



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

February 2016

Pastor's Message

The gifts we bring to the world that needs us:

Earlier this month I was asked to comment on a report by the Theological Education Advisory Council about the future of Lutheran theological education. The TEAC report “calls on our church to reinvigorate its teaching ministry to equip the baptized” and outlines five significant aspects of our belief system by delineating gifts we offer to the world. They are so succinct that I thought I would share them with you:

The gift of the Gospel in a world bound by law.

We believe that we have been saved through the gift of faith alone and are thereby freed for service to the neighbor and the world...

The gift of Abundance in a world of scarcity.

We are called to proclaim that as disciples of Jesus Christ, we believe that there is always more than enough to do God's work...

The gift of Hope in a world of fear.

We believe that God is in charge and that we have the gift of a horizon for our lives in the world that counters fear and anxiety and offers the promise of hope...

The gift of Neighbor-love in a world of radical individualism. Over against the loudest voices in our culture that claims it is all about me, we believe that we are called to love and serve our neighbors around the world and all of God's creation...

The gift of Reconciliation in a world of retribution and division. We believe that we are called to forgive as we are forgiven and to build communities of reconciliation, inclusion and justice...

(continued on page 6)

ASH WEDNESDAY

“Driveway Ash Wednesday”

5:30 – 8:00 am

Ash Wednesday Worship

Noon & 7:00 pm



“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” On Ash Wednesday, Christians all over the world assemble to hear those defining words. Originally from the book of Genesis 3:19 (when Adam and Eve are expelled from the Garden of Eden), and repeated at funerals, this phrase is combined with a sign of the cross with ashes on our foreheads to remind us that we are human, perishable, not always right, often bound to get into trouble, and, ultimately, that we are not God. It is one of the most powerful of Christian ritual actions – right up there with baptism and celebrating communion.

Understanding that work schedules can make it difficult for some people to get to a church for service, this year we will be offering a “Driveway Ash Wednesday” for folks who want to be included in this observation of the first day of Lent. From 5:30 – 8:00 am, Pastor will be at the top of the circle (near the handicapped accessible spaces) with an Ash Pyxis (holder), to make the sign of the cross on the foreheads of drivers, repeating the phrase, “Remember that you are dust...” and adding a personal prayer.

There will be two full services in the sanctuary – one at noon and one at 7:00. Whether or not you wish to receive a mark on your forehead, the service is a fitting beginning to the Season of Lent. Hope to see you there!

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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
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Financial Secretary	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
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Property	James Learned
Worship	Ken Watson



	Pastor	Barbara
	Daphne	Kuslan & family
Alan	Lucky family	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

*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*

Upcoming Events

2/7	Confirmation with Pastor
2/9	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
2/10	Ash Wednesday Services
2/21	Confirmation cluster
	Voters' Meeting
2/24	Book Club
2/25	Council meeting
2/27	Council Retreat

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar



“Fat Tuesday”
Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 9
6:30pm

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.

Pancakes and sausages will be served.

A sign-up sheet will be posted for side dishes and desserts.

It will be a festive evening.

Someone needs your old computer!

Resurrection Lutheran Church in New Haven is developing its ongoing tutoring program as well as expanding to help people find employment. They need computers! If you have an old computer that still works and has its hard drive wiped clean, please contact Pastor Daphne. Any computers that are donated before Feb 21 can be taken to Resurrection at the Confirmation cluster meeting.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

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.

April

- 3- LCGS only
- 17- BERGS cluster at Emanuel. 282 Humphrey St
New Haven. We will carpool.

Musical Notes

I hope you're all enjoying this mild winter - we're already halfway through, and I'm certainly glad it has been living up to the predictions! As we begin Lent, and all the music that traditionally goes along with it, we already look toward Easter - and with Easter comes special Easter music! Since this holiday is a very special part of the church calendar, we'll be doing some special music. How lovely it would be to be joined by another voice or instrument! I hope some of you can come out to choir practice after church on Sundays to prepare something for the occasion! Please let me know if you'd like to play an instrument, instead. Let's prepare ourselves together for the resurrection in song!

Musically, Caroline

Caroline and family
at their holiday
celebration



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
2/7	Jonathan Olson	Paul O’Braonain	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O’Connor
2/10 Ash Wed	~	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Linda Kapitan	Dottie Podgwaite Ken Watson	Chuddy Watson
2/14	Anthony Papa	John Downs	Sue Hartley	Ken Watson	Sue Hartley James Learned	Lisa Martinell
2/21	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Martinell	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Liane Moreland
2/28	Emily Olson	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O’Connor
3/6	Aoife Weischedel	Paul O’Braonain	Ken Watson	Barbara Kuslan	Dottie Podgwaite Ken Watson	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!

We could use at east one more reader and another to help with Altar Guild.
See Ken or Pastor if you want to learn more about these volunteer opportunities.

Congratulations!!!

Nicholas Papa was invited to participate in AGP-Academically Gifted Program at Highland School in Cheshire.

The Good Shepherd Women’s Group will not meet throughout the winter.

As the weather warms, watch for updates about resumption of the gatherings.

Help Us to "Light the Way"...

It's easy! Just open your Google Maps App, find Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, and give us a rating and comment! This will allow people who may be searching for a place of worship to find us easily and know how amazing we truly are!



Book Club
 Wednesday, 2/24/16
 7:00pm
Between the Word and Me
 Ta-Nehisi Coates

Council Notes



Council met on 1/28/16. Pastor reported on visits to the homebound and she spoke at Leroy Lucky’s funeral service. She continues to meet with area clergy and participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. service at Mishkan Israel. The financial reports were reviewed. For undesignated contributions, we will continue to put 90% to operating contributions and 10% to undesignated missions. A discussion followed about procedures for counting receipts. As a majority of contributions are by check, a second person—an usher— will count cash donations only and report the amount to the financial secretary. The same will be in place for counting fellowship donations. Two will count the money and then it will be given to the financial secretary. Sunday School began again 1/10 with 4 children attending. Pastor and Sue Hartley have been meeting developing stewardship events. One item is a survey that will be sent to all in the congregation. Property updates in the near future include painting the sign and putting a new roof on the parish house.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

8-Christopher & Michelle Rowold 13 yrs

Birthdays

5-Ricky Rosa
22-Sophia Papa
26-Douglas Aykroyd



Baptisms



FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH DECEMBER, 2015

	2015	12/12 of 2015 ADJUSTED BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2015 through Dec.
Receipts thru December	\$82,113	\$86,022	(\$3,909)	\$82,575
Expenses thru December	\$84,047	\$86,022	(\$1,975)	\$84,486
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,934)	\$0	(\$1,934)	(\$1,911)

Our total Operating giving for DECEMBER 2015 was \$8,986 and expenses were \$8,480 giving us a surplus of \$506 decreasing our prior deficit of \$2,440 into a year to date deficit of \$1,934.

This compares to a deficit of \$1,911 through December of last year (before Thrivent Funds.) 90% of this years Thrivent funds is \$1050 while last year was \$1,189. This will reduce this years deficit to \$884 compared to last years adjusted by Thrivent to \$721.

Going forward into January will be a struggle as it appears our contributions are down.

John E. Downs, Treasurer

(Pastor's Message continued...)

During the upcoming season of Lent, perhaps we could spend some time reflecting on at least one of these gifts and how we are called to bear them into the world.

The Gospel, that we are saved by faith alone, sets us free from the trap of worrying that our behavior, good or bad, either earns God's love or lets God down. Now that we know that we have already been saved, and that God's love is eternal, how can we turn our energy outwards and serve our neighbors with a light heart? How might that impact the way we greet every morning? Read Ephesians 2:1-10.

Believing in Abundance in the midst of a world that focuses on scarcity enables us to be creative and joyful. Instead of thinking, "I don't have enough ___ (fill in the blank)___ to make a difference," we can recognize that what we do have is more than enough to share with someone in need. How can we turn this belief in abundance into renewed energy and commitment to the Gospel? How might that impact our generous giving? Read Luke 12: 16a – 34.

Countering the world's constant drone of fear and anxiety, we have a sure and certain Hope that, since all is in God's hands, we don't need to give up or give into being motivated by fear. How can we recognize when someone else's pain or anger is really grounded in fear, and how can we counter that fear with hope? How might this impact what TV, radio, movies and newspapers we tune into? Read Romans 8:21-39.

Knowing that we are called to Neighbor-love, how can we block our ears to the messages that there is no one more important than ourselves? How can we love our neighbors as much as - or even more than - we love ourselves? How might that impact the choices we make to volunteer, donate, or organize? Read Matthew 25:31-46.

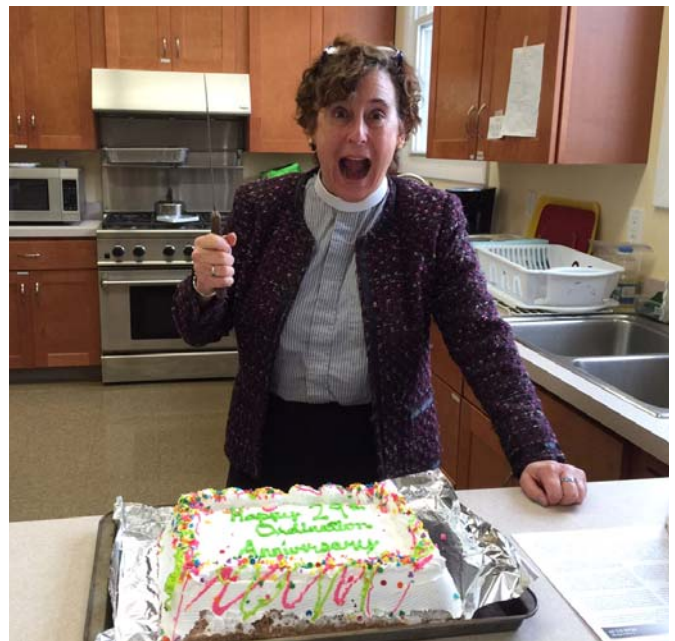
And finally, but no less importantly, what does it matter that we know we are forgiven by God and called to create a community of reconciliation and

justice? To whom might we be called to reach out in order to do the often difficult work of becoming reconciled? How might this impact our understanding of systemic racism, and the ways we, often unknowingly but no less culpably, continue its vice-grip on our communities? Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

May each one of us be blessed with a Lent filled with insight, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Pastor Daphne †

Celebrating Pastor's 29th anniversary of her ordination following worship on 1/31/16



**ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2016**

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



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FIRST CLASS MAIL