

# 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, April 14, 2021

AUGSBURG FORTRESS



From Fear to Freedom

#### Devotional for the week of April 11th, 2021

The disciples had good reason to be afraid. Their teacher, perceived as a threat to social, political, and religious order, had just been crucified; now with rumors swirling about his mysterious resurrection, it wasn't clear if Jesus' followers would face the same dire fate on a cross. Today, most of us, fortunately, can live without fear regarding when and where we are able to worship. At the same time, when we take a moment to look at the world around us, it doesn't take long to notice what a strong influence fear has on our lives.

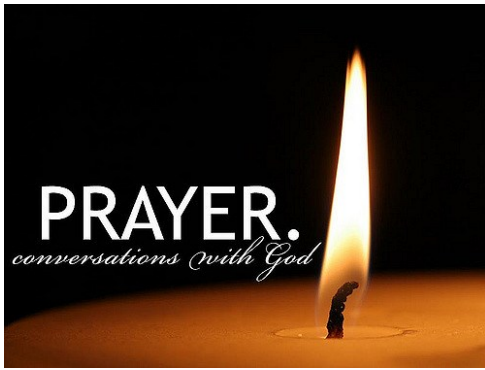
Fear not of things like tornadoes or spiders or bats, but rather fear of things that keep our hearts closed off from others and God and that keep our truest selves locked up inside. As it was for the disciples in today's reading, our unaddressed fears can get in the way of our recognizing what Jesus is doing in our midst. They turn us in toward ourselves rather than outward toward those who could be blessed by our gifts and who need our care and love. They keep us from growing in our relationship with God and as the people God has created us to be.

Although it can be scary to acknowledge our fear of being inadequate or of losing control or of being alone, or whatever our deepest fear may be, when we do, that's when something powerful can happen. A sense of peace and joy is never far away. Not only are we released from our fear, but giving voice to our fears can set others free from theirs as well.

When Jesus appeared to those first disciples locked together behind closed doors, he came offering peace, and he breathed on them the Holy Spirit. In that moment their lives were changed—forever, and for good. The same is true for us when we dare to surrender our fears to God and embrace God's future for us with courage.

*Devotional message and art based on the readings for April 11th, reprinted  
from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).*

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## 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, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Tricia, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, Steve, the Wilk family, Linda, Bill.

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

**To join us for Indoor Worship at 8:30 am:** call the church office 203-268-7596 or email us to register for worship and remember to wear your mask when attending services.

**To join us for Outdoor Worship at 10:00 am:** We will have either Drive In Church or Outdoor Worship on the back lawn depending on the weather. If it's inclement, we'll have Indoor Worship.

For Drive In Worship:

- The radio frequency of the broadcast is **FM 94.9**. Please tune your car radio to that station to hear the worship service.

For Outdoor Worship on the back lawn:

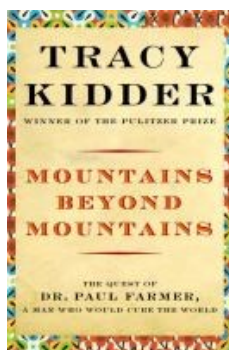
- Bring your own chair and wearing a mask, sit six feet away from the person/group in your row.

### **To join us for Worship online:**

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

- 1) go to the Good Shepherd website [www.gsllc-ct.org](http://www.gsllc-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.

## Upcoming Events



**The Good Shepherd Book Club** is meeting on **May 4th** at **1:00 p.m.** when we will discuss "Mountains beyond Mountains" by Tracy Kidder. In June we will discuss "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich. We will outdoors weather permitting or indoors if needed. We welcome new members!

THANK  
YOU.

Dear Good Shepherd,  
Thank you so much  
for the Valentines Day card  
and starbucks gift card.  
I really appreciate you guys  
thinking of me! I can't  
wait to be back!  
Sincerely,  
Joe Pleva

## Reaching Out, Serving Others:



### Shepherd's Pantry

#### **The need is great!**

The Monroe Food Pantry provides emergency food assistance for needy individuals and families in Monroe. Their clients receive one week's worth of food per month and they serve more than 100 households per month.

The Social Ministry and Community Outreach Committee invites you to contribute items to the Shepherd's Pantry located in the narthex. You may drop them off during the Worship Service. The items are delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry once a month.

#### Items Needed:

- canned fruit - mandarin oranges, sliced/diced pineapple
  - canned vegetables (regular and low sodium) - sliced/whole beets, creamed corn, French cut green beans, sliced/whole potatoes, olives, Sauerkraut, spinach, sweet potatoes
  - canned beans (regular and low sodium/fat free) - cannellini, pinto, refried, vegetarian refried
  - baked beans - regular, pork, vegetarian, refried beans
  - chili - with beans, vegetarian
  - stock (regular and low sodium) - beef, chicken, vegetable
  - canned tomatoes (regular and low sodium) - crushed, whole, sauce, puree
  - regular and low sodium jarred pasta sauce
  - baking supplies—bread crumbs, brownie mix, pancake mix, sugar
  - salad dressing - balsamic, blue cheese, Italian, ranch, Thousand Island, French
  - condiments - cooking oil, mayo, ketchup, yellow mustard, brown mustard, pancake syrup, bbq sauce
  - packaged foods—Hamburger Helper, instant potatoes, pasta sides
  - strawberry jelly/jam
  - beverages - black tea (regular and decaf), ground coffee (regular and decaf), hot chocolate, low sodium V8, Ensure, shelf stable milk
  - household items cleaning items, laundry detergent
  - household items cleaning items, laundry detergent
  - toilet paper, paper towels - personal hygiene items - menstrual pads, face wash, deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner



### 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 to GSLC with the notation "Food For Summerfield" or place cash in the Summerfield box.



News from the  
Council of Churches  
of Greater Bridgeport



Are you over 21?  
Do you have the heart for helping youth in need?  
Do you own or rent your home?  
Could you use a monthly stipend for retention services?

If you answered yes to the above questions, consider becoming a Host Home Parent for The Janus Center.

We are seeking qualified people to provide respite care to youth.

For more information, please call Adilene Garcia, 203.334.1121 Ext. 13, or email her: [adilenegarcia@ccgb.org](mailto:adilenegarcia@ccgb.org) [www.ccgb.org](http://www.ccgb.org)



Host Homes  
of Greater Bridgeport  
a program of  
The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, 1718 Capitol Avenue,  
Bridgeport, Connecticut  
Adilene Garcia, LMSW  
Directors at The Janus Center for Youth in Crisis



**Ways to Support the Council of Churches (CCGB) without any Financial Cost  
From your CCGB Representative, Larry Black**

Support Bills in legislature:

- 1) Faith Acts Funding Bill 948—provides \$\$\$ to poorer schools (Appropriations Committee)
- 2) Clean Slate Raised Bill 1019 --Eliminates criminal record of released individuals after several years free of crime (3 years for misdemeanor, or 7 years for felony)
- 3) HB6355—supports better risk prevention from gun violence to self or others

For information on legislators to contact, and further explanation of these bills, see [CCGB website](http://www.ccgb.org).

## Sunday, April 18 — Third Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the Day: Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48



### **Luke 24:36b-48**

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.