



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

February 2017

Pastor's Message-

All you Need is Love!

It is no secret that I love the Beatles. I have ever since the tender age of 8, when I first saw them on the *Ed Sullivan Show* on TV. I had all their records, and now have CDs, compilations, t-shirts, and a healthy collection of books on the band as a group and on each member individually. I can sing all of their songs by heart. Well most of them.

“All You Need Is Love” is one of my favorite songs. It was written in 1967 to be Great Britain’s entry for the show “*Our World*,” the very first global television broadcast. John Lennon wrote it at the last minute (as usual) and if you listen carefully, you can hear the voices of members of the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, Graham Nash, and others chiming it at the end with “Love is all you need!” During a tumultuous time, the Beatles sent the world a message: in the midst of war, violence and uncertainty about the future, “it’s easy.... All you need is love!”

As Christians, this is something we already know. We all believe in and worship a God who calls on us to love – everybody, all the time! However, few of us would agree with the Beatles that it’s “easy.” Loving others is extraordinarily difficult, even and perhaps most especially with the ones we *want* to love. Our parents are too strict or too distant; our children are disappointing or out of touch; other family members, particularly siblings, pose their own special kind of challenges; and those whom we have chosen to love are rarely the people we thought we knew, and change (as we do) with time and experience.

Extending the circle of love outwards gets even more challenging, as we seek to discover what exactly it means to “love” a classmate, a teacher, a bully, a neighbor, a police officer or even the President of the United States. Clearly there are different ways to love each of these people, but the general action is

the same: we are called to assume the best, protect those who are vulnerable, speak the truth to those who are taking advantage, stand up for the rights of people we may never meet, and commit to listen, respect, and learn from one another, even when we know we disagree. “Some people you just have to love from afar,” one of my colleagues used to say, and covenant for our confirmation class echoes with “Jesus often gives us difficult people to love in order to make us grow.” Not easy!

Loving other people is almost impossible if we don’t love ourselves. This is something few of us were ever taught. In fact, many of us grew up thinking that as Christians we are supposed to love everyone else first, before we love ourselves. The reality is, we can’t; in order to truly love someone else, we need to know what it means to be loved fully by God, and then to love and care for ourselves, feel good about who we are and who we are becoming, accept our own brokenness as human nature, and try to do better the next day. None of us are perfect, and, until we learn to love and accept that in ourselves, it’s difficult to love others. If our own love buckets are empty, there’s nothing to share!

(continued on page 3)

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your incredible generosity at Christmas time. It is a pleasure to work for you and join you in your mission of faith.

Sincerely, Jonathan Goodrich

Upcoming Events

- 2/21 Council meeting
- 2/25 Council Retreat
- 2/26 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. Dr. Daphne Burt
Office— 203-248-7420
Cell—401-924-4673

www.goodshepherdhamden.org

The Staff Editor

Brenda Samal
E-mail: 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 Barnes
	Daphne	Barnes
John Downs & family	Elfriede	Anna
Family of Holly John W.	Lisa B-G	Mary Lou
Jimmy Sue	Amanda	Victoria
Emily Marianne	CindyLu	Pam
Harold Arnold	Pat	Mike
Rex Gertrude	Howard	Emily L.
Alex Linda & Darryl	Dube family	Bill & 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
Pray for the mission of the church*



COUNCIL RETREAT
February 25, 2017

Every year, members of the Congregation Council go offsite for a time of reflection, prayer, and team building led by Pastor Daphne. This year’s retreat will be on Saturday February 25. More details to come!

(Pastor's message continued from page 1)

Today, as a nation, we are facing lots of uncertainty. As happens with every new administration, there is more than enough anxiety to go around. Things will most certainly change, but our call to love everyone will not. As followers of Jesus, we are called to demonstrate to the world what it means to respond to everyone and every situation with love, believing that with love comes generosity, hope, joy, and creativity. If we flood our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and nation with love, remarkable things *will* happen. Imagine what peace talks in the Middle East would be like if all the people at the table started out with the commitment to love each other – and the assumption that the others loved them, too! What would conversations with people of whom we are afraid or don't understand be like if we started from a place of mutual love? What would our daily lives be like if we started every day assuming that everyone we meet deserves to be loved, and is doing their best to love us? Someone has to start the ball rolling, and I believe that's exactly what Jesus is calling us to do.

Love changes everything, if we give it and ourselves a chance. Love dares to be rejected and stand up and love again. (Jesus was a master at this). Love gets angry when anyone is hurting, and is happy when others are at peace. As the First Letter to John 4:8 says, "God is love," and in the end, the Beatles were right. All we need IS Love – to heal ourselves, our families, our nation, and our world. It's not an *easy* thing to do, but it is the *only* thing to do.

With gratitude, appreciation, respect and love, I am your

Pastor Daphne †



FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

8-Christopher & Michelle Rowold 13 years

Birthdays

22-Sophia Papa



What could bring Bishop Hazelwood out of sabbatical?

Some of you may know that our own New England Patriots won the AFC championship on Sunday, which means they're headed to the Super Bowl (again). As it happens, we've been challenged by the Southeastern Synod, home to a team called the Atlanta Falcons, (whom we're playing), in honor of the Super Bowl. This challenge is to determine which synod can raise more money to eradicate World Hunger. Since we all know Tom Brady is the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) - we've been challenged to raise as many goats as we can between now and the Super Bowl on February 5. Goats cost \$50 through ELCA World Hunger, which provides milk, meat and cash for a family living in poverty. Donations of any denomination are gratefully accepted, however.

Following is the link to copy and paste in your browser.

http://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?pg=team&fr_id=1200&team_id=2070

-OR-

go to nesynod.org and look for the Newsletter menu- click on Jan 25 edition. Click on "Team New England"

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
2/5	Aidan Weishedel	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
2/12	Emma Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Emma Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Liane Moreland
2/19	Anthony Papa	John Downs	Sue Hartley	Paul O'Braonain	Reggie Chang	James Learned Sue Hartley	Starr O'Connor
2/26	Nicholas Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Emma Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	John Downs Lisa Martinell	Lisa Martinell
3/1 Ash Wed. 12pm	~	John Downs	~	~	Barbara Kuslan	James Learned	Chuddy Watson
3/1 Ash Wed. 7pm	~	Linda Kapitan	~	~	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
3/5	Aoife Weishedel	Paul O'Braonain	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Paul O'Braonain	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Liane Moreland

*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!***

Note: If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please do not call pastor.

A listing will be emailed to everyone who serves with the names, phone numbers and email addresses of those who serve with you so you can find a replacement. Thank you!



Baptism of Gabriel

Coffee Hour donations for the month of February will go to-

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

as voted by the Council on January 24th.

Please remember non-perishable foods for our local food banks.

Many thanks,
Sue Hartley, Stewardship

VOTERS' MEETING

2/26/17

Following worship service

A light luncheon will be served.
Annual reports will be distributed.

CONGREGATIONAL LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **BASKETS OF PROMISE** campaign.

Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations

Here's our collection schedule:

- March 5 Bars of soap (4-5oz., any brand, in original wrapping)
- March 12 Bath towels (light-weight, maximum 52"x27", dark color recommended)
- March 19 Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)
- March 26 Combs
- April 2 Nail clippers (metal, attached file optional)
- April 9 Bars of soap (4-5oz., any brand, in *Palm Sunday* original wrapping)

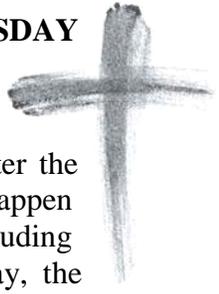
We will pick a date to assemble the kits in late April/early May. Sue Hartley will place labeled bins in the fellowship hall for donations starting on March 5th.

For more information, contact Sue at 203-281-1058 or shartley1058@gmail.com.



New Joy Banner

LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY
March 1, 2017



The celebration of Easter occurs on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox –which this year will happen on April 16. Count back 40 days (excluding Sunday) and you get to Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. For seven weeks we are given the opportunity to dig deeply into our relationship with God, and we begin with an ancient ritual: marking our foreheads with the sign of the cross with ashes and the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

This year we will offer three opportunities to be part of this ritual: Pastor Daphne will offer “Ashes to Go” and free coffee in the circular driveway in front of the church from 5:00 am – 8:00 am, and at noon and 7:00 pm we will gather in the sanctuary for worship and prayer. May our Ash Wednesday observances be meaningful to all.

Council Notes



Council met on 1/24/17. Attendance was very good at the two Christmas Eve services and on Christmas Day. The numbers were lower after that as many had either colds or flu. Confirmation is starting again on 1/25/17 using a new book called, Manna & Mercy. Council will be reviewing and updating the congregation membership roll. Stewardship will be organizing the Lutheran World Relief's **Basket of Promise** campaign (see article this page.) A committee of Pastor, Linda K. and Brenda S. will rework our Constitution to be inline with the ELCA model. A committee of Pastor, Linda K., John D. and two other volunteers will work on the Kapitan mini-grants. Good Shepherd will be hosting a “Music for Giving” event on March 11 at 7:00pm. More information will be posted. Council voted to designate 10% of 2016 Thrivent Choice Dollars to Columbus House. Proceeds from coffee hours in February will be designated to Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service.

A Good Prayer - Take some time to be quiet with God, and fill in the blanks.

“OPEN MY HEART”

Lord, your child _____ is here.

Thank you for making me in your image. Thank you for blessing me with _____,
_____, _____, and _____.

Thank you for continuing to keep me. I don't have to look far for evidence of your miracles. You have brought me through _____ and I am grateful.

Guide me in this season as I prepare to _____. Order my steps and guard my tongue.

Touch my family, my friends and all your children. I pray a special prayer for _____, _____, and _____.
Keep them strong.

We know that all things work for our good and you have not brought us this far to leave us. All your children are given gifts. I thank you for giving me a passion to _____. My biggest dream is to _____.
Through you, all things are possible.

No weapon formed against us will ever prosper. Please continue to keep our minds and spirits strong. **AMEN.**

From ESSENCE, February 2017, p. 108.

FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH DECEMBER, 2016

	2016	12/12 of 2016 BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2015 thru December
Receipts thru December	\$76,460	\$93,365	(\$16,905)	\$83,164
Expenses thru December	\$85,734	\$93,365	(\$7,631)	\$84,047
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$9,274)	\$0	(\$9,274)	(\$883)

Our total Operating giving for DECEMBER 2016 was \$9,091 and our expenses were \$8,393 giving us a gain for the month of \$698 decreasing our year-to-date loss to \$9,274. As the above shows our giving this year is behind last year by \$6,704 and behind our budget by \$16,905. Our average expenses ended up below our budget by \$7,631 over last year by only \$1,687. The above figures reflect the receipt of Thrivent Choice Dollars of \$1,132 for 2016 and \$1,167 for 2015. 90% of these amounts are applied to operations and are reflected above.

January is off to a slow start as we have received only \$2,818 over the first three weeks—approximately 36% of our budget.

November and December reports are posted in the Fellowship Hall or you may contact me to get copies.

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**

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