



# THE STAFF

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

May 2019

### *Pastor's Message*

Dear Friends,

So now we journey with jubilation through the Great Fifty Days of Easter! Yes, Easter is not simply one day of rejoicing and raising our Alleluias. It is a season of 50 days celebrating the resurrection and the dawn of a new creation in Christ, the one who constantly breathes springtime into our suffering world.

Easter's 50 days lead us to Pentecost (June 9) and into the life giving winds of the Holy Spirit that gift, inform, inspire and empower our calling to practice resurrection, to be living witnesses to God's life's transforming mercies through every season of our lives.

As we gather on the Sundays of the Easter season, we will begin our worship with the order for Thanksgiving for Baptism. Eastertide is a wonderful time for us to turn to this preparatory act as an alternative to the usual order for confession and forgiveness. As Lent invited us into a time of remembering, turning and returning to the roots of our baptismal faith, to be welcomed home into the arms of the crucified-risen Christ, so now we are invited to dwell with grateful hearts and voices in the living waters of our baptism that never fail to renew, heal, reconcile, and make life new and whole.

While the words of Thanksgiving are spoken responsively we will hear the sounds of water being poured into the baptismal font, reminding us not only of the gift of water that brings new life, beauty, growth and vitality into our world, but of the water that was poured over and into our lives when we were joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus and to the community of Christ at our own baptisms.

Look and listen even further and we can't help but be awakened to our responsibility to be good, wise and courageous stewards of the waterways that enhance and enrich our lives and our life together on this little plot of earth where we live, but not only in Connecticut but in the whole global village in which all life is connected and in which supplies of water are diminishing and endangered for far too many.

So through this glorious 50 days of Easter, let the waters flow and our praises rise in thanksgiving to the God of creation and new life. May we bathe in the promises of baptism, open wide our eyes to the beauty and blessings of a world graced by flowing waters, and see even more sharply and wisely our calling to be faithful caretakers of this gift without which we cannot flourish, thrive or live well.

Your partner and companion along the way,  
Les Swenson  
Transitional Pastor

### **Upcoming Events**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 5/1     | Council meeting (April mtg.)             |
| 5/15    | Ingathering Quilts                       |
| 5/19    | Council meeting                          |
| 5/22    | Mid-Month Coffee Gathering               |
| 6/7-6/8 | Synod Assembly– <i>What's Your Story</i> |
| 7/21    | Voters' 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*

*Congregations of Greater New Haven*



## CONGREGATIONS OF GREATER NEW HAVEN MEETING

On April 27 members of 4 of the 5 congregations met to discuss next steps in possibilities for working together. Members of Bethesda were not at the meeting because of a funeral at Bethesda. The Conference Pastors had discussed a joint worship service for Pentecost on June 9. All of us at the meeting thought it was a good idea. Bethesda members will organize a barbecue after worship and members from all 5 congregations will be urged to attend. The worship time will be set soon.

We then had one on one discussions that brought up the strengths and weaknesses of congregations. There were many similarities – solid core membership; aging membership; need for Christian Ed for children and adults; few children; strong sense of community/family; willingness to change.

One of the challenges to adding younger members is the competition with sports and other activities on Sundays. How do we attract young people with children? There is also a low percentage of people who attend church on a regular basis. This could be an opportunity. How do we reach these people?

Pr Sinnot suggested using the Congregational Assessment Tool through Holy Cow Consulting. This would provide data about how members of each congregation see the future. He will try to arrange it for all members of the 5 congregations to take the survey. Then Holy Cow will compile the results and analyze the data. The \$500 cost would be split among the 5 churches. We will discuss this again at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Saturday June 29 at Christ Lutheran. We plan to review the June 9 worship and fellowship event and look at future ways to work together. The God's Work, Our Hands day in Sept will offer an opportunity. We also want to see if we can get something going for joint Sunday School.



# Lutheran World Relief

## INGATHERING!

The annual Lutheran World Relief "Ingathering" is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th; 9:00am - 4:00pm. During that day Lutheran churches from all over Connecticut will be dropping off quilts, school supply kits, and other items to be picked up by truck for distribution to countries in need all over the world. Our personal care kits will be assembled and ready for pick up on that day. John Downs and Jim Learned will be on site to supervise, but extra volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Please stop by if you can! As always; a HUGE Thank You goes out to all parishioners who have so generously contributed supplies to again make our event such a successful endeavor.

Also please note that God's Global Barnyard coin boxes will be collected June 2. Please keep saving your change!

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 2, 2019

## LOVE ONE ANOTHER

**"Love one another. Just as I have loved you."  
John 13:34**

## On the Verge...Summer Worship with New Friends and in New Places

One of the exciting outgrowths of the continuing conversations this congregation is having with neighboring Lutheran congregations in Hamden and New Haven is the possibility of worshipping together in the coming months.

Although plans are not totally in place, you should know this is what is currently under serious conversation among our neighbors:

**Pentecost Sunday Worship, June 9, 9:30 a.m.** at Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Haven. Five congregations are planning for this festival worship service (the 50th day of the Easter season) — Bethesda, Emmanuel, and Trinity Lutheran Churches of New Haven, and Christ and the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamden. A gala BBQ picnic is scheduled for right after worship. In the days ahead watch for ways you will be able to play a role in worship and contribute to the picnic spread. We'll send out updates via email and contact those who don't have email when we know more. And of course, we'll keep you informed during the announcements on Sunday morning.

**Summer Sundays with Christ Lutheran.** We are currently planning worship with the people of Christ Lutheran Church, 600 Shepard Ave., Hamden, for two Sundays each month during the summer (possibly through September), fourth Sundays at Good Shepherd beginning June 23, second Sundays at Christ beginning July 14. Stay tuned for more information as plans continue to unfold.

Christ Church is currently in a very similar position as Good Shepherd in that both congregations are considering options for their futures and both have transitional pastors. The Rev. John Marschhausen is serving Christ Lutheran Church.

Continue to pray for the Spirit's leading as we step into new days of life in the church!

## Council Meeting



Council held their April meeting on May 1. Lisa gave a brief overview of the recent meeting of area Lutheran churches. They talked of joint Christian Education and having a joint worship service on Pentecost Sunday. The next meeting is June 29. (See Ken's article on page 3 and the exercise that Rev. Sinnott prepared on page 5.) Pastor spoke of worshipping with Christ Lutheran for two Sundays each month over the summer. Because it would start on June 23, council motioned to change the voters' meeting from June 23 to July 21. The financial reports were reviewed. They show a year-to-date deficit of 178.11. Linda expressed her thanks to Liane Cassidy for all the cooking she did for the Easter breakfast. Thirty attended. Thank you to Linda for preparing the soup supper for the Maundy Thursday service. Lisa and John had positive comments about the format of the service. Linda talked of having a summer picnic either after the voters' meeting or after one of the worship services shared with Christ Lutheran. The Personal Care Kits will be put together following worship on May 12. More soap is needed and ribbon to tie the kits together. John was appreciative of all the help received throughout Holy Week and Easter. Ken and Chuddy have volunteered again this year to be LCGS delegates at Synod Assembly. Summer backpack project is still being planned and may incorporate it into God's Work Our Hands work. The next council meeting is Sunday, May 19.

At the Congregations of Greater New Haven meeting on April 27, Rev. Sinnott presented the following for reflection and discussion. It is being shared for you to read and ponder.

(Based on Acts 16:6-15.)

## Dwelling in the Word

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### Acts 16:6-15

They went through the region of Bridgeport and Stamford, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in the South Central Region. When they had come opposite New York, they attempted to go into Westchester, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Waterbury, they went up to Torrington. During the night, Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Moodus pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Moodus and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross the Connecticut River to the Northeast Region, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news east of the river. We set sail from Hartford and took a straight course to East Haddam, the following day we traveled to Norwich, and from there to New London, which is a leading city of the Southeast Region. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went south of 1-95 by Long Island Sound, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of New Haven and a dealer in blue cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Questions:

1. Where did your imagination stop?
2. Are there word, phrases, ideas that grasp you?
3. After hearing this reading, how might the Holy Spirit be nudging you?

**SCHEDULED TO SERVE**

| Date | Acolyte            | Worship Assistant  | Worship Assistant 2 | Reader             | Ushers                          | Altar Guild    |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 5/5  | Elizabeth Ingerson | Anthony Papa       | Starr O'Connor      | Leo Goodrich       | Starr O'Connor<br>James Learned | Sarah DeLong   |
| 5/12 | Elizabeth Ingerson | Lisa Ball-Goodrich | Leo Goodrich        | Lisa Ball-Goodrich | Ruth & Leonard Lye              | Starr O'Connor |
| 5/19 | Nicholas Papa      | John Downs         | Ken Watson          | Ken Watson         | Ken Watson<br>Leo Goodrich      | Chuddy Watson  |
| 5/26 | Nicholas Papa      | Lisa Ball-Goodrich | Starr O'Connor      | Leo Goodrich       | Leo Goodrich<br>John Downs      | Starr O'Connor |
| 6/2  | Elizabeth Ingerson | Anthony Papa       | John Downs          | Barbara Kuslan     | Starr O'Connor<br>John Downs    | Sarah DeLong   |
| 6/9  | Nicholas Papa      | Linda Kapitan      | Ken Watson          | Ken Watson         | Ken Watson<br>James Learned     | 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!***

**MAY CELEBRATIONS**

**Anniversaries**

- 3-David & Barbara Aykroyd      39 years
- 24-Leonard & Ruth Lye            33 years
- 30-Anthony & Brianne Papa      10 years

**Baptisms**

- Douglas Aykroyd
- Elfriede Fleischmann
- Emily Olson
- Patricia Rowold

**Birthdays**

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



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  
3680 Whitney Avenue  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL