



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

September 2019

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

After a summer of shared worship with Christ Lutheran Church of Hamden (two Sundays a month), it might be good to consider once again why we started on this path and just where it might lead us.

Seeking to discern the Spirit's leading for this congregation we have, over the past year and more, carefully and honestly assessed our current place in ministry and acknowledged that changes need to be made in order for us to better fulfill our calling to be a vibrant church in ministry.

Yes, the small community of folks that gathers on Sunday mornings is a faithful, resilient, lively, good hearted, supportive and caring group. As it should be, our life together is centered in worship as we gather around Word and Meal on Sunday mornings. Our coffee hours following worship, as we share what some call the third Sacrament for Lutherans — coffee, are welcoming, spirited and cheerful. When the call goes out for folks to contribute for the sake of others in need, like our recent project to collect backpacks and school supplies, there is always a remarkable and bounteous response. These are things for which we can truly be grateful.

Yet we all realize the limitations we face. Resources, both financial and human, are stretched thin. We are fully aware that our membership is declining and aging. Currently we provide no Christian education for children, youth or adults. There is little or no ministry being carried out during the week. As one beloved member pointed out honestly at our summer Voter's Meeting, it's bad stewardship for a church building to be idle six days a week. She's right. And given the financial restrictions, there is no possibility to call an ordained pastor (full or part time) to serve this congregation.

So why are we on this path of emerging partnership with Christ Church?

First, I want to believe that the Holy Spirit is leading us in this direction. I believe the Spirit opens doors and gives wisdom and discernment when we genuinely seek its leading in the unfolding of Christ's ministry. It is up to us to trust and give the Spirit sway along the way, even through inevitable, unexpected surprises, twists and turns.

Second, the possibilities for building a stronger, more vibrant ministry to serve the people of this region become stronger and wider through working together in partnership. While its membership is slightly larger, the challenges Christ Church faces are very similar to those we face. They too acknowledge the need for change. We stand today as two congregations with quite different histories seeking a common, life-giving path for tomorrow.

We have already experienced through the summer that in joining together to lift our hymns of praise and our hands in ministry to the surrounding community there is greater strength and vibrancy in greater numbers. A fuller congregation and a church community expectant for the future and the Spirit's leading is more attractive to those who are seeking to discover a church home. And I believe that if used wisely the combined resources of our

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Upcoming Events

- 9/8 Worship & picnic at Christ Lutheran
- 9/10 Council meeting
- 9/18 Mid-month Coffee & Conversation
- 10/6 Voters' Meeting

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

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**Council Members
1/1/19—12/31/19**

- President: Ken Watson
- Vice-President: ~vacant~
- Treasurer: Leonard Lye
- Secretary: Brenda Samal
- Christian Education: ~vacant~
- Evangelism/
Publicity: Leo Goodrich
- 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>Angela</i> | <i>Francisco V.</i> | <i>Jim & 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 K.</i> |
| <i>Alex</i> | <i>Darryl</i> | <i>Alan</i> | <i>Ellen</i> |
| <i>Abby</i> | <i>John</i> | <i>Barbara</i> | <i>Jessika D.</i> |

*Members of Good Shepherd who are homebound
Family and friends whom we name in our hearts*

Military personnel

Mission of the church

Congregations of Greater New Haven

**LCGS and Christ Church Join Together for
Festive Church Picnic, September 8**

Worshippers at our joint worship service at Christ Church on September 8 will enjoy a festive church picnic following worship. This will be a great opportunity for folks from our two congregations to meet one another and to deepen friendships that have been emerging over the summer. Feel free to wear informal picnic clothes to worship this day.

Christ Church will provide drinks and burgers and hot dogs for the grill, and everyone is invited to bring a dish to share (salad, hot dish, or dessert).



**Remember that on this Picnic Day
September 8, we will begin our fall
worship schedule, with worship
beginning at 10:00 a.m.!**

two congregations could provide a strong foundation for a re-energized and renewed ministry in the days ahead.

Both congregations bring with them what is most precious to them into this emerging partnership — a deep love for the Gospel and our calling to be the Church, the company of people who care deeply for one another, and an abiding passion to serve one another and the community that surrounds us. We both know that resiliency and flexibility, trust in the Spirit who sees more clearly than we do at times and who persists in seeking to clear our eyes, and faithful commitment to our singular calling to be a community centered in and empowered by the Gospel are critical to the days ahead.

As we continue to take small steps and dare take even bigger ones into the future, I urge your prayers, your honest, constructive observations and insights, your faithful participation, and most of all your love for one another, for the church, and the calling we all have to serve and live in the way of Jesus.

Your partner along the way,
Les Swenson,
Transitional Pastor

Councils of LCGS and Christ Church Hold Joint Meeting on August 25

After our shared worship service with Christ Church at LCGS on August 25, the two Congregation Councils met to assess our summer ventures and to help steer a possible course into the months ahead.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- * An enthusiastic affirmation of our joint summer worship services, coffee hours and the shared “Fill the Backpacks” project.
- * A clear desire to move forward into the coming months to develop this emerging partnership between the two congregations.
- * We will continue to worship together two Sundays a month. Both churches will adopt the 10:00 a.m. worship hour. There will be one adjustment regarding the joint Sunday worship schedule. Beginning in October we will move to worshipping together on the first and third Sundays of each month (the first Sunday at Christ Church, the third at LCGS).
- * Beginning Sunday, September 15, there will be a Sunday school class for young children from the two congregations at 9:00, ending at 9:45. Ken Allen, a member of Christ Church, will be the teacher. The class will gather at Christ Church, but there will be ample time from the close of the Sunday School time for children from LCGS to make it “down the hill” from Christ Church for 10:00 worship at LCGS. On the Sundays when we will be worshipping at LCGS (third Sunday of each month), the Sunday school class will gather here.
- * Beginning on October 6 and on the following Sundays when we will be worshipping together, there will also be an adult Bible Study/Discussion Group for people from our two congregations. The group will be led by Pastors Marschhausen and Swenson and will focus on the Scripture lessons to be heard on the upcoming Sunday during worship.
- * A commitment was made to work together on Thanksgiving Food Basket and Christmas Giving projects in the coming months, as well as including the members of both congregations in future fellowship events (e.g., the Christ Church Movie Night on September 20. See details on page 8.)
- * A commitment was also made by those present to help keep the members of our two congregations fully informed of the unfolding decisions and directions for this emerging partnership. We need to be available to one another and listen carefully to concerns that are raised in the midst of the changes we are all experiencing.
- * The next joint meeting of the two Councils will be following worship on November 3. At that time we will evaluate the workings of the shared ministry during September and October and discuss the possibility of further developments for the months ahead.

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

5-William & Sylvia Wakefield	66 years
7-Ken & Chuddy Watson	51 years
15-Thomas & Brenda Samal	40 years
25-Jim & Mary Lou Knoob	54 years

Birthdays

5-Leo Goodrich
 9-Byron Dinkla
 14-Kristine Knoob
 17-Caroline Henry
 22-Kathy Dube
 24-Jonathan Goodrich



Baptisms

Thomas Knoob, Tyler Knoob

NHELP

New Haven Hamden Evangelical Lutheran Partnership

We met on Saturday, August 17 at 9:30am. Below are discussion points-

- On Sept. 14, Emanuel is holding a tag sale from 9-noon. That afternoon (4-8PM), there is a Cabaret at Bethesda that is a fundraiser for the youth to attend the Youth Gathering next summer.
- Reformation Sunday (Oct. 27) will be a joint service for all 5 congregations at Trinity in New Haven at 10 AM. There will be a pot-luck afterwards.
- Joint confirmation is being offered by Trinity. Students will meet 5-7 one Tuesday a month beginning September 17.
- The group will be reading a book suggested by Pastor Sinnott- "Effective Organizing for Congregational Renewal" by Michael Gecan. We will meet to discuss it at Good Shepherd on November 9.

Lisa Ball-Goodrich

September Worship News and Time Change

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Christ Lutheran Church will be worshipping together on the second and fourth Sundays in September, continuing the pattern begun in June.

Please note that the beginning time for worship beginning on September 8 and thereafter will be 10:00!

The schedule looks like this:

Sunday, September 1, worship at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (LCGS), 9:30 a.m. Last Sunday for summer worship time!

Sunday, September 8, worship at Christ Lutheran Church, 600 Shepard Ave., Hamden, 10:00 a.m.. Worship will be followed by a festive church picnic. (For more on the picnic, see special article on page 2).

Sunday, September 15, worship at LCGS, (10:00 a.m.).

Sunday, September 22, worship with Christ Church at LCGS, (10:00 a.m.).

Sunday, September 29, worship at LCGS, (10:00 a.m.).

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Come, let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psalm 122.1)

Looking Forward to Reformation Sunday, October 27

Members and friends of the five Lutheran congregations of New Haven and Hamden will join together as one to celebrate the Reformation festival on Sunday, October 27, at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Haven. Watch for more details as the date approaches but circle the date now in red and be expectant for a day of great music and celebration as we celebrate our heritage as Lutheran Christians and the Spirit that continues to reform, reshape and make new the church of Christ.



"God's Work, Our Hands"

Fill the Backpacks

On August 11th, accompanied by our friends at Christ Church, we formed a busy assembly line to fill **23 backpacks** with school supplies. The enthusiasm was palatable as "God's Work, Our Hands" was clearly in motion. Backpacks, along with other supplies, were delivered to the Youth Services Department at Keefe Community Center in Hamden. Our donations were received with joyous gratitude as they reportedly had been "low on school supplies" this year.

Thank you so much to all who contributed in so many ways to such a good cause!

Starr O'Connor



Opportunities for Growth in the Faith This Fall and Beyond

For children ... a Sunday School class will be offered beginning September 15 at 9:00 a.m. Except for the third Sunday of the month when Christ Church will be worshipping at LCGS, the class will gather at Christ Church, 600 Shepherd Ave. Since the class will finish at 9:45, there will be ample time for LCGS children to be picked up by parents and arrive at LCGS for worship at 10:00.

For confirmation age young people ... we will be joining young people from Trinity Lutheran Church in New Haven for a shared confirmation ministry. The group will gather at Trinity Church the third Tuesday of the month beginning on September 17

from 5-7 p.m. Please talk with Pastor Swenson about more details.

For Adults... beginning on October 6, on Sundays when Christ Church and LCGS will be worshipping together, adults from our two congregations are invited to gather for Bible Study/Discussion on the Scripture readings that will be heard in worship on the upcoming Sundays. Grow and learn in the faith together! 9:00 a.m. on the first and third Sunday of every month.



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
9/1 9:30am	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ruth Lye Leonard Lye	Starr O'Connor
9/8 10:00am	JOINT SERVICE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 600 SHEPHARD AVE, HAMDEN- AND PICNIC					
9/15 10:00am	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Leo Goodrich	Linda Kapitan	Leo Goodrich Ken Watson	Linda Kapitan
9/22 10:00am	Elizabeth Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	~	Leo Goodrich	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Sarah DeLong
9/29 10:00am	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson James Learned	Chuddy Watson
10/6 10:00am	JOINT SERVICE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 600 SHEPHARD AVE, HAMDEN					

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!

Council Meeting



Council met 8/5/19. Pastor recapped discussions at the July Voters' meeting. We have two more months of shared services with Christ and a possible picnic on 9/8. The joint councils will meet 8/25 after coffee hour. Points to discuss will be what are Christ Church thoughts for the future, concerns about lack of young families and what are the next steps to take. Christian education will be a topic at the five church meeting on 8/17. Financial reports showed revenue up slightly in July. Jim and Ken have been tending to church lawn mowing and weed wacking. Len offered to dispose of the couch by the dumpster. Next council meeting is 9/10 and voters' meeting, 10/6.



**“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday
September 8, 2019**

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2019!

(Fill the Backpacks Project! - see page 5)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly summary of actions

CHICAGO (Aug. 14, 2019) — Gathering under the theme “We are church,” voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) made a number of key decisions to further the mission and ministry of this church. The assembly, the chief legislative authority of the church, met Aug. 5-10 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

More than 900 voting members:

- Reelected on the first ballot the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton to a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop.
- Elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer to a six-year term as ELCA secretary. Rothmeyer, currently serving as executive for administration with the Office of the Secretary, was installed during the assembly’s closing worship on Aug. 10 and will begin her term Nov. 1.
- Approved the social statement “Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action” and its implementing resolutions. The social statement, in part, names patriarchy and sexism as sins and calls the church to action on a range of issues, including gender-based violence, workplace discrimination and economic inequality.
- Adopted “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment,” which will serve as church policy for inter-religious relations. The policy statement was adopted with the witness of 39 ecumenical and inter-religious guests in attendance.
- Approved the triennium budget for 2020-2022, which includes a current fund spending authorization of \$68,378,325 for 2020, a current fund income proposal of \$68,442,034 for 2021 and \$68,507,018 for 2022; and an ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21.5 million 2020, and an income proposal of \$21.5 million for 2021 and for 2022.
- Adopted the “Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA,” which consists of a report and recommendations on how the ELCA exhibits authentic diversity and formulates goals for racial diversity and inclusion.
- Witnessed the presentation of the “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent,” which was accepted by the Rev. Lamont A. Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA), and members of ADLA.
- Adopted 26 memorials en bloc, ranging in topics from gun violence to engagement in the Holy Land and gender identity to seminary tuition.
- Adopted a memorial that affirms the ELCA’s long-standing commitment to migrants and refugees and declares the ELCA a sanctuary church body.
- Adopted a memorial that calls for the development of a social statement and social message on the relationship of church and state.

(Continued on page 8..)

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- Adopted a memorial to encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove barriers to ordination for people in same-gender relationships.
- Adopted a memorial to support the vision and goals of the Poor People's Campaign that align with the ELCA's social teachings.
- Adopted a series of amendments to the "Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," including one that makes ordination the entrance rite for ministers of Word and Service, and an amendment to no longer count deacons as laypeople for representational principles.
- Adopted a resolution that committed the ELCA to support the World Council of Church's "Thursdays in Black" campaign toward a world without rape and violence.
- Adopted a resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people who were shot and killed June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.
- Adopted a resolution to condemn white supremacy, calling all ELCA congregations to engage in a "study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God."
- Celebrated the end of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, which concluded June 30 with nearly \$250 million raised in cash, multiyear commitments and planned gift commitments. At the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members approved the \$198 million campaign to help sustain and grow ministries of the church.
- Elected members to serve on the ELCA Church Council, churchwide committees and churchwide boards, including Portico Benefit Services, the Mission Investment Fund and 1517 Media.



Christ Lutheran Church
Friday, September 20
7:30 pm



BREAKTHROUGH is based on the inspirational true story of one mother's unfaltering love in the face of impossible odds. When Joyce Smith's adopted son John falls through an icy Missouri lake, all hope seems lost. But as John lies lifeless, Joyce refuses to give up. Her steadfast belief inspires those around her to continue to pray for John's recovery, even in the face of every case history and scientific prediction.

Poster and sign-up sheet is posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

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
Summer Worship (6/16-9/1/19)
9:30am

Worship
(beginning 9/8/19)
10:00am



THE STAFF

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL