



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weekly Update Wednesday, October 26, 2022

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



The Blessing of Pets - sometimes it's this way, isn't it? God manifests the Divine Presence in ALL of creation, blesses us through nature itself.

As the Eucharistic Prayer I used on Sunday says, "All of creation is a symphony of praise and thanks."

Pray with a small piece of nature this week.

* Also, please keep Ray Doherty and Ray Schmidt in your prayers this week and all those on our prayer list.

LV

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Worship Information -

*** On September 11th, we began recognizing our Fall schedule. That means there are two Worship services every Sunday. Please choose from the 8am, or 10:30am service. Also, please see next newsletter page for the Choir and Sunday School schedules.**

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. 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!

Prayer List -

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Helen, Cliff Jr., Audrey, Miriam, Hassinger Family, Lane Family, Lee Family, Margaret, Desi, Bill C's Family, Todd, Nicolette, Mike's Family, Kelly, Sue, Andrea, D.A., Robert, Kathy, Beverly, Doree, Amy, Mark, Scarlet, Ryan, Louis, John, Sharon & Rosemary.



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



Our regular Fall Worship schedule is in effect. There are two services on Sundays. Please choose from the 8am, or 10:30am service.

10/30/22 - Reformation Sunday and Commitment Sunday. Please join us at 9:30am to bake and eat symbolic and delicious "Reformation Pretzels".

11/1/22 - Book Club will meet at 2pm to discuss Joyce Maynard's "Count The Ways". New members are welcome!

11/12/22 - Red Cross Blood Drive will take place - **NO quilting.**

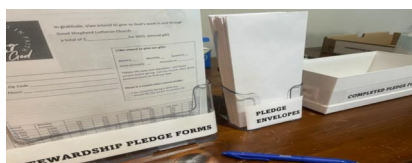
11/13/22 & 11/27/22 - Sunday School and Confirmation classes will be held at 9:15am. (and every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.)

* **Choir practice** - held on Sundays at 9:30am.

* **Shepherd's Flock Quilters** - generally meet at 10am each Monday, and Saturday. **QUILTING WILL NO LONGER TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAYS.** * For quilting on Mondays, please contact Barbara by phone, or text at: 203-305-0321. If you prefer to quilt on a Saturday, please text Donna Duessel at: 203-482-5598.



**American
Red Cross**
Together, we can save a life



Stewardship 2022

Theme: Trusting in God, Growing in Faith

Psalm 46



Good morning - for those of you who do not know me, my name is Barbara Abraham, I am your Finance Committee Chair... and my name is Tim Carlson, I am your Treasurer.

Though our recent past has brought us unexpected challenges, we as a congregation have put our trust in God and our faith into action. We have continued in our commitment to one another, strengthened our resolve to care for those in need, and grew in new ways to deepen our ministries. We are grateful that your continued generosity and faithfulness has made this all possible.

Our theme for this year's stewardship campaign is, "Trusting in God, Growing in Faith." Psalm 46 reminds us that "We will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult." God reminds us that he is our rock and our foundation. Your continued financial support of Good Shepherd is crucial to its foundation, permitting us to continue to be a beacon of hope and an illustration of God's love during challenging times.

Next Sunday is Commitment Sunday. It is the day we are given the opportunity to renew and deepen our commitment to the ministry of Christ at Good Shepherd. Now, more than ever, we ask the congregation to contribute generously to support our life and ministry. Today, we as a congregation are at a critical crossroads financially as we have seen a significant reduction in contributions over the past four months. As of the end of September, contributions were \$31,000 below budget and for the first two weeks of October our collections totaled less than \$3,000, when historically we averaged \$3,000 a week.

Your weekly offering supports this congregation. It pays the salaries of our devoted staff and maintains the physical church in addition to providing for the ministries of Good Shepherd. Our annual budget is a maintenance budget. It does not provide for significant growth in our ministries.

Year-to-date we have a deficit of \$40,000. Although we planned for a small deficit in 2022, our deficit is currently unfavorable to budget by nearly \$30,000. In other words, we have a much larger deficit than planned and we have not as a congregation kept current with the commitments that we made last year.

Our deficit spending has negatively impacted our cash balances. As of the end of September, we only have \$16,700 of operating cash left. While we also have over \$100,000 of designated cash, it is not available for operations unless it is un-designated. If the current level of contributions continues, we may be out of operating cash by the end of the year. Even if the designated cash is un-designated, if the current level of contributions and expenses continue, we may be out of all cash by the end of next year.

Unfortunately, this is the first time in my nearly 20 years as Treasurer that we cannot prepare an expense budget for next year as we do not know what contributions we can count on, or the cash we will have, to fund activities next year.

We need to communicate with our current giving and our future commitments what direction we see for Good Shepherd in the near term.

You are part of a legacy of great generosity in supporting the life and work of Good Shepherd, generously giving of your time, energy, faith and financial resources to sustain and to grow our work and ministries. We invite you to give generously, joyfully, and more boldly than you have ever given before so that our ministry will continue to thrive here at Good Shepherd. Thank you.



A BRIEF THEOLOGY OF HALLOWEEN



salt*

October 17, 2022

community@saltproject.org

The name itself comes from “All Hallows’ Eve,” of course, a carnival-like inversion celebrating the shadow side of life — ghosts and ghouls and such — just before the great festival celebrating the saints. Its deep roots may well include folk traditions of honoring the dead, appeasing evil spirits, and marking the end of the summer harvest and the beginning (in the Northern hemisphere, at least!) of the darkest days of the year.

But whatever its origins, Halloween today is worth thinking about. It’s become one of the most popular holidays in North America (second only to Christmas!), and at its best, it’s a magical, playful night of community-building and neighborhood-making. From this point of view, we might even call it a sacramental glimpse, if only for one night, of how the world is supposed to be: homes decked out in mischievous fun, doors opened to visitors of all ages, a spirit of wit and excitement in the air, and simple, sweet gifts given to children — all children, not just “our” children! — dressed up as heroes and villains alike. Even (especially?) in an age of pandemic, when the night’s celebration requires wisdom and special care, the joys of All Hallows’ Eve are as precious and important as ever.

It’s easy to grumble about “all that sugar,” “marauding teenagers,” “a waste of time,” and so forth. But think of it: when else do we intentionally spend this kind of time together as a community? When else do we do something as a neighborhood that’s this intergenerational? This open to all? This playful, goofy, and plain old fun? When else do our yards and doors open to so many? And when else are so many gifts given out — often by strangers, to strangers — just for the sake of delight?

And there’s an even deeper side to all of this, too: in many neighborhoods, lines of social division — segregated lines of race and class, for example — are often crossed on Halloween night. In such moments, Halloween can become an all-too-brief time of sharing experiences and resources, catching sight of a true “commonwealth” too often obscured from view on the other 364 nights of the year. And what’s more, there’s now some intriguing social science showing a strong correlation between a community’s health and the extent to which it celebrates Halloween.

At its best, then, Halloween amounts to a vivid portrait of what “neighborhood” actually looks like. That alone is worth celebrating. And after all, what better way to honor the dead, prepare to celebrate the saints, and enter together the darkest time of the year than to embody — with equal parts creativity and joy — the “loving our neighbors as ourselves” to which Jesus calls us every day? Those mini peppermint patties never tasted so good!

Happy Halloween,
The SALT Team

A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

WED
OCT 26
2022

READ Jeremiah 29:10-14

God revealed his hidden design to us, which is according to his goodwill and the plan that he intended to accomplish through his Son.

— Ephesians 1:9 (CEB)

One of my favorite pastimes is quilting, so a friend of mine gave me a jigsaw puzzle with quilts pictured on it. As I sorted and arranged the pieces, I found one piece that was so oddly shaped and of such a peculiar color that I was sure it was from another puzzle and had mistakenly been put into the box. I set it aside and worked diligently on the puzzle, only to find that there was a piece missing. To my surprise, the piece I had set aside fit perfectly and completed the lovely picture.

As I considered this, it made me think about God's will for us. Just like the oddly shaped puzzle piece, we may feel like we don't fit in with those around us or struggle to understand why God doesn't change our current situation. But just as that piece fit perfectly into the puzzle, we fit perfectly into God's plan. God sees the whole picture while we can see only our piece. Scripture tells us that God has a plan for us. It is up to us to remain faithful, knowing that our lives will fit perfectly into God's picture.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
Today I will trust that God
sees the big picture.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to remain faithful to you no matter how we see our circumstances. Thank you for your Son, who gives us hope. Amen.

Jane Rager (Virginia, USA)

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.

*October Monroe Food Pantry Needs -

- Juice (apple, cranberry, etc.)
 - Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup
 - Canned Vegetables (corn, carrots, olives, peas, green beans, etc.)
 - Canned Beans (kidney, pinto, chickpeas, cannellini, black)
 - Grape Jelly, Strawberry Jam
 - Hamburger Helper, Knorr Pasta/Rice Sides, Macaroni & Cheese
 - Egg Noodles
 - Rice (brown or white)
 - Hot & Cold Cereal
 - Breadcrumbs (Italian or regular)
 - Canned Tomatoes (crushed, whole, diced, stewed, paste)
 - Chicken, Beef, or Vegetable Broth
 - Cooking Oil
 - Canned Fruit (regular or low sugar - preferably in juice)
 - Baked Beans, Refried Beans, Pork and Beans, Chili with or without beans
 - 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. We are particularly low on bars of soap, toothpaste, floss, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant
- *Household cleaning supplies



Any donation is appreciated. Thank you!



Ways to Help Summerfield -



Snacks for Summerfield are needed! We are collecting snacks for the youth of Summerfield. If you would like to donate, please add your snack items to the marked blue bin in the narthex.

Also, there is an ongoing need for nutritious food/protein for the kids of Summerfield. GSLC Council has challenged the congregation to provide funds for the purchase of nutritious food. GSLC will match donations from members 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!

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, 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, October 30, 2022 - Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Merciful God, gracious and benevolent, through your Son you invite all the world to a meal of mercy. Grant that we may eagerly follow his call, and bring us with all your saints into your life of justice and joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Isaiah 1:10-18

Psalm 32:1-7(6)

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10



2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers, and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So, he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."