



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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, November 30, 2022

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

“My mission as a Christian is not to ‘convert the heathen or save souls from hell’ as we used to say. It is rather in helping all people to live fully, to love wastefully and to become all that they are capable of being.”

- Bishop John Spong

In some ways it is cliché to ask “How are you living each day because you are a Christian?”

I want to use the Advent season as an intentional time of paying attention to the small so called ordinary “comings of the Son of Man.” Moments of beauty, connection, creativity, curiosity, clarity. Will you join me in this practice? For that is what we are always doing in the spiritual life – “practicing.”

LV
PD



* Just one of the masterpieces created during the lesson, “where is the House of God?” with PD last Sunday.



*** There are two in person Worship services every Sunday. Please choose from the 8am, or 10:30am service.** *As the weather begins to worsen, please check our Facebook Page for any updates / changes.



*** Please note our new changes to online worship.**

Each 10:30am service will now be live streamed through Zoom. You can watch by clicking here, or typing the following into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82868752832?pwd=UXZaMEZyNXhCWGpLOHAra0xBcW9XQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 6875 2832

Passcode: 956806

*** Please note that this link will be the same every week, so feel free to copy and paste it. For your convenience, it will also be sent out in our weekly worship email.**

If you prefer to watch this service at a more convenient day / time, you can wait until after it is uploaded to You Tube Sunday afternoon and:

1) Go to the Good Shepherd website www.gslc-ct.org. Under "News & Events", click on youtube to be directed to our church's YouTube page.

2) 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.

*** Zoom worship is new to all of us. Please be patient with the process and ask if you have any questions!**

Prayer List -

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Helen, Cliff Jr., Audrey, Miriam, Hassinger Family, Lane Family, Lee Family, Kevin, Margaret, Desi, Bill C's Family, Todd, Nicolette, Mike's Family, Kelly, Sue, Andrea, D.A., Robert, Kathy, Beverly, Doree, Amy, Mark, Scarlet, Ryan, Louis, John, 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



12/4/22 - Annual Congregational Meeting. (see below for more info.)

12/6/22 - Book Club will meet at 2pm to discuss, "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks. Join us!

12/11/22 - Sunday School and Confirmation classes will be held at 9:15am.

12/24/22 - 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service. There will **NOT** be a service on Christmas Day.

* **Choir practice** - held on Sundays at 9:30am.

* **Shepherd's Flock Quilters** - generally meet at 10am each Monday, and Saturday. **QUILTING WILL NO LONGER TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAYS.** * For quilting on Mondays, please contact Barbara by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321. If you prefer to quilt on a Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598.



REMINDER - OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND!

* On December 4th, after the 10:30am service, GSLC will hold our Annual Meeting. We urge all members to attend, as important information will be shared and discussion will take place. Please make every effort to attend!

THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION

1127 Royal Palm Beach Blvd.
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
www.thegoodshepherdfoundation.org



November 22, 2022

The Rev. Douglas Ryniewicz
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
466 Elm Street
Monroe, CT 06468

Dear Pastor Ryniewicz and the People of Good Shepherd,

We again have the joy of thanking you for your partnership in our medical and water mission to the people of Haiti. We are touched by your faithfulness in caring for those in need as our Lord did. Your continued support of The Good Shepherd Foundation has been invaluable.

Your gift of \$1,000.00 will provide much needed support. At this point, due to the unrest and lack of fuel in all of Haiti, we now anticipate starting the well construction no earlier than next March. This is most sad, as a Cholera epidemic has recently hit Haiti and spread to the communities we serve.

This is an excerpt from a blog that will be going out this week: *"Disaster has come upon our communities through the scourge of cholera. We have a choice - turn them away to go to another clinic or provide care. Treatment of our patients has been initiated; they were referred to another clinic far away; and several have died. and suffering, it only takes a phone call to get what you need. In Haiti, we are the front line of defense for the 20 communities we serve, so we have chosen to provide good care to those in need.*

We now have Dr. Steve on our team 3 days a week. Treating cholera has an elevated medical supply cost for IVs and antibiotics. When you need antibiotics, in pain and suffering, it only takes a phone call to get what you need. In Haiti, we are the front line of defense for the 20 communities we serve, so we have chosen to provide good care to those in need.

Please keep the people of Haiti and especially our staff and the people we serve in your prayers. May your Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays be blessed and filled with joy and peace.

With gratitude,

Michele Sidney
President

The Reverend and Mrs. Robert McGurn

Linda & Bob

*You are almost single-handedly
keeping TBSF afloat. God
bless you all for that!*
L

Dear friends:

Disaster has come upon our communities through the scourge of cholera. When this outbreak started, we treated several patients with IVs and sent them to another clinic that was some distance away as we believed that clinic was well equipped, and they would receive the care they needed. Unfortunately, several of them died and so we determined that providing both immediate and ongoing care by our local clinic was needed.

At this time, we need your help to provide Cholera care to the patients we are currently seeing on a daily basis.

We now see over 800 patients each month, because the word is out in the community that TGSF provides good care. They do not want to leave their neighborhood and they know they will survive if we take care of them.

However, the cost is 7 times more than the cost of treating our routine patients and we are in great need of extra support from those who care about the work we have been doing for 11 years.

Here are some ways that you can make a difference with your donation.

- \$30 covers medical care for 2 persons for 1 clinic visit each
- \$50 covers the cost of treating 1 cholera patient
- \$200 covers the cost of 2 nurses and an Auxiliary Staff member for 5 days of clinic
- \$1000 covers the cost of 1 week of clinic with medications and staff

Please read our blog & donate online via our website or send us a check.

<https://www.thegoodshepherdfoundation.org/a-plea-for-help-during-a-cholera-crisis/>

You can mail your check to:

The Good Shepherd Foundation

1127 Royal Palm Beach Blvd

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

Telephone 860-805-1006 and speak to Linda McGurn, if you have questions.

With best regards for a blessed and healthy holiday season,

The Board of TGSF

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS GIFTS -



Salvation Army Christmas gift tags are on the **small table** in the narthex.

If interested, please take a tag and then fill out the corresponding info on the signup sheet. **Gifts / tags will be due back and checked in to GS by December 11th.** Presents should NOT be wrapped, but wrapping paper may be included for parent use.

Thanks for your consideration!

HOLIDAY PAJAMA DRIVE UPDATE-



A **HUGE** thanks to all who purchased and donated pajamas to the Monroe Social Services pajama drive! Your gifts will keep many Monroe children happy and warm this season!



COVENANT TO CARE CHRISTMAS GIFTS -

Name tags for Christmas gifts are clipped to the white clipboard on the table in the narthex. Please PRINT your name and phone number on the list next to the child's name, and attach the corresponding gift tag to your wrapped package.

Gifts are due December 18. Thank you!

FROM MEMBER MIRIAM KURSAWE -



To my Good Shepherd family,



all
Remembering you warmly and thanking God
that no matter how far apart we are,
His love always keeps us close in heart.

Wishing You
a Wonderful Thanksgiving

Miriam Kursawe

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 -

- Juice (apple, cranberry, etc.)
- Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup
- Canned Vegetables (corn, carrots, olives, peas, green beans, etc.)
- Canned Beans (kidney, pinto, chickpeas, cannellini, black)
- Grape Jelly, Strawberry Jam
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr Pasta/Rice Sides, Macaroni & Cheese
- Egg Noodles
- Rice (brown or white)
- Hot & Cold Cereal
- Breadcrumbs (Italian or regular)
- Canned Tomatoes (crushed, whole, diced, stewed, paste)
- Chicken, Beef, or Vegetable Broth
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Fruit (regular or low sugar - preferably in juice)
- Baked Beans, Refried Beans, Pork and Beans, Chili with or without beans
- Baking Supplies - including sugar & flour
- Syrup (regular or sugar free)
- Pancake Mix
- Jarred Pasta Sauce
- Salad Dressing (any flavor)
- Ground Coffee, Tea (regular, decaf), Instant Coffee & Hot Chocolate
- Canned Soup
- Ensure
- Snack Items
- Personal hygiene products - including feminine hygiene products. **We are particularly low on bars of soap, toothpaste, floss, shampoo / conditioner, and deodorant**
- *Household cleaning supplies



Any donation is appreciated. Thank you!

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!

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!

Sunday, November 27, 2022 - First Sunday of Advent

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming, nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19(7)

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12



Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'"