

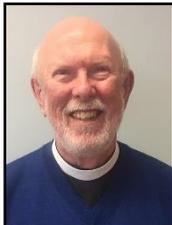
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# The Staff/Bellringer

February 2020

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd • Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## Pastor's Message

BY THE REV. LESLIE SWENSON

### One in Mission



*Dear Friends,*

**I**t has been a joy for me to be a part of the partnership in ministry emerging between Christ and Good Shepherd Churches. I cannot help but think this has all been Spirit led.

We have identified and experienced the positive reasons for moving forward together (more people, a more vibrant worship life, more effective stewardship of resources, the opportunity for stronger learning and servant ministries). We need to continue being attentive to questions and hesitations over the implications of our partnering together. We have yet to, but soon will, begin addressing more fully some very challenging issues, particularly the questions of our facilities and where a new congregation will be at home, and how a partnered ministry will develop and grow in ways that will invite, welcome and include a wide diversity of new people to share expectantly in Christ's mission among and beyond us.

At the heart of it all, we are discovering that doing ministry together will provide new strength and opportunity for our common mission to be the living, vibrant body of Christ in and for the communities that surround us and the world in which we live.

There is a hymn in the "new" Evangelical Lutheran Worship book that proclaims and unpacks that singular, common purpose, which is ours together. Titled "We are all one in mission," written by Rusty Edwards, it goes like this:

*We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission compels us from above  
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.*

*We all are called to service, to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are diff'rent; our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,  
so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.*

*Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.  
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.*

*One in Mission — Continued on Page 7*



**MID-MONTH COFFEE GATHERING PLANNED:**  
The Mid-Month Coffee Gathering will be held at the Lutheran Church of the

Good Shepherd on Wednesday, February 12, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All are welcome for coffee and conversation.



**JOINT-COUNCIL TO MEET:** The next meeting of the Joint-Council of Christ Lutheran and Good Shepherd will be held on Sunday, February 16,

following the morning worship service at Christ Lutheran.



**ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING FOR LCGS, FEBRUARY 23**

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, February 23. The meeting will

provide an opportunity to review Good Shepherd's ministry in 2019 and to focus on the steps we are taking to move forward in ministry in 2020. The 2019 Annual Reports will be distributed at that time.



**SAVE THE DATE:** It will be an evening of fellowship and fun at Good Shepherd on Saturday, May 2. We will

be gathering at 6 p.m. to play board games and enjoy Mexican-themed foods. Please mark your calendars now. More details to follow!



**WINTER WARMTH TREE:**  
This year, Good Shepherd joined Christ Lutheran in sponsoring a "Winter Warmth Tree." A tree was set up in both churches during the month of December.

All of the items were delivered to LifeHaven on January 7th. LifeHaven provides temporary shelter for homeless pregnant women and abused women with young children.

By combining our trees, Jim and I were able to deliver 140 warm winter items—gloves, hats, scarves, socks, slippers, and even throws to many women and children.

I have placed a complete list of donated items on Christ's bulletin board. Thank you to ALL "The Elves" who decorated the trees. You are a blessing!!!!

—Joann Mourt



**"SOUPER BOWL" LUNCHEON:**

If you can smell the soup cooking, you are in the right place! Sunday, February 2, is Super Bowl LIV and we are kicking off the festivities with a "Souper Bowl of Caring" luncheon following the morning worship service at Christ Lutheran.

A variety of delicious soups, assorted bisques and an array of sandwiches and desserts will be awaiting consumption at Christ Lutheran and Good Shepherd's first joint-"Souper Bowl" Luncheon.

In conjunction with "Souper Bowl of Caring" day, we will help tackle hunger locally by collecting cans of soup and cash donations to benefit the Hamden Food Bank.

*Please join us!*

Notes about Plans & Activities from the Pastors

## Worship, Christian Education & Congregational Notes



### COMBINED

**WORSHIP:** A reminder that all our worship is combined now ... we go

to our Lord and God in prayer, praise and thanksgiving and receive God's grace through Word and Sacraments together as one congregation. For February, worship will be at Christ's location on February 2nd and 16th, and we'll be at Good Shepherd's location on February 9th and 23rd. Also, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26th ... our Ash Wednesday worship will be at Good Shepherd at 7 p.m.

### EPIPHANY GOSPEL READINGS

The Sundays in February have wonderful Epiphany Gospel readings that set our tone for worship. February 2nd is the beginning of Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 known as "the Beatitudes." February 9th continues in the Sermon on the Mount with Jesus' calling us to "let our light shine" and to be light and salt. Again, from the Sermon on the Mount, on February 16th Jesus calls us as his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

Finally, the last Sunday of the Epiphany season always celebrates *The Transfiguration of our Lord*, and our February 23rd Gospel reading is St. Matthew's account of that mountain-top event with Jesus, Moses, Elijah, Peter, James and John.

Pastor Swenson brings us the sermon message on February 2nd, Pastor Marschhausen on February 9th and 23rd, and Pastor Wild on February 16th.



### SUNDAY SERVANTS:

John Downs, Good Shepherd's Worship Chair, and Pastor Marschhausen are

working together to combine and integrate the *Servers Schedule* [ushers, lectors, assisting ministers, acolytes, etc.] of the two congregations. With slightly differing traditions and expectations at each location, this will probably take a few months to get things going smoothly, but we're working on it. [Editor's Note: See page 8 for our first joint-Sunday Servants listing.]



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Sunday School and Sunday morning Adult Bible Study will continue as usual ... at wherever worship is happening. Adults – get a jump on your reflection on the Sunday Gospel message by being a part of the Sunday morning adult Bible study ... each Sunday at 9 a.m. ... the topic of study and conversation is the readings for the next Sunday's worship.

The joint Good Shepherd/Christ/Trinity Lutheran Confirmation Class this month is Tuesday, Feb. 11th, at Trinity, from 5-7 p.m.

*Christian Education – Continued on Page 4*



### MID-WEEK LENTEN

**PLANS:** Pastors Swenson and Marschhausen are making plans for our *Mid-*

*Week Lenten* time together during the month of March. It will include—along with a *Soup & Bread Supper and Evening Prayer* as our worship for each Wednesday—a time for Bible study and reflection focused on the wonderful Lenten Gospels we'll hear this year from the Gospel of St. John.

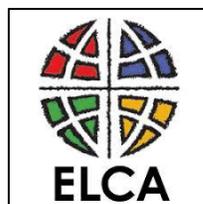
Looking ahead, the dates are March 3rd at Christ, March 10th at Good Shepherd, March 17th at Christ, March 24th at Good Shepherd, and March 31st at Christ. At present, the times look to be:

- *Soup & Bread Supper* – 6:00-6:45 p.m.
- *Study & Reflection Time* – 6:45-7:30 p.m.
- *Evening Prayer* – 7:30-7:45 p.m.

Look for more details on this in the Lenten/Holy Week issue of *The Staff/Bellringer* ... and plan to be a part of this special Lenten journey together

**SITE VISIT:** The visit to Hamden of Mr. Jeff Spann, the regional building consultant for the ELCA, was on Wednesday, January 8. He had lunch with the pastors, and then he, the pastors and two council representatives each from Christ and Good Shepherd went through both facilities and walked the properties. His written report and recommendations have not yet arrived at the deadline for information in this issue. As soon as that report and recommendation comes, it will be shared with both Church Councils and then with both congregations.

Also, the pastors and property chairs of both congregations have met with a local commercial real-estate agent for an evaluation of both properties. That evaluation, too, will be shared with everyone when it arrives and has been seen by the Councils.



### SYNOD RESOURCES:

As we move along our process for two congregations becoming one congregation, we will be working very intentionally to tap all the resources available to us from our New England Synod and to follow the guidelines the synod has developed from years of experience in helping congregations move through major changes. The pastors and Mr. Mark Winzler, our New England Synod contact person, who many of you met on January 5, will, of course, keep you fully informed as these resources and guidelines come into play over the next few months.

Although no specific dates or details are available yet, the first two of these upcoming, Synod-recommended processes are (1) the *Congregational Assessment Tool* (almost always abbreviated as the *C.A.T.*); and (2) the congregational leadership meeting with legal counsel to understand and prepare for the legal implications of two corporations (each congregation is a legal, not-for-profit religious corporation in the State of Connecticut) merging/ consolidating into one. We anticipate a late March/early April date for the *C.A.T.* and possibly April to start meeting with legal counsel.

*Assessment Tool—Continued on Page 5*

The C.A.T. is a nationally used, ecumenical assessment instrument that, as we try to look forward, can help us to:

- Measure the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregations.
- Identify the critical success factors for improving organizational climate.
- Pinpoint the strengths of our congregation's culture.
- Discover where members would like to go in the future.
- Gauge readiness for change.
- Uncover potential resources we may be missing.
- Finally, prepare for a search for our next pastor.

The C.A.T. is a customizable instrument. To the standardized benchmarked assessment, we can add up to two supplemental modules of our choosing and add up to five additional questions specific to our church.

If you are interested in learning more information about the C.A.T. please check it out at the program's website:

<https://holycowconsulting.blog/eightstepstoyo urcat/>



### INTERGRATED MAILING

**LISTS:** Christ and Good Shepherd have integrated our e-mail lists and our mailing lists, so that all communications

now go to everyone in both congregations. Good Shepherd's website is in the process of being updated to become the website for both congregations as well as Good Shepherd's Facebook page. Watch for the new addresses and connections.



### NEWSLETTERS

#### BECOME ONE:

Christ's newsletter, *The Bellringer*, and

Good Shepherd's newsletter, *The Staff*, have also been integrated. For lack of a better title, we're calling it *The Staff/Bellringer* for now. Good Shepherd's editor, Brenda Samal, is away through March and Christ's editor, Sharon Napolitano, will take care of the February and March [*Lent/Holy Week*] issues.

*A heads-up ... the deadline for articles and announcements for the March/Lent & Holy Week issue is Sunday, February 16 ... a week earlier than usual because we'd like to get the next issue to everyone before Ash Wednesday. Let's all help Sharon with this!*



### NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

#### CHOIR TO PERFORM:

If you're interested in truly good, nationally recognized college

choir music, the *a Capella Choir of St. Olaf College* will have a concert at Yale University's Battell Chapel, 400 College Street, New Haven, on Thursday, February 6, at 7 p.m. Check the bulletin board in the hallway at Christ for full ticket information.

**NEWSLETTER NAMES:** Have a creative idea for a new name for our combined newsletter? Please add your ideas to the list posted on the bulletin board at Christ Lutheran. All proposed titles will be considered!

#### SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 16:

Please email news items to Sharon Napolitano at [snapolitano1@yahoo.com](mailto:snapolitano1@yahoo.com).



**A LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE SALVATION ARMY, NEW HAVEN**

*Dear Christ Lutheran Church,*

On behalf of The Salvation Army New Haven Citadel Corps, I would like to thank you for your participation in our 2019 Angel Tree program. Each Angel Tree tag represents a child in our community who, without the

help of our community, may not have had anything waiting for them on Christmas morning. This year, The Salvation Army was able to provide toys for 821 children in the Greater New Haven area.

Our mission would not be possible without the partnership and support of organizations like Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you for all you do to help us help our community.

We hope you have a great 2020 and we look forward to working with you again next year.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Adams, Captain*

New Haven Citadel Corps Officer



**THANKS FOR THE HELP:** A special thanks goes to Dave Brown, Bob O'Brien, Ray Osborne and Phil

Napolitano for their assistance in taking down the Christmas tree at Christ Lutheran. Their help this Christmas season with both setup and tree removal was greatly appreciated.

*—Durbin Hunter*

**LCGS FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS**

**Anniversaries**

**Feb. 8**

Christopher & Michelle Rowold — 17 years



**Birthdays**

**Feb. 22**—Sophia Papa

**Feb. 26**—Douglas Aykroyd



*One in Mission--Continued from Page 1*

If there is a song for the journey ahead, this just might be the appropriate one—a clear, ringing reminder of why we are gathered. Called together in the mystery and wonder of the Spirit’s stirrings, we are encouraged and empowered to “touch the lives of others with God’s surprising grace,” and to be a vibrant “vessel for God’s redeeming Word.”

As we continue this month through the Epiphany season and its invitation to walk in the light of God’s love through the darkness of this world, and as we inch our way toward the season of Lent and its call for restoration and renewal in the faith, let us all thank God for the Spirit which is leading and compelling us “to plan and work together that all may know Christ’s love.”

*With gratitude for the privilege to share this journey with you.*

*—Les Swenson*

**Transition Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

## **5-Church Committee Report on Sustainability Meetings**

In 2019, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd invited area Lutheran Churches, including Bethesda, Emanuel and Trinity Lutheran, New Haven, and Christ Lutheran, Hamden, to join them in conversation about the sustainability of our congregations. The meetings were guided by the Rev. Paul Sinnott, Assistant to the Bishop, and results of these meetings included:



- A heightened awareness of Greater New Haven Lutheran congregations and their ministries;
- A plan to pursue joint-Confirmation education;
- Stated desire to find ways for Lutheran ministry to have a higher profile in our communities;
- Sharpened sense of identity experienced in shared worship on the festivals of Pentecost and Reformation, which were hosted at Bethesda and Trinity, respectively.

In addition to sharing mission activities, including participation in an interfaith Reusable Bag Project, the congregations shared worship times for Christmas, Trinity’s Vacation Bible School schedule for 2019 and for 2020, and our upcoming Lenten schedules. A significant outcome of this engagement is that the two Hamden Churches—Good Shepherd and Christ—are now exploring a shared ministry.

In the coming year, the group will meet to discuss its future direction. Another congregation in the New Haven Conference—Tabor, Branford—has expressed interest in joining the conversation. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 28, at Trinity Lutheran, at 9:30 a.m.

# Sunday Servants. . .

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE FEBRUARY 2020

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>ASSISTING MINISTERS</u>		<u>LECTOR/ READER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>
		<u>WORSHIP Assistant</u>	<u>WORSHIP Assistant 2</u>			
<u>AT CHRIST LUTHERAN</u> February 2, 2020 10:00 AM	Samantha Kovacs	Ken Allen	Ursula Hunter	Paul Snyder	Durban & Ursula Hunter Elaine Richetelle	Loraine Brown
<u>AT GOOD SHEPHERD</u> February 9, 2020 10:00 AM	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Starr O'Connor	Linda Kapitan	John Downs Starr O'Connor	Linda Kapitan
<u>AT CHRIST LUTHERAN</u> February 16, 2020 10:00 AM	Amanda Kovacs	Sharon Napolitano	Loraine Brown	Ken Allen	Ken Allen David & Loraine Brown	Loraine Brown
<u>AT GOOD SHEPHERD</u> February 23, 2020 10:00 AM	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Starr O'Connor	Rob Hansen	Leonard Lye Ruth Lye	Starr O'Connor
<u>AT GOOD SHEPHERD</u> <u>Ash Wednesday</u> February 26, 2020 7:00 PM	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball Goodrich	Ken Watson	Lisa Ball Goodrich	Ken Watson John Downs	Chuddy Watson
<u>AT CHRIST LUTHERAN</u> March 1, 2020 10:00 AM	Grace O'Brien	Ken Allen	Ursula Hunter	David Brown	Phil & Sharon Napolitano Ken Allen	Loraine Brown

If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please find a substitute and make the change on the master schedule on the bulletin board.

*Thank you for serving!*

## Church Addresses & Contact Information

### Christ Lutheran Church

600 Shepard Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06514

*The Reverend John Marschhausen*

#### Transition Pastor

Office: (203)-288-3196

Cell: (860)-402-8734

E-Mail: [christlutheranshephard@frontier.com](mailto:christlutheranshephard@frontier.com)

### Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

3680 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518

*The Reverend Leslie Swenson*

#### Transition Pastor

Office (203)-248-7420

Cell (860) 857-9362

E-Mail: [pastorlrs@comcast.net](mailto:pastorlrs@comcast.net)

Web: [www.goodshepherdhamden.org](http://www.goodshepherdhamden.org)

