



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

July–August 2017

Pastor's Message-

BECOMING WHO WE ARE

A few days ago I had the joy of joining Lisa Martinell and Ruth Podgwaite in attending a production of "Stories of a New America," a documentary theater piece created by Collective Consciousness Theater in cooperation with IRIS. The production was captivating: six actors re-told and embodied the words of over 100 refugees who have been clients of IRIS. The stories were collected over 18 months (between 2015 and 2016). I was drawn into the personal narratives and experiences of people who have come to this country as refugees and are now settled in the New Haven area.

It's hard to say what struck me the most, but one theme kept rising to the top: these newcomers, these people, these families who have had to leave their homelands because of torture, murder, war, and persecution all came to America because of how our nation is at its best: welcoming, inclusive, full of opportunities for all. These refugees all had stories about having been told that "in America," they wouldn't have to be afraid because of what they look like, how they worship, or what their politics might be – they could be themselves! In America, they would be able to go to school and find work. In America, they would be welcomed into communities. In America, they would be able to argue with their neighbors without being afraid of being reported to the authorities. In America, they could see the police and know they were being protected.

Our newest neighbors and friends have come to our country expecting us to be at our best – and of course it's not always that easy. Adults come from other countries with educations and job experience which is not acknowledged here. (Imagine having been a doctor and now driving a taxi!) New Americans are called "stupid" if they don't understand English (I was reminded that learning to speak and understand a

foreign language takes *years*, not months, and even the smartest among us can be challenged by local accents and idioms). Refugees come from cultures that are collective and community based, and are often confused by the individualistic nature of the people they live next door to. They yearn to be known for who they are, to make friends and form relationships. Expressing abstract ideas to a new friend such as, "I enjoy going to the movies but I'd rather take a walk" or "When do you think you'd like to meet my mother?" not only take energy to figure out how to say, but also requires patience on the part of the listener. Making a new country one's home takes effort on everyone's part, and our brothers and sisters who are refugees aren't always met half way.

Layer this onto a past history marked by unthinkable violence and loss and a forced separation from the places they called home, and I really got a sense of how hope can make people resilient, if not always joyful. Despite the mistakes and arrogance and impatience of the Americans they encounter, these refugees expressed, time and time again, their gratefulness to be here, to find homes here, to raise their families here.

This reminded me of the church in general and our congregation in particular. Like our country, the church is also upheld by a central narrative that proclaims who we are at our best. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be compassionate, forgiving, grace-filled, and inclusive. Just last week, our congregation passed a welcoming statement that gets specific about what this means. And like our country,

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

- 7/16 Special Voters' Meeting
- 7/19 Council Meeting
- 7/26 Book Club
- 8/23 Council Meeting

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**
3680 Whitney Avenue
Hamden CT 06518-1516
(203) 248-7420

The Rev. Dr. Daphne Burt
Office—203-248-7420
Cell—401-924-4673

www.goodshepherdhamden.org

The Staff Editor

Brenda Samal
E-mail: bsamal@sbcglobal.net

Council Members
1/1/17—12/31/17

President	Linda Kapitan
Vice-President	~vacant~
Treasurer	John Downs
Secretary	Brenda Samal
Christian Education	Brianne Papa
Evangelism/ Publicity	Paul O’Braonain
Fellowship	Liane Moreland
Financial Secretary	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Stewardship/ Missions	Sue Hartley
Property	James Learned
Worship	Ken Watson



	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Sally B.</i>	
	<i>Daphne</i>		
<i>Claudia</i>	<i>Hawley</i>	<i>Elfriede</i>	<i>Anna</i>
		<i>Lisa</i>	
<i>Rudy</i>	<i>Pat</i>	<i>B-G</i>	<i>Mary Lou</i>
<i>Jimmy</i>	<i>Sue</i>	<i>Amanda</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>
<i>Rex</i>	<i>Gertrude</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Emily L.</i>
<i>Alex</i>	<i>Linda & Darryl</i>	<i>Dube family</i>	<i>Bill & Ellen</i>
<i>Abby</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Alan</i>	<i>Francisco V.</i>
<i>Rob L.</i>	<i>David R.</i>	<i>Barbara</i>	<i>Starr O.</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*



**INTEGRATED REFUGEE
& IMMIGRANT SERVICES**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have a few hours free in the middle of the day on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays? IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) needs people who are willing to either 1) watch children or 2) tutor men or women who are new to the US at St. John Episcopal Church, 400 Humphrey Street in New Haven. Tutoring needs range from learning the alphabet to expanding vocabulary and having conversations.

Pastor Daphne will be going twice a week during the summer; please let her know if you would like a ride.

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

we are constantly challenged by outsiders, particularly those we want to join us, to live up to our best selves.

Yes, at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we welcome people of all races, ethnicities, and heritages – and how do people discover that? What does a visitor see and hear – and overhear – about the ways we value cultures other than our own? Yes, our congregation includes people with a variety of relationship statuses and configurations – and how can we be sure that those who visit know that as well? Yes, we believe that people should be able to sit or stand as they choose, and that children are welcome regardless of their ability to pay attention – and how do we communicate that there is a place for squirmy children and those who find movement difficult? Yes, we are committed to love and respect any person who walks in our door, regardless of whether they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning – and how do the exterior and interior of our building communicate that?

To be the best people we can be, to become the welcoming congregation we already are, to live into our call to be and to love all of God's children, we will always be challenged to take action, change behavior, and even use language that is new and sometimes makes us uncomfortable. Because we follow the God who became human to show us how to care for others more than for ourselves, we are invited to commit ourselves to the process of *becoming* – a process which by its nature has no end point, but is a journey of compassion, hope, commitment and love.

We celebrate the founding of our country once a year, and more often when we attend sports games. We celebrate the deepest realities of who we are called to be every Sunday, and more often when we pray and reflect upon God's will for us as individuals and as a community. May those who encounter us, on Sundays and each day of our lives, be able to say that their best assumptions about us were the right ones.

Pastor Daphne +

How to reach Pastor Daphne:

New Cell phone: 203-988-9398

(Call or text)

Office and home: 203-248-7420

“FIELD TRIP” to CATHEDRAL IN THE NIGHT

Sunday, July 30

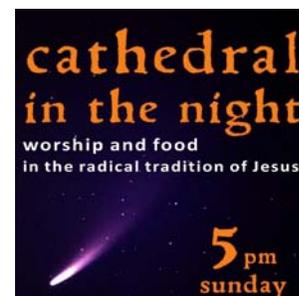
Leave LCGS at 2:00

Return around 9:00 pm

Our confirmation class will be taking a “field trip” to worship at Cathedral in the Night on Sunday, July 30.

From their website: *Cathedral in the Night is an outdoor Christian community in downtown Northampton, MA which seeks to create a safe place for all people: the homeless, the housed, the churchless, the churched, the student and the resident to explore, question and live out their spiritual beliefs; to gather for a meal and to empower one another to engage in issues of social justice by working to fight the causes of inequality and homelessness*

We will participate in worship and, if possible bring some food to share at the community meal. If you would like to join us, please let Pastor Daphne know so that we can make the appropriate arrangements!
<http://cathedralinthenight.org/>



WE ARE OFFICIALLY “RECONCILING IN CHRIST!”

Following the adoption of our wonderful “welcoming statement” at the congregational meeting on Sunday June 25, we have been added to the list of Lutheran congregations, synods, communities and campuses throughout the country that are willing to proclaim publicly that we welcome all people, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Thanks to members of the committee: Pastor Daphne, Barbara Kuslan, Aoife Weischedel and Paul O’Braonain for putting together such a great document, and to members of council and the congregation who offered edits and suggestions!

WELCOMING STATEMENT

We, the members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, (Hamden, CT) joyfully affirm that every individual person is a child of God. We recognize that we are called to be one body with many members, and that all are necessary for the health and well-being of the body.

*Whatever your race, ethnicity or heritage,
Whether you are married, divorced, widowed, or single,
Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression,
Whether you are gay or straight, lesbian or bisexual, transgender or questioning,
Whether you have spent a night in prison or have never gotten a parking ticket,
Whether you work full time, part-time, are retired, or searching for a job,
Whether you are financially challenged or don't have to worry about money,
Whether you are pre-school, in school, or done with all that,
Whether you are young in body, mind or spirit, or feeling your age,
Whether your belief is strong, wavering, or non-existent,
Whether you are comfortable sitting in a pew, need to stand, or enjoy boisterous participation,
We love you for every aspect of who you are.*

We welcome all people to join us in the wonder of the journey of faith and service.

-unanimously adopted by the congregation on June 25, 2017.

JULY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

Birthdays

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 29 years
 10-Joseph & Tracy Costa 15 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,
 Robert Knoob, Jonathan Olson,
 Brianne Papa

FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH MAY 2017

	2017	5/12 of 2017 BUDGET	Over (Under) BUDGET	Prior year Comparative 2016 thru May
Receipts thru May	\$34,615	\$38,958	(\$4,343)	\$29,535
Expenses thru May	\$40,163	\$38,958	\$1,205	\$35,243
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$5,548)	\$0	(\$5,548)	(\$5,708)

Our total Operating giving for April & May 2017 was \$6,180 & \$5,870 and our expenses were \$6,921 & \$5,873 giving us a deficit of \$741 & \$3 respectively. This compares to a 2016 loss or \$475 for April and May's gain of \$1,040. As the above shows our giving this year is ahead of last year by \$5,080, thanks to some extra gifts, but behind our budget by \$4,343. Our expenses through May are over budget by \$1,205 primarily because of seasonal expenses. I anticipate a loss for June of approximately \$3,000 with giving at less than \$5,000 and expenses at \$8,000 which includes a quarterly insurance payment and annual Synod convention expenses. *John E. Downs, Treasurer*

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
7/2 9:30am	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	~	Barbara Kuslan	Goodrich family	Lisa Martinell
7/9	Aoife Weischedel	Paul O'Braonain	Lisa Martinell	Paul O'Braonain	Reggie Chang	John Downs Lisa Martinell	Starr O'Connor
7/16	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	~	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
7/23	Anthony Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	~	Lisa Ball- Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor
7/30	Jonathan Olson	John Downs	Sue Hartley	~	Barbara Kuslan	Sue Hartley James Learned	Lisa Martinell
8/6	Aiden Weischedel	Paul O'Braonain	Lisa Martinell	~	Reggie Chang	John Downs Lisa Martinell	Starr O'Connor
8/13	Elizabeth Ingerson	Jonathan Goodrich	Ken Watson	~	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
8/20	Aoife Weischedel	Linda Kapitan	Sue Hartley	~	Linda Kapitan	Sue Hartley James Learned	Linda Kapitan
8/27	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	~	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor
9/3	Anthony Papa	Paul O'Braonain	Lisa Martinell	~	Barbara Kuslan	John Downs Lisa Martinell	Lisa Martinell

*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!***



Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race

by Margot Lee Shetterly

The book club will be meeting to discuss this book on July 26 at 7:00pm. Barbara Kuslan invited us to meet in her home that evening. (74 Cheshire Rd Apt 1208, Wallingford)

Happy reading!!

Council & Voters' Notes



Council met 6/22. For devotions we reviewed and discussed Chapter 5 of the proposed constitution. Pastor was very happy that Sue, Paul & Aoife attended Synod Assembly. The Bishop spoke of giving—the Synod is involved in many exciting missions. Pastor was recognized for her 30th year ordination and Lisa Martinell for graduating from lay ministry. Pastor met with Paul Sinnott and is interviewing for another congregation. Financial reports show a small deficit for May but there are concerns for June. The Parsonage committee presented their findings. We could get approximately \$1,500-\$1,600/month for renting. The property manager handling the rental next door said he could take care of everything for a small fee. Utilities paid by tenant-water paid by church—we would have to pay \$7,00/yr in taxes-insurance may increase \$100. Net would be \$10,000/yr by renting. Council approved recommending this to the voters. Jim is getting quotes to repair portions of the driveway & parking lot.

Voters' meeting was held 6/25. Pastor gave an update of events since the February meeting. She will be moving to Meriden in July. Blessed to be our pastor for 5 years. She also gave a report on Synod Assembly. Sue Hartley went on Friday and Paul O'Braonain and Aoife Weischedel on Saturday. The Bishop stated 3 ways for a congregation to thrive and attract the young-

1. With good authentic preaching
2. Be a welcoming congregation
3. And focus on something outside itself

Sunday school ended 6/4 for the summer and will resume after Labor Day. Our next stewardship/mission campaign may be putting together book bags for children returning to school. Evangelism has been reaching out to members we have not seen lately. The Welcoming Statement was read and approved (see page 4.) A motion was made and approved to move forward with renting the parsonage. Portions of the proposed constitution that we can change were reviewed. Acceptance of these changes were tabled until a special meeting on July 16.

Summer Worship Schedule

7/2/17 - 9/3/17

Holy Communion
9:30am

Summer Lectionary Readings

The Narrative Lectionary cycle of readings ends on Pentecost, and a variety of options are presented to preachers for the summer. For those who would like to read the texts beforehand, the Sunday readings this summer will be:

Ephesians (4 weeks)

7/2/2017: Ephesians 4:1-16

7/9/2017: Ephesians 6:10-20

Revelation (4 weeks)

7/16/2017: Revelation 4:1-11

7/23/2017: Revelation 5:1-13

7/30/2017: Revelation 6:1-8; 7:9-17

8/6/2017: Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5

Sacraments (4 weeks):

8/13/2017: [Baptism] Psalm 46; Acts 2:37-42

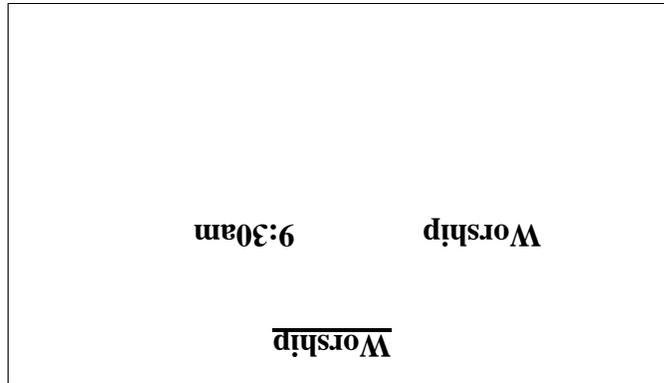
8/20/2017: [Baptism] Psalm 84; Romans 6:1-11

8/27/2017: [Lord's Supper] Psalm 65; 1
Corinthians 11:17-34

9/3/2017: [Lord's Supper] 1 Sam 21:1-9
Matthew 12:1-8 or Mark 14:12-25

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**



THE STAFF

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL