

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, September 22, 2021



"God must have a plan for me." "What is God's will?"

I've heard people ask this question and the assumption underneath it many times. Seeking the answer can be frustrating to say the least. The theological assumption may be flawed.

Here's a reframe that is offered as a different approach... What if God is asking back, "I don't know, what do you want to do?" - "Thrill me. We'll work it together." What if God moves in the desires of our hearts and has our backs?

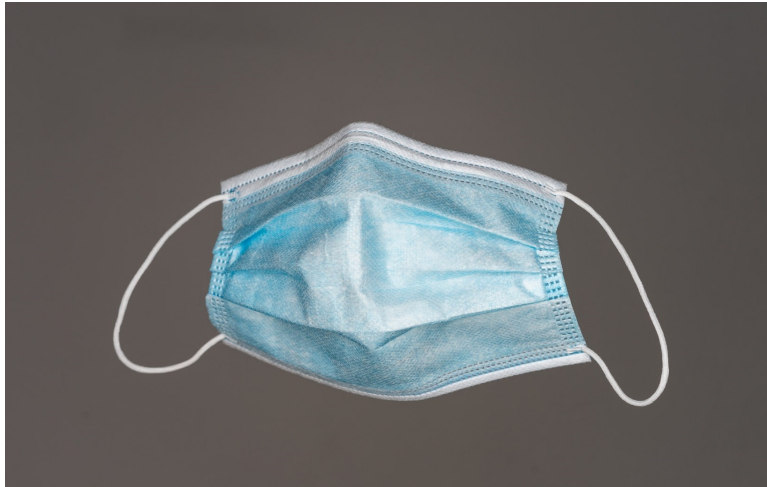
"You didn't see that coming? Me either." Says God. "But let's work it together." God's will for us is ... God. God gives Who God is. In any situation.

But what if we made a decision and it turned out to be wrong? Then God has a way of writing straight with crooked lines. God is One who helps us imagine a future even when facing death itself.

God IS that future. God's will for you is God. St. Paul writes "for I am certain of this... nothing... can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." Nothing can.

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An update from the Worship and Music Committee:



***FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL...PLEASE BRING A MASK TO UTILIZE DURING INDOOR WORSHIP.**

Regardless of vaccination status, we must now revert back to wearing masks during indoor worship. Good Shepherd appreciates your patience and understanding during these challenging times!

There are several options for you to join us for prerecorded 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

Worship Schedule for in person worship:



September 26th: Our "Fall schedule" is in effect. This means we will have two Worship Services every Sunday until further notice. Please choose from:

*** 8am INDOOR service, or**

*** 10:30am OUTDOOR service.** (weather permitting)

Please continue to read Friday's weekly "Worship E-mail", or check our Facebook Page for any updates / changes.

A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Miriam, 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, Alyssa, Rob and Andrew.

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.

Psalms 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@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.

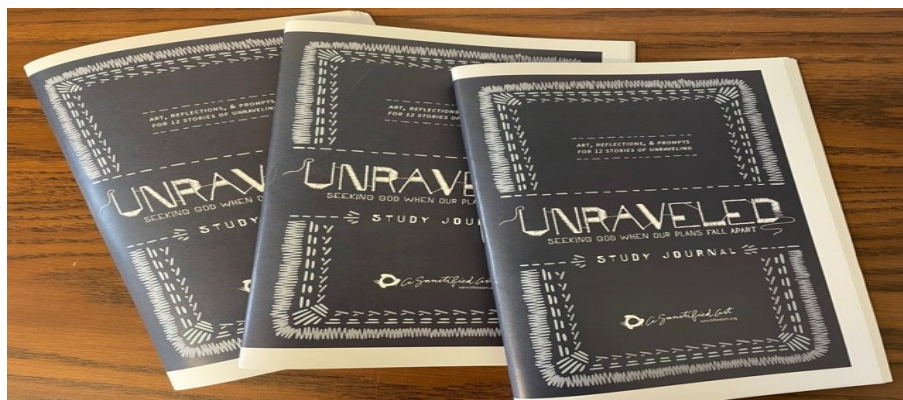
Do you have something you would like to discuss with Pastor Doug?

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



Bible Study is every Thursday!

Pastor Doug would like to invite you to a new Bible Study he is hosting, called "Unraveled". The first session took place on the 16th, but you may join at any time! This study includes powerful works of art to contemplate, as well as some rarely heard Bible stories. For your convenience, two times are being offered. Pastor Doug hopes to see you on Thursdays at either 11am, or 7pm! No special knowledge is required and all are welcome!



Upcoming Events -

September 26th - Confirmation classes (7th & 8th Graders) and Sunday School meets again on this date. The classes will be held between services, 9:15am-10am, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month.

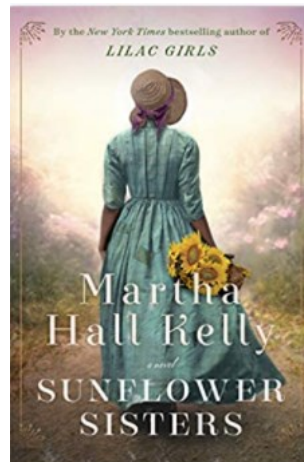
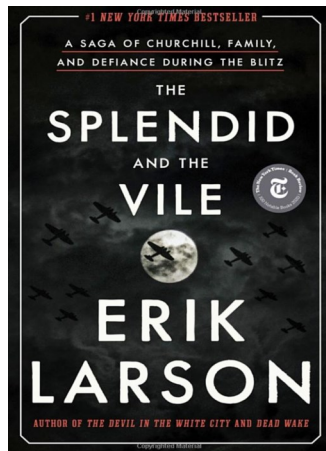
For those being Confirmed, some important dates are:

October 3rd – Mini Retreat from 4-6pm. Pizza will be provided.

October 10th – Confirmation will be celebrated. We will gather for 10:30am Worship and hope to be outdoors.



If you have not done so already, please contact Pastor Doug by text, or phone at 860-595-9560 to confirm attendance at the Retreat and Confirmation.



October 5th - The Good Shepherd Book Club will meet again at **2:00pm**. We will discuss **"The Splendid And The Vile"**, by Erik Larson. Weather permitting, we can meet outdoors. We can also meet indoors, with masks, if that is preferable.

We welcome new members and look forward to seeing all of our avid readers on 10/5/21!

November 2nd - 2:00pm, we will discuss **"Sunflower Sisters"** by Martha Hall Kelly.



Dear Good Shepherd family,

It is hard to put into words how grateful I am to be a part of such a kind, caring, thoughtful, Christ-centered community.

What a great joy to be recognized at Sunday's Worship Service and Wow! Thank you so much for the very generous retirement gift and the good wishes in the numerous cards.

It was an absolute delight to have served as the church secretary and it's also an absolute delight to be a member of Good Shepherd!

Thank you again,
Nina



CHOIR HAS STARTED SINGING AGAIN -



**The Choir will be singing at the 10:30am Worship Services.
(outdoors, weather permitting)**

**If you would like to join them, please come at 9:55am to
practice and sing with them!**

WE STILL NEED HELP -

The Good Shepherd will host a Blood Drive in
Gibiser Hall on 11/13/21.



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

We are looking for a volunteer to run this event. This means readying the hall in advance and unlocking the Church for the Red Cross at about 6:45am that morning. The volunteer does not need to stay at the Church during the drive, as the Red Cross brings their staff to run it. The volunteer would need to do a quick building check / light cleanup afterwards and lock up the Church at around 2pm, or 2:30. If interested, please see Donna, or call Stephanie in the office to discuss details.

Shepherd's Flock Quilting Schedule -



The Shepherd's Flock Quilters generally meet at 10 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. We invite everyone to join us. Please contact Barbara Abraham by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321 if you wish to come on Monday morning. Contact Ellie Noll by phone at: 203-888-7009, or Eileen Holleran by phone at: 203-426-0005 if you wish to come on Wednesday. If you prefer Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598. There is no limit to the number of people at this time, but we would like to ensure that someone will definitely be there to work with you. If you can tie a knot, you can do this! A variety of talents can be used; we are happy to show you how to sew tops, tie, trim, and design tops if you wish to join us.

A word of thanks -

Dear Good Shepherd Quilters,

Thank you so much for the awesome Giants quilt! It works great, keeping myself and friends warm. It never fails to make me smile when I see it. I know my Grandmother had a hand in selecting the themes and colors, but it's something special knowing that everyone put effort into crafting these quilts for us. It's a gift that won't let me forget Good Shepherd anytime soon.

Thank you again for your kindness,

DJ Bobowick

Shepherd's Pantry

The need is great!

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.

- Juice (apple, cranberry, etc)
- Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup
- Canned Vegetables
- Grape Jelly, Strawberry Jam
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr Pasta/Rice Sides, Macaroni & Cheese
- Egg Noodles
- Rice (brown or white)
- Hot & Cold Cereal
- Bread Crumbs
- Canned Tomatoes (crushed, whole, diced, stewed, paste)
- Chicken, Beef, or Vegetable Broth
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Fruit (regular or low sugar - preferably in juice)
- Canned Beans, including baked & refried
- 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
- Household cleaning supplies



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.



Living Lutheran

Cultivate character

By [Aaron Fuller](#) | September 20, 2021

During the summer, my congregation's Bible study group decided to read the book of James. We had two reasons. First, James is only five chapters and thus, we thought, would be a fast read. Second, we knew Martin Luther had called this book "an epistle of straw," which intrigued us. As we studied together, we quickly learned that both we and Luther were wrong—James is long and rich with wisdom.

We ended up studying James all summer and, in doing so, wrestled with the question "What do my words and deeds say about my faith and about me?" We discovered that James doesn't advocate for earning one's righteousness through works, as Luther thought, but instead stresses the importance of one's character in Christ. Character is one's identity reflected in what one says and does.

Thinking about character naturally leads to many questions. This month's lectionary readings from James offer the following questions to reflect on Christian character: Do our actions and words align with our Christian faith? What virtues form a Christian character? How do practices such as prayer affect our character?

We discovered that James doesn't advocate for earning one's righteousness through works, as Luther thought, but instead stresses the importance of one's character in Christ.

I've also been asking myself, "Does character matter?" Based on how our society talks about politics and justice for people of varying race, gender and sexual orientation and for the poor, my answer would be no. In media today, we receive messages that lack compassion, empathy and humility—the virtues of character.

I even watch fellow Lutherans, people who have expressed deep faith in Jesus, say and do things online and beyond that contradict Christ's call to suffer with and alongside all of God's people. I'm prone to this as well. Many of us today act and speak reactively and have become less discerning in how we live out our relationships with friends, family and strangers. As a result, our emotional and spiritual wellness has suffered, which has left us feeling hopeless and alone. Such unwellness can lead to suicide, thoughts of suicide and harm, mental health struggles and acts of violence. All this happens, I believe, because we don't think character matters.

Our September readings from James prove that character indeed matters. Yet for Christians, character is not a matter of choice; it starts when we allow ourselves to be formed by Christ.

As James writes, "Draw near to God, and [God] will draw near to you" (4:8). Only when we draw near to Christ and allow him to work in us will we be able to discern what to do and what to say and, importantly, reject anything that erodes our Christian character.



[Aaron Fuller](#)

Fuller is a bi-vocational pastor serving as a Navy Reserve chaplain.

Financial News -

Financial Statements -

Roy Remlin has printed out Financial Statements for our members. You can get yours by stopping by the wood table in the narthex when you are at the Church. If you are not able to get to Church and need your statement, please contact Stephanie in the office to request that it be mailed out.

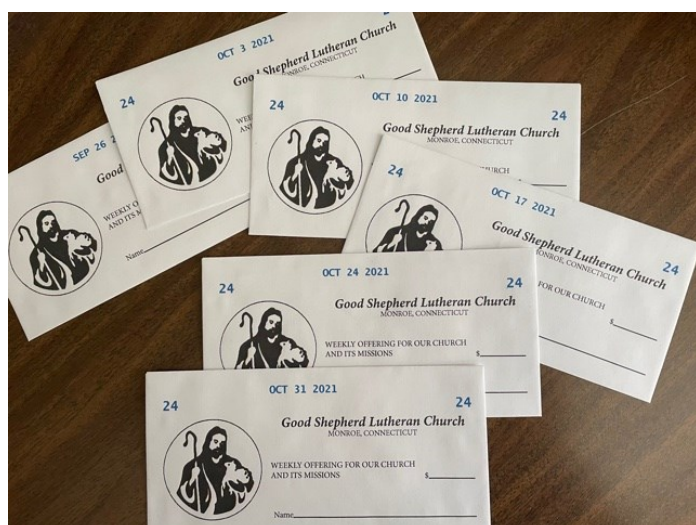
VANCO - a secure ELCA preferred online giving platform -

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!



*** Our offerings are down significantly. If you are able to donate, any amount would be very helpful and much appreciated!**

Sunday, September 26, 2021 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalm 19:7-14 (8)

Second Reading: James 5:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50



James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."