



# THE STAFF

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

September 2018

### *Pastor's Message*

Dear Friends of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

Thomas Long, now professor emeritus of preaching at the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, once shared a story he first heard from the Jewish journalist Harold Goldman. Goldman told how as a boy he was puzzled by his father's religious habits. On the one hand his father claimed he was a staunch agnostic, yet he never missed a service at the synagogue.

At some point in his teen years, Goldman mustered up the courage to ask his father about his seemingly contradictory positions. "You always say you don't believe God exists," he said, "but you go to the synagogue all the time anyway. Why?"

"There are many reasons why one would go to synagogue," his father replied. "Take Silverberg. He goes to talk to God. Me? I go to talk to Silverberg."

That answer spoken some years ago now reflects a recent Pew Research Center survey released in early August. It explored just why the 20% or so of Americans who attend religious services regularly do so.

When Silverberg goes to talk with God he stands within the realm of the 81% of regular attendees who claim they attend religious services to become closer to God. Down the list a few notches we could say we hear a strong note of Goldman's answer, "I go to talk to Silverberg." 57%, that is, attend to be a part of a community of faith. 19% say they go to meet people and socialize. Together they reflect something of a desire for connection and companionship.

Goldman's father was right when he said there are

lots of reasons people attend worship and participate in the life of a community of faith. Other key reasons in the Pew Study include: so my children will have a moral foundation, to make me a better person, for comfort in times of trouble and sorrow, and I find the sermons valuable.

As summer fades into this now unfolding autumn season with its many new beginnings, this is a good time for each one of us to think once again on just why we find or do not find ourselves among that remnant of 20% who claim to be folks who attend worship regularly. Are you a Goldman or a Silverberg? Or are you someone who not only seeks to be drawn closer to God, but who also seeks a genuine sense of connection, companionship and community grounded, shaped and enlivened by the Spirit who calls us together to live, sing and serve as one? What else draws you near? What keeps you apart? What needs to be awakened or re-awakened in your life? What hurts long to be healed? What/who do you long for?

Even I find myself needing to think on such questions occasionally. Through my own struggles with faith and the life of the church, deep down for me there's something, better yet Someone, who keeps drawing me near. There's a certain but immeasurable, unexplainable grace at work, awakening me to the truth that in the word that is proclaimed, in the bread that is broken, the wine that is poured, in the music that swells around and within me, and the community, however large or small,

*(continued on page 3)*

### **Upcoming Events**

9/19 Council meeting

9/23 Voters' Meeting

[www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar](http://www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar)

**LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

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

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Transitional Pastor  
Office- 203-248-7420**

**[www.goodshepherdhamden.org](http://www.goodshepherdhamden.org)  
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*The Staff Editor*  
Brenda Samal  
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**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>Barnes family</i>	<i>Jim &amp; Mary Lou K.</i>
<i>Lisa</i>	<i>Sue</i>	<i>Amanda</i>	<i>Victoria</i>
<i>Emily</i>	<i>Marianne</i>	<i>Dottie P.</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>Darryl</i>	<i>Francisco V.</i>	<i>Ellen</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*

*Rides for Ruth*

September 9	John Downs
September 16	Jim Learned
September 23	Leonard Lye
September 30	Linda Kapitan
October 7	Starr O'Connor
October 14	John Downs

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

however quirky, flawed or wonderful, that surrounds me, God is opening the eyes of my heart to see myself, the people and the world around me in ways I will never be able to see by myself, and is calling me onto life giving paths and relationships I would never take or make by myself. Somehow I know in the presence of the risen Christ and the company of the saints there is revealed a joy and light and purpose that is like no other.

I pray that in the days ahead we will together join in the grateful song of the Psalmist: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Pastor Swenson

**THANK YOU...**

to all who contributed coins to ELCA World Hunger Fund! (Remember the cardboard farmhouses?)

**\$92.28**

was deposited and sent out to help feed families around the globe. (That is LOTS of quarters, dimes, nickles, and pennies!!)

Keefe Center food bank in Hamden was also happy to accept our donation of **14 LARGE** bags of nonperishable foods and other supplies which was delivered in July. Please keep those donations coming; they are always happy to see us.

(Please note that besides food; diapers and other baby supplies are always crucial to families in need.)



**SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS**

**Anniversaries**

- 5- William & Sylvia Wakefield 65 years
- 7- Ken & Chuddy Watson 50 years
- 15- Thomas & Brenda Samal 39 years
- 25- James & Mary Lou Knoob 53 years

**Birthdays**

- 5- Leo Goodrich
- 9- Byron Dinkla
- 9- Christine Edgar
- 17- Caroline Henry
- 22- Kathy Dube
- 24- Jonathan Goodrich
- 29- Michaela Rowold



**Baptisms**

Thomas Knoob, Tyler Knoob

**New Liturgy for Autumn Season Begins September 9**

On Sunday, September 9, we will begin a new liturgy for the Sundays of autumn through Reformation Sunday, October 28.

The liturgy will include a spoken dialog from Iona Community in Scotland which will be followed by a lively Hymn of Praise, "You are holy" (#525 in our worship books), a song that is originally from Sweden. There will be plenty of familiar sounds too as we will turn to setting one from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book for our communion liturgy. As a weekly communion hymn we will be singing the beautiful hymn "In the singing" (#466).

Come share in the worship life of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd as we celebrate the presence of the risen Christ in Word and in the Meal. And invite others to come share in the promise and the life giving gifts of worship.

**SCHEDULED TO SERVE**

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
9/2 9:30am	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Jim Learned John Downs	Starr O'Connor
9/9 10:30am	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Starr O'Connor	Barbara Kuslan	Starr O'Connor Jim Learned	Sarah DeLong
9/16	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Reggie Chang	Leo Goodrich Reggie Chang	Chuddy Watson
9/23	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	Sarah DeLong
9/30	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Linda Kapitan	Jim Learned John Downs	Linda Kapitan
10/7	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich Reggie Chang	Starr O'Connor
10/14	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Leonard Lye	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!*

**To Our Church Family,**

Jim and I would like to thank you all for the most beautiful shawl and monetary gift given to us in our time of need.

We use the prayer shawl after we do our readings of the Bible each day. What a great experience for us to pray under the shawl. The money was used for medicine, food and gas.

No words could express our thankfulness. God knows our need at this time in our life and supplied it at the most needed time. God is awesome and is always on time. He keeps his promises.

Your prayers and support is helping us get through this tough time.

Thank you all again for being there for us. May God bless each and everyone.

God's Love & Peace be with you all.

Love, Mary Lou & Jim Knoob



**Sunday—September 9, 2018**

**“God’s work. Our Hands.”**

ELCA members nationwide share their gifts and faith through serving neighbors and communities.

*“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday- no matter when, where or how it happens— is a rich experience of mutual care, service, learning and witness for everyone.*

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**



**THE STAFF**

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL