



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

January 2016

Pastor's Message

Thoughts for a New Year

The other day when I came back from a short vacation, it was clear that I needed to clean out the refrigerator. You know the signs – you open the door and an odor that is less- than- fresh emerges. It was clear that it wasn't going to be enough just to throw out the leftovers that I had held on to since before Christmas.

So I proceeded to take everything out: shelf by shelf, drawer by drawer. I put the cans and bottles on the kitchen floor as I cleaned each shelf top. I even took out the vegetable/fruit bins and washed them in the sink. This was a thorough cleaning!

What goes along with a head-to-toe cleaning is throwing stuff out. Not just the food that has outlasted its expiration date – but also what has been in the fridge for over a year and has never been considered important: a container of honey butter, the jar of capers, the two bottles of fish sauce, the third jug of Newman's Own Balsamic Vinegar Salad Dressing. It was time to be ruthless, and get rid of it all, pour it down the drain, start anew.

This entire process (which resulted in a clean – and less cluttered – refrigerator) brought to mind the challenges of a new year. So many of us contemplate making New Year's Resolutions – promises we make to ourselves – and the universe – of habits we intend to break, and new patterns of behavior we'd like to take on. The challenge of these resolutions is that, as well meaning as we are, it's difficult to continue to carry on the positive energy that led to these resolutions in the first place.

I'm wondering what it might be like if we took the

beginning of 2016 as an opportunity to throw out all the “stuff” that is expired, is no longer interesting, or is just so old that we don't need to think about it anymore. What would it be like if we got rid of the memories that haunt us, the list of “should-” or “could-” haves that make us feel like failures, and the pile of stuff that we have collected thinking that we could use it some day, and realize that while we *might*, it's not likely that we will?

What might it be like if, instead of focusing on things we want to do in the future, we look to our past and get rid of the “stuff” that weighs us down – the memories of things we wish we had not done, the moments when our feelings have been hurt, and the long list of things we'd like to do that we know will never happen? What if we just took a moment to breathe and accept that where we are, right now, is exactly the place we are meant to be – even if it's not where we expected? What might our New Year look like if we just threw out all this stuff from years past, and started with a clean slate; a clean future that is not defined by what we have done in the past (whether or not it succeeded).

At the end of the day, my refrigerator was gleaming; I moved a shelf to better accommodate the containers I most often use, I put together those beverages that I keep cold for guests but that I don't consume myself, and I made space for new food that I might add in the next few weeks (it always seems that when I bring home new food, there is never room in the refrigerator – sound familiar?)

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

- 1/10 Confirmation with Pastor
- 1/20 Book Club
- 1/24 Confirmation cluster at LCGS
- 1/28 Council meeting

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
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The Staff Editor

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Council Members
1/1/16—12/31/16

President	Linda Kapitan
Vice-President	~vacant~
Treasurer	John Downs
Secretary	Brenda Samal
Christian Education	Brianne Papa
Evangelism/ Publicity	Starr O'Connor
Fellowship	Sue Landino & Emma Barnes
Financial Secretary	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Stewardship/ Missions	Sue Hartley
Property	James Learned
Worship	Ken Watson



	Pastor Daphne	Barbara Kuslan & family
	Leroy Elfriede	Anna
Stacy Holly	Jessika	Mary Lou
John W. Sue	Kathy D.	Victoria
Joy Marianne	CindyLu	Pam
Harold Arnold	Catherine	Mike
Rex Gertrude	Howard	Paul Barnes
Alex Linda & Darryl	Amanda	John
Abby Joe & Peg	Emily	Alex

*Members of Good Shepherd who are homebound
Family and friends whom we name in our hearts
Military personnel*

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Annual reports are due to Brenda by January 31.

All 2015 council members are asked to write a synopsis of the past year's activities.

(Pastor's Message... continued from page 1)

How might we look upon the New Year as an opportunity to clean out our proverbial refrigerators –and make room for what might God have in store for us? What old burdens might we leave behind? What new experiences might we be open to have?

May the blessings and promises of the New Year open each of our hearts to new opportunities to love and serve the God who loves us more than we can ever imagine.

Pastor Daphne †

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

January

- 10- LCGS only
- 24- BERGS cluster at LCGS. We provide lunch.

February

- 7- LCGS only
- 21- BERGS cluster at Resurrection
158 Davenport Avenue
New Haven. We will carpool.

March

- 6- LCGS only
- 22- BERGS cluster at Bethesda
305 St. Ronan Street
New Haven. We will carpool.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Brian Lee email: beelee51@gmail.com

Chuddy Watson cell: 203-927-9314

Anthony & Brianne Papa address change:
52 Deepwood Drive, Cheshire, CT

See pictures of Leonard & Ruth Lye
and Brian Lee and Megan Bishop



(l-r) Megan, Brian & Pastor



Leonard & Ruth Lye

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
1/3	Anthony Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Barbara Kuslan	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Liane Moreland
1/10	Aidan Weishedel	Paul O’Braonain	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O’Connor
1/17	Emily Olson	Linda Kapitan	Sue Hartley	Linda Kapitan	Sue Hartley James Learned	Lisa Martinell
1/24	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Dottie Podgwaite Ken Watson	Chuddy Watson
1/31	Nicholas Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Barbara Kuslan	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Liane Moreland
2/7	Jonathan Olson	Paul O’Braonain	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O’Connor

It would be nice if we had one more person to read and we could always use more help with the other service jobs. Please see Pastor or Ken Watson to learn more.

If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please find a substitute, and make the change on the master schedule. Thank you for your service!



To Dorothy Podgwaite- for getting the linoleum tile floors cleaned and waxed.

To the congregation- for your generous toy donations for the children who attend the Keefe Community Center after school program. (See picture on page 5)

Thank you for the Christmas gift. Your generosity and thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. Wishing you, your family and friends a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year. *Brenda Samal*



Celebration following Voters’ meeting on 12/20/15 in recognition of Barbara Kuslan’s many, many years in various positions on council.

Council & Voters' Notes



Council met on 12/10 and there was a voters' meeting on 12/20.

Council- Pastor has been trying to visit the ill and homebound on Tuesdays & Thursdays. She discussed getting a group together to go caroling to four people- Joy Downs, Elfriede Fleischmann, John Wright and Leroy Lucky. (See picture on page 6) The mild weather has helped the financial picture because of reduced heating costs and no snowplowing. Jim is securing estimates for snowplowing. Council reviewed the Reconciling with Christ process. A committee should be formed by the next council meeting. Barbara Kuslan volunteered to serve. The annual voters' meeting is 2/21/16.

Voters'- Pastor reported that she has been visiting the infirmed and meeting with area clergy. The office copier is breaking down and is missing a part that cannot be replaced. Since the September voters', pastor attended Bishop Hazelwood's convocation of rostered leaders. The financial reports show a year-to-date loss of \$2,440.24. Synod mission pledge is over what was pledged. Thrivent Dollars will be reflected in the December report. Sunday School will resume in January as Brianne has offered to serve as Christian Education. There are seven youth attending confirmation classes. John reviewed the proposed 2016 budget and it was accepted as presented. The slate of council for 2016 was presented and approved. (See page 2 of new members.)

There was discussion about the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Council approved reviewing the process in the new year but the congregation has the final say. Also in the new year will be a stewardship campaign that is part of Bishop Hazelwood's Ask, Thank, Tell campaign. Consecration Sunday is planned to occur before Easter. The congregation will be informed of each step in these processes.

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

- 7-Byron & Miranda Dinkla 38 years
- 9-Rob & Sue Landino 35 years
- 18-Richard & Holly Rosa 30 years

Birthdays

- 1-Starr O'Connor
- 7-Tracy Costa
- 13-Christopher Costa
- 14-Roman Costa
- 14-Gary Olson
- 14-Marianne Turner
- 14-Emma Ingerson
- 15-Brian Moreland
- 19-Destiny Dinkla
- 20-Ken Watson
- 31-Thomas Samal



Baptisms

- Stacy Barnes, David Goodrich,
- Christopher Knoob, Michaela Rowold,
- Brenda Samal, Carl Sharon



Toy donations to Keefe Community Center



Special Christmas Caroling

Pastor, David, Leo, Jonathan and Lisa, Nicholas and Liane, Ken and Chuddy, Sue, Mary Lou and Trish brightened the day for homebound member John on December 24. They also visited and sang carols to Elfriede and Joy. After caroling the group enjoyed a nice lunch together.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Birthday Memorial**

We have been invited to join the congregation of Mishkan Israel in celebrating the birthday anniversary of Dr. King. He dedicated their sanctuary in 1961 and every since his assassination in 1968 Mishkan Israel has held a memorial tribute. The service will take place on Friday evening (Shabbat) January 15 at 7:30. Along with their Cantor, music will be provided by the Afro-Semitic Experience, a Jazz group that combines Black-Jewish ritual themes and our speaker that evening will be David Goodman, brother of Andy Goodman, one of the three martyrs killed in Mississippi in 1964. David is President of the Andrew Goodman Foundation that promotes and fosters civil/human rights in our country

FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2015

	2015	11/12 of 2015 ADJUSTED BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2015 through Nov
Receipts thru November	\$73,127	\$78,630	(\$5,503)	\$72,164
Expenses thru November	\$75,567	\$78,630	(\$3,063)	\$78,291
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$2,440)	\$0	(\$2,440)	(\$6,127)

Our total Operating giving for NOVEMBER 2015 was \$7,392 and expenses were \$6,562 giving us a surplus of \$830—decreasing our prior deficit of \$3,270 into year-to-date deficit of \$2,440. This compares to a deficit of \$6,127 thru November of last year. Usually December is one of our better giving months of the year. With the mild, snowless winter so far, we pray that we may be able to further reduce the deficit.

John E. Downs, Treasurer