



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, December 8, 2021

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



### Seeking and sharing love this Advent

*Faith & family: Growing together (December 2021)*

By [Kimberly Knowle-Zeller](#) | December 2, 2021

#### Practices

- List random acts of kindness on slips of paper and put them in a jar. Every few days pull one out and do the act as a family.
- There are 24 chapters in Luke's Gospel. To remember the life of Jesus together, read the first chapter on Dec. 1 and another for each day leading up to Christmas.
- Purchase or make an [Advent wreath](#) and place it where you'll see it every day. Every week light a candle to count down until Jesus' birth.

#### Prayers

We pray for those who find little joy this season.  
We pray for those longing to start a family.  
We pray for church leaders, volunteers and musicians.  
We give thanks for manger scenes, lights, trees and decorations.  
We give thanks for retail and hospitality workers.  
We give thanks for songs that tell of God's love.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

#### Service opportunity

Make a list of people who could use a reminder that they are loved this Advent and Christmas. As a family, send notes of encouragement to some of the people on your list.

## Worship Schedule -

**December 12th:** We will have two Worship Services on Sunday, 12/12 and 12/19. Feel free to choose from our 8am, or 10:30am service on the dates above. Both services will be held INDOORS. Please bring a mask regardless of your vaccination status, as they will be required for all. **Please see our calendar for the holiday schedule.** Hymnals are now available for use again. Please note that if you are uncomfortable using the hymnals, there will be a limited number of freshly copied "Hymn Packets" available upon request at each service.

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

Also, 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



If you prefer to join us for prerecorded online worship instead, you can:

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) 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 it 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. From there, 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!

## A Community Of Prayer -

For those in need of healing and comfort:



*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

*Psalm 147 vs. 3*

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Joan, Vic, Lauren, Ray, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Miriam, Rosemary, Paula, 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.

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.

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



**12/12/21** - 8am and 10:30am indoor Worship Services.

**12/12/21 - Sunday School and Confirmation Classes** will meet from 9:15am - 10am. We will only convene once this month and will see you again in January.

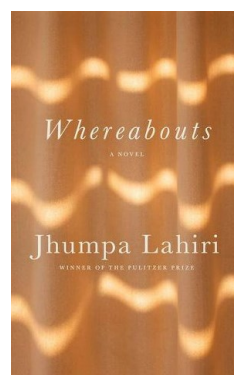
**12/12/21 - Our Annual Meeting** will take place immediately after the 10:30am service.

**12/19/21** - 8am and 10:30am indoor Worship Services.

**12/24/21 - Christmas Eve** Service at 5:30pm.

**12/26/21 - Worship Schedule Change** - Only one service at 9:30am.

**1/4/22 - The Book Club** will meet again at 2pm to discuss "Whereabouts", by Jhumpa Lahiri.

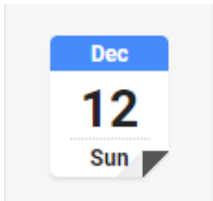


**Choir Meetings** - Each Sunday at \*9:45am. (\* Please note slight time change)

**Shepherd's Flock Quilters** - generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. New members are welcome!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON  
DECEMBER 12, 2021 AT 11:15AM**

**COME IN PERSON, OR JOIN VIA ZOOM AT:**



**GSLAnnualMeeting**

**When** Sun Dec 12, 2021 11:15am – 12:15pm (EST)

**Where** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89837081659?pwd=SVNTVVVlxNng5dnY1RkhDVy9KZm5Zdz09>

**Topic:** GSLAnnualMeeting

**Time:** Dec 12, 2021 11:15 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89837081659?pwd=SVNTVVVlxNng5dnY1RkhDVy9KZm5Zdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 898 3708 1659

**Passcode:** 763951

**One tap mobile**

+19292056099,,89837081659#,,, \*763951# US (New York)

+13126266799,,89837081659#,,, \*763951# US (Chicago)

**Dial by your location**

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

**Meeting ID:** 898 3708 1659

**Passcode:** 763951

**Find your local number:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdBBJBgOdP>



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## **POINSETTIAS**

We will be decorating the Church with Poinsettias for Christmas. There will be a limited number of Poinsettias available for \$10 each. If you would like to purchase one, please take a green envelope from the table in the narthex. Fill in your name and kindly enclose your \$10. If you'd like to dedicate it to someone's memory, please add their name, as well. We will include the dedication in our Christmas week bulletins. You are welcome to take your Poinsettia home with you after Christmas Eve Worship. Please remember that there are only a limited number of plants available. In order to include dedications in our Christmas week bulletins, they must be received by 12/19.



There are still a few "Angel Tree" tags for the Salvation Army left in the Good Shepherd narthex. Please help a child by selecting an Angel Tree Tag from the red table near the central doors in the narthex. Then, fill in the info for tag you have taken. Kindly bring your bagged, but unwrapped gifts, with the complete tag attached, to the designated area by the central side door with the sign. (behind baby shower table, by AED) Please don't feel that you should include all the possible gifts on your tag--you can be selective. Certainly, any gift included is more than no gift! (in case I have to return tags to the SA.)

Sorry for the short notice, but **gifts are due back by December 13th** at the latest. If you have questions or problems, please call me at: 203-257-0375 or 203-261-6576.

Thanks for all you do! - Larry Black

**\* Bring gifts UNWRAPPED, but you may include gift wrap in your bag.**

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## CALL FOR HELP FROM THE SALVATION ARMY -

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to staff the "Angel Tree" booth at the Trumbull Mall. If you can't give financially this time of year, this may be a wonderful way for you to help out! Simply give a little of your time to help others pick a tag / fill out their sign up form.. If interested in more info, or to sign up for a shift, please contact Lt. Wonni at 978-935-3095. Thanks!





## COVENANT TO CARE CHRISTMAS GIFTS -

There are still two name tags left on 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 19th.**

**Where to leave your package:** Place your gift near the Covenant to Care sign, on the left side of the front doors as you look towards the road. The Angel Tree gifts are on the right side of the doors.



Thank you for helping us keep all of this straight! All donations are much appreciated!

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## GSLC IS HOLDING A VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER -

We are having a virtual baby shower for an Afghan family who recently settled in CT. The family is expecting a baby girl on December 27<sup>th</sup>. Since they only have a crib, they are in need of many items to care for the baby. Anyone who would like to provide an item for the “Baby Shower” is welcome to take a card that lists needed items. These cards are on the “baby table” in the corner of the narthex. Please note that not all necessary items have been listed, so if you find a gently used stroller, or other useful item, we would love to add it to the other baby gifts. Feel free to drop items off at the “baby table”. For your convenience, there is also a collection box outside the main door of the Church.

**All items are due by December 19th. Thanks for your help!**



## **QUILTING -**



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 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 quilters 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.

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## **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 out to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church" with the notation, "Food For Summerfield".



## 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.



### ITEMS NEEDED AT THE MONROE FOOD PANTRY

At the Monroe Food Pantry, we strive to consistently provide healthy food options for our clients. We accept and appreciate all donations, and encourage **low sodium, low sugar, low saturated fat, vegetarian, and whole wheat** selections when possible. This helps our clients manage and prevent chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease.

- bread crumbs
- instant potatoes
- egg noodles
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- macaroni & cheese
- healthy snack items
- hot and cold cereal
- tuna
- canned chicken
- brown/white rice
- pancake mix & syrup
- peanut butter
- jams and jellies
- canned soup
- canned pasta
- salad dressing
- condiments
- baked beans
- refried beans
- broths and stocks
- canned fruit
- canned chili
- canned tomatoes
- canned beans & vegetables
- Ensure
- juice
- hot chocolate
- baking supplies: sugar, flour, brownie and cake mix
- decaf and regular: ground coffee, instant coffee
- decaf and regular: black tea, green tea
- Hamburger Helper, Knorr products, Ramen
- household cleaning supplies
- personal hygiene products
- feminine hygiene products
- frozen vegetables, and fresh produce
- pet food



# *The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport Enews*

*Leveraging hope, changing lives*



We invite you to participate in our annual [ANGEL APPEAL](#) by making a gift to The Council of Churches in honor or in memory of one or more of the "ANGELS" in your life who has inspired, encouraged, or partnered with you in making a difference in our community.

The challenges faced by our poorest neighbors are significant, but hope abounds! We at The Council are acutely aware of the unmet needs throughout Greater Bridgeport, and with your help are making a difference.

To donate online...

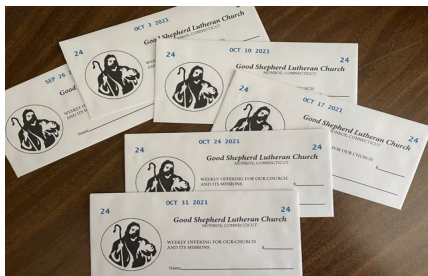
Go the Council of Churches Greater Bridgeport website, click on "donate" and scroll down to "Angel Appeal".

Thank you!

## FINANCIAL NEWS -

### FINANCIAL UPDATE -

We would like to thank everyone for the contributions that you have made over the last four, or five weeks. As a result of your generosity, we are currently expecting our full year contributions to be at, or slightly below plan. If you are behind on your pledge, or if you would like to make a contribution to Good Shepherd, it would be very helpful and much appreciated!



### 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, December 12, 2021 Third Sunday of Advent**

Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6(6)

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18



### **Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Luke 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.