

**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, January 12, 2022

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

A friend, Joel Leon, wrote this haiku :

I never saw my mother
Walk on water
But
I saw her wait for the bus
In the snow to pay the rent
The holy
Is all around us

Taking a deep breath of the scent of coffee in the
jar, taking the time - it's good to be alive!

Write your own haiku as a way of prayer today.

LV
PD



Confirmation Students - sorry that the weather closed us down last Sunday. We will meet again on January 23rd. See you then!
PD



* **For the Winter months ahead** - if you see a "Winter Weather Advisory" on your iPhone, or on the news, please consider that Worship may be cancelled. Feel free to call PD, Donna, or any member of the Worship Committee if you are in doubt. 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 our members.

Stay healthy and safe this Winter!



Worship Information -

We will have two in person Worship Services a week. They will be on Sundays at 8am and 10:30am.

Masks are required for anyone entering the Church. 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.

Also, please keep our committee in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to provide guidance to the best of our abilities. We are delighted that our congregation has remained healthy through this crisis and look forward to the day when these considerations are no longer necessary.

Yours in Christ,

The Worship and Music Committee
Susan Chin, Chair



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.

Whichever worship choice works best for you, we are delighted to have you worship with us!

A Community Of Prayer - * After January 15th, the prayer list below will no longer be available. Please contact Stephanie in the office if you'd like to add someone to our new list.

For those in need of healing and comfort:



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalms 147 vs. 3

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Marie, Audrey, Gordon, Miriam, Beth, Denise, Sharon, Rosemary, Paula, Sarah, Misty, Jim, Darcy, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, the Wilk family, Linda, Todd, Noreen and family, Maureen, Lynn, Barbara, Scott, Johanna, Glen, Durbin, Marie.

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.

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, 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. For privacy, only the first name of each individual will be listed.

Do you have something you would like to discuss with Pastor Doug?

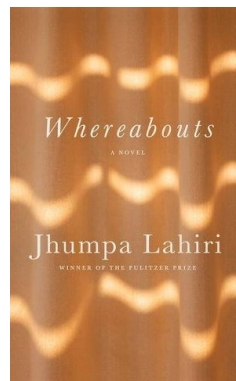
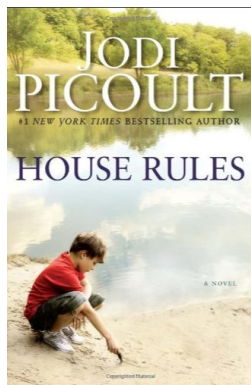
Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Doug Ryniewicz. You can reach him by text, or phone at: 860-595-9560. His email is: dearynos@gmail.com



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.)

1/23/22 - Sunday School & Confirmation classes held at 9:15am.

2/1/22 - Book Club at 2pm. We will discuss "House Rules", by Jodi Picoult. We will also try to squeeze in a brief discussion of "Whereabouts", the book club that was cancelled for January. Please join us!



Choir Practice - Each Sunday at 9:45am.

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!



Monroe Playground Foundation - Kids Kreation Rebuilding Project

@monroekidskreation · Nonprofit organization

Hello,

My name is Amanda Bean. I am the volunteer coordinator for the Monroe Playground Foundation. If you are not familiar with our project we are a non-profit working to rebuild the playground at Wolfe Park in Monroe CT, with a new structure that is handicap accessible and will allow the children of Monroe and surrounding towns to play together for decades to come.

We are very close to our fundraising goal and are now trying to recruit volunteers for our May 2022 build. We will be doing a week long community build. Meaning the playground will be built 100% by volunteers. This means we need a lot of help.

I'm writing you today to invite Good Shepherd Church to form a team for the build. This is a great opportunity for team building within your parish and to support the local community. Each volunteer will be provided a t-shirt but we welcome teams to make their own to show their team pride. The Monroe Playground Foundation will recognize all teams on our social media platforms and we encourage you to share your support on yours. Maybe you could challenge a rival company/organization to see who can get the biggest team to participate.

The dates of the build are May 10-16 2022, with 2-3 shifts each day. Teams would sign up for 1-2 shifts on a day of their choosing. Food and drinks are provided as well as child care for children under 10 years old. Children 10-17 are welcome to participate in the build. We welcome the whole family to get involved. We need people of all skills to get this done. That means people who can use power tools and hand tools for the actual construction as well as people to help with childcare, food service, tools management, runners, and clean up. There's a job for everyone!

With your help we can make this project a reality for the children and families of Monroe. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this with you further. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out. Amanda.mpfvolunteers@gmail.com or (518) 755-3195

Let's build this!

Amanda Bean

Board of Directors, Volunteer Coordinator

Monroe Playground Foundation

A TIME TO PAY ATTENTION

By Chris Michaelis

DURING EPIPHANY, LET'S NOTICE THE WAYS GOD APPEARS TO US

I have a bad habit of looking at my feet when I walk. I don't often stub my toe or trip on uneven ground, but occasionally I run into something or someone I'm not expecting.

Our 2-year-old has the opposite issue. While we walk around our neighborhood, his head is always up and looking around. This means he often trips over his feet, but his view of the world is much broader than mine. As is the case with most toddlers, he might ask, "What's that?" or "What's their name?" or "What's that called?" His curiosity reminds me that a simple shift in perspective can engender wonder.

Whether I'm looking at my feet while I walk, hunching over my cellphone or resting my elbows on a desk at work, this posture of folding inward prevents me from truly seeing the expansiveness of God's good creation. This makes me wonder about the opportunities we miss simply because our posture doesn't allow us to see the world around us.

Epiphany marks the day and the church season when Jesus comes to be named and understood as God's own son, the living and breathing manifestation of God in our midst.

MOST OF US THINK OF AN EPIPHANY AS A FLASH OF INSIGHT, BUT WHAT IF EPIPHANY IS AN INVITATION TO NOTICE THE BEAUTY AND BRILLIANCE OF WHAT'S ALREADY THERE?

The Epiphany story begins with three magi noticing a new star and setting off on a journey. Arriving at their destination, these three people from distant places encounter a child born to a teenage mother in a little-known town, a birth heralded by livestock and ranchers. Jesus' birth story isn't what most imagine when they think of a newborn king. Yet the magi come to see and understand Jesus as God on Earth.

The name Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning "manifestation." Most of us think of an epiphany as a flash of insight, but what if Epiphany is an invitation to notice the beauty and brilliance of what's already there?

The magi found a new star in the sky. They bore witness to the presence of God within little Jesus. And during the time after Epiphany, we'll hear Gospel stories of Jesus growing in his understanding of who he is as God's child and of the kind of messiah he is called to be. Perhaps, then, Epiphany is less a sudden realization and more a growth in understanding.

When I realign my focus, when I notice how much I cast my eyes to the ground or hunch over, I can lift my head, straighten my posture and enjoy a new perspective. With my eyes up, I'm free to perceive and appreciate the beautiful diversity of the people and plants and creatures I encounter. I can truly see my neighbors, noticing when someone is having a rough day. I can even serve my neighbor who's reaching out for help.

BY SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND OUR NEIGHBORS, WE CAN BUILD THE WORLD GOD INTENDS—A WORLD RULED BY PEACE, BUILT UPON EQUITY AND JUSTICE, AND INFUSED WITH THE SWEET FRAGRANCE OF LOVE.

Amid what's been a very challenging season for many, something as simple as letting someone know you've noticed them can produce a profound impact. We long to be seen by each other and God.

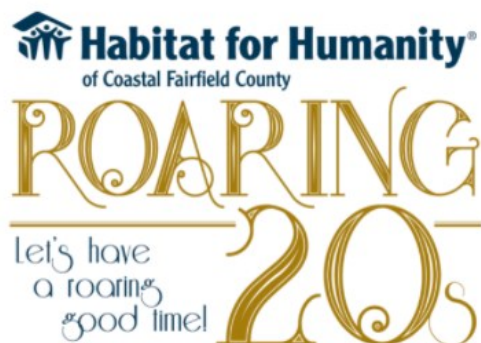
Epiphany calls us to see our neighbors—our neighbor in need, our neighbor who's struggling, our neighbor who puts on a brave face at worship while suffering inside, as well as our neighbor who's rejoicing. It calls us to notice neighbors who don't look, worship, speak, vote or pray as we do. It calls us to recognize them, too, as God's children.

How differently might we treat one another if the first thing we noticed about someone was their identity as a beloved child of God?

When we notice and focus on what draws us together rather than what drives us apart, we can approach our differences from a place of genuine care and concern for one another's well-being. By seeking to understand our neighbors, we can build the world God intends—a world ruled by peace, built upon equity and justice, and infused with the sweet fragrance of love.

During this time after Epiphany, let's commit to noticing and celebrating all the ways God appears in our time and place. You might create a list and write down every time you notice God in your world—from people, plants and animals to the movements of stars and other heavenly bodies.

Take a cue from my 2-year-old: Keep your head up and look around. Maybe you'll fill up your notebook with signs of God's presence so quickly that you'll need to buy another one. Notice your opportunities to bless and be blessed by others. Surely the Messiah is with us. †



2022 ANNUAL GALA
SATURDAY
APRIL 9, 2022
6:30–11:00 PM
WEE BURN COUNTRY CLUB
DARIEN, CT

Habitat CFC's 2022 Annual Gala-The Roaring 20s!

Let's have a ROARING good time and celebrate!

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County's Annual Gala will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at Wee Burn Country Club in Darien, CT. Join us for a fun evening with cocktails, dinner, dancing, a silent auction and more. The proceeds from the evening will support our mission to build decent, stable homes and bright futures for hard-working Fairfield County families.

Dress in your favorite garb from the roaring 20s and don't forget your dancing shoes!

Hosted By



Saturday, April 9, 2022

Wee Burn Country Club, Darien, CT | 6:30-11:00 PM

Habitat for Humanity Coastal Fairfield
County
(203) 333-2642
info@habitatcfc.org

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.

January needs include:

Oatmeal (regular and instant – original flavor or any variety)
Snack items (crackers, chips, nuts, etc.)
Strawberry jelly
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
Cleaning supplies
Toiletries (deodorant/bar and hand soap/shampoo and conditioner/razors)



As always, thank you all for your generosity and support!

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 -

****2022 Envelope boxes for the new year are available and can be picked up on the wood table in the narthex.**

FINANCIAL UPDATE -

We would like to thank everyone for the very generous contributions that you have made over the months of November and December!



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, January 16, 2022 - Second Sunday After Epiphany

Prayer of the Day: Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10 (8)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11



1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.