

**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

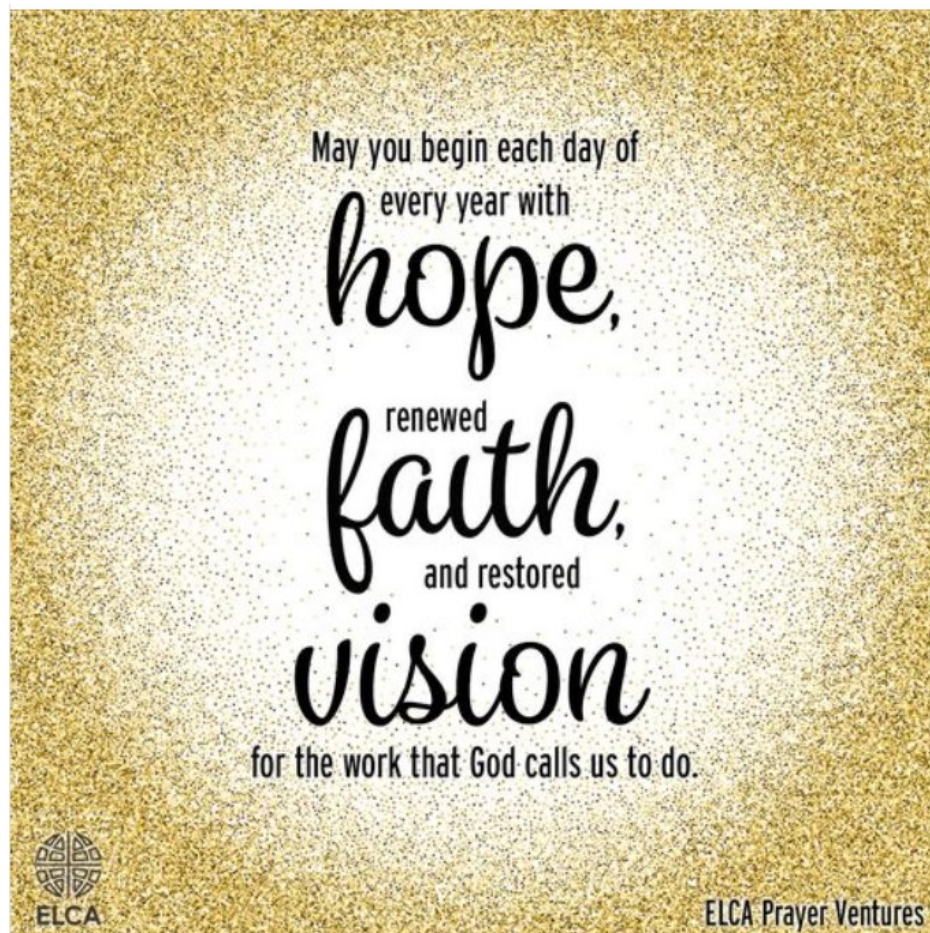
God's work. Our hands.



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, January 5, 2022

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

Happy New Year! We give thanks that we are new creations in Jesus Christ and that we can begin each day of every year with hope, renewed faith and restored vision for the work that God calls us to do in the world. –ELCA Prayer Ventures



## **Worship Information -**

**We will have two in person Worship Services a week. They will be on Sundays at 8am and 10:30am.**

**Masks are required for anyone entering the Church.** 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.

Also, 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 - \* After January 15th, the prayer list below will no longer be available. Please contact Stephanie in the office if you'd like to add someone to our new list.**

For those in need of healing and comfort:



*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

*Psalms 147 vs. 3*

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Marie, Audrey, Gordon, Miriam, Beth, Denise, Sharon, Rosemary, 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)



**Regular Worship schedule** - Sunday Services held at 8am and 10:30am.

**1/9/22 - Sunday School & Confirmation classes** will reconvene at 9:15am.

**1/23/22 - Sunday School & Confirmation classes** held at 9:15am.

**Choir Practice** - Each Sunday at 9:45am.



**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!







January 2022

the  
**SPIRIT**

# *Salem Lutheran Church*

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

*A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation*

## **The Journey Between Promise and Fulfillment**

God showed Abraham the stars in the sky and promised him descendants just as numerous, if he would leave his home and all that was familiar and move to an unknown country at the age of 75. God showed Joseph in a dream that one day those horrible older brothers of his would bow down to him. God showed 3 astrologers from Persia a star and led them on a journey to see the One born to be King of the Jews, and as it turned out, so much more.

For Abraham, for Joseph, and for the 3 astrologers, those visions were a high point of their lives. God had shown up, given them a vision of their deepest desire, their most daring dream, their most dazzling delight, and PROMISED that if they trusted in God's love and power, they would receive all they ever wanted. Can you imagine their awe, their excitement, their exceeding joy? And then came the journey itself.

Abraham and Sarah kept waiting, week after week, month after month, year after year, for 25 years for Isaac to be born. Abraham had to wait from the time he was 75 until the time he was 100 and Sarah has to wait from the time she was 65 until the time she was 90 for them to have Isaac! That could not have been easy.

After 17-year-old Joseph was given a dream of a glorious future, his brothers sold him into slavery and he was taken to Egypt and just when things began to look up for him, he was propositioned by Pharaoh's wife, and when he resisted, was unjustly accused, placed in a dungeon, and for all intents and purposes forgotten. It was 12 years of trials before he became Pharaoh's right hand, and nearly another decade before the dream of his family bowing down to him came true.

The journey of the 3 astrologers was likely not easy either. Imagine setting out on foot or on camel on a journey towards a destination that is by no means sure, so there's no map as you'll be following a star. It could be a journey of 5000 miles and could last the better part of the year or more. You have to carry all you'll need with you – or enough things to barter or trade with to pay for your food and lodging along the way. The star is only visible on clear nights, so you've got to travel when the roads are the least safe. The journey takes more than the 4 months you'd anticipated and ends up being close to 2 years.

It's so easy for us to focus on God's promises and God's fulfilling of those promises in Scripture without stopping to think about the journey in between. And yet it's in that in-between place that you and I

live.

I believe that God calls each and every one of us to journey towards our deepest desire, our most daring dream, our most dazzling delight. What is the deepest desire of your heart? What is God calling you to do and to be? Where do you want to get before your life on this planet ends? When we first understand that call, that vision, that promise, we are filled with hope and excitement and joy. But then comes the journey – and not just the outer journey, but the inner one, because in order to follow faithfully and get where God is taking us on our outer journey, we need to follow faithfully along that inner journey. That means reaching down deep into our spirits to connect with God, to open ourselves to God's direction, and to receive from God all we will need to sustain us on our journey.

For me, 2022 will begin just that way as I commit to a 21-day course of prayer and fasting. The fasting part is driven by the desire to lower my cholesterol, break my sugar addiction, and lose the weight added during the pandemic by following a cleansing diet. The prayer part is driven by my desire to be more attuned to following God, so that I don't end up like Israel for whom an 11-day journey to the promised land ended up taking 40 years!

I invite you to join me in 21-days of prayer and fasting, beginning Sunday January 9<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested, text or call or email me, and we can discuss your physical and/or spiritual goals and potential resources to help.

I know that for me the key is to hold onto the dream, no matter how impossible it is, and to trust that if I watch and listen for God, if I pay attention to how God is working in my life, if I do what God calls me to do, God will fulfill the deepest desires of my heart, God will help me to grow into my fullest potential, and God will get me to exactly the place I'm supposed to be.

I pray that you will hold onto whatever promise God has made to you, whatever vision God has shown you, whatever dream God has planted in your heart. And I pray that God will guide you every step of the way on your Journey between Promise and Fulfillment.

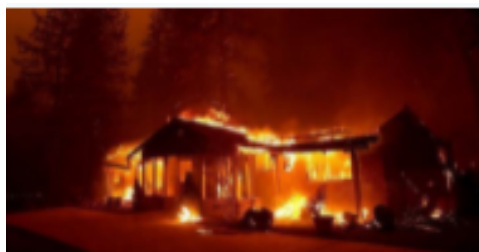
Abundant Blessings Be Yours!

*Pastor Marjo*

Pastor Marjo Anderson

Phone (203) 336-3300 ▪ Fax (203) 336-8813

Website - [www.salembridgeport.org](http://www.salembridgeport.org)



## **Lutheran Disaster Relief seeks support to assist Colorado wildfire victims**

On Dec. 30, the Marshall Fire ignited in Boulder County, Colorado. Over 6,200 acres burned quickly, forcing the evacuations of 35,000 people. The fire spread throughout suburban neighborhoods, destroying at least 500 homes. While December wildfires are rare, the severe drought in the western United States created hazardous conditions that allowed the Marshall Fire to spread rapidly.

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with the Rocky Mountain Synod and Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains to respond to the impact of the fires. They anticipate that immediate needs will include emotional and spiritual care, temporary shelters, food and other necessities. With local partners, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to accompany survivors throughout the years of long-term recovery.

Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to "U.S. wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires, until the response is complete. Or make a gift to "Lutheran Disaster Response" so we can respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. For more information or to donate,

*Make checks payable to  
Lutheran Disaster Response.  
Write "U.S. Wildfires" on your  
check's memo line and send to:*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



**ELCA**

Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central Time.



# CALUMET LUTHERAN MINISTRIES \* CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

## **Prayer for January 2022:**

God is the Alpha and Omega,  
the beginning and the end.  
God grant you grace and peace  
at the dawn of this new year.

All flesh is grass,  
but the word of God remains forever.  
God who is eternal keep you in hope of  
the resurrection.

The past, the present, and the future  
rest in God's hands.  
God guard your coming in  
and your going forth,  
this new year, this week,  
today, and forevermore.

Almighty God,  
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
Amen.

Prayer: Blessing, Service for New Year's  
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[#SAS006505](#)

Photo: Winter view of Luther Hall on a crisp December morning with blue skies. December 29, 2021; by JHS.



## 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 include:

- Juice (apple, cranberry, etc)
- Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup
- Canned Vegetables
- Grape Jelly, Strawberry Jam
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr Pasta/Rice Sides, Macaroni & Cheese
- Egg Noodles
- Rice (brown or white)
- Hot & Cold Cereal
- Bread Crumbs
- Canned Tomatoes (crushed, whole, diced, stewed, paste)
- Chicken, Beef, or Vegetable Broth
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Fruit (regular or low sugar)
- Canned Beans, including baked & refried
- 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
- Household cleaning supplies



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## 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 Lutheran Church" with the notation, "Food For Summerfield". Thank you!

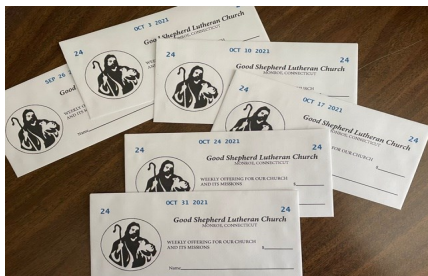


## FINANCIAL NEWS -

**\*\*2022 Envelope boxes for the new year are available and can be picked up on the wood table in the narthex.**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE -

We would like to thank everyone for the contributions that you have made over the last few weeks. As a result of your generosity, we are currently expecting our full year contributions to be at, or slightly below plan. If you are behind on your pledge, or if you would like to make a contribution to Good Shepherd, it would be very helpful and much appreciated!



## 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, January 9, 2022 - Time After Epiphany

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29 (3)

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



### Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

### Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."