



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

April 2018

Pastor's Message

Practice Resurrection!

One of my favorite poems by Wendell Berry, one of my very favorite writers, is titled: "Manifesto: the Mad Farmer Liberation Front."*

Berry is not only a writer of great note but he is a down-to-earth Kentucky farmer, a genuine lover of the land with a burning passion to tend and nurture the creation we have been given to steward faithfully.

His rambling poem concludes with his call to "Practice resurrection" the meaning of which he has unpacked throughout the poem, urging his listeners to break out of their well controlled, consumer oriented, always-needing-to-have-more-stuff lives.

"...Every day," he exhorts, "do something that won't compute.

Love the Lord.

Love the world.

Work for nothing.

Take all that you have and be poor.

Love somebody who does not deserve it...

Ask the questions that have no answers...

Plant sequoias.

Laugh.

Laughter is immeasurable.

Be joyful though you have considered all the facts...

Practice resurrection."

Which is to say, live the new life, live in the still unfolding new creation into which God is calling you in the risen Jesus. It is a daring thing to practice resurrection, but that is what we are called to be about as a community of meaning and hope —carving out expansive spaces of radical, godly hospitality and welcome, discovering new ways to serve those who are too often nudged to the margins of life, forging brave new directions for ministry in Jesus' name not just to survive but to thrive, all while embracing one another in prayer, mutual encouragement and love and doing a whole lot of stuff that just doesn't compute but that at the same time is remarkably faithful, right and good.

When people ask, "What's going on at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd?" dare answer: "We're practicing resurrection!" And invite them to come and see and experience it for themselves!

With Easter joy and hope, your partner along the way,

Pastor Swenson

* from New Collected Poems, Wendell Berry, Counterpoint, Berkeley, CA, 2012

Upcoming Events

4/22 Council meeting

4/29 Congregation
Conversation with
potluck

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

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Transitional Pastor
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The Staff Editor

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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: ~vacant~
Fellowship: Linda Kapitan
Financial Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Stewardship/
Missions: Starr O'Connor
Property: James Learned
Worship: John Downs



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

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



Rides for Ruth

April 8	John Downs
April 15	Jim Learned
April 22	Linda Kapitan
April 29	John Downs
May 6	Jim Learned

**Hey Kids (and Families too)!
Summer Adventures and Fun Await
You at Calumet!**

Without question it will be the best week of your summer! Camp Calumet Lutheran on the shores of beautiful Lake Ossipee in the foothills of the White Mountains of New Hampshire awaits you!

Resident camp for kids 8-18 begins July 1. You can sign up for one or two week sessions. Calumet is the place where people go to have the time of their lives, a place where life long friendships are made, and God's love is embraced and shared.

Some brochures about summer camp are still available in the church narthex. Better yet, check out the Calumet website for lots of information and registration forms: calumet.org Camperships (financial aid) are available. And ask Pastor Swenson about Calumet! He knows all about this best camp in the whole world!

There are also great opportunities for families and adults at Calumet in the summer time — a sprawling and beautiful campground with great programs, as well as a terrific lodge where the meals are hearty and delicious.

Discerning the Future for Good Shepherd Church...

Congregational Conversation

April 29

Potluck lunch

Members of Good Shepherd's Congregation Council will share some of the results of their discussions about the future of Good Shepherd Church and help lead conversation with congregation members at a special informal, informational meeting on Sunday, April 29, after the 10:30 worship service.

A key aim of this congregation's discernment process is to keep people informed and engaged in the conversation. Although we are still in the early stages, everyone's participation is important as we consider and listen together how God is calling this congregation into tomorrow.

Copies of the reading the Council is using as a launch pad for their conversations (as well as an accompanying study guide) originally distributed at the Annual Meeting in February are still available in the Office. Ask Pastor Swenson for one.

In the meantime, keep this congregation in your prayers as we seek clarity and wisdom in discerning the path ahead.



The Great Fifty Days of Easter Continue! Come and Celebrate Christ Risen!

It was a splendid Day of Resurrection at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on April 1! No fooling! A terrific breakfast to begin the day (thanks to Linda Kapitan and all her helpers) followed by a wonderful worship service with Alleluias raised, lively singing to great accompaniment (thanks to Caroline Henry!), the baptism of Jameson Angelo-Santino Papa, a wet reminder of our own baptisms, the eucharistic feast, all in a beautiful setting (thanks to John Downs and friends for your set up work) enjoyed by a full church.

Now the festival continues! The Alleluias do not fade away. Easter is not just a one day celebration but a great 50 day season of rejoicing over the good news of Christ risen — seven Sundays plus the celebration of Pentecost on May 20, the “capper” to this festival!

In our worship we will continue with the Hymn of Praise, “Now the feast and celebration,” the Christ candle remains a beacon of light and life, and our hymn singing, Scripture lessons, and preaching will all remind us of the presence and life transforming power of the resurrected Jesus.

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 22, we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday when our lessons remind us of the love and tender, life giving care of Jesus the Good Shepherd, and of our ministry as Good Shepherd Church to reflect that love in our relationships with one another and the ever-widening communities in which we live and serve in Jesus’ name.

Come and celebrate our new life in Christ, raise your Alleluias, and go in peace to practice resurrection! And invite friends, family members, neighbors, and colleagues to join the celebration!

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

28– Frank & Penny Podgwaite 34 years

Birthdays

9-Tyler Knoob

9-Robert Landino

17-Jonathan Olson

23-Aoife Weischedel

27-Reggie Chang

29-Aidan Weischedel



Baptisms

Chuddy Watson, Alyssa Aykroyd,
Elizabeth Ingerson, James Knoob, Jr.,
Paul O’Braonain, Nicholas Papa,
Sylvia Wakefield

Council Notes 3/18/18



Council began a discussion on *The Shrinking Church* with Pastor. We discussed the churches assets, attendance and budget trends and the goal of this ministry. Pastor suggested having a congregation conversational meeting after our April meeting to update the congregation and get feedback. Synod Assembly is June 7-9. (See article on page 5.) The financial report showed a profit in February but we have not received a bill yet for snowplowing. Linda broached the idea of having a potluck luncheon– welcoming people back who have not attended in awhile. Council was receptive. Council discussed safety concerns regarding condition of parking lot . Quotes will be secured for a partial repair to a full repair. More servers are needed for worship services. The next council meeting is April 22.

The 2018 New England Synod Assembly will be held at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield, Mass. from Thursday, June 7th through Saturday, June 9th. Our 2018 theme, “Stir it Up”, is what we plan to see happen across the New England Synod this coming year. We’re opening ourselves to be stirred up by the Spirit. Will the Spirit of God encourage New England Lutherans to connect their faith and everyday lives? We’ll be discovering how to stir up those connections so that faith may come alive in the sharing of our stories! Stir up your power, O Lord, and come!



<p>PRELIMINARY AGENDA (subject to change)</p> <p>Thursday, June 7</p> <p>11:30 am Registration opens</p> <p>1:00 pm Opening of the Assembly</p> <p>6:00 pm Dinner at the MMC</p> <p>7:30 pm Keynote Speaker Pastor Jeff Thiemann</p>	<p>Saturday, June 9</p> <p>8:30 am Assembly business begins</p> <p>12:30 pm Closing of assembly</p>
<p>Friday, June 8</p> <p>8:30 am Assembly business begins</p> <p>11:30 am Lunch break</p> <p>1:00 pm Assembly resumes</p> <p>5:15 pm Dinner break</p> <p>7:00 pm Keynote Speaker Pastor Carrie Smith</p>	<p>We are looking for a male and a female delegate to attend with expenses paid by Good Shepherd. We have to know who will be attending as our voting members by the end of April. (Please let Ken Watson or any council member know.)</p>

Office Hours for Pastor Swenson

Now that winter storms (many on Wednesdays) are nearly over, Pastor Swenson intends to be in the church office more regularly on Wednesday mornings, 10-12:30. You are invited to drop by and talk with him during those hours, but it might be wise to call his cell phone before you get in your car, just to make sure he’ll be there. 860.857.9362.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
4/8	Anthony Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Leo Goodrich	John Downs Starr O'Connor	Starr O'Connor
4/15	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Leo Goodrich	Reggie Chang	Reggie Chang Leo Goodrich	Chuddy Watson
4/22	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	John Downs	Linda Kapitan	Jim Learned John Downs	Linda Kapitan
4/29	Anthony Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Barbara Kuslan	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
5/6	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Reggie Chang Leo Goodrich	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!***

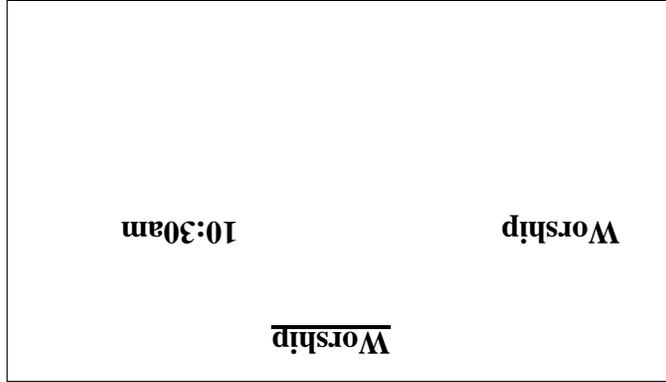
**FINANCIAL RESULTS
FEBRUARY 2018**

	2018	2/12 of 2018 BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2017 thru February
Receipts February	\$9,701	\$9,957	(\$256)	\$16,849
Expenses February	\$10,573	\$9,957	\$616	\$17,802
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$872)	\$0	(\$872)	(\$953)

The above shows that we are close to last years results through February of last year although our budget of 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 (Outgoing Treasurer)*

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