



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

November 2015

Pastor's Message

Grateful to give!

At our council meetings recently we've been doing a lot of thinking and talking about what it means to have a generous heart and spirit. At our October meeting, each of us shared why we give to the church. A pattern quickly emerged: not one of us supports the church because we think that the church *needs our money*. We all give to the church because we are grateful for all that God has done for us, and because we are grateful for the ministry of the church. Research consistently shows that the more we focus on our spiritual relationships with God and with each other, the more generous we are. Our council members were clear: we don't give to *support the budget*, we give because we believe in God, want to follow Jesus, and are grateful for the ministry and mission of the congregation.

The other idea that emerged was how grateful we are to *be able* to give. I shared that when I have been employed full-time, one of my joys has been to give sizable donations to organizations I believe in. When my income has been reduced, it makes me sad that I have to decrease my giving. I suspect that many of us have felt the same way: when we earn more we are able to financially support a community we care about; when we earn less we mourn not being able to give as much as we used to. There is something about being generous that makes us feel good!

I can also share that I have never stopped giving to the church; ever since I have been ordained I have tithed (given 10% of) my income. Somehow when I give a percentage of my income, rather than focus on a dollar amount, I am set free to give with a wide open and generous heart. There have been years when this has

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Annual Turkey Collection

It's that time again! We think of others and give thanks for our bounty.

Turkeys should be brought to church on November 15 or November 22 at the latest.

John & Joy Downs will then deliver them to the Hamden Food Bank.

Thank you for your generosity in the past and hope we can give many families a wonderful Thanksgiving meal again this year!

Requests for Assistance



Good Shepherd receives notices asking for monetary help or donations of food and clothing. Agencies serving the community are struggling with the increased needs.

If you like to sew, knit or crochet and can give of your time and talents—The New Haven Community Soup Kitchen needs hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, etc. for the community they serve. Purchased items are welcome also.

Upcoming Events

- 11/1 Confirmation with Pastor (during Sunday School)
- 11/15 Confirmation with Pastor
- 11/18 Council meeting
- 11/22 Confirmation cluster
- 11/29 Confirmation with Pastor
- 12/20 Voters' Meeting

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

**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—401-924-4673

www.goodshepherdhamden.org

The Staff Editor

Brenda Samal
E-mail: bsamal@sbcglobal.net

**Council Members
1/1/15—12/31/15**

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Lisa Ball-Goodrich |
| Vice-President | Linda Kapitan |
| Treasurer | John Downs |
| Secretary | Brenda Samal |
| Christian Education | ~vacant~ |
| Evangelism/ Publicity | ~vacant~ |
| Fellowship | Lisa Martinell |
| Financial Secretary | Barbara Kuslan |
| Stewardship/ Missions | Sue Hartley |
| Property | James Learned |
| Worship | Ken Watson |



Pastor Barbara
Daphne Kuslan &
family

Elfriede Anna

Stacy Holly Jessika Mary Lou

John W. Sue Kathy D. Victoria

Joy Marianne CindyLu Pam

Harold Arnold Catherine Mike

Rex Gertrude Howard Paul Barnes

Alex Linda & Amanda John
Darryl

Abby Joe & Family of Anne Kapitan
Peg

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

Lou Kuslan passed away October 10, 2015

Loving God,
Gather in your arms all those who mourn the passing of your servant Lou, especially his beloved wife Barbara and his sons James and Richard. May we be comforted in the knowledge that he loved a good life, and now rests in the light. Amen.

HYMN SERVICE NOVEMBER 22!

Once again we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday (November 22) with a service composed entirely of verses from your favorite hymns! Start making your list now!

(Pastor's message continued from page 1)

been easier than others, but I have remained committed to this practice. Before I do anything else with my paycheck, I thank God for all my blessings – and pay my bills with whatever is left. Like the miracle of the loaves and the fishes (Matt 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 5:5-15)– there always seems to be enough – and even some left over!

Herb Miller, author of *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program*, notes: “Each of us makes one of two choices in life. We either become emotionally attached to our money, or we become emotionally attached to the God who gives us our money. Although we often hope to do both, in our hearts we know that cannot happen” (p7). As we approach the “holiday” season, during which we will be reminded to give thanks and to give, I hope that you will be able to set your generous heart free and find ways to give back to God through the ministry and mission of our congregation. I know for sure that your relationship with God will deepen and your spiritual life will become even more meaningful. This, and more, is what generosity can do for us!

Blessings to all!

Pastor Daphne +

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Pictorial Directory will be available 11/15/15!

"Hello!

Thank you all for the warm, welcoming first few weeks here at church! I am looking forward to getting to know you and collaborating with you in worship, whether you're in the choir or singing, humming, or dancing in your pew!

I thought I'd share a little about myself this month. I grew up in Meriden CT and was home schooled along with my little sister. Since I wasn't getting enough cold weather in CT I decided to attend college in upstate New York near the Great Lakes, getting a bachelors degree in piano performance from Houghton College with minors in French and linguistics - and yes, it snowed nearly every day in the winter. After graduation I moved to Geneva, Switzerland, to work as a nanny of two kids, eventually working in eldercare and running my own bilingual private piano studio along the way. I still don't care for the snow. When I came back to CT, I began substitute teaching in Meriden, when I decided to earn a master's degree in education and get my teacher certification.

Now I'm living in New Haven and teach French at a high school in Westport, CT. My flat mate has two cats, whom I am learning to appreciate (!) In my spare time you'd likely find me dancing or enjoying the outdoors. It's great to come on board at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd!"

Good Shepherd welcomes Caroline!



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

| DATE | ACOLYTE | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | READER | USHERS | ALTAR GUILD |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 11/1 | Aoife Weishedel | John Downs | Lisa Ball-Goodrich | Goodrich family | Chuddy Watson |
| 11/8 | Nicholas Papa | Linda Kapitan | Linda Kapitan | Lisa Martinell John Downs | Starr O'Connor |
| 11/15 | Elizabeth Ingerson | Paul O'Braonain | Ken Watson | Dottie Podgwaite Ken Watson | Lisa Martinell |
| 11/22 | Jonathan Olson | Jonathan Goodrich | Barbara Kuslan | Sue Hartley James Learned | Chuddy Watson |
| 11/29 | Aidan Weishedel | John Downs | Lisa Ball-Goodrich | Goodrich family | Liane Moreland |
| 12/6 | Emily Olson | Linda Kapitan | Linda Kapitan | Lisa Martinell 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!*

There are several opportunities for people to serve our congregation. We need more ushers, worship assistants and persons to serve on Altar Guild. See Pastor or Ken Watson if you are interested.

New Dollars and Partners for your Sacred Space

NE Synod has arranged a one-day workshop introducing their New Dollars/New Partners for Your Sacred Place training program.

Saturday, 11/7 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Emanuel Lutheran Church
311 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

Congregations that typically participate in and benefit from the training have a sacred place older than 50 years, have capital needs beyond the current financial capability of the congregation, and also possess a desire to deepen their community connections and use their buildings more effectively.

WELCA Spring Gathering Planning Session
Saturday, November 7, 2015
10:00-12:00pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
21 Robert Treat Parkway
Milford CT

The hope is that each church in our conference be able to send one or two representatives to this planning session so all voices are heard in setting up an enlightening program for the Spring Gathering (April/May period).

You can email Renee Snoop at reshooop@att.net or call 203-513-7585.

FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 2015

| | 2015 | 9/12 of 2015 ADJUSTED BUDGET | Over (Under) BUDGET | Prior year Comparative 2014 through September |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Receipts thru September | \$60,503 | \$63,846 | (\$3,343) | \$60,241 |
| Expenses thru September | \$62,490 | \$63,846 | (\$1,356) | \$65,120 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | (\$1,987) | \$0 | (\$1,987) | (\$4,879) |

Our total Operating giving for SEPTEMBER 2015 was \$5,789 and expenses were \$6,341 giving us a deficit of \$552—increasing our prior deficit of \$1,435 into year-to-date deficit of \$1,987. This compares to a deficit of \$4,879 thru September of last year. With a monthly budget of \$7,392 it appears that we will be short of budget with only \$5,232 received for October.

John E. Downs, Treasurer

Thank you to

- ♥ Jim Learned for coordinating the replacement of the parsonage porch roof!
- ♥ Lisa Martinell for coordinating an awesome Oktoberfest and to all who brought food
- ♥ Lisa Ball-Goodrich for volunteering to be the second chalice-bearer at communion
- ♥ Sue Hartley for bringing the table decorations for Oktoberfest
- ♥ The choir for beautiful anthems



Council Notes

Council met on 10/30. There was lengthy discussion about stewardship and the challenge of having a “Consecration Sunday”- a process that involves 6 weeks to prepare for. Council was receptive to doing this but it was too rushed to complete before the December voters’ meeting so it will be addressed again in the new year.



Pastor reported that we need volunteers to teach Sunday School as the children are eager to attend. The Hat/Mitten tree will go up before Advent. Sue Hartley will announce where the donations will go prior to the tree going up. Jim continues to work on beautifying the church and grounds. A new roof was put on the parsonage porch and he has been securing estimates for snowplowing. Jim has also been getting estimates for the removal of the pine tree in the front as well as two stumps.

Holiday worship services were discussed. Blue Christmas service, 12/21 at 7pm; Christmas Eve services at 6pm and 10pm; and Christmas Day at 9:30am.

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 8-Korinne Leary
- 9-Jessika Dube´
- 11-Stacie Barnes
- 12-Emily Landino
- 13-Elizabeth Ingerson
- 18-John Downs
- 19-Anna Olson
- 27-Carl Sharon
- 27-Barbara Kuslan



Baptisms

- Joy Downs, Korinne Leary, Lee Olson, Dottie Podgwaite



A PARTNERSHIP TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER
www.ctfoodbank.org

With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, the CT Food Bank asks that you also remember others.

1 in 7 households in CT worries where they will find their next meal.

You can help the CT Food Bank reach out through their various programs by making a monetary Thanksgiving gift.

**Every \$1 donated provides
2 meals to our neighbors in need**

\$25 will provide 50 meals

\$35 will provide 70 meals

\$50 will provide 100 meals

Your support will give children and families something to be grateful for this Thanksgiving.

(you can place your donation in your weekly envelope and mark it CT Food Bank)



Jamberry Party for Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd!

You may have noticed my fun nail “polish” recently – I had sparkly purple nails for Iolanthe, and this month I’ve been wearing a mixture of silver/black stripes with candy corn.

It’s been years and years since I have had nail polish on a regular basis because I always chip, scrape, and otherwise demolish whatever I’ve got in a matter of days. Thanks to this very fun product called “jamberries,” I can be creative with colors, mix and match patterns, and know that I’m more likely to want to change what I’m wearing than wear them out! It takes me about 10 minutes to do all 10 fingers - imagine contact paper in the shape of individual nails that is applied with the heat of a hair



dryer and you get the idea. It’s easy and fun and \$15 will buy a set that will cover all 20 nails and toes twice!

My friend and fellow G & S thespian, Karla, turned me on to how fun these nail wraps are, and will be running a Jamberry party (think Tupperware) online from November 9 – 12th. 30% of the sales will go to the church. I’ll be posting invitations on email and on our Facebook Group page when we get closer to the event. Even if you don’t want them for yourself, they are a fun present for a child or grandchild who likes to have fancy nails! You can check it out online before the party begins at karlamcclain.jamberry.com.

A fun and easy gift idea that raises money for LCGS. What could be better?!

Pastor Daphne

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 10:30am

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship



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FIRST CLASS MAIL