



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Summer Edition July–August 2018

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

For a congregation like the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, a congregation in transition, the image of a boat is apt.

When Jesus tells his disciples to get into the boat so they can “go across to the other side” (the story from Mark’s Gospel telling we heard on the last Sunday in June), he launches his ministry into new directions toward places foreign and unfamiliar, perhaps even risky. Jesus is on the move, in transition.

Over and over again we discover Jesus is not content to contain his ministry to safe, familiar, comfortable places. He is always opening up new paths his disciples are often reluctant to follow. There is good reason we often hear Jesus calling his friends out from their fears into following him in trust, in faith, even though they often encounter frightening storms along the way, as they did the very night they climbed into the boat with him in order to go over to “the other side.”

Just getting into the boat is often the hard part of the journey. We’d rather anchor our feet, our lives within the familiar, with what we know and have known. It’s human nature, isn’t it? It’s easier, someone recently wrote, to spend our energy thinking about divine directions and invitations instead of pursuing them.

But Jesus persists: “Get into the boat.” He offers us his hand to help us step in. He offers his strength and encouragement when the waters stir and foam, when the boat rocks and sways. He steadies us with his presence, his promise. Moving into new directions and places in order to proclaim the timeless healing mercies of God demands that that we get into the boat. There is no journey, no real

transition without that first brave, trusting step.

“Come, let’s go to the other side,” Jesus urges. The boat, the church, this community of faith, is meant to move, to cross to new places, still unknown. He urges us to get into the boat because he sees something purposeful and life giving that we may not see for ourselves, at least right now. And he knows more than we how important and vital it is for us to get there.

So as we enter a new phase of this time of discernment and transition in this congregation, from assessment to exploration of options for the good of the Church and the Gospel we are called to proclaim and live, we hear Jesus’ invitation with fresh ears, open minds, and expectant hearts and feet. Get into the boat, he says. Let’s get moving to the other side.

And as we step into that boat traveling through calm or windy waters, our prayer for this time of transition remains: *O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Your partner on the journey,
Pastor Swenson

Upcoming Events

7/22	Council meeting (Sunday)
9/23	Voters’ Meeting

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
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



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|---------|----------|---------------|-------------------|
| Claudia | Hawley | Elfriede | Anna |
| Rudy | Pat | Barnes family | Jim & Mary Lou K. |
| Lisa | Sue | Amanda | Victoria |
| Emily | Marianne | Dottie P. | Pam |
| Harold | Arnold | Pat | Mike |
| Rex | Gertrude | Howard | Barbara |
| Alex | Darryl | Francisco V. | Ellen |
| Abby | John | Alan | Anthony P. |

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 SAMARITAN FUND

At the June Voters Meeting, we discussed how to help member families who are in need financially, especially those faced with large medical bills. It was decided to use the existing Good Samaritan Fund for this. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please mark your envelope accordingly (Good Samaritan Fund). Pastor and the Council will then decide how to distribute funds.



Council & Voters' Notes



Council met on 6/20/18 and the voters' meeting was held on 6/24/18.

Ken gave highlights of Synod Assembly. (See his article, *New England Synod Assembly*, on page 6.) Pastor prepared a summary from the *Shrinking Church* article and council's discussion at the June meeting. (See article, *Continuing the Dialogue*, on page 6 for synopsis of council and voters' meeting talks.)

The financial reports show a positive ending for the month of May but only because of the rental income. Linda will be preparing a letter to send to people we have not seen in a while about the Reconnect Lunch in September. Jim presented the third paving quote he was waiting for. Council made a motion to bring before the voters' the quote from Howard Paving for an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to cover paving and a future sealing application. Thank you to Len and Jim for clearing away the downed trees by the playscape and picnic area.

Council discussed Pastor's Discretionary Fund—using funds to help members of the congregation experiencing medical issues. At the voters' meeting, Trish Rowold volunteered to take charge of the telephone tree—calling those who do not have email access.

The next council meeting is Sunday, July 22.

Pastor Swenson's Summer Office Hours

Pastor Swenson will not be holding office hours during the months of July and August.

He will be available by phone though—feel free to call him when you need to talk with him.

(860-857-9362)

REPAVE PARKING LOT

The Voters approved a motion to contract with Howard Paving to repave most of our parking lot and our 2 driveways for a maximum of \$50,000. Howard Paving had the lowest price of 3 bids. The areas to be done include the north driveway from Whitney Ave to the cross drive; the complete south driveway; and the parking lot from the church to a point 80 ft back. This area is in bad shape with several large broken up areas. The contractor will dig up and grind the existing asphalt to use as a base layer and add 2" of new asphalt on top. We will also pave any holes and seal the old asphalt that is not being replaced.

We currently have about \$35,000 in hand for this project. Our goal is only \$15,000 away. We are seeking contributions from our members to cover as much of this gap as possible. We will borrow whatever money we need to complete the project by the fall. If you would like to donate to this cause, please mark your envelope "**Parking Lot Fund.**" Thank you for whatever help you can give.

Ken Watson
Council President

JULY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

9- James Learned
 9- Mike Dube
 10- Robert Knoob
 29- Thomas Knoob



Baptisms

Barbara Aykroyd
 James Knoob, Sr.
 Mary Lou Knoob

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

10- Joseph & Tracy Costa 16 years

Birthdays

4- Frank Podgwaite, III
 11- Ruth Lye
 12- David Aykroyd
 17- Liane Moreland



Baptisms

Mike Dube, Lisa Ball-Goodrich,
 Linda Kapitan, Robert Knoob,
 Jonathan Olson, Brianne Papa

Rides for Ruth

July 1	John Downs
July 8	Starr O'Connor
July 15	Linda Kapitan
July 22	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
July 29	Jim Learned
August 5	John Downs
August 12	Starr O'Connor
August 19	Jim Learned
August 26	Linda Kapitan
September 2	Lisa Ball-Goodrich

COFFEE HOURS FOR THE SUMMER

Thank you to everyone who has brought in goodies to be utilized during our coffee hours. The variety of foods we have had has been amazing.

As you have all been so generous, we end up freezing whatever has been left. Our freezer has many treats in it that I would like to be able to utilize during the coming months. If we do not use it soon, we will have to throw it away as it will not be good anymore.

So, the long and short of it is, please hold off on bringing any baked goods, crackers, etc., until the Fall. Fresh fruit is always welcome.

Thank you for your understanding and continued generosity!

Linda Kapitan

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
7/1 9:30am	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Reggie Chang Ken Watson	Chuddy Watson
7/8	Nicholas Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Barbara Kuslan	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Starr O'Connor
7/15	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Linda Kapitan	Jim Learned John Downs	Linda Kapitan
7/22	Elizabeth Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Sarah DeLong
7/29	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Leo Goodrich	Reggie Chang	Leo Goodrich Reggie Chang	Starr O'Connor
8/5	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Jim Learned John Downs	Chuddy Watson
8/12	Nicholas Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Barbara Kuslan	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Starr O'Connor
8/19	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Cuddy Watson
8/26	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Linda Kapitan	Leo Goodrich Reggie Chang	Sarah DeLong
9/2	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Jim Learned John Downs	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!***

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.

-Romans 8:28

NEW ENGLAND SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 3 main items of business at the NE Synod Assembly 6/7-9 were the election of a Bishop for the next 6 years; election of members to Synod Council and Churchwide Assembly; and passing of the 2019 budget. The election process for Bishop started with 47 nominations. Bishop Hazelwood got just under 70% but since 75% was needed, a second ballot was required. The top 14 were on the second ballot. It took 4 ballots to elect Bishop Hazelwood. Several ballots were necessary to complete the election of people to Synod Council and Churchwide Assembly. Pastor Daphne was elected to the Churchwide Assembly.

The proposed budget was adopted for 2019. It is essentially the same amount as that for 2018.

There were reports from Bishop Hazelwood, the ELCA, Camp Calumet, the Mission Investment Fund and Portico.

Chuddy and I attended several workshops during Thursday and Friday. These included Stir Up the Joy, Forward Leadership (a program for congregations to strengthen their sense of mission and explore how to be a church in the 21st century) and Beyond the Wall (ways to welcome migrant families).

We heard a Muslim woman speak about Islam and what it is like to be Muslim.

We had a chance to meet people from other congregations in our conference and discuss common issues. Only Christ Lutheran in Hamden was not represented at the Assembly.

If you have any questions about the Assembly, please contact either Chuddy or Ken Watson.

CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE

Pastor has been leading the council and congregation in discussion regarding, *Where and how do we more forward.*

The first few months were reviewing where we stand now. A summary was printed in the June newsletter. We are a small, Sunday only church. We sit on the edge – can fall over or take flight!

Opportunities for the future-

- Keep the conversation going. Remember the church in your prayers.
- We can be the mustard seed – a church with a mission.
- Spread our wings in mission
- Merge or consolidate

Three things that council discussed-

- We cannot stay the same
- Have a part-time minister? (Not always a viable solution and not many available)
- Partnership with another congregation? – shared minister?

Other points were a church building can become a host of many faiths. Funding is available through ELCA for revitalization – a church starting over with a specific purpose.

A question for us all to ponder is,

How is God leading us?

Council will continue the dialogue over the next few months and encourage the congregation to relay their thoughts also.

