



# The Shepherd's Voice

SERVING ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY  
& NORTHERN BERGEN COUNTY, NJ

JULY 2021

*"The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves."*  
- Mark 6: 30-32

I was listening to a podcast from Portico (the health, retirement, and insurance managing agency of the ELCA) the other day, and they were talking about clergy burnout and compassion fatigue. They relayed anonymous stories of pastors, who had turned to alcohol to cope during the stress of the pandemic, other pastors who had left their calls and had gone on leave (which means they didn't go to a new congregation, they just stopped being pastors for a while) because they were exhausted. In these cases, it seemed, their congregations hadn't been very supportive, or combative, as leadership tried to do what was best during this global health crisis.

As I've thought about all of this, I have breathed a prayer of thanks. Thanks be to God, for all of you at Good Shepherd, who have asked me how I've been doing all year. You who have prayed for me, who have been flexible and willing to do what needed to be done. You who have insisted I take time off. You who have expressed gratitude for the work of volunteers, and myself, to keep things going. You who reminded me gently of things that fell off my plate that needed attention. You who volunteered again and again because no one else was willing to step up. You who called to check in with each other, who sent cards, and modeled a community of care for one other. Thank you. Thank you for your gracefulness, your flexibility, and your care. You are such a gift.

A couple of days ago, I was at that intersection where S. Middletown 'T's into Middletown Road; such a strange intersection for a major commercial road to just come to a stop sign. The person waiting to turn left in front of me was gesticulating angrily at a driver, who was turning right onto S. Middletown, because they hadn't used their turn signal. I guess the driver in front of me felt he could have gone if he'd known that he was turning. Turning without signaling happens all the time there. Not so much the rage.

As I watched this, I thought about how tired and stressed we all are. It is the predominant thing I'm hearing from people right now. People wonder why they're so tired as things are just opening up again, and feel they already want a break. I want to let you know that you're not alone if you feel this way. Even if you felt, like me, that you were well-supported during this last year, we've gone through a long, collective trauma together. And we're going to need to take some time to rest.

I'm going to be away for a lot of July, visiting family, and spending a little time up in Lake George, processing, recharging, and finding my footing again, so that in the fall I can come back fully charged. I hope that all of us can do the same. Please find some time for yourself. I know we're itching to "get back to normal" as quickly as we can, but I'm asking you to spend this summer practicing a little sabbath, as a community, together.

The commandment of Sabbath rest was given for us as a gift, to remind us that we are not human doings, but human beings. It was given as a gift to remind us that we are not slaves to Pharaoh (or work), but we belong to the living God. It was given as a gift to remind us that there is enough grace that the world can turn without us, for a while, and we'll all be okay.

I'm going to be asking our staff, and all of our regular volunteers, to be intentional about this rest. So, I hope that you will continue to be the community that you have shown yourselves to be—caring for one another, so that every one of us can rest in grace, knowing that God's got us all.

May God bless us in our comings and goings, in our travel and our resting, in our work and in our play, in our being together and our times of solitude. May God be with you.

Peace,



Pastor Lena

## CHURCH OFFICE

### Hours of Operation

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| MONDAY    | 2:30PM - 4:30PM |
| TUESDAY   | 10AM - 4:30PM   |
| WEDNESDAY | 12PM - 4PM      |
| THURSDAY  | 10AM - 4PM      |
| FRIDAY    | 12PM - 4PM      |

**We are operating with only one staff member in the office, at a time. We recommend calling before your arrival (845.735.2243). Thank you for your cooperation!**

MASKS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED | HAND SANITIZER AVAILABLE

**Private Prayer in the Sanctuary:  
Tuesdays 4-6:30pm & Thursdays 10am-2pm**



**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"*

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**Life Stations**

**GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of Ryan Reineke, given by Karen Lagerquist.

**BAPTISM**

Cecilia Rose Ferrer June 12, 2021

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**AT YOUR SERVICE**

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

**CHURCH OFFICE**

845-735-2243 | (FAX) 845-735-0819  
communications@gspr.org  
www.gspr.org  
@GoodShepherdPR



**2021 CHURCH COUNCIL**

Rev. J. Lena Warren, Pastor  
Jake Daniels, President  
George Boothby, Vice President  
Michael McCambridge, Treasurer\*  
Werner Boecker, Financial Secretary\*  
Wendy Gates, Assistant Financial Secretary\*  
Kim Arcidiacono, Secretary  
Anthony Armenio  
Anne Baumann  
Sue Baumeister  
Jeff Bergman  
James Cleary  
Kristin Hanifin  
Linda Hecker  
Mark Olson  
Lucy Pinedo  
Christopher Ryan  
Debra Thaler  
Tom Vislocky  
Don Widmayer  
\*Non-voting

**CREATIVE PLAY**

845-735-2737  
renee@gspr.org  
www.goodshepherdcreativeplay.com  
@GoodShepherdCreativePlay



Please send your articles for the August 2021 Voice issue to **Katy@gspr.org** by **Thursday, July 15**. If you have any articles or photos you'd like to see, or share, on our social media pages, or weekly E-newsletter, feel free to email Katy. As always, you can call the Church Office if you have any questions.

# WELCOME BACK!

## JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8am & \*10:30am

\*Livestream  YouTube

Masks not required, but strongly encouraged.

No sign-up necessary!

The social distancing marks have been removed from the pews, and hand sanitizer will be available throughout the church building. We look forward to seeing you, as we transition back into a new "normal!" If you'd like to volunteer to be a worship leader, you can sign up at the links below:

**July 4, 8am:** [volunteersignup.org/HC99P](https://volunteersignup.org/HC99P) | **10:30am** [volunteersignup.org/L7YF3](https://volunteersignup.org/L7YF3)

**July 11, 8am:** [volunteersignup.org/PLJRA](https://volunteersignup.org/PLJRA) | **10:30am** [volunteersignup.org/M8R37](https://volunteersignup.org/M8R37)

**July 18, 8am:** [volunteersignup.org/H3M9X](https://volunteersignup.org/H3M9X) | **10:30am** [volunteersignup.org/BMHEX](https://volunteersignup.org/BMHEX)

**July 25, 8am:** [volunteersignup.org/JEAPL](https://volunteersignup.org/JEAPL) | **10:30am** [volunteersignup.org/34L8M](https://volunteersignup.org/34L8M)

## Stay Connected YouTube

- To subscribe to our Thursday evening weekly E-newsletter, "By The Way," email [communications@gspr.org](mailto:communications@gspr.org).
- Visit our website at [www.gspr.org](http://www.gspr.org), and follow us on **Facebook and Instagram, @GoodShepherdPr**, for the latest, up-to-date information!
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel and receive alerts when new videos are posted! We will continue to livestream the 10:30 worship service, from the sanctuary. Go to [www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver](https://www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver)

## Prayer Chain

If you, a loved one, or friend experience difficulty and desire prayer support, activate the Good Shepherd Prayer Chain by contacting **Ione Mensing, at 201-664-1235, or Carol Westphal, at 845-624-5732**. The Prayer Chain will be activated, and many will be praying with, and for you.



# MUSIC NOTES

Dear Good Shepherd Families,

Thank you so much, to Robert Callan and Danny Burns, for sharing their music with us, in recent services. We are so grateful for their time and talents! The band has resumed rehearsals, and is preparing to lead a worship service, later this summer. We are excited to resume our rehearsals for our Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, and Bell Choir, this fall. Be on the lookout for more information, in the coming months. Please join us, all are welcome!

Thank you!

Elaina and Brian ([music@gspr.org](mailto:music@gspr.org))



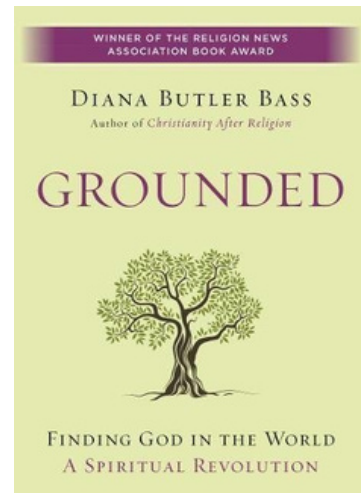
# zoom into our Virtual Weekly Events!



## HYBRID Evening Book Group Wednesdays at 7pm

**Pastor Lena is leading an evening book group, Wednesdays at 7pm.** We will be reading Grounded: Finding God in the World; A Spiritual Revolution by Diana Butler Bass.

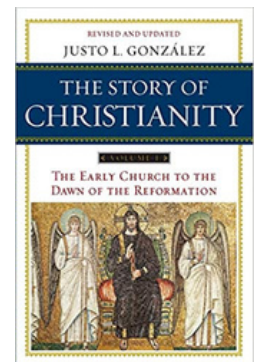
*The headlines are clear: religion is on the decline in America as many people leave behind traditional religious practices. Diana Butler Bass, a leading commentator on religion, politics, and culture, follows up her acclaimed book Christianity After Religion by arguing that what appears to be a decline actually signals a major transformation in how people understand and experience God. The distant God of conventional religion has given way to a more intimate sense of the sacred that is with us in the world. This shift, from a vertical understanding of God to a God found on the horizons of nature and human community, is at the heart of a spiritual revolution that surrounds us--and that is challenging not only religious institutions, but political and social ones, as well.*



**These meetings will be a Zoom and in-person hybrid; some weeks will be virtual, and others will be in-person.** If you'd like to read with us, please email [PastorLena@gspr.org](mailto:PastorLena@gspr.org).

## Afternoon Book Group Wednesdays at 4pm

Gina will be leading Book Group via Zoom, at 4pm. Join us for an engaging book study, exploring the *Story of Christianity* by Justo L. González, a narrative history of Christianity, from the Early Church to the dawn of the Protestant Reformation. If you're interested in reading with us, email [Gina@gspr.org](mailto:Gina@gspr.org).



## Adult Bible Study Thursdays at 6:30pm

**Meeting ID: 839 8897 7895 Passcode: 204403**

Pastor Lena will be leading us as we take a look at the Book of Proverbs. Proverbs is collection of sayings that are meant to guide a person in living a faithful, fulfilling "good" life, and will give us lots of opportunity to reflect on how we are called to live with proper relations to self, others, society, and God. There are also quite a few funny quips that will help us laugh along the way. No experience necessary; feel free to invite a friend!



## Go paper-less!

Are you having trouble getting your mail on time? Feeling out of the loop? Opt to receive our E-Voice, instead! To get *The Shepherd's Voice* emailed to you, please email [Katy@gspr.org](mailto:Katy@gspr.org).

# • UPCOMING EVENTS •

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION Thursdays, 3pm

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Meet Pastor Lena for a great cup of coffee, at **Dean's Coffee Co. in Pearl River (39 E Central Ave)**. All are welcome; feel free to bring a friend! Masks are required to enter the shop.



## WELCA Tuesday, July 6, 1:30pm

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Hope you all are enjoying this lovely spring weather. We so deserve it! WELCA has decided to meet during the summer, to make up for missed meetings, during COVID, and in anticipation for inclement weather in the winter. We will meet in Fellowship Hall, for a short business meeting and program. Afterwards, we will enjoy refreshments and social time. If you need any further information, or need a ride, please call **Barbara Bow at 845-521-2611 or Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638**. God's peace and blessings to all.

## MEN'S GROUP Saturday, July 17, 9am

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All men of Good Shepherd are welcome to join us for a great breakfast, fellowship, and opportunities for service, in Fellowship Hall. Contact Herman Mensing ([himensing@gmail.com](mailto:himensing@gmail.com)) if you wish more information.

## Lemonade on the Lawn

You are invited! Join the Fellowship Committee, for lemonade, snacks, and conversation! Meet us by the playground, **after 10:30 worship on Sunday, July 18, and August 22.**





## ***Good Shepherd recognizes all of our 2021 graduates...***

**Grace Duffy** graduated from the University of Plattsburgh with a BSN in Criminal Justice and Latin American Studies. She will be pursuing a Master's Degree in Homeland Security.

**Jonathan Filatov** graduated from Nanuet Senior High School. He will be attending Cornell University, to study Civil Engineering, this fall.

**Katherine Filatov** received her Masters Degree in Music Education, from Boston University, in January 2021. She continues to work for the Hendrick Hudson School District, as their middle school band director.

**Jason Girard** graduated from Nanuet Senior High School, and is attending Ramapo College for Computer Science, with a minor in music.

**Nick Girard** graduated from Marist College, with a BA in Communications, and a concentration in Advertising.

**Catherine Martini** graduated from the University of Dayton, with a Biology Degree. She will be attending medical school at the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Middletown, NY.

**Sarah McCambridge** graduated from Monmouth University, in West Long Branch NJ, with a degree in Secondary Education. She will teach history in grades 7 through 12, with a minor in sociology.

**Matthew McCambridge** graduated from Pascack Valley High School, in Hillsdale, NJ. He will be attending Johnson and Wales University for Culinary Arts and Product Development.

**Kayle N. Pinedo** graduated from Clarkstown High School North, and pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Science of Nursing, at Quinnipiac University School of Nursing, in Hamden, CT. Her career goal is to become a Registered Nurse, while studying to receive a Master's Degree in Science of Nursing, and become a Nurse Practitioner.

**Lilliana Tramm** graduated from Shadow Creek High School, and will attend Trinity University, in Texas, to study biology.

**Rosalyn Tramm** graduated from Clarkstown South High School, and will attend Seton Hall University's nursing program.

**Micah Ventry** graduated from Clarkstown North High School, with a Regents Diploma. He will attend Rockland Community College, this fall, and will transfer to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre, American sign language, and deaf studies.





# CREATIVE PLAY NEWS

Yay!! We made it! We wrapped up the school year with multiple graduation ceremonies, in the parking lot. The children did an amazing job at showing what they learned to their families, and received their diplomas for completing the school year.

What a year it has been! Creative Play successfully remained open all year, mitigating multiple obstacles. The children were loud, silly, and happy all year long, just as we hoped them to be. I am eternally grateful to our staff, as well as the support we received from our congregation at Good Shepherd. A parent wrote: "Your school was the shining light for us during the darkest of times." Thanks to all of you, for helping our program shine a light on our children.

July 5th kicks off the month with summer camp! Each week we will celebrate a different theme. This summer, we will be celebrating a week of Disney, working on gardening science, and splish-splashing with water play, as we complete the month with a week of Olympics. Our camp will consist of three classes, with 42 students per week. We kept registration low this year, as we continue to navigate through the changing mandates from NYS.

We reached our goal of 164 applications for the 2021-2022 school year. We have increased our capacity, while remaining diligent in adjusting with the times. Slowly and safely we move forward, with enthusiasm, and joyous love!

Be well, be safe, and be HAPPY,

**Renee Bucci**  
**Director of Creative Play**  
**[Renee@gspr.org](mailto:Renee@gspr.org)**





# *Picnic in the Park*

**Donate canned meat,  
ketchup, mayo,  
and/or mustard!**

We are donating to *People to People* throughout the year. Each month's food bank will be a different theme. **For the month of July, we will be collecting ketchup, mayonnaise and canned meat; perfect for a picnic in the park! There will be a box in front of the Education Building for your non-perishable donations.**

As we are receiving an abundance of donations for our monthly food bank, we will be delivering food to *People to People*, every two weeks. Food pick-up can be after church on Sunday, or during church office hours. Call **Gina at 845-587-0904** to arrange a time. If you'd like to volunteer, sign up at [volunteersignup.org/BECRW](http://volunteersignup.org/BECRW).

A big THANK YOU to our volunteers; **John Filatov, Natalie Lai, Connie Frawley, Robin Riemenschneider, and Diane Bergman.**

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## **CARD DRIVE** **Meals On Wheels** *Meals are just our first course!*

**Be a bright moment in someone's day!** Join our card drive for *Meals on Wheels*. All you have to do is write a quick note of encouragement to a meal recipient. Get your own greeting card, or pick up blank cards at the church office. We will also have some available after service on Sundays! Drop them back off to us at anytime and we will deliver them to *Meals on Wheels*.

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." -1 Thessalonians 5:11



# MAGNOLIA MEALS

*Magnolia Meals at Home* is a meal delivery program that provides nourishing meals to households affected by cancer, so that loved ones can spend quality time together. We have partnered with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Teaneck, and Trinity Lutheran in Bogota, to transport *Magnolia Meals* from *Meals on Wheels* in Nanuet, and bring them to St. Paul's. From there, they will be delivered to those undergoing cancer treatment.



**Thank you, to our June volunteers, Nicole and Natalie Lai, and our July volunteer, Virginia Montoya. We are looking for volunteers to deliver *Magnolia Meals* from Nanuet, NY to Teaneck, NJ, on Saturday, August 21, at 9:30am. If you're interested in helping out, sign up online at [volunteersignup.org/XRRJQ](https://volunteersignup.org/XRRJQ).**

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## JOHN 10:16 PROJECT

**"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."**

**Want to join a Bible Study in Texas? How about Iowa? Want to welcome a Lutheran from Louisiana to an online event?**

This pandemic has provided us with the means to come together virtually as a church, crossing borders and boundaries—real and imagined. Distances are meaningless in the virtual world and we now have the opportunity to expand our knowledge and love of one another. My hope is to give everyone the opportunity to come together.

Our church sent a letter to all 183 Good Shepherd congregations in the ELCA, asking if they would like to join together as one flock, sharing online events with all. So far, we have had responses from Texas, Iowa, Louisiana, Virginia and Michigan! I have created a calendar with all events, which will be updated as new events come. If you are interested in viewing the calendar of events, email [gina@gspr.org](mailto:gina@gspr.org).

## Be a Volunteer

Looking for ways to get involved? Whether it's delivering meals, running errands for our neighbors, or helping out with worship services, a little help goes a long way! We are always looking for volunteers at Good Shepherd. Check out our community events, below, or contact Volunteer Coordinator, [Gina@gspr.org](mailto:Gina@gspr.org), to find out how you can lend a helping hand.

# GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH



Good Shepherd youth of all ages, and their families, are invited to these upcoming events. We are hoping these events will serve to reinvigorate the youth program, and renew efforts for our youth to fundraise and attend the ELCA Youth Gathering Minneapolis event, now scheduled to take place July 24-28, 2022. Visit [www.elca.org/youthgathering](http://www.elca.org/youthgathering) for updates. Thank you for supporting our youth! Have a wonderful summer, and we hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

## **ELCA Youth Gathering Volunteer Team**

*Rich Bowman, Lee Warren, Greg & Cindy Sealander*  
[rbpb@yahoo.com](mailto:rbpb@yahoo.com), [csealander@optonline.net](mailto:csealander@optonline.net)



**Sunday, August 8, 12:30-4pm**  
**Boecker Residence in Nanuet, NY**

# SAVE THE DATES:



**Youth Bowling Event**  
*Sunday, September 12, 11:30am*



**Pizza & Train Ride to Hoboken**  
*Sunday, September 26, 11:30am*



Thanks to all who came to help out with our end-of-the-year Confirmation BBQ! What a good time we all had. Such a gift to be gathering together again! - Pastor Lena





# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Your gifts at work: 2020

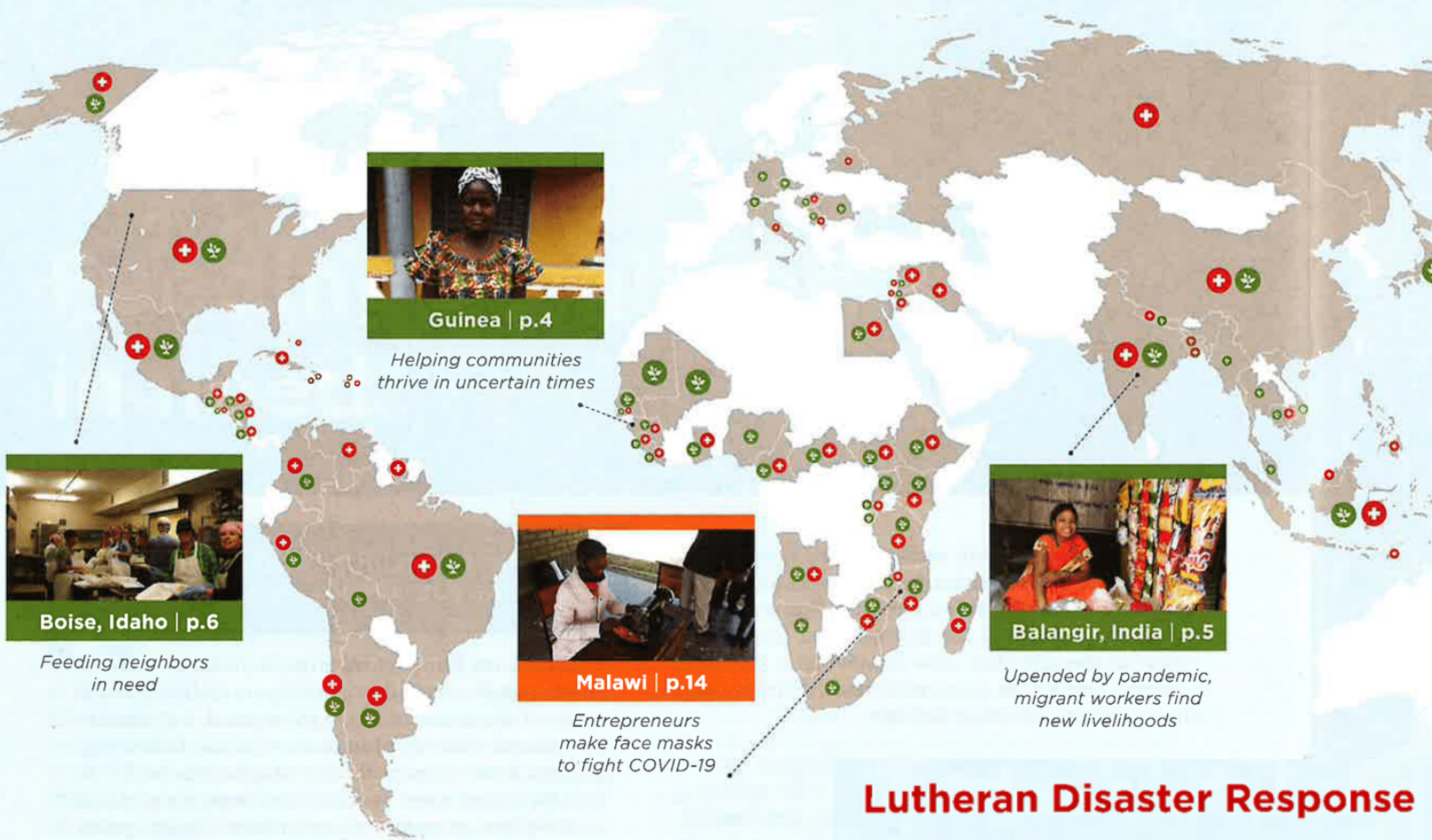
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



ELCA WORLD HUNGER



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE



### Lutheran Disaster Response

- 53 countries
- 46 states and territories

### ELCA World Hunger

- 59 countries
- 42 states and territories



# COVID is challenging our community and we're here to help you cope ...



We are a proud provider agency of NY Project Hope, New York State's COVID-19 Crisis Counseling Program.



Astor Services for Children & Families is now providing **Dutchess & Rockland counties** with free, confidential, and anonymous emotional support.



To learn more,  
contact Megan Wright at  
**(845) 204-5223**  
**[mwright@astorservices.org](mailto:mwright@astorservices.org)**



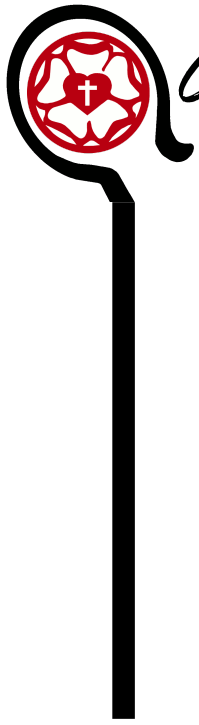
 **ASTOR**  
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
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**Free, anonymous & confidential**

**NY Project Hope**  
Coping with COVID  
❤️

A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health  
Funded by FEMA





*Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church*

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## 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. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the work of Good Shepherd!*

**ONLINE:** Go to our webpage, [www.gspr.org/give](http://www.gspr.org/give) and click the "give" button.

**GIVE+ TEXT:** Text **877-771-4850**, then follow the instructions.

**MAIL:** Send your offerings to **112 N. Main St. Pearl River, NY 10965**.

**AMAZONSMILE:** Use AmazonSmile to buy your personal gifts, while also giving to Good Shepherd! Agree to support us at <https://smile.amazon.com> and 0.05% of the profits will automatically be donated to us. Remember to use AmazonSmile, instead of Amazon, in order for Good Shepherd to receive the donation. Any questions, contact Cindy Sealander at [csealander@optonline.net](mailto:csealander@optonline.net).

**SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS:** Buy a ShopRite gift card and Good Shepherd receives 5% from each gift card purchase, in support of our Youth. Cards can be purchased in the church office and used at any ShopRite location. \$25, \$50, \$100 card amounts available - cash & checks accepted.