



# THE STAFF

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

January 2017

### *Pastor's Message-*

#### **Half-empty or half-full?**

Everyone has heard that conundrum: if there are 4 ounces of liquid in an 8 ounce glass, is the glass half-empty or half-full? Supposedly your answer reveals whether or not you are an optimist. I suspect it won't surprise you to read that I always see the glass half full!

Recently I read an op-ed piece in the *New York Times*<sup>1</sup> in which the commentator noted that one can divide this country between those who think that humans are fundamentally bad and those who think that humans are fundamentally good. The former believe that we are born bad, and have to be taught to be good. The latter believe that we are born good, and if we behave badly, we can learn how to return to our natural (good) state. The author then noted that these are fundamentally *religious* beliefs – and what we believe about human nature says a lot about what we believe about God. One group believes we need God to keep us in line with threats of punishment and blame. The other group believes that God is created us good, and forces outside ourselves cause us to act badly. Remove the outside influence and we can get back to our naturally good selves.

Clearly, the author hasn't met many Lutherans. As we begin to celebrate the 500th year of our founder, Martin Luther, it is worth remembering his insistence on both/and: we are both saved AND sinner, *simul iustus et peccator*. As Lutherans, we walk the precarious line between believing in the goodness of God, and therefore God's creation (including our selves!), and the bone-deep awareness that, left to our own devices, we will constantly move away from our good selves and rarely do the right thing, or even the good thing. What differentiates us from conservative evangelical

Christians is that important both/and: while we do believe that "too err is human," we also cling to the knowledge that "to forgive is divine." No matter what we have done to hurt others, or ourselves, in our baptisms we know that we are forgiven, daily, and always given an opportunity to start all over again. That ability to turn away from sin and towards God is a daily walk, struggle, journey, and gift; and the knowledge that we are beloved with a love that passes all understanding is a mystery that gives us hope – hope for ourselves, and hope for humanity. If God can forgive and love *even someone like me*, then surely God can forgive and love someone like you!

It never occurred to me to think about whether Lutherans were particularly optimistic or pessimistic about life – certainly you can find both in every congregation and parish – but there is something wonderful in recalling that if, at our deepest core, we are loved and loveable, then we can always "return to the Lord," and return to our truest selves – the good people that God created us to be. Are we capable of tremendous, mind-boggling, sin? Absolutely. But after our baptisms, we acknowledge a sea-change in our human nature and can always turn toward the good.

*(continued on page 3)*

#### **Upcoming Events**

- |      |                           |
|------|---------------------------|
| 1/24 | Council meeting           |
| 1/25 | Confirmation<br>Book Club |
| 2/21 | Council meeting           |
| 2/26 | Annual Voters' Meeting    |

[www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar](http://www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar)

<sup>1</sup>Robert Leonard, "Why Rural America voted for Trump," *New York Times*, Jan 5, 2017.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**  
3680 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden CT 06518-1516  
(203) 248-7420

**The Rev. Dr. Daphne Burt**  
Office— 203-248-7420  
Cell—401-924-4673

[www.goodshepherdhamden.org](http://www.goodshepherdhamden.org)

***The Staff Editor***

Brenda Samal  
E-mail: [bsamal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsamal@sbcglobal.net)

**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	Paul O’Braonain
Fellowship	Emma Barnes & Liane Moreland
Financial Secretary	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Stewardship/ Missions	Sue Hartley
Property	James Learned
Worship	Ken Watson



	Pastor	Paul & Stacy
	Daphne	Barnes
John	Elfriede	Anna
Downs & family		
Family of Holly	Lisa	Mary Lou
John W.	B-G	
Jimmy	Sue	Amanda Victoria
Emily	Marianne	CindyLu Pam
Harold	Arnold	Pat Mike
Rex	Gertrude	Howard Emily L.
Alex	Linda & Darryl	Dube Bill & family Ellen
Abby	John	Alan Francisco V.
Lisa		
Martinell & family	Barbara	Starr O.
Sally B.	Rob L.	David R.

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



I would like to thank everyone for the generous Christmas gift. My heart is filled with your kindness.

Wishing you and your family a New Year filled with that same kindness and good health and happiness.  
*Brenda*

*Thank  
YOU*

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

There are many things about each one of us that distinguishes and divides us from one another. In many ways, this is a blessing – if we were all alike, conversation would get really boring fast! The challenge, of course, is when we think that what divides us is more important than what unites us, or vice-versa. The fact is, *both* are true. Humans are by our nature tricky beings to get along with; none of us come with an instruction sheet and all of us change over time. As Lutherans, we are called to *constant reformation* – of ourselves, our assumptions, and our actions. Being able to see the best in ourselves should shine a light through our hearts so that we might be able to see the best in others. This being the case, what matters is that we are called to share this space with people who are different from we are, and to offer them the same love, respect, compassion and care that we want for ourselves. Will we get burned? Sometimes. But far better to expect the best and be surprised sometimes, than to expect the worst, and never notice the good that surrounds us.

Peace and all blessings for 2017!

*Pastor Daphne †*

### **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!**

Dear members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

Thank you so very much for your kind Christmas gift. It brings me such joy to be your pastor, and I am so grateful for your generosity! In keeping with our practice as a congregation, I gave 10% away to a non-profit I support.

May we all grow together in God's love this year!

*Pastor Daphne*



## **JANUARY CELEBRATIONS**

### **Anniversaries**

7-Byron & Miranda Dinkla	39 years
9-Rob & Sue Landino	36 years
18-Richard & Holly Rosa	31 years

### **Birthdays**

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



### **Baptisms**

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

## **CONNECT – Congregations United for a Better Connecticut**

Many local congregations are members of the organization CONECT, which last year did tremendous work on ending gun violence locally and nationally, and mobilized to remove the liquor license from Slyce Pizza in Hamden, the location of a number of shootings. CONECT congregations are now in the learning phase about the Sanctuary Congregations movement.

There will be a meeting/rally on January 24 at 7:00 pm at St. Rose of Lima in Fairhaven. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Daphne know!

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
1/1/17	Anthony Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Emma Barnes	Barbara Kuslan	John Downs Lisa Martinell	Lisa Martinell
1/8	Aoife Weishedel	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Paul O'Braonain	Linda Kapitan	Goodrich family	Liane Moreland
1/15	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Ken Watson	Emma Barnes	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
1/22	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Sue Hartley	Paul O'Braonain	Reggie Chang	James Learned Sue Hartley	Starr O'Connor
1/29	Jonathan Olson	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Emma Barnes	Barbara Kuslan	John Downs Lisa Martinell	Lisa Martinell
2/5	Aidan Weishedel	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson

*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!*

### FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2016

	2016	11/12 of 2016 BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2015 thru November
Receipts thru November	\$66,890	\$85,585	(\$18,695)	\$73,127
Expenses thru November	\$77,341	\$85,585	(\$8,244)	\$75,567
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$10,451)	\$0	(\$10,451)	(\$2,440)

Our total Operating giving for NOVEMBER 2016 was \$6,894 and our expenses were \$6,778 giving us a gain for the month of \$116 decreasing our year-to-date loss to \$10,451. As the above shows our giving this year is behind last year by \$6,237 and behind our budget by \$18,695. Our average expenses are below our budget by about 10 % and only \$1,774 over last year thru November. With December receipts of \$8,993 we should be able to reduce our deficit to under \$10,000 for the year.

Through November of 2016 we have received \$5,435 toward our New England Synod annual pledge of \$6050. With December's receipts, we should reach our commitment.

*John E. Downs, Treasurer*

## 50th Anniversary Special Events Christian Community Action

**Sunday January 29, 4:00 pm**

“Lift Ev’ry Voice in Song”

Star of Jacob Christian Church  
506 Howard Avenue, New Haven

**Tuesday April 25, 5 – 7 pm**

“Compassion to Action... the Road to Hope”

*Featuring Juan Salgado and  
Matthew Desmond, PhD,  
2015 MacArthur Genius Award Recipients*  
Hill Regional Career High School  
140 Legion Avenue, New Haven

**Saturday July 8, Noon – 5 pm**

“Festival of Food, Fun & Family”

Magnet School of International Communications  
569 Congress Avenue, New Haven.

For more information: [cca50th@ccahelping.org](mailto:cca50th@ccahelping.org), or  
call 203-777-7848

### **IMBY (In My BackYard) Awards**

Thanks to a generous donation of Bernie Kapitan, our congregation has the ability to make a difference throughout the area by supporting the work of local non-profits. We are looking for 2 or 3 people who would like to serve on the Steering Committee.

Please contact Pastor Daphne or Linda Kapitan.




### **CONFIRMATION AND PIZZA!**

Confirmation class begins anew on Wednesday, January 25 at 4:30 pm at the Church.

**All parents and students are expected to attend!**

We will be reviewing the confirmation material called “Manna and Mercy,” and going over expectations, etc. And eating pizza!

### Voters’ Notes

A voters’ meeting was held on 12/4/16.  Pastor reviewed the visits she made to the ill and homebound. She has been here over four years and is very grateful to be our pastor. She also reviewed past and future church events. John had to transfer \$1,000 from savings to checking since the last voters’ meeting in September. We will probably end the year under budget for giving. There was discussion on where to designate 2016 Thrivent Choice Dollars. Ruth suggested Refugee Relief. Brianne reported the Sunday School curriculum now incorporates music and videos. Thank you to Brianne for researching and organizing the installation of the new playscape. Jim repaired wood on the ramp and added an aluminum plate to make it sturdy. The parsonage and garage were re-roofed and trees along the driveway trimmed. The proposed 2017 budget was reviewed and approved. The 2017 proposed slate of council was presented and approved.

*President:* Linda Kapitan, *Vice-President:* open, *Treasurer:* John Downs, *Financial Secretary:* Lisa Ball-Goodrich, *Secretary:* Brenda Samal, *Christian Education:* Brianne Papa, *Worship:* Ken Watson, *Evangelism:* Paul O’Braonain, *Fellowship:* Emma Barnes & Liane Moreland, *Property:* James Learned, *Stewardship/Missions:* Sue Hartley.





### **Pastor Daphne is celebrating 30 years of ordained ministry!**

On Sunday, February 1, 1987, Daphne Llewellyn Burt was ordained *Pastor Daphne Llewellyn Burt* at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta Georgia. At least 15 clergy - Lutheran, Episcopalian, United Methodist and Roman Catholic - joined the outgoing bishop, Gerry Troutman, and the incoming bishop, Harold Skilrud, in the laying on of hands. Pastor Daphne was the fifth woman to be ordained in the Southeastern Synod, and the first at Redeemer. She celebrated communion for the first time on February 2 at Luther Homes, a senior living community next door to Redeemer.

Pastor Daphne's first call was to Christ Church in Bristol, Tennessee. From there she served as chaplain to Newberry College in Columbia, SC, and then went to be the pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Boone, NC. After Bethany, Pastor Daphne became transition pastor at Mary and Martha Lutheran Church in Durham, NC, then moved to Virginia to be the campus minister at the Campus Christian Community, serving Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA. From Virginia, Pastor Daphne moved to Chicago, where she was Associate Dean of Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago; then she returned to Virginia as Chaplain to the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia. After the University of Richmond, Pastor Daphne was Religion teacher and Chaplain at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH and the Williston Northampton School in Easthampton, MA. She came to us after having been interim pastor of Trinity Lutheran on Staten Island.

That's lots of ministry to celebrate!

As called Christians responding to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20), we commit ourselves to nurturing the spiritual growth of our congregation by proclaiming the Gospel, bearing witness to God's saving grace, being stewards of the earth, and serving others, in our congregation, our community, and in all the world.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
MISSION STATEMENT**

**Worship 10:30am**

**Sunday School 9:30am**

**Worship**



**THE STAFF**

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
3680 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden CT 06518-1516

FIRST CLASS MAIL