



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

October 2017

Pastor's Reflection-

God's Priorities Never Change

At our most recent congregational meeting, I distributed index cards and asked everyone to answer three questions: Why do you come to church? Have your attendance patterns changed in the past 5 years and if so, why? What are the top three priorities in your life? I then collected the cards and distributed them randomly, and we read out loud the answers others had given. The answers to the first question was music to a pastor's ear- people attend worship for connection, spiritual renewal, peace, community, and to praise God. The answers to the second question were not surprising: most who were there had maintained the same attendance pattern for many years; any changes that had been made were because of distance, or family circumstances. What a blessing to have such a faithful group of congregants who value being in church!

As for our top three priorities, almost all responses included three of the following: family, friends, health, home, finances, spiritual life, church, and God. Most (but not all) listed family first, and not everyone included church/spiritual life/God. I suspect if we'd had to list 5 priorities rather than 3, God and spiritual life would have been in everyone's list, and employment, retirement and fun might have been added. We are busy people, and our lives are pulled in many different directions. For so many of us, the

things that are our priorities are so because they *have* to be-- caring for children, spouses, and aging parents is not optional; we are trying to live a good life in a time when prices are going up and income is not; too often these days, crisis seems to be only a breath away, in our lives, the lives of the ones we love, and around the world.

50 years ago, the church served as the oasis for all who felt as though they were crossing a desert. Congregations were big enough so that not everyone was facing a crisis or extra drain on their emotional, physical or spiritual resources at the same time. Those who were in good spaces had energy to care for those who weren't. Even those of us who were busy still had the ability - and time - to volunteer to help the mission and ministries of the church- whether by mowing the lawn,

"..people attend worship for connection, spiritual renewal, peace, community, and to praise God."

making coffee, attending meetings, or organizing projects. When one group needed a break,

there were always others ready and able to step in.

These days, our hearts are still in the right place but our lives have changed significantly. Sometimes we find ourselves leaning on our congregation for the ways it can care for us in part because there is no one else we can rely on to do so. The challenge comes when there are more exhausted people than rested ones, more folks who are ready to retire than those who are ready to take on

(continued on page 3)

**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—203-988-9398

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



| | | | |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Pastor | Sally B. |
| | | Daphne | |
| Claudia | Hawley | Elfriede | Anna |
| Rudy | Pat | Lisa | Mary Lou |
| Jimmy | Sue | Amanda | Victoria |
| Emily | Marianne | David R. | Pam |
| Harold | Arnold | Pat | Mike |
| Rex | Gertrude | Howard | Barbara |
| Alex | Linda & Darryl | Francisco V. | Bill & Ellen |
| Abby | John | Alan | |

*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*

HOMEWORK HELP

Luther House Campus Ministry is inviting you to join us in making a difference in New Haven, by offering homework help to elementary school children in The Hill Neighborhood (at 158 Davenport, 2 blocks from Yale New Haven Hospital), for just one hour a week: Thursdays at 6:00pm. We are especially looking for those who can help for the first few weeks of October even if you can't come for the entire semester.

Please call/text Pastor Kari at 203-200-7589, if you are intrigued! Or email yalelutherhouse@gmail.com.

(Pastor's Reflection .. Continued from page 1)

new responsibilities, more folks who are in need of the ministry of the church than are able to minister. This is no one's fault, nor is it a situation in which blame should be passed around. We simply are who we are, where we are.

The Very Good News (one might even say HUGELY Good News) is that God never wearies or tires of reaching out to us. God has time and energy to spare to hear our cries, lift up our hearts, and lighten our loads. Sometimes we face situations through which we cannot see a way; God walks with us through wilderness, swamp, earthquake and tornado. With overflowing love and endless patience, God never stops providing opportunities for us to have joy in our hearts and peace in our souls: bodies that sustain us even as we age; minds that remember who is important, even if we grow fuzzy on the details of what day it is; and the assurance that we are never, ever alone. While congregations may get smaller in number, God's presence will not falter or withdraw. While there is much about the future that we cannot know, of this we can be sure: as busy as we may be, as many directions in which we are pulled, there will always be reasons to worship and give thanks for God's unending love, grace, and mercy which bestowed upon us every day.

No matter where God is on our priority list, we are always on the top of God's, and no matter whether we come to church or pray at home (or on the golf course), God will always provide for us what we need. While the future of what our churches and

congregations may look like in the next 50 years is yet to be discerned, one thing is sure: the God whose love is so broad as to sacrifice Godself to human foolishness will continue to find new ways to love us and guide us home. For all these things and the privilege of being your pastor in this time and place, I am grateful.

Pastor Daphne †



New England Synod Celebration

Lutheran churches across the country are celebrating our heritage and the theological underpinning of our denomination – “for freedom Christ has set us free”(Gal 5:1) - God's grace is given to us abundantly and without condition *because of who God is*, not because of who we are. The New England Synod has taken our celebration of the Reformation one step farther, and planned four celebrations *with Roman Catholics*. Other Lutheran and Catholic groups have also planned celebrations (see <http://nelutherans.org/500> for a full list). **The closest one to us is on Reformation Sunday itself, Oct 29, at 4:00 at Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester.** The special vespers service will be co-presided by both our own Bishop Hazelwood and Archbishop Leonard Blair (Hartford Diocese) and a reception follows.

May the theological movement that began with a conversation about God's grace move us ever closer to other Christians, as we model the awesomeness of knowing that all people are loved by God, no matter what.

CELEBRATING 500 YEARS!!!!

Martin Luther

On Oct 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a Catholic priest, teacher, and theologian posted 95 theses (statements) for discussion



and debate on the Wittenberg Chapel door (a common way to initiate public conversation). His primary concern was the way the church had constructed barriers to God's mercy and grace for lay people – making them pay for forgiveness (indulgences), forbidding translations of the Bible into anything but Latin, preaching in philosophical rather than simple terms, and maintaining a system that placed priests between the people and God. Luther held a “deep conviction that God's mercy or grace in Jesus is given freely to all” and worked to make that available to everyone. **Some of Luther's greatest reforms were translating the Bible into the language of the people (German), writing a book about key elements of the faith (the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed, the 10 Commandments, and the sacraments of baptism and eucharist) in question and answer form so that “ordinary believers” could understand (the Small Catechism); preaching in easy to understand language; and writing hymns in German.** While these aspects of Christian life may seem like no big deal to us, they were hard-fought by Luther and the Reformers after him.

Lutheran/Catholic Dialogues

Over the centuries, most of the changes that Luther suggested have been adopted by the

Roman Catholic Church (with the significant exception of allowing priests to marry; ordaining women wasn't even an issue at the time), and over the past 40 years, Lutheran/Catholic dialogues have made significant progress in healing the breach between our denominations (for instance, we agree about the presence of Christ in the eucharist, and the primacy of grace over works as outward signs of faith). There are still blockades between full communion: recognition of ordination, which leads to acknowledgment of the legitimacy of consecration among them. (In other words, if the ordination of a Lutheran pastor is not legitimate, then her consecration of the elements of communion is invalid. It's also worth noting that the ELCA has the same issues with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.)

IN MY BACK YARD: *Micro-Grants for Non-Profits*

A program administered by Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Thanks to the generosity of Bernie and Mimi Kapitan and the good work of the IMBY committee, the In My Back Yard awards program is ready! The call for applications for micro-grants will be sent to local non-profits by the end of the month, and we are looking forward to supporting their work in small but, we hope, significant ways. Check out our website: <https://lcsimby.wordpress.com/> and pass the information on to any groups you are connected to. Questions and suggestions may be directed to lcsimby@gmail.com.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

8-Leo & Lisa Goodrich 29 years
 11-Sean & Korinne Leary 9 years
 17-Michel & Kathy Dube 30 years

Birthdays

6-Gabriel Ripa
 7-Lisa Martinell
 14-Christi Sharon
 14-Suzanne Boor
 18-David Goodrich
 18-Dorothy Podgwaite



Baptisms

David Aykroyd, Suzanne Boor,
 Sue Hartley, Christopher Olson

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Reggie Chang
 365 Mather St. #94
 Hamden, CT 06514



This year we will celebrate the last Sunday of the church year, November 26, by constructing a service comprised of verses from our favorite hymns! Caroline and Pastor Daphne will be compiling the list November 5 and 12; it's not too soon to start looking in your hymnals and picking your favorites!

FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH AUGUST 2017

| | 2017 | 8/12 of 2017 BUDGET | Over (Under) BUDGET | Prior year Comparative 2016 thru August |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Receipts thru August | \$52,119 | \$62,333 | (\$10,214) | \$45,854 |
| Expenses thru August | \$61,412 | \$62,333 | (\$921) | \$54,371 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | (\$9,293) | \$0 | (\$9,293) | (\$8,517) |

Our total Operating giving for August was \$4,913 and our expenses were \$6,268 giving us a shortage of \$1,355 and increasing our year to date loss to \$9,293. This compares to a 2016 shortage of \$1,540 for August and a year to date loss of \$8,517.

As the above shows our giving this year is ahead of last year by \$6,265, thanks to some extra gifts, but behind our budget by \$10,214. Our expenses through August are under budget by \$921 and over last year by \$7,041 primarily because of seasonal expenses.

Last year in September we had a gain of \$575 and a year to date loss of \$ 7,942. With insurance payments in September this year we will need at least \$7,000 in income to break even.

John E. Downs, Treasurer



Pastor Daphne sings in this chorus.

Council & Voters' Notes



Council met on 9/20. For opening devotions we read and discussed Chapter 6 of our Constitution. Financial conditions are still a concern and will be brought up at the voters' meeting also. Parsonage renovations continue to ready it for rental. Pastor will be attending a training course the end of October for Cathedral in the Night. Leo Goodrich will be cleaning the church now that Jonathan is in college.

The voters' meeting was held 9/24. Pastor reported her office days are Wednesdays. She thanked everyone for their gifts and presence at her wedding. Pastor visited homebound and would like to bring worship to Elfriede. Financial situation was discussed—pastor's cash salary will increase as not living in parsonage and she is concerned this will place a financial burden on our budget. She met with Synod and is looking at other calls.

Winter Swing
Voices & Vibes

SILK'N SOUNDS CHORUS **ARTHUR LIPNER**

Sunday, December 10, 2:00 PM

With North Haven HS Students

\$20 Adults
\$15 Seniors & Students
Children under 12 Free

North Haven High School
221 Elm Street
North Haven, CT
06473

Tickets & Info
at www.silksounds.org
or call 203-239-7104

 

Silk'n Sounds is a non-profit organization that supports New Reach.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is that time again to prepare a slate of council officers for 2018.

Linda Kapitan and Ken Watson are serving and our new constitution states two more non-council members are needed.

If you have a little time to give input, please talk to Linda or Ken.

Thank you!

COFFEE HOURS



We all enjoy the fellowship along with a hot cup of coffee, juice and snacks of cheese, crackers, fruit and cakes.

There are many ways to help make it happen -

- ♥ Sign up to host a coffee hour
- ♥ Bring baked goods (to eat then or freeze for future coffee hours)
- ♥ Bring gluten-free snacks
- ♥ Offer to start the coffee before worship (directions posted inside kitchen cabinet door)
- ♥ Assist with clean-up.

THANK YOU!!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM



COMIC ★ RELIEF ★

AN INTER-FAITH FUNDRAISER
FOR THE IMMIGRANT BAIL FUND

FEATURING THE COMIC GENIUS OF
RABBI BOB ALPER,
REV. SUSAN SPARKS,
AND GIBRAN SALEEM

CONGREGATION MISHKAN ISRAEL, 785 RIDGE ROAD, HAMDEN, CT 06517

THE IMMIGRANT BAIL FUND EXISTS TO FREE CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS FROM IMMIGRATION DETENTION SO THEY CAN RE-UNITE WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AND FIGHT DEPORTATION FROM A POSITION OF FREEDOM.

**SUGGESTED MINIMUM DONATION \$10/TICKET \$30/FAMILY
PAYMENT AT THE DOOR**

**IMMIGRANT
BAIL FUND**

DONATE ONLINE: [HTTPS://WWW.IMMIGRANTBAILFUND.ORG/TAKE-ACTION](https://www.immigrantbailfund.org/take-action)

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
Sunday School
(2nd and 4th Sundays)
9:30am

Worship
10:30am



THE STAFF

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL