



# THE STAFF

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

April 2019

### Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

As the father of a soon-to-be-bride (our daughter will be married on April 27), I have been thinking a lot recently about joy.

Joy, we discover, is often hard to define with words. It is more often deeply felt. Words can barely measure up to the emotions. Joy rises up from occasions that arouse profound gratitude, that speak of hope, that are embraced with the promise of abiding and enduring love. It has been said we are created, we are born for joy.

As we now journey through the remaining days of Lent and into Holy Week, and then rise to celebrate the Great Fifty Days of Easter, we are awakened to how the church is called to be a community of joy. Together through the past couple weeks we have heard the yearnings of Christ, the mother hen, longing to gather all her wandering, reluctant brood under her wings where healing and joy await. We have witnessed the prodigal father discarding all decorum in order to go out and greet his lost, wayward son back home with reckless, extravagant mercy and love, and then going out again to urge his resistant, jealous elder son to join the party of reconciliation and rejoicing where all are welcome and belong. The father knows and practices well the yearnings of the mother hen. Genuine homecomings spark joy.

Jurgen Moltmann, a well known theologian of our day, calls Christianity a religion of joy. In looking especially at the days ahead as the very center of that claim, he writes: *Why then is Christianity such a unique religion of joy, even though at its center stands the suffering of God and the cross of Christ? Because we remember*

*the death of Christ in the light of his resurrection, and we remember his resurrection in the splendor of the divine, eternal life that is embracing our human and mortal life already here and now. This is the logic of 'how much more' (Paul Ricoeur): where sin is powerful, God's grace is much more powerful (Romans 5.20), for Christ has died, but how much more is Christ risen and has he overcome death (Romans 8.38-39)! So pain too will be caught up and gathered into joy, despair into hope, and temporal death into the joy of divine life. Pains are passing, and I hear praise everlasting."*

(From essay, "Christianity: A Religion of Joy," in Joy and Human Flourishing, Essays on Theology, Culture and the Good Life, Miroslav Volf and Justin Crisp, editors.)

Come, through the days ahead, to experience this logic of "how much more!" Take joy within the arms of the crucified-risen one who welcomes, holds and leads us in unsurpassable love!

Your partner along the way,  
Les Swenson,  
Transitional Pastor

### Upcoming Events

- |      |                                   |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 4/10 | Mid-month coffee gathering        |
| 4/14 | Palm Sunday                       |
| 4/18 | Maundy Thursday                   |
| 4/19 | Good Friday                       |
| 4/21 | Easter Sunday<br>Easter Breakfast |
| 5/1  | Council meeting                   |

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

**LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

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*The Staff Editor*  
Brenda Samal  
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**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



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

*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*

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

In a sweepingly romantic gesture last Saturday along the shore of the Hudson looking towards Central Park, Manhattan, Bruno popped the question to Caroline (*our organist*) with roses and a ring!

She said YES of course, and now they are engaged!



## God's Global Barnyard Welcomes Your Generosity!

So how are you doing filling your little red barn with your loose change (or even loose bills) during this Lenten season?

Haven't started, or haven't yet picked up a barn? Well, there's still time as we will continue to receive your barns through the Easter season.

Your contributions that come through your barnyard giving will all go to support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal which supports hunger fighting and development programs both domestically and globally.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are making a world of difference. As a partner of churches, social ministry organizations and development and advocacy organizations, ELCA World Hunger helps reach communities most in need throughout the world. Our relationships in the U.S. and around the world create an infrastructure that allows us to be very cost efficient and effective — less than 10 cents of every dollar is used for program administration and fundraising.

In 2017, support for ELCA World Hunger totaled over \$21.3 million

From Alaska to Alabama, from Chile to China, your gifts are hard at work helping our neighbors near and far break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Your generous giving makes it possible for ELCA World Hunger to be present throughout the United States and throughout the world. In 2018, we are supporting:

- Projects in 43 U.S. states and territories
- 62 countries, including the United States

From health clinics to microloans, food pantries to soup kitchens, advocacy to community organizing, your gifts are

supporting meaningful solutions that get at the root causes of hunger.

To learn more about the ELCA World Hunger ministry, go to [elca.org/hunger](http://elca.org/hunger). And in the meantime keep filling those barns! Or if necessary, pick one up soon in the Parish Hall and begin. Take joy in your generous giving! Thanks.

## Council Meeting



Council met 3/17. Ken briefed council on the recent meeting with area Lutheran churches (see his article on page 4.) Pastor reported the Wakefield's requested transfer to the church they attend in Florida. Council discussed options for the future of LCGS. 1. Stay the same— not a good option. 2. Partnered Ministry— more opportunities for Christian Education and social ministry. We need to keep moving forward in our talks. Reviewed some goals for 2019. "God's Work Our Hands" is the second Sunday in September. Can encourage other congregations to join in a group venture. The financial reports showed expenses greater than income in February. Council approved the purchase of an updated guest book that includes a line for email addresses. A sign-up sheet is posted for Easter breakfast. Possible stewardship project discussed was a backpack and school supplies drive during the summer. Two delegates are needed for Synod Assembly June 7-8. (Early bird registration ends April 15.)

Next council meeting is May 1 at 7:00pm. Voters' meeting tentatively scheduled for June 23.

## **Join the Procession through Holy Week into the Great Fifty Days of Easter!**

### **Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

**April 14, 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. Luke.  
Holy Communion.

### **Maundy Thursday**

**April 18, 6:00 p.m.**

We will begin the church, then gather around one  
expansive table in the Parish Hall  
for a light meal of soup and bread,  
enact Jesus' command to love and serve one another  
through a simple act of hand washing,  
hear the story of this holy night when Jesus shared his  
last supper with his disciples,  
went to the garden to pray, and then was arrested.  
After sharing the Communion meal  
we will enter the church for quiet prayer and meditation  
and the stripping of the altar.

### **Good Friday**

**April 19, 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 21, 10:30 a.m.**

Christ is risen! God has raised him from the grave!

Hymns of joy and gladness! The Alleluias return!

Affirmation of Baptism. Holy Communion.

Come and worship!!

Bring family and friends!!

Take joy!

### **The Sundays of Easter**

#### **Continue through Pentecost Sunday, June 9**

A fifty day celebration of new life in the risen Christ  
with a continuing chorus of Alleluias  
and joy-filled praise!

Gather for worship.

Then scatter to practice resurrection every day!

## **NEW HAVEN AREA CONGREGATION MEETING**

The second meeting of the area congregations was expanded to include Christ and Trinity (New Haven). Representatives from each of these churches attended. We summarized the first meeting for the benefit of the 2 new congregations. Then we talked about the types of assets each congregation had. Pastor Sinnott led a discussion on evangelism and the group listed a number of things a church needs to do. These include being accessible for handicapped, be a gathering place, provide a safe place, have an online presence, spread the Good News. We also discussed ways to partner which include shared clergy, shared space with another congregation, shared Christian Education, shared outreach projects and possibly combining 3-5 congregations.

The next meeting will be on Sat 4/27 at Trinity in New Haven.

## **APRIL CELEBRATIONS**

### **Anniversaries**

28-Frank & Penny Podgwaite 35 years

### **Birthdays**

9-Tyler Knoob

9-Robert Landino

17-Jonathan Olson

27-Reggie Chang



### **Baptisms**

Chuddy Watson, Alyssa Akroyd,  
Elizabeth Ingerson, James Knoob, Jr  
Nicholas Papa, Jameson Papa,  
Bryce Knoob, Sylvia Wakefield

Many students have to do a Capstone project for their senior year. One of my students has chosen to do the following:

Hello,

I am writing to reach out and ask for your support for a project that I am working on for my Senior Capstone.

There are many young people in DCF Foster Care around Connecticut. When young people are in DCF foster care, they have to move from place to place quite frequently. Unfortunately, many of them don't have luggage to carry their belongings from one placement to another. As a result, they are often forced to use trash bags to transport their personal belongings. Not only do these bags not function well for that purpose, they can make the young people in DCF care feel less valued. They know that the usual purpose of those bags is to throw away things that are broken, spoiled, or unwanted. In other words, they may feel that they are being "thrown out" rather than simply relocating to a different home/placement.

In an attempt to help children and adolescents in foster care, I am proposing to conduct a "bag drive." All of the bags/suitcases/backpacks collected would serve as luggage that they would be able to keep and use to pack their clothes and other belongings during transitions to new foster placements. I am reaching out to the IOL community for support. If you have some luggage and/or travel bags (e.g., duffel, backpacks) that you no longer use, please consider donating it to this very worthy cause. Once I have collected the luggage, I will be working with my local DCF office and other related agencies to coordinate the storage and distribution of the collected luggage.

My hope is that by the making transition from one placement to the next a little more pleasant, young people's lives will be positively impacted. They will feel more valued and respected. They will also have greater respect for the people who are working with them- which will hopefully improve

their overall outcomes. Providing these young people with luggage may seem like a small change but it has the possibility of making a huge difference in the thoughts and feelings surrounding moving from place to place for these children and adolescents.

Thank you in advance for your support!

If you have any luggage or backpacks that you would like to donate, please bring them to the church by April 21st. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

Linda Kapitan

## STEWARDSHIP

A big THANK YOU to all who helped load up my car on March 24th! Fifteen, (VERY HEAVY), bags of non perishables were delivered to the the Hamden Food Bank on the following Monday. As always, our donation was gratefully received. Just a reminder; all donations are welcomed, and there continues to be a special need for diapers and baby wipes.

The personal care kit collection is going well! Kits will be assembled in mid May for pick up by the Lutheran Work Hunger sponsored truck. Contributions will be accepted right up until the first or second week in May. Within the next couple weeks, we will "take a count" of items, in case there is a shortage of any needed supplies to complete the kits, but right now we have an abundance! I am also pleased to add that Bethesda Lutheran Church in New Haven will be joining our "ingathering" this year. They are assembling school kits to be included in the World Hunger collection.

Please keep saving those coins for "God's Global Barnyard". We are extending this fund raising past Easter into June. (It's a "Spring Thing!..")  
Deadline to be announced.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity during this Lenten Season and all year round!

**SCHEDULED TO SERVE**

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
4/7	Nicholas Papa	Anthony Papa	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson James Learned	Chuddy Watson
4/14 Palm Sunday	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	John Downs	Linda Kapitan	Ruth & Leonard Lye	Linda Kapitan
4/18 Maundy Thrs	Elizabeth Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Starr O'Connor
4/19 Good Friday	~	John Downs	~	Leo Goodrich	Leo Goodrich John Downs	Chuddy Watson
4/21 Easter	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson James Learned	Chuddy Watson
4/28	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ruth & Leonard Lye	Starr O'Connor
5/5	Elizabeth Ingerson	Anthony Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Sarah DeLong

*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!***

**EASTER FLOWERS**

Sign up for Easter Flower by April 10th

Lilies, Tulips & Hyacinths      \$ 8.00



Any questions-  
see John Downs

*Rides for Ruth*

April 7	James Learned
April 14	Mary Lou Knoob
April 21	Starr O'Connor
April 28	John Downs
May 5	Lisa Ball-Goodrich



Easter breakfast will be starting at 9:00am.

Please sign up in the Fellowship hall if you are planning on attending.

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  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL