



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

November 2018

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

As this month of November begins, we stand as one not only with the people of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh but with all of our Jewish sisters and brothers across this land and beyond. We mourn with them over the terrible death of eleven beloved people of their community, and we mourn together the division, the climate of fear and suspicion, the rage that hang so heavy, like a dark threatening cloud, over our nation.

We pray for God to hold close, to dwell quietly with those whose hearts ache to the point of breaking, with those whose lives are covered with deep darkness and despair.

We pray for God's light to, in time, pierce the gloom of our grieving, and grace us with the tender mercies and healing balm only a God of abundant love can provide.

We pray for God to empower us with humility and wisdom and strength enough to resist the evils that threaten the dignity and godly worth of all human beings and corrode our common, shared life so dependent on and so enriched by the gifts of all without exception.

And we pray for the courage and vision for all of us to live lives of understanding, of compassion, openness and welcome to the stranger and the unknown among us, to build bridges where there is brokenness, to open doors for those who have been rejected and cast aside, to love one another as God loves, without distinction or difference, to rise and live in the hope of a new day when justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

As this month unfolds, we will gather in trust and thanksgiving, grounded in and grateful for the God who is our rock and refuge, a sturdy, ever present help in trouble, the God who gifts us with community with one another, and who opens before us paths we never dare imagine on our own. On the Sunday before our national Thanksgiving Day, we will celebrate a day of gratitude for our life together in Christ and for the ways we support one another and shape and nurture our lives of faithful witness. *(For more about November 18 and for Prayers for your Thanksgiving table at home, see page 6.)*

As this month nears its end, on November 25, we will celebrate the end of the liturgical year with Christ the King, or Reign of Christ, Sunday, a welcome reminder that our lives, that the whole creation, that all of time is held within the embrace of God who is "the Alpha and Omega," the one "who is and who was and is to come, the Almighty." On that day, in the midst of all that is so troubling and threatening and demeaning to life, we will pray: "Almighty and every living God... Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 11/14 | Mid-month coffee hour |
| 11/28 | Council meeting |
| 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
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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



- | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------------|-------------------|
| Claudia | Hawley | Elfriede | Anna |
| Rudy | Pat | Barnes family | Jim & Mary Lou K. |
| Lisa | Sue | Amanda | Victoria |
| Emily | Marianne | Dottie P. | Pam |
| Harold | Arnold | Pat | Mike |
| Rex | Gertrude | Howard | Barbara |
| Alex | Darryl | Francisco V. | Ellen |
| Abby | John | Alan | Anthony P. |

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

(Pastor's Message continued from page 1)

May God grant us wisdom, courage, humility, peace and faithfulness through all the days ahead.

Your partner along the way,
Les Swenson,
Transitional Pastor

Rides for Ruth

November 4	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
November 11	Jim Learned
November 18	Starr O'Connor
November 25	John Downs
December 2	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
December 9	Linda Kapitan

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

5-Bryce Knoob
 9-Jessika Dube
 12-Emily Landino
 13-Elizabeth Ingerson
 18-John Downs
 19-Anna Olson
 27-Carl Sharon
 27-Barbara Kuslan



Baptisms

Lee Olson, Dottie Podgwaite



Worship in November at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

It's a month to keep the Altar Guild on their toes! Bookended by two festivals, All Saints Sunday on the 4th and Christ the King, or Reign of Christ, Sunday on the 25th, the color of our altar dressings will go from white to green, green again, and then to white as the liturgical year comes to an end on the last Sunday of the month.

Worshippers on these four Sundays will find a new worship folder designed for these days. We will be singing a lively version of the Kyrie and the Gospel Acclamation from setting eight of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book. (We'll be introduced to them before worship begins on November 4). There will also be familiar and well loved hymns along the way, like "For all the saints," "Canticle of the turning," and "Beautiful Savior" among them.

Come lift your voices in song and prayer, open your ears to God's Word and your hands and lips to the meal of grace and thanksgiving as we gather for worship in November!

With the end of one liturgical year, we await the coming of a new year with the beginning of Advent, that time of waiting, hope and expectation on December 2.

ELCA presiding bishop responds to Pittsburgh synagogue shooting

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I write to you with a broken heart – for the lives lost, wounded, and shattered by horrific hatred and violence at Tree of Life Congregation this morning. We join our Jewish neighbors and enter into mourning for all that has been lost. In our grief, God is our comfort. "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).

From Pittsburgh to Portland, and around the world, Jews are living in fear. Anti-Semitism is on the rise. Public acts of hatred and bigotry against Jews are commonplace. As Christians, and particularly as Lutherans, we deplore and reject this bigotry. "We recognize in anti-Semitism a contradiction and affront to the Gospel, a violation of our hope and calling, and we pledge this church to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us" (1994 Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community).

We are reminded that hate-filled violence knows no bounds – whether a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, a Christian church in Charleston, or a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh. As people of faith, we are bound together not only in our mourning, but also in our response.

Therefore, in this tender moment of grief, let us reach out to those whose hearts are most broken – our Jewish neighbors. I encourage you to contact your local synagogue, or your Jewish colleagues, friends, and family members, to share your words of care, support, love, and protection. There may be specific acts you might offer to demonstrate your care, such as when the members of Faith Lutheran Church surrounded Congregation Beth Israel of Chico, California, serving as Shomrim, or guardians, as they observed Yom Kippur following a hate crime in 2009.

Such simple acts can go a long way to demonstrate our love, as an extension of God's love. As we seek to heal the brokenhearted, we are assured that God is near. There is no greater promise in the face of grief.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA



Council Meeting

Council met 10/24. First item of discussion was reactions after attending worship at area Lutheran churches. Visits were made to Bethesda, Trinity, Emanuel and Christ Lutheran. Talked of the possibility of a partnership. Pastor recommended a meeting first with Rev. Paul Sinnott to discuss ideas how we can work with each other. A Gratitude Sunday is planned for 11/18 with a special coffee hour following worship. Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00pm. Barbara Kuslan and Trish Rowold have volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee. Reflector poles will be placed to mark the curbing surrounding the septic tank in the back parking lot. Worship attendance was down in October. Financial records are ready for the audit committee. The Harvest Dinner is this Saturday.

The next council meeting is 11/28/18.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
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
11/18	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Starr O'Connor	Barbara Kuslan	Ruth Lye Leonard Lye	Chuddy Watson
11/25	Nicholas Papa	Anthony Papa	Brianne Papa	Ken Watson	Anthony Papa Brianne Papa	Starr O'Connor
12/2	Elizabeth Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	Leo Goodrich	John Downs Starr O'Connor	Sarah DeLong
12/9	Nicholas Papa	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Linda Kapitan	Leo Goodrich Reggie Chang	Linda Kapitan

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!

THANKS for the GIVING!.....

ELEVEN more bags of perishable foods and supplies were delivered to the Hamden Food Bank this past week.



And speaking of the number **ELEVEN**....mark your calendars; on November 11th, and again on the 18th we will be accepting donations of frozen turkeys. They will be "stuffed" into our freezer for (another) delivery to the food bank ,which is ALWAYS so appreciative of our contributions. So start clipping those coupons and take advantage of the BOGO, (buy one, get one), deals at local supermarkets.

And again THANKS for all your continually generous GIVING.

"Mid Month Coffee Gathering"

Wednesday Nov 14, 2018
10:00am—12:00pm
Fellowship Hall



A Day of Gratitude, Sunday, November 18

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Jesus Christ, for in every way you have been enriched in him..."

1 Corinthians 1.4-5

There is a note of gratitude and thanksgiving that echoes its way through the letters of St. Paul to the congregations he helped found and nurture in the very earliest days of the Church.

We are called to be a people of gratitude. It is an important mark of the Church in every age.

And on Sunday, November 18, on the verge of our national day of thanksgiving, we will be offering our thanks to God for the gift of community in Christ, for the ways our lives have been woven together in the church, and for the gifts with which each one of us has been blessed in order to nurture and strengthen the life of the community of faith and the many circles of life, work, play and leisure in which we find ourselves.

Come worship with grateful hearts
November 18!

A special coffee hour will follow worship
as the celebration continues.

"'Thank you' is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, understanding."
Alice Walker



..To Linda Kapitan and all who helped put together the great Harvest Supper last Saturday night

..To Jim Learned for overseeing the installation of the new & smooth driveways and parking lot and to all who contributed to make it possible.

Some Prayers for your Thanksgiving Table

(all join hands around the table)

This is a day for thanks.

A day in which we see or hear or feel
the wonders of the other moments of the year.

This is a day for time.

A day in which we think of pasts
that make our present rich
and future bountiful.

This is a day of joy.

A day in which we share a gift of laughter
warm and gentle as a smile.

Above all, this is a day for peace.

So let us touch each other
and know that we are one.

For these and other blessings,
We thank Thee, God.

Daniel Roselle, from Graces, HarperSanFrancisco, 1994

or

O Gracious God,

when You open Your hand,
you satisfy the desires of every living thing.

Bless the land and waters;
give the world a plentiful harvest;
let Your spirit go forth to renew the face of the
earth.

As You show Your love and kindness
in the bounty of the land and sea,
save us from selfish use of Your gifts,
so that men and women everywhere
may give you thanks,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

from Holden Village, Chelan, Washington

or

*O God, bless this food we are about to receive.
Give bread to those who hunger; and hunger for
justice to us who have bread. Amen.*

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