

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, June 9, 2021

Can you drop by the church Friday between 4:30 -5:00 pm and help us set up chairs etc. for Saturday Morning? Many hands make light work.

Saturday we will gather to celebrate and give thanks for the life of our sister in Christ, Trudi Black. Members of Good Shepherd are encouraged to bring your own chairs.

Sunday is Worship at Wolfe Park. Again, bringing chairs and a side dish just for yourself. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.

We hope for good participation in these important communal events in the life of our congregation!

LV
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An update from the Worship and Music Committee:

The Worship and Music Committee continues to monitor Covid-19 conditions and regulations. We are committed to providing a safe and comfortable environment for as many people as possible. To achieve this, we will by necessity be taking a conservative approach as we begin to return to what we once considered normal. While we all long for worship as it used to be, we must remain vigilant for the good of all.

We continue to consider the advice of those in governance, especially at the state level; of those in the scientific community, especially the CDC; and of our partners in the ELCA; local congregations and Bishop Hazelwood. We strive to make our recommendations based on the best and most current information available to us.

In our meeting on June 2, we decided that our summer schedule will once again consist of a single service every Sunday at 9:30, beginning on 6/20. In order to accommodate those who prefer indoor worship and those who prefer outdoor worship, we will be alternating between venues. Please see the schedule below. In the event of inclement weather, including heavy rain or extreme heat, we will worship indoors. Check the Facebook group and watch for email for any changes.

For indoor worship, we will continue to require everyone in attendance to wear a face covering. Even though the state mandate has been lifted, we want to encourage everyone to feel safe in our worship space. As vaccination rates increase and infection rates decline, we will reconsider this policy. We do not make this recommendation lightly, but feel it is still in our collective best interest to maintain the practice for now. Masked individuals may sing softly, and we will begin providing single use worship sheets that include the words to the hymns. Please be reminded that we have a new air handler helping to keep the space well ventilated.

Outdoor worship will continue to be mask-optional with singing allowed. Single-use worship sheets will be provided.

Online Worship will continue.

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

- 1) go to the Good Shepherd website www.gslc-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.

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

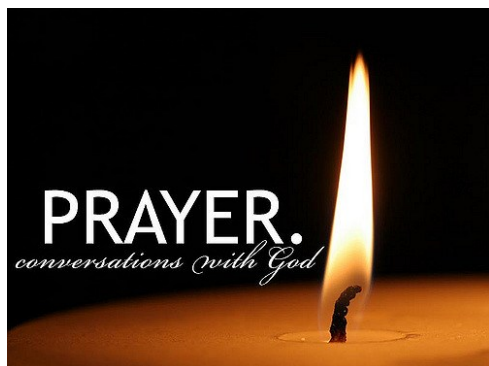
Please keep our committee in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to provide guidance to the best of our abilities. We are delighted that our congregation has remained healthy through this crisis and look forward to the day when these considerations are no longer necessary

Yours in Christ,
The Worship and Music Committee
Susan Chin, Chair

Summer Worship schedule for in person worship: (subject to change)

June 13: Worship and picnic at Wolfe Park, 10am. See newsletter for details
June 20: 9:30 Worship INdoors
June 27: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
July 4: 9:30 Worship INdoors

July 11: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
 July 18: 9:30 Worship INdoors
 July 25: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
 Aug 1: 9:30 Worship INdoors
 Aug 8: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
 Aug 15: 9:30 Worship INdoors
 Aug 22: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors
 Aug 29: 9:30 Worship INdoors
 Sept 5: 9:30 Worship OUTdoors



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: 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, Todd, Noreen and family, Maureen, Lynn, Barbara, Scott, Johanna.

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).



A seated memorial service in honor of Trudi Marie Black will be held on Saturday, June 12th at 10:30 am. It will be outdoors at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Monroe, CT. Those wishing to speak briefly will have the opportunity to do so. Following the celebration of her life guests are invited to join the family for a buffet luncheon at Roberto's Restaurant in Monroe at 12:30 pm. Guests planning to attend the luncheon were asked to RSVP to Larry Black at larryblak@aol.com by June 1st.

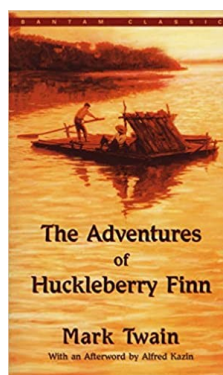
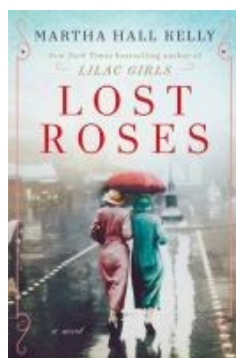
Upcoming Events



Church Council has announced the Annual Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship Service will be held at Wolfe Park in Monroe on **Sunday, June 13th**. Bring your lawn chair and set up at 9:30 a.m. for an inspiring outdoor worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a delicious cookout. We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers. In our continuing effort to keep everyone safe, we will be masked and wear gloves when we serve them to you. We also ask you to bring your own side dishes as we will not be having a potluck with side dishes to share. Save some room for dessert - we will hand out ice cream cups.

Please email or call the church office (203-268-7596) if you are attending or respond to the private Good Shepherd - Monroe Facebook page invitation by June 9th so that we know how much food to purchase.

We are excited to see everyone and look forward to being together!



The Good Shepherd Book Club is meeting on **July 6th at 1:00 p.m.** when we will discuss "The Lost Roses" by Martha Hall Kelly. In August we will read "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain. We will meet outdoors weather permitting or indoors if it's preferable. We welcome new members!



Here's a win/win opportunity:

Help defray the costs of fabric, batting and shipping, while taking a chance to win a quilt of your choice. Good Shepherd's quilting ministry, led by our capable and talented Ellie Noll, has for many years been sending quilts worldwide for warmth and comfort to those in need through Lutheran World Relief. The quilts, made throughout the year by many helpful and willing hands, will be blessed at the church in July. The winner of the raffle will be drawn at that time and will have the pleasure of having "the pick of the litter". Please see Eileen Holteran to purchase your tickets @ \$2 for 1 or \$5 for 3 or \$10 for 7. They will also be available at the in person worship services.

Blessing of Quilts will be on **Sunday, July 11th** at the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Quilts for High School Seniors - The Shepherd's Flock Quilters have decided to honor our high school graduates with quilts to remind them that they are always surrounded by God's love. We are going to bless the quilts on Sunday, July 11th. We would love for the high school seniors to come to church between 9 & 9:15 a.m. to pick out a quilt from our stash that we will present to them during the 9:30 church service.

Treasurer's Report - May 2021											
Contributions	May		YTD			Expenses	May		YTD		
	Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var		Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var
Pledged	20,695	15,862	76,250	78,310	(2,060)	Pastoral Ministries	8,270	8,458	41,438	42,291	(\$853)
Unpledged	595	1,586	3,088	7,831	(4,743)	Mortgage	0	0	0	0	0
Prior Year	0	0	1,135	3,943	(2,808)	Music & Worship	3,778	3,454	17,593	17,268	325
Loose Offerings	0	247	153	1,233	(1,080)	Benevolence	1,765	1,785	8,229	9,408	(1,179)
Church School	0	19	500	94	406	Property	0	513	4,067	3,670	397
Lent & Easter	20	0	415	1,841	(1,426)	Office	2,130	2,197	11,182	11,285	(103)
Other	0	123	745	905	(160)	Utilities	331	410	3,423	7,394	(3,971)
Thanksgiving	0	0	0	0	0	Christian Educ.	0	56	209	181	28
Advent/Christmas	0	0	6	0	6	Interim Pastor	0	0	0	0	0
						Evangelism	0	18	185	59	127
						Youth	0	0	0	0	0
						Stewardship	0	0	0	0	0
						Insurance	506	526	2,529	2,630	(101)
						Altar Guild	0	37	43	187	(145)
						Social Ministry	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$21,310	\$17,836	\$82,292	\$94,156	(\$11,864)	Total	16,780	17,454	88,898	94,373	(\$5,475)
Variance	\$3,474		(\$11,864)			Variance	(\$674)		(\$5,475)		
	Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var		Dec '20	May '21	Var		
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$4,530	\$382	(\$6,606)	(\$218)	(\$6,389)	Cash/Investments*	126,523	47,369	(\$79,154)		
Future Seminarian Fund	19,273					Mortgage	68,616	-	(\$68,616)		
Capital Impr Fund	9,696					Campership	13,802	13,146	(\$656)		
Bathroom/Sidewalk Repair	2,334					Equity Share	77,900	77,900	\$0		
Parking Lot Fund	29,616					Memorial	11,300	14,633	\$3,333		
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	875										
Music Supplies	1,034										

* Excludes Memorial, Exchange, Intern, Pastoral Housing and Campership Funds

May Summary

Contributions were \$3,474 favorable to Budget for the month as a one-time contribution was received
Contributions are \$11,864 Unfavorable year-to-date and are significantly behind prior years

\$82,292 April 2021

\$103,426 April 2020 (Excl \$10,000 from 2019)

\$97,101 April 2019

\$94,066 April 2018

Expenses for the month were \$674 below budget, given expense phasing

Deficit for the year is \$6,606, \$6,389 unfavorable to budget

As noted in the Treasurer's Report, our offerings are down significantly. If you have a chance, please be sure to send your offering to the church or bring it to worship on Sunday. It is needed and deeply appreciated.



Church Council thanks Billie Flaherty and Renee Shoop for the terrific job they have done with the landscaping at the front of the church.

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 on Sunday mornings. The items are delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry once a month.



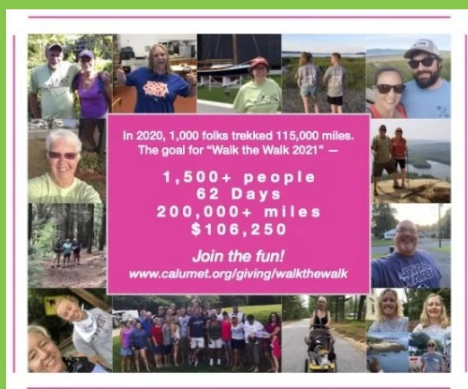
Food for Summerfield

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.



WALK THE WALK 2021

REGISTER HERE



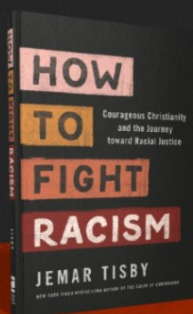
Camp Calumet is hoping you can help by registering for "Walk the Walk 2021" which starts July 1st and ends on August 31st. The goal: 1,500 registrants, trekking 200,000 miles over 62 days to raise \$106,250 or more for Calumet. Registration for "Walk the Walk 2021" goes from May 20 to June 30. Each registrant receives an official "Walk the Walk 2021" T shirt. It's easy to participate from wherever you are. To learn more, visit www.calumet.org/giving/walkthewalk



*Leveraging hope,
changing lives.*

HOW TO FIGHT RACISM

Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice



By Jemar Tisby
New York Times Bestselling
author of *The Color of Compromise*



TAKE A STAND FOR JUSTICE

***You are welcome to attend
any or all of the 5 part se-
ries.***

***Each session is from 7:30
pm to 8:45 pm***

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Thursday, August 12, 2021

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Check out the reviews for Tisby's book [here](#)

Raising the BAR 2021 Summer Series via ZOOM (Becoming Anti-Racist)

Join us for facilitated conversations on Jemar Tisby's new book:
How to Fight Racism

**You will receive the Zoom link a week be-
fore the first session.** Feel free to join any or
all sessions as you are able. The dates and
times are listed above. The Zoom link will re-
main the same for all sessions.

Sunday, June 13

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34



2 Corinthians 5:6-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Mark 4:6-34

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.