

**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, August 3, 2022

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

The Richness of Life

Many people in the United States have such an abundance of possessions that they don't even notice it. It feels normal to have things in excess. For others in the same culture, paying rent or the mortgage and having enough to buy food is a struggle. Scarcity is a daily reality.

Someone in the crowd asked Jesus, "Tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me" (Luke 12:13). It feels urgent. Is he being impatient? Is his brother refusing to give him a fair share of the estate? Is he being greedy? Is he desperate because he is unable to pay his debts or care for his children?

We don't know who is living in abundance of possessions and who is living in scarcity in this story. Whether we are rich or poor, greedy or needy, we can fall into the trap of thinking that an abundance of possessions is what life must be about. Having enough to live and be safe is important for everyone. But having as much as possible while others go without is outside of God's good intentions for human community.

Jesus points beyond abundance of possessions to finding the key to life in an abundance of something else: being "rich toward God" (v. 21). What could this mean? First, it means knowing that God provides abundantly for us and for all, so we live with gratitude to God for all we have. Second, it means knowing our only true security is in God's love and grace, which we always have. Third, it means responding to the God of abundance with the same generosity toward others. Being rich toward God means being generous toward our neighbors.

Why is this the key to life, and not abundance of possessions? Because we are created to live in relationship with God and each other. And in living generously toward each other we participate in the goodness of God. That is the richness of life.

from [sundaysandseasons.com](https://www.sundaysandseasons.com).



Worship Information -

*** Good Shepherd is currently on "Summer schedule". This means that one service is held every Sunday at 9:30am. Choir practice is at 8:45am. Please join us!**

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.

*** Masks are no longer required at any time ***

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!

Prayer List -

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Cliff Jr., Audrey, Miriam, Kelly, Andrea, Robert, Kathy, Beverly, Doree, Amy, Mark, Scarlet, Ryan, 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



8/3/22 - Golden Hill Community Supper. Sign up sheet is in narthex.

8/7/22 - Celebration of Life for Bob Carlson at 2pm.

8/14/22 - Covenant to Care Backpacks are due.

*** Choir practice - every Sunday at 8:45am.**

*** 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!

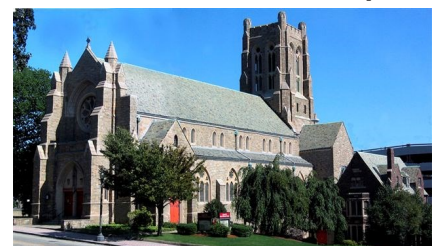
SEPTEMBER BOOK CLUB -



Our next Book Club has been announced. Please join us on **September 6th at 2pm** to discuss "People We Meet On Vacation", by Emily Henry. All are welcome!

GOLDEN HILL COMMUNITY SUPPER -

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the Golden Hill Community Supper is on **August 3rd**. Please contact Peg Wesche for more information, or sign up on the sheet hanging in the narthex.





AUGSBURG FORTRESS



God's Goodness Doesn't Sting

Sometimes when people are in need, they pray. And then they wait. They wonder. They wait some more and pray some more. *Is God listening? Will God answer my prayer?* Some people may worry that they have done something to deafen God's ears to their needs. Maybe they fear they are unworthy to be heard and helped, or that their lives don't matter. Maybe they just give up on themselves and on God.

Jesus is well aware of the challenges of being a person of faith and trusting in God when life is tough. He invites people into a deep trust in God. Why? Because God gives us everything we want, even if it is bad for us? No! God doesn't give scorpions to sting us, even if we ask for them. Jesus invites people into a deep trust in God because of God's profound goodness. Jesus urges us to ask God for the sustenance we need: bread, fish, eggs, mercy, justice, love. God will give us such good things because God is so good.

The heart of Jesus' message is rooted in God's goodness. It is not centered on our worthiness, but on God's generous heart. God is good. God is merciful. God is compassionate. God responds to our need out of that benevolence. The Good One gives good things for those in need. This is who God is for us.

This doesn't resolve our tough and appropriate questions about when and how prayers get answered. It does tell us that we are invited to trust that we are cared for no matter what. We are provided for beyond our comprehension, not because of *our* goodness, but because of *God's*. We can come forward to Christ's table—hungry for acceptance, longing for the bread of mercy—and know we will receive that bread in our hands.

from sundaysandseasons.com.

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COVENANT TO CARE BACKPACKS -

BACKPACKS ARE DUE 8/14



Thanks to everyone who took a name tag for school supplies for our Covenant to Care kids!

The backpacks are due on August 14th. Please leave them in the narthex toward the front door of the church.

Your support makes a big difference to help these kids get off to a good start at school. Thank you!

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport Enews

Leveraging hope, changing lives



Back to School Supplies Drive

The Council once again is collecting school supplies to help prepare children who are returning to school. Please encourage your congregations and individuals to sign up for donating school supplies. Donations can be dropped off at the agency Monday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm at 1718 Capitol Avenue, Bridgeport before Wednesday, August 24, 2022.

COMBAT BOOTS TO BUSINESS SUIT CLOTHING DRIVE



THE BRIDGEPORT POLICE COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION IS LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF GENTLY USED MALE AND FEMALE SUITS OR BUSINESS ATTIRE FOR MILITARY VETERANS IN SEARCH OF A JOB, NOT HAVING THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR AN INTERVIEW.

ALL DONATIONS MUST BE CLEAN AND IN GOOD CONDITION

ITEMS NEEDED: SUITS, DRESS PANTS, BUTTON DOWN SHIRTS, BLOUSES, SKIRTS, BUSINESS STYLE DRESSES, TIES, BELTS, MEN'S OR WOMEN'S DRESS SHOES

WE WILL ALSO ACCEPT NEW TOILETRIES ITEMS SUCH AS: TOOTH BRUSH, TOOTH PASTE, MOUTH WASH, SOAP, SHAMPOO, COMB, HAIR BRUSHES, HAIR PRODUCTS AND DEODORANT

DONATIONS MAYBE DROPPED OFF AT:

BRIDGEPORT POLICE COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

1395 SYLVAN AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06606

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:30AM-3:00PM

OR SCHEDULE A PICKUP 203-330-4239 OR 203-576-8278

DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS: SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2022

EVENT DATE: SEPTEMBER 12-16TH, 2022

VISIT US ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE BRIDGEPORT POLICE COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
OR
INSTAGRAM BPD_COMMUNITYSERVICES



AN INVITATION FROM SALEM LUTHERAN -

The original "Salem's Men's Breakfast" has become the "ELCA Prayer Breakfast." Everyone from all ELCA churches in the area is invited for breakfast and prayerful discussion.

The monthly ELCA Prayer Breakfast continues Saturday, August 13 at 8:00. Grace Lutheran Church at 150 Chapel St, Stratford has graciously continued to offer their facilities for this event. As usual, breakfast is at 8:00, followed by a short spiritual discussion and be on your way by 9:00. If you'd like to help cook, we start at 7:00.

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.

* From the Monroe Food Pantry...

Kids are home for the summer, so we can use several items to help our local families:

Snack items (like chips, pretzels, etc.)

Juice (apple, cranberry, etc.)

Condiments such as ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, mayo

Salad dressing (Ranch/Thousand Island/French/Balsamic)

Canned fruits and vegetables

Brownie and cake mix

Egg noodles

Instant potatoes

Cooking oil

Strawberry jelly

Rice and pasta sides

Sugar

Flour

Oatmeal, original and instant

Coffee

Tea

Jarred pasta sauce

Jell-O and puddings

Toiletry items (deodorant/shampoo/conditioner/soap)

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Cleaning products

Laundry detergent



Thank you for your support!

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!



*** Financial Statements** are still available on the wood table in the narthex. They cover the period through 4/30/22. If you can not get to Church and need yours mailed, please contact the office.

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, August 7, 2022 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalms 33:12-22(22)

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40



Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12:32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”