

We're moving back into the Sanctuary for services, at 8am and 10:30am, this May. With that, we will also be stopping the drive-in services for awhile.

I'm grateful for the sense of this little bit of "normalcy" that this decision brings. There has been so much adaptation and uncertainty, every week for the last year. And no doubt, this is wearing on all of us.

I'm really grateful too, for the very faithful volunteers who've made services, outside in all their various forms, happen each week we've had them. And I'm grateful for the joy these services have had. There's been a fun energy and feeling to them, even with all the limitations that worshiping in our cars brings along, or worshiping in person in the parking lot has, as well.

I know there are some who are still anxious about coming into the worship space for worship and I understand your concerns. Just let me lay out what we're doing to make sure that the space is as safe as it can be.

First of all, back in the summer, when we first were exploring coming back to the sanctuary in the fall, we did an airflow study. There's a huge vent fan above the organ pipes that used to be used to cool the sanctuary, before the air conditioners were put in. We learned (through a fancy little gadget and good old math) that when you turn that fan on, we get about 18 air exchanges an hour, in the sanctuary. If we open the windows and the back door, which we will do, we get more of a breeze through the sanctuary than you do on some still days outside.

Secondly, we have marked the pews off in a way that enables families, or those comfortable sitting next to one another, to do so, but keeps family units sitting six feet from each other. The new CDC guidelines suggest three feet, but we will maintain the six feet for now, as it's pretty hard to divide pews that way—and being safer seems better.

Thirdly, we're not doing communion the way that we used to, yet, at least for a while. We will continue using the little pre-filled communion cups and take it all together. It's not the same, but it does help reduce risk of transmission, particularly from the pastor to the congregants (or the other way around).

Speaking of the pastor, aka me, the council waited to make the decision to regather in the sanctuary until after I was fully vaccinated. This will keep us all safer. And, I encourage those of you who can to please consider getting the vaccine. This will keep us all safer, especially those who for various health reasons can't get the vaccine.

Finally, we continue to monitor the statistics. The spread count. The vaccine count. The hospitalization rate. As much as this feels like a move toward something more reliable and consistent, we will continue to make decisions based on what is actually going on around us.

I hope you know we're doing what we can to stay safe and, maybe it will alleviate some of your uncertainty about coming to worship in person. We will continue to livestream services for anyone who can't make it. And look for more information as we try to keep you up to date.

I shared this devotion with the council this month and I want to share it with you, too. This really still is a time of anxiety and uncertainty, even as it is a time of hope. In so many ways, figuring out how to start back to things again is far harder than locking everything down.

Blessings to you all!

Pastor Jane

Pastor Lena

Here are some quotes I have taped to my office door:

"I figured something out! The future is unpredictable."

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

"When you walk to the edge of all the light you have and take that first step into the darkness of the unknown, you must believe that one of two things will happen. There will be something solid for you to stand upon or you will be taught to fly."

There are a couple more quotes like this mixed in with the many cartoons and jokes, which nearly completely wallpaper my door. If you ever need a smile, you should stop by and read them.

But these quotes are there because I'm uncomfortable with uncertainty. I like control. I like knowing what is going to happen and how it's going to happen.

Which is funny, because never in my life have I actually experienced that kind of certainty and knowing. My life, more often than not, has been that step into the dark, praying I'd grow some wings. This experience has definitely made me better at uncertainty, more willing to live in the discomfort, but I don't know that I'll ever find it easy.

This year has certainly been a year of unpredictability for us as individuals and as a community of faith. We had no idea what was going to be and, to be honest, we still don't. Even as things return to "normal." What will this new normal be? People have moved out of the area. Others have died from COVID and other things. People have gotten comfortable with not coming to church, and others still have decided not to come back for other reasons. The church isn't the center of society that it used to be and it will likely never be that again.

At the same time, there are new people in the neighborhood. There are ideas floating around in our minds and hearts that are Spirit-inspired and exciting. There is, to paraphrase the prophet's words, "Hope for our future."

I pray that we don't get bogged down in the uncertainty of things. I pray that we trust the unknown future to our known God. Our God who has this way of making worlds out of chaos and nothing. Our God who has this way of calling to life even dry, dead bones. Our God who has this way of making things new.

Step into the darkness, my friends. You never know, we might just be taught to fly.

Let us pray: God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we will end up, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Anthony La Poma and Erin Cardentey who were married on Sunday, April 11th.

DEATHS

Doris Lorraine Berger April 14, 2021 Christopher Scott Zannetti April 17, 2021

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 June 2021 Voice issue to <u>Katy@gspr.org</u> by **Thursday, May 13**. If you have any articles or photos you'd like to see, or share, on our social media pages, or weekly Enewsletter, feel free to email Katy. As always, you can call the Church Office if you have any questions.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 2:30 - 4:30pm Tuesday 10am - 4:30pm Wednesday 12pm - 4pm Thursday 10am - 4pm Friday 12pm - 4pm

Call us before your arrival (845-735-2243)

Masks required. Sign-in sheet. Hand sanitizer available.

You may be subject to mandatory temperature checks. We are operating with only one staff member present in the office, at a time. Thank you for your cooperation!

Stay Connected

Subscribe to our weekly E-newsletter, "By The Way," sent out on Thursday evenings. Email **communications@gspr.org** to be added to our list. You can also 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**.

Private Prayer : M:

The Sanctuary is open for private prayer, Tuesdays 4-6:30pm and Thursdays 10am-2pm. Masks are required to enter and hand sanitizer will be available. Please sign in upon your arrival! If the doors to the sanctuary are not open, call the Church Office and we will have someone let you in.



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

PERSONAL CARE KIT

Assembly Project



This year, we will be making the Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief a church-wide project! We will start by collecting one item for the Care Kits each week, then assemble them altogether, on packing day!

We will begin by collecting lightweight bath-sized towels, on Sunday, May 16th. If you are joining us for worship, there will be a box for your items in the Sanctuary. If you miss Collection Sunday, feel free to drop off as many donations as you wish, throughout the week. There will be a box at the entrance to the Education Building. The last day to drop off your donations is Sunday, June 13th. If you have any questions, contact the Church Office. You can also visit the Lutheran World Relief website at www.lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions for additional information.

A few guidelines to keep in mind:

- Please give new items only. All items should be new and in good condition.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

View our collection schedule, below.

1. Towels

Collection Sunday: May 16th

- ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry. They take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.



2. Toothbrushes

Collection Sunday: May 23rd

- ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap



3. Sturdy Comb

Collection Sunday: May 30th



4. Nail Clippers

Collection Sunday: June 6th

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



5. Bar Soap

Collection Sunday: June 13th *The last collection day!

• TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping



PACKING DAY!

Sunday, June 13th

We will meet, in person, to assemble the Personal Care Kits together. This will be the final collection day! Stay tuned for more details, in the coming weeks. Thank you in advance for your donations!

Personal Care Kits





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. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, **Gina@gspr.org**, to find out how you can lend a helping hand.

MASKS FOR A CAUSE

Good Shepherd masks are available for purchase, at \$20 each. All proceeds will go to Lutheran Disaster Response for Hurricane Relief, a ministry of the ELCA. Contact the Church Office to pick yours up, while supplies last!





"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, please email me at <u>gina@gspr.org</u> and I will send you the calendar.

Peace and Joy,

Gina

Sundays in the Sanctuary

We are meeting in person for worship, Sundays at 8am and 10:30am, in the Sanctuary! The 10:30 service will continue to be livestreamed on YouTube.

Subscribe to our channel at www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver to receive alerts when new videos are posted! \to \gamma_0\tau_0\

Please sign up online, at the links below, if you plan on joining us, as attendance will be limited. You can also volunteer to participate in leading worship. If you cannot get online to signup, please call the Church Office to ensure your spot. All COVID social distancing guidelines will be followed. Masks are required! Any questions, email **Gina@gspr.org**.

May 2, 8am: volunteersignup.org/PQLBW | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/KBQAF

May 9, 8am: volunteersignup.org/B97BY | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/9E4WK

May 16, 8am: volunteersignup.org/PAAFT | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/FH7QE

May 23, 8am: volunteersignup.org/JLHMB | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/AFHJK

May 30, 8am: volunteersignup.org/WFR8L | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/BH9ML

MONTHLY FOOD BANK

We will be donating to *People to People* throughout the year. Each month's food bank will be a different theme. **May is cereal and oatmeal...the breakfast of champions! There will be a box in front of the Education Building for your non-perishable donations.** We have been receiving an overwhelming amount of donations for our food bank. Thank you for your continued generosity!



We are excited to be meeting in person again! A friendly reminder that all COVID safety guidelines are being followed. Masks are required at all times. All pews in the Sanctuary have been marked off for social distancing. We will open the windows and doors to allow for proper airflow; please dress accordingly. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are available throughout the building. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the Church Office. Thank you for your cooperation as we work to keep everyone safe!

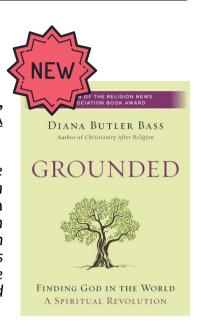




HYBRID Evening Book Group Wednesdays at 7pm

Pastor Lena will be leading an evening book group, Wednesdays at 7pm, beginning May 19th. 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 inperson. If you'd like to order a book, please email PastorLena@gspr.org by May 12! JUSTO L. GONZÁLEZ

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.

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!



THE STORY OF CHRISTIANITY

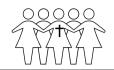
Go paper-less!



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WELCA Tuesday, May 4, 12:30pm



After many months, WELCA will resume meeting in Fellowship Hall. We will be kicking off with our annual luncheon, followed by a short business meeting. All COVID safety precautions will be followed; masks and social distancing required. Please RSVP to Barbara Bow (845-521-2611) or Mary Iseman (845-623-7638) so we can plan accordingly. We look forward to getting together again and hope to see you. God's peace to all!

MEN'S GROUP Saturday, May 15, 9am

Men's Breakfast Group returns! All men of Good Shepherd are welcome to join us for a great breakfast, fellowship, and opportunities for service, in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Herman Mensing (himensing@gmail.com) for more information.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Saint Margaret if Antioch Church is hosting a six-week Bereavement Support Program. This is a safe place for the bereaved to share, to learn about grief & to receive support, empathy & acceptance.

Where: Doyle Center, 115 W Central Avenue in Pearl River

Dates: May 12, 19, 26 & June 2, 9, 16

Time: 10am

*All COVID social-distancing guidelines will be following. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building. Masks required!

To register, call Tracey at the Parish Center Office, at 845-735-4746 x 112.

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, June 29, by appointment

SAVE THE DATE! The New York Blood Center is coming to Good Shepherd. More details TBA. Visit www.nybloodcenter.org to find a donor center near you.



Mother's Day Plant Sale

Youth Gathering Fundraiser Saturday, May 8, & Sunday, May 9 9am-1pm

The Youth Group will be hosting a Plant Sale in the parking lot on Mother's Day weekend! We will be selling flats, 4" pots, and 11" hanging baskets. Order forms are available below! **Pre-order by submitting your forms to the Church Office by Monday, May 3**. Any questions, contact Cindy Sealander (**CSealander@optonline.net**). Thank you for your help, and Happy Mother's Day!

FLOWERS \$4.00 Sold as a 4-pack (4 individual plants)	QTY	VEGETABLES \$4.00 Sold as a 4-pack (4 individual plants)	QTY
Begonias		Tomatoes	
Coleus		Beefsteak	
Dianthus		Cherry	
Impatiens		Bell Peppers	
Marigolds		Eggplant	
Petunia		Basil	
Snap Dragons		Zucchini	
Zinnias			
TOTAL:		TOTAL:	
HANGING BASKETS \$20.00	QTY	POT FLOWERS \$5.00 4.5"	QTY
Impatiens		Geraniums	
Petunia		Begonias	
TOTAL	,:	TOTAL:	

Name:	
Phone number:	Email address:
Total amount enclosed \$	(Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd)

Y O U T H



Here are a few pictures from our walk across the TZ Bridge! It turned out to be a lovely day. Thanks to Vicky Bowman for creating the collage. More pictures are available to view on our Facebook page!

We will have an in-person First Communion service on Sunday, May 23, at 1:30pm.





THANK YOU TROOP 36!

Thank you to the Boy Scouts and their families for helping to clean and mulch the Columbarium Garden. It looks wonderful, a job well done! A special thanks to Greg and Cindy Sealander for organizing the clean-up.

The ELCA Youth Gathering to Minneapolis has been rescheduled to July 24-28, 2022. Visit www.elca.org/youthgathering for updates!



NY PROJECT HOPE @ MHA

Here to listen | Here to talk | Here to support

WHETHER YOU NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE OR LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY, OUR TRAINED STAFF ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOU.



From simply getting milk at the store to navigating virtual education and remote work, COVID-19 has challenged many aspects of our lives.

The Mental Health Association of Westchester is here for you. As part of NY Project Hope, we offer COVID-19-related emotional support in Rockland County.

Our trained staff:

- Understand the emotions that arise from being unsettled and fatigued by COVID-19
- Discuss coping strategies and self-care guidance
- Connect you to accessible community resources

Staff are available by phone, TeleHealth and, as needed, in-person five days a week, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Support is available in Creole, Spanish and Yiddish, and translation services are also available for additional languages.

If you or someone you know needs help managing the impact of stress, isolation, grief and other challenges related to COVID-19, please reach out to our team.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP.
CALL US AT 845-580-2022



NY Project Hope
Coping with COVID

www.nyprojecthope.org

Confidential | Anonymous | Free A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA TAKING CARE OF YOUR EMOTIONAL HEALTH IS AS IMPORTANT AS TAKING CARE OF YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH.

In addition to connecting with people and activities that bring meaning to your life, we encourage you to take care of yourself by:

- Limiting media exposure
- Practicing relaxation techniques such as breathing slowly and deeply, progressive muscle relaxation or meditation
- Prioritizing eating well, getting a good night's sleep and fitting in physical activity such as a walk
- Reaching out to a trained professional for additional support

ABOUT US

The Mental Health Association of Westchester is a community-based non-profit delivering behavioral health programs and services to more than 10,000 children, youth and adults each year. As a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, we provide integrated care in Westchester and Rockland counties.

Learn more at mhawestchester.org or 914-345-5900.

ADDITIONAL HELP

The statewide NY Project Hope Emotional Support Helpline is available between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm at 1-844-863-9314.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides immediate crisis assistance 24/7 at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Creative Play News



"MAY" this month bring you all sunshine and happiness!

Our Creative Play students are busy creating some memorable art to give to their moms, or significant caretaker, in their life. We will be spending a lot of time celebrating those who love and care for us, and learning how to show our appreciation!

We are "nacho" average staff, so let's "taco 'bout a party!" Time to have a fiesta and celebrate our Creative Play staff! On Cinco De Mayo, the office ladies will host a luncheon for our teachers and aides, who have worked diligently and happily throughout this pandemic year. Our children have had a wonderful experience in their classrooms, thanks to the dedication of our staff. This day will be set aside to thank those who work with their heart, each day, at Creative Play!



The week of May 17th, we pray for sunshine as we will spend time outdoors on a picnic, for games, treats, and fresh air! Each class will have a designated time to play special games on the playground and then have their snacks on a picnic blanket outside. This will be a fun day for all!

As we wrap up the end of the month, we take time to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. May we never forget freedom is not free. Thank you to all who served our country.

Creative Play will be closed in observation of Memorial Day, Friday, May 28th; and Monday, May 31st.

Be well, be safe and be HAPPY,

Renee Bucci, Director of Creative Play renee@gspr.org





"Mothers hold their children's hands for awhile, but their hearts forever..."



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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** 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.

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.