



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

March 2018

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends of Good Shepherd Church,

As we continue our pilgrimage through Lent, this time of remembering, returning and renewal in the faith, some random thoughts...

- Part of my ministry to serve as your transitional pastor is to help you discern how God is calling you into the future. We are in the early stages of what I trust will be a very intentional and purposeful conversation and process of decision making. This journey will be grounded and framed with study, thoughtful dialog, careful listening and openness to one another and trust in the Spirit's leading. We are called to be a community of expectant prayer. As the prayer from the Liturgy for Evening Prayer in our worship books, which we prayed together at our Annual Meeting and will pray together often in the days ahead, sings with trust and conviction: *Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us...* (See full prayer printed in this newsletter. And make it your daily prayer as we journey together.) While the Congregation Council will be the center of the discussion, the whole congregation will be invited to engage in the process. Expect some lively coffee hour conversations as we move along!

- On the last Sunday of February we were graced with the presence of a number of guests at worship. That was a remarkable gift indeed, but what was even more remarkable to my eyes was the way the people of Good Shepherd Church welcomed and embraced those folks. Worship was richer because of them. The coffee hour was livelier with them. The big heart of this congregation was beating robustly. I celebrate your wide and welcoming arms!
- How are you keeping Lent? The sheets inviting you to participate in the Lenten disciplines of almsgiving, prayer and fasting are still available on the narthex. As are the Barnyard coin boxes from our ELCA World Hunger Appeal to help diminish hunger in our world. Pick one up, fill it up with change (or with a generous check), and return it during Holy Week or on Easter Sunday. Ideas for online devotions are also included on that Keeping Lent sheet.

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

3/18	Council meeting
3/25	Palm Sunday
3/29	Maundy Thursday
3/30	Good Friday
4/1	Easter

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
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The Staff Editor

Brenda Samal

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**Council Members
1/1/18—12/31/18**

President: Ken Watson

Vice-President: ~vacant~

Treasurer: Leonard Lye

Secretary: Brenda Samal

Christian Education: ~vacant~

Evangelism/
Publicity: Paul O’Braonain

Fellowship: Linda Kapitan

Financial Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich

Stewardship/
Missions: Starr O’Connor

Property: James Learned

Worship: John Downs



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|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Claudia</i> | <i>Hawley</i> | <i>Elfriede</i> | <i>Anna</i> |
| <i>Rudy</i> | <i>Pat</i> | <i>Lisa</i> | <i>Mary Lou</i> |
| <i>Jimmy</i> | <i>Sue</i> | <i>Amanda</i> | <i>Victoria</i> |
| <i>Emily</i> | <i>Marianne</i> | <i>David R.</i> | <i>Pam</i> |
| <i>Harold</i> | <i>Arnold</i> | <i>Pat</i> | <i>Mike</i> |
| <i>Rex</i> | <i>Gertrude</i> | <i>Howard</i> | <i>Barbara</i> |
| <i>Alex</i> | <i>Linda &
Darryl</i> | <i>Francisco
V.</i> | <i>Ellen</i> |
| <i>Abby</i> | <i>John</i> | <i>Alan</i> | |

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

A Prayer for the days ahead...

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(from the Liturgy for Evening Prayer, ELW, p. 317)

Pastor's message ...cont. from pg 1

• Holy Week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday on March 25 leading to the glorious celebration of the resurrection of the crucified Jesus on Easter Sunday, April 1. Yes, that's April Fools Day! I trust we will be able to discover together the truth of St. Paul's proclamation that while Christ crucified seems like nothing but foolishness to the world, God's foolishness is far wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. For in this crucified Christ is our hope and salvation! I look forward to joining you through these holy days ahead!

With continuing gratitude for your warm welcome to me, and for your zeal to be faithful to your calling to be the living body of Christ in this world, your partner along the way,

Les Swenson,
Transitional Pastor

Remember - Daylight Saving Time begins in the wee hours of March 11!

Spring those clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 10, and get to the church on time on Sunday morning!

Join the Procession through Holy Week into the Great Seven Weeks of Easter!

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

March 25, 10:30 a.m.

Worship begins in the Parish Hall with the blessing of the palms.

Procession into the church.

Gospel reading from the Passion according to St. Mark.

Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday

March 29, 7:00 p.m.

Confession and Forgiveness to bring to an end the Lenten season of repentance.

Liturgy for Footwashing to remind us of Jesus' new command to love one another as he loves us.

Holy Communion.

Stripping of Altar.

Good Friday

March 30, 7:00 p.m.

Reading of the Passion according to St. John.

Bidding Prayers.

Adoration of the Cross.

We leave in silence, waiting for God to act...

The Resurrection of our Lord,

Easter Sunday

April 1, 10:30 a.m.

Christ is risen!

God has raised him from the grave!
(No fooling!)

Hymns of joy and gladness!

The Alleluias return!

Affirmation of Baptism.

Holy Communion.

Come and worship!!

Bring family and friends!!

Rides for Ruth

March 4	Jim Learned
March 11	John Downs
March 18	Linda Kapitan
March 25	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
April 1	John Downs

Council Notes 2/15/18



Council needs to find a Sunday School teacher when Brianne goes on maternity leave. Pastor is a big advocate of Camp Calumet and would like to encourage our youth to go. The end of the year financial reports showed a loss of \$6,286.33. A separate line item will be set up for parsonage rental. The council vacancies will be addressed at the voters' meeting—Vice President, Christian Education and Evangelism. Jim stated the driveway and parking lot needs attention this year.

Voters' Meeting—2/18/18

2017 Annual Reports were distributed. Pastor expressed his gratitude for his welcoming and looks forward to getting to know everyone. He talked of the future of this church and asked that people think about the points on a handout given out. Financial reports were reviewed. (See pages 5 & 6) A press release was sent out re: being Reconciling in Christ church.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

30-James & Sharon Knoob 22 years

Birthdays

8-Anthony Papa III
10-Sara DeLong
10-Lee Olson
10-Micah Sharon
15-Ann Knoob
15-Alicia Samal
16-Ruth Podgwaite
20-Patricia Rowold
23-Jimmy Knoob
23-Kate Lyn Aykroyd
25-Sylvia Wakefield
27-Paul O'Braonain
30-Elfriede Fleischmann



Baptisms

Emma Ingerson, Gary Olson, Anthony Papa III, Sophia Papa, Ken Watson



April 1, 2018

8:45am—9:30am

**Women of Good Shepherd
Invited to Area Gathering**

The Southern and Greater New Haven Conference of the New England Women of the ELCA will be holding a Spring Gathering at Christ Lutheran Church, 600 Shepard Ave, Hamden on Saturday, April 7, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The program will feature Marietta Meyers who will share stories of her recent journey to the Holy Land. There will be devotions, a brief business meeting, and lunch.

The group will be gathering non-perishable food items for the Hamden Food Bank.

More information can be found on the pink poster placed in the narthex.

Registration is \$10 if received before April 2. Please contact Stephanie Sherry for further information at 203-932-9663, or sssherry5535@gmail.com.

Bethesda Lutheran Communities

From all the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the country who are served by Bethesda's ministry, thank you to the members of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd for your generous gift of \$100.00!

Your gifts, continued prayers, and steadfast commitment to the work of the Lord at Bethesda are essential to our success and are greatly appreciated.



Lilies - \$10
Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils - \$8

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. Please sign up by March 16.

If you have any questions, see John Downs

**FINANCIAL RESULTS
DECEMBER, 2017**

Our total Operating giving for 2017 was \$85,746 (which includes \$375 of Thrivent Funds) and was \$7,754 less than our 2017 budget and \$9,286 more than last year.

This compares to a 2016 loss of \$ 9,274.

	2017	12/12 of 2017 BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2016 thru December
Receipts December	\$85,746	\$93,500	(\$7,754)	\$76,460
Expenses December	\$92,032	\$93,500	(\$1,468)	\$85,734
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$6,286)	\$0	(\$6,286)	(\$9,274)

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
3/4	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Sue Hartley	Leo Goodrich	Sue Hartley James Learned	Starr O'Connor
3/11	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Sarah Delong
3/18	Anthony Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Reggie Chang	John Downs Starr O'Connor	Starr O'Connor
3/25 Palm Sunday	Jonathan Olson	Linda Kapitan	Leo Goodrich	Linda Kapitan	Reggie Chang Leo Goodrich	Linda Kapitan
3/29 Maundy Thurs	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Barbara Kuslan	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
3/30 Good Friday	~	John Downs	~	Linda Kapitan	Sue Hartley James Learned	Linda Kapitan
4/1 Easter	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Leo Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Reggie Chang Leo Goodrich	Starr O'Connor
4/8	Jonathan Olson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Leo Goodrich	John Downs Starr O'Connor	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!***

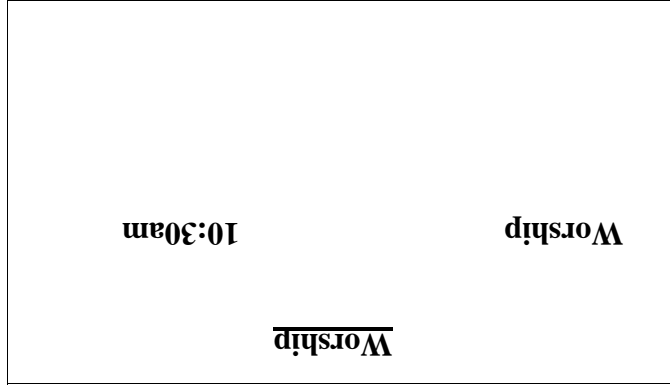
**FINANCIAL RESULTS
JANUARY 2018**

The report shows that we are behind last years after a record in December. Our budget for 2018 has to be adjusted for changes since its adoption in December 2017 as we have changes in Pastoral Care and in Parsonage costs. These will be addressed at the earliest.
John Downs

	2018	1/12 of 2018 BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2017 thru January
Receipts January	\$3,748	\$4,978	(\$1,230)	\$5,949
Expenses January	\$5,534	\$4,978	\$556	\$8,843
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,786)	\$0	(\$1,786)	(\$2,894)

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**



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FIRST CLASS MAIL