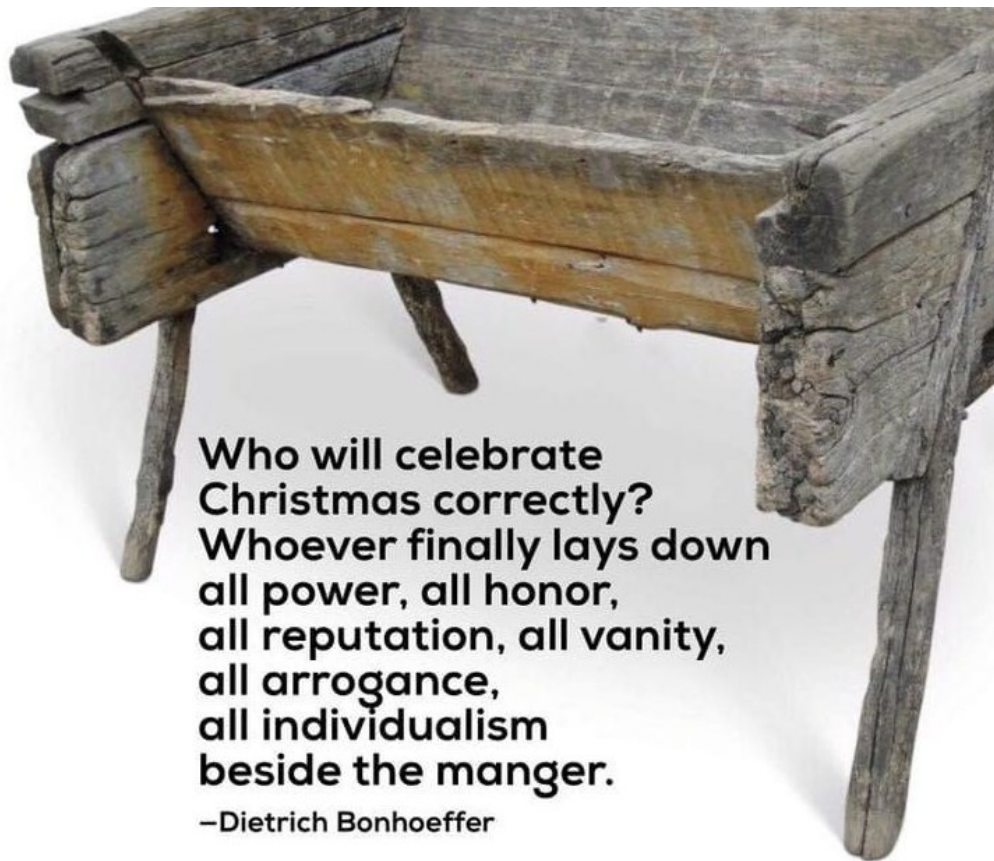




**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, December 15, 2021

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



**Who will celebrate
Christmas correctly?
Whoever finally lays down
all power, all honor,
all reputation, all vanity,
all arrogance,
all individualism
beside the manger.**

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Through Advent, we have found the Scriptures calling us to the prophetic tasks of doing justice in our world. This, we have said, is true preparation for Christmas.

LV,
PD

Worship Schedule -

December 19th: We will have two Worship Services this Sunday. Feel free to choose from our 8am, or 10:30am service. Both services will be held INDOORS. Please bring a mask regardless of your vaccination status, as they will be required for all. **Please see our calendar for the holiday schedule.** Hymnals are now available for use again. 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. 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 -

For those in need of healing and comfort:



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Miriam, 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, 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



12/19/21 -

- * 8am and 10:30am indoor Worship Services.
- * Sunday School children will perform in a Christmas Pageant at 10:30am service.
- * Covenant To Care and Baby Shower items are due.

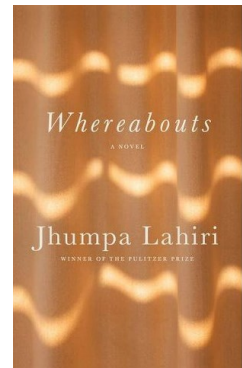


12/24/21 - Christmas Eve Service at 5:30pm.

12/26/21 - Worship Schedule Change - Only one service at 9:30am.

1/2/22 - Back to regular Worship schedule with 8am and 10:30am Services.

1/4/22 - The Book Club will meet again at 2pm to discuss "Whereabouts", by Jhumpa Lahiri.



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

Choir Meetings - Each Sunday at *9:45am. (* Please note slight time change)

Shepherd's Flock Quilters - generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. New members are welcome!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT -

The Sunday School children will present a brief Christmas pageant during 10:30am service on December 19th. If your child would like to participate, please have them meet in Gibiser Hall at 9:30am on 12/19/21.



POINSETTIAS -

We will be decorating the Church with Poinsettias for Christmas. There will be a limited number of Poinsettias available for \$10 each. If you would like to purchase one, please take a green envelope from the bulletin board in the narthex. Fill in your name and kindly enclose your \$10. If you'd like to dedicate it to someone's memory, please add their name, as well. We will include the dedication in our Christmas week bulletins. You are welcome to take your Poinsettia home with you after Christmas Eve Worship. Please remember that there are only a limited number of plants available. In order to include dedications in our Christmas week bulletins, they must be received by 12/19. Thank you!



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GSLC "ELVES", WHO HELPED GET OUR CHURCH READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS! "IT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!"



A HUGE thank you to all that were able to donate at the last minute for the "Angel Tree" program! Your kindness is much appreciated and will truly make a child's day!!!



COVENANT TO CARE CHRISTMAS GIFTS -

All gifts are due this Sunday morning, **December 19th**. Please be sure you have attached your gift tag to your **wrapped** package. Gifts should be placed near the Covenant to Care sign, on the left side of the front doors as you look towards the road.

Thank you for your generosity in reaching out to these families and helping to brighten their kids' Christmas!



GSLC IS HOLDING A VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER -

We are having a virtual baby shower for an Afghan family who recently settled in CT. The family is expecting a baby girl on December 27th. Feel free to drop any items off at our "baby shower table". For your convenience, there is also a collection box outside the main door of the Church.

All items are due by December 19th. Thanks for your help!



QUILTING -



The Shepherd's Flock Quilters generally meet at 10 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. We invite everyone to join us!

Please contact Barbara Abraham by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321 if you wish to come on Monday morning. Contact Ellie Noll by phone at: 203-888-7009, or Eileen Holleran at: 203-426-0005, if you wish to come on Wednesday. If you prefer Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598.

There is no limit to the number of quilters at this time, but we would like to ensure that someone will definitely be there to work with you. If you can tie a knot, you can do this! A variety of talents can be used; we are happy to show you how to sew tops, tie, trim, and design tops if you wish to join us.

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 out to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church" with the notation, "Food For Summerfield".

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 AT THE MONROE FOOD PANTRY

At the Monroe Food Pantry, we strive to consistently provide healthy food options for our clients. We accept and appreciate all donations, and encourage **low sodium, low sugar, low saturated fat, vegetarian, and whole wheat** selections when possible. This helps our clients manage and prevent chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease.

- bread crumbs
- instant potatoes
- egg noodles
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- macaroni & cheese
- healthy snack items
- hot and cold cereal
- tuna
- canned chicken
- brown/white rice
- pancake mix & syrup
- peanut butter
- jams and jellies
- canned soup
- canned pasta
- salad dressing
- condiments
- baked beans
- refried beans
- broths and stocks
- canned fruit
- canned chili
- canned tomatoes
- canned beans & vegetables
- Ensure
- juice
- hot chocolate
- baking supplies: sugar, flour, brownie and cake mix
- decaf and regular: ground coffee, instant coffee
- decaf and regular: black tea, green tea
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr products, Ramen
- household cleaning supplies
- personal hygiene products
- feminine hygiene products
- frozen vegetables, and fresh produce
- pet food



"Let's be gentle with ourselves and each other this Advent and Christmas. Let's not fret about imperfect lives and incomplete holiday preparations. We won't ever get it completely right. That's God's work. It is the best gift exchange ever."

—ELCA Presiding Bishop
Elizabeth Eaton



This is our second pandemic Christmas. We thought this would be over so long ago. And still, we wear masks; we're physically distant; we can't be with friends and family as we used to do. And also, there's so much that's broken in this world, so much that tells us, "Why have hope? Just give up."

But we have a hope that's stronger than any of this, stronger even than death. The hope of God comes in the form of a tiny baby, a helpless child; nevertheless, who grew to a man and in his fragile strength was willing to die on the cross and was raised again.

I don't know what next Christmas will bring. I don't know what New Year's will bring. But I do know we have hope.

St. Paul put it this way:

"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."

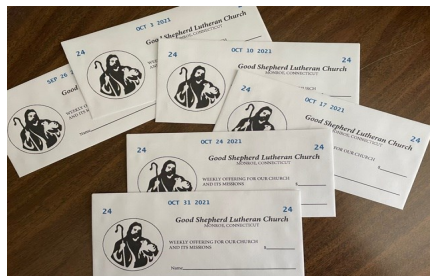
Merry Christmas, dear church.

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

FINANCIAL NEWS -

FINANCIAL UPDATE -

We would like to thank everyone for the contributions that you have made over the last five, or six 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, 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, December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prayer of the Day: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and The Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings:

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b -55 (52)

Psalm: 80:1-7(7)

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]



Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]