

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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, February 9, 2022

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

**START EACH DAY
WITH A
GRATEFUL HEART**

"Every breath we draw is a gift. Every moment we exist is a grace."
- Thomas Merton

After almost two years in pandemic, our spirits wilt, we are ornerier, more impatient, frustrated and even depressed. That is why I thought to share this quote with you.

We continue to adapt, though, put up with and safeguard each others' health and lives. Bring to mind Merton's words when tempted to sin. Keep these words on your lips and in your heart. I will too.

LV
PD

***Confirmation and Sunday School** - next gathering will be on Sunday, February 13th. See you then!

*** For the Winter months ahead** - if you see a "Winter Weather Advisory" on your smart phone, or on the news, please consider that Worship may be cancelled. If you are in doubt, feel free to call PD, Donna, or any member of the Worship Committee. Please don't assume. We will post Worship changes on the Good Shepherd - Monroe Facebook page. If feasible, we will also make efforts to call /email our members. Please stay safe!

Worship Information -



We have two in person Worship Services per week. They are held on Sundays at 8am and 10:30am. When joining us for indoor Worship, please follow Covid safe protocols, which include:

Members should opt for KN95, N95, or surgical masks, rather than cloth masks. Masks MUST be worn in the building at all times, over the mouth and nose. Social distance should be observed in the Sanctuary and Narthex. (Lobby area) On the way to Communion, please follow the taped crosses on the floor of the center aisle. Choir will not sing, but members may hum, or softly sing hymns while remaining fully masked. Please do your part in helping keep our members safe!

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.



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.

Prayer List -



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Audrey, Miriam, Scarlet, Ryan, Sharon and Rosemary.

Do you wonder how to put a loved one, friend, neighbor, or yourself on the prayer list?

Simply email the person's first name to 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.

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



Regular Worship schedule - Sunday Services are held at 8am and 10:30am. (* If the weather is bad, please check our Facebook page, or call a member of Worship & Music to see if there is a schedule change.)

2/13/22 - Sunday School & Confirmation classes held at 9:15am.

2/20/22 - Choir Practice will resume at 9:45am.

2/27/22 - Sunday School & Confirmation classes held at 9:15am.

2/27/22 - Choir Practice will meet at 9:45am.

3/1/22 - Book Club at 2pm.

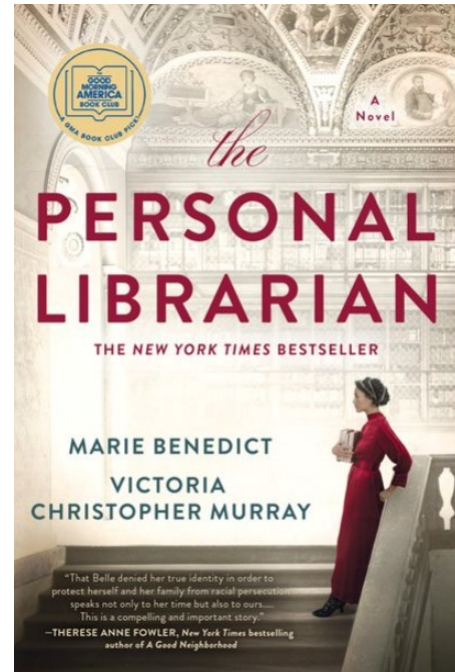
Shepherd's Flock Quilters - generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. * Please contact Barbara Abraham by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321 if you wish to come on a Monday morning. If you'd like to join on a Wednesday, contact Ellie Noll at: 203-888-7009, or Eileen Holleran at: 203-426-0005. If you prefer to quilt on a Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598. Anyone is welcome!



Book Club -



March 1st at 2pm - We will discuss, "The Personal Librarian", by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. New members are welcome!



Scam Alert -

If you get a text, or email from "Pastor Doug" asking you to buy him Apple, or iTunes gift cards, please DO NOT comply. Please know that PD would never ask you to do this. Someone has been using his name and it is a scam. Please block the offending number, or email address and let us know.



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January 26, 2022

Thank You

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
466 Elm St
Monroe, CT 06468-2202

Dear friends,

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy.
–Isaiah 9:2-3*

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2021. Last year wasn't an easy one – we are still navigating unusual and difficult times, and your gifts brought much-needed joy and hope to your siblings in Christ.

In just this past year, you have helped feed a growing number of people living with hunger and poverty, lifted up leaders here at home and in our global companion churches around the world, provided shelter and hope to those buffeted by natural disasters, invigorated new communities of faith and so much more. The past year has been hard, but with your support and God's grace, we have been able to make it better.

Through your gifts, you are telling our family in Christ that they are not alone. Through our shared faith and ministries, we are church together. On behalf of everyone impacted by your generosity, thank you.

In Christ,

Rachel Wind

Rachel Wind
Executive for Philanthropy

Accompanying Migrants and Refugees in Latin America



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GLOBAL
LINKS



Dec. 10 encounter between AMMPARO delegates and key members of Grupo de Trabajo Sobre Política Migratoria (GTPM) in Mexico City.

AMMPARO Migrant Children

“Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza,” (“God is our refuge and strength,”) – Psalm 46:1

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA’s strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

In a holistic, whole church response that connects international and US outcomes, the ELCA has developed this strategy based on the following commitments:

- Uphold and guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families;
 - Address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America’s Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit;
 - Work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and
- Engage as a church body with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes and to advocate for migrant children and their families.
- As brothers and sisters in Christ, the ELCA is called to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many communities and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God’s children. Join us in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Get involved

Pray for the safety of migrant children and families on the journey and for justice as they reach their destinations.

Become a Welcoming Congregation to accompany these children and families through their transition to life in the U.S.

Link to resource. www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO

Advocate for justice for migrant children and families. www.elca.org/Advocacy

Accompany migrant children and families through the Guardian Angel Program as the physical presence of the church in the courtroom. <https://Vimeo.com/157458987>

Give to AMMPARO to provide opportunities for children and families in Central America and in the U.S. <https://community.elca.org/ammparo-donation-form>

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.

The Monroe Food Pantry's needs for February include:

Oatmeal (regular and instant – original flavor or any variety)
Snack items (crackers, Goldfish, chips, nuts, etc.)
Ketchup
Mustard (yellow or brown)
Brownie mix
Strawberry and grape jelly
Baked beans
Pork and beans
Chicken or beef broth
Bread crumbs (regular or Italian)
Flour
Sugar
Salad dressings (Ranch, Blue Cheese, Balsamic Vinaigrette, Thousand Island, French)
Pasta and Rice sides
Olives (canned)
Jarred pasta sauce
Solid white tuna
Coffee (regular and decaf)
Black tea (regular and decaf)
Hot chocolate
Ramen noodles (chicken/beef/shrimp)
Paper towels
Toilet Paper
Cleaning supplies
Toiletries (deodorant/bar and hand soap/shampoo and conditioner/razors)

Thanks again for all your support. This community is amazing!



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". Thank you!

FINANCIAL NEWS -

****2021 Financial Statements have been mailed out. If you do not receive yours in a timely manner, please contact the office. Also, please pick your 2022 envelope boxes up in the narthex if you have not done so already.**

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, February 13, 2022 - Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Prayer of the Day: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalms 1(3)

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26



1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.