

**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, January 26, 2022

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

"God doesn't work in the way that we are used to the world working - through power and privilege.

In this Christmas - Epiphany Season, we have learned that God speaks through the voices of wise foreigners, and poor and simple shepherds and out of wedlock pregnant teenagers."

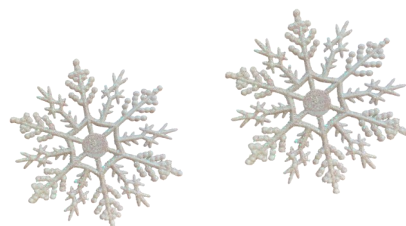
A seasonal message from my colleague, Rev. Rachel Cornwell.

LV  
PD

**\*Confirmation and Sunday School** - next gathering will be on Sunday, February 13th. See you then!

**\* For the Winter months ahead** - if you see a "Winter Weather Advisory" on your iPhone, or on the news, please consider that Worship may be cancelled. Feel free to call PD, Donna, or any member of the Worship Committee if you are in doubt. Please don't assume. We will post Worship changes on the Good Shepherd - Monroe Facebook page. If feasible, we will also make efforts to call our members.

Stay healthy and safe this Winter!



## Worship Information -



**We have two in person Worship Services per week. They are held on Sundays at 8am and 10:30am. When joining us for indoor Worship, please follow Covid safe protocols, which include:**

Members should opt for KN95, N95, or surgical masks, rather than cloth masks. Masks MUST be worn in the building at all times, over the mouth and nose. Social distance should be observed in the Sanctuary and Narthex. (Lobby area) On the way to Communion, please follow the taped crosses on the floor of the center aisle. Choir will not sing, but members may hum, or softly sing hymns while remaining fully masked. Please do your part in helping keep our members safe!

Hymnals are available for use. 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.



**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.

## Prayer List -



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

*Psalm 147 vs. 3*

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

**Audrey, Miriam, Scarlet, Ryan, Sharon and Rosemary.**

**Do you wonder how to put a loved one, friend, neighbor, or yourself on the prayer list?**

Simply email the person's first name to 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.

**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)



**Regular Worship schedule** - Sunday Services are held at 8am and 10:30am. (\* If the weather is bad, please check our Facebook page, or call a member of Worship & Music to see if there is a schedule change.)

**2/1/22 - Book Club at 2pm.**

**2/13/22 - Sunday School & Confirmation classes** held at 9:15am.

**2/27/22 - Sunday School & Confirmation classes** held at 9:15am.



**Choir Practice** - Currently suspended, due to Covid safe protocols.

**Shepherd's Flock Quilters** - generally meet at 10am each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. \* Please contact Barbara Abraham by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321 if you wish to come on a Monday morning. If you'd like to join on a Wednesday, contact Ellie Noll at: 203-888-7009, or Eileen Holleran at: 203-426-0005. If you prefer to quilt on a Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598. Anyone is welcome!

## Book Club -

**On February 1st at 2pm**, we will meet to discuss "House Rules", by Jodi Picoult. We will also try to squeeze in a brief discussion of "Whereabouts", the book club that was cancelled for January. Please join us!

I ♥  
Book Club



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## Community Supper -



Golden Hill Methodist Church  
Bridgeport, CT

**On February 2nd at approximately 2:30pm**, eight volunteers are needed to help prep and serve meals. Join the carpool headed to Golden Hill Methodist! The sign up sheet is hanging in the narthex. Feel free to contact Peg Wesche, or call the office for more details!



New England 7B



**President, Alice Carlson, and Board members of SWO 7B  
Invite you to a Zoom Bible Study**

Dear Good Shepherd ,

Please join us for a gathering of women to study and share.

Email to register by Feb. 3rd

New England 7B



# JUST LOVE

Zoom Bible Study February 5, 2022

FEB. 5<sup>th</sup>

10 to 11:30 am

Zoom

- ☒ Informal check in followed by
- ☒ Bible Study based on 1 John 4: 7,8
- ☒ For Zoom Link: email Liz Burgess at [eburg.subscribe@gmail.com](mailto:eburg.subscribe@gmail.com)
- ☒ register by February 3, 2022 to receive the Zoom link.



**Rev. Dr. Kathleen Mills**

Pastor Kathleen is a gifted preacher and teacher, sharing her Biblical knowledge with adults and children. Pastor Kathleen Mills serves Holy Trinity ELCA, Trumbull, CT.

## LOST AND FOUND -



The watch above was found at the Church. Please call Stephanie in the office if you recognize it, as we'd like to get it back to it's rightful owner.

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WED  
JAN 26  
2022

### PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

READ Acts 12:6-17

*Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

— Mark 11:24 (NIV)

When my wife was hospitalized after a stroke, a church group gave her a blanket embroidered with her name and Mark 11:24. When I looked up the verse, it gave me hope. Along with our friends and our church, I was fervently praying for my wife's complete recovery. When she died seven weeks later, I was grief-stricken. Not only did I lose my wife, but our prayers had not been granted. I felt like I had failed. Surely if I had been more faithful, God would have healed my wife.

For years I have wrestled with this verse. The mix of past and future tenses is puzzling. I believe prayer changes things, but this passage teaches me that our prayers are never *just* about the future. Praying conforms us to God's will in the present. We are comforted in this transformation by looking to God's faithfulness in the past. Further, like the disciples in

Acts 12, sometimes we don't immediately recognize the answer to our prayers.

I'm still mourning the loss of my wife, but slowly I

am beginning to appreciate the profound ways God answers my prayers — ways so amazing that I don't always understand them. I have come to accept that God doesn't require my understanding, just my steadfast, faithful confidence in God's love for me.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help us to see the ways you have guided us in the past, and grant us faith to trust our futures to you, no matter what is happening in the present. Amen.

Bill Kirklin (Indiana, USA)

#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

How has God acted  
in my past?

## 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.

### The Monroe Food Pantry's needs for January include:

Oatmeal (regular and instant – original flavor or any variety)

Snack items (crackers, chips, nuts, etc.)

Strawberry jelly

Olives (canned)

Jarred pasta sauce

Solid white tuna

Coffee (regular and decaf)

Black tea (regular and decaf)

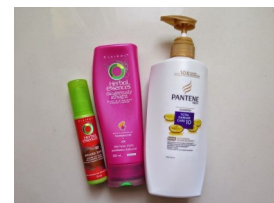
Hot chocolate

Ramen noodles (chicken/beef/shrimp)

Paper towels

Cleaning supplies

Toiletries (deodorant/bar and hand soap/shampoo and conditioner/razors)



**As always, thank you for your generosity and support!**



## 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". Thank you!

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## FINANCIAL NEWS -

**\*\*2021 Financial Statements are available for pickup on the table in the narthex. If you aren't able to come into the Church, please call the office during business hours and let Stephanie know you would like yours mailed out.**

## 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, January 30, 2022 - Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6 (6)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30



### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### **Luke 4:21-30**

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.