

# 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 11, 2021**



### **Discouragement**

**“Do not let your hearts be discouraged. Believe in God, believe also in me.” John 14:1**

**Did - coure means ‘to lose heart’**

**On Sunday, we returned to masks while inside the church. We’ve all read about breakthroughs of the virus into some vaccinated people and we are learning about the variant strain.**

**I have to admit, I did get a bit discouraged.**

**You’ve also read about evangelical churches that see masking as a lack of trust in God’s protection.**

**This makes no logical sense, in that such people wear seat belts, have cars with air bags, own guns for protection, use car seats for children and don’t let their children play on the highway....**

**Luther pointed out in his own time when plague was ravaging Europe, that a Christian does their duty and responsibility to the neighbor and their health and well-being.**

**What gives you ‘new heart’ when you are discouraged? How can prayer, or reading scripture strengthen our patience and our resolve?**

**What in your life right now brings you joy!**

**“Don’t let your hearts be troubled ...”**

**LV  
PD**

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**Our seminarian and my daughter Clare, will graduate this Thursday from a year long Clinical Intensive training as a hospital chaplain.**

**She has grown in ways that amaze me.**

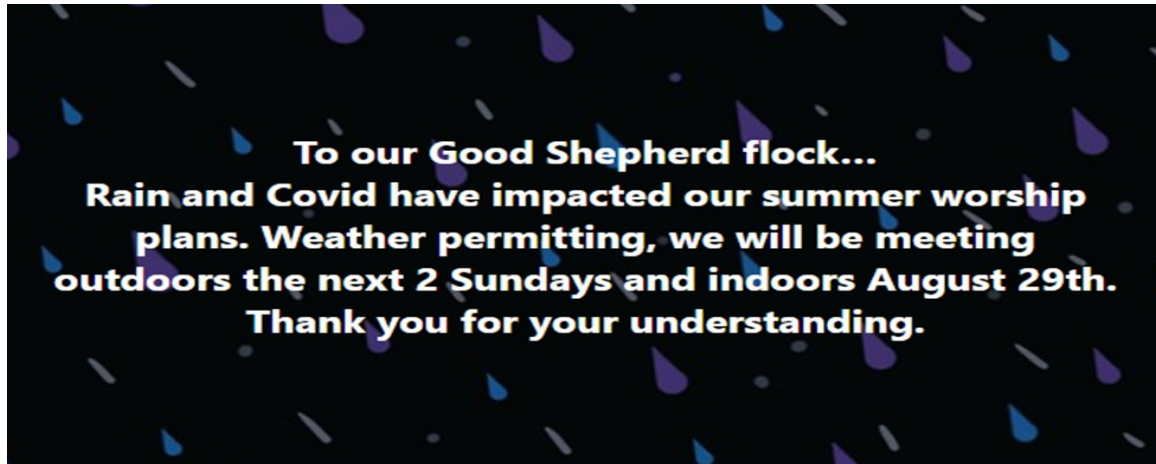
**Clare will now complete an Intern year in Berkeley on the UCal Campus. Please keep her in your prayers!**

**PD**





**An update from the Worship and Music Committee:**



**\*FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL...PLEASE BRING A MASK IN CASE IT RAINS AND WE HAVE INDOOR WORSHIP.**

**Due to the current circumstances, we must now revert back to wearing masks indoors during worship. Good Shepherd appreciates your patience and understanding during these challenging times!**

There are several options for you to join us for prerecorded online worship:

1) Go to the Good Shepherd website [www.gslc-ct.org](http://www.gslc-ct.org). Click on youtube on the menu under News & Events 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 this 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, then 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!

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

## Summer Worship Schedule for in person worship: (subject to change)

Aug 15: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors - This is a change  
Aug 22: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors  
Aug 29: 9:30 Worship INdoors  
Sept 5: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors



### A Community of Prayer

*For those in need of healing and comfort:*

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Tim, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Sarah, Miriam, Jim, Darcy, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, the Wilk family, Linda, Todd, Noreen and family, Maureen, Lynn, Barbara, Scott, Johanna, Glen and Durbin.

Military (on active duty), Fire fighters, and Police: Ryan, Teddy, Tyler, Ben, Kenny, Brian, Bill, Ken, John, Glen, and Vic.

*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.*

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@gscl-ct.org](mailto:office@gscl-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)).*

## Financial News -

**\* Our offerings are down significantly. If you have a chance, please be sure to use Vanco, send your offering to the church, or Sunday's in person Worship Service.**

**It is needed and would be deeply appreciated!**

**\* Financial Statements are always Available Upon Request throughout the year. Please contact our Financial Secretary, Roy Remlin, and he will be more than happy to send you an updated report.**

### NEW ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM –

**We are in our third week of offering a new online giving platform. In case you haven't heard...We have partnered with Vanco, an ELCA preferred vendor, to give 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, please see the information below. Also, feel free to contact Stephanie in the office with any questions you may have!**

## Vanco offers new online giving option for ELCA congregations

*2/19/2019 10:00:00 AM*

CHICAGO – The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has formed a preferred vendor agreement with Vanco, an eGiving software developer and payment processor serving more than 20,000 churches across the country. The agreement offers Vanco's GivePlus suite of eGiving solutions to ELCA congregations.

The ELCA churchwide organization has sought new working relationships with companies that serve ELCA congregations. Vanco has proven its commitment to the ELCA over the last 20 years by processing payments for nearly 4,000 ELCA congregations.

Preferred vendor agreements with a few select companies are being pursued to enhance operating efficiency, leadership effectiveness, congregational vitality and financial sustainability. Special pricing, communications and promotions will accompany each agreement.

Vanco's GivePlus suite provides churches with a full range of eGiving solutions, allowing congregations to accept gifts and payments through credit and debit cards, websites, card readers, text messages and a mobile app.

As part of the agreement, ELCA congregations will receive special discounted rates from Vanco on new or additional GivePlus eGiving services.

Vanco makes handling donations easy for church administrative staff and offers churches new ways to increase donations by making it convenient for members to donate. GivePlus also integrates with the most popular names in church management software to reduce the amount of time spent on reconciling offerings.



## Upcoming Events -

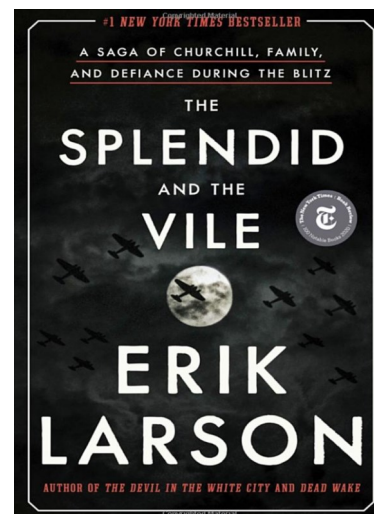
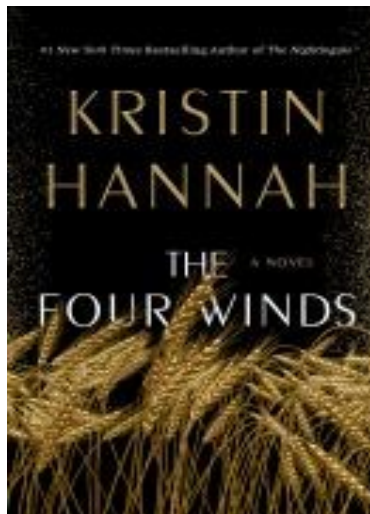
**August 21st - Larry and Trudi's Annual Pool Party Party for the youth of Summerfield Methodist Church from 1pm-4pm.**



Larry Black invites everyone to join him at the pool and he will also provide meats for the grill. All guests are asked to please bring a dish to share. (either salad or dessert.)

Please RSVP and indicate what you plan to bring to Susan Chin: [suejchin@hotmail.com](mailto:suejchin@hotmail.com) or 203-583-0298.

Don't forget your swimsuit and towel!



**The Good Shepherd Book Club will meet again On September 7th at 2:00 p.m.**

We will discuss "The Four Winds", by Kristin Hannah. Weather permitting, we can meet outdoors, or indoors (with masks) if that is preferable.

We welcome new members and look forward to seeing all our avid readers on 9/7/21!

On **October 5th at 2:00pm**, we will discuss "The Splendid And The Vile", by Erik Larson.

## Shepherd's Flock Quilting Update -



The Shepherd's Flock Quilters generally meet at 10 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. We invite anyone 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 by phone 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 people 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.

## A word of thanks -



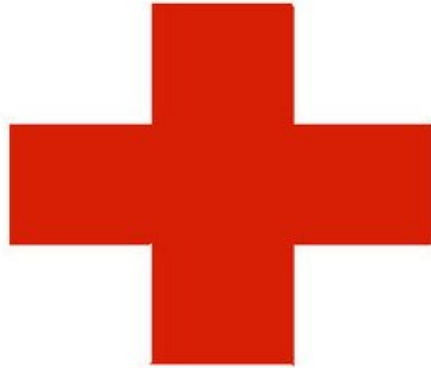
Dear Quilters of Good Shepherd,

Thank you so much for the quilt. It means so much and was a great surprise. I love too that it is the colors of my home for the next 4 years. I'm sure both it, and the thought and love that went in to it will keep me warm.

Thank you again,

*Kim*

**Volunteer needed -**



**American  
Red Cross**

***Together, we can save a life***

The Good Shepherd will host a Blood Drive in Gibiser Hall on 11/13/21.

We are looking for a volunteer to run this event. This means readying the hall in advance and unlocking the Church for the Red Cross at about 6:45am that morning. The volunteer does not need to stay at the Church during the drive, as the Red Cross brings their staff to run it. The volunteer would need to do a quick building check / light cleanup afterwards and lock up the Church at around 2pm, or 2:30. If interested, please see Donna, or call Stephanie in the office to discuss details.



## Reaching Out, Serving Others

### COVENANT TO CARE BACKPACK REMINDER -

If you haven't already brought your Covenant to Care backpack to church, please place it with the others near the front doors of the church by August 15th. Again, many thanks for your support and generosity!



### Lost and found -



\*If this happens to be yours, please call Stephanie in the office to claim it.



## Shepherd's Pantry

### The need is great!

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.



- 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 - preferably in juice)
- 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

## **Sunday, August 15th, 2021 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

Prayer of the Day: Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalm 34:9-14(10)

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

Gospel: John 13

### **Ephesians 5:15-20**

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **John 13**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me." After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.