

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, July 7, 2021



Once many years ago, I lamented to a spiritual director that I wished I had more faith. His response: "Doug, when is the amount of faith you have been given going to be enough for you?" I listen to people tell me about struggling with their faith, wishing they had some more, or even thinking that they have more doubts than they have faith. Jesus says if all you have is a tiny mustard seed size faith, it is more, much more than enough. Faith, for Luther - is trust. It is also power to do something. Something to serve the Kingdom. Another spiritual writer says that if you want to feel God in your doubts and troubles, feed someone. (not talking about a sandwich here)

If you want to stay in God, help someone, reach out to someone. In two weeks, we will hear the story of the feeding of the great crowd. We are nourished ourselves when we share with others. Particularly those outside our immediate family and best friends. The stranger, the outcast, the lesser known ones. Lord, increase our faith.

LV
PD



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. We will continue to tape and post the video online for you to watch at your convenience.

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.

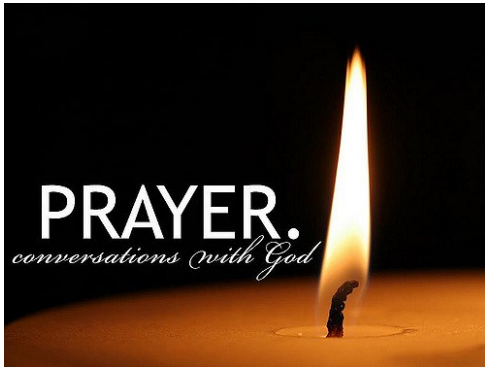
Whichever worship choice works best for you, we are delighted to have you worship with us!

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)

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



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, Glen and Durbin.

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@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).

Upcoming Events

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.

A HUGE thank you to The Good Shepherd Quilters! They have been working hard to prepare such beautiful quilts for our High School Seniors and those in need. We are blessed to have them as part of our community and have enjoyed seeing the fruits of their labor displayed around our Church.



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 Holleran 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.



Lutheran World Relief Quilt Ingathering

Good Shepherd is the site of the next Quilt Ingathering in Connecticut. We will be the drop off location for quilts July 13th to July 17th and the following week they will be picked up and on their way to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland and then on to people in need here in the United States and worldwide.

If you have time during the week of July 13th to 17th and can be at church to let in the drop off groups, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have questions, Barbara Abraham is our LWR Liaison and is happy to help.



Reaching Out, Serving Others:



*Leveraging hope,
changing lives.*

**Can you help Proyecto
Nueva Vida (PNV)?**
**PNV is our re-entry program
which supports people returning
to our communities after
incarceration**

We need:

Men's Boxers (L, XL, XXL)

Men's Tshirts (L, XL, XXL)

Men's SOCKS

Women's Underwear (Size M and up)

Bar Soaps

Toiletries for Men and Women

Razors

Please call Adilene at 203-334-1121

ext 13 or email

adilenegarcia@ccgb.org if you can
donate!





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.

The Food Pantry is looking for following items to fill out their inventory:

- canned fruit - apple sauce, mandarin oranges, pineapple
- canned vegetables (regular and low sodium) - beets, creamed corn, French cut green beans, olives, potatoes, Sauerkraut, spinach, sweet potatoes
- canned vegetables (regular and low sodium) - cannellini, pinto
- baked beans
- sodium stock/broth (regular and low sodium) - chicken, beef, vegetable
- canned fish - solid white tuna, salmon
- canned tomatoes (regular and low sodium) - crushed, whole, puree, sauce, paste
- jarred pasta sauce
- Ramen - beef, shrimp
- baking goods - brownie mix, cake mix, pancake mix, sugar
- packaged foods - Hamburger Helper, instant potatoes, Knorr rice/pasta sides, Pasta-roni, Rice-a-roni, bread crumbs
- salad dressing
- condiments - BBQ sauce, cooking oil, ketchup, mustard, hot sauce
- pancake syrup
- crunchy peanut butter
- beverages - ground coffee, black tea, apple juice, cranberry juice, low sodium V8, Ensure, shelf stable milk
- household cleaning products
- personal hygiene products - tooth paste, deodorant, razors, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, face wash
- paper towels

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.



Sunday, July 11, 2021 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: Mark 6:14-29



Ephesians 1:3-14

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Mark 6:14-29

THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.