

# The Staff/Bellringer

March/Lenten  
Issue 2020

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd • Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Pastor's Message

BY THE REV. JOHN J. MARSCHHAUSEN

### Return to the Lord, Your God!

*Dear Members & Friends of Christ and Good Shepherd Lutheran,*

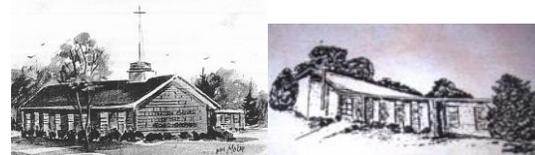
The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on February 26. All around the world, Christians of every tradition and denomination will gather for worship. As we do so, we will all be hearing these words from the Old Testament prophet Joel, chapter 2, verse 13 ...

*Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.*

What a wonderful statement and summary of why we Christians observe this solemn season of Lent! This is our special time to take “spiritual stock” of our lives; time for us to “take spiritual inventory,” if you will; time for us to repent [which simply means ... to turn around] of many of the directions and priorities and values in our lives ... and *return to the Lord, our God*.

There is so much in us—and in the world around us—so much that is self-centered and self-focused. It draws us away from God and a life anchored in God ... away, too, from each other and the needs of our neighbors and communities. This deadens us to the spiritual side of human life ... diminishes our compassion and mercy, weakens our commitments to justice and decency ... and worst of all, paralyzes our faith, our simple trust in the promises of our God in Christ Jesus and God’s call for us to love the Lord our God and our neighbors. One word sums it up ... a word not terribly popular in today’s world: sin.

Lent, my friends, calls us to be honest with ourselves about our sin. Lent calls on us to confess ... to repent ... to take the extended, loving hand of God in the person of Jesus ... and to *return to the Lord, our God*. God is indeed so *gracious and merciful* ... so *slow to anger* ... so *abounding in steadfast love* ... so willing to *relent from punishing* ... that God sent Jesus to our human family to put down the “old, sinful Adam” in each of us and to freely offer us a whole new life through Jesus’ death and resurrection.



### OUR MISSION

Two congregations growing together as one in faith, welcoming others and serving Christ in Greater New Haven and throughout the world.

*Return to the Lord, Your God—Continued on Page 9*

## Meetings & Events . . .



### **MID-MONTH COFFEE GATHERING PLANNED:**

The Mid-Month Coffee Gathering will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Good

Shepherd on Wednesday, March 11, 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, March 15, following

the morning worship service at Christ Lutheran.



### **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!

## Church News . . .



### **JOINT-COUNCIL**

**INSTALLED:** During the morning worship service on February 16 at Christ Lutheran, the following

people were installed to the Christ Lutheran and Good Shepherd Joint-Council:

#### Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

- Ken Watson, President
- Liane Cassidy, Vice-President
- Brenda Samal, Secretary
- Leonard Lye, Treasurer
- Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Financial Secretary
- Linda Kapitan
- Starr O'Connor
- James Learned
- John Downs
- Robert Landino
- Sue Landino

#### Christ Lutheran Church

- Durbin Hunter, President
- Paul Snyder, Treasurer
- Norm Thetford, Financial Secretary
- Sharon Napolitano
- Ken Allen
- Ursula Hunter
- Krista O'Brien
- Loraine Brown



### **Building Consultant Report Available**

At its February 16 meeting, the Joint-Council received and discussed the report and recommendations of Jeff Spann, ELCA Building Consultant, as well as a summary of the report of Frank D'Ostilio, local commercial real estate agent, and wants to make these reports available to all interested members. The reports will be available at either church beginning on Sunday, February 23. When at church, please ask one of the pastors or one of the Council presidents for a copy.

## Ash Wednesday Worship Marks Beginning of the Lenten Journey, February 26, at 7 p.m.



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**WORSHIP:** 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, February 26, at 7 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.”*

**FIVE LENTEN  
WEDNESDAYS...  
SOUP, STUDY AND PRAYER,  
MARCH 4–APRIL 1**



Beginning on March 4, the people of Christ Church and the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd are invited to gather on Wednesday nights during the Lenten season to share in community building through dining, studying and praying together.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a simple soup supper. You can volunteer to bring a favorite soup recipe to one of the gatherings on the sign-up sheets available on Sunday mornings at either church. You may also offer to contribute a loaf of bread for the meal. Beverages will be provided.

The Bible Study, with the theme of “Stories of Light, Sight and New Life,” will focus on the richly woven and wonderfully told stories from

the Gospel according to St. John that we will be hearing as Gospel readings during our Lenten Sunday mornings.

The evening will conclude around the dinner/study table with a spoken version of Evening Prayer.

### **Schedule/Location for Each Gathering** **March 4 at Christ Lutheran Church (CLC)**

*“Born Again!”*

Nicodemus visits Jesus in the dark of night.  
John 3.1-17

### **March 11 at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (LCGS)**

*“Living Water!”*

Jesus, the woman at the well, and stunning discoveries of life.  
John 4.5-42

### **March 18 at CLC**

*“Open your eyes!”*

The man born blind sees, really sees, and the blindness of those who think they see.  
John 9.1-41

### **March 25 at LCGS**

*“Lazarus, come outta there!”*

Jesus grieves and then calls his friend into life from death.  
John 11.1-45

### **April 1 at CLC**

*“I have seen the Lord!”*

Stories of resurrection and new life for all of us.  
John 20

*Lenten Journey—Continued on Page 4*

Lenten Journey—Continued from Page 3



**Join the Journey to the  
Cross and Beyond...  
Sundays in Lent, 10 a.m.**

You are invited to join the six-Sunday Lenten journey of remembering, repentance, returning and renewal beginning Sunday, March 1, when we will gather at Christ Lutheran for worship at 10 a.m.

Each Sunday morning begins with Bible Study for adults with a special focus on the readings we will hear during worship the upcoming Sunday. It is a time for learning, new insight and building community. You are invited to join the study at 9 a.m. in the church, where we will be worshipping that Sunday.

Young children are invited to participate in the Church School class, also at 9 a.m.

Worshippers will gather at Christ Lutheran Church, 600 Shepard Ave., Hamden, on Sundays March 1, 15, and 29 (the rare 5th Sunday of a month). The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 3680 Whitney Ave., Hamden, will be the gathering place on March 8 (*remember to spring your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday nights for Daylight Savings Time!*) and 22nd.

The liturgy prepared for the Lenten season will include the hymn, "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery," sung as the Gospel Acclamation each Sunday. The hymn includes a special verse written for each Sunday of the season. Instead of a spoken response to the intercessions of the prayer of the church, there will be a sung, one-verse response: "Oh Lord, Hear My Prayer," a beautiful verse from the ecumenical Taize community in France.

**Looking Ahead to Holy  
Week and Easter...**



Lent, the 40-day journey of remembering, repentance, returning and renewal leads us into the holiest of days in our life together as followers of Jesus. Mark and set aside these days on your calendar:

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, April 5,  
10 a.m., at Christ Lutheran Church

Blessing of the Palms,  
Procession into the church,  
Reading of the Passion according to Matthew,  
Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m.,  
at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

The conclusion of Lenten season and beginning of  
"The Three Days."  
Order for Confession, Forgiveness and Laying on of  
Hands.  
Worship centered around meal table in the hall.  
A light meal will be served.  
Stripping of altar.  
Silence.

Good Friday, April 10, 7 p.m.,  
at Christ Lutheran Church

The Passion according to John. Song.  
Bidding Prayers. Adoration of the Cross.  
Silent waiting.

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday,  
April 12, 10 a.m., at the Lutheran Church of the  
Good Shepherd

Rejoice! Jesus has risen!  
The beginning of a 50-day season of joy and  
gladness.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** A menu of simple soup and bread is planned for our Lenten Soup and Bread--Evening Prayer series during Lent. We are currently looking for volunteers to bring/make soup and/or bread for our 6 p.m. gatherings at Christ Lutheran on Wednesday, March 4; Wednesday, March 18; and Wednesday, April 1. Please consult the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board to let us know if you are planning to attend and if you can assist with a meal. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is also posted at Good Shepherd for the Lenten services planned there on Wednesday, March 11 and 25.

**UPDATES ON PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS...**

In December 2019, the two congregations of Christ Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd resolved to continue walking and working together to form a lively partnership that would open the way toward a thriving ministry for a new day. Some highlights of that progress over the last couple months:



- Weekly worship together (first and third Sundays at Christ, second and fourth at Good Shepherd, with fifth Sundays to be determined).

- Monthly joint-Congregation Council meetings to share hopes, concerns, and visions; to plan common ministry; and to chart the way toward a more formal partnership.
- The writing of a shared mission statement (elsewhere on this page) to articulate in a brief way our unfolding joint-ministry.
- Working with Jeff Spann, the Building Consultant for the East Coast area of the ELCA, and a local real estate agent from the Wareck D'Ostillio Real Estate company to properly assess the potential future use and value of our two church properties.
- A shared monthly newsletter and other forms of communication.
- Shared fellowship events ("Souper Bowl of Caring") and community servant ministry efforts (Christmas Warmth Tree, contributions to Hamden Food Bank and more).
- Working with and seeking insight from the Bishop's office of the New England Synod, ELCA.

We are progressing well in this partnership that will again be assessed and considered for further direction in late May of this year. Your comments, questions, concerns, hopes and dreams for this partnership are always needed and welcomed. Please speak with either Pastor Swenson or Marschhausen, or with Durbin Hunter, President of Christ Lutheran, or Ken Watson, President of Good Shepherd.

**NEW MISSION STATEMENT ADOPTED**

Did you notice our new mission statement on the cover of the newsletter? The Joint-Council of Christ Lutheran and the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd approved the following at its February 16th meeting: *Two congregations growing together as one in faith, welcoming others and serving Christ in Greater New Haven and throughout the world.*

**PALM SUNDAY**

**BREAKFAST PLANNED**

Mark your calendars for our joint-congregational Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast, scheduled for April 5 in Sanderson Hall, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and serving until 9:15 a.m. We are looking forward to this joint-CLC and LCGS-fellowship breakfast as we prepare for Holy Week.

Please watch for more details and sign-up sheets on the CLC bulletin board.



**EASTER PLANTS**

As this year's Easter Service will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, plants ordered in memory of loved ones will be placed in the Good Shepherd chancel. This year, there will be an option of ordering from a variety of plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, etc.

Final details as to cost per plant, type of plant, and deadline for ordering are not yet finalized. Once these details become available, sign-up sheets with details will be posted at both church locations.



**JOIN THE GROWING CHOIR!**

On the Sundays that worship is held at Good Shepherd, Caroline Henry, musician at LCGS, is leading a small but growing choir in singing an anthem. You are invited to participate with this group, making a rich contribution to worship. Gather to practice at 9:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.



**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING  
CONTRIBUTIONS PART OF  
NATIONAL EFFORT**

Thanks to many generous people from our two congregations, 130 cans of soup and \$133 in donations were collected on "Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday, February 2 (also known as Super Bowl Sunday).

The efforts of our congregations were part of an ecumenical, nationwide effort to help combat hunger in local communities on a day when people are celebrating with lavish amounts of food in various places while watching the football game of the year. The vision of the Souper Bowl of Caring organization is:

*"Transforming the Big Game into a nationwide movement inspiring people to give locally and make a collective impact on hunger."*

As of February 12, our contributions were part of the national effort of more than 3,700 participating churches and organizations totaling over \$9.2 million in cash and food items. All contributions remain on the local level. Our contributions were given to the Hamden Food Bank.

Thanks, also, to all the folks who contributed the fantastic soup, sandwiches and desserts for the festive lunch following worship on February 2. It was a great day!

## Lenten Giving Opportunities . . .



Good Shepherd will once again be conducting its Project Promise/Personal Care Kit collection to

support **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**.

Members of Christ Lutheran are invited to join them in collecting personal care items to help families in crisis around the world. The collection schedule is as follows:

- **First Sunday of Lent:** One light-weight bath-sized towel, (between 20"x40" and 52"x27"), dark colors recommended.
- **Second Sunday of Lent:** Two or three bath-sized bars of soap, (8-9 ounces), any brand, in original wrapping.
- **Third Sunday of Lent:** One adult-sized toothbrush in original packaging.
- **Fourth Sunday of Lent:** One sturdy comb, remove packaging.
- **Fifth Sunday of Lent:** One metal nail clippers, (attached file optional), remove packaging.

Please note that these dates and numbers are only guidelines, and are set up to help us "get organized." We will actually be accepting contributions through early May.

Ingathering at Good Shepherd is scheduled for the second week in May. Please note that you may contribute as many of each item as you would like; the above is the requirement for one complete kit.

Lutheran World Relief, however, IS very specific about size and packaging requirements:

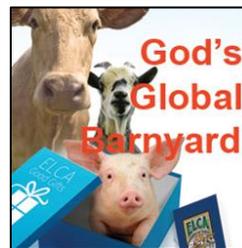
- Be sure to shop for light or medium-weight towels, which are easier for kit recipients to handwash and air dry, take up less storage

space, and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels.

- Bath towels vary in size. The 52' by 72" size listed on guidelines is the maximum size allowed.
- Please give NEW items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages, or group names.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to armed forces, including camouflage.

Last year, Good Shepherd was able to assemble more than 40 complete kits. With this year's combined effort, we look forward to an even more generous contribution. For more information about this project, please speak with Starr O'Connor.

*Thank you in advance!*



**GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD** is another fundraiser that will begin in Lent and continue through June. We will be distributing "Barnyard"

coin boxes beginning Sunday, February 23, for those who would like to participate. Save those (annoying) coins that you throw on the counter, or in a jar, or that you find at bottom of pocket or purse!

Last year, we were able to collect over \$500 toward the mission of overcoming world hunger! For more information, please speak with Starr O'Connor.

**LCGS MARCH CELEBRATIONS**

**Anniversaries**

**March 30**

James & Sharon Knoob, Jr.  
—24 years



**Birthdays**

- March 7—Jameson Papa
- March 8—Anthony Papa III
- March 10—Micah Sharon
- March 10—Lee Olson Palmieri
- March 10—Sarah DeLong
- March 15—Alicia Samal
- March 15—Ann Knoob
- March 16—Ruth Podgwaite
- March 20—Patricia Rowold
- March 23—Kate Lyn Aykroyd
- March 23—Jimmy Knoob
- March 25—Sylvia Wakefield
- March 30—Elfriede Fleischmann



**VETERANS TRIP TO WASHINGTON**

Honor Flight Connecticut is now accepting applications for an air flight for veterans to experience memorials in our Capital. It is set for Saturday, May 2, from Bradley at 7 a.m. to return that evening. For this flight, we are looking for WWII and Korean War Veterans. There is no cost for the veteran, but a Guardian who accompanies the Veteran will pay \$350. In the coming years we will open it up to Vietnam Veterans.



*For applications or more information, contact Abner Oakes at 203-215-4675 or [ao021301@aol.com](mailto:ao021301@aol.com).*



**NEWSLETTER NEWS & NOTES:** We are trying to reduce the amount of paper we consume and the cost of printing and postage. Beginning with this March/Lenten issue of *The Staff/Bellringer*, we will not be mailing copies unless specifically requested. We will be emailing to as many addresses as we have, and we'll have copies available for pick-up at the churches. If you think we have an old or incorrect email address for you—or if we don't have your email address at all—please get the correct address to Ursula Hunter, Brenda Samal or Sharon Napolitano.

**NEW NAME:** Have a creative idea for a new name for our combined newsletter? Please add your ideas to the list posted on the bulletin boards at Christ Lutheran and Good Shepherd. All proposed titles will be considered!

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Please note that the submission deadline for the April issue of *The Staff/Bellringer* is Sunday, March 22.



*Return to the Lord, Your God--Continued from Page 1*

Lent is our time to take Jesus' hand once again and to walk with him; to walk with him, yes, biblically to Jerusalem and the Upper Room and Calvary and an empty tomb, but also to spiritually walk with Jesus and one another again in our lives today as we rediscover what the love and presence of God can mean for each of us ... for our families, our church, our community, our world.

Commit yourselves, my friends, to this Lenten call from Joel ... *return to the Lord, your God* ... experience with us a God who is *gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting of punishment*. Throughout this March/Lenten issue of *The Staff/Bellringer* you will find opportunities to join with your church to grow in personal faith, to share faith with one another, and to exercise your faith in mission and ministry. Please be a part of it with us! As Christ and Good Shepherd come more and more together as one, united witness to Jesus Christ in Hamden and beyond, we're looking for you, and Jesus is counting on you to walk with him.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus, and God bless you this Lenten season,  
***Pastor John Marschhausen, Transition Pastor***

## **Church Addresses & Contact Information**

### **Christ Lutheran Church**

600 Shepard Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06514

*The Rev. 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 Rev. Les Swenson*

#### **Transition Pastor**

Cell: (860) 857-9362

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

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



# Sunday Servants . . .

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE MARCH 2020 – MID-APRIL 2020 (EASTER)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>ASSISTING MINISTERS</u> <u>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</u> <u>WORSHIP ASSISTANT 2</u>		<u>LECTOR/ READER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>
<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
<u>AT GOOD SHEPHERD</u> March 8, 2020 10:00 AM	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	John Downs	Linda Kapitan	Jim Learned Joann Golanski	Linda Kapitan
<u>AT CHRIST LUTHERAN</u> March 15, 2020 10:00 AM	Samantha Kovacs	Sharon Napolitano	Loraine Brown	Sharon Napolitano	Durbin & Ursula Hunter Elaine Richetelle	Loraine Brown
<u>AT GOOD SHEPHERD</u> March 22, 2020 10:00 AM	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Starr O,Connor	Lisa Ball Goodrich	Leonard Lye Ruth Lye	Starr O,Connor
<u>AT CHRIST LUTHERAN</u> March 29, 2020 10:00 AM	Amanda Kovacs	Ursula Hunter	Ken Allen	Durbin Hunter	David & Loraine Brown Ken Allen	Loraine Brown
<u>AT CHRIST LUTHERAN</u> <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> April 5, 2020 10:00 AM	Grace O'Brien	Loraine Brown	Sharon Napolitano	Paul Snyder	Gerlinde Kerbs Paul Snyder John Napolitano	Loraine Brown
<u>AT GOOD SHEPHERD</u> <u>MAUNDY THURSDAY</u> April 9, 2020 6:00 PM	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Starr O,Connor	Rob Hansen	Leonard Lye Ruth Lye	Starr O,Connor
<u>AT CHRIST LUTHERAN</u> <u>GOOD FRIDAY</u> April 10, 2020 7:00 PM	Samantha Kovacs	Ken Allen	Ursula Hunter	David Brown	Phil & Sharon Napolitano Ken Allen	Loraine Brown
<u>AT GOOD SHEPHERD</u> <u>EASTER SUNDAY</u> April 12, 2020 10:00 AM	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Starr O,Connor	Ken Watson	Jim Learned Joann Golanski	Chuddy Watson

### MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

SOUP SUPPER / BIBLE STUDY / EVENING PRAYER  
TO BE HELD @ 6:00 PM AS FOLLOWS  
AT CHRIST LUTHERAN: Mar 4, Mar 18, April 1  
AT GOOD SHEPHERD: Mar 11, Mar 25

If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please find a substitute and make the change on the Master Schedule.  
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact John Downs at (jjdowns@comcast .net) or 203-248-8566.

*Thank you for serving!*