



The Shepherd's Voice

Jesus



a rock in a weary land

MARCH 2021

SERVING ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY & NORTHERN BERGEN COUNTY, NJ

***"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
- Isaiah 43:19a***

While the snow is receding rapidly, thanks to warmer weather, I want you to think back to when it first started to melt. I wasn't that long ago, after all. Everything was buried and it was difficult to navigate, and we were so tired of it all, as yet another wave of pretty flakes coated everything in another layer of white. But then, it started to warm up, and the snow, almost unnoticed at first, began to melt.

One of the first places I noticed the snow disappear was along the retaining wall around the church. Suddenly, it seemed that the tiniest of green plants and mosses were uncovered along the edge of the wall. Alive. Happily continuing, as though winter didn't matter to them at all.

I have always been fascinated by those tiny green plants. When I was a kid in Alberta, and the winter had gone on and it was January, and I hadn't seen the ground without snow since October. I'd go out and play in the woods, bundled up against the cold, and dig down until I found the frozen ground—often under snow deep enough for my young self to disappear into.

What amazed me was that I always found green things. Living mosses and tiny green plants that seemed to withstand winter beneath the snow, absorbing whatever sunlight seeped through the deep blanket of iciness. Living, even though they seemed so fragile and small, in defiance of the deadly cold. Surviving, despite it all.

The world looked so dead and yet below the surface, so much was alive.

I try to remember that right now—that there is so much more going on than meets the eye. That life refuses to give up, even when it's hard. I think we all need that reminder, in this season. I've heard a lot of people talking about being tired and worn out. People feeling depressed and struggling to find the motivation to do anything. If you feel that way, know that you're not alone. If you feel that way, know that it's perfectly reasonable to be feeling this right now.

I know that it's because of the pandemic that has gone on for too long. The fatigue of looking at screens and not people's faces. The tediousness of masks and more sanitizer. The never-ending anxiety of vaccines, the risk of getting sick, the awful politics, and ... have you taken a deep breath lately? The same conversation again and again about how we're all tired of the pandemic and nothing else. And it's also the weather—the grey days that linger, the sky and the earth the same color, the cold that keeps us inside. All of this serves as a heavy blanket weighing, us down.

Still, I want to give you the hope of those tiny green plants to think about. I remember as a kid, how they astonished me in a world so devoid of color, so hostile to life. There is something truly astonishing going on beneath the surface of our days. Life continues. God's gifts of breath, love, and hope sustain us, and refuses to end; despite it all. Jesus reminds us that God is at work in tiny things, when he says the kingdom of God is like yeast hidden in flour; a pearl of great price, and treasure buried in a field, and even a weed as small and insistent as mustard. As fragile and small as divine grace can sometime seem, it has the resilience not only to live, but to grow into Spring.

Hang in there. Easter is on its way. Life makes its way, when there seems like there is no way, because God makes a way.

Speaking of Easter, we will be worshipping together in person on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Look for more information about that in the coming weeks as we work out the details so we can be safe and be together. It will be good to see you!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Lena". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Lena



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

Baptism

Olivia Floss February 13, 2021

Elevator Fund

In Memory of Loved Ones, given by Dorothy Urquhart

Deaths

Ryan Reineke January 22, 2021
Kenneth Wiik February 17, 2021
Joan James February 20, 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

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

CHURCH OFFICE

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



CREATIVE PLAY

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



If you, a loved one, or friend experience difficulty and desire prayer support, the Good Shepherd Prayer Chain is here for you. To activate the Prayer Chain, **contact Ione Mensing at**

STAY CONNECTED

We have made it easier to stay connected online! Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, "By The Way," sent 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.



YouTube

While we are taking a pause from meeting in-person for worship, we are livestreaming on YouTube! Once the video is uploaded, it will be available to watch anytime after! Pastor Lena also uploads regular reflections throughout the week. Subscribe to our channel and receive alerts when new videos are posted: 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. A digital copy of Cross Connections will be sent in our weekly email, "By The Way."

Mondays at 9:30am Start your week with morning prayer. Pray wherever you are!

Wednesdays at 7:15pm Lenten evening service, through March 31.

Thursdays at 9pm We will be streaming *Compline* - an evening prayer with beautiful, ancient roots, and a wonderful way to calm your soul before bed.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY 2:30-4:30

TUESDAY 10-4:30

WEDNESDAY 12-4

THURSDAY 10-4

FRIDAY 12-4

Call us before your
arrival! 845-735-2243

COVID CONSERATIONS:

- Only one staff member present at a time
- Masks required
- Hand sanitizer available at all entryways
- Mandatory temperature checks
- Sign-in sheet



Dear Good Shepherd Families,

Thank you for continuing to join us online, for our worship services. We have enjoyed seeing you at our drive-up worship services, as well! We are sharing more social media clips during Lent, so let us know if you would like to share anything with us! We are grateful to know that you found these musical offerings uplifting. While we miss seeing you, we are grateful to be part of your lives, by offering music that brings you comfort, contemplation, and healing.

Elaina and Brian
music@gspr.org



Lenten Services

On Wednesdays during Lent, we will be premiering evening services on our YouTube channel, at 7:15pm. Brian and Elaina will be sharing music, and so will a few special guests! There will also be a series of reflections (schedule below). These videos are all pre-recorded and available to watch anytime.

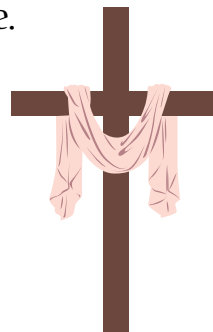
February 24 - Building Altars in the Wilderness

March 3 - Water from a Stone: Reminders of God when it's Hard

March 10 - Leaving Stones as Stones

March 17 - The Shadow of a Rock in a Thirsty Land: Grace to Rest

March 24 - The Rocks Will Cry Out: Silent Sentinels of Hope



UPCOMING DATES

March 14th at 10:30am

April 11th at 10:30am

Join us, for our monthly drive-in services, on the second Sunday of every month. Just drive up and stay in your car as we broadcast worship right to you over the radio! The services will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel and available to watch anytime after. If you're interested in helping with set-up, or leading worship, contact Gina@gspr.org. We hope to see you there!

Daylight savings begins on Sunday, March 14. Don't forget to change your clocks forward, by one hour. The first day of spring is March 20. Here's to brighter days ahead!





ZOOM into our Virtual Weekly Events!

Book Group Wednesdays at 7pm

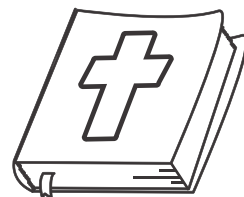
Pastor Lena's Wednesday night book group is reading The World is About to Turn: Mending a Nation's Broken Faith by Rick Rouse and Paul Ingram. In these increasingly divisive times, how does God intend for us to live well together in the common life? Drawing from scripture, as well as writings from a variety of other faith traditions and contemporary theologians, The World is About to Turn offers a practical guide for dialogue and mutual understanding for leaders of faith organizations, schools, and member of faith communities, everyone who hopes to make a positive difference in our corporate life together.



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!



Coffee Hour Sundays after worship

Meeting ID: 848 6653 2800 Passcode: 972240

Join us after **Sunday worship, around 11:30am**, for a virtual coffee hour. It'll be a nice chance to see one another, and catch up. Log on **to <https://zoom.us>** with your cup of coffee and type in the meeting ID and passcode. The information to join will be the same every week, so feel free to stop in any week that works for you!



Go paper-less!

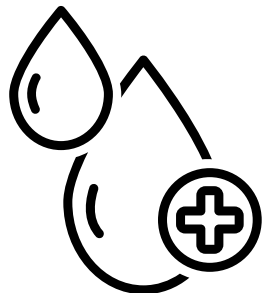
Are you having trouble getting your mail on time? Feeling out of the loop? Opt to receive our E-Voice, instead! To get *The Shepherd's Voice* emailed to you, please email **Katy@gspr.org**.



Private Prayer



The Sanctuary is open, Tuesdays 4-6:30pm & Thursdays 10am-2pm, for private prayer. Masks are required to enter and hand sanitizer will be available. Please sign in upon your arrival! Any questions, contact the Church Office at 845-735-2243.



 **New York** Blood Center

SAVE THE DATE!

We are hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 29.
More details TBA.

F O R S E N I O R S

Call the Rockland County Office for the Aging at **845-364-2110**. It will handle all appointments for this group. The office is open from 8am - 5pm, Monday through Friday. Spanish and Creole speakers are available. The office is located at 50 Sanatorium Road B, in Pomona, NY.



During these unprecedented times, we are doing our very best at getting last minute information out, via all our church communications, to the best of our ability. Please send your articles for the April 2021 Voice issue to Katy@gspr.org by **Thursday, March 18**.

Be sure to follow our Facebook and Instagram pages, for the latest, up-to-date info. 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.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate through the challenges we are faced with by COVID. Stay safe!



Happy Saint Patrick's Day!



God's work continues at Good Shepherd. Even in the midst of a pandemic, His work goes on. And how does that take place? It comes about because of you, living out the stewardship of faith-filled lives, in doing God's work and being His hands. You confirm that faithfulness in daily lives of SERVICE and GENEROSITY.

Thank you to all who attest boldly to your faith, both in Christian witness in your day-to-day lives, and also through your ongoing financial support of God's work at Good Shepherd. Please continue to mail your offerings to the church (112 N. Main St. Pearl River, NY 10965). Rather than doing that weekly, some households prefer to put their offerings aside, and then, mail them every other week or so. Although we may be physically absent from church, God's work continues.

Your gifts enable Good Shepherd to continue to be, even in these unprecedented times, a witness to our faith, reaching out to both those within our Good Shepherd family, and those apart, feeding the hungry and other needy, people whom God has placed on our paths. Let us seize this opportunity.

Thank you for your faithful generosity.

Souperbowl Sunday 2021

Carol Hoerter and her grandson, Chris, delivered 665 pounds of soup to *People to People*. This was a cooperative effort between Good Shepherd (Souperbowl Sunday collection) and Creative Play (Stone Soup program). The need is greater than ever, with food pantries taking on many more clients, and therefore, this donation was critical. It is truly gratifying that so many members contributed to this, and we thank all of you.



Looking for ways to get involved? Whether it's delivering meals, shoveling snow 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 learn more.

Monthly Food Bank

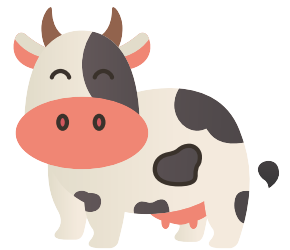
When the soup was delivered to *People to People*, they were very grateful since they had none on their shelves. The demand for food donations is very high right now, so we'd like to continue donating food to them. For the month of March, we will be collecting jars of peanut butter and/or jelly. **You can drop it off at the church during office hours, or bring it to the drive-in service on March 14th. There will be a box at the front of the Education Building.** Thank you for your continued generosity!



God's Global Barnyard

It's that time of year when Good Shepherd opens the barnyard door, and fills it with Moos, Baas, Bleats, Cheeps, Buzzes and Oinks...a noisy racket that brings hope, love and new life to people around the world. During Lent, we will once again have the opportunity to donate toward animals, which will be given to families, along with training, that will change their lives for the better. People are in need even more during the pandemic, and this program does so much to aid overall health and financial stability for many.

- There will be banks for everyone for their loose change.
- Contributions can be made out to Good Shepherd and sent to the church.
- Gift cards for those who want to give individual gifts for a special occasion will be available in the office.



Thank you for any contribution you can make! Let's fill our barn!

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, please email me at gina@gspr.org or ginad.gspr@gmail.com and I will send you the calendar.

Peace and Joy,

Gina

Creative Play News



"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." This is our hope!

After a busy month in February of celebrations; which included Stone Soup, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, snow days, and dental and heart health, we continue to have fun celebrating into March as we welcome spring!

We begin this month celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday! More importantly, we celebrate the literature he has written, for children and parents to enjoy endlessly! It will not be unheard of to hear the children wake up to Green Eggs and Ham!



We hope the luck of the Irish is with our program as we help our little leprechauns create the magic of rainbows—cheers to finding the gold at the end of one!

During the week of March 22nd, we will be "hopping" into our Easter Parades with our 4-year-old students. They will be creating their own spring hats to show off in our parking lot parade! All students will have a chance to go on an Easter egg hunt, as well as color their own Easter egg!

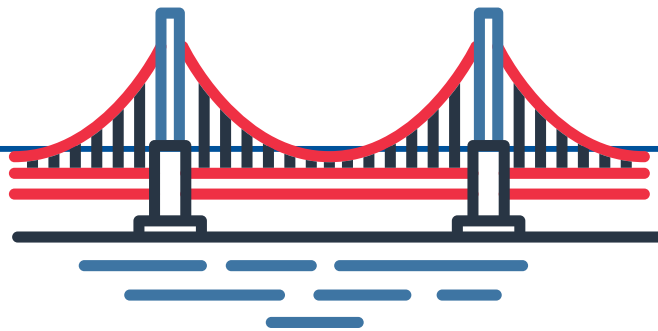
Creative Play will be closed from March 29th through April 5th, for spring recess.

Summer Camp registration for the month of July will begin on April 6th. Our 2021-2022 school year registration has remained ongoing. Please give our office a call for further information about our programs, or check us out at www.goodshepherdcreativeplay.com.

"Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life." Happy Easter to all of you; may you all rejoice in the coming of spring as, Creative Play has!

Be well, be safe and be happy,

Renee Bucci
Director of Creative Play
Renee@gspr.org



Good Shepherd Youth: Bridge Walk

Good Shepherd Youth will be walking the Governor Cuomo Bridge on **Saturday, April 17**. **Meet us at the Westchester Landing at 10:45am**. We will walk to Nyack Memorial Park, and end the day with a socially distanced picnic. Email Cindy at Csealander@optonline.net if you are interested in attending.



We are planning to meet in person, on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. More details to be announced in "By The Way" and Cross Connections; look out for a postcard in the mail!

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 giving to 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.



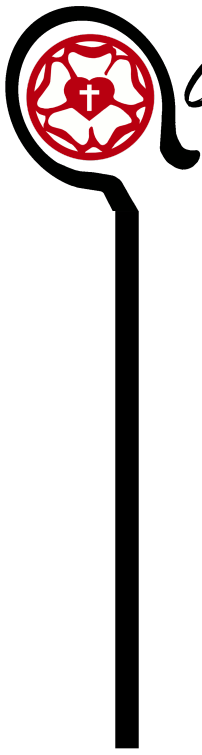
AMAZONSMILE: Use AmazonSmile to buy your personal gifts, while also giving to Good Shepherd! Agree to support us at <https://smile.amazon.com> and 0.05% of the profits will automatically be donated to us. Remember to use AmazonSmile, instead of Amazon in order for Good Shepherd to receive the donation. 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.

Masks for a cause!

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





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

112 N MAIN ST. PEARL RIVER, NY 10965
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MONSEY, NY
PERMIT NO. 6212

ORDER FORM EASTER FLOWERS

Deadline for order: March 21, 2021



In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____ (Suggested donation \$10)

Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd. Thank you!