

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

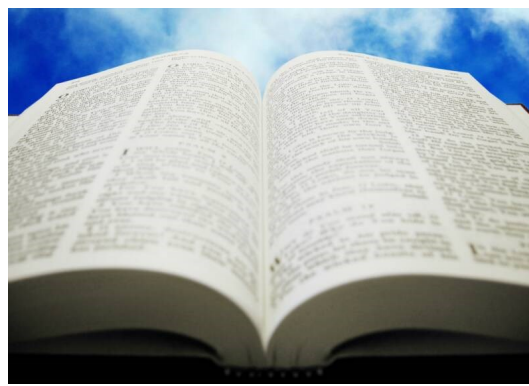
*Our mission is to be more visible, to become more connected,
and to draw closer, with Christ as our center.*



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



Wednesday, July 22, 2020



On this beautiful summer day let us give thanks that God's word is a light to our path throughout life that guides us in our baptismal journey, fills us with hope and joy, and illuminates truth and justice.



On **Sunday, August 2 and 16 at 9:30 a.m.** we will have the next Outdoor Worship Services at Good Shepherd on the back lawn behind the sanctuary. We are committed to our goal of having no spread of the contagion due to our gatherings. With this in mind, we ask you to observe the following guidelines:

- 1) If you do not feel well, if you do not feel comfortable, or if you are in a high risk category, please stay at home. We will record the service and make it available online.
- 2) The building and restrooms will not be accessible. We anticipate that our worship service will be approximately 45 minutes long. Please plan accordingly.
- 3) Please put on your face covering before leaving your vehicle. You will be expected to wear it throughout your visit.
- 4) Please bring: a lawn chair, face covering, and portion of bread for communion for every person in your group.
- 5) Please plan to arrive between 9-9:15. There will be a table at the entrance where you may leave your offering.
- 6) Ushers will guide you to your worship space, starting with front rows and moving toward the back. You will be assigned the next available spot to set up your chairs. Your chair should be positioned so that your feet are on the white line in front of you and so that you cannot reach your neighbor (maintaining six feet of distance.) Please stay seated until worship begins.
- 7) Please refrain from unnecessary movement through the worship space to allow everyone to get set up while maintaining social distancing.
- 8) Please understand that singing has been shown to be one of the riskiest activities at this time. We will NOT be singing during this service. This will be very difficult for some, so if you must, please hum softly or mouth the words without using your voice.
- 9) We will pass the Peace without physical contact.
- 10) For Holy Communion, you will be asked to get out the bread you brought with you. Pastor will consecrate it from the altar and signal you when you should eat it. No wine will be available. As Lutherans, we believe that Christ is present to us in, with, and under both the bread and wine, so in times such as this when it is not safe to share a common cup, the sacrament is fully available and complete in the consecrated bread.
- 11) When the service has ended, you may stand and pack your chairs and belongings but please remain in place until directed by the ushers to leave. The back row will exit first, followed by remaining rows from back to front. Please do not linger to socialize; go directly to your vehicle and depart.
- 12) A recycling bin and trash can will be placed near the entrance to the worship space. Please deposit your disposable masks and any trash in the appropriate container.
- 13) In the event of inclement weather, the service will be cancelled. You may assume that if there are thunderstorms or torrential rain in the forecast, there will be no service. Check our Facebook page and/or the church website for updates if the weather seems questionable.



Please remember that we are all handling these unprecedented times in the best ways we know how given our unique circumstances. Some will feel more comfortable than others, some face greater risks than others. Please be respectful of these personal differences and lift each other up as we move into gathering in community again. We are taking a conservative approach so that as many people as possible may feel safe in joining us. Please follow any directions given by our ushers.



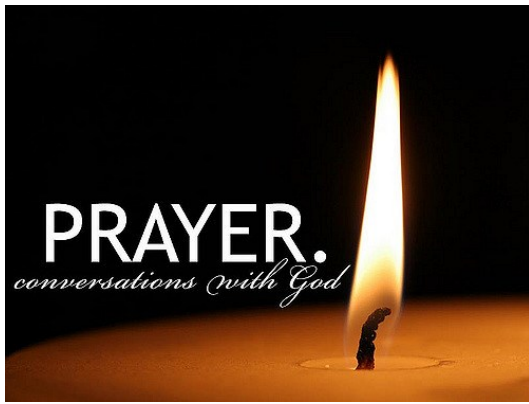
Weekly Offering

As worship services are online and/or outdoor for the near future, if you have a chance, please submit your offering to help with our expenses. Thank you for your contribution!

There are different ways to contribute. You may bring it with you to the outdoor worship service or you may mail it if you are worshipping online with us or you may use your bank's online checking and have the bank issue the check and mail it—it's most often a free service offered by banks. Check with your bank to see if this works for you. In addition, our Finance Commit-

The church is always active thanks to the efforts of dedicated members! We are especially grateful to the Jacksons (Jeff, Karen and Brett) and the Chins (Sue and Scott) and Donna Duessel. What a difference power washing the wall has made! Not to mention, weeding, and trimming!!





A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Bill, Vicki, Peg, Marie, Karen, Pat, Billie, Audrey, Catherine, Elizabeth, Ray, John, Gordon, Miriam, Sarah, Chuck, Timmy, Bruce, Karl, Kendra, Mary Helen, Carolyn, Irma, Patricia, Cate, Misty, Julia, Sydne, Anna, Roy, Judy, Scarlet, Jason, Brian.

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

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.

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. 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).



Thank you, thank you to my family and friends of Good Shepherd. I am home, able to drive and doing very well. I even attended the outdoor service on July 19. I'm sure I have done so well due to the thoughts, prayers, phone calls, get well wishes, cards and most of all to my family for the special care I received during the month's stay with Linda, Steve and Lauren and the care from Kevin and Chris. Thank you and God Bless.

Love,
Peg



Upcoming Events

We are meeting via Zoom this Thursday July 30th for the next session of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raise the Bar: Becoming Anti-Racist Summer Study and Discussion Series. Please complete and submit the online form at www.ccgb.org/bar and a Zoom invitation will be sent to you prior to each session. If you have any questions, please speak with Donna Duessel or Pastor Doug.

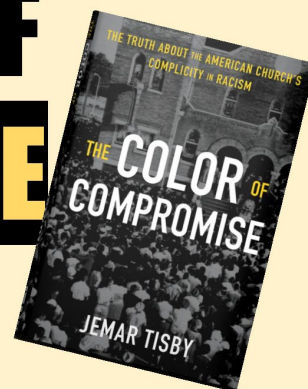
You're
Invited



CCGB's Raise the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist Summer Study and Discussion Series

THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE

BY Jemar Tisby



What:

Video Presentation and Guided Discussion

Through five facilitated sessions of video clips and discussion we will be introduced to the "history of how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices." In the videos Jemar Tisby "outlines the kind of bold action needed to forge a future of equality and justice" requiring us to think through "concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church." (Amazon and TCOC Video Series descriptions)

When:

Thursday evenings – 7:30 – 9:00 pm

July 2, July 16, July 30, August 13, August 27



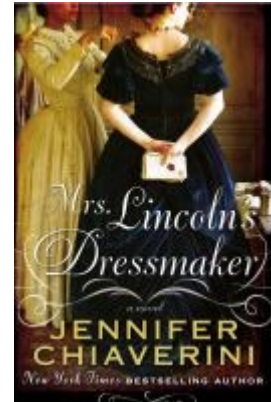
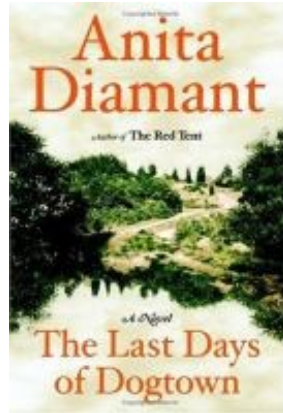
Registration:

Complete and submit the online form at www.ccgb.org/bar

The Zoom link and email reminders will be sent prior to each session.



The Book Club is meeting via Zoom and it is wonderful to "see" so many people! On August 4th at 1:30 p.m. we will discuss "The Last Days of Dogtown" by Anita Diamant. In September we will discuss "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini. We welcome new members! Reply to this newsletter or contact Karen Jackson to be sure to be included in the discussion. The sessions are by invitation only to ensure internet safety guidelines are followed.



Readings for Sunday, July 26, 2020

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

