

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, August 26, 2020

SEASON OF CREATION 2020

*Renewing, repairing
and restoring*
our commitments to God,
to one another
and to all of creation.

Weekly devotions for
Sept. 1 through Oct. 4, 2020



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



The Anglican Church of Canada

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



Season of Creation

[Season of Creation 2020](#), a series of weekly devotions for Sept. 1-Oct. 4, is now available! The season, which begins with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, is a time to join with the global Christian community in renewing, repairing and restoring commitments to God, to one another and to all creation. For the four churches that prepared the resource — the ELCA, The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada — this is also a time for strengthening relationships with one another. Through Scripture, hymns, advocacy and action, these [weekly devotions](#), which begin Sept. 6, invite people to live out their vocations as stewards of creation.

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty. Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we praise you that you came to redeem all of creation. Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breathe in the life of the world. Grant us faith and courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus as caretakers of, and justice-seekers for, your beautiful and bountiful creation. For the blessing of your people, the sustaining of the earth and the glory of your name. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

On **Sunday, August 30 at 9:30 a.m.** we will have the next Outdoor Worship Services at Good Shepherd on the back lawn behind the sanctuary. We are committed to our goal of having no spread of the contagion due to our gatherings. With this in mind, we ask you to observe the following guidelines:

- 1) If you do not feel well, if you do not feel comfortable, or if you are in a high risk category, please stay at home. We will record the service and make it available online.
- 2) The building and restrooms will not be accessible. We anticipate that our worship service will be approximately 45 minutes long. Please plan accordingly.
- 3) Please put on your face covering before leaving your vehicle. You will be expected to wear it throughout your visit.
- 4) Please bring: a lawn chair, face covering, and portion of bread for communion for every person in your group.
- 5) Please plan to arrive between 9-9:15. There will be a table at the entrance where you may leave your offering.
- 6) Ushers will guide you to your worship space, starting with front rows and moving toward the back. You will be assigned the next available spot to set up your chairs. Your chair should be positioned so that your feet are on the white line in front of you and so that you cannot reach your neighbor (maintaining six feet of distance.) Please stay seated until worship begins.
- 7) Please refrain from unnecessary movement through the worship space to allow everyone to get set up while maintaining social distancing.
- 8) Please understand that singing has been shown to be one of the riskiest activities at this time. We will NOT be singing during this service. This will be very difficult for some, so if you must, please hum softly or mouth the words without using your voice.
- 9) We will pass the Peace without physical contact.
- 10) For Holy Communion, you will be asked to get out the bread you brought with you. Pastor will consecrate it from the altar and signal you when you should eat it. No wine will be available. As Lutherans, we believe that Christ is present to us in, with, and under both the bread and wine, so in times such as this when it is not safe to share a common cup, the sacrament is fully available and complete in the consecrated bread.
- 11) When the service has ended, you may stand and pack your chairs and belongings but please remain in place until directed by the ushers to leave. The back row will exit first, followed by remaining rows from back to front. Please do not linger to socialize; go directly to your vehicle and depart.
- 12) A recycling bin and trash can will be placed near the entrance to the worship space. Please deposit your disposable masks and any trash in the appropriate container.
- 13) In the event of inclement weather, the service will be cancelled. You may assume that if there are thunderstorms or torrential rain in the forecast, there will be no service. Check our Facebook page and/or the church website for updates if the weather seems questionable.



Please remember that we are all handling these unprecedented times in the best ways we know how given our unique circumstances. Some will feel more comfortable than others, some face greater risks than others. Please be respectful of these personal differences and lift each other up as we move into gathering in community again. We are taking a conservative approach so that as many people as possible may feel safe in joining us. Please follow any directions given by our ushers.

Weekly Offering

Important
Message

As worship services are online and/or outdoor for the near future, 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 outdoor worship service or you may mail it 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 on implementing online contributions by this fall.

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

Reaching Out, Serving Others:

Our collection for the youth of Summerfield United Methodist Church in Bridgeport is underway. There are 22 elementary age children and 16 high school youth. All are in need of everything schools request. Whatever you can buy is awesome. You do not need to do a whole backpack full if that is too much. Any supplies are appreciated! If you choose not to shop but wish to participate, we will shop for you. Just send funds marked for that purpose.

We are collecting at this Sunday's outdoor worship service. There will be a bin near the driveway. If this is not convenient, we will have two bins next to the front door at church on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings from 10 am - noon. Or call Donna Duessel or Trudi Black to make some arrangements. We will make it work!

Also, please check your pantry. Any extra staple foods are needed as well. Protein is greatly appreciated. Canned tuna or chicken is great. Also some canned vegetables and healthy breakfast items are needed. These children get too much starch and fast food in their diets.

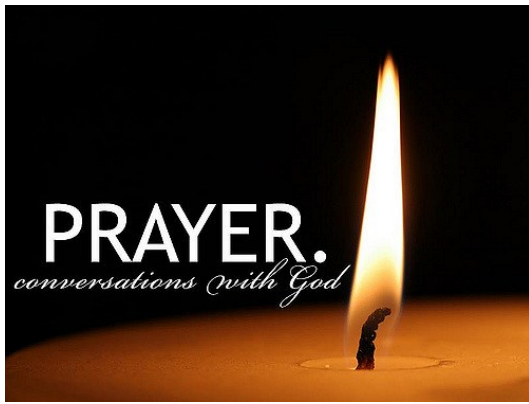


RECIPE

Living Lutheran reader call

Living Lutheran wants to hear from you! What seasonal recipes have been important to you in your faith life? By Aug. 30, send your complete recipe and a 300-word story to livinglutheran@elca.org for consideration, along with your congregation's name and location. Your recipe and story could be featured in our November theme issue on food and faith!





A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Ingeborg, Bill, Vicki, Peg, Marie, Karen, Pat, Billie, Audrey, Catherine, Elizabeth, Ray, Gordon, Miriam, Sarah, Chuck, Timmy, Bruce, Karl, Kendra, Mary Helen, Carolyn, Irma, Patricia, Cate, Misty, Julia, Sydne, Anna, Roy, Judy, Marilyn, Scarlet, Jason, Brian.

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@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).



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND GOES VIRTUAL

Because of the coronavirus restrictions, the September 18-20, 2020 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend will now be presented online using Zoom video conferencing. SO YOU NOW CAN EXPERIENCE THE WEEKEND FROM YOUR OWN HOME WHEREVER THAT MIGHT BE.

If the coronavirus has put stress on your marriage, you are not alone! Lutheran Marriage Encounter wants to help you renew and revitalize your marital relationship no matter whether you have been married a year or 60+ years. And because there is no room and board expense, your total cost to experience this Weekend is only \$100 per couple. In addition, some scholarship funds are available if this creates a hardship for you--simply email or call us at the information below before you register.

You only need to provide a quiet spot with minimal distractions, a good internet connection, and a computer or laptop or some such device suitable for video conferencing. (If you have children in the home, it is highly recommended that they stay with friends or relatives for the Weekend.) The Weekend begins at 8 PM on Friday night and ends at approximately 3 PM on Sunday. REGISTRATIONS WILL BE LIMITED, so sign up NOW while there are still openings. Simply go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, find the September 18-20 Virtual Weekend, fill out the form, and pay the \$100 with a credit card, or print the form and mail with a check. 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, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.



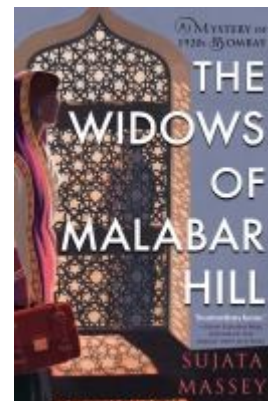
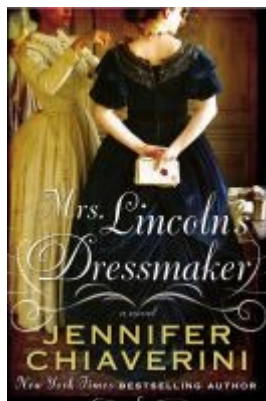
Upcoming Events

We are meeting via Zoom on Thursday August 27th for the last session of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raise the Bar: Becoming Anti-Racist Summer Study and Discussion Series. Please complete and submit the online form at www.ccggb.org/bar and a Zoom invitation will be sent to you prior to each session. If you have any questions, please speak with Donna Duessel.

You're
Invited



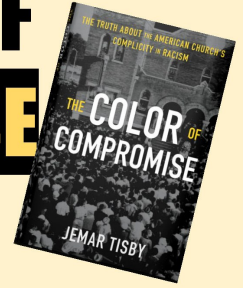
The Book Club is meeting via Zoom and it is wonderful to "see" so many people! On September 1st at **1:00 p.m.** we will discuss "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini. Please note the change in time. In October, we will discuss "The Widows of Malabar Hill" by Sujata Massey. We welcome new members! Reply to this newsletter or contact Karen Jackson to be sure to be included in the discussion. The sessions are by invitation only to ensure internet safety guidelines are followed.



CCGB's Raise the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist Summer Study and Discussion Series

THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE

BY Jemar Tisby



What:

Video Presentation and Guided Discussion

Through five facilitated sessions of video clips and discussion we will be introduced to the "history of how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices." In the videos Jemar Tisby "outlines the kind of bold action needed to forge a future of equality and justice" requiring us to think through "concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church." (Amazon and TCOC Video Series descriptions)

When:

Thursday evenings – 7:30 – 9:00 pm

July 2, July 16, July 30, August 13, August 27



Registration:

Complete and submit the online form at www.ccggb.org/bar

The Zoom link and email reminders will be sent prior to each session.

Readings for Sunday, August 30, 2020
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26:1-8

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

