

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, February 10, 2021

 AUGSBURG FORTRESS



Where the Crowd Is

Devotional for the week of February 7th, 2021

"Have you not known? Have you not heard?" So begins the prophet Isaiah's marvelous declaration (Isaiah 40:21, 28).

People were stirring in Capernaum, Simon Peter's seaside fishing town. Apparently the whole city knew and heard; why else, at day's end, would all the houses have emptied out leaving fish to be cleaned, floors to be swept, children to be bathed, wheat to be ground, and goats to be milked, so people could huddle at his door?

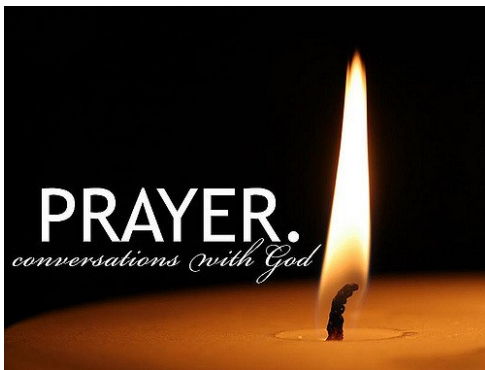
In the morning, crowds were again on the move, this time near the deserted place where Jesus was in prayerful retreat. Apparently everyone knew and heard; why else, at such an hour, would people in neighboring towns have delayed breakfasts, postponed boat launchings, put off opening markets, set aside filling lamps, put down mending, to go searching for him?

Some years ago, theologian Douglas John Hall wrote a provocative book, *Waiting for Gospel*. Its cover pictures an individual standing alone in an open field, looking down, waiting. The book presents a critique and reminder for the church: whole cities, neighboring towns, are crowding doors, searching deserted places for good news, for gospel. But is the church sharing the gospel?

Isn't someone always selling snake-oil solutions for shriveled hearts, beachfront on a desert seashore, joy from a pill? What are we to believe? Who are we to listen to? When pandemic wobbles the globe, seas rise and economies fall, depressions blossom and hopes wither; when people starve in the shadow of mountains of rotting food, artificial intelligence baits kitchen table wisdom, virtual relationships land knockout blows to authentic community, and "mass" is the prefix to "incarceration," "migration," and "destruction"—which door are we to crowd? Where are we to search?

Have we not known? Have we not heard? Good news draws a crowd; the gospel is found in Jesus!

*Devotional message and art based on the readings for February 7th, reprinted from sundaysandseasons.com.
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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.

A Community of Prayer

For those in need of healing and comfort:

Members and Friends of the Congregation: Lauren, Ray, Tim, Joan, Marie, Audrey, Elizabeth, Gordon, Sarah, Miriam, Scarlet, Jason, Brian, David, Tricia, Cate, Cecilio, Donna, Anthony, Steve.

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.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of + Joseph Gregorzek +, husband of Debbie Knudsen Kaza.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 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@gscl-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).

To join us for Worship online:

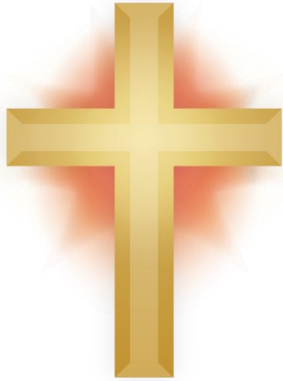
There are several options for you to join us for online worship:

- 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.

To join us for Worship in person: This Sunday, February 14th at 10:00 am. We will have Drive In Church, weather permitting (If it is extremely cold, snowy, or a steady rain, the service is cancelled).

This is how it works:

- Pastor Doug will be on a platform at the rear (east edge) of the large, main parking area.
- Cars should park facing that direction (east – towards the wooded area) with taller vehicles closer to the main road. This will allow shorter vehicles visibility by parking in front of the taller ones.
- The radio frequency of the broadcast is **FM 94.9**. Please tune your car radio to that station to hear the worship service.
- You should stay in your vehicle and keep your windows closed.
- Bring your own bread (as you did for Outdoor Worship) for communion.
- You must wear a mask if you exit your vehicle.
- Other recommendations of social distancing apply when you are outside your vehicle.



Due to the extreme cold and snowy weather the past two weeks the Drive In Worship Service was cancelled. So weather permitting, on **Sunday, February 14th** at the Drive In Worship Service, the Church Council and Officers of the Congregation will be installed for 2021. Our gracious thanks to Donna Duessel, Brian Immel, Tim Carlson, Roy Remlin, Thelma Cleland, Barbara Abraham, Trudi Black, Tricia Bobowick, Jeff Jackson, Karen Merrick, Renee Shoop and Riley Immel for their dedication and service to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



A Lenten Bag is being prepared for you!

Lenten Activity Bags were prepared and delivered to preschool through high school families this past weekend. The bags are filled with craft kits, a baking kit, activity kits, prayers, and more to help you have a faith filled Lenten journey. Now, it's time for everyone else in the congregation to receive a Lenten bag with items prepared especially for you on your Lenten journey. You should receive it by Tuesday, February 17th. If you do not, please contact us and we'll get it to you as soon as possible.



Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

Join Pastor Doug online for Ash Wednesday Reflection. Watch for an email with the link, or go to our website www.gslc-ct.org, Facebook page or YouTube channel.

Upcoming Events



EMILY DICKINSON and the POETRY OF LENT

A LENTEN
DEVOTIONAL

Due to the pandemic, we are unable to get together for our annual Lenten Soup 'n Study. This year we're trying something different and invite you to join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent at 7:00 pm for a 45 minute Zoom get together to discover "Emily Dickinson and the Poetry of Lent". The booklets will be included in your Lenten Bags so it will be easy to participate.

Please join us beginning **Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00 p.m.**

Topic: EMILY DICKINSON AND THE POETRY OF LENT: A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398759484?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398759484?pwd=WC9yemptSTVpRlNBSy9MNnFMM05mZz09)

[pwd=WC9yemptSTVpRlNBSy9MNnFMM05mZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398759484?pwd=WC9yemptSTVpRlNBSy9MNnFMM05mZz09)

Meeting ID: 863 9875 9484

Passcode: 195625

One tap mobile

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+19292056099,,86398759484#,,,195625# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

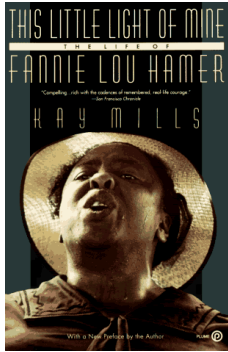
INTRODUCTION

We call these weeks "Lent" because of the "lengthening" days, the growing light that, in time, will coax the buds to swell, the ferns to unfurl, and the flowers to open up in bloom. Emily Dickinson was an avid gardener and student of the botanical world, a perfect docent for this season of awakening. As the cross and the empty tomb approach, the church prepares with forty days of fasting and reflection, clearing and cultivation, all for the sake of more fully celebrating the spring's Easter garden when it comes.

And so if Lent is about lengthening light, it's also about broadening our hearts and opening our eyes - and poetry can help. In a letter to a friend, Emily Dickinson defined poetry this way: "If I read a book and it makes my whole body so cold no fire can warm me I know that is poetry. If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry." As we approach the holiest week of the Christian year, with its bitter cold, its angelic fire, its shadows of death and its bloom of new life, poetry can deepen and heighten our sense of the season.

In this Lenten devotional, the words of scripture and the poetry of Emily Dickinson will be our guides. Each week, biblical texts and Dickinson's poems throw light on each other, pointing toward simple, powerful practices you can try yourself, with your family or friends, or in concert with your congregation.

So grab your favorite Bible and a collection of Dickinson's poetry (all the poems may also be found online). Week by week, we'll travel this Lenten journey together toward Easter morning - and thereby warm our hearts, and tip the tops of our heads to the joy of God's springtime resurrection.



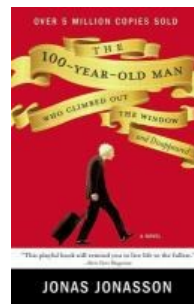
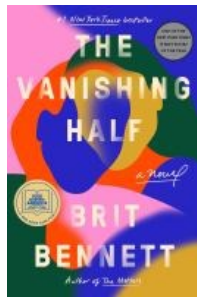
Calumet's Book Group will be reading "This Little Light of Mine" by Kay Mills. February is Black History Month - we can be reading this book as we think about and honor the contribution of so many Black Americans in the quest for justice and freedom for all.

We'll meet via Zoom on the morning of February 25 beginning at 10 a.m. Want to participate? Get the Zoom link by contacting Knute via the email at knute@calumet.org.

How did this group start? We have been meeting each month in response to a number of people from among Calumet Nation who felt a calling to look at systemic racism, privilege, and hope in the years ahead. Very few have been able to attend every meeting, but many folks have attended multiple meetings. All are welcome to participate in healthy and life-giving discussion with others.

Many thanks to our discussion leaders: Pastor Jon Hopkins of Concordia in Concord and Pastor Nathan Hall of Nativity in North Conway.

Boom Chicka Boom!



The Good Shepherd Book Club is meeting on March 2nd at **1:00 p.m.** when we will discuss ""The Vanishing Half"" by Brit Bennett. In April, we will discuss "The 100 Year Old Man Who Jumped Out the Window and Disappeared" by Jonas Jonasson. We will either meet via Zoom or possibly indoors using the new handler system if the infection rates are low. We welcome new members!

Reaching Out, Serving Others:



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.

Treasurer's Report - January 2021

Treasurer's Report - January 2021											
Contributions	January		Actual	YTD Bdg	Var	Expenses	January		Actual	YTD Bdg	Var
	Actual	Bdg					Actual	Bdg			
Pledged	7,383	11,862	7,383	11,862	(4,479)	Pastoral Ministries	8,294	8,458	8,294	8,458	(\$164)
Unpledged	396	1,186	396	1,186	(790)	Mortgage	0	0	0	0	0
Prior Year	1,135	3,943	1,135	3,943	(2,808)	Music & Worship	3,394	3,454	3,394	3,454	(59)
Loose Offerings	103	247	103	247	(144)	Benevolence	1,092	1,754	1,092	1,754	(662)
Church School	0	19	0	19	(19)	Property	570	1,173	570	1,173	(603)
Lent & Easter	0	0	0	0	0	Office	2,252	2,197	2,252	2,197	55
Other	260	376	260	376	(116)	Utilities	1,135	1,979	1,135	1,979	(844)
Thanksgiving	0	0	0	0	0	Christian Educ.	0	31	0	31	(31)
Advent/Christmas	6	0	6	0	6	Interim Pastor	0	0	0	0	0
						Evangelism	0	0	0	0	0
						Youth	0	0	0	0	0
						Stewardship	0	0	0	0	0
						Insurance	506	526	506	526	(20)
						Altar Guild	0	37	0	37	(37)
						Social Ministry	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$9,283	\$17,633	\$9,283	\$17,633	(\$8,350)	Total	17,244	19,609	17,244	19,609	(\$2,366)
Variance	(\$8,350)		(\$8,350)			Variance	(\$2,366)		(\$2,366)		
	Actual	Bdg	Actual	Bdg	Var		Dec '20	Jan '21	Var		
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$7,961)	(\$1,977)	(\$7,961)	(\$1,977)	(\$5,984)	Cash/Investments*	126,523	50,282	(\$76,241)		
Future Seminarian Fund	19,254					Mortgage	68,616	-	(\$68,616)		
Capital Impr Fund	11,270					Campership	13,802	13,802	\$0		
Bathroom/Sidewalk Repair	2,334					Equity Share	77,900	77,900	\$0		
Parking Lot Fund	29,616					Memorial	11,300	11,452	\$152		
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	875										
Music Supplies	1,034										

* Excludes Memorial, Exchange, Intern, Pastoral Housing and Campership Funds

January Summary

Contributions were \$8,350 unfavorable to Budget

Expenses for the month were \$2,366 below budget, due to lower benevolence, no snow plowing and lower oil costs

Deficit for the month was \$7,961, \$5,984 unfavorable to budget

Mortgage was paid off

Sunday, February 14 — Transfiguration of Our Lord

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.