



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

March 2019

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

There's a sweet little baptismal song in our hymnal that begins:

*I'm going on a journey,
and I'm starting today.
My head is wet,
and I'm on my way.
Christ's mark is on me;
it's on you too;
it says he loves me,
and he loves you too!*

(#446, ELW, words by Kenneth Larkin, music by Eddie Bonnemere)

While it was written to be sung at the celebration of baptism, it at the same time serves as a helpful reminder of the journey that opens before us as we emerge from our baptismal waters, a journey of following in the way of Jesus, a journey of trust and daring, a journey of constant seeking, learning, growing and serving in faith, a journey of perpetual wetness, always bathed in the promise of God's love.

It is also a journey often shrouded in confusion, doubt and uncertainty, of more wrong turns and running into detours and dead ends than we can count. It is easy to find ourselves lost along the way. Sometimes, caught up in our self-confident, self focused paths, we don't even realize how lost we've become.

And then comes Lent.

For if anything, Lent is an invitation to re-join the journey, an invitation to remember our

"wetness," the surging, life giving waters poured on and into us by a God who will forever love us and never tire of welcoming us back along the way of loving one another as Christ has loved us. Lent is an invitation to return, to be renewed and made new again in the mercies of a forgiving and life giving God.

And as that familiar story of the Prodigal Son, which we will hear along the way this Lent, reminds us, there is much more to our stories than our returning home, longing for a taste of God's goodness. Our journeys home are met along the way by a God who can't stand to wait for us, but instead rushes to greet and embrace us with mercies more than we can measure before we even get to the front door.

Come, join the remarkable journey of return this Lent, and rediscover again and again the unsurpassable breadth and length and height and depth of the bathing love of Christ along the way, love that never leaves us dry. Our heads are wet and we're on the way.

Welcome to the Lenten journey,
Les Swenson,
Transitional Pastor

Upcoming Events

3/6	Ash Wednesday Service
3/13	Mid-month coffee gathering
3/17	Council meeting

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
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



<i>Claudia</i>	<i>Hawley</i>	<i>Elfriede</i>	<i>Anna</i>
<i>Rudy</i>	<i>Pat</i>	<i>Francisco V.</i>	<i>Jim & Mary Lou K.</i>
<i>Lisa</i>	<i>Sue</i>	<i>Amanda</i>	<i>Victoria</i>
<i>Emily</i>	<i>Marianne</i>	<i>Dottie P.</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 K.</i>
<i>Alex</i>	<i>Darryl</i>	<i>Alan</i>	<i>Ellen</i>
<i>Abby</i>	<i>John</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

Memory of Ann Mansfield

We join the family and friends of Ann Mansfield in mourning her death on February 8. Ann was a frequent worshipper and a gracious presence among us at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd over the past months. Her funeral was held at St. Mary's Church in Branford on February 13. May God console and grant peace to all who mourn.

Multi-church discussion

On February 9th, four members of our congregation met with members from Emmanuel and Bethesda to discuss our current states and ways that we could partner with each other. Pastor Paul Sinnott, from the NE Synod, facilitated.

Ken Watson, Lisa Ball-Goodrich, John Downs and Linda Kapitan, along with the members for the other churches discussed where our church has been, where we are now and the uncertainty of the future.

A couple of ideas emerged from our discussion: Events/worships are offered at each church that the other congregations might not know about. An e-mail chain was started so that those events/worship services can be brought to the attention of our respective congregations. We will meet again on March 9th, inviting Trinity and Christ Lutheran to join in our conversation. At this meeting, we will be doing asset mapping as each of our churches has many different things to offer.

One thing that stood out for me at this meeting is how much each member of the different churches is dedicated to the work of God and the church as a whole. We look forward to seeing how these discussions will shape our future. If you have any questions, please ask. Please continue to pray as we move forward in this venture.

Linda Kapitan

We have opportunities to share fellowship with Bethesda and Emmanuel (New Haven) in March.

- ♥ Emmanuel is having a German dinner on Sunday 3/3 after their worship. It will start at about 11:30.
- ♥ There is a pancake supper at Bethesda on Shrove Tuesday 3/5. Enjoy music and pancakes and support the Bethesda's youth.
- ♥ Lenten dinners will be held on the Thursdays in Lent starting on 3/14 at Bethesda. Share a dinner of soup, bread and wine and enjoy the fellowship.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

30-James & Sharon Knoob 23 years

Birthdays

7-Jameson Papa
 8-Anthony Papa III
 10-Lee Olson
 10-Sarah DeLong
 15-Alicia Samal
 15-Ann Knoob
 16-Ruth Podgwaite
 20-Patricia Rowold
 23-James Knoob Jr.
 25-Sylvia Wakefield
 30-Elfriede Fleischmann



Baptisms

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

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 6, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Marks Beginning of Lenten Journey

Readings, quiet meditation, song, confession and prayer, along with the cross-shaped tracing of ashes on the foreheads of worshippers will mark the beginning of our Lenten journey at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.

Words from the prophet Joel ring out the invitation to Lent on this day: *“Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger; and abounding in steadfast love.”*

A Lenten litany

God of faithfulness, you led Israel through the wilderness to safety with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. In the Spirit you led Jesus through the wilderness to the cross and empty tomb. God of faithfulness, lead us this holy season **to self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love — strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.**

God of love, your Son Jesus longs to gather us as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. God of love, gather your whole church, your whole world, together **to self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love — strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.**

God of reconciliation, your Son the gardener cares for the fig tree, protecting and cultivating it, feeding it and giving it more time to bear delicious and valuable fruit. God of reconciliation, cultivate us **to self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love — strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.**

God of forgiveness, while the son who had been lost was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. God of forgiveness, draw us into your arms and call us **to self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love — strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.**

God of mercy, Mary sat at Jesus' feet, anointed them with costly perfume, and

wiped them with her hair. God of mercy, call us to Jesus' feet to spend our lives loving him and call us

to self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love — strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

Holy God, lead us and gather us. Cultivate, embrace and call us. Renew us in this holy season through your Son, Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The five petitions of the above litany are based on the five Gospel lessons we will hear during the five Sundays in Lent beginning on March 10. The **responses** remind us of the disciples of Lent to which we are called through this season of remembrance, repentance, return and renewal which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6.*

Thanks to the ELCA World Hunger Action Guide for Congregations for this Litany.

Rides for Ruth

March 3	Mary Lou Knoob
March 6 (Ash Wednesday)	John Downs
March 10	Linda Kapitan
March 17	Leonard Lye
March 24	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
March 31	Mary Lou Knoob
April 7	James Learned

On “Keeping Lent” 2019...

In the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21), we are reminded of three disciplines that have long been associated with the forty day season of Lent: almsgiving, prayer and fasting.

Almsgiving is a rather old word that means compassionate giving of money or food to the poor. This Lent, consider:

- Donating to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal (see information pamphlets about the Hunger Appeal in the narthex) by placing your loose change in a “God’s Global Barnyard Box” available in the narthex. (There’s plenty of room for bills of course!). Take a box home and bring back to church sometime during Holy Week (beginning on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14).
- Or make a contribution to the World Hunger Appeal through the Good Gifts catalog. Choose one or two of many worthy places for your generous gifts. Catalogs available in narthex, or see: community.elca.org.
- Bring generous gifts of groceries to church and place in the big box in the narthex in order to support local food pantries. Your gifts are a part of our weekly offering at Good Shepherd Church.

Prayer. Find new and deeper meaning in the discipline of daily prayer and devotion.

- Use the daily devotional books available to you on the table in the narthex.
- For a daily online devotional, try the “God Pause” devotions from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Go to www.luthersem.edu/godpause/ Sign up with your email address, and you will receive daily devotions in your email. A good way to stop and pray in the midst of your day everyday!
- Use the “40 Days of Giving” Study Guide (a book of short meditations and prayers) and the Lenten Devotional Calendar from the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Available in narthex.

- Turn to the “Lenten Litany” included in this newsletter as a framework for you Lenten prayer journey.

Fasting. While some people find skipping a meal or setting aside eating for significant periods of time a helpful and meaningful spiritual discipline, some Christians adopt a Lenten menu that limits the types of food eaten. Others curtail the amount and expense of personal entertainment. Such attention to one’s patterns of self-indulgence can have several different intents: to bond with those who suffer; to allow more money for alms (see above); or to prepare our bodies and minds for the fullness of the Easter celebration by practicing its contrast. (Notes on fasting adapted from Keeping Time, Augsburg Fortress Press)

The Prayer after Communion in our Lenten Liturgy summarizes the call to live anew during this season:

*Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
may our fasting be hunger for justice,
our alms, a making of peace,
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 10, 2019

Spring ahead one hour!!



St. Pauly Textile Shed

Thank you for continuing to collaborate with us on the St. Pauly Textile clothing drop off shed project! In 2018, roughly 2,947 garments of clothing were donated to your shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 358 people. The clothing is being used right now by people in one or more of 44 different countries (including the US) to which our clothing is likely to have been distributed this past year. Good Shepherd raised \$122.50 in 2018 through hosting this shed. This project diverts clothing items and textiles away from landfills and sends them to people who can use them around the US and the World!

Voters' Meeting

The annual voters' meeting was held on February 10. 2018 annual reports were distributed. Pastor thanked everyone for the past year and commented-

- *we are a small church and need to recognize our limitations
- *have begun the process of looking forward
- *four council members engaged in conversation with other Lutheran churches about working together to strengthen ministry
- *what is best for the mission of this church
- *Pray

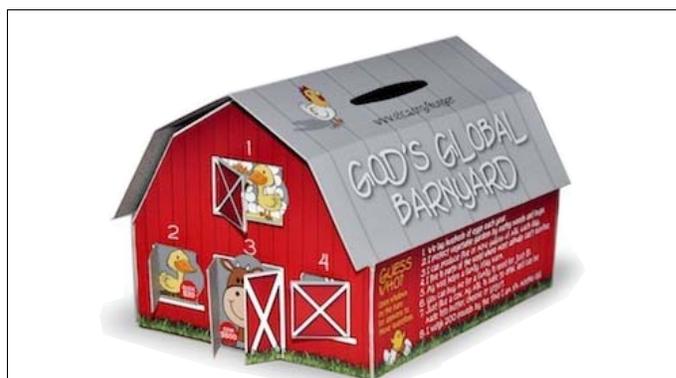
Year end financial reports reviewed. Parking lot donations added to increase income. Committee reports- Thank you to Lisa & Jim for keeping coffee hours going in Linda's absence. Thank you to Ken, Leonard & son, & Goodrich family for outside work help. Collections for personal care kits begin in March. Thank you for all who served in 2018. For Thrivent members- Choice Dollars need to be directed by March 31.

Council Meeting

Council met 2/28. Pastor led a discussion of our thoughts of ministry goals in 2019. Comments for a vibrant ministry- *working on special projects (cause/purpose), *meaningful worship, *fellowship, *leadership, *evaluate outreach programs. Achievable goals- *rides for people who don't drive, *participate in activities with other congregations, *keep open communication with congregation. In conversation with neighboring Lutheran churches, *provide opportunities for youth, *increase opportunities for adults, *invite others to monthly coffee & conversation. (see Linda's article on page 3.)

Planning a visit to Elfriede on March 31 in celebration of her birthday. The January financial reports showed a positive net income with help from the rental income. Committee reports- Coffee hours are going well. Linda is planning the Easter Breakfast. Leo is looking at a new updated guest book and welcoming cards. John is preparing schedules for Holy Week and Easter and Easter flowers.

Synod Assembly is in June and we will need two delegates to attend. Next council meeting is Sunday, March 17.



Save your change for God's Global Barnyard
Coin Bank!

They will be available Sunday, March 3!

Project Promise - Personal Care Kits

Again this year, we will be participating in Lutheran World Relief's Project Promise—preparing Personal Care Kits. Throughout Lent, we will be collecting the various items for the kits. The schedule is:

3/10 First Sunday in Lent	One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" and 52"x27"), dark color recommended
3/17 Second Sunday in Lent	Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
3/24 Third Sunday in Lent	One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
3/31 Fourth Sunday in Lent	One sturdy comb, remove packaging
4/7 Fifth Sunday in Lent	One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER-

- ♥ Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- ♥ Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- ♥ Please give new items only.
- ♥ Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- ♥ Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

The kits will be assembled prior to the Ingathering Quilts on May 15 where they will be picked up.

Thanking you in advance for your generous donations to the personal care kits!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
3/3	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Sarah DeLong
3/6 - 7pm Ash Wed	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson John Downs	Chuddy Watson
3/10	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson John Downs	Linda Kapitan
3/17	Nicholas Papa	Anthony Papa	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ruth & Leonard Lye	Starr O'Connor
3/24	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Ken Watson James Learned	Sarah DeLong
3/31	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Starr O'Connor
4/7	Nicholas Papa	Anthony Papa	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson James Learned	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!***

Remembering your “wetness” during Lent...

We have now begun the 40 day pilgrimage of Lent, a time of repentance, remembrance, return and renewal in our baptismal faith.

In order to remind us of the centrality of our baptism into Christ during the Lenten season, the baptismal font will be placed in a prominent place at the head of the center aisle of our worship space.

When we are confronted with the font, we are invited to remember and give thanks for the blessing of being eternally claimed as God’s beloved people, the way our lives are joined in the death and resurrection of Christ and woven together with all the baptized as the community of the living Christ in this world, a community called to

daily witness to his life giving presence, love and justice in the world.

As you approach the font when you come forward for Holy Communion (or at any time), you are invited to dip your fingers in the water of the font, and remember that you have been bathed in this gift of godly grace by making the sign of the cross on your forehead with your wet fingers, and whisper to yourself: “Remember _____, you have been baptized. You are a beloved child of God.”



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