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.







Wednesday, November 4, 2020





When Jesus sits on the mountain and begins his long sermon in Matthew's gospel, he begins with these statements of blessing. Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and so on. Jesus speaks of the positive outcomes of these conditions: they will be comforted, they will inherit the earth, they will be filled. "Blessed are you now," Jesus is saying, as well as "Blessed you will be."

God's promises are for today as much as they are for after we die. We trust that baptized into a death like Jesus' death, we are also baptized into a resurrection like Jesus' resurrection. In baptism we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Proclaimed on a mountain or in the valleys that can come in daily life, our identity as blessed, baptized saints moves us to live in ways that give thanks to God for God's many gifts and blessings.

All Saints Day isn't just about remembering those who have died and whose names may be read during worship. All Saints Day is about all the saints, the ones who have gone before, those living now, and those still to come. Today we remember with thanksgiving our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died, and we also give thanks for the saints who labor and worship on this side of heaven's gate.

Today we recall and celebrate with those who have gone before us as we gather at the font and the table, where in water and word, wine and bread, God reminds us, "Blessed are you." We are blessed, and so we live in ways that manifest this blessing for and toward others.

Devotional message based on the readings for November 1st, reprinted from <u>sundaysandseasons.com</u>. Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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 <u>www.gslc-ct.org</u>. Click on youtube on the menu under News & Events to be directed to our church's YouTube page.
- go to our Facebook page <u>https://www.facebook.com/Good-Shepherd-Lutheran-Church-220717937953573/</u> 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 <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> 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.

To join us for Worship in person: Due to the forecast for a sunny day with comfortable temperatures, we plan to have the Outdoor Worship Service on the back lawn of Good Shepherd on November 8th at 10:00 am. If the temperature drops, we will have Drive In Church.

Please follow the established safety guidelines for Outdoor Worship on the back lawn.

If it's too cold, Drive–In Church will be held. This is how it will work:



Pastor Doug will be on a platform at the rear (east edge) of the large, main parking area.

Cars should park facing that direction (east – towards the wooded area) with taller vehicles closer to the main road. This will allow shorter vehicles visibility by parking in front of the taller ones.

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

You should stay in your vehicle and keep your windows closed.

You must wear a mask if you exit your vehicle.

Other recommendations of social distancing apply when you are outside your vehicle.





Advent Preparation

We will meet together via ZOOM on late Sunday afternoons to light our Advent wreaths beginning on Sunday, November 29th. Now is the time to buy new candles for your home Advent wreath, gather supplies and make an Advent wreath, buy an Advent wreath, find four candlesticks that can be put together to create an Advent wreath or pull your Advent wreath out of storage. The weekly wreath lighting meetings will be less than 10 minutes. ZOOM details will follow.







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:

<u>Members and Friends of the Congregation</u>: Ray, Tim, Joan, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Sarah, Timmy, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Tricia.

<u>Military (on active duty), Fire fighters, and Police</u>: 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.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Anna With Ulrich, grandmother of Donna Lindsay.

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@gslc-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



The Book Club is meeting outdoors today at 1:00 pm on the back lawn at Good Shepherd to discuss "The One" by John Marrs.

On December 1st at **1:00 p.m.** we will discuss "The Secrets We Kept" by Lara Prescott. We will either meet indoors if the new air handling system is installed or via Zoom if it's not ready yet or outdoors if the weather permits. We welcome new members!

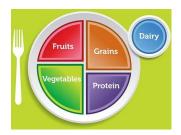


Reaching Out, Serving Others:



Covenant to Care Thanksgiving

If you would like to donate toward Thanksgiving meals, please mail a Stop 'n Shop gift card to the church office and designate it as "For Covenant to Care". Cards should be received at church before Wednesday, Nov. 18, when they will be picked up. Details to come re Christmas plans.



Food for Summerfield

Pastor Gaston has made us aware of a critical need for nutritious food for the kids at Summerfield. Protein is especially needed. GSLC Council has decided to challenge 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. We are hoping to begin the program in October as the need is critical. If you wish to donate please write a check to GSLC with the notation "Food For Summerfield" or place cash in the Summerfield box. More detailed information on the program will be available in the future.



Calendar Collection

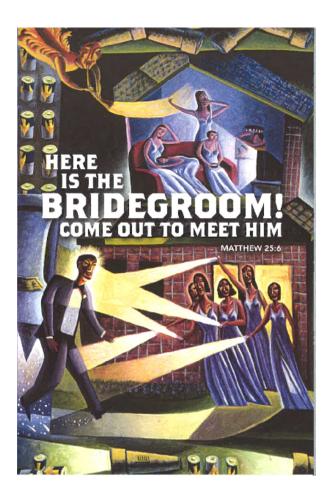
Again this year, please bring any extra 2021 calendars you may receive to church. They are given to a Mental Health clinic for distribution to clients to keep track of appointments. They may be placed in the box for Summerfield.

Pajama and Books Update

In place of the Pajama and Books program, this year we have the opportunity to participate in the Monroe Giving Tree Program to provide wrapped Christmas gifts for those residents most in need.



O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Readings for Sunday, November 8, 2020

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."