



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

June 2016

Pastor's Message

Being Honest with God

The other day I saw a video about prayer on YouTube. It is called "Open" and is part of the "Nooma" series by Rob Bell - and something he said completely turned my head around. Rob suggested that when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane "take this cup away from me," Jesus was being nothing less than *fiercely honest* with God. By saying that he *really didn't want* to go through the torture and violence he was facing, Jesus was telling God that he was not at all happy with the way things were unfolding in his life. And then, rather than moving to the second part of Jesus' prayer right away, Rob turned to the camera and said, "When was the last time **you** were really honest with God?" Really, seriously, fiercely honest? The question resonated deeply with me. When *was* the last time I shared not just my joy, which is considerable, but also my frustration, sorrow, or anger? I certainly know that God can take anything we throw God's way - I've said that often (to other people) - yet the truth is that I'm really not sure when the last time was that I was actually willing to test that out.

Of course in some ways this is ridiculous - God knows everything that is going on within and around me. But Rob's question still got to me. Suppose that when Jesus shared his deep fear and sorrow with God, he was pacing and ranting and shaking his fist, rather than kneeling piously as paintings often depict? Rob then postulated that when Jesus followed up his outburst with, "not my will but yours," he wasn't going all limp and passive and simply "giving in" to God's will - as though what Jesus wanted or felt really didn't matter. Instead, Jesus was *opening himself up* to the chaos all around him and imagining that whatever happened, God would be there. Jesus wouldn't be alone.

Perhaps that is the point. Trusting God and being honest with God are the opposites of thinking that when we are going through a bad time, we should just put up with it because it's God's will; or if we pray for something and it doesn't come, God is simply saying no; or if person A dies and person B lives, God "needed person A in heaven" and that's why they died at that moment. Being honest with God is letting it all out - throwing a tantrum when we find ourselves in a situation that just doesn't seem to get any better no matter how hard we try; sobbing uncontrollably at how unfair it is when someone we truly love dies; asking hard questions (as well as sharing great joys) because we actually have *no idea* what is going on, or how God is going to act within our lives. Being open with God in prayer is asking that we might be able to see the hand of God: not causing - or even taking away - our pain, but accompanying and leading us through the situation in which we find ourselves, all the while acknowledging that God did not purposefully put us there in the first place..

Would it make a difference if we knew that it was ok to be frustrated and scared because the future is unknown to us? Would it matter if we knew that we could yell at God at the top of our lungs because we count on God's loving us and at that moment it doesn't feel very lovely? Does recognizing the unknown and infuriating somehow call our faith into question or take away from God's power to "make everything alright" - even though we know that doesn't always happen anyway?

(continued on page 4)

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 6/22 | Book Club |
| 6/23 | Council meeting |
| 6/26 | Voters' Meeting |
| 7/3 | Summer worship begins 9:30am |

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 Emily L.
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*



New England Synod Assembly 2016
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
A place at the table for everyone

June 10-12, 2016

The theme is year is-

There are no reservations in the kingdom of God

LBWs and WOVs go to Trinity Lutheran Church in New Haven.

Even as we received LBWs (the green book) from a variety of sources, we have now passed them on, along with WOVs (the blue book) to the congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Haven. Pastor Mills picked them up on May 24 and noted gratefully that not only would the hymnals be used by his congregation, but also that some would be sent to their sister congregation in Sierra Leone.



IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Approximate collections at the Ingathering Quilts on May 20-

Quilts	393
Personal Care Kits	414
(32 of these kits were from LCGS)	
School Kits	67
Baby Care	13

Many bags of food were delivered to area food banks-

John Downs delivered
19 bags of food
to the Hamden Food Bank

Sue Hartley delivered
4 bags of food
to the Cheshire Food Bank.

FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH APRIL, 2016

	2016	4/12 of 2016 BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2015 thru April
Receipts thru April	\$22,497	\$31,122	(\$8,625)	\$30,511
Expenses thru April	\$29,246	\$31,122	(\$1,876)	\$31,597
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$6,749)	\$0	(\$6,749)	(\$1,086)

Our total Operating giving for April 2016 was \$5,824 and expenses were \$6,299 giving us a deficit of \$475 for the month of April and a year-to-date deficit of \$6,749 compared to last year's deficit of \$1,086. This years receipts for April were \$1,029 under last year. With 5 Sunday's in May, we hope to be at break-even for the month.

We thank everyone for their contributions, whether they be monetary or donations of time and effort to make this such a vibrant and caring congregation. *John E. Downs, Treasurer*

I'm not sure, to be honest. But the question, and the reframing of Jesus' prayer in the garden is more than just provocative. Somehow it gives me hope. No matter how crazy or unfair or unmanageable things get, I can both tell God how really angry (or frustrated or afraid) I am, and also express my desire to be open to whatever God will do next. I might not like whatever that might be either, but at least I will know I'm not alone. God will be with me. And somehow, that *does* make a difference.

Your sister and servant in Christ,

Pastor Daphne †

Clean-up Day! Lots of work done by amazing volunteers!



Garage before ↑ Garage after ↓



Pastor giving the Benediction at the 38th Annual State of CT Holocaust Commemoration in Hartford 5/6/16

Reach the Beach Walk 2016

14 weeks of walking for good health, quality connections, and a strong camp!

Reach the Beach Walk is a 14 week program that begins June 11 and ends September 17, the same day that Calumet's Reach the Beach runners will reach the finish line at Hampton Beach. The participation fee is \$25—which goes to Calumet. All participants will receive a RTB Walk t-shirt. The walk is 200 miles which equates to about 14+ miles per week. You can take on the challenge individually or we could participate as a group and log our collective miles each week. You will be able to track progress online of all other walkers, try healthy meal recipes and receive words of encouragement.

To sign up, just send an email saying you want to participate to: rtbwalk@calumet.org. The deadline is Friday, June 10.



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
6/5	Emily Olson	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Trish Rowold	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Starr O'Connor
6/12	Aidan Weishedel	Paul O'Braonain	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Emma Barnes	Barbara Kuslan	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor
6/19	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Sue Hartley	Trish Rowold	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Sue Hartley James Learned	Lisa Martinell
6/26	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Paul O'Braonain	Linda Kapitan	Dorothy Podgwaite Ken Watson	Chuddy Watson
7/3 9:30am	Anthony Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Emma Barnes	Barbara Kuslan	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!

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

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.

(Pastor will contact parents with make-up dates.)



Recent book club discussion of When Breath Becomes Air.

The next meeting is June 22 from 7-8pm. The selected book is-

Love 2.0: Creating Happiness and Health in Moments of Connection

by Barbara Fredrickson, Ph.D.

Come join in the discussions!

**7 days without prayer
Makes one weak**

Faith Lutheran Church
Middletown, CT



Council Notes



Council met on 5/25/16. Pastor is overwhelmed with the compassion and generosity of this congregation. A small group visited John W. and held a brief service with communion. Volunteers showed up on clean up day and the garage, shed and area around the gazebo was cleaned. LCGS hosted the Ingathering Quilts again this year (see article on page 3.) 19 bags of food was delivered to Hamden Food Bank and 4 bags to the Cheshire Food Bank. She is very impressed with the acolytes. The financial reports for April show expenses greater than receipts. Sunday School celebrated its last day for this period on 5/22. It will resume in the Fall. Pastor and Starr are working on developing a tri-fold brochure for the church. Jim reported on some repairs that need to be addressed in the near future – new roofing on the parsonage, garage and shed. He will present quotes at the June Voters' meeting. Other jobs are a new garage door and painting outside doorways and windows on the church. As part of his scout project, Jonathan Goodrich will be preparing the playground area for the new playscape and assist in putting it together. Council voted on a playscape to purchase after viewing ones that Brianne looked into. This will be done during the summer. On June 5, Sue Hartley will be hosting coffee hour and proceeds will benefit Camp Calumet's scholarships for kids to attend the camp. John Downs will speak with Leonard & Ruth Lye about the audit process for LCGS. The LBW and With One Voice hymnals were donated to Trinity Lutheran Church in New Haven. (See article and picture on page 3.) Council approved a motion to pay Jonathan Goodrich to continue cleaning the church throughout the summer and next school year when his community hours for the honor society are met. The next council meeting is 6/23 and Voters' meeting is 6/26.

Summer Newsletter Edition

The summer STAFF will cover July and August so please plan your articles accordingly.

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

5-Jeff & Cindy Lu Peterson	12 years
15-Carl & Christi Sharon	31 years
27-Christopher & Kristine Knoob	31 years
28- Thomas & Ann Mae Knoob	13 years

Birthdays

3-Nicolas Papa
4-Barbara Aykroyd
11-William Wakefield
13-Holly Rosa
14-Susan Landino
18-Brianne Papa
27-Jason Barnes
29-Paul Barnes



Baptisms

Kate Lyn Aykroyd, Justin Barnes, Gunnar Chapman, Jr., Christopher Costa, Sarah DeLong, Anna Olson, Kristen Rosa, Christopher Rowold, Alicia Samal, Aidan Weishedel



Sunday school held it's last class on May 22nd.

I had a great bunch of kids and group participation from all!

Thank you Pastor Daphne for helping me transition into this position and to Emma for her little bits of wisdom. I thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to help the children grow in their faith, as well as myself!

Brianne Papa
Christian Education

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

Worship



THE STAFF

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
3680 Whitney Avenue
Hamden CT 06518-1516

FIRST CLASS MAIL