



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Summer Edition 2016

SUMMER HYMNS!

In order for us to get to know our new hymnals better, members of the congregation have filled out hymn request forms. Each hymn has been written on a piece of paper (so far there has only been one overlap) and placed in a basket. From now until the Sunday before Labor Day, at the end of each worship service, three hymns for the next Sunday will be chosen. Since this is all quite random, we can expect that the hymns chosen will have no relationship to the theme of the readings and the sermon - but prizes will be given if anyone manages to find a connection! If you haven't filled out a Hymn request form yet, there is still time - let's enjoy a summer singing favorite hymns!



Upcoming Events

- 7/3 Summer worship at 9:30am
- 7/13 Book Club
- 7/28 Council meeting
- TBD Church Picnic

- 9/11 Voters' Meeting

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

Pastor's Message-

No news can be Good News!

A few weeks ago I decided I was going to stop listening to the political news because it was driving me crazy. I was absorbing all the angst created by violent language, imagery and action – none of which I could do anything about. (One of those “truisms” of life is that the only person one can change is oneself, isn't it? No doubt it is a truism because it's true!) Anyway, I realized that I was getting crabby and I wanted to stop being that way.

So I have stopped paying attention to the news. Unless there is some major international crisis (as if Brexit isn't enough), I am going to spend my summer in blissful ignorance of the horrible ways that humans find to treat one another. Instead I'm going to focus on the Good News of God's unconditional love. The weirdest thing, of course, is that it's much more difficult.

I know I am not alone in thinking that it is so much easier to talk about how horrible things are (out there), than to reflect upon how amazing it is that God loves us, no matter what horrible things are in here, deep within ourselves. It doesn't *seem* fair, because it isn't: God loves us **no matter what**, period. End of sentence. That means that God loves me as much as God loves the prisoner, the alcoholic, the abuser, and even, yes, the terrorist. And I don't know why, but it always seems easier to try to argue with the idea that God really does love all of them than to sit and acknowledge God's love for me. For you. For us.

Seriously, I think God is nuts sometimes, and don't understand why God doesn't just want to shake me off, the way Idgie shakes water out of her fur. I have

(continued on page 3)

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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



	<i>Pastor</i>		
	<i>Daphne</i>		<i>Paul Barnes</i>
<i>John</i>		<i>Elfriede</i>	<i>Anna</i>
<i>Downs & family</i>			
<i>Stacy</i>	<i>Holly</i>	<i>Jessika</i>	<i>Mary Lou</i>
<i>John W.</i>	<i>Sue</i>	<i>Kathy D.</i>	<i>Victoria</i>
<i>Emily</i>	<i>Marianne</i>	<i>CindyLu</i>	<i>Pam</i>
<i>Harold</i>	<i>Arnold</i>	<i>Pat</i>	<i>Mike</i>
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<i>Abby</i>	<i>Joe</i>	<i>Alan</i>	<i>Francisco V.</i>
<i>Lisa</i>		<i>Bill & Ellen</i>	
<i>Martinell</i>	<i>& family</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

****Summer help available****

Hello there! If you or someone you know has a project they need completed (for example weeding a garden, removing/pruning shrubs, putting down mulch, painting, replacing window screens, or cleaning up around the house, etc.) text me or give me a call at 203-535-2133, or email me at d4ve.goodrich@gmail.com. My rate is \$15/hr, and I would be happy to lend you a hand.

-David Goodrich

(Pastor's Message continued)

my good days – we all do – when I feel as though I actually have made a difference in someone's life. But most of the time I am aware of the missed opportunities and failures. How odd it seems to me that I find it more difficult to focus on God's love for me than on all the bad news out there – even though I know that the latter gives me high blood pressure. Even so, I'm going to try to spend this summer focusing on the Good News – on God's love, and letting go of my former fascination about what stupid thing has come out of someone's mouth recently.

How about joining me? Why don't we covenant to have a summer of concentrating on God's Good News, and stop worrying about the ugliness around us – at least for a while. And the next time the newsletter comes out, we can reflect on our experiences together.

God's blessings on you all for a wonderful Good-news-filled summer!

Pastor Daphne†

Jonathan Goodrich Eagle Project to Benefit Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

In order to achieve the rank of eagle within the boy scouts, I will be beginning a project to improve outdoor seating at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. I will buy, assemble, and stain several picnic tables so that the church can have outdoor seating for gathering, outdoor events, and for parents to watch their children play. In order to fund this project, I will be holding several coffee hours to raise money. In addition, I would appreciate direct donations either for memorial reasons or simply in support of the project.

The first coffee hour to raise money for the project will be Sunday, July 3rd.

Council & Voters' Notes



Council met on 6/23/16. Opening devotions consisted of sharing a happy story. Pastor enjoyed Synod Assembly—it was a learning experience. Probate came through on Bernie Kapitan's estate. The bequest will be used to offer micro-grants to area nonprofits. Notices will be sent out, responses reviewed and then a dinner set to present the money. We could do this each year. Financial reports for May were encouraging as expenses were below giving.

Jim will be getting estimates on work to be done. Volunteers for the stewardship group so far are Linda Kapitan, Sue Hartley and pastor. The playscape could not be ordered as it needs a packed surface to anchor it. Brianne will look at more playscapes while we look at other placement sites. Council approved Jonathan Goodrich's Eagle Scout Service Project proposal. The picnic table seating arrangements would be completed by August. The next council meeting is 6/28/16.

Voters' (6/26/16)

Pastor reported the healing services are on hold until the Fall. She had a good time at Synod Assembly—had many interesting conversations with other churches while staffing the Reconciling in Christ table. She has been meeting with area clergy. Property needs more volunteers for mowing. Jonathan Goodrich presented his Eagle Scout Service Project (see article this page.) He will continue cleaning the church on a paid basis during the summer and school year.

The next voters' meeting is 9/11/16.



READINGS FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

For the next six weeks, we will be reading and preaching on texts from the Book of Job. Verses from the Gospels are provided as companion texts. Here is a portion of Mayer Gruber's introductory essay on the book of Job from *The Jewish Study Bible*, ed Michael Fishbane. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), 1499-1500:

“The book of Job as we have it makes three main points, which are interrelated. The first, most obvious point is that human suffering is not necessarily deserved; ...the real problem with suffering comes with the many cases in which someone's pain, sorrow, or distress are clearly unrelated to anything they have done or failed to do. This point is the one that Job argues most forcible against his friends. These friends, who are concerned to safeguard the goodness of the Lord ... argue the contrary view: that if a person suffers, the suffering must somehow be deserved. This leads to the second point. The claim that all suffering is deserved will inevitably persuade those who hold that view to falsify either the character of the sufferer or the character of the Lord. Thus, Job's friends argue that Job is a sinner, deserving of his punishment, while Job claims that the Lord has acted unfairly and is indifferent to human suffering. The third point, however, is the most theologically difficult and gives the book its sense of profundity and at the same time its inconclusive conclusion: there is no way of understanding the meaning of suffering. That is, in the Lord's argument, the reasons for suffering – if there are any --- are simply beyond human comprehension.”

The readings:

7/3/2016: Job 1:1-22 - Job loses everything (Luke 17:5-6)

7/10/2016: Job 3:1-10; 4:1-9; 7:11-21 – Job and a friend argue about the cause of Job's suffering (Luke 17:20-21)

7/17/2016: Job 14:7-15; 19:23-27 Job responds to two other friends by describing his feelings about Lord treatment of him. (John 12:24)

7/24/2016: Job 31:35-37; 38:1-11 – Job confesses his innocence; the Lord responds. (John 6:16-20)

7/31/2016: Job 38:25-27; 41:1-8; 42:1-6 – Lord and Job discuss the Lord's power (Matt 7:7-8)

8/7/2016: Job 42:7-17 - Job's fortunes are restored by the Lord. (Luke 6:20-23)

Book Club

The next meeting is July 13 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!

HURRAY FOR SUMMER!

Have a wonderful time visiting family, going golfing, and taking vacation! Just don't forget to send us your weekly offering envelope!



A shout out of encouragement to all participating in the Reach the Beach Challenge benefiting Camp Calumet. From June until September we will try to log 14 miles a week. From Good Shepherd, Sue Hartley, Sue Boor, Lee Olson and Brenda Samal have accepted the challenge. If there are more—we are with you!



Walk On!!



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
7/3 9:30am	Anthony Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Emma Barnes	Barbara Kuslan	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Liane Moreland
7/10	Elizabeth Ingerson	David Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Trish Rowold	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor
7/17	Jonathan Olson	Linda Kapitan	Sue Hartley	Emma Barnes	Linda Kapitan	Sue Hartley James Learned	Lisa Martinell
7/24	Aoire Weishedel	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Dorothy Podgwaite Ken Watson	Chuddy Watson
7/31	Nicholas Papa	David Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Trish Rowold	Barbara Kuslan	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Liane Moreland
8/7	Emily Olson	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Emma Barnes	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor
8/14	Anthony Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Sue Hartley	Trish Rowold	Barbara Kuslan	Sue Hartley James Learned	Lisa Martinell
8/21	Elizabeth Ingerson	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Dorothy Podgwaite Ken Watson	Chuddy Watson
8/28	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Martinell	Emma Barnes	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Liane Moreland
9/4	Aida Weishedel	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Trish Rowold	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor

*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!***

JULY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 5-John Wright
- 9-Mike Dube
- 9-James Learned
- 10-Robert Knoob
- 11-Katelynn Rowold
- 29-Thomas Knoob



Baptisms

Barbara Aykroyd, James Knoob, Sr.,
Mary Lou Knoob

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

- 8-Brian & Liane Moreland 28 years
- 10-Joseph & Tracy Costa 14 years

Birthdays

- 4-Frank Podgwaite III
- 4-Brian Lee
- 8-Emma Barnes
- 11-Ruth Lye
- 12-David Aykroyd
- 17-Liane Moreland



Baptisms

Jason Barnes, Pastor Daphne, Mike Dube,
Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Linda Kapitan, Owen
Keating, Robert Knoob, Jonathan Olson,
Brienne Papa.

From Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut-

You have wisdom to share. We have children who need it.

Experience Corps needs volunteers age 50+ to tutor literacy with young children in a Hamden or East Haven elementary school or New Haven after-school program three times a week (about 10 hours). Volunteers also participate in fun community events to encourage reading. Training and a small stipend are provided.

Call Sheila at 203-752-3059 x2900 or email volunteer@aoascc.org.

Stewardship Workshops

Are you interested in the many ways that people can give to the church? This is going to be a focus for the New England Synod in the upcoming year. A series of 4 workshops (see attached flyer) will be held over the course of the next year. We will be putting together a team of interested volunteers. If you would like to participate, please see Sue Hartley.

LCGS Website

There are links to Pastor's sermons on the worship page. Looking for some quiet time for reflection - pop in your headphones and listen to one of her sermons.

THE STEWARDSHIP GROUP

What is The Stewardship Group?

born out of the New England Synod's previous efforts toward stewarding generosity, The Stewardship Group is a year-long training emphasis in developing generosity. Modeled on the synod's highly successful Forward Leadership Community, this is a program for pastors and lay leaders of congregations designed to help them be more effective stewards and generous leaders. It involves a series of four Saturday sessions.

Session Leaders

- Bishop James Hazelwood | *New England Synod*
- Jonathan Hendrickson | *Financial Consultant, Thrivent*
- Rev. Robert "Rip" Hoffman | *The Macedonia Project*
- Rev. Renée LiaBraaten | *New England Synod Associate to the Bishop for Generosity*
- Rev. Kathleen Reed | *Pastor, University LC, Cambridge, Mass.*
- Rev. Julie Reuning-Scherer | *Pastor, Our Savior's LC, Newington, Conn.*
- Mr. Jeff Swanberg, CPA | *Treasurer, Immanuel LC, Holden, Mass. / New England Synod*
- Rev. Steven Wilco | *Pastor, Immanuel LC, Amherst, Mass.*
- Rev. Daniel Wilfrid | *Pastor, Immanuel LC, Holden, Mass.*
- Ms. Patricia Wood | *Lay leader, St. Luke LC, Gales Ferry, Conn.; "Financial Peace University"*

The Schedule

Session 1

Stewardship and the church - Saturday, November 5, 2016
 The opening session will address the basic question, "What is stewardship?" From cultivating generosity in a congregation to practical and spiritual resources for understanding the practice of giving, participants will explore where the church has been, what hasn't been working, and how to move forward. This session will also explore the role of pastor and the role of lay leaders in congregational stewardship.

Session 2

Understanding our own attitudes toward money Saturday, January 7, 2017
 Stewardship is a counter-cultural ministry: we are called to be stewards in a culture that tells us we are owners, and in which talk of money is a taboo. In this session we will learn how to talk about money in open and respectful ways. We will look at our own personal histories with money and giving, and how that affects the way we view generosity now.

Session 3

Habits of Generous Congregations - Saturday, March 4, 2017
 What are the practices of generous congregations? Treasurer/Pastor partnership, sound financial record keeping, raising expectations in non-threatening ways, expressing gratitude. We'll go over how to implement these and other practices.

Session 4

Ask, Thank Tell - Stewardship as 12-month ministry Saturday, May 6, 2017
 Inspired by Charles Lane's book "Ask, Thank, Tell," this session focuses on building a year-round plan for cultivating generosity. Participants will have an opportunity to integrate all the sessions as they begin developing concrete plans for their own congregations.

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 9:30am

Worship



THE STAFF

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FIRST CLASS MAIL