



The Shepherd's Voice

Jesus

a rock in a weary land



FEBRUARY 2021

SERVING ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY & NORTHERN BERGEN COUNTY, NJ

It's hard to believe it's almost Lent. This year, Ash Wednesday is on February 17th. For Ash Wednesday this year, there will be an online service that will premiere at noon, and I'll be doing Ashes to Go at the church, from 1pm-3pm, and again from 5pm-7pm. I hope you'll stop by to get ashes. If you pull up and no one is around during that time, I'll be warming up in the entrance to the Education building.

And so, thus will begin Lent. Almost a whole year after we had to lock down, the first time, for COVID. Thinking about this, I really wanted our Lenten practice to reflect less on the usual things during Lent - the practices of fasting and giving things up - and more about God with us in the wilderness. We've kind of had a whole year of giving things up, and while there are a lot of promising signs, I have a feeling we have a ways to go. So, while we continue to live in the wilderness, where are the signs of God around us?

One frequent image of God in the wilderness, is as a rock. Rocks were used in the wilderness to mark holy places. Large rocks served as shelters in the night, and shade in the day. Rocks were guides in the landscape and likely places where water would be found.

So, during Lent, we're going to focus our collective prayer life around rocks. We will have a space cleared in front of the outdoor cross for you to come and leave a rock behind. Do you have something weighing on you? Something you need to set at the foot of the cross? Write or draw something to represent it on a rock and leave it at the cross. Need a rock to write on?

We'll make sure there are some available there. We will build, over the course of Lent, an Ebenezer together. Do remember what that is? It was a rock pile built by the Israelites, as they crossed over the Jordan into the promised land, to remind themselves that God had brought them this far along the way, and that God would lead them forward. So, at Easter, we can remember the same promise holds for us, as well. That even in death and resurrection, God goes with us.

Expect hymns and the reflections on Wednesday nights, which will be on YouTube, to also reflect on rocks. Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me. Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land. Built on a Rock, the Church Shall Stand ... we've got lots of hymns that we love, that reflect on God as a rock, in the middle of our uncertain world. A rock worth resting on.

And the series of reflections will be as follows:

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

Also, look out on our social media for more reflections and meditations, during this coming season. I hope that you will take time this Lent to reflect on God with you.

I hope you'll take some time to leave something at the foot of the cross. And I hope that we can journey together to the Resurrection Dawn.

Peace and all good,



Pastor Lena

Mask up!



We still have Good Shepherd masks available for purchase, at \$20 each. All of the 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!



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

Deaths

Ruth Lagerquist December 26, 2020
Ryan Joseph Reineke January 2, 2021

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN OUR OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday 10:30am - 4:30pm, Tuesday 10am-4:30pm
Wednesday 12pm-4pm, Thursday & Friday 10am-4pm**

While the Church Office remains open, we are operating with only one staff member in the office, at a time. This is for everyone's safety, as COVID cases are still on the rise. Call us before your arrival so we know to expect you. Masks are required and hand sanitizer will be available at all entry ways. There will be mandatory temperature checks along with a sign-in sheet. Thank you for your cooperation!

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
Timothy J Chew, Coordinator of Faith Formation
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 Hannifin
Linda Hecker
Mark Olson
Lucy Pinedo
Christopher Ryan
Debra Thaler
Tom Vislocky
Don Widmayer
*Non-voting

CHURCH OFFICE

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communications@gspr.org
www.gspr.org
@GoodShepherdPR



CREATIVE PLAY

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



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 on Thursday evenings. Email communications@gspr.org with your name 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.



While we are taking a pause from meeting in-person from worship, we are livestreaming on YouTube! Once the video is uploaded, it will be available to watch anytime after! **Join us, Wednesday Evenings, for Lenten services, from February 24 to March 31.** Pastor Lena also uploads regular reflections throughout the week. Subscribe to 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!

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.

During these unprecedented times, we are doing our very best at getting any last minute information out, throughout all our church communications, to the best of our ability. Please send your articles for the March 2021 Voice issue to Katy@gspr.org by **Thursday, February 18.** Thank you for your patience as we work to provide you with 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.

Ash Wednesday

February 17th

On Ash Wednesday, there will be an online YouTube service at 12pm. Pastor Lena will be giving "Ashes to-go," in the Good Shepherd parking lot, from 1-3pm & 5-7pm. Please wear your mask and respect social distancing guidelines!

Lenten Services

On Wednesdays during Lent, look out for evening services on our YouTube channel. Brian and Elaina will be sharing music, and so will a few special guests! There will also be a series of reflections, schedule below:

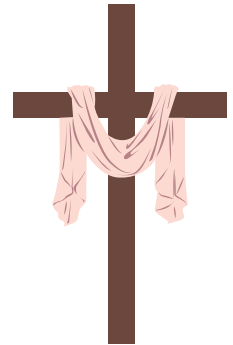
February 24 - Building Altars in the Wilderness

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Drive-Up CHURCH

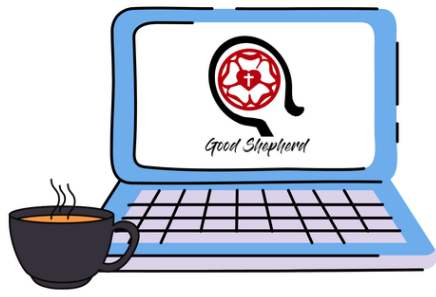
Upcoming dates:
2/14 & 3/14

All are welcome to our monthly drive-in services, on the second Sunday of every month, at 10:30am. 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!

PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE SANCTUARY

Tuesdays 4-7pm & Thursdays 10am-2pm

Masks are required and hand sanitizer will be available. Please sign in upon your arrival! Any questions, contact the Church Office at 845-735-2243



ZOOM into our Virtual Weekly Events!

Centering Prayer & Meditation

Fridays at 10am

Tim Chew will be leading a Friday morning Centering Prayer. We will begin with prayer requests, followed by a 20-minute silent meditation, and guided, centering prayer. For the Zoom login info, please email Tim at timj.leman@gmail.com.

Book Group

Wednesdays at 7pm

Beginning on February 10th, through March 31st, we will be 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. If you are interested in reading with us, please let Pastor Lena know (pastorlena@gspr.org).



Adult Bible Study

Thursdays at 6:30pm

Meeting ID: 839 8897 7895 Passcode: 204403

Pastor Lena will be leading us through 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 weekly, so feel free to stop in any week that works for you!



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Tim is sharing daily devotionals weekly, via Facebook. It is focused on Scripture, Reason, Tradition and Experience with fitness focus on Psalms, Planks and Prayers following the "Common Prayer" book for ordinary radicals. **Look out for the videos on our Facebook page at around noon on Fridays. Any questions, email Tim at timj.leman@gmail.com.**



50 Sanatorium Rd B, Pomona, NY 10970

For seniors, 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.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Saint Margaret of Antioch Church will host a six week Bereavement Support Program starting **Tuesday, February 9th. There will be two sessions: 10 AM for first time attendees and 11:30 AM for repeat attendees.**

Dates: February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16

Location: Saint Margaret's Doyle Center (room behind the elevator)
115 W Central Ave, Pearl River

Note: Limited attendance, masks & social distancing required



This is a safe place for the bereaved to share, to learn about grief & to receive support, empathy & acceptance. To register please call Tracey at the Parish Center Office, 845 735-4746 x 112.



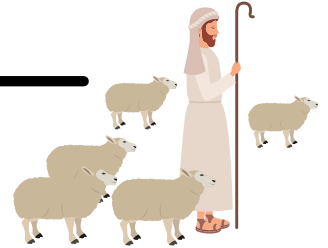
Happy Lunar New Year!

Chinese New Year is on Friday, February 12, and it is the year of the ox! The ox denotes the hard work, positivity and honesty that will be manifested in all of us in the coming 12 months. Happy Lunar New Year to those who celebrate.

SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Let's fill the shelves of *People to People* with cans of soup, and bring warmth and smiles to homes of Rockland County! Thank you for all your donations so far! **We are collecting cans of soup for *People to People* through February 7th! Drop off your soup donations any time during our Church Office hours. There will be a box in front of the Education Building.** Please call us before your arrival. As we snack and feast while watching the Super Bowl, let's remember those who are hungry for the very basics, especially this year. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

John 10:16 Project



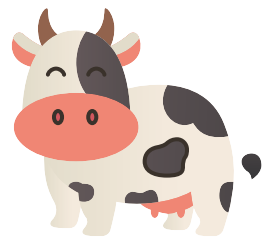
"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

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.

In December, 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 that 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



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 towards animals that are 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

Look out for more details in *Cross Connections* and "By The Way." Thank you for any contribution you can make! Let's fill our barn!

Pearl River Community friends,

Sincere appreciation to you, your members, and the wonderful donors, for your commitment and involvement in making this important drive happen during this vital time! The Pearl River Interfaith Blood Drive has been an annual January tradition for over 35 years, and despite the pandemic and challenging logistics, it was a success!

Mr. Jake Daniels helped greatly in helping us use Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as our drive site, to ensure this drive would happen, and volunteered to coordinate it all. Tremendous thanks to you Jake, for boundless patience and planning. Thank you for taking on this great responsibility.

We, at NYBC, know how critical blood inventories are each day; especially in the post-holiday and winter period. At these unprecedented times, the challenges are enormous and each unit is vital to continue providing for the numerous hospital commitments. Due to all of your efforts in communications, and raising awareness and commitment to the NYBC Blood Program, the ongoing blood supply continues to provide for many patients.

On Sunday, January 17, 2021, we received a total of 63 units of blood; providing aid to 189 patients.

Whole Blood: 47 units

Alyx: 16 units (8 Alyx/double red cell procedures)

(Each pint helping 3 patients when separated to components)

On behalf of the hospital patients, whom NYBC helps to save daily, thank you so much for your dedication and support during these unprecedented times. We appreciate your ongoing help, and I look forward to our future communications. It has been my pleasure to work with you!

Stay in touch, take care, and the very best to you and your families for the New Year. Hoping for safer times ahead!

Debra G. Kleinman, Manager of Business Development
New York Blood Center



28 Days of Kindness ♥

Every February, at Good Shepherd, we celebrate ways to be kind. This year, we will be posting daily acts of kindness on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Let's spread peace and positivity, and make the world a better place one small act at a time!



Creative Play News



All Alumni and Church Member Families,

Applications for the new school year 2021-2022 are now available in the school office. If you would like to register your child for a program for the next school year, please stop by the Creative Play Office to pick up an application. In order to assure placement in your preferred class, please apply by **February 12, 2021**. After this date we open up enrollment to new members.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the following classes will be available to your family, providing we have the minimum enrollment required to proceed with each of the classes:

- Time for Two Classes (call for available days)
- 1 day a week Toddler Classes (meets on Wednesdays & Thursdays)
- 2 day a week Toddler Class (2 hours, 9:45am – 11:45am, Tues. & Thurs.)
- 2 day 3-year-old classes (2.5 hours, 9:30am – 12:00pm)
- 3 day 3-year-old class (3 hours, 9:00am – 12:00pm)
- 3 day 3-year-old class (2.5 hours, 1:00pm – 3:30pm)
- 3 day 4-year-old class (2.5 hours, 9:30am – 12:00pm)
- 5 day 4-year-old classes (3 hours, 9:00am – 12:00pm)
- UPK (Universal Pre-Kindergarten classes offered in the morning and afternoon) **Your placement in one of our UPK classes is dependent on your approved application from the CCRR (Child Care Resources of Rockland) office.*
- Creative Creations, Enrichment afternoon classes

For the school year 2021-2022, we are again making an "opt-out" choice available to all families. By selecting this "opt-out" choice, you will pay a pre-determined amount, to cover some, or all of your workdays, in the classroom. The office will arrange to have your work days covered, after speaking with you, and determining your needs. We understand many families would love to attend Creative Play, but due to work and other obligations, cannot participate in the cooperative workdays. We have traditionally relied on families to help share the information regarding our school, and would appreciate your help, by sharing the above information with family and friends. While our classrooms will continue to reflect our mission of play with a purpose, we are excited to incorporate some new opportunities as well! If you have any questions regarding registration, please feel free to speak to me.

Be well, be safe, and be happy,

Renee Bucci, Director of Creative Play

Renee@gspr.org

GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH: BRIDGE WALK

We are planning a walk across the Governor Cuomo Bridge (formerly Tappan Zee), on a Saturday in March! More details TBA, look out for more information!





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! During our January drive-up service, we were blessed to have David Rothenberg and Inese Cederbaums offer beautiful music on the flute and piano. We were also happy to welcome Rianna Spero, in her liturgical dance offering, during one of our online services. We extend our gratitude to them for sharing their musical gifts with us!

We enjoyed sharing music with you on social media during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Thank you for all of your kind messages! We are grateful to know that you found these musical offerings uplifting. We are also planning to share more social media clips during Lent, so let us know if you would like to share anything with us!

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

♥ Ways to Give ♥

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 our mailbox at 112 N. Main St. Pearl River, NY 10965.



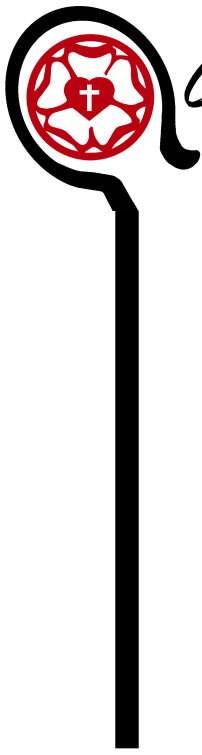
This time of uncertainty has been, and continues to be very hard not just for our community life, but also for the financial health of the congregation. If you are able, please consider signing up for online giving. Even a one-time special gift would be helpful. Thank you for your generosity in giving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

AMAZON SMILE 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 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!

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. Any questions, contact Cindy Sealander (csealander@optonline.net).



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



*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*

112 N MAIN ST. PEARL RIVER, NY 10965
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**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!