



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

January 2020

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

I've always enjoyed Ogden Nash's little verse calling us to get ready for a new year:

"Tonight's December thirty-first,
Something is about to burst.
The clock is crouching, dark and small,
Like a time bomb in the hall.
Hark, it's midnight, children dear.
Duck! Here comes another year!"

Whether we need to duck or not in its rush toward us, the opening year of a new decade that lies ahead of us certainly promises to be, on every level of life, a year of remarkable excitement, challenge, opportunity, and, most likely, a whole lot of surprise.

We'll leave the political jungles and races to the pundits who seem to have all the perspectives and all the potential outcomes well covered.

It's enough for me, at least in this little piece, to consider the path ahead for our life together as a congregation and the commitment we have made to forge a brave, expectant new day for ministry.

On December 8, after months of thoughtful conversation, prayerful discernment and compelling testing, the people of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (LCGS) and Christ Lutheran Church of Hamden overwhelmingly endorsed a "covenant of intentions" to move forward together into the next six months in order to further develop and strengthen our partnership in ministry that began in the spring of 2019.

The most obvious sign of this growing partnership will be our weekly worship with our brothers and sisters of Christ Church. No longer will we be worshipping as separate congregations. Rather we will raise our voices as one, gathering together at 10 a.m. each week in one of our two worship spaces every other week (first and third Sundays at Christ Church, second and fourth at LCGS, with rare fifth Sundays to be determined).



Not only will we sing and pray and worship together as one, but we will walk together as one, continuing to blend and grow our ministries of learning and serving the community and wider church, our ministries of welcome and hospitality to those around us seeking a word of hope and healing in their lives, and of course building relationships between the folks of our two congregations.

Together we will continue to discover what it would mean for us to merge or consolidate our two communities of faith into one, seek to develop a common mission statement for our shared life together, and explore what it might look like for our shared ministry to be housed in one building rather than two.

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

- 1/12 Joint council meeting
- 1/15 Mid month coffee & conversation
- 1/15 Council meeting
- 2/23 Annual Voters' Meeting

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
1/1/20—12/31/20**

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

(Pastor's message... continued)

The paramount question in all of this remains: how can we best strengthen our common witness to the good news of Jesus Christ in our community and develop faithful, life giving ministries not only for those already among us but for new folks and new generations longing to hear, taste and live that good news?

So much possibility and opportunity stir before us. The Spirit is at work. I for one feel privileged to be a small part of this unfolding, this time of expectancy and hope.

In fact, this is no time to duck at all. Rather I invite you to first bow your lives in prayerful gratitude for what has been, for what is, and for what is yet to be in the church's life, and then to stand tall with heart and arms wide open to the promise of a new year, a new decade, confident that the God who has led us to this new day will continue to support, guide and lead us with the wisdom, courage and grace only God can provide.

Your partner along the way,
Les Swenson,
Transitional Pastor

P.S. Thanks so very much to the people of LCGS for the generous gift presented to me on December 22. I appreciate it deeply. Please know it remains a joy and privilege for me to serve you as your transitional pastor in these challenging and exciting days. Thanks.

THE STAFF- FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

For the month of February, Good Shepherd's newsletter articles will be printed in Christ Lutheran's newsletter, *The Bellringer*. If you have news that you want included, please give it to Sharon Napolitano at Christ Lutheran or email her at: snapolitano1@yahoo.com

The newsletter deadline is January 26, 2020 – Sharon will accept articles before then also.
Thank you- Brenda

A New Year Brings a New Worship Schedule in our Life Together with Christ Church

2020 will ring in a new Sunday morning worship for the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Christ Lutheran Church of Hamden.

Beginning with our celebration of the festival of Epiphany on January 5, we will be worshipping together on a weekly basis at 10:00 a.m.

The first and third Sundays of each month we will worship at Christ Church. Worship will be at LCGS on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The site for worship on occasional fifth Sundays will be announced.

Church School for children and Bible Study for adults begin each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

A festive coffee hour follows each worship service.
A great time to renew good friendships and build new ones.

Here's what Sundays will look like in January...



**January 5, 2020, Epiphany Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
at Christ Lutheran Church, 600 Shepard Ave., Hamden**

*Come join the procession of the wise men from the east
and discover with them the child come to save and heal.*

~Meet Mark Winzler, Assistant to the Bishop of our New England Synod, ELCA, during the Coffee Hour. Mark will be working with our two congregations as we move forward in our partnership.~

**January 12, Baptism of our Lord, 10:00 a.m.
at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

*As we celebrate Jesus' baptism
we also rejoice in our own baptisms
and how the water and Word of baptism continue to shape us and send us to serve.*

~Following worship: Joint Council Meeting~

**January 19, Epiphany 2, 10:00 a.m.
at Christ Lutheran Church**

*The first disciples are invited to "come and see" just where Jesus is staying.
And still stays and abides.*

**January 26, Epiphany 3, 10:00 a.m.
at LCGS**

*Jesus calls four fishermen to follow him and to begin fishing for people,
just as he asks us, "will you come and follow me?"*

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversary

7-Byron & Miranda Dinkla	42 years
9-Rob & Sue Landino	39 years

Birthdays

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



Baptisms

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



<i>Claudia</i>	<i>Hawley</i>	<i>Elfriede</i>	<i>Anna</i>
<i>Rudy</i>	<i>Angela</i>	<i>Francisco V.</i>	<i>Jim & Mary Lou K.</i>
<i>Lisa</i>	<i>Sue</i>	<i>Amanda</i>	<i>Victoria</i>
<i>Emily</i>	<i>Marianne</i>	<i>Dottie P.</i>	<i>Pam</i>
<i>Harold</i>	<i>Arnold</i>	<i>Pat</i>	<i>Mike</i>
<i>Rex</i>	<i>Gertrude</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Barbara K.</i>
<i>Alex</i>	<i>Darryl</i>	<i>Alan</i>	<i>Ellen</i>
<i>Abby</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Barbara</i>	<i>Jessika D.</i>
<i>James C.</i>	<i>Goodrich family</i>		

Members of Good Shepherd who are homebound

Family and friends whom we name in our hearts

Military personnel

Mission of the church

Congregations of Greater New Haven

Feast of Epiphany

God's glory is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, born among us and immersed in the messiness, complexity and commonness of humanity for the sake of the world. Pray that we will recognize God's divine presence and activity in the world for the redemption and healing of humankind and for the nurturing of our lives to better emulate Jesus.

*(From Prayer Ventures-January 2020
 ELCA website)*



To the congregation-

Many thanks for your generous Christmas gift! May God bless you for your kindness and shower you with abundant blessings in the New Year!
 Brenda Samal

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
1/5/2020	JOINT SERVICE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 600 SHEPHARD AVE, HAMDEN					
1/12	Elizabeth Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Leo Goodrich Ken Watson	Sarah DeLong
1/19	JOINT SERVICE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 600 SHEPHARD AVE, HAMDEN					
1/26	Nicholas Papa	Anthony Papa	Starr O'Connor	Rob Hansen	Joanne Golanski James Learned	Starr O'Connor
2/2	JOINT SERVICE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 600 SHEPHARD AVE, HAMDEN					

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

WARMING TREE

Christ Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd



Hoping for cozier heads, hands, and feet on the recipients of winter gear which has decorated our "Warming Tree". We have been able to collect 12 hats, 3 scarves, 20 pairs of gloves, and 21 pairs of socks so far! The last day for donations will be Sunday, January 5th at Christ Church. Combined with Christ Church's collection, clothing will be distributed to Life Haven during the first week in January. We are so grateful to be included together this year for such an amazing cause.

Looking ahead: We will again be hosting the Lutheran World Relief Fund's "Ingathering Quilts" early in May. Lutheran Churches from all over Connecticut will be dropping off Quilts, Personal Care Kits, and other items to be distributed to needy countries all over the world. Many more details to follow.....

Council Meeting



Council met on 12/12– enjoying a Christmas appetizer party prior to the business meeting.

Pastor discussed the recent approval of the covenant and the future- moving in a positive direction; worshipping together weekly; building assessments on 1/8/2020; and unseen challenges ahead. We will continue building a relationship with Christ members and the pastors have been discussing Lenten services. Financial reports showed November expenses and income down. Rental income is a big plus. Fellowship would like to plan a joint fellowship event with Christ in the near future. Property work was done in the parish house and church. Stewardship delivered 300 reusable shopping bags to Keefe Center.

Next council meeting– January 15

Next voters' meeting– February 23

“SOUPER BOWL” SUNDAY IS BACK!

Chicken noodle, split pea, chili and other delicious soups and sandwiches will kick off Super Bowl Sunday festivities on February 2nd, as Christ Lutheran and Good Shepherd gather together for our first joint- “Souper Bowl” Sunday Luncheon following the morning worship service at Christ. No tickets will be issued, but those planning to attend—and those interested in bringing soup, sandwiches or a dessert to share—are encouraged to sign up to help us plan for this event. A sign-up sheet is also posted for volunteers to assist with setup, cleanup and kitchen detail. There is no cost to attend, but proceeds from a freewill offering will benefit the Hamden Food Bank.



Voters' Meeting

The Voters' meeting on 12/8/19 was very eventful. Pastor summarized the road the congregation has traveled since 2018– reviewing our strengths, gifts, strong sense of community and core leadership. Thought of seeking some kind of partnership and 4 area Lutheran churches started meeting. This led to forming a partnership with Christ Lutheran. After committee reports were given, the Covenant of Intentions was reviewed (which was previously emailed or mailed to the congregation.) After discussion, a motion was made to accept the Covenant of Intentions and authorize the pastor and president to sign. Approve–17; Nay-0; Abstain-1

- 2020 Council was approved.
President: Ken Watson
Vice President: Liane Cassidy
Treasurer: Leonard Lye
Secretary: Brenda Samal
Financial Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Christian Education: (vacant)
Evangelism: (vacant)
Stewardship/Missions: Starr O'Connor
Fellowship: Linda Kapitan
Worship: John Downs
Property: James Learned
- 2020 Proposed Budget was presented and approved.
- Covenant with pastor was extended through June 2020.
- Parish house renters renewed contract through 2020.

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
10:00am



THE STAFF

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL