

# 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, October 13, 2021**



The Lord is my strength and my shield; in [God] my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to [God]. (Psalm 28:7)



**\*FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL...PLEASE BRING A MASK TO UTILIZE DURING INDOOR WORSHIP.**

**Regardless of vaccination status, we must now revert back to wearing masks during indoor 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

## **Worship Schedule for in person worship:**



**October 17th:** Our "Fall schedule" is in effect. This means we will have two Worship Services every Sunday until further notice. Please choose from:

**\* 8am INDOOR service with masks, or**

**\* 10:30am OUTDOOR service.** (weather permitting)

Please continue to read Friday's weekly "Worship E-mail", or check our Facebook Page for any updates / changes.

### A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

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

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

*Psalms 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](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)

# Confirmation

After a long Covid-imposed wait, October 10th was a day of celebration! These young people affirmed the baptismal promise that was made for them by their parents and the congregation. We joyfully welcome them into the church as fully confirmed members.

Kylah Baron  
Rachel Baron  
George Blake  
Anthony Cavaliere  
Molly Lenzen  
Amanda Sjoblom  
James Schwarz  
Ava Vojtek



We are so proud of you all!

\* Photo credits - Karen Jackson





# October

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Online Worship - new, weekly pre-recorded services are always available at: <a href="http://www.gslc-ct.org">www.gslc-ct.org</a> , Youtube, and Facebook					1	2 10am - Quilting
3 8am -Indoor Worship 9:55am - Choir 10:30am - Outdoor  4-6pm - Confirmation Students - Mini Retreat and Pizza	4 10am - Quilting	5 2pm - Book Club "The Splendid and The Vile"	6 10am - Quilting	7 11am - Bible Study  7pm - Bible Study	8	9 10am - Quilting
10 8am -Indoor Worship 9:15am -Sunday School & Confirmation Class 9:55am - Choir 10:30am - Outdoor Service & Confirmation	11 10am - Quilting  7pm - Finance Committee	12	13 10am - Quilting	14 11am - Bible Study  7pm - Bible Study	15	16 10am - Quilting
17 8am -Indoor Worship 9:55am - Choir 10:30am - Outdoor	18 10am - Quilting	19	20 10am - Quilting	21 11am - Bible Study  7pm - Bible Study	22	23 10am - Quilting
24 8am -Indoor Worship 9:15am -Sunday School & Confirmation Class 9:55am - Choir 10:30am - Outdoor -- -----31 8am -Indoor Worship 9:55am - Choir 10:30am - Outdoor	25	26	27	28 11am - Bible Study  7pm - Bible Study	29	30 10am - Quilting

**\* Book Club will meet again on 11/2/21 at 2pm to discuss "Sunflower Sisters" by Martha Hall Kelly. New members are welcome!**

# HARVEST GROUND

By Angela !Khabeb

It's harvest season in various parts of the United States. I'm mindful of a parable Jesus shares about a harvest where the crops were infiltrated by weeds. Jesus compares the *kingdom* of God to a farmer who sows good seed in his field. While everyone is sleeping, the enemy creeps in and sows weeds in this farmer's field.

At first this dastardly deed goes unnoticed. But soon the field is one hot mess. When the workers ask if they should pull the weeds, the farmer tells them not to because they will risk uprooting the wheat as well. Instead, they let the weeds and the wheat grow together.

Later, at his disciples' urging, Jesus explains this parable. We learn that the farmer represents Jesus, and the field is the world. The wheat represents the children of God, and the weeds are the "children of the evil one" (Matthew 13:38).

A couple of things: Jesus isn't giving a universal command about how to engage evil in our world (i.e., do nothing). Nor is he offering an explanation of why evil exists. The point of this parable isn't for us to remain silent when evil is present, but rather to reflect God's goodness by continuing to grow even when evil is all around us and, yes, at times within us.

What if the farmer was aware that God is in the transformation business and that's why the weeds and wheat were allowed to grow together—because God transforms weeds into wheat all the time? Perhaps the weeds aren't the problem, and the issue is that our perspectives can be blurred by our preconceptions and egos. We look at a situation and focus on what we think is right without regard for the least among us.

Not too long ago, women's suffrage was seen as an evil outrage and the movement was condemned by good, God-fearing people. Not too long ago, Black people were bought, sold and owned *legally*—even by some of this country's founding fathers. Not too long ago, children with special needs were categorically institutionalized or much worse—even by medical professionals sworn to first do no harm. And not too long ago, members of the LGBTQIA+ community had zero legal protection for their civil rights.



Photo: Trella Khabeb

Only God can decide  
what lives and dies in us.  
But be encouraged:  
God routinely transforms  
weeds  
into wheat.

Self-proclaimed "good people" get it wrong all the time. Good people, who certainly consider themselves to be the wheat of the world, can make terrible mistakes in the name of God. Our gracious, generous, extravagant God invites us to be a voice of love against a cacophony of hate.

God's call on our lives is real, and Jesus chooses to have us grow in and among the weeds—so much so that we can't tell where the weeds end and the wheat begins. Jesus expects us to live in and among those whom our society would rather ignore, forget or condemn.

What if each of us were a field composed of both wheat and weeds? Only God can decide what lives and dies in us. But be encouraged: God routinely transforms weeds into wheat.

As we continue to grow, we will produce a harvest, a bumper crop! Nothing can stop our God—not the evil outside and not the evil within. Jesus calls and invites all of us to live as wheat and to allow God to refine our lives so that the weedy things about us may be transformed.

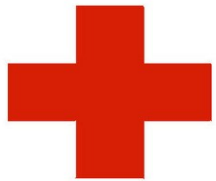
God transformed Paul on the road to Damascus. Jesus transformed his disciples by teaching them and claiming them as his friends. Jesus even transformed a little boy's lunch into a feast that fed the multitudes. Jesus transformed the entire world through his life, death and resurrection. And the Spirit transforms you and me by her relentless presence in, with and among humanity.

Beloveds, our God is indeed in the transformation business, and I'm here to tell ya, business is good! †



## MEMBER NEWS -

**Volunteer Needed** - We still need some help hosting our Blood Drive, scheduled for November 13th. It won't be hard and can help save lives! Please consider helping out! Feel free to call Stephanie in the office for more details.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

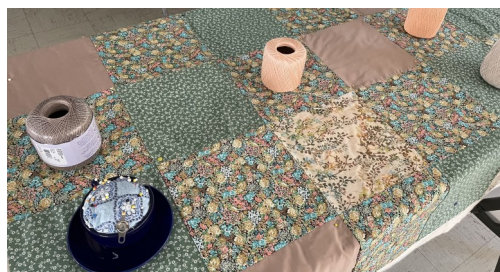
The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.



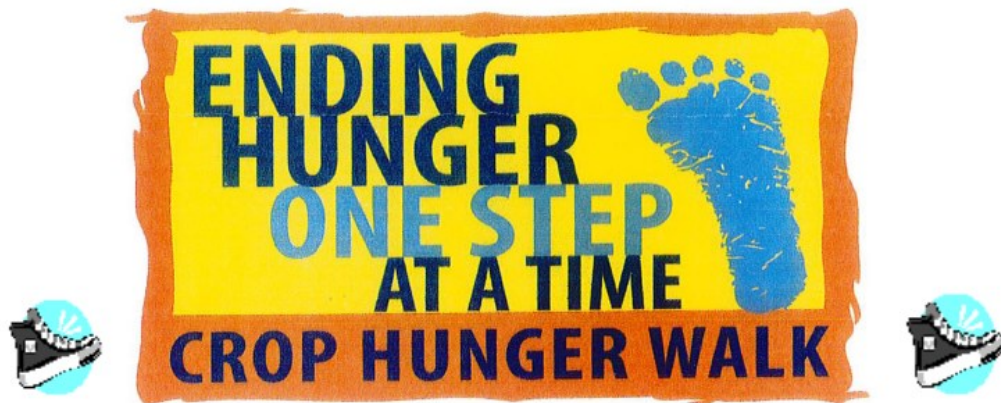
**American  
Red Cross**

---

**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 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.



\*\*\*\*\*



## CROP Hunger Walk No. 47

Sunday, October 17, 2021

at 1:30 – 4:00 pm for 2+ mile walk (Rain or Shine)

at United Congregational Church  
2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport, CT

25 % of monies raised goes to hunger related programs in the Bridgeport Area.

For more information, call 203-375-1284. [www.crophungerwalk.org](http://www.crophungerwalk.org)



### 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 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



# WE ARE INVITED INTO SILENCE

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



There are very few times in my life when I experience silence. There is the ever-present ambient noise of the city or the office: traffic, planes, power mowers, power tools, the intrusive alerts from computers signaling new emails or texts, ringtones. I find myself obsessively plugged in to the news, Twitter and YouTube—all available all the time, portable and near at hand on my cellphone.

And then there is the noise in my head: racing thoughts, internal conversations, grocery lists, music. Even—or perhaps especially—when the world around me is mostly still, I notice that I am not.

I'm not sure what drives this acoustic and mental busyness, but I know I'm not the only one who so seldom experiences silence. Maybe we are just trying to get more stuff done. Maybe it's FOMO—fear of missing out. Maybe it's habit.

I do know that this constant noise and stimulation can be exhausting and stressful. The more noise, the louder we become in order to be heard, which leads to more noise.

In recent weeks we have been overwhelmed by disasters, natural and human-made. The West Coast is burning, and the Gulf Coast and East Coast are drowning. The elected Afghan government has fallen, and that 20-year war has come to an end. We are still stuck in this pandemic. We worry about our children who are too young to get vaccinated. We worry about our elders with comorbidities. We worry about ourselves.

In an effort to make sense of all this, we seek to gather more information and more data, which we hope will give us answers or show us a way out. There is no shortage of voices. We are bombarded with experts and pundits analyzing everything, talking and talking and talking. STOP.

The prophet Elijah had a profound experience of silence. He was fleeing for his life from the wrath of Jezebel. I imagine the stress was generating a lot of internal noise. But the word of the Lord came to Elijah

and said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by" (1 Kings 19:11).

And then we read: "Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence" (11-12).

Wind and earthquakes and fire all seem reasonable when God makes an entrance. There are many instances in Scripture when God is announced in sound and pyrotechnics. But this story from 1 Kings has always caught my attention. The phrase in verse 12 is often translated as the sound of "a still, small voice." Yet it wasn't the sound of a voice that indicated that God was present. It was the sound of sheer silence. "When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and stood at the entrance of the cave" (13).

Silence.

Spending time in silence is a spiritual discipline. My spiritual director urges me to spend 20 minutes in silence every day. I can do about five. Silence is not a technique but a way of being in God's presence. It's pretty simple, but it's not easy. Sheer silence silences us—all of our defenses and self-justifications. It can be terrifying because in silence there is nothing between the soul and its source of being. No wonder that Elijah, when he heard the sound of sheer silence, wrapped his face in his mantle. He was in the presence of the Holy.

We are invited into silence. In the words of the hymn: "Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 490). †

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address is [bishop@elca.org](mailto:bishop@elca.org).



# Financial News -

## Financial Statements -

Roy Remlin has printed out Financial Statements for our members. You can get yours by stopping by the wood table in the narthex when you are at the Church. If you are not able to get to Church and need your statement, please contact Stephanie in the office to request that it be mailed out.

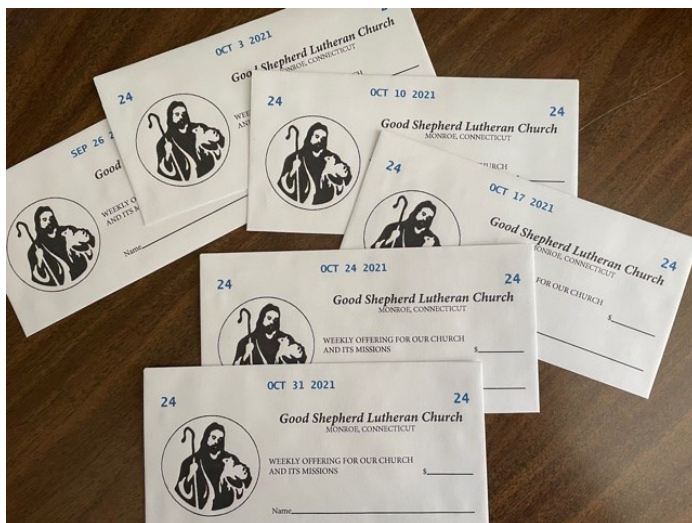
## VANCO - a secure ELCA preferred online giving platform -

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!



**\* Our offerings are down significantly. If you are able to donate, any amount would be very helpful and much appreciated!**



## **Sunday, October 17, 2021 Twenty - first Sunday after Pentecost**

Prayer of the Day: Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16 (9)

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45



### **Hebrews 5:1-10**

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

### **Mark 10:35-45**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."