

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 23, 2020



As a young Lutheran minister in Alabama in the 1950's Pastor Bob Graetz was a white minister who joined in the bus boycott after the Rosa Parks arrest. Pastor Bob drove black people to work and to the places they needed to get. He joined with black ministers to pray and to march in protests. Pastor Bob understood that the biblical call for justice and equality was for all God's children. He understood that the duty of a Christian was to participate in subverting and calling out injustice. Pastor's house was bombed twice by the Ku Klux Klan and angry haters. He was threatened many times as was his family. He said that being afraid should not keep a faith filled person from doing the right thing. He believed in making "good trouble." Today we see the opening for reviewing a history and a conversation that has never been finished. And once again we see many enraged and opposing such a conversation and a challenge. Lutheran Pastor Robert Graetz died on Sunday at the age of 92. He had spent seven decades working as a Christian for anti-racism and awareness. He once shared that his heart was downcast in the fifties when white ministers, knowing what was right, refused to speak up because their church members wouldn't like it. It's been said "Those who forget their history are condemned to repeat it." Our history now includes the story of our Lutheran brother Pastor Bob Graetz.

Thanks be to God.

Have this Mind within you which was in Christ Jesus. (from this Sunday's Reading)

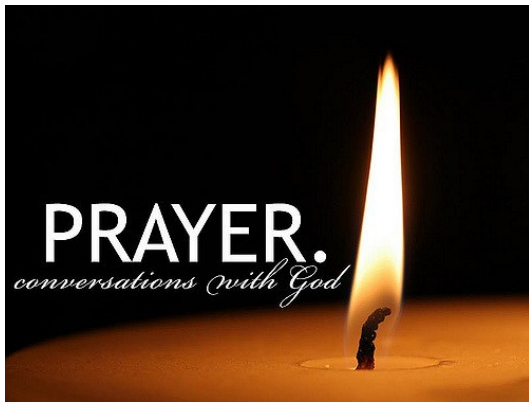
LV
PD

This Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. we will have an Outdoor Worship Service at Good Shepherd on the back lawn behind the sanctuary, weather permitting. **In October, we will change the worship time to 10:00 a.m. to stay warm.** 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 these *updated* guidelines:



- 1) If you do not feel well or if you do not feel comfortable, please stay at home. The service is available online for those who do not join in person.
- 2) Please put on your face covering before leaving your vehicle. You will be expected to wear it throughout your visit.
- 3) Please bring: a lawn chair, face covering, and portion of bread for communion for every person in your group.
- 4) Please plan to arrive between 9-9:15. There will be a table at the entrance where you may leave your offering.
- 5) *Please choose a spot at least six feet from other family groups. Your chair should be positioned so that your feet are on the white line in front of you. Please stay seated until worship begins.*
- 6) Please refrain from unnecessary movement through the worship space to allow everyone to get set up while maintaining social distancing.
- 7) 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. Please hum softly or mouth the words without using your voice.
- 8) We will pass the Peace without physical contact.
- 9) 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.
- 10) When the service has ended, please do not linger to socialize; go directly to your vehicle and depart.
- 11) *The church is now open if you need to use the bathroom. Please use the designated bathroom and sign in to help us ensure the bathroom is cleaned regularly.*
- 12) 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 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).



Upcoming Events



RAISING THE BAR -BECOMING ANTI-RACIST JOIN THE MONTHLY DISCUSSIONS

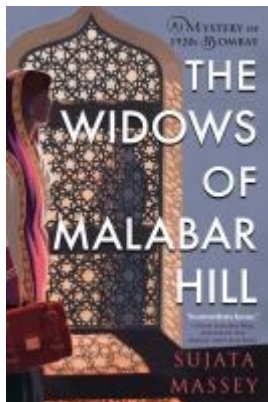
Our Anti-Racism Work Begins a Whole New Chapter!

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's 5-part series discussing Jemar Tisby's Color of Compromise drew over 180 participants this summer! Our Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) team led deep and thoughtful discussions each night, and many participants have told stories of small but significant transformations in their perspectives and understanding. Now we invite you to join a monthly conversation, on the 3rd Thursday evening each month.

[Click here to register](#)



The Book Club met outdoors this past week! Our next meeting will also be outdoors, please bring your own chair and sit socially distant from each other. On October 6th at **1:00 p.m.** we will discuss "The Widows of Malabar Hill" by Sujata Massey. In November, we will be discussing "The One" by John Marrs. We welcome new members!



Weekly Offering

Important
Message

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.

Latest update

If you would like a current financial statement that details what you have given to date and what you have pledged, please call or email the church office and Roy Remlin will be happy to send one out to you.

SEASON OF CREATION 2020

*Renewing, repairing
and restoring*

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

SUNDAY SEPT. 27, 2020

Archbishop Linda Nicholls,
Anglican Church of Canada

+ Pentecost 17 (Lectionary 26)

Exodus 17:1-17 | Psalm 78:1-4,

12-16 | Philippians 2:1-13 |

Matthew 21:23-32



*I will be standing there
in front of you on the rock
at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come
out of it, so that the people may drink.* Exodus 17:6

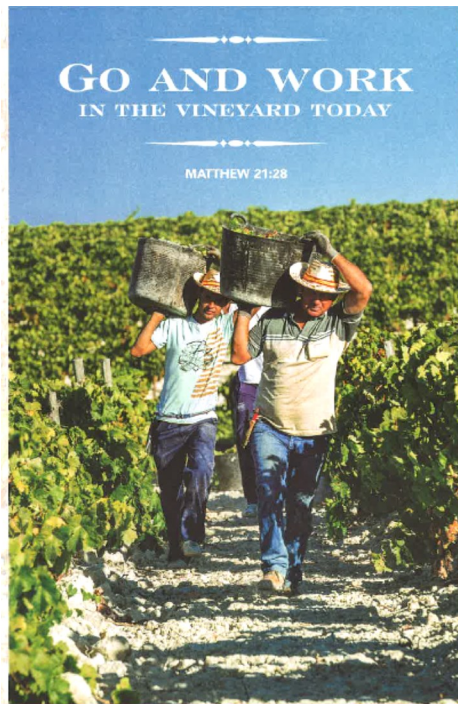
As a settler Canadian, I am accustomed to the ready availability of fresh, clean water at any moment on any day. I have also lived in the Himalayas of India where the provision of water was unpredictable day to day, and what was available had to be boiled thoroughly first because it was not safe to drink. Like the Israelites in the desert, I readily grumbled and complained when it was not available. This became a lesson for me in the dangers of the privileges that I had enjoyed and took for granted in Canada. I became acutely aware that the lack of water was a daily reality for millions of people - and that clean water was even more scarce. I also became aware of those who profit from the bottling and selling of a resource that is a necessity of life and a gift of the Creator.

The ongoing protection and sharing of clean water are part of our baptismal vocation to love neighbour as self and to "safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth." Just as Moses followed God's direction in order to offer water to the Israelites in the desert, we are called to partner with those protecting and sharing water. From joining advocacy of Autumn Peltier, a young Indigenous water protector, to the relief efforts of the Red Cross to our daily habits to conserve and protect water in our community, we are called to share in the provision of God's gift of water now and for future generations.

Creator of all, stir in us the passion to share the living water of the gospel as we also protect and share the waters of your creation to nourish all creatures. Amen.

Suggested hymn: "Now the Green Blade Rises" (Common Praise, 237)

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Readings for Sunday, September 27, 2020

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."