



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, November 23, 2022

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



On Sunday, we heard a stirring and well-spoken talk on human trafficking from Samara, a sixteen year old gifted soloist and member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Fairfield. Great job, Samara!

My sermon last Sunday was titled, "Farewell and Thank You, Luke". This coming Sunday, we welcome back gospel author, Matthew. This author's gospel will be the one that primarily guides us for the coming year. Welcome Matthew!

Also on this coming Sunday, we will begin live streaming our 10:30am Sunday Worship Services. Matt Johnson will take the helm. If you can't watch live, don't worry...all live streamed services will be put on our YouTube channel Sunday afternoons and will then be available to watch that evening and anytime afterwards. While most churches in pandemic chose this method two and a half years ago, we were among those that recorded separately. Theologically, live-streaming offers more of a "together with the community" experience. (Please see next newsletter page for more information.)

We owe a great thanks to videographer, Reed Cleland, who was there for us week one of March 2020 and never missed a week helping us to stay together for Worship.

We welcome your feedback.

- PD and the Worship and Music Committee

\* P.S. Advent is coming!



**\* There are two in person Worship services every Sunday. Please choose from the 8am, or 10:30am service.** \*As the weather begins to worsen, please check our Facebook Page for any updates / changes.



**\* Please note our new changes to online worship.**

**Each 10:30am service will now be live streamed through Zoom. You can watch by typing the following into your browser:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82868752832?pwd=UXZaMEZyNXhCWGpLOHAra0xBcW9XQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 6875 2832

Passcode: 956806

**\* The link above is not a live link, but one will be sent out each Thursday, for the following Sunday. (contained in weekly worship email) Also, please note that this link will be the same every week.**

**If you prefer to watch this service at a more convenient day / time, you can wait until Sunday afternoon, or later and:**

1) Go to the Good Shepherd website [www.gslc-ct.org](http://www.gslc-ct.org). Under "News & Events", click on youtube to be directed to our church's YouTube page.

2) 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.

**\* Zoom worship is new to all of us. Please be patient with the process and ask if you have any questions!**

---

## **Prayer List -**

**Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:**

**Helen, Cliff Jr., Audrey, Miriam, Hassinger Family, Lane Family, Lee Family, Kevin, Margaret, Desi, Bill C's Family, Todd, Nicolette, Mike's Family, Kelly, Sue, Andrea, D.A., Robert, Kathy, Beverly, Doree, Amy, Mark, Scarlet, Ryan, Louis, John, Sharon & Rosemary.**



**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](mailto:dearynos@gmail.com)



**11/24/22 & 11/25/22 - Happy Thanksgiving!** (Church office will be closed.)

**11/27/22 - Sunday School and Confirmation classes** will be held at 9:15am. (and every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.) \* **Pajama donations are due today.**

**12/4/22 - Annual Congregational Meeting.** (after the 10:30am Service)

**12/6/22 - Book Club will meet at 2pm** to discuss, "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks. Join us!

\* **Choir practice** - held on Sundays at 9:30am.

\* **Shepherd's Flock Quilters** - generally meet at 10am each Monday, and Saturday. **QUILTING WILL NO LONGER TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAYS.** \* For quilting on Mondays, please contact Barbara by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321. If you prefer to quilt on a Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598.



**A NOTE  
FROM  
MEMBER,  
RAY  
SCHMIDT**

NOV 16, 2022

To Pastor Doug and the Good Shepherd Family,  
 Thank you for your prayers, cards and  
 well wishes during my recent illness.  
 Jill and I were celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup>  
 anniversary in Aruba when I became  
 critically ill. I was hospitalized in Aruba  
 and then airlifted to a hospital in  
 Hollywood Florida until my return home  
 on November 15<sup>th</sup>. I am now recovering  
 comfortably at home and hope to fully  
 recover soon.  
 Thank you all once again.  
 God Bless Ray and Jill Schmidt



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022

# THE UPPER ROOM®

WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY

WED  
NOV 23  
2022

## THE FORGOTTEN BIKE

READ Psalm 142:1-7

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*

— Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)

As I hurried by, I saw that the bike was still there — small, pink and white, probably once a girl's greatest treasure. Now it sat unsecured and forgotten, strangely out of place in the heart of a busy college campus.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**  
Small efforts offered with compassion can make a big difference.

The forgotten bike reminds me that there's

lots of work to be done to help those who are forgotten in this world: the people without homes, tucked away in hidden corners of our communities, those who are homebound and longing for company, those who are sick, incarcerated, widowed, or orphaned all come to mind.

Many times Jesus recognized people that others had largely dismissed: the woman caught in adultery (see Jn. 8:1-11), the man with an unclean spirit living among the tombs (see Mk. 5:1-20), tax collectors (see Lk. 19:1-10), and the man with leprosy (see Mk. 1:40-45).

God calls each of us to do what we can to help those in our communities who need a kind word, a thoughtful note, a meal, or a prayer. We all can do something that says we haven't forgotten. It can make all the difference in the world.

**Prayer:** God of all, help us to ease the suffering of those who feel forgotten. In Jesus' name. Amen.

D. Gerow Baker (Oklahoma, USA)

30 **Prayer Focus:** SOMEONE MY COMMUNITY HAS FORGOTTEN

## EVER THANKFUL

THUR  
NOV 24  
2022

READ Psalm 107:1-9

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

— James 1:17 (NIV)

My daughter loves to decorate for Thanksgiving. Each year, she fills our dining room with string lights, decorative turkeys, and fall foliage. One year she started a new tradition of taking a photo of each family member with an instant camera as they arrived for dinner. She asked everyone to write what they were most thankful for at the bottom of their photo. She then displayed the pictures during dinner, and they became the topic of conversation that year. As our family talked about our blessings and the many things we had to be thankful for, we became overwhelmed with gratitude.

As we face daily pressures and stress, it is hard to focus on the many gifts God provides. It's easy to believe that good things happen as a result of our own work, but James 1:17 reminds us that every good gift is from God. How might our outlook change if we spent more time each day focusing on our blessings and giving thanks for God's love and faithfulness? Psalm 107:1 says, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." Even on our worst days, when everything seems broken, we can find peace in God's love and give thanks for God's many blessings.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**  
My outlook improves when I focus on God's love and provision.

**Prayer:** Dear God, open our eyes and hearts to recognize the many gifts and blessings you provide each day. Thank you for your constant love and provision. Amen.

Cindy C. Ragland (Virginia, USA)

**Prayer Focus:** FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S BLESSINGS 31





## LAST WEEKEND, GSLC MEMBERS WORKED WITH THE SALVATION ARMY TO PACK THANKSGIVING MEAL BOXES.



Over 200 boxes for needy families were packed. The boxes included a generous assortment of fresh produce, canned and boxed grocery items. Our volunteers reported that it was a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season! Thanks to all who volunteered their time!





# SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS GIFTS -



Salvation Army Christmas gift tags will be in the narthex this Sunday.

If interested, please take a tag and then fill out the corresponding info on the signup sheet. **Gifts / tags will be due back and checked in to GS by Dec. 11th.** Presents should NOT be wrapped, but wrapping paper may be included for parent use.

Thanks for your consideration!

---

## HOLIDAY PAJAMA DRIVE REMINDER-



**\* If you signed up for a Monroe Social Services pajama tag, please wrap your pajamas and drop them off in the narthex by November 27th. Kindly attach your tag to the outside of the wrapped gift. Thank you!**



## COVENANT TO CARE CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND THANKSGIVING THANKS -

Many thanks for your generous donations of food for our Covenant to Care families for Thanksgiving.

Name tags for Christmas gifts are clipped to the white clipboard on the table in the narthex. Please PRINT your name and phone number on the list next to the child's name, and attach the corresponding gift tag to your wrapped package.

**Gifts are due December 18th.** Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!

## BOOKS (& MORE) SALE!

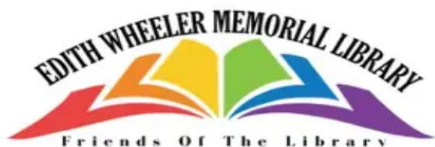
Hosted by the Friends of the Library



**Friday, December 2**  
**Saturday, December 3**  
**9am-2pm**

**Ehlers Room -Lower Level**

Browse a varied selection of Books, DVDs, CDs, Puzzles & More



**733 Monroe Turnpike**  
**Monroe, CT 06468**

Ehlers Room is located inside the library lower level near the Children's Dept.

## 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.

## \*Monroe Food Pantry Needs -

- Juice (apple, cranberry, etc.)
  - Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup
  - Canned Vegetables (corn, carrots, olives, peas, green beans, etc.)
  - Canned Beans (kidney, pinto, chickpeas, cannellini, black)
  - Grape Jelly, Strawberry Jam
  - Hamburger Helper, Knorr Pasta/Rice Sides, Macaroni & Cheese
  - Egg Noodles
  - Rice (brown or white)
  - Hot & Cold Cereal
  - Breadcrumbs (Italian or regular)
  - Canned Tomatoes (crushed, whole, diced, stewed, paste)
  - Chicken, Beef, or Vegetable Broth
  - Cooking Oil
  - Canned Fruit (regular or low sugar - preferably in juice)
  - Baked Beans, Refried Beans, Pork and Beans, Chili with or without beans
  - Baking Supplies - including sugar & flour
  - Syrup (regular or sugar free)
  - Pancake Mix
  - Jarred Pasta Sauce
  - Salad Dressing (any flavor)
  - Ground Coffee, Tea (regular, decaf), Instant Coffee & Hot Chocolate
  - Canned Soup
  - Ensure
  - Snack Items
  - Personal hygiene products - including feminine hygiene products. **We are particularly low on bars of soap, toothpaste, floss, shampoo / conditioner, and deodorant**
- \*Household cleaning supplies



**Any donation is appreciated. Thank you!**



## Ways to Help Summerfield -



**Snacks for Summerfield are needed!** We are collecting snacks for the youth of Summerfield. If you would like to donate, please add your snack items to the marked blue bin in the narthex.

**Also, there is an ongoing need for nutritious food/protein for the kids of Summerfield.** GSLC Council has challenged the congregation to provide funds for the purchase of nutritious food. GSLC will match donations from members 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!

---

## 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](http://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, November 27, 2022 - First Sunday of Advent

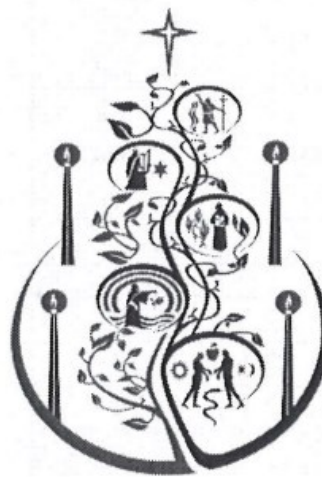
**Prayer of the Day:** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122 (1)

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44



## **Romans 13:11-14**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## **Matthew 24:36-44**

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.