



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

February 2015

Pastor's Message

Recently I posted an article on our Facebook group page: (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lcgs3680/>) about how important worship is to our Christian life. The author, Kazimierz Bem argues with those who would say that the church is “all about” service and mission, particularly if that means paying less attention to worship. While he and I disagree about the importance of creating new ways to pattern our liturgy, we’re on the same page about one thing – the proper focus of our worship is God and God’s grace brought to us through the life and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. As he says, “Our culture needs a place — we need a place in our lives — to tell us that not everything is always about us, about our personal happiness, our convenience, our frantic timetables, or shrinking commitments... where we pause - and reflect theologically.” As one of my favorite theologians, Peter Gomes, once wrote, “Lent is all about taking time to think about holy things” – to reflect theologically.

If this sounds like a tall order, especially if the words “reflect” and “theological” don’t exactly roll off your tongue in your daily discourse, it’s important to realize that neither Bem nor Gomes were speaking solely to educated clergy members. All Christians who seek to know and understand their lives, their faith, their God, and their place in the world better are called to use our worship in the Season of Lent as a time reconnect with God.

How can we do this? Our Lenten hymns and readings focus on the goodness of God and the radical and world-changing love that is promised to us in God’s kingdom. While we take the time on Sunday mornings to reflect on these broader themes, Lent is a good time for us to slow down a bit during the week and notice where God is in our lives. Of course we all *know* that God is

always present with us, but how often do we truly *notice*? There are those spectacular occurrences we can’t miss – when a baby is born or a problem is solved or we fall in love – but more often God is rather quietly present in everyday things - the joy of friendship, the beauty of trees covered with snow, the sense of peace which comes when we sit and breathe, the sounds of our footsteps when we take a walk, the smell of fresh cut roses or just-baked bread, the smile of a stranger, the touch of a hand, the warmth of a hug, or the taste of blueberry pie. If God had not given us the ability to notice, sense and feel these things, how different (depressing and dreary) our lives might be!

So what might it be like if we decided, this Lent, to make it a point to try to *notice God* throughout our days? What might our table conversation or our nighttime prayers be like if we shared with others what we had noticed? My suspicion is that by focusing on the presence of God in the ordinary, we will have an even greater sense of the holy and the sacred. By seeing God in the face or touch of another, in nature, in our work and in our play, we will find our selves and our hearts opening wide with wonder, joy, and thanksgiving.

If this Lent can be a time within which we see the reality of God’s grace and favor throughout our days, then the times set aside for worship – in prayer,

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Church Events

- 2/8 Voters’ Meeting
- 2/17 Shrove Tuesday Supper
- 2/18 Ash Wednesday Services
- 2/19 Book Club
- 2/21 Council Retreat
- 2/22 Acolyte training
- 2/22 Confirmation
- 2/26 Council Meeting

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

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**Council Members
1/1/15—12/31/15**

President	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Vice-President	Linda Kapitan
Treasurer	John Downs
Secretary	Brenda Samal
Christian Education	Emma Barnes
Evangelism/ Publicity	Deb Meydag
Fellowship	Lisa Martinell
Financial Secretary	Barbara Kuslan
Stewardship/ Missions	Sue Hartley
Property	James Learned
Worship	Ken Watson



Pastor
Daphne Bernie
John W. Anna

Stacy Holly Jessika Mary Lou

Lou Elfriede Sue Victoria

Joy Marianne CindyLu Pam

Harold Arnold Catherine Mike

Rex Gertrude Howard Barbara

Barnes Alpha Amanda John
family

Kathy D.

*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

COUNCIL RETREAT

2/21/15

9-12pm

Ashlar Village

Every year the council sets aside a morning to gather together and pray, read scripture, and focus on an aspect of our life together. This year we will be using the Synod's resources on "Safe Church" and reflect on what it means for us to be hospitable to all people, from our youngest to our oldest members.

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

devotions, walks, or Sunday mornings – can be filled with joy in God's presence and the proclamation of God's grace. When Lent comes to a riotous end on Easter Sunday, we will be more ready than ever to celebrate anew God's promises made to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

For the full article on worship and the church, go to: <http://www.faithstreet.com/onfaith/2015/01/23/christianity-cannot-survive-the-decline-in-worship/35932> or check it out on our Facebook page!

Pastor Daphne †



At our first meeting, the ladies chose to read-

**Wild
by Cheryl Strayed**

We will be meeting to discuss the book on **February 19th at 7pm**, so it is not too late to pick up a copy and start reading! If you have any questions or would like to join the group, please see me after worship or call me at 203-213-5971. New readers are always welcome!!

*Lisa Martinell
Fellowship*

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

8-Christopher & Michelle Rowold 12 years

Birthdays

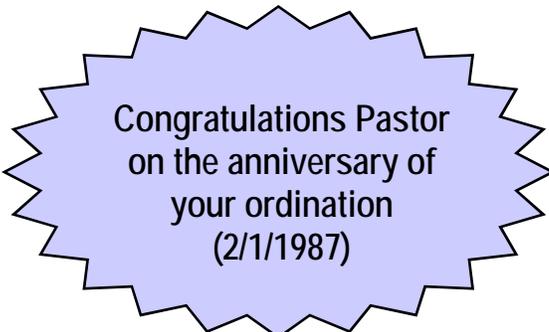
5-Ricky Rosa
5-Nathan Edgar
14-Lou Kuslan
22-Sophia Papa
26-Douglas Aykroyd



Council Notes



Council met on 1/22. The financial records were encouraging for December but we still ended the year with a deficit. In 2015, undesignated contributions will continue to be split as 90% to current operations and 10% to missions. Motions were made and approved to move Sunday School cash monies to Christian Education, monies from Building Maintenance & Expense to Capital Improvement, and cash monies in Fellowship, Youth Group and Interest/Fees to the general fund. The congregation continues to be very generous with stewardship/missions—John delivered 7 bags of food to the Hamden Food Bank and 7 bags to North Haven. Pastor and John gave a synopsis of the compensation meeting. John feels a discussion group should be formed to continue the dialogue.



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
2/1	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Linda Kapitan	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor
2/8	Jonathan Goodrich	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Deb Meydag Ken Watson	Chuddy Watson
2/15	Emily Olson	Mary Lou Knoob	Barbara Kuslan	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Deb Meydag
2/22	Anthony Papa	Paul O'Braonain	Deb Meydag	James Learned Sue Hartley	Liane Moreland
3/1	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor

*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!*

VOTERS' MEETING

2/8/15

Following worship

A light lunch of finger foods and dessert will be served.

Any help by bringing in food items will be greatly appreciated.



SHROVE TUESDAY

The season of Lent is observed by fasting, so the day before Ash Wednesday is known as "Fat Tuesday" - a time to feast!

Come and enjoy pancakes and fellowship with other members of Good Shepherd, family and friends on **Tuesday, February 17, at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

Invite friends as we gather for Shrove Tuesday. All are welcome!

Ever wonder why Ash Wednesday happens when it does?

It's all about Easter.

For centuries, the date of Easter (April 5 this year) has been set by the Western Church to fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox (March 20) - which can be as early as March 25th and as late as April 23rd. (This is one explanation for the occasional Easter with snow on the ground!)

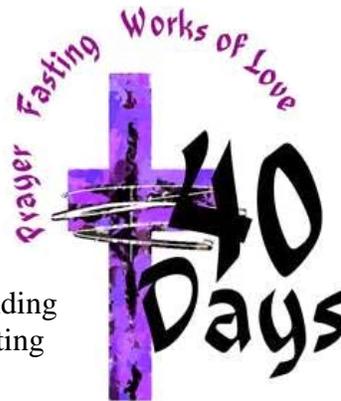
The season of Lent was originally created by the church to be a time of preparation for the adults who were entering the church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Since "40 days" appears in the Scriptures as a proper length of time for fasting, prayer, and finding one's way, Lent is the 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter.

Ash Wednesday (February 18 this year) marks the beginning, and the Great Three Days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter (April 5 this year) bring it to a glorious conclusion!

HAD TO MISS CHURCH?

Even when we have to cancel worship as we did in January, we still have to pay for heat, electricity, and pastoral care. Please be sure to stay current with your Sunday offerings by mailing in your offering when you have to miss a Sunday, or placing more than one envelope in the plate when you are able to be present.

Your faithful stewardship and financial support make a difference!



WELCOME CONFIRMANDS!

Our confirmation cluster with students from Resurrection, Bethesda and Emmanuel will be meeting at Good Shepherd on Sunday Feb 22.

Class starts at 12:30pm please help us welcome them by clearing off your table from coffee hour by 12:20.

Thank you!

Ash Wednesday is Feb 18

Ash Wednesday services will be at 12:00pm and 7:00 pm on February 18.

Start your Lenten observance off with worship and prayer and reflection.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT COMMUNION

..Do you remember the first time you received communion?

..Did you have instruction? For how long?

..How does receiving communion make a difference in your life?

..Who do you think should be welcome at the communion table?

Pastor Daphne will be continuing to hold conversations about communion during coffee hour, visiting with a different table each week.

If you miss her one week, just join in the discussion the following week!



Support the Girl Scouts and fill your craving for Thin Mints!

Troop 60260 meets in our Fellowship Hall on alternate Mondays, We can support their work and dedication by purchasing Girl Scout Cookies. Pastor Daphne has the order form; the first order is due Feb 2 but later orders are welcome!

ACOLYTE TRAINING

Pastor will lead an acolyte training session for all interested in serving on-
 Sunday, 2/22/15
 9:30am

Single People's Awareness Day is Feb 14!

Valentine's Day can be a lovely opportunity to express your love for your spouse, significant other, best friend, school mate or partner. It can be a particularly lonely day for people who are not in a relationship.

As you buy (or make) that special card for your sweetheart on Valentine's Day, get two and send one to a single person in your life!

Have a birthday coming up? Are you one of those people who already has everything?

If your friends and family members are stuck trying to think of a gift for your birthday, how about suggesting that they make a contribution to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in your honor? It is more useful than a tie, lasts longer than a book, has more impact than a new shirt and is less filling than a cake!

**FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH
DECEMBER, 2014**

		2014 BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET
Receipts thru December	\$82,576	\$85,680	(\$3,104)
Expenses thru December	\$85,857	\$85,680	\$177
DEFICIT	(\$3,281)	\$0	(\$3,281)

Our total operating giving for December was \$10,412 and our expenses were \$7,566 for a gain of \$2,084 decreasing our year to date loss to \$3,281.

At our January council meeting a vote was approved to transfer \$913.45 of Building Maintenance costs to Capital Improvements. These were costs associated with the parsonage refurbishment (painting, etc.) We also voted to use Sunday School reserve funds of \$457.31 to reduce the extra costs in that line item. These transfers reduced our annual deficit to \$1,910. This deficit will further be reduced with the 90% of Thrivent Funds received which will be reflected in the final report presented at the annual Voters' meeting on Feb 8, 2015 .

John E. Downs, Treasurer

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**

<u>Worship</u>	
Sunday School	9:30am
Holy Communion	10:30am



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FIRST CLASS MAIL