

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, September 2, 2020



"Listen deeply with the ear of your heart."

Benedict of Nursia

People don't always need your advice. They don't always need you to say "Oh I've had that too." Sometimes all they really need is a hand to hold, an ear to listen, and a heart to understand them. There is a Jewish story that when Yahweh wanted to create the Universe, God tried but nothing happened! The Divine Creator filled everywhere so that there was no room for other things to have the space to become. God wisely then retracted that is - pulled back the Divine self to make room, to make space for the other to come into being. In Hebrew this is "tsim-tsum."

Try this as you listen to another. Maybe a spouse, an adult child, or a grandchild or friend. Ask yourself "Does anything I have to say right now improve upon a caring silence?" Creating space for the other to find themselves, to come into being. This is deep listening. Listening for the feelings of the other. Accepting without judgement. Providing safety. Warm presence. Listen well. After all it's what God does best with us!

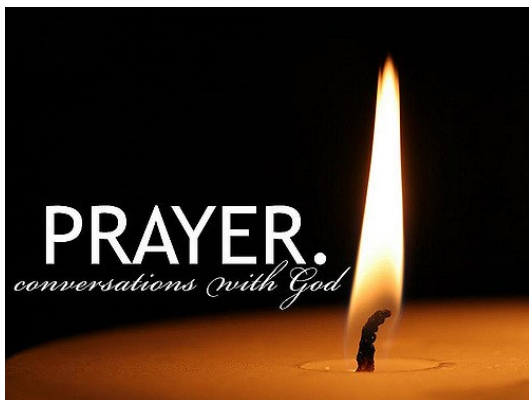
LV
PD

On **Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m.** we will have the next Outdoor Worship Services at Good Shepherd on the back lawn behind the sanctuary. We are committed to our goal of having no spread of the contagion due to our gatherings. With this in mind, we ask you to observe the following guidelines:

- 1) If you do not feel well, if you do not feel comfortable, or if you are in a high risk category, please stay at home. We will record the service and make it available online.
- 2) The building and restrooms will not be accessible. We anticipate that our worship service will be approximately 45 minutes long. Please plan accordingly.
- 3) Please put on your face covering before leaving your vehicle. You will be expected to wear it throughout your visit.
- 4) Please bring: a lawn chair, face covering, and portion of bread for communion for every person in your group.
- 5) Please plan to arrive between 9-9:15. There will be a table at the entrance where you may leave your offering.
- 6) Ushers will guide you to your worship space, starting with front rows and moving toward the back. You will be assigned the next available spot to set up your chairs. Your chair should be positioned so that your feet are on the white line in front of you and so that you cannot reach your neighbor (maintaining six feet of distance.) Please stay seated until worship begins.
- 7) Please refrain from unnecessary movement through the worship space to allow everyone to get set up while maintaining social distancing.
- 8) Please understand that singing has been shown to be one of the riskiest activities at this time. We will NOT be singing during this service. This will be very difficult for some, so if you must, please hum softly or mouth the words without using your voice.
- 9) We will pass the Peace without physical contact.
- 10) For Holy Communion, you will be asked to get out the bread you brought with you. Pastor will consecrate it from the altar and signal you when you should eat it. No wine will be available. As Lutherans, we believe that Christ is present to us in, with, and under both the bread and wine, so in times such as this when it is not safe to share a common cup, the sacrament is fully available and complete in the consecrated bread.
- 11) When the service has ended, you may stand and pack your chairs and belongings but please remain in place until directed by the ushers to leave. The back row will exit first, followed by remaining rows from back to front. Please do not linger to socialize; go directly to your vehicle and depart.
- 12) A recycling bin and trash can will be placed near the entrance to the worship space. Please deposit your disposable masks and any trash in the appropriate container.
- 13) In the event of inclement weather, the service will be cancelled. You may assume that if there are thunderstorms or torrential rain in the forecast, there will be no service. Check our Facebook page and/or the church website for updates if the weather seems questionable.



Please remember that we are all handling these unprecedented times in the best ways we know how given our unique circumstances. Some will feel more comfortable than others, some face greater risks than others. Please be respectful of these personal differences and lift each other up as we move into gathering in community again. We are taking a conservative approach so that as many people as possible may feel safe in joining us. Please follow any directions given by our ushers.



A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Ingeborg, Bill, Vicki, Peg, Marie, Karen, Pat, Billie, Audrey, Catherine, Elizabeth, Ray, Gordon, Miriam, Sarah, Chuck, Timmy, Bruce, Karl, Kendra, Mary Helen, Carolyn, Irma, Patricia, Cate, Misty, Julia, Sydne, Anna, Roy, Judy, Marilyn, Scarlet, Jason, Brian.

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.

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. Amen.

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@gsic-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).



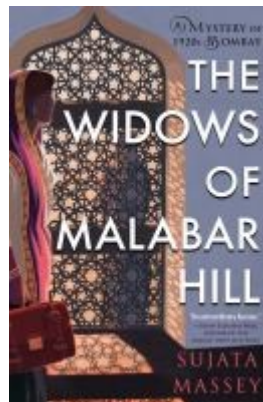
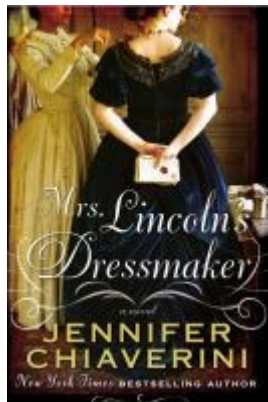
Thank you all for your generous, caring donation of school supplies and food for Summerfield United Methodist Church in Bridgeport. We dropped off all the food at Summerfield on Sunday night and Pastor Gaston was most appreciative! A member of Good Shepherd is donating a wireless printer this week. The blessings keep flowing!

Trudi and Larry Black



Upcoming Events

The Book Club is meeting via Zoom and it is wonderful to “see” so many people! On September 1st at **1:00 p.m.** we will discuss “Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker” by Jennifer Chiaverini. Please note the change in time. In October, we will discuss “The Widows of Malabar Hill” by Sujata Massey. We welcome new members! Reply to this newsletter or contact Karen Jackson to be sure to be included in the discussion. The sessions are by invitation only to ensure internet safety guidelines are followed.



Weekly Offering

As worship services are online and/or outdoor for the near future, if you have a chance, please submit your offering to help with our expenses. Thank you for your contribution!

There are different ways to contribute. You may bring it with you to the outdoor worship service or you may mail it if you are worshipping online with us or you may use your bank's online checking and have the bank issue the check and mail it—it's most often a free service offered by banks. Check with your bank to see if this works for you. In addition, our Finance Committee is working on implementing online contributions by this fall.

Let us know if you have any questions, we are always happy to help.

SEASON OF CREATION 2020

*Renewing, repairing
and restoring*

our commitments to God,
to one another
and to all of creation.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 6, 2020

+ Pentecost 14 (Lectionary 23)

Exodus 12:1-14 | Psalm 149 | Romans 13:8-14 |
Matthew 18:15-20

*Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is
now the moment for you to wake from sleep.*

Romans 13:11

Discipleship is a lifelong calling to worship, learn, listen and act in the name of Jesus. In Romans 13, disciples are invited to wake up to the significance of the times in which they live.

Waking up to matters of climate justice and environmental stewardship are among the most important callings people have today. Over many years, through many voices, our churches have come to a growing conviction that loving our neighbour includes loving Mother Earth as a neighbour.

Who helps you to wake up?

For our churches, many voices have come from Indigenous Peoples who continue to teach us the significance of land and relationships. The particular "place you are in" at any given moment is important. "Land" is about relationships between earth, water, animals, plants, peoples, environments and climate. Healing relationships with the land are essential for justice and peace among peoples. God speaks to us anew through relationships with the land.

Worship also wakes us up. Worship helps open our hearts, minds, bodies and spirits to our relationships with creation and to the possibilities for action. We are grateful for the worship you regularly offer in order to support many on the journey of learning, listening, discerning and acting.

We are excited to share these devotions with you during the Season of Creation. We share with you these hymns that speak to our spiritual connections to creation:

National Bishop Susan Johnson

Touch the Earth Lightly (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 739)

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands (Lift Every Voice and Sing II, 217)

Archbishop Linda Nicholls

Now the Green Blade Rises (Common Praise, 237)

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

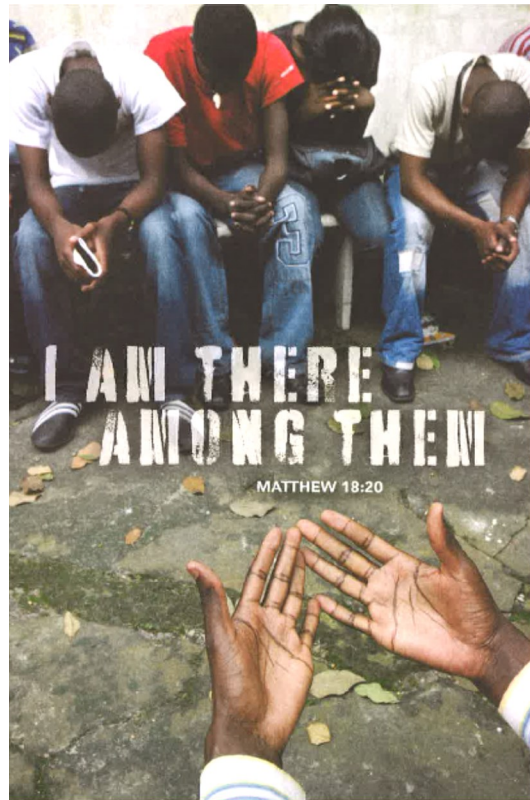
Light Dawns on a Weary World (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 726)

Perhaps you will have an opportunity to sing one or more of these hymns during the Season of Creation.

What songs, prayers, words and practices encourage you as you express your discipleship through caring for creation? What helps wake you up?

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty; renew us in discipleship and in love for the earth. Amen.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Readings for Sunday, September 6, 2020

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."