



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

May 2018

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

Since February the members of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Congregation Council have been engaged in conversation about the future of this community of faith. That conversation broadened on the last Sunday of April when a congregation wide forum took place after worship. We're on this journey together.

We are about the task of discerning just how God is calling this congregation into tomorrow. There is uncertainty and anxiety, yes, but even more there is trust that God is leading us. We long for open ears, honest, thoughtful conversation, and wise, brave decision making that will best serve God's purposes for this world.

One thing is for sure. The church's goal is never about survival, somehow holding onto, keeping the church alive as we have always known and experienced it. The church is not about hanging in there, clinging to what was or what is. It is about leaning expectantly and trustingly into God's future, boldly stepping into the promise of new life in Christ.

The first verse of a familiar hymn sings: *"The church of Christ in every age beset by change but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead."* (#729, ELW)

The Gospels and the words of this hymn remind us that there must be a dying before there is a rising to new life. "Very truly, I tell you," Jesus says, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12.24) So it is with the church, the body of Christ in this world. There is dying — death to old ways, to reluctance, resistance and hesitation, to patterns that hinder us from being and doing what

we are called by the risen Jesus and led by the Spirit to be and do. But in dying, there is new life — sheer gift and sometimes great surprise and wonder at what opens up before us. Entrusting ourselves to God's life giving mercies, death opens the way to new opportunities and new life.

The early stories of this eye-opening Easter season, which is soon coming to a close, tell us about how when Jesus shows up and "shows himself" as John puts it, even his closest followers don't immediately recognize him. Maybe it's because they didn't expect to see him at all. After all, how can you see what you're not looking for? Maybe he just looked different. And maybe, just maybe, when the church keeps rising from the dead, we won't look the same as we once did either. The resurrected life takes on a new look. New life is all about newness after all.

But at the same time there was something wonderfully familiar to this stranger, this resurrected Jesus. In the garden on Easter morning, Mary Magdalene mistook the risen Jesus standing by her side as the gardener. It wasn't until he spoke her name that her eyes were opened. The two former followers who walked with Jesus along the Emmaus road didn't recognize him until they sat down with him and he broke bread with them. And still, even now, it is in the hearing of his intimate, life transforming Word, in the breaking of bread with Jesus our host, that we know and are renewed in the steadfast, unchangeable love of Christ in every generation.

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| 5/16 | Ingathering Quilts |
| 5/20 | Council meeting |
| 6/7-6/9 | Synod Assembly |
| 6/24 | Voters' Meeting |

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

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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



<i>Claudia</i>	<i>Hawley</i>	<i>Elfriede</i>	<i>Anna</i>
<i>Rudy</i>	<i>Pat</i>	<i>Lisa</i>	<i>Mary Lou</i>
<i>Jimmy</i>	<i>Sue</i>	<i>Amanda</i>	<i>Victoria</i>
<i>Emily</i>	<i>Marianne</i>	<i>David R.</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</i>
<i>Alex</i>	<i>Linda & Darryl</i>	<i>Francisco</i>	<i>Ellen V.</i>
<i>Abby</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Alan</i>	<i>Anthony P.</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



Rides for Ruth

May 6	Jim Learned
May 13	John Downs
May 20	Jim Learned
May 27	John Downs
June 3	Jim Learned

(Pastor's Message ... continued from page 1)

And still the world will know the living body of Christ in any form or shape, at any intersection of life, by our genuine proclamation and practice of his love that knows no distinctions, by our humble serving and bold gestures of healing and peacemaking in his name, revealing to all people the life giving grace of the crucified-risen Jesus who calls us all from death into life, new life.

In whatever form the church takes, the mission of the body of Christ remains. Embodying that mission is our calling.

Keep practicing resurrection life!

Les Swenson, Transitional Pastor



Pastor Swenson's Office Hours

Pastor Swenson continues to be available in the church office on-

Wednesday mornings, 10:00 -12:30.

You are welcome to stop by and talk with him, share personal concerns or concerns about the church, or whatever is on your mind. It might be wise to call ahead though, at least before you get in the car to come to church. Just in case. Call 860.857.9362. (He will not be in the office on May 2.) And of course, feel free to call him at other times as well when you need to talk with him.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

We are so grateful to our parishioners for their generous contributions to the Lutheran World Relief Fundraiser for personal care kits. Thanks to Jim Learned, **40 kits** have been assembled, packed, and are ready to go. "Ingathering" is set for May 16th, 9:00am - 4:00 pm. On that day, participating Lutheran Church groups will be coming to Hamden to bring their personal care kits, quilts, and school supplies to be loaded onto LWR truck for delivery to nations in need. Jim Learned and John Downs have already volunteered to help with the days activities. Any other volunteers for any part of the day are also welcomed.

Again; THANK YOU to all whose kindness and caring are spreading health and dignity to our sisters and brothers around the world.

(See page 6 for other programs of Lutheran World Relief)



New England Synod Assembly

June 7-9, 2018



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 (to take advantage of early bird pricing.) Please let Ken Watson or any council member know.



**CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL
OF PENTECOST
SUNDAY, MAY 20!
AND MORE!**

The Great Fifty Days of Easter come to a close on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, when the Alleluias of Easter give way to the wild flapping wings and fiery tongues of the Holy Spirit swooping upon the Church, empowering it into its calling to be a living witness to the new creation of the risen Jesus.

Pentecost is a noisy, lively festival. The Holy Spirit enlivens the Church. Come celebrate this day with song and spirit. And wear something red that day too. Red represents the fire of the Spirit.

On May 27, we celebrate the festival of the Holy Trinity, rejoicing in the mystery and wonder of the triune God who is at once transcendent and immanent, distant and intimate. The color for Holy Trinity is white, an expression of joy in the mystery of the Triune God

Beginning June 3, the Second Sunday after Pentecost, we begin using the color green to adorn the altar, reminding us of a long season of growth and enrichment in the faith.

MAY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

3-Douglas & Barbara Aykroyd	38 years
24-Leonard & Ruth Lye	32 years
30-Anthony & Brianne Papa	9 years

Birthdays

13-Mary Lou Knoob
13-Christopher Rowold
16-Brenda Samal
16-Linda Kapitan
17-Miranda Dinkla
18-Lisa Ball-Goodrich
18-Jonathan Rowold
20-James Knoob Sr.
21-Joseph Costa
23-Sharon Knoob
28-Christopher Olson



Baptisms

Elfriede Fleischmann, Emily Olson,
Patricia Rowold, Micah Sharon,
Aoife Weischedel, Douglas Aykroyd

Council Notes

April 22, 2018



Pastor Swenson is willing to extend our initial covenant date past June 2 if we need to. Council has been discussing points from “The Shrinking Church”. We reviewed our mission statement and talked of what our church means to us and what we offer to the community. We talked of our hopes and prayers for Good Shepherd and how we can adapt as a small church to a changing community. At the “Congregational Conversation” on April 29, we will discuss these points.

Expenses were very high in March resulting in a

deficit of \$4,681.64. Council talked of the condition of the parking lot and will be requesting donations to begin work (see article on page 5).

Jim would like to schedule a work day to clean up the church grounds. Linda stated the possibility of having a church picnic in June. She is also planning a “Reconnect Lunch” for a Sunday in September— a celebration of fellowship, warmth and caring - with a wonderful lunch!

Council meets again on Sunday, May 20. The next voters’ meeting is Sunday, June 24.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
5/6	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Reggie Chang Leo Goodrich	Starr O'Connor
5/13	Anthony Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
5/20	Elizabeth Ingerson	Jonathan Goodrich	John Downs	Barbara Kuslan	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Sarah Delong
5/27	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Starr O'Connor	Leo Goodrich	Jim Learned Leo Goodrich	Starr O'Connor
6/3	Anthony Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Reggie Chang	Reggie Chang Leo Goodrich	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!***

CHURCH PARKING LOT

Everybody has probably noticed the condition of our church parking lot. The winter weather has been extremely hard on our lot to the point that just repairs would not be prudent. As a result council is starting a fund for repaving the lot. Jim Learned is acquiring quotes as to the cost and we should have estimates soon. We know this will be costly, so we have started requesting donations for funding. We have already received some donations to start the project. Thanks to the "Church Women's Group" who have donated \$8,000 and other donations, we

already have \$8,350. If you would like to donate to this fund just designate your donation as "Parking Lot Fund." We hope to vote on this project no later than the June Voters' meeting.

Anyone with questions can talk to Ken Watson, Jim Learned, Leonard Lye or John Downs.

We pray for your support as this project will go a long way in sprucing up the appearance of the church and this project has been overdue.

John Downs



Project Promise: Build Kits of Care (Our congregation will be contributing 40 Personal Care Kits)

Introducing Project Promise: Build Kits of Care – a perfect way for you to gather a group of people you know and turn ordinary items into extraordinary gifts. You can help people dealing with some of life’s most difficult situations –the aftermath of earthquakes and floods, fleeing home to escape violence and living in extreme poverty. Partner with us and energize your congregation for global good.

Mission Quilts

Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That’s the feeling you share through an LWR Quilt. In a simple combination of fabric and thread, you reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope — you are not alone.

First and foremost, recipients use their LWR Quilts to shield against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding. But their versatility also makes Quilts useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother’s back.

LWR Farmers Market Coffee

LWR Farmers Market Coffee is a new line of coffee sourced directly from farmers participating in Lutheran World Relief projects.

Every delicious cup helps transform poor communities that depend on their coffee crop to feed their families. Farmers are given a stable, predictable, and higher price upfront for their beans.

With LWR Farmers Market Coffee, farmers aren’t just suppliers of coffee beans, they are partners in the coffee business.

Eco-Palms (We used these palms on Palm Sunday)

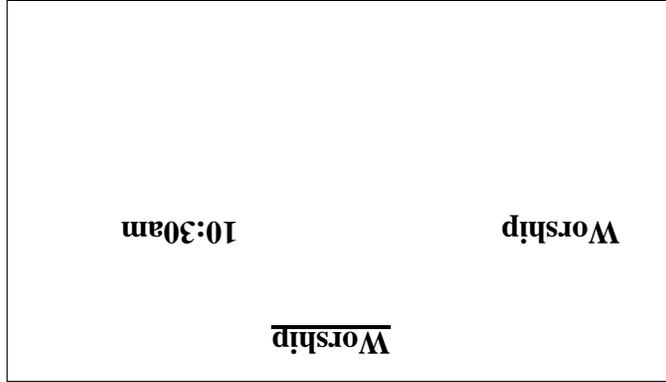
In the typical palm trade: Large floral export firms encourage over-harvesting: they pay by volume for palms and then throw away large amounts that aren’t export quality. Over-harvesting damages forests where the palm plants thrive. Forests are depleted and palm-selling communities lose this important source of income.

How are Eco-Palms different?

The palms are gathered and sold in a socially and environmentally just way. Harvesters are paid a fair price per palm based on quality, so they take fewer palms out of the forest, which protects important nature reserves. Community members sort, package and sell the palms themselves — not via middlemen — so more of the money paid for the palms stays with the people who worked the hardest to provide them. Because there is a steady market for the palms, locals are motivated to protect the forests (their source of income), ensuring harvests well into the future. Harvesting communities receive 5-6 times the normal payment per frond.

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