



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

June 2018

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

So now we enter the long green season.

That's at least one way to describe the liturgical time that is beginning. There are other, more formal terms to describe the long stretch to come that reaches deep into November. Sundays after Pentecost. Time after Pentecost. Simple enough, those terms. We tend to use the former with a number attached, like the 26th Sunday after Pentecost.

And almost without fail, except for Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost (May 27 this year) which claims white for its color (white an expression of joy as we stand within the mystery and community of the Triune God), and for an occasional festival day that nudges its way onto the singularly focused color scheme, green holds serve. Green — the color reminding us of life, vitality, energy, of growth in faith as we follow in the footsteps of the risen Jesus, our steps emboldened by the Spirit, our world view framed with sturdy hope.

Given that description of green, there is one term for this time after Pentecost that irks me, even though I know it shouldn't. Some call it Ordinary Time, which sounds about as humdrum, unremarkable, pedestrian, even dull, as can be.

Now I know that's not what church folks long ago meant when they began labelling Sundays colored green as Ordinary. Rooted in a Latin word, "ordinales," they meant by ordinary "numbered time," a way to show order, to count time in an orderly, successive fashion outside the other liturgical seasons like Advent, Christmas, Lent, etc. It makes sense, of course, but to most folks this liturgical term doesn't fly. Ordinary sounds, well, quite ordinary.

But here's the thing ... there's nothing ordinary about any gathering of God's far from ordinary people when the Word is proclaimed, fervent prayers lifted, music resounds, and the bread of life is served.

Just ask those folks gathered in that Jerusalem upper room on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit set them on fire, blowing them out of the building to tell the Jesus story in words they never imagined they could speak, and to live with holy new purpose. Or just ask Isaiah (whose story we hear on Trinity Sunday). He went into the temple to pray one day, unsuspecting of of the place turned smokey hot. The pillars shook. Heavenly voices soared low. And Isaiah walked out a man on a mission — God's mission to preach a word the nation didn't want to hear, but needed to.

Annie Dillard in her book Holy the Firm warns that Sunday worshippers should shed their summer bonnets and ragged baseball caps for crash helmets. "Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews." She wants us to understand that the God we court with kind and flattering words is actually a wildfire we can't even begin to contain. "For the sleeping God may awake someday and take offense, or the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return."

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

6/7-6/9	Synod Assembly
6/20	Council meeting
6/24	Voters' Meeting
7/1	Summer worship begins at 9:30am

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**3680 Whitney Avenue
Hamden CT 06518-1516
(203) 248-7420**

**The Rev. Leslie Swenson
Transitional Pastor
Office- 203-248-7420**

**www.goodshepherdhamden.org
lcgshamden@gmail.com**

The Staff Editor
Brenda Samal
203-269-3661
bsamal@sbcglobal.net

**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>James K.</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

Good Shepherd's delegates at Synod Assembly are-

Ken & Chuddy Watson

We look forward to hearing about their experiences.



Congratulations

Jonathan & Trisha Rowold on the birth of their son,
William Aiden,
on May 8, 2018

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

This God of ours is no ordinary, humdrum, dull kind of God, but a God who is always stirring up new life and purpose in unexpected ways.

So beware. God is at work, and when God is at work nothing is plain old ordinary. There is no room for the ordinary in the unpredictability, yet certainty, of God's purposeful, creative, always-making-things-new love. This green season is all about growing, hearing anew, thriving in the promise of the Gospel. Come, listen, be available, open your hearts, your minds, your lives to God's extraordinary life giving power and grace! It's time for the greening of faith!

With eagerness and expectation, your partner along the way,

Pastor Swenson

Reminder-

July 1—September 2

Worship service starts at
9:30am.

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 (860.857.9362.) And of course, feel free to call him at other times as well when you need to talk with him.

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering Quilts

Kudos to Jim Learned and John Downs who both braved the post storm devastation to host the Lutheran World Relief Fund's Ingathering on May 16th at Good Shepherd Church. In addition to our 40 personal care kits, at least eight other parishes from around the state showed up with their donations.

The (approximate) total tally is:

277 quilts

240 personal care kits

77 school supply kits,

80 baby care packages.

Another huge thank you to all who participated in such a worthy cause!



Council Notes



Council met on May 20. We discussed the congregational meeting in April and then reviewed the S.W.O.T analysis sheet. (See page 6 for synopsis of our discussion.) Ken & Chuddy Watson will be Good Shepherd's delegates at Synod Assembly. The financial reports showed April to be a positive income month. A few trees did fall on the church property that will need to be cut up. Jim is securing more quotes for repair of the parking lot and driveways. The Ingathering Quilts was a success in spite of the destructive storm the day before. The average attendance for Sunday worship was: January- 23; February- 24; March- 27; April- 32. Pastor Swenson agreed to extend the covenant he originally signed for January 2—June 2. It will now extend through the end of the year.

Upcoming meetings: Council on June 20 (7:00pm)
Voters' Meeting on June 24

*In the midst of the most recent conflict on the Palestinian-Israeli border, the Church has not been silent. Here is recent statement from Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. For more on where the ELCA stands, you are invited to go to the **Peace Not Walls Blog** on the ELCA website. See: Blogs.elca.org*

ELCA presiding bishop's pastoral message on situation in Gaza

5/15/2018 2:45:00 PM

May 15, 2018

Like so many here in our country and around the world, I am appalled and saddened by yesterday's escalation of Israeli military action against protestors in Gaza. Many reports indicate that at least 60 Palestinians, including six children, have died and more than 2,000 have been injured as a result of Israel's disproportionate use of force. Our church will support a planned medical mission from The Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem to Gaza to assist the wounded.

I join Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar of our partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), who today said:

We mourn with the families of the dead and dying and pray for the recovery of the injured. We believe that violent actions against the Palestinian civilians will hinder the potential for peace and reconciliation efforts between Israel and Palestine and will only lead to more violence and bloodshed.

I endorse his call "upon the Israeli government to show restraint and to pursue negotiations with Palestinian leaders rather than choosing violent action against unarmed protestors."

Yesterday's events should also be seen in the context of the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.

When that decision was announced late last year, I said:

This unilateral action would not support the cause of peace and a two-state solution but rather would unnecessarily create further tensions and possible violence that would make efforts to bring them back together for talks much more difficult.

I also support the ELCJHL's long-standing position, affirmed by Bishop Azar today, that "any final status agreement will include Jerusalem as a shared city for Jews, Christians and Muslims with free access to holy sites for all and that it must serve as capital of both Palestine and Israel."

Always, but especially in this time of deep distress, I urge us all to join his call to "continue to pray, advocate and faithfully work towards a peaceful and just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
6/3	Anthony Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Reggie Chang	Reggie Chang Leo Goodrich	Chuddy Watson
6/10	Nicholas Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Starr O'Connor
6/17	Elizabeth Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Barbara Kuslan	Jim Learned Leo Goodrich	Sarah Delong
6/24	Anthony Papa	Linda Kapitan	Starr O'Connor	Linda Kapitan	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Linda Kapitan
7/1 9:30am	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Leo Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	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!***

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

15- Carl & Christi Sharon	33 years
27- Christopher & Kristine Knoob	25 years
28- Thomas & Ann Mae Knoob	15 years

Birthdays

3-Nicolas Papa
 4-Barbara Aykroyd
 11-William Wakefield
 14-Sue Landino
 18-Brianne Papa



Baptisms

Jonathan Rowold, Kate Lyn Aykroyd, Sarah Delong, Anna Olson, Christopher Rowold, Alicia Samal



CONGRATULATIONS!

Christopher Olson

Graduates from
 North Branford High School

Rides for Ruth

June 3	Jim Learned
June 10	Jim Learned
June 17	Jim Learned
June 24	John Downs
July 1	Jim Learned

Council Completes First Phase of Congregational Study

At its May 20 meeting the Congregation Council wrapped up a careful evaluation of the current life and ministry of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd that will help lead to discussions about future directions for ministry.

To summarize three months of conversation by the Council as well as input from the congregation at the April 29 open forum, the Council used a modified form of the S.W.O.T. Analysis tool (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).

There was consensus agreement about these key points:

Strengths of the Ministry of LCGS

- Strong sense of community within congregation.
- Highly committed leadership core.
- Strong faith.
- Adequate building for current ministry with good strategic location.
- Generous people offering their talents and financial gifts.

Weaknesses

- Declining, aging membership.
- Focus on what was, nostalgia.
- Some vacancies in key leadership positions.
- Condition of parking lot a potential danger. Placement of parking lot — passers by cannot see if cars/people are present.
- No weekday ministries. This is basically a Sunday only church.

Threats to Future Ministry

- Danger of burnout to current leadership. There is not a deep leadership pool.
- Cultural and demographic issues shared by the church across the land.
- Large expenses looming, especially parking lot.

Opportunities for Future Ministry

- Honesty about our context helps open door to look at previously unexplored possibilities.
- Explore small group ministry — learning groups, community building, servant ministry.
- Turn the building into an asset, opening it up to wider community use.
- Partnership with other congregations. Shared ministries.

In the coming months we will begin focusing on how we can build on the strengths we have to carry out ministry and discern honest, real opportunities for future directions. The Council will continue to keep the congregation informed of their conversations and engage members in an early fall forum.

Please feel to express your concerns and constructive insights and ideas to any of the Council members or to Pastor Swenson. The Council includes: Ken Watson, Brenda Samal, Len Lye, Jim Learned, John Downs, Starr O'Connor, Lisa Ball-Goodrich, and Linda Kapitan. And pray for continued discernment, courage and vision.

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



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3680 Whitney Avenue
Hamden CT 06518-1516

FIRST CLASS MAIL