

The Shepherd's Voice

JUNE/JULY 2022

This summer, one of our book groups is reading *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian* by Brian McLaren. It's been a good read so far, inviting us into thinking differently about what Christianity is and should be. I thought, over the course of the summer, I might give you a little taste of what McLaren brings up and what I think.

Why? Because, as I said on Pentecost, the Church needs to change. That's big "C" church – not Good Shepherd itself, but the whole of Christianity is in need of reformation. Not just the ELCA, the denomination that we belong to, not just a couple of denominations in the United States, but all of those who claim to be followers of Jesus. And we, as a part of the whole, should be open to the winds of the Spirit as we walk in new ways, too.

I happen to think that Brian's book is incredibly compassionate to the church and to the ways that it needs to change. It is clear that he has a heart and love for the community of believers that is trying to follow Jesus even as he challenges our tendencies to cling to maybe not the wrong things, but not the main things.

In the first part of the book, Brian wrestles with the truth: that the main thing is not belief. The main thing is not getting the right doctrines (statements about God) or right theology (beliefs about God, the world, humans, the Bible, etc). The main thing isn't church structures or spiritual authority. The main thing isn't saying the right words or completing a checklist of "sacraments." The main thing, Brian reminds us, is love. "Though I speak in the tongues of men and or angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging symbol." Brian quotes from 1 Corinthians 13. Or there's always Jesus, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Brian actually quotes all of these wrong, substituting "right doctrines" and "right theory of atonement" for "love" to make a point how easy it is for us to miss the main point there. He writes, "In spite of the fact that no such statements can be found in the Scriptures, you can take this to the bank: when it comes to Christianity in many of its forms, have the right beliefs and you are in. Orthodox. Certified. Bona fide. Legit. But important as beliefs are, they are not the essential, unchanging, defining feature of Christianity."

This is perhaps a bit hard for us to wrap our heads around. Us, who week in and week out recite the creeds together and are taught all this theology stuff in Confirmation class. Us, who, worry about if we believe enough or the right things. Christianity is not so much about belief. But about love. Loving God as God has loved us. Loving neighbor as ourselves.

And commitment to that love should hold a deeper loyalty to us than any of our beliefs. Brian shares his experience of choosing to love and truly accept a gay friend over his denomination's theological conviction that LGBTQIA+ people are somehow sinful for their love, gender, or sexuality. I'm grateful to be a part of a denomination that does not believe such things but understands all people to be made in the image of God. And we understand that love comes from God and is a holy gift of God.

I appreciate, though, Brian's wrestling with his struggles around this and how he reminds us that such struggles and honest shifts in understanding make us more credible as people of faith because we are corrigible. Corrigible meaning that we can learn and change. Being willing to learn and change because of the experiences of our neighbors—especially those different from us—is one way that we show real love. And such love is life-giving and attractive. Such loving isn't a system of beliefs that we can ascent to on Sunday and then go about our lives unchanged, either.

That, I think, the main point that Brian would like to get to. Christianity isn't just a system of beliefs. It's a way of life. A way of living so that our faith in a loving, living God changes the way we are in the world. Brian writes, "If Christian faith can be redefined in this way, if our prime contribution to humanity can be shifted from teaching correct beliefs to practicing the way of love as Jesus taught, then our whole understanding and experience of the church could be transformed. That's why I'd like us to take a fresh look at the church as a school of love."

This captures my imagination for where the Spirit might be calling us as a community of faith. What does Good Shepherd look like as a school of love? How are we already such a thing? What new things might we do or stillness's might we keep (sometimes not doing is important to hear the Spirit, too) to become more of a school of love for each of us and for the community around us?

Interesting things to ponder this summer. I'd love to hear your thoughts!

Peace,



Pastor Lena





Reaching out in inclusive love and generosity
so that all may know the love of Jesus.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
112 N. Main Street Pearl River, NY 10965

Serving Rockland County, NY, and Northern Bergen County, NJ

LIFE STATIONS

DEATHS

Gloria Liebert May 25, 2022

Edwin Loch June 7, 2022

BAPTISM

Lynn Frances Griffith May 29, 2022

ATLAR GUILD FUND

In memory of Judith Jakobsen, given by the Altar Guild

MEMORIAL FUND

In loving memory of Gloria Liebert, given by Brightview Lake Tappan Resident Association

GOOD SHEPHERD FUND

In loving memory of Gloria Liebert, given by Gloria Murphy

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

In loving memory of Gloria Liebert, given by Gloria Murphy

AT YOUR SERVICE

The Reverend J. Lena Warren, Pastor

George Boothby, 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

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

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George Boothby, President

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Tom Vislocky

CHURCH OFFICE

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

 [YouTube .com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver](https://www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver)  [@GoodShepherdPR](https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdPR)

CREATIVE PLAY

845-735-2737 | renee@gspr.org | www.goodshepherdcreativeplay.com | [@GoodShepherdCreativePlay](https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdCreativePlay) 

Hours of Operation M-F 8am-4pm

JULY 1 - AUGUST 31, the Creative Play office will be open Tuesdays - Thursdays from 8am-2pm.

Lord Jesus Christ, your own mother looked on when your life ended in violence. Our hearts are pierced with grief and anger at the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas. We commend the slain to your wounded hands, and their loved ones to your merciful heart, trusting only in the promise that your love is stronger than death, and that even now, you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

For victims of the the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas and for their loved ones...
For all people, families, and communities affected by gun violence...
For local, state, and federal lawmakers, that justice, peace, and safety may prevail...
For students and graduates at the end of this school year (especially local institutions)...
For families searching for infant formula to feed their children, and for affordable access to safe, healthy nourishment for all people...
For families and friends remembering loved ones who died while serving in the United States armed forces on this Memorial Day weekend...
For peace between nations and an end to war across the globe...

Good Shepherd Prayer Chain


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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

IN-PERSON 8:15am & 10:30am*

*10:30 livestream available!



www.  YouTube .com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver

You are welcome here

LEAD A WORSHIP SERVICE! We are looking for **Hosts, Greeters, Ushers, and Readers** to help us lead Sunday worship services. No experience needed! If you'd like to volunteer, please sign up at the links provided. If you're joining us for worship, there will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary. Any questions, please contact Gina@gspr.org.

JUNE

June 5, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/EDXB | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/7K97X

June 12, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/9DT34 | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/CRPEM

June 19, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/HH3RD | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/8L3EK

JULY

July 3, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/FM7BB | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/8QJMM

July 10, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/9DT34 | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/CRPEM

July 17, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/HH3RD | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/8L3EK

July 24, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/39R9Q | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/AATHD

July 31, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/PFRL9 | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/QMWTK

AUGUST

Aug 7, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/EDXB | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/7K97X

Aug 14, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/8LFWW | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/WYYEX

Aug 21, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/E3PFP | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/F3YWX

Aug 28, 8:15am volunteersignup.org/YCJC4 | 10:30am volunteersignup.org/JPPJH

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

845.735.2243

We recommend calling prior to your arrival!

M, W, Th, F 12-4pm
(Closed Tuesdays)



COFFEE HOUR HOST SCHEDULE

June 5: Carol & Susan Hoerter

June 12: Donna & Keith Skoog

June 26: Donna Duffy

We will have Coffee Hour in the Church Parlor after 10:30 worship through the end of June, excluding Father's Day, and will return in September. If you'd like to host a Coffee Hour, after 10:30 worship, please contact Lynn Casey (LynnLarsonCasey@gmail.com)



Community Gardens



Have you ever thought about wanting to have a small garden but live in an apartment where there is no place for one? Good Shepherd has **10 garden spots (4 x 8)**, next to the playground, available for anyone in the community who doesn't have a yard of their own to grow a garden. We even have expert gardeners who are happy to lend words of wisdom and advice if you need a little help! If you are interested, please contact the **Church Office at 845-735-2243**. Gardens will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, and to maintain a fair and safe community for everyone, there is a garden agreement to be signed.

"Then his father said, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.'" -Luke 15:31

Father's
— DAY —

Join Us!

Coffee & Conversation

**Thursdays, 3pm, Dean's Coffee Co.
39 E Central Ave. Pearl River**

Meet Pastor Lena on Thursday afternoons and support our local coffee shop! Feel free to bring a friend.

WELCA

WELCA enjoyed their Summer Luncheon at Joe and Joe's in Pearl River. We will not be meeting in July and August, but will resume with a very important meeting on September, after Labor Day, to decide how we will continue to go forward. **If you have any questions or need a ride, please call Barbara Bow at 845-521-2611 or Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638.**



Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, June 18, 9am, Fellowship Hall



All men of Good Shepherd are invited to join us for breakfast, fellowship, and opportunities for service. If you have any questions, please contact **Herman Mensing** (himensing@gmail.com).

Lemonade on the Lawn

SAVE THE DATES! Lemonade on the Lawn returns on **Sunday, July 24 and August 14, after 10:30 worship.** Join us outdoors for refreshments, fresh-squeezed lemonade, and a special surprise for the kids! *In case of rain, we will gather in Fellowship Hall.*



Be a Volunteer!

We are always looking for volunteers at Good Shepherd. Check out our community events, below, or contact Volunteer Coordinator, Gina@gspr.org, to find out how you can lend a helping hand.

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*.

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 past volunteers, Denise Guadagnino & Brenda Olson! We are looking for volunteers every third Saturday of the month, at 9:30am. If you're interested in helping out, sign up online at volunteersignup.org/XRRJQ. Thank you!

Summer Collection



For the months of June, July, and August, we will be collecting non-perishable salad fixings (canned tuna/chicken, beans, dressing, olives, pickles, oil/vinegar, etc) for *People to People*. There will be a box for your donations at the entrance to the Education Building. Thank you for your donations!

If you'd like to volunteer to deliver our donations to *People to People*, sign up online at volunteersignup.org/BECRW, then call/text **Gina at 845-587-0904** to set up a time.

Creative Play News



“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.” – Fred Rogers

When children feel safe, they can take risks, ask questions, make mistakes, learn to trust, share their feelings, and grow. We strive to create an atmosphere where not only our students feel safe, but their families as well as our staff, here at Creative Play. We help our children to express themselves, to be heard, and to gain confidence. The past couple of years, “safe” has taken on a different message, and we are proud that our program was able to keep our students safe in all meanings of the word.

Creative Play is winding down from the school year. The last day of our 2 and 3-year-old classes is June 10th. On Monday, June 13th, our 4-year-old Creative Play students will celebrate their graduation in the Sanctuary! Our UPK students will celebrate their graduation day on Wednesday, June 22nd. We cherish these are exciting times as we look forward to where they are headed.

Letters have been sent out to our families to the 2 and 3-year-old participants for the 2022-2023 school year. We await the UPK lottery drawing in order for us to finalize our 4-year-old classes for the upcoming school year. Our enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year has approximately 170 students.

Our Creative Play family wishes all of you a very happy and relaxed Father’s Day! Thank you to all the men who give our children kindness, support, and love!

I once again would like to thank my incredible staff for their smiling dispositions throughout another challenging school year. These women are deserving of a relaxed, fun-filled summer, and I hope it moves slooowly for them, lol!

Don’t be sad that it is over, be happy that it happened!

Renee Bucci

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



Sunday School

is on Summer break!



A big shoutout to all of our awesome Sunday School teachers! We had a fantastic year and were so happy to be able to meet in-person again. If you'd like to enroll in Sunday Church School next year, please call the Church Office (845.735.2243) for more information. Have a happy and healthy summer!

CLASS OF 2022

Matthew Balison will be graduating as Salutatorian from Pearl River High School and attending The University of Virginia.

Daniel Bowman is graduating from Nanuet High School and will be attending The University of Delaware's pre-physical therapy program with a focus in exercise science.

Ashley Munno is graduating from Pearl River High School.

Congrats!

Dear Good Shepherd Families,

Thank you to all who offered their time and talents to the music ministry this year. We are so grateful for the warm and welcoming environment that you have helped us to foster here!

Our sanctuary choir and children's choir will continue leading us in worship through Pentecost Sunday, June 5th. We would like to extend our gratitude to them for their dedicated service to our congregation. Our sanctuary choir will gather to sing an anthem this summer, so keep an eye out for the upcoming summer date and sing with us if you are able!

If you would like to join our sanctuary choir or children's choir in the fall, please know that you are always welcome to sing with us! Our sanctuary choir meets every Sunday at 9:30am and every Thursday at 7:00pm, and our children's choir meets every Sunday at 10:00am.

Our band will continue to rehearse two Sundays a month, immediately following the 10:30am worship service, and they will lead worship again during the summer. Join us in the sanctuary to make some music together as we prepare to lead a worship service!

If you would like to join us in serving our congregation through music, please let us know or simply drop by the choir room! All are welcome!

Sundays

- **Choir Rehearsal in the choir room - 9:30am-10:00am**
- **Children's Choir in the choir room - 10:00am-10:20am**

Thursdays

- **Bell Choir Rehearsal in the choir room at 6:15pm**
- **Choir Rehearsal in the choir room at 7:00pm**

Thank you!

Elaina and Brian Burns
elainaburnsmusic@gmail.com

MUSIC 
at Good Shepherd 



EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

honoring

James Fanshawe
Christopher Kowalski
Vincent McAllister
Thomas Pittignano
Daniel Wynne

Troop 36



CREATIVE PLAY GIVES THANKS TO TROOP 36

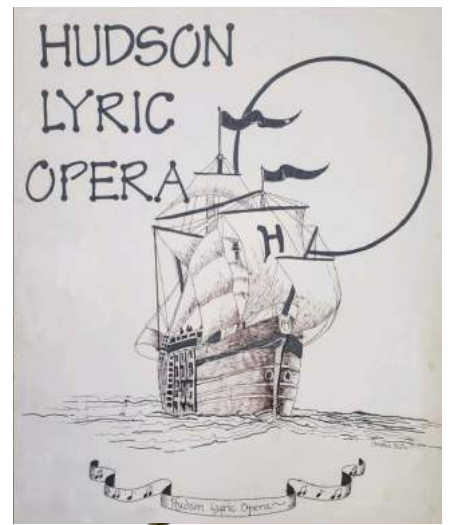
We would like to thank Troop 36 for the work the Scouts did on our playground. It will certainly add to the fun our students will enjoy. The space they created will be filled with color, creativity, and pure enjoyment! On behalf of Creative Play, we thank the Scouts for accepting this project and being diligent in fulfilling the work with such quality.

With much appreciation,

Renee Bucci, Creative Play Director

2022 Spring Fling Opera Concert

Saturday, June 11 & 18, 3pm



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

112 N Main St. Pearl River, NY, Sanctuary

\$20 ADULTS, \$15 SENIORS & STUDENTS (cash/check)

Working Together Rockland

Continuing Conversations on **Racial & Gender Justice**

ZOOM MEETING SCHEDULE

Feel free to attend weekly, monthly or to drop in whenever your schedule allows.

**LAST MONDAYS
OF THE MONTH**
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**SECOND WEDNESDAYS
OF THE MONTH**
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

EVERY THURSDAY
*BIPOC and white affinity breakout
groups every 3rd Thursday*
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86595094938>

Meeting ID: 865 9509 4938

Working Together Rockland: Continuing Conversations on Racial and Gender Justice, are facilitated by Center for Safety & Change staff, Nikki Hines, Director of Community Engagement & Social Change and Phyllis B. Frank, Chief Program Officer. The meetings are designed to deepen understanding of materials taught in the Getting to the Root and Undoing Racism workshops that have been provided in Rockland County for more than 25 years. All are welcome to join the conversations – workshop graduates, those who have not yet attended, educators, health and human service providers, criminal justice and law enforcement professionals and all interested individuals from Rockland County and beyond. It is fine to drop in as your schedule allows. Consistent attendance is neither required nor expected.

Systemic racism exists, advantaging white people while disadvantaging those who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color. To get real and do something about it, we must be willing to talk.

Stay involved. Be the change. Start today.



24-Hour Hotline: (845) 634-3344
24-Hour Mobile Text: (845) 286-4997
24-Hour Web Chat: centerforsafetyandchange.org
Tel: (845) 634-3391 | centerforsafetyandchange.org



35th Annual 5K Run/Walk IN-PERSON

Saturday, July 9, 7:45am
Rockland Lake State Park
VIRTUAL OPTION: July 9-12

LEARN MORE & REGISTER NOW:
WomensDistanceFestival.com

●●●●●●●●●● *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.



Visit our website at www.gspr.org, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram, @GoodShepherdPr, for the latest, up-to-date information!

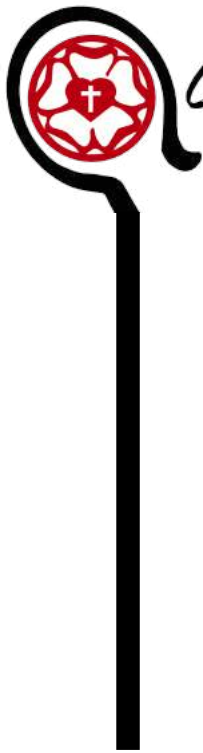


Subscribe to our YouTube channel and receive alerts when new videos are posted! Go to www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver.



GO DIGITAL! Having trouble receiving *The Shepherd's Voice* on time? Opt for our digital newsletter, instead. Email communications@gspr.org to sign up for our E-Voice.

Please send your articles for the August 2022 Voice issue to Katy@gspr.org by July 21. 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.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

112 N MAIN ST. PEARL RIVER, NY 10965
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NON-PROFIT ORG
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PERMIT NO. 6212

Ways to Give

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 with the \$ amount**, then follow the instructions given. For further assistance, you can also message **ASSIST, FUNDS, or EDIT**.

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

IN PERSON: Bring your offering to a worship service.



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, in support of our Youth. 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.



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.**