



# THE STAFF

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

February 2019

### *Pastor's Message*

Dear Friends,

This year we are experiencing an unusually long season of Epiphany, the season of light breaking through the darkness of this world, light revealing the ever expansive reach of God's life giving graces, light showing up in the most unpredictable of places and opening the eyes of the most surprising of people.

(Epiphany's length by the way is determined by Easter's always shifting appearance on the church calendar, this year on April 21. It's all a complicated thing, but when Easter is late Epiphany runs long, and the Sundays after Pentecost number fewer. Got it? It all comes down to this — Easter governs the calendar. But then without Easter the calendar wouldn't be worth much, would it? After all, our lives rise up and spin around the good news of Easter.)

One of my favorite things about the Sundays after the Epiphany (how we should properly call this year's longer than usual season), is that we are annually given to hear occasional call stories — stories, that is, of God's interrupting and redirecting people's often up to then perfectly decent lives. One minute they're tending to their own business, and the next, without any proper warning, God's got them all turned around and upside down, making their business God's business.

Like Jeremiah, just a kid just doing whatever young boys did in King Josiah's day. Despite his protests that he was far too young, God nudged and empowered him to go about a prophet's often not so pleasant business, "plucking up, pulling down, destroying and overthrowing" a broken down mess of a nation, and pointing the

way to a new day, to a time of "building up and planting." Jeremiah wasn't the first to cry "why me God?" And certainly not the last. But he kept on doing what God called him to do, however dim God's light seemed to shine at times.

Then there's Isaiah, just doing his thing in the temple one day, so overcome by a vision of heavenly splendor and awesomeness that he surrendered on the spot when God's voice rolled through the temple asking, "Whom shall I send, who will go for me?" "Here I am, send me," Isaiah said, having no clue about the staggering mess he was about to step into. Yet there in that moment a prophet was called, a prophet whose words of warning, stern judgment, poetic beauty and stunning promise and vision for a broken world remain unmatched to this day.

Then there are those fishermen down by the shore of Galilee mending their torn nets after a big morning haul, minding their own business, when Jesus comes along, looks into their eyes, reaches into their hearts, and calls them to seek other seas, to fish other waters and to follow in his steps.

*(continued on page 3)*

### **Upcoming Events**

- |      |                            |
|------|----------------------------|
| 2/10 | Voters' Meeting            |
|      | Installation of Council    |
| 2/13 | Mid-month coffee gathering |
| 2/28 | Council 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](http://www.goodshepherdhamden.org)  
[lcgshamden@gmail.com](mailto: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 K.  
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*

**VOTERS' MEETING**

**February 10, 2019  
Following worship service**

- ♥ Annual reports will be distributed
- ♥ 2019 Church Family Directory will be available
- ♥ A light lunch will be served.

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

The bottom line, of course, is that we all are called by God to be about God's business. God has a holy purpose for every last one of us. We have many occupations and interests, but we share one vocation, one calling — to be living reflections of God's abundant mercy and reconciling love in every corner of our lives, in all that we say and do, in all our relationships, in our homes, the workplace, in our place of play, prayer and worship, in the public arena.

Bathed in God's constantly flowing graces bestowed on us in the waters of baptism, we rise each day to live our calling to serve in Jesus' name, even when the light seems dim and the shadows loom long, trusting in the promise that "whoever follows me will have the light of life."

Come, in these extended Epiphany days, live in the light!

Your partner along the way,  
Les Swenson,  
Transitional Pastor

*Just a friendly reminder...*

**Worship Cancellations**

In the event worship has to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on Channel 8.

We also send an email notice and activate the telephone tree for those without computer access.

Let's hope we do not have to use this again as we had to on 1/20/19. We need church and the church needs us.

**FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS**

**Anniversaries**

8-Christopher & Michelle Rowold 16 years

**Birthdays**

22-Sophia Papa  
26-Douglas Aykroyd



**Baptisms**

**Council Meeting**



Council met on 1/15/19. A group of council members (Ken Watson, Lisa Ball-Goodrich, John Downs & Linda Kapitan) will be meeting with representatives from Bethesda and Emanuel on 2/9/19 to discuss future possibilities. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6. Year end financial reports show operating contributions and synod missions to be below that of 2017. Motion was approved to use the balance in St. Pauly's and the returned check for Resurrection to cover the shortfall for Synod missions- (\$6,000 pledged; \$4391 contributed.) Motion was approved to accept the amended 2019 budget. Linda reported fellowship is serving a light lunch for the 2/10 voters' meeting and is planning Easter breakfast. John was thankful for the help with Christmas decorations and for people serving. Our church history should be updated reflecting the time from 2002 to present. The next council meeting is Thursday, 2/28/19 at 7:00 pm.

**SCHEDULED TO SERVE**

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
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
2/17	Elizabeth Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ruth Lye Leonard Lye	Starr O'Connor
2/24	Nicholas Papa	Anthony Papa	Brianne Papa	Leo Goodrich	John Downs Starr O'Connor	Starr O'Connor
3/3	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich Jim Learned	Sarah DeLong
3/6 - 7pm Ash Wed	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson John Downs	Chuddy Watson
310	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson John Downs	Linda Kapitan

*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!*

**As a Long Epiphany Season Ends, Lent Begins March 6**

The 40 day season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6. At the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd we will gather for worship that evening at 7:00 p.m.

As the Invitation to Lent in the Ash Wednesday liturgy reminds us, we are invited through the season to the “disciplines of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love.”

To assist in the practice of these disciplines, the people of LCGS will be provided 40 day calendars from our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s 40 Days of Giving ministry, Global Farm giving barns to support ELCA hunger ministries, and devotional books for weekly study and prayer. Watch for each of these toward the end of February.



*Rides for Ruth*

February 3	John Downs
February 10	Linda Kapitan
February 17	Leonard Lye
February 24	Mary Lou Knoob
March 3	James Learned
March 6 (Ash Wednesday)	John Downs
March 10	Linda Kapitan

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**



**THE STAFF**

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL