

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.

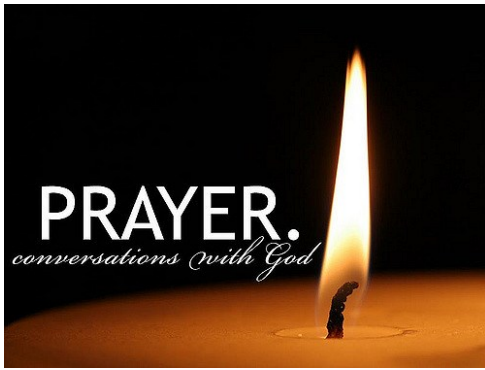


Wednesday, April 7, 2021

It's Easter Wednesday! That re-minds us that it takes a whole season (not just a day) to taste the life effecting truth of Resurrection. In Eastern Orthodox Icons, unlike Western paintings, Christ is never depicted alone in risen form in front of the empty tomb. In icons, Jesus has all humankind from Adam and Eve on with him. His resurrection is not just for him, but for all of us. Deepest joy has blossomed upon the world. And also in deepest truth, the earth is a garden once again.

Blessed Easter to all!

LV
PD



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.

A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Vic, Lauren, Ray, Tim, Joan, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Sarah, Miriam, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Tricia, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, Steve, the Wilk family, Linda.

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.

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. 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).

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.

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. 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

Please join us tonight for the conclusion of the bible study - **Wednesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m.**

Topic: EMILY DICKINSON AND THE POETRY OF LENT: A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398759484?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398759484?pwd=WC9yemtpSTVpRlNBsy9MNnFMM05mZz09)

[pwd=WC9yemtpSTVpRlNBsy9MNnFMM05mZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398759484?pwd=WC9yemtpSTVpRlNBsy9MNnFMM05mZz09)

Meeting ID: 863 9875 9484

Passcode: 195625

One tap mobile

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Thanks to all who were able to join us weekly during Lent for this inspirational, informative bible study.

GOOD FRIDAY

READ

Scripture:

John 18:1 - 19:42

Poem:

"I heard a Fly buzz – when I died,"
by Emily Dickinson.

MEDITATE

We often think of Jesus' death as exceptional – exceptionally harrowing, or exceptionally significant, and so on. But a major aspect of his death is just how commonplace it was: crucifixion was a familiar form of Roman execution in those days, the fate of common criminals and anyone deemed a threat to the Empire, a point John makes in this passage by mentioning the nameless "two others" crucified alongside Jesus (John 19:18).

In other words, part of the meaning of Good Friday is that, in Jesus, God joins us in a form of torture and death that was all-too-common in those days, and which continues to be so in our own, even as it takes different forms. Indeed, part of what makes the story of this Friday "Good" is that it declares that God is with us in the everydayness of suffering and death.

Dickinson's poem can help us catch sight of this side of the crucifixion. The atmosphere is emotional and dramatic – even Jesus, "the King," is expected to appear – but "interposed" in the scene is an epitome of both the everyday and the unnerving: a common housefly. The fly gets "Between the light – and me –", a chilling, lonely, sardonic, and dreadfully ordinary portrait of death.



When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
+ John 19:30

HOLY SATURDAY

READ

Scripture:

Matthew 27:57-66

Poems:

"After great pain, a formal feeling comes" and "It was not Death, for I stood up," by Emily Dickinson.

MEDITATE

Holy Saturday is sometimes overlooked, as if it's simply a hiatus between Good Friday and Easter Sunday – but in fact, it's a crucial passageway, a kind of abyss, a place of absence without which the presence of the risen Christ can't be as fully, joyously felt.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.
+ Matthew 27:61

EASTER SUNDAY

READ

Scripture:

Mark 16:1-8

Poems:

"To see the Summer Sky" and "Tell all the truth but tell it slant,"
by Emily Dickinson.

MEDITATE

Jesus is risen – hallelujah! The forty days of Lent now give way to fifty days of Eastertide, a sprawling garden overflowing with the poetry of resurrection: an empty tomb; a risen, wounded savior; a joyful, astounded community; and a promise of the Spirit to come.

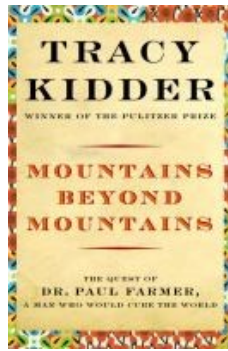
Dickinson understood well that poetry isn't limited to the page: to truly "see the Summer Sky," she wrote, is to see a poem before our eyes – though like the risen Jesus, who ascends to heaven, such poems-made-of-life often elude our grasp. The truth is always gilded in radiance and mystery, and so to "tell all the truth," Dickinson insists, we must "tell it slant," for "The Truth must dazzle gradually," or everyone be blind. No wonder the mystery of Easter morning requires an annual 50-day festival of celebration and reflection!

The light has lengthened into morning. The new life of spring has arrived, and "the Summer Sky" is on the way. Go now in peace to love and serve God and neighbor, spreading wide your "narrow Hands / To gather Paradise –"

Hallelujah!

And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.
+ Mark 16:2





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. We will meet indoors using the new handler system as long as the infection rates are low. We welcome new members!

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

THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION

1127 Royal Palm Beach Blvd.
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

www.thegoodshepherdfoundation.org



March 10, 2021

The Rev. Douglas Ryniewicz
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
466 Elm Street
Monroe, CT 06468

Dear Pastor Ryniewicz and the Good People of Good Shepherd,

We just received your surprise gift of \$200 from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. What a treat. And, as always, we are thrilled that you will be doing your Lenten project for TGSF. Karen had asked Linda to do a short video, but we decided that you might like to "meet" Michele by video, so I will be sending that along, hopefully shortly.

Again, we thank you for your gift towards our work with the people of Haiti and for your faithful generosity. We continue to believe that all that has happened for The Good Shepherd Foundation is and always has been to be truly a miracle from God. What a joy it is to hear from you with yet another generous donation and to recognize your friendship and support.

We continue to move very slowly towards our Rotary Water Project. The latest news is that a bank account has been opened in Haiti for the Project. Now all it needs is some money added to it! Sharon continues her communications with a gentleman who is trying to help us connect with the appropriate people and actually get some answers. Bruce has been in touch with the president of the Kings Bay Rotary and appears to be making some minimal progress. The Grant was approved on October 22nd and we are amazed at how difficult it is to actually enact. We remain hopeful, knowing that God's guidance will take us to where we need to be in His time.

Right now there is a tremendous amount of political violence in the country and sometimes our patients do not come to clinic due to fear. Imagine having to choose between needed healthcare and fear for your life! We rely on your prayers for the people of Haiti and TGSF and continue to keep you in prayer.

With sincere gratitude,

Michele Sidney

Michele Sidney
President

cc Karen Jackson

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert P. McGurn

John & Bob

A faith-based medical mission serving the people of Haiti.



**GOOD SHEPHERD
FOUNDATION**



Once again this year, the Church Council has selected The Good Shepherd Foundation as a Lenten giving project and asks you to designate the money you may have used to eat out or buy take out coffee for this medical mission in Haiti. We will collect the money on April 11th.



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.

Church Offering and Financial Statements

Financial Statements are ready for you to pick up on the table in the narthex. Please review your statement and if you have any questions, Roy Remlin will be happy to assist you.

As worship services are online and outdoor now, 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 Drive In worship service or you may mail a check 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 diligently on implementing PayPal/Venmo and plans to have it in place in the next few weeks. We will let you know as soon as it's ready to be used.

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

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 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 11 — Second Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1-22

Gospel: John 20:19-31



John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.