



SEPTEMBER 2020

SERVING ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY & NORTHERN BERGEN COUNTY, NJ



The Shepherd's Voice

+ A Letter from the Pastor +

This September is so different.

We're starting to worship in person in the Sanctuary at 8am and 10:30am on Sundays beginning the first week of September. And we'll keep that going as long as we can. I kind of hope that things continue to get better and we won't have a second wave, but it seems an "illusory hope." That's a type of hope in my ordination vows that I was explicitly made to promise that I would not hold up for people to believe in. Illusory hope is kind of like magical thinking. It's like believing you can get to the resurrection without the cross first. Or that you don't really have to love your neighbor and care for others in order to have a functioning society.

Anyway, a second wave seems likely given the number of parties, non-mask wearers, and the looming reality of moving inside as the weather cools. BUT, we will continue to worship together as long as it's safe. And one thing that will continue even if we end up back in lockdown is that the second Sunday of each month, we'll be doing drive-in services. We're doing this for a couple of reasons. The most important reason is so that everyone can feel welcome to come. Some people at risk or working in high-risk situations don't feel safe coming to services in the building, so this is a safe way we can gather together. The other reasons are so that we can sing the hymns and the liturgy, and that no matter what, we have an anchor for gathering even as numbers of cases rise and fall.

Of course, we will continue the live-streaming of the services, too, which includes the one on Wednesday evening (which will probably stop at the end of September and give way to Bible study or book group, as yet to be determined) and the 10:30am service on Sunday.

Speaking of Bible study and book group ... and let me add Sunday School and Confirmation ... we will figure these out. Based on the responses I've received, we will probably be doing in-person things as much as possible, but provide an at-home and online option, as well. This is all going to take a little longer to work out, between health and safety concerns and us saying goodbye to Lisa Holliday, who has been so instrumental in helping us all be organized with this, and who will be greatly missed. That being said, please understand that September will not be the way it's always been. There will be no Fall Confirmation Retreat this year at MaHeTu. There will be no Hot Dog Sunday. The first Sunday of Sunday School will probably be a little later than normal (look for a letter announcing that). There will be no Oktoberfest in October.

Because we won't have all these normal touch points, I encourage you to find ways to connect to Good Shepherd in other ways. There are things that are going on! Blood drives, different small groups, the opportunity to simply come and pray in the open sanctuary, Bible study, worship, many ways to volunteer, and more. But it's going to be a while before we can have large social events. It's going to be a while until we can pack the sanctuary full. And it's going to be really easy to just drift away, to decide that your faith doesn't matter so much ... and that would be tragic. Because faith can be a sustaining force in our lives. Because communities of faith help to form us into better people and more hopeful people, too. Because we really need a rock in the middle of all this uncertainty to set ourselves on.

There is this parable that Jesus tells that seems really relevant. There was this man who loved the beach and decided to build his house right on the shore. Why not? It was a way to relax and he could look out his window and see the beautiful water and step outside the front door right into the sand. Besides, it was easier. Now, there was another man who also loved the beach but thought better of building his house in the sand and so built his house on the rock a bit further back from shore. It wasn't as ideal. It took more work and it was a bit more of a walk to the beach. But then a major storm came. The wind whipped, the rain poured down, and the waves crashed on the shore. The house that was built on the sand collapsed from the pressures of the storm and "great was its fall," Jesus says. But, the house that was built on the rock stood firm. Jesus reminds us that building our life on the Word of God and growing in faith, even though sometimes it isn't easy, is like the man building his house on the rock.

I pray that you will choose to do some building on rock this year even though everything is strange and different. And I pray that you might be strengthened in your faith so that you might find yourself held in the eternal love of God and be able to reach out in love and grace to your neighbors, too.

Peace be with you and see you soon.

+ Pastor Lena



**ALL SHALL
BE WELL,
AND ALL
SHALL BE
WELL, AND
ALL MANNER
OF THINGS
SHALL BE
WELL.**

JULIAN OF NORWICH





THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
112 N. Main Street Pearl River, NY 10965

OUR MISSION

"To reach out in inclusive love and generosity so that all may know the love of Jesus"

LIFE STATIONS

OBITUARY

Constance B. Daniels, August 15, 2020

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Helen Cooper, given by The Robertson Family

AT YOUR SERVICE

The Reverend J. Lena Warren, Pastor
Jake Daniels, President
Robert Bergman, Treasurer
Brian Burns, Director of Music
Elaina Burns, Organist
Maureen Connolly, Creative Play Director
Dale Damon, Church Secretary
Lisa Filatov, Bookkeeper
Katy Wong, Communications Coordinator
Gina Danialinia, Volunteer Coordinator
Gisele Saldana, Sexton

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

J. Lena Warren, Pastor
Jake Daniels, President
Anthony Armenio, Co-Vice President
Donald Widmayer, Co-Vice President
Kim Arcidiacono, Secretary
Robert Bergman, Treasurer*
Jeff Bergman
Werner Boecker, Financial Secretary*
George Boothby
James Cleary
Wendy Gates
Kristin Hanifin
Linda Hecker
Deanna Lauer
Carole Meehan
Mark Olson
Lucy Pinedo
Christopher Ryan
Debra Thaler

*Non-voting

C O N T A C T U S

The Church Office is now open at half-staffing! Please call before your arrival so we know to expect you. Masks are required for entry, for your safety as well as the staff.

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-1pm
Phone: 845-735-2243
Fax: 845-735-0819
Email: office@gspr.org



@GoodShepherdPR
WWW.GSPR.ORG



CREATIVE PLAY PRE-SCHOOL

Phone: 845-735-2737
Website: gscreativeplay.org

Worship

We are meeting in the Sanctuary for worship Sundays at 8am and 10:30am! Wednesday evening services will continue at 7:15pm outdoors, weather-permitting, through the month of September. Please remember to wear your mask and practice social distancing. As always, stay home if you are not feeling well.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have been helping us set-up our services! If you are planning on joining, please sign up online at the links provided below as attendance will be limited. You can also register online to lead worship or help with set-up.

Sunday, September 6th at 8am

<https://volunteersignup.org/WY7DC>

Sunday, September 6th at 10:30am

<https://volunteersignup.org/LW9KY>

Wednesday, September 9th at 7:15pm

<https://volunteersignup.org/LKQWK>

**Sunday, September 13th at 10:30am

DRIVE-IN CHURCH SERVICE (no 8am service)

<https://volunteersignup.org/QDJXR>

Wednesday, September 16th at 7:15pm

<https://volunteersignup.org/MEXDE>

Sunday, September 20th at 8am

<https://volunteersignup.org/34TCR>

Sunday, September 20th at 10:30am

<https://volunteersignup.org/XH4R7>

Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:15pm

<https://volunteersignup.org/D3LF4>

Sunday, September 27th at 8am

<https://volunteersignup.org/8B3FH>

Sunday, September 27th at 10:30am

<https://volunteersignup.org/YK3KW>

Wednesday, September 30th at 7:15pm

<https://volunteersignup.org/89TT7>

Sunday, October 4th at 8:00am

<https://volunteersignup.org/4YPK4>

Sunday, October 4th at 10:30am

<https://volunteersignup.org/B9CJW>

**THE SANCTUARY IS OPEN
FOR PRIVATE PRAYER!**



**Monday 10:30am-2:30pm
Tuesday 4pm-7pm
Thursday 10am-2pm**

Come and pray as you like during these hours. Masks are required to enter the building - hand sanitizer will be available. Please sign in upon your arrival!

Any questions, contact the Church Office
at 845-735-2243



STAY CONNECTED

During this time of social distancing, we have made it easier to stay connected online! Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, "By The Way," sent out Thursday evenings. Email communications@gspr.org with your name and preferred email address to be added to our list.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram.



www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdPR

www.instagram.com/GoodShepherdPR



Both apps can be downloaded on Android and iPhone operating systems. As always, you can visit our website at www.gspr.org.



We are now on YouTube! While we are beginning to have in-person services, they will still be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Once the video is uploaded, it will be available to watch anytime after! Pastor Lena also uploads regular reflections throughout the week. Visit www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver

Sundays at 10:30am

So you can follow along, the bulletin for the service is available via a link below the YouTube video. You can also join us in-person! (More info on our "Worship" page.)

Mondays at 9:30am

Start your week with a Monday morning prayer. Pray wherever you are!

Wednesdays at 7:15pm

Join us for a mid-week evening prayer, with Communion. You can join us in-person for this one through the end of September!

Thursdays at 9pm

We will be streaming Compline - a night prayer with beautiful, ancient roots, and a wonderful way to calm your soul before bed.



Ways to Give

This time of uncertainty has been, and continues to be very hard not just for our community life but also for the financial health of the congregation. If you are able, please consider signing up for online giving. Even a one-time special gift would be helpful.

Here are some easy ways to give:

ONLINE

Go to our webpage, www.gspr.org/give and click the "give" button. Then, follow the instructions on how to give.



GIVE+ TEXT

Text **877-771-4850** and click on the registration link and enter your cardholder name and credit/debit card information. You will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation.



MAIL

Send your offerings to our mailbox at **112 N. Main St. Pearl River, NY 10965** or stop in during our office hours.



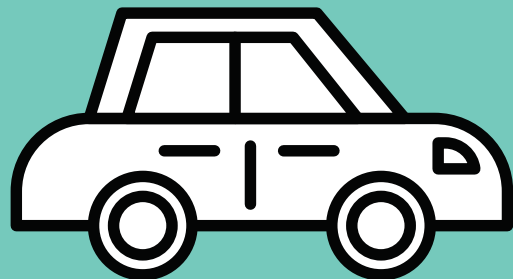
♥ Thank you for your generosity in giving to Good Shepherd! ♥



Helping Our Sister Church

As many of you know, we have a long relationship with Epiphany Lutheran Church in the Bronx, which is the church Pastor Larry McFarland is pastoring. Epiphany has a food bank that is currently struggling to operate due to the shelter-in-place orders. A number of families are impacted by this and we want to help! We're collecting money to get gift cards to give to families to help with the purchase of food during this time. If you are able to help, please send a check to the church, made out to Good Shepherd and put "Epiphany Food Bank" the memo line.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
10:30AM IN PARKING LOT**



+ DRIVE-UP CHURCH +

Join us for an outdoor, socially-distanced worship in our parking lot. Stay in your car as we broadcast the service right to you over the radio. No sign-up necessary, all are welcome! Contact **Gina@gspr.org** if you're interested in helping with set-up.

MEET THE CHURCH STAFF

Lisa Filatov, Bookkeeper: Lisa has been a member of Good Shepherd for over twenty years and the bookkeeper for three years. You can find her maintaining the financial books, writing checks, submitting audits, and creating monthly reports for the Church Council.

Katy Wong, Communications Coordinator: As a Creative Play Alumnus, Katy has returned twenty years later to Good Shepherd in their very first communications position! This is her first time working in a church setting and she's already learned so much. Katy creates all marketing material for the church and is in charge of social media.

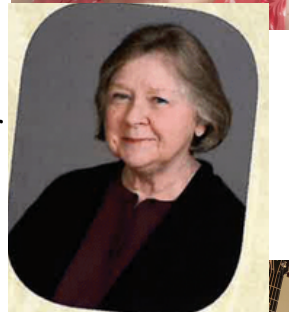
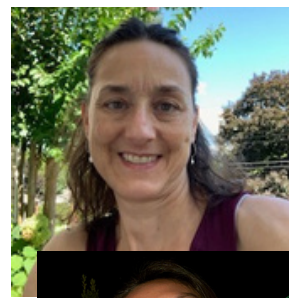
Gina Danialinia, Volunteer Coordinator: As the Volunteer Coordinator, Gina has the privilege of organizing our church members, who are always so generous with their time, to take part in a variety of events and services. Even in the days of COVID, there are opportunities to be a Good Samaritan. Whether it's doing a reading at our service, putting up tents, running errands, or simply making a weekly phone call to check in on someone, we can all be of service. Peace and Joy to you all.

Dale Damon, Secretary: Dale has been Good Shepherd's church secretary for over 23 years. In that time, she has worked for three pastors. "I enjoy the people I work for and with, and totally rely on my loyal volunteers!"

Brian Burns, Music Director: Cantor, Teacher, Conductor, and Multi-Instrumentalist Brian Burns has served congregations and schools in nine states and several denominations. He believes that the music of the church at its best serves as a way of connecting people across generations, traditions, and languages. At Good Shepherd, he leads the choir, chooses music for all services, cantors/leads singing at most services, plays with and directs the church band, and assists in overall worship planning. Dr. Burns studied conducting at the Universities of Oklahoma, Northern Colorado, and Delaware, and is also a proud alumnus of the 287th and 145th Army Bands.

Elaina Burns, Organist: Elaina is organist, pianist, choral accompanist, and director of bells and children's choir at Good Shepherd. She is grateful for the opportunity to provide music to serve the congregation in times of joy as well as in times of sorrow. She believes music can provide comfort and solace as well as inspiration to help the world. Burns holds a doctoral degree in piano performance and pedagogy and she is a registered yoga teacher. In addition to her work at Good Shepherd, Dr. Burns directs Resonance: Mind-Body-Music, a piano and yoga studio dedicated to the creative and healing arts.

Gisele Saldana, Sexton: Gisele has worked for Good Shepherd as well as Creative Play for the past 6 years. She and her daughter have been members of the church for 10 years!



FAREWELL Lisa



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Good Shepherd,

Three and a half years ago you welcomed me with open arms as Coordinator of Faith Formation and into your church family. I have greatly enjoyed my time with you, teaching and learning, laughing and crying, being disciples of Jesus Christ.

There are so many memories and images in my mind from Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation classes and MaHeTu retreats with the middle schoolers and high schoolers, Bible Studies, Book Groups and Adult Forums – all signs of the importance you place in community and growing in faith.

I will take all of these experiences and love with me as I leave Good Shepherd to begin a new call to pastoral ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bogota, NJ, on September 1st. It is bittersweet to leave, but my prayers will always be with you!

Peace,

Lisa Holliday



Dear Good Shepherd Families,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are so grateful that we have been able to remain connected to you throughout this challenging time. We have always found great meaning in the music of the church, and now we are finding the words and music to resonate even more deeply as we all endure the difficulties of this ever-changing experience.

As we continue to sing together in our hearts and in our homes, we invite you to contemplate the words and music that guide us in our lives. *It is Well With My Soul* (ELW 785) helps us to respond peacefully to uncertainty, *Healer of Our Every Ill* (ELW 612) helps us to be grateful for healing, *Blessed Assurance* (ELW 638) helps us to find hope when we face times of loss, and *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* (ELW 504) helps us to remember that eventually we will come together again in celebration and in song. We have sent recordings of these and many other hymns to members of our congregation throughout this time, and we are here for you to continue to provide comfort through music. Please email elaina@gspr.org if you would like us to send any music to you.

On a personal note, thank you to all of the members of Good Shepherd who have written to us, as well as those who have spoken to us after services who have expressed to us what great meaning the music has had for you. We are truly fortunate to be part of such a vibrant and beautiful congregation, and your words mean so much to us. Thank you for being part of our lives, even when we are apart.

As we get ready to say goodbye to Lisa Holliday and wish her well in her new position, we would like to thank her for all she has done for the youth of our church and for her leadership in VBS. It was our pleasure to provide music and mindfulness activities to the youngest members of our congregation through the online VBS experience. Special thanks to Lisa for organizing this event online so that all could participate!

Thank you,

Creative Play News

COVID-19 and how it's impacting our school

The office staff is working in the office Monday through Friday 8:00a.m. - 3:30p.m. We will return calls and emails as quickly as we are able. Please be patient with us.

Dear Families,

I truly hope to find you all healthy and happy! I understand and feel the anxiety many of you are experiencing as you are trying your absolute best to navigate all the challenges presented due to the uncertainty the COVID-19 virus brought into all our lives.

We are on the path of re-opening! In our re-opening, we are following mandates and guidelines provided by NYSDOH, the OCFS and the CDC. We are continuously revising our re-opening plan based on information provided by these sources, as well as those of the NYSED.

Like many of you, we are waiting to get confirmation of the passing of the UPK funding. Although we were told that the budget should pass and look the same as last year, nothing is official until it is official, and that looks like it will not be until mid-August. Therefore, please read the following with understanding that additional changes may occur. To learn more about our remote learning plan, visit our website at www.GoodShepherdCreativePlay.com.

Our tentative opening dates for the 2020-2021 school year:

September 8 - UPK student visitation w/ parent information

September 9 - 1st day of classes for UPK students

September 10 - Toddler & 2 day 3 year old student visitation w/ parent information

September 11 - 3 day 3 year old & all 4 yr old student visitations w/ parent information

September 14 - 3 day 3 year old & all 4 year old students first day of school

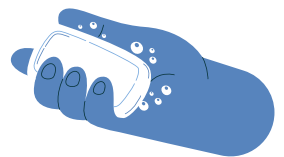
September 15 - Toddler & 2 day 3 year old student first day of school

(all 3 year old classes will be shortened by 45 minutes the week of 9/14 - 9/18)

We are in this together, as a program, a caring staff, a supportive Church leadership & congregation as well as our beautiful families all trying our best to support our children in a safe and loving environment

Thank you to everyone for your patience, flexibility, understanding, and passion for the children of our community and to Creative Play!

**WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP
AND WARM WATER, FOR 20 SECONDS!**

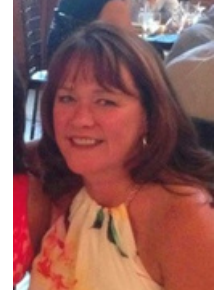


MEET THE CREATIVE PLAY STAFF!

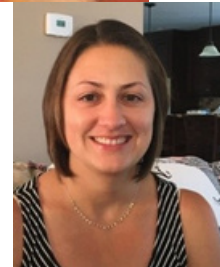
Renee Bucci, Director: Renee has worked for Creative Play for 16 years, but as a parent has been involved with Creative Play for 23 years as her three children were all educated through the program. Renee has taught Mommy & Me classes, and Toddler classes, as well as the 3-year-old children, before stepping in as assistant director in 2013. Renee has a passion for the program and looks forward to serving her community as Director this year. Renee also runs the Summer Camp Program.



Angela Carle, Assistant Director: Angela first joined Creative Play as a parent and began doing “work-for-pay” to help those families that could not fulfill their responsibilities in the classroom. In 2011, Angela became an aide in our Kindergarten Enrichment class before transitioning into the UPK classroom as an Aide. In 2018, Angela joined us in the office as an office admin and is taking on the challenging role as Assistant Director this year. We are happy to have her help lead our program. Angela has a beautiful, relaxed manner that puts a smile on everyone’s face!



Kim Arcidiacono, Office Assistant: Kim has been an active participant on Creative Play’s Executive Board leading programs and as an energetic, helping parent in the classrooms. Kim will be joining our team in the Creative Play office this year and we are grateful for her willingness to learn on the spot, as we face unusual challenges in the 2020-2021 school year.



Donna McDonagh, 4-year-old Teacher: Donna has been a part of Creative Play for 20 years. She has taught in almost every classroom at Creative Play from 2-year-olds to 4-year-olds. You know you are passing Donna’s class when you hear laughter; she has as much fun as the children! Her dedication to Creative Play has rewarded many families who experienced time in her class!



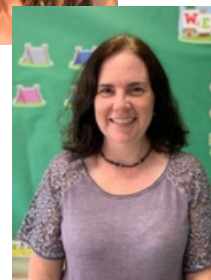
Cathryn Rosas, UPK Aide: Cathy has been working for Creative Play as an aide since 2008. Prior to taking on the aide position, she was a helping parent in the classroom and a parent of a student. Cathy has been involved with our UPK classes basically from the inception. She helps keep a classroom organized, running smoothly, and brings a fun, enthusiastic approach to learning with her into any classroom she walks into! Cathy also assists in running our summer camp program.



Maureen Fitzgerald, 3-year-old Teacher: Maureen began in Creative Play as a parent in a Mommy & Me Class, and like so many of us, when her children graduated from the program, she was not ready to leave. Maureen began working in the classrooms on an as needed basis, and in 2014, became a 3-year-old teacher. Maureen’s loving and sweet manner is a benefit to all the children who have come through her classroom.



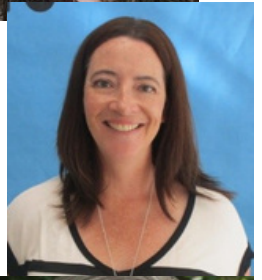
Annmarie Moffatt, Teacher’s Aide: Annmarie joined the Creative Play staff in 2019, with a background in business and lots of mommy experience. She has been an asset she has been to the children, her lead teacher, and the administration of our program. Annmarie has a beautiful, gentle way of navigating the children with their tasks, and sparks interests from the children as she presents materials and concepts to them in the most engaging manner.



Kristen Scott, UPK Teacher: Creative Play is very fortunate to have had Kristen join our program in 2015. With three little ones at home, Kristen is not just a good teacher, she is wonderful in understanding of family's needs. Kristen teaches both the morning and afternoon UPK classes, so it is a full day of four-year-olds and amazingly she begins and ends her days with a smile. When she opens her classroom door, you will always hear "We had a great day!" Kristen also teaches in our Summer Camp program.



Bridget Quinn, 4-year-old Teacher's Aide & 3-year-old Teacher: Bridget is someone who is always willing to lend a hand and wants to share her passion for early education in every capacity she is given the opportunity. Bridget has worked as a work-for-pay parent, has been a parent of a student, has worked as an aide since 2016, has been a substitute teacher for multiple classes, developed a curriculum for and led Creative Creation classes, and now will be stepping into a new role as a three-year-old teacher ~ well new title; she has plenty experience in the role!



Kristen Hanifin, 4-year-old Teacher: Kristen became a part of the Creative Play staff in 2017 and although this will be Kristen's 4th year teaching at Creative Play, it feels as though she has been a constant with our program. Kristen has an ease about her that makes all who are around her, the staff, parents, and the children feel comfortable. Kristen creates a classroom that is so welcoming; we have a hard time getting the parents to separate!



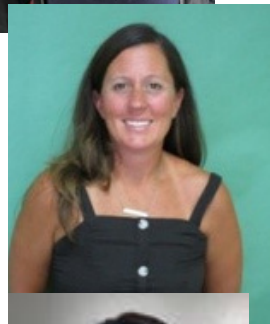
Karen Sack, UPK Teacher: Karen will begin her 4th year teaching a morning UPK class here at Creative Play but has many years of UPK experience prior to joining us. We were fortunate to have her join our team and share all her knowledge with not only the children and their families, but with the staff, as well. Karen finds a balance of leadership and child-like wonder in her classroom that makes us all smile!



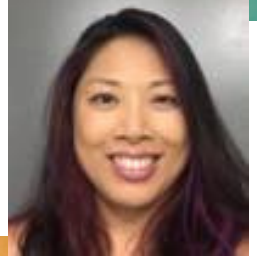
Donna Scanlon, 3-year-old Teacher & Teacher's Aide: I hear Donna's chuckle when I look at her photo, Donna has a laugh that is contagious and welcomed each day. She has been a presence in Creative Play for years; she took on the role as a Toddler teacher in 2017 and has created a loving, warm atmosphere to welcome our littlest members. Donna is imaginative and creative in what she brings to a classroom, always a constant support!



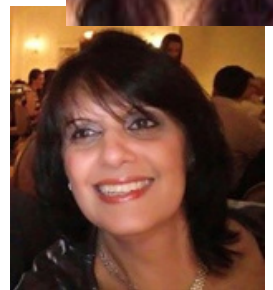
Brooque Moolick, 3-year-old Teacher: Brooque is another individual who refused to graduate from Creative Play; she barely let her three children leave the program! Brooque joined our staff in 2018 as a Toddler teacher and the following year became a three-year-old teacher. As we all know, patience and understanding are much needed in a 3-year-old classroom and with Brooque leading the way, the children receive just that. She is amazing at responding to their needs and wants ~ she is known for "changing it up!" If you need a laugh or a happy moment, take a peek into her classroom and you are sure to smile!



Alice Tom, 2-year-old Toddler Teacher: Alice is a mother of five children and is the definition of Creative Play. Alice brought her first child to Creative Play 14 years ago and oddly enough, Mrs. Bucci was his teacher. Alice will be completing a full circle by returning to the same classroom as a teacher after much experience in the toddler classrooms as a work-for-pay assistant over the past few years. Alice has a calmness and understanding about her that puts not only the children, but the parents at ease, as well. We are excited to have Alice join us once again, this time in a new role!



Adele Ross, Teacher's Aide: Adele is our newest staff member, ready to step into the classroom as an aide during these uncertain times that 2020 has presented. We appreciate the enthusiasm, the passion and the kindness she brings to a classroom of children. Adele has been working as a helper parent with us for many years; she undeniably knows how to take the lead in helping with classroom management, and when there are tears, turn them into smiles!





PRAYER CHAIN

If you, a loved one, or friend experience difficulty and desire prayer support, the Good Shepherd Prayer Chain is helpful.

When you have a request or thanksgiving to share, contact:

Ione Mensing at 201-664-1235 & himensing@gmail.com

OR

Carol Westphal at 845-624-5732 & carolwestphal9@gmail.com

The Prayer Chain will be activated and many will be praying with and for you.



CHURCH SECURITY

We are looking for people with police or military training who have an interest in church security. Please contact Dan Ryan (845-709-5816, Dan.Ryan01@hotmail.com) or Pastor Lena (845-735-2243, PastorLena@gmail.com).

HELP A NEIGHBOR!

NOT AT HIGH RISK?
HELP THOSE WHO ARE!



If you're interested in volunteering to pick-up/drop off groceries for those who can't leave their home, contact Gina@gspr.org. Thank you!



GROCERY HELPER

Are you in a high-risk category or uncomfortable going out during this time? Have a volunteer pick up groceries for you! To learn more, contact pastorlena@gspr.org or leave a message at the Church Office (845-735-2243).

SHOPRITE GIFTCARDS

Buy a ShopRite gift card and Good Shepherd receives 5% from each gift card purchase. Cards can be purchased in the church office and used at any ShopRite location. \$25, \$50, \$100 card amounts available - cash & checks accepted. Please call, text, or email Cindy Sealander to coordinate the purchase.

Phone: 845-735-6701
Email: Csealander@optonline.net
Text: 201-951-5715



GIVE BLOOD

Save the date! We are hosting another Blood Drive on Saturday, October 31. More information to come - mark your calendars!

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

On Sunday, August 29, following worship, we had our annual "Blessing of Backpacks!" It was a wonderful drive-thru service as we prayed for students and teachers, especially during this back-to-school season. Thank you to our volunteers and all who attended. Have a safe and healthy school year!



People to People will send 1,500 children from low-income families *Back to School with Dignity* as it has for more than 20 years. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us all to do so many things differently but if something is important, we get it done. PtoP will be distributing backpacks during September. The supplies included in the backpacks will be a little different this year. Still, we'll get it done! *You can help!*

To donate, go to <https://peopletopeopleinc.ejoinme.org/BTSWD> by Wednesday, September 30. Thank you for your contribution!



Already love Amazon? How about using **AmazonSmile!** The same great Amazon you love but with .05% of the profits being automatically donated to us!

Currently, 20 people from the church are contributing to Good Shepherd through Amazon Smile. We have been issued a \$12 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity.

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and agree to support us! Remember to use Amazon Smile instead of Amazon in order for Good Shepherd to receive the donation. For more information, contact Cindy Sealander at csealander@optonline.net. Thank you for your generosity!

COFFEE & CONVERSATION



On Thursdays at 3pm, I'm going to get a cup of coffee at Dean's Coffee Co. in Pearl River, weather permitting. There are tables outside Dean's, which are nice and shady, and comfortable, too. I'll be there for an hour or longer if we're having a good conversation. I invite you to join me!

+ Pastor Lena



We have been going through a very difficult time, but hopefully things will be back to a "new" normal soon. We hope everyone has stayed safe and healthy. WELCA met on Tuesday, September 1, in Fellowship Hall, following all safety procedures and guidelines: masks, social distancing, etc. It was great to talk about some plans for the coming year, along with social time and refreshments!

The Personal Care Kits are finally going to be shipped in September and they have to be at our drop-off point on August 25th. Thank you all for your donations. These kits are so welcomed by those in need.

To join our next meeting, please call Barbara Bow (845-215-5866) or Mary Iseman (845-623-7638).

God's peace and blessings to all.

WE ARE SELLING MASKS!



PROCEEDS GO TO THE LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE FOR HURRICANE RELIEF, A MINISTRY OF THE ELCA.

YOU CAN FIND THE ORDER FORM ON THE LAST PAGE OF *THE VOICE*.

Confirmation Projects

A NOTE FROM RYAN WORMS

We received an overwhelming amount of board games! They were donated to Memorial Sloan Kettering's Family Center, as well as the Center for Safety and Change. I want to thank everyone who donated games and puzzles for my Confirmation project. I am sure all the families and children will enjoy playing and spending time together. Love, family, and fun are good for healing. Hoping everyone is doing well and staying safe.



Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Ryan Worms



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center



LIAM VENTRY: DONATE SOCCER GEAR

For his Confirmation project, Liam Ventry is gathering new or barely used soccer equipment (cleats, shin guards, soccer balls) to be donated to South Bronx United F.C., a nonprofit organization that gives youth ages 4-19 in the South Bronx community a chance to play soccer for an affordable price. The South Bronx has one of the fastest growing immigrant populations in the city, yet it is one of the poorest districts in the nation. These donations will help kids have fun playing soccer, with the proper gear. Equipment should be in new or barely-worn condition. Soccer ball sizes 3, 4 and 5 preferred. **If you are able to help, there will be a box in the entrance of the Education Building. We will be collecting these items up until September 13.** Thank you for your help! Stay healthy and safe! Liam Ventry

The ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis has been postponed to 2021. More information to follow.

2021 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING
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GOD BEYOND MEASURE

