



# THE STAFF

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

January 2019

### *Pastor's Message*

Dear Friends,

Year-end lists summarizing highlights of the months now in the rear view mirror are common in the closing days of December. It can be a helpful exercise — trying to encapsulate the year past into some brief notes that help tie together where we've been and where we stand at the edge of a new year.

So here's my attempt at looking back on our life together at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in 2018 along with one note about the year ahead...seven reflections plus a half-note of personal privilege.

- **Resilience.** Transitions in leadership always bring challenges to the sturdiness of a congregation. You have shown good strength through the days of change from Pastor Burt's vibrant, nearly full time ministry to the very part-time ministry to which I have been invited to share with you while we work together to seek constructive future directions.
- **Honest sense of reality.** Together we have taken an honest look at the challenges and opportunities of being a small congregation in membership size (but not in heart). We have come to appreciate the strengths of this community of faith, and the limitations which pretty much keep us to being a Sunday morning church with our ministry centered around lively worship and community building with occasional weekday gatherings and strong outreach ministries.
- **Healthy sense of community and commitment to ministry.** There is a strong sense of belonging, of lives woven together in Christ in this congregation. You care deeply about one another and about your

calling to be a glowing reflection of God's love for this world.

- **Generosity of spirit and gifts.** There is an eagerness to do what is good and necessary for the health of the whole and for the church's witness. People help wherever they are needed. Your responses to the Lenten World Hunger emphasis (remember those barns?), the special offering for the victims of the California fires, our own Good Samaritan Fund, and of course the contributions that paved the way for a vastly improved parking lot are sterling examples of your thoughtful, caring financial gifts.
- **Dedication of leadership.** This congregation is blessed with a fine core of people willing to assume leadership positions and fulfill them with heart and skill. The eight member Council has remained focused on keeping our current ministries strong while investing tremendous energy and thought seeking to discern where and how God is calling this congregation into the future. And we are blessed with the music ministry of Caroline Henry, the quiet but extensive work of Brenda Samal, newsletter editor, bulletin maker and much more, and the caring custodial work of Leo Goodrich.
- **Festivals and worship life.** Every Sunday is special as we gather around Word and Table at God's invitation to sing and pray and be enriched and encouraged to go and

*(continued on page 3)*

### Upcoming Events

- |      |                            |
|------|----------------------------|
| 1/15 | Council meeting            |
| 1/16 | Mid-month coffee gathering |
| 2/10 | Voters' Meeting            |

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

**LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**3680 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden CT 06518-1516  
(203) 248-7420**

**The Rev. Leslie Swenson  
Transitional Pastor  
Office- 203-248-7420**

**www.goodshepherdhamden.org  
lcgshamden@gmail.com**

*The Staff Editor*  
Brenda Samal  
bsamal@sbcglobal.net

**Council Members  
1/1/19—12/31/19**

- President: Ken Watson
- Vice-President: ~vacant~
- Treasurer: Leonard Lye
- Secretary: Brenda Samal
- Christian Education: ~vacant~
- Evangelism/  
Publicity: Leo Goodrich
- Fellowship: Linda Kapitan
- Financial Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich
- Stewardship/  
Missions: Starr O'Connor
- Property: James Learned
- Worship: John Downs



- Claudia Hawley Elfriede Anna
- Rudy Pat Francisco Jim & Mary  
V. Lou K.
- Lisa Sue Amanda Victoria
- Emily Marianne Dottie P. Pam
- Harold Arnold Pat Mike
- Rex Gertrude Howard Barbara
- Alex Darryl Alan Ellen
- Abby John

*Members of Good Shepherd who are homebound*

*Family and friends whom we name in our hearts*

*Military personnel*

*Pray for the mission of the church*

**Thank You! Thank You!**

For the wonderful, generous surprise gift from the congregation presented to me after worship on December 23, many, many thanks!

Please know how much I appreciate and enjoy my partnership with you as we journey together discovering the joys of life together in the community of faith while discerning what God has in store for this congregation in the future.

Thanks much!  
Les Swenson, Transitional Pastor

*(Pastor's message .. Continued from page 1)*

serve in Jesus' name. Worship is the vital center of our life together. Our Easter and Christmas celebrations this year were especially memorable, with large numbers of people gathered, full of festive spirit and life.

- **Leaning into tomorrow and a new year.** One clear learning from our conversations over the past year has been that this congregation is being called onto new paths and into new directions. We cannot stay as we are. There is courage in concluding that. There is also anxiety in knowing that. But forward we move into the future the Spirit is holding out for us. February will bring conversations with two sister Lutheran congregations. The aim is to talk about the possibilities of shared ministries and partnerships. Where those conversations will take us, we can't know for sure. We can only pray that Christ's Church be renewed and strengthened, and that congregations working together can provide a more vital witness to our greater Hamden-New Haven region than apart.

Finally, a personal note. It has been a joy and privilege for me to journey with you through the past year.

I look forward to continuing that journey into 2019 (we have agreed to extend our covenant through June). Transitions are often expeditions into the unknown. So it is with expectation, trust, and openness to the Spirit's leading that we join our hands, our feet and our prayers stepping into that territory together.

Your partner along the way,  
Les Swenson  
Transitional Pastor

## Dear Good Shepherd friends,

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. I appreciate your support throughout the year.

Yours in Christ,  
Leo Goodrich



## Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

\$75 in gift cards and 14 bags of nonperishables were delivered to Keefe Youth Center on December 20th. I wish you could all see and hear the expressions of gratitude by staff and volunteer workers every time we make a contribution. It is a truly heartwarming experience.

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### Anniversaries

7-Byron & Miranda Dinkla	41 years
9-Rob & Sue Landino	38 years

### Birthdays

4-Starr O'Connor  
14-Gary Olson  
14-Marianne Turner  
14-Emma Ingerson  
20-Ken Watson  
31-Thomas Samal



### Baptisms

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

## First Step into Exploration of New Paths with Area Congregations Begins in February

Representatives from the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, and Emmanuel and Bethesda Lutheran Churches of New Haven, will meet for a full Saturday morning on February 9 (tentative date) to begin conversations exploring the possibilities and promise of working together in some form of partnership together in order to strengthen our Lutheran presence and witness in the Hamden-New Haven region.

The Rev. Paul Sinnott, Associate to the Bishop of our New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will facilitate the meeting which will include four lay representatives from each congregation.

The LCGS Council met with Pastor Sinnott on December 5 to outline our conversations about future directions over that past year and our desire to move toward partnership possibilities in the future. He affirmed our work and direction and agreed to help facilitate the process.

Ken Watson, LCGS Council President, is currently firming up our group of representatives, of which he will be one.

### To the congregation-

Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift! I feel blessed to be part of this wonderful congregation and grateful to be able to help out with the work of the church. Blessings to all for a happy and healthy New Year!

*Brenda  
Samal*



## Epiphany and the Season that Follows...

On Sunday, January 6, we will move from the 12 days of Christmas to the celebration of the Epiphany. Since Epiphany Day is a festival firmly fixed on January 6, it only occasionally falls on a Sunday. So on the first Sunday in January we will hear the story of the coming of the wise men from faraway places to visit the newborn Jesus and his parents in Bethlehem, and affirm the news that Jesus has come to be a light to all the nations.

And yes, we'll sing the familiar carol, "We Three Kings," even though it got locked out of our cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Worship books when they were published 12 years ago (just as it was kept out of the previous Lutheran Book of Worship — the "green" book — three decades before that. Why the lockout? The Biblical scholars argue that those visitors from the east were not called "kings." Rather Matthew the Gospel writer, the only one to tell this story, calls them "wise men" or "magi" (astrologers or stargazers), not kings. The purists won this one.

Epiphany means "manifestation." Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on January 6: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine, but in the ecumenical liturgical cycle we follow, the celebration of Jesus' baptism (and ours), and Jesus' first miracle follow on January 13 and 20.

This year the Sundays of the season after the Epiphany extends all the way to March 3, the Sunday we mark the Transfiguration of Jesus. And for those of you looking way into the future, Lent begins on March 6, Ash Wednesday.

Come and worship at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on Sundays, 10:30 a.m.  
Come hear God's always life giving Word  
and be fed at the table of forgiveness  
and new life!

**SCHEDULED TO SERVE**

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
1/6	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Leo Goodrich	Leo Goodrich Reggie Chang	Chuddy Watson
1/13	Nicholas Papa	Anthony Papa	Brianne Papa	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Jim Learned	Starr O'Connor
1/20	Elizabeth Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ruth Lye Leonard Lye	Starr O'Connor
1/27	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Linda Kapitan	John Downs Starr O'Connor	Linda Kapitan
2/3	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Brianne Papa	Leo Goodrich	Anthony Papa Brianne Papa	Sarah DeLong
2/10	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson Jim Learned	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!***

**Council Meeting**



Council met 12/19. Discussed our thoughts following our meeting with Rev. Sinnott. Set a possible date of 2/9 to meet with representatives of Bethesda and Emanuel. This is a first step meeting to see how these churches are doing and to talk of future possibilities. The financial reports were reviewed. All missions have been paid through October. \$375 was collected for the California wildfires. Starr will be delivering gift cards and food to the Keefe Center (see her article on page 3.)

Good Shepherd will participate again in the Ingathering Quilts on May 15. Personal care items for kits will be collected during Lent. There was an excess of monies collected for poinsettias so following discussion, a motion was approved to add a flower fund line item for the excess.

Annual reports are due in January so they can be

compiled and printed for the February 10 annual voters' meeting.

The next council meeting is Tuesday, January 15.



*Rides for Ruth*

- January 6            Mary Lou Knoob
- January 13         Jim Learned
- January 20         Lisa Ball-Goodrich
- January 27         Starr O'Connor
- February 3         John Downs
- February 10        Linda Kapitan

Let's have some fun!

### Epiphany

G G I N L J F Q I G A M I E W B Q E J H  
 O N P I D D Y L C L Z J V N P B O R P F  
 U Z J V K A X C Y Z T O K I M G U R B L  
 O A D A I F V F Q R L X Z D R G Y P U K  
 S N O I T A R U G I F S N A R T N X Z I  
 J A F V M S I T P A B E P A C X Y U B F  
 Q S O M E H E L H T E B J C S J B V C A  
 S T D U H A R V D Z S M H C Z G S O Z I  
 O P P P M A N I F E S T A T I O N S S S  
 V K L C H D F N O H M S M T F G A N E U  
 U V P Q I U L G U J H Q E K R E F D L S  
 A Q L K S W B Z E M A L W E F N E W C E  
 N E D H Z H F X Q V C N G U L H X D A J  
 K F K F P J A B S A N A R E H T U L R I  
 H S H E P H E R D G T O V T E D C V I H  
 Y N A H P I P E K I N D N E S S A Y M N  
 R K E R G S H Z O B T I W G O O H W A S  
 I R T T A Z P N K Q H U K J P I M F Y M  
 C H L Y O T F T S J K D U Y L K A O I S  
 T N C Q J X S C G W W X F E D T O C V Q

EPIPHANY  
 LUTHERAN  
 STAR  
 MANIFESTATION  
 LOVE  
 MIRACLES

CONGREGATION  
 JESUS  
 BETHLEHEM  
 BAPTISM  
 KINDNESS

SHEPHERD  
 KINGS  
 MAGI  
 TRANSFIGURATION  
 ELCA

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**  
Worship  
**10:30am**



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FIRST CLASS MAIL