscores the importance of our embodiment, then his acts of forgiveness and exorcism show how we are created as more than mere bodies. We are created to enjoy spiritual vitality and know God's love and mercy to the depths of our being.

Finally, Jesus' ministry includes social healing, especially insofar as it seeks the full inclusion of marginalized people into their communities. Jesus not only forgives sinners but joins in table fellowship with them, defending his social inclusiveness to those who protest (2:15-17). Jesus goes out of his way to publicly celebrate the faithful actions of a woman who seems to live on the margins of society (5:34). He also prioritizes the needs of the poor (10:21) and shows a willingness to minister to non-Jews (5:1-20; 7:24-30, 31-37).

These actions show that Jesus conceives of God's kingdom not merely as a collection of healed individuals but as a healed community—a new family empowered by God to love (3:31-35).

From these observations we might conclude that Jesus' healing ministry is holistic, touching on every form of human brokenness. Moreover, Jesus doesn't demand "right belief" from those whom he heals. To be sure, there is a sense in which people come to him for healing because they have glimpsed God's own power at work in him. But in contrast to what he expects of his disciples, Jesus doesn't worry about what the sick and suffering masses believe about him. He simply wants to heal them so they may flourish as God intends. He calls on his disciples to participate in, and extend, this holistic healing ministry (3:14; 6:7-13).

Here's an interesting proposition for Christians today: What if, instead of worrying about what others think of Jesus, we simply rallied around God's healing mission? What if we not only followed Jesus into a broken world but *found him already there*, working through the hands of others (9:38-41)? While what we believe about Jesus will continue to inform our understanding of his mission, I imagine that our participation in Jesus' mission can also enrich and shape our beliefs about him. †



## 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.

## \* Monroe Food Pantry Needs For August -

Cooking oil  
Mayo  
Coffee, Tea (regular and decaf)  
Green tea  
Juice (apple, cranberry, etc.)  
Sugar  
Flour  
Instant potatoes  
Canned pasta (Spaghetti-Os, Ravioli's, etc.)  
Canned vegetables (we are particularly low on creamed corn and olives)  
Canned tomato products, especially puree and crushed  
Jarred pasta sauce  
Canned fruit (particularly apple sauce, peaches and pineapple)  
Egg noodles  
Mustard  
Bread crumbs (Italian and regular)  
Strawberry jelly  
Solid white tuna  
Pasta (elbows, penne, bow ties, ziti, shells, etc.)  
Chicken/beef/vegetable broth (regular and low sodium)  
Oatmeal (instant or regular, flavored or original)  
Snack type items like chips, crackers, cookies  
Toiletries (shampoo/conditioner/bar soap/hand soap/deodorant)  
Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
Cleaning supplies  
Laundry detergent



## Thank you for your support!



## Ways to Help Summerfield -

**Snacks for Summerfield are needed!** We are collecting snacks for the youth of Summerfield. If you would like to donate, please add your snack items to the marked blue bin in the narthex.



**Also, there is an ongoing need for nutritious food/protein for the kids of Summerfield.** GSLC Council has challenged the congregation to provide funds for the purchase of nutritious food. GSLC will match donations from members 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 Lutheran Church" with the notation, "Food For Summerfield". Thank you!



**\* Financial Statements** are still available on the wood table in the narthex. They cover the period through 4/30/22. If you can not get to Church and need yours mailed, please contact the office.

## 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](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!

## Sunday, August 28, 2022 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those that are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalms 112(4)

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14



### Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.