



# THE STAFF

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

April 2016

### Pastor's Message

How many Lutherans does it take to change....

You have heard the joke: How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? (*None. Lutherans don't believe in change.*) We laugh because it's true: change is challenging, constant, and never-ending. Just like God's love.

A month ago I decided to move some furniture. The large white couch and flat screen TV went from my living room upstairs to the second floor in the parsonage, the large purple couch from the office went to the living room, and the small blue couch that had been upstairs in the parsonage went to the office. The reason was simple enough: I wanted to make the living room a place for conversation, reflection, and work, without the distraction of the "boob tube," and I wanted my office to feel a little less cramped. Seemed simple enough – until it became clear that I needed to reconfigure all three spaces to accept the change, which meant moving pictures, videos, tables, lamps, paperwork, and lots and lots of books. I suspect it will take several more weeks until I have figured out where everything will go – and in the meantime, I feel remarkably unsettled. With all the rest of the chaos in the world (crazy politicians, horrific violence, and don't forget the peculiar weather!), couldn't my home just stay the same? I know I'm not alone in feeling this way; whether it's a friend moving away, a death in our family, or new words to a familiar hymn, change can make us feel resentful, frustrated, and out of control.

How is that like God's love exactly?

Well, it seems to me that we all have times when God's love is problematic, embarrassing, and overwhelming. When we are feeling guilty about



something we have done, the idea that God loves us when we aren't sure we love ourselves can be a little hard to take. When we are aware that we could have been kinder, gentler, more compassionate or

generous, knowing that God's love for us hasn't changed one whit can make us blush. And when we just want to curl up into a ball and hide from ourselves and everyone else around us, and God *comes and finds us and loves us anyhow* – well, we are sure that the earth has spun off its axis. God's unconditional, prodigious and even wasteful (!) love is beyond anything we can understand, and to tell the truth, sometimes we wish that God would just go away until

we are ready to be loved like that. And of course, God does not go away. God just waits. And loves us.

The message of Easter rings loud and true even – and perhaps most particularly – when we both need and don't want it the most; while everything else around us changes, there is at least one thing we can be sure will not: God's over-the-top, unending, undeserved and no-deposit-no-return love. Good news indeed!

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

*Pastor Daphne +*

### Upcoming Events

- 4/3 Confirmation with Pastor
- 4/13 Book Club
- 4/17 Confirmation cluster
- 4/27 Council meeting

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

**LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**  
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***The Staff Editor***

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**Council Members**  
**1/1/16—12/31/16**

President	Linda Kapitan
Vice-President	~vacant~
Treasurer	John Downs
Secretary	Brenda Samal
Christian Education	Brianne Papa
Evangelism/ Publicity	Starr O'Connor
Fellowship	Sue Landino & Emma Barnes
Financial Secretary	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Stewardship/ Missions	Sue Hartley
Property	James Learned
Worship	Ken Watson



Pastor Barbara  
Daphne Kuslan &  
family

John Elfriede Anna  
Downs & family

Stacy Holly Jessika Mary Lou

John W. Sue Kathy D. Victoria

Emily Marianne CindyLu Pam

Harold Arnold Catherine Mike

Rex Gertrude Howard Paul Barnes

Alex Linda & Amanda John  
Darryl

Abby Joe & Alan  
Peg

*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*

As we pray for military personnel, we add another member of our congregation in our thoughts.

Jonathan Rowold joined the CT National Guard and began basic training March 29, 2016.

Thank you to the congregation for the generous candy donations for the Easter egg hunt.

Brianne  
Christian Education





Here’s a cool fact. In 2006, when Lutherans started waving Eco-Palms with LWR, 206 congregations participated. This year, your congregation was one of 2,100 to wave Eco-Palms!

As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are excited to see so many Lutheran congregations invite palm harvesters, their families and communities to their Palm Sunday celebrations — showing care for God’s people and all of creation!

**CONFIRMATION LUNCHEON**

We will be hosting the confirmation group on April 17.

The fellowship committee would like people to bring salads or desserts to go with the confirmands lunch. *Thank you!*

**CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE**

APRIL

- 3- LCGS only
- 17- BERGS cluster at LCGS –we provide lunch.

MAY

- 1- LCGS only
- 15- LCGS only
- 22- BERGS cluster at LCGS - we provide lunch.
- \*\*\* I know this is off our regular schedule, but May 29, when we would normally meet is during Memorial Day weekend (among other things).

JUNE

Sometime this month we plan an all cluster gathering/party/hike, and we may use one of the dates below and the other one we'll hold for make-up classes.

- 12 - LCGS only
- 26 - LCGS only

**FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH FEBRUARY, 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	2/12 of 2016 ADJUSTED BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2015 thru February
Receipts thru February	\$9,538	\$15,561	(\$6,023)	\$12,461
Expenses thru February	\$14,956	\$15,561	(\$605)	\$15,680
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$5,418)	\$0	(\$5,418)	(\$3,219)

Our total Operating giving for January and February 2016 were \$4,711 and \$4,828 respectively and expenses were \$5,911 and \$9,045 giving us a deficit of \$5,418 compared to last years deficit of \$3,219.

March should be more of a break even as donations have increased—thanks to Easter and Holy Week giving. Our expenses are less than last year—helped by the warm winter.

We thank everyone for their contributions, whether they be monetary or donations of time and effort to make this such a meaningful and caring congregation

*John E. Downs, Treasurer*

## NEW HYMNALS AND A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE MEMORIAL GIFTS!

As we spoke about in our last Voters Meeting, we are purchasing new hymnals: the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW). Informally known as “the Cranberry Book” – to differentiate it from the Red Book (TLH, pub 1941), the Green Book (LBW, pub 1978) and the Blue Book (WOV, pub 1995) – the ELW was published in 2006 and contains 10 worship settings, including those in the LBW and WOV, and 654 hymns (compared to 547 in the LBW).

We have already used several of the worship settings (we are using number 6 now) and since the ELW is meant to *replace* the LBW, most of the hymns are familiar! We will continue our practice of printing the seasonal worship booklets and inserting the weekly readings, but we won’t have to print copies of any of the hymns. Large Print Editions are also available as loose leaf sheets; if we purchase 4 or 5 more, we will only have to make copies of the prayers and readings rather than the full bulletins as we do now. Using the ELWs will therefore not only save us paper and copying costs, but will also give us access to some hymns that are not currently available to us.

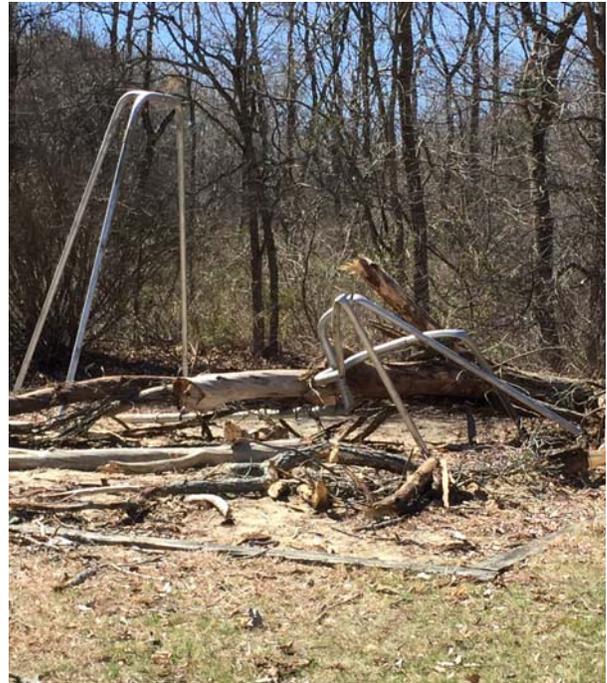
We have received permission to use some memorial funds to purchase about 20 of the copies. Bookplates will be affixed to indicate in whose memory they are given. We need approximately 100 total to put 4 copies in each pew, plus the large print editions. If you would like to give one (or more!), please indicate on your check the number of hymnals you are giving, and in whose memory or honor they are given. You may also choose to emboss the front with the church name for an extra \$4.25. The costs of the hymnals are:

Regular Pew Edition: \$22.50 (there is no bulk pricing). With church name imprinted on the front: \$26.75.

Large Print Edition: \$80.00.

It would be wonderful if we could order enough to use on May 15, which is Pentecost!

If you have any questions, or would like to look at a copy of either size (they have been on display during fellowship hour), please speak with Pastor Daphne.



A severe windstorm the day after Easter toppled this tree which destroyed our long-standing swing set.



*Linda .... Brandon .... Darryl*

### **CONGRATULATIONS BRANDON!!**

Brandon Johnson started in November, 2015 but was sworn in March 3, 2016 with the Naugatuck Fire Department.

**SCHEDULED TO SERVE**

DATE	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
4/3	Aoife Weischedel	Paul O'Braonain	Lisa Martinell	Emma Barnes	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Liane Moreland
4/10	Emily Olson	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Dorothy Podgwaite Ken Watson	Chuddy Watson
4/17	Anthony Papa	Paul O'Braonain	Sue Hartley	Trish Rowold	Barbara Kuslan	Sue Hartley James Learned	Starr O'Connor
4/24	Nicholas Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Emma Barnes	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Lisa Martinell
5/1	Aidan Weischedel	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Martinell	Paul O'Braonain	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Liane Moreland

*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!***



**SCOUT SUNDAY  
March 6, 2016**

**“GOD’S WORK; OUR HANDS”**

ELCA Spring Gathering  
Saturday, April 23, 2016

Trinity Lutheran Church  
21 Robert Treat Parkway  
Milford CT

Guest Speaker:  
Donna Doxsey-McGrew

Donna will speak of her worldwide experiences in various countries with the organization “CardioStart International” specializing in cardiac surgery & providing free services in Third World countries.

\* \* \* \* \*

Registration sheet is posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

### Council Notes



Council met on 3/31/16. For opening devotions, pastor asked that we write a short note of thanks to another council member. She has been unable to make her regular home visits the past couple of weeks because of illness. She was very pleased with the services during Holy Week and Easter, especially how engaged the youth were with the services. Council discussed a date for members of the congregation to visit John Wright and share a brief service with him—April 24. Good Shepherd will be hosting another “Ingathering of Quilts” on May 20 from 11-4pm. The financial reports showed receipts lower than expenses. (See John’s report on page 3) Sunday School is growing again—there now will be seven children attending. A tree fell during a strong wind storm and destroyed the swing set. Dave from the tree service offered to clear the downed tree and dead branches from others for free. Our food closet was full so Sue Hartley delivered one-half to the Cheshire Pantry and one-half to St. Ann’s Soup Kitchen. The next council meeting will be on a Wednesday next month - 4/27/16 at 7:00pm.

### APRIL CELEBRATIONS

#### Anniversaries

28-Frank & Penny Podgwaite      32 years

#### Birthdays

- 4-Justin Barnes
- 9-Tyler Knoob
- 9-Robert Landino
- 17-Charles Avila
- 17-Jonathan Olson
- 23-Aoife Weishedel
- 26-Gunnar Chapman, Jr.
- 27-Reggie Chang
- 29-Aidan Weishedel



#### Baptisms

Chuddy Watson, Charles Avila, Alyssa Aykroyd  
 Elizabeth Ingerson, Victoria Keating, James  
 Knoob, Jr., Brian Moreland, Paul O’Braonain  
 Nicholas Papa, Sylvia Wakefield

#### **From the kitchen of John Wright**

#### **Recipe for his delicious Irish Soda Bread**

- 4 cups flour                      2 cups buttermilk
- 3/4 cup sugar                    1 egg
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2—3/4 cup raisins
- 2 tsp caraway seeds

Grease and flour 9” round springform pan.  
 Sift together dry ingredients. Add raisins and  
 caraway seeds. Mix buttermilk and egg. Make  
 a well in the center of the dry ingredients and  
 slowly combine wet ingredients to dry mixture,  
 mixing quickly. Put into springform pan.

Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes. (Look for  
 nice browned top—may need extra 5 minutes.)

Great toasted with butter and jam.

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 10:30am**

**Sunday School 9:30am**

**Worship**



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FIRST CLASS MAIL