



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

October 2018

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

As we engaged in conversation about the future direction of the ministry of this congregation at the quarterly Voter's Meeting on September 23, two key themes emerged — **Honesty and Hope**. Each is essential and vital for our continued conversations in the days ahead.

Honesty because we need to be able to see with eyes wide open the challenges we face as we seek to discern how God is calling us into tomorrow ... a dwindling and aging membership, a small leadership pool stretched thin, little program life beyond Sunday morning.

We are not alone, of course, in facing these realities. Thousands of congregations across our land and beyond face similar challenges. Yet each congregation is at the same time unique, each with its own set of issues, surroundings, anxieties and joys. And we, like all, have many reasons to be grateful and to celebrate our life together while we face the demands ahead ... the strong bond of community people feel as we gather grounded in God's Word and renewed around the Table, the warm and genuine hospitality and care displayed to one another, the generosity and abiding commitment many have toward this ministry.

And we, like every congregation recognizing its own uniqueness as well as shared, common challenges, are called to earnestly and prayerfully be available to the ways God is unfolding a new day in the life of the church in a new and rapidly changing world. Out of the brokenness we often see and sometimes feel sharply, God is creating something new, although it is not easy to see just yet what is emerging in this time of reform and transition. However meager it

sounds, the best we can say is that tomorrow's church will not look the same as yesterday's. We need to know God has not given up or abandoned the church. God is changing and making it new. And we have been called to be engaged in this time of unfolding.

Which leads us to the second key theme. **Hope**. We dwell in hope because we trust and know God is at work, still at the drawing board sketching out this new day, restlessly and lovingly calling and leading us and the whole church through uncertainty and unknowing, nudging us to lean forward even though we often are tempted to look backward to what we have known and still feel comfortable in. As one writer recently described it: "We live forward but think backward, as Soren Kierkegaard once put it ... in living forward one needs to reimagine, and rename, the present turbulence, to be open to the appearance of new possibilities..."

I invite and encourage your prayers and active engagement, your honesty and hope, and your confidence in the Spirit's sturdy yet surprising leading, through the coming days of discernment and direction taking.

Your partner along the way,
Pastor Swenson,
Transitional Pastor

Upcoming Events

10/24	Council meeting
10/27	Harvest Dinner
12/2	Voters' Meeting & light luncheon

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



<i>Claudia</i>	<i>Hawley</i>	<i>Elfriede</i>	<i>Anna</i>
<i>Rudy</i>	<i>Pat</i>	<i>Barnes family</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</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 30	Linda Kapitan
October 7	Starr O'Connor
October 14	John Downs
October 21	Linda Kapitan
October 28	Leonard Lye
November 4	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
November 11	Jim Learned

"Mid Month Coffee Gathering"

Wednesday Oct 17, 2018
10:00am—12:00pm
Fellowship Hall

We are trying a coffee social once a month for all those interested in a little social gathering.

Very Casual - All Welcome
Informal - No Agenda

If you have any questions contact-

John Downs 203-248-8566 -or-
Marianne Turner 203-239-7470

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

8-Leo & Lisa Goodrich	30 years
11-Sean & Korinne Leary	10 years
17-Michel & Kathy Dube	31 years

Birthdays

14-Christi Sharon
14-Suzanne Boor
18-David Goodrich
18-Dorothy Podgwaite



Baptisms

David Aykroyd, Suzanne Boor,
Christopher Olson

The Church is Always Reforming! Celebrate Reformation Sunday, October 28

While we often associate Reformation with Martin Luther and the movement he launched on October 31, 1517, we at the same time realize God never tires of reforming and making new the living body of Christ in the world, the Church.

And we will celebrate that timeless, restless spirit of God making things new on Reformation Sunday, October 28. Hymns new, old, beloved and familiar will fill the air as we gather around Word and Table on this festive day of heritage and hope.

Remember to wear something **red**, the color of the day!

Volunteers needed....

Nominating Committee:

Two non-council members needed to assist Ken Watson prepare a slate of officers for 2019 Council. The proposed slate will be presented to council in November and then to the voters' on December 2.

Audit Committee:

One more non-council member is needed to work with Reggie Chang and Marianne Turner reviewing 2017 financial records.



Council & Voters' Notes

Council met on 9/19. Council members visited area Lutheran churches during the summer (Bethesda Lutheran, Christ Lutheran & Emanuel Lutheran) and gave brief accounts of their visits. Visits will be made to Trinity Lutheran, Bethesda and Emanuel before the October meeting. Leonard prepared a proposed budget change reflecting the pastor's and guest preacher's salaries and elimination of parish house electric and gas line item (since it is paid by the renter.) Council approved the revised budget. The congregation's generous donations to the parking lot repaving has covered the cost. The family renting the parish house would like to renew their rental contract for another year. Jim reported that there is some outside cleanup to be done and will report at the voters' meeting (see article on page 5.) John stated the need for more volunteers to serve at worship services. Linda has two tentative dates for the Harvest Dinner- 10/27 or 11/10.



The voters' meeting was held on 9/23.

Pastor Swenson reviewed and reported on the Council's discussions about discerning a future direction for this congregation's ministry. He talked about the decision to move forward to explore the possibility of some form of shared or partnered ministry with one or more Lutheran congregations in the New Haven area. Those discussions and explorations are at a very early stage.

Council members have been worshipping with other congregations over the past two months and will continue those visits in order to get a first glance at what is happening in our neighboring congregations. We need to ask: are there ways for congregations committed to living and acting together can do better than doing ministry alone?

Pastor Swenson cautioned not to make assumptions about other congregations before we really get to know them (each is unique in their own character

and make up, and each is at a different place in their life together). He also said that partnerships can take many forms and shapes. We can't define relationships ahead of time. Let the Spirit work! And through the whole process of discernment be supportive of leaders, be faithful in prayer, and dare to take risks.

Financial reports showed year-to-date expenses lower than year-to-date budget. The rental income has been a big contributor to total income. Christian Education is still vacant resulting in no Sunday School at this time. Evangelism is also vacant. Linda thanked everyone that kept the coffee hours going over the summer. The Harvest Supper has been scheduled for 10/27 at 4:30pm. (See a copy of the invitation on page 6.) Work on the parking lot has begun. Thank you to Ken Watson and the Goodrich family for help with mowing and plant care around the church. Thirteen bags of food was delivered to Hamden Food Bank.

Next council meeting is 10/24 and voters' meeting- 12/2.

A Prayer for our journey into God's future...

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.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
10/7	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Reggie Chang	Starr O'Connor
10/14	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich Leonard Lye	Starr O'Connor
10/21	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Starr O'Connor	Barbara Kuslan	John Downs Starr O'Connor	Sarah DeLong
10/28	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ruth Lye Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
11/4	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Reggie Chang	Leo Goodrich Reggie Chang	Starr O'Connor
11/11	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson Jim Learned	Sarah DeLong

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!



**Food
Pantry
Needs**

The Hamden

Food Bank was very appreciative of the 13 bags of food that was delivered recently.

Please note that besides non-perishable food— toilet tissue, kleenex, toothpaste. diapers and other baby supplies are always crucial to families in need.

CHURCH WORKDAY

**Saturday, 10/6/18
10-12pm**

General outdoor cleanup around church and parish house.





Calling all members and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Fellowship would like to invite you to a Harvest themed potluck supper on
October 27, 2018.

This is a chance for us to connect and catch up
on what has been going on in our lives.

Fellowship will provide the meat---
please feel free to bring either a side dish or dessert.

Supper will be served around 4:30.

Please RSVP to Linda Kapitan at 203-314-2687 (text messages are welcome)
If you would like to attend, but do not drive at night, please let her know that also.

We hope to see you there!!!!



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
3680 Whitney Avenue
Hamden CT 06518-1516

FIRST CLASS MAIL