

# 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, March 31, 2021

### **Holy Week 2021**

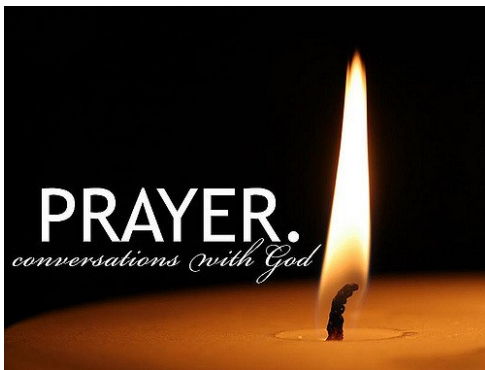
An old hymn - "Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us and is risen from the dead. He is our saving Lord, He is joy for all ages."

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are reflective days for remembrance and contemplation. Recorded worship to 'gather' and enter deeply into the Passion.

Easter Sunday - the dawn from on high breaks upon us. We reflect on the year we have been through together and on how the Lord has been and is ever beside us.

May this week be truly holy and whole making for you.

LV  
PD



### A Community of Prayer

*For those in need of healing and comfort:*

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Vic, Lauren, Ray, Tim, Joan, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Sarah, Miriam, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Tricia, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, Steve, Linda.

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.

*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.*

*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](mailto: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](mailto:dearynos@gmail.com)).*

### *A Note of Thanks To My Good Shepherd Family*

*I want to give my thanks to all the persons in our church family who have given so much to myself and my family during our time of grief following Trudi's death. Thank you for all your prayers, beautiful cards, and your wonderful donations to Good Shepherd, Camp Calumet, Summerfield Methodist Church, to the scholarship fund in her name at Trumbull High School, and to many, many other causes that Trudi supported. The tributes we have received are amazing. We are waiting until warmer weather, more free of Covid-19, when we can safely gather for a celebration of her life.*

*Larry, Jason, and Benjamin Black*

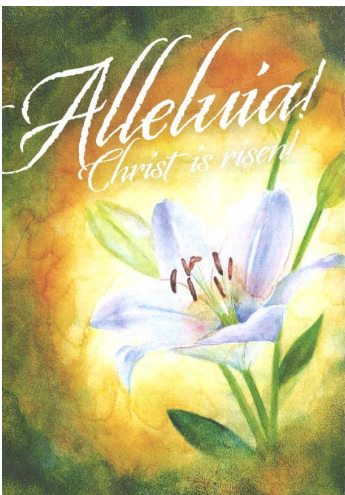
## Holy Week and Easter 2021 - April 1 - 4, 2021



Maundy Thursday will be an online Reflection. We will not have an in person Worship Service.



Good Friday will be online Worship. We will not have an in person Worship Service. The hymns for worship are "Where You There" #353 and "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" #324.



On Easter Sunday, there are three choices for worship. Whichever works best for you, we are delighted to worship with you!

We will have an Online Easter Sunday Worship Service at a time of your choice.

We will have an Indoor Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. The HALO Air Purification system is installed and working in the sanctuary. You will see that all the hymnals will be gone. Masked, we can hum softly to the familiar Easter carols. Seating will be physically distanced. The Sign of Peace will be a friendly nod to one another. I will be masked throughout much of the Service and I will preach from way back behind the altar.

There will be one plate at the Entrance to deposit Easter Offerings. You may bring a small bottle of handwash if you'd like. Of course, you will want to greet and chat with friends after such a long time away. However, we ask you to do so outside and not in the church or Narthex. Communion will be served in one kind only, small hosts of bread. We will stand in single file, 6 feet behind the next person in line. Please hold your hands open so that I do not touch your fingers. I will not say the words but you may pray them quietly as you receive the host. We are attempting to have singers but they will need to stand outside Vic's side door while singing.

Although these things constrain us let us focus on thankfulness that after a year, we can do inside Worship together.

Please feel free to contact me with thoughts or questions.

Remember that *the 8:30 is by sign up only*. Sign up takes place the Monday after Palm Sunday. We will cap sign ups when we hit the maximum number.

As the time approaches, we will have a better sense of the weather so we will announce close to the day whether Outdoor Worship at 10 AM will be in the backyard or Drive - In. It's like learning to swim all over again but we can do this and do it with grateful hearts.

I try to imagine what it must have been like on that first Easter morning when there wasn't the knowledge of the resurrection. When, instead, it was all about death and disappointment. And I imagine Mary Magdalene coming to the tomb in order to care for Jesus' body, to prepare it for burial. The story was over. The hope was gone. And then someone shows up in the garden, and Mary can't recognize him. Thinking that he's the gardener, she says, "Sir, tell me where you've taken the body so that I may bring it back here."

Imagine a woman, literally, thinking that she could carry the deadweight of a man. All of that grief, the heaviness of that physically as well as spiritually, and just then Jesus speaks her name. "Mary," he says, and her eyes are open. And she can see Jesus because she has been seen by Jesus. Her name has been called by the risen Lord, and now she is part of the resurrection story that happens for all of us in baptism. Jesus has called all of us by name and knows every one of us. And we too now are part of the resurrection story. Her mourning was turned into dancing.

I'm going to leave you with this hymn from our newest worship resource, *All Creation Sings*, about the transformation of Mary's grief into joy. Happy Easter, dear Church.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" and last name "Eaton" clearly legible.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## Woman, Weeping in the Garden



1 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, who has  
 2 Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den, af - ter  
 3 Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den, Je - sus  
 4 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, weep for  
 5 Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den, find the



pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en Je - sus'  
 men have come and gone, af - ter an - gels give their  
 takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - d'ner calls you,  
 joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes - si - ah,  
 oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en as he



bod - y, Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied?  
 wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.  
 "Mar - y!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.  
 ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.  
 prom - ised; tell the world he knew your name!

Woman, Weeping in the Garden

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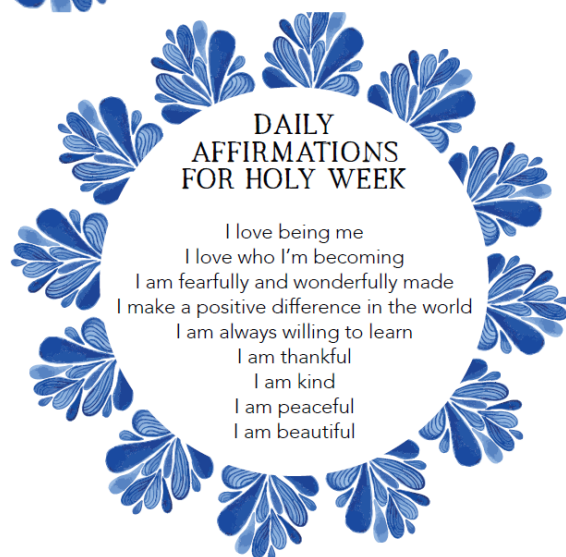
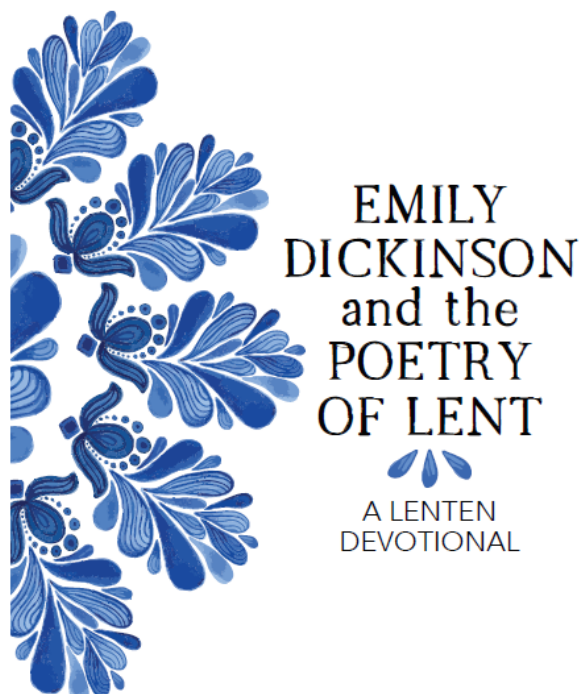
*Happy Easter, dear Church.*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## Upcoming Events



Please join us tonight for the conclusion of the bible study - **Wednesday, March 31st at 7:00 p.m.**

Topic: EMILY DICKINSON AND THE POETRY OF LENT: A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398759484?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398759484?pwd=Wc9yemptSTVpRINBSy9MNnFMM05mZz09)

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Meeting ID: 863 9875 9484

Passcode: 195625

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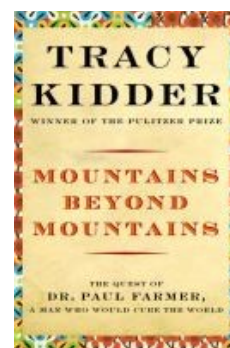
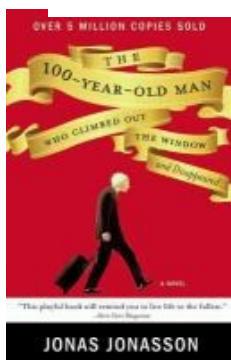
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Thanks to all who were able to join us weekly during Lent for this inspirational, informative bible study.



A LITTLE MADNESS  
IN THE SPRING  
IS WHOLESOME  
EVEN FOR THE KING,  
BUT GOD BE WITH  
THE CLOWN -  
WHO PONDERES THIS  
TREMENDOUS SCENE -  
THIS WHOLE EXPERIMENT  
OF GREEN - AS IF  
IT WERE HIS OWN!

+ EMILY DICKINSON



**The Good Shepherd Book Club** is meeting on **April 6th at 1:00 p.m.** when we will discuss "The 100 Year Old Man Who Jumped Out the Window and Disappeared" by Jonas Jonasson. In May, we will discuss "Mountains beyond Mountains" by Tracy Kidder. We will meet indoors using the new handler system as long as the infection rates are low. We welcome new members!



*Leveraging hope,  
changing lives.*

## HOST HOME PARENTS NEEDED

Are you over 21?  
Do you have the heart for helping youth in need?  
Do you own or rent your home?  
Could you use a monthly stipend for retention services?

If you answered yes to the above questions, consider becoming a Host Home Parent for The Janus Center.

We are seeking qualified people to provide respite care to youth.

For more information, please call Adilene Garcia, 203.334.1121 Ext. 13, or email her: [adilenegarcia@ccgb.org](mailto:adilenegarcia@ccgb.org) [www.ccgb.org](http://www.ccgb.org)



Host Homes  
of Greater Bridgeport  
a program of  
The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, 1718 Capitol Avenue,  
Bridgeport, Connecticut  
Adilene Garcia, LMSW  
Directors at The Janus Center for Youth in Crisis



## 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.



## 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 during the Drive In Worship Service or in the blue bin outside the front door of the church Monday - Thursday mornings. The items are delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry once a month.

#### Items Needed:

- canned fruit - mandarin oranges, mixed fruit, peaches, pears, sliced/diced pineapple
- canned vegetables (regular and low sodium) - sliced/whole beets, creamed corn, French cut green beans, sliced/whole potatoes, olives, Sauerkraut, spinach
- canned beans (regular and low sodium/fat free) - cannellini, pinto, refried, vegetarian refried
- baked beans - regular, pork, vegetarian
- chili - with beans, vegetarian
- stock (regular and low sodium) - beef, chicken, vegetable
- canned tomatoes (regular and low sodium) - crushed, whole, sauce, puree, paste
- regular and low sodium jarred pasta sauce
- regular and whole wheat egg noodles
- Ramen - beef, shrimp
- cold cereal - corn flakes, raisin bran, Rice Krispies
- oatmeal
- packaged foods - Hamburger Helper, instant potatoes
- salad dressing - balsamic, blue cheese, Italian, ranch, Thousand Island
- condiments - mayo, ketchup, yellow mustard, pancake syrup, hot sauce, taco sauce
- crunchy peanut butter
- strawberry preserves
- beverages - black tea (regular and decaf), ground coffee (regular and decaf), hot chocolate, low sodium V8, Ensure, shelf stable milk
- household items - toilet paper, paper towels, household cleaners
- personal hygiene items - menstrual pads, face wash, deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner

A faith-based medical mission serving the people of Haiti.



## GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION



Once again this year, the Church Council has selected The Good Shepherd Foundation as a Lenten giving project and asks you to designate the money you may have used to eat out or buy take out coffee for this medical mission in Haiti. We will collect the money on April 11<sup>th</sup>.





## Covenant to Care Thanks You

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Covenant to Care Easter outreach program through your donations of baskets and health-related items. Your ongoing generosity is deeply appreciated, especially in the current circumstances. Wishing each of you a happy, healthy Easter!

Jane Fieberts

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 AUGSBURG FORTRESS



### Blessing of the Palms

## Devotional for the week of March 28th, 2021

Congregations across the world were asked to refrain from worshiping in person during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 to stem the spread of the deadly virus. For many, the loss was felt most sharply on Palm Sunday just as Holy Week services were scheduled to begin.

One congregation in Central Washington State worshiped in their homes that morning via conference call. They hadn't been able to distribute palms to one another, so pretending to wave imaginary branches in their own homes felt inauthentic and strange. Absent their usual practices, the pastor of the little church composed a non-traditional "Blessing of the Palms" for worship as they gathered in the safety of their homes. Instead of blessing palm branches on that Palm Sunday morning, the assembly was

invited to bless the palms of their own outstretched hands.

The word *hosanna*, shouted by those witnessing Jesus' entry into Jerusalem in Mark's gospel, can be translated, "Help, please, now!" With this very word on our lips, today we are invited to lay down more than coats and leafy branches at the foot of Jesus. We are invited to lay down our very own palms just as they are.

Imagine today that the palms laid out at the feet of Jesus today are the very palms of hands we meet every day in our own community and in the world. Some of these will be cracked, old, and tired with work; others will be sweating and nervous with worry; still others might be hopeful and open, excited or twitching with anticipation. Today we are invited to lay every one of those things that excite, demand, and trouble us at the foot of Jesus with a word of "Hosanna!" on our lips.

*Devotional message and art based on the readings for March 28th, reprinted from [sundaysandseasons.com](https://www.sundaysandseasons.com).*

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## Church Offering and Financial Statements

Financial Statements will be sent out in March. Please review your statement and if you have any questions, Roy Remlin will be happy to assist you.

As worship services are online and outdoor now, if you have a chance, please submit your offering to help with our expenses. Thank you for your contribution!

There are different ways to contribute. You may bring it with you to the Drive In worship service or you may mail a check if you are worshipping online with us or you may use your bank's online checking and have the bank issue the check and mail it—it's most often a free service offered by banks. Check with your bank to see if this works for you. In addition, our Finance Committee is working diligently on implementing PayPal/Venmo and plans to have it in place in the next few weeks. We will let you know as soon as it's ready to be used.

Let us know if you have any questions, we are always happy to help.



## **Sunday, April 4 — Easter Sunday**

Prayer of the Day: O God you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18