



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

November 2019

Pastor's Message

A note on gratefulness in this month of Thanksgiving...

I've always wondered if St. Paul was a bit too sunny when he encouraged his friends of the church in Thessalonica who were struggling to live faithfully in the midst of a confusing and turbulent time to *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

(1 Thessalonians 5.16-18)

Thanks in all circumstances? Really?

Then one day I was introduced to a Benedictine monk, David Steindl-Rast, who resides in a monastery in Austria and has spent decades of his life reflecting, writing and speaking about gratitude. He's even got a great website focused on this what has become a rather popular topic these days: gratefulness.org. It's worth a good look.

We hear it often that grateful people are healthier people. Scientific studies confirm it. Grateful people, we are told, live robust, resilient, more joyful lives. Maybe St. Paul was onto something.

Brother Steindl-Rast has a rather simple method for practicing gratefulness. He suggests three things: **Stop. Look. Go.**

Stop, he says, in the midst of all the rush and crazy busy-ness of your life. Stop and simply be present in the moment. It doesn't have to be long, your stop. A split second may be enough.

Stop and look, he invites. Take in the moment, the people, the memory, the promise, the beauty, the connectedness in that place where

you are. To look is to behold, to take it all in. Listen attentively too in that moment, I would add...to the music in the winds, the chirping of the bright red cardinal in the backyard, the melancholy of the cello, the throbbing of your anxious heart, the nearly silent prayers and cries rising from the darkness.

And when you stop and look (and listen too) ask yourself: "what is, now, the opportunity of this given moment, only this moment, and the unique opportunity this moment gives? And that is where the beholding comes in. And if we really see what the opportunity is, we must, of course, not stop there, but we must do something with it: **Go**. Avail yourself of that opportunity."

And to those doubtful that we can give thanks in "all circumstances," Steindl-Rast provides wisdom: "...no, we can't be grateful for everything that befalls us. You can't be grateful for war in a given situation, or violence, or domestic violence or sickness... There are many things for which you cannot be grateful. But in every moment, you can be grateful. For instance, the opportunity to learn something from a very difficult experience — what to grow by it, or even to protest, to stand up and take a stand — that is a wonderful gift in a situation in which things are not the way they ought to be. So opportunity is really the key when people ask, "Can you be grateful for everything?" — no, not for everything, but **in every moment.**" Could this be what St. Paul meant when he said, "be thankful **in** all circumstances?"

I invite you to rejoice these days in the One who opens the eyes of our hearts to see opportunities for gratitude even when things

(continued on page 2)

**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
1/1/19—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

(Pastor's message cont.)

are not at all the way they ought to be, the One who frees us to rejoice always, who assures us that the cries of our prayers are heard, that our work in Jesus' name is not in vain, that the God of peace is with us always giving birth to a new creation, making all things new.

With gratitude,
Les Swenson, Transitional Pastor

TIME FOR THANKS AND GIVING

We have many worthwhile causes that we will be supporting over the next couple months; during the "Time of Thanks and Giving"...

Just a reminder that we will continue to collect coffee hour cash contributions towards the purchase of reusable shopping bags. This will continue through the end of November. At that time bags will be purchased and given to Keefe Center Soup Kitchen in Hamden. Also- please continue to bring non perishables to regular church collection whenever you can: there is always a special need at this time of year.



John Downs again will be coordinating collection of frozen turkeys. This is also to be given to the local soup kitchen. He will be accepting donations on November 17th and again on November 24th....Start saving those turkey coupons!

We will be joining Christ Church in a project to benefit Life Haven, which is a local shelter for victims of domestic abuse. A "Winter Warmth Tree" will be set up at both churches. To "decorate" the tree, we are in need of hats, ear muffs, gloves/mittens, socks, and scarves. Any size or color is appreciated. Let's make the tree as colorful and festive as possible!

**Informal Congregational Meeting,
November 10, During Coffee Hour**

You are encouraged to participate in an informal congregational meeting during the coffee hour after worship on Sunday, November 10, to hear and discuss updates on our continuing, growing relationship with Christ Lutheran Church.

This meeting will follow the November 3 meeting of the Congregation Councils from the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Christ Church. At that meeting the Council members will discuss the possibility of more frequent joint worship services and further steps in drawing the congregations more closely together in mission and ministry.

It will also follow the meeting on Saturday, November 9, of representatives from the five Lutheran congregations of New Haven and Hamden who are seeking to develop ways of productive partnership in ministry.

We are in the midst of exciting days of new possibility for ministry. Come. Listen. Share your concerns and hopes. And in the days ahead, continue to pray for discernment, wisdom, courage and trust as the Spirit leads us into the future.



- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| <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> |
| <i>James C.</i> | <i>Goodrich family</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

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

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



Baptisms

- Lee Olson
- Dottie Podgwaite

Upcoming Events

- 11/4 Joint worship at Christ Lutheran
Joint council meeting
- 11/13 Mid-month Coffee & Conversation
- 11/20 Council meeting
- 12/8 Voters' Meeting

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
11/3	JOINT SERVICE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 600 SHEPHARD AVE, HAMDEN					
11/10	Nicholas Papa	Anthony Papa	Brianne Papa	Rob Hansen	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Starr O'Connor
11/17	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	~	Linda Kapitan	Joanne Golanski James Learned	Sarah DeLong
11/24	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ken Watson	Leo Goodrich Ken Watson	Chuddy Watson
12/1	JOINT SERVICE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 600 SHEPHARD AVE, HAMDEN					
12/8	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ruth Lye Leonard Lye	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!

Council Meeting



Council met on 10/23. An informal discussion during coffee hour was rescheduled to 11/10– a time to ask questions and get updates on future joint services. Council talked about items to discuss at the joint council meeting on 11/3. Also there is talk of having a joint carol hymn sing the Sunday after Christmas (12/29). Nominating committee consists of Ken Watson and John Downs. The 2020 budget will be prepared and presented at the November council. Good Shepherd will be collecting frozen turkeys for Hamden food bank on 11/17 and 11/24. (See page 2 for other stewardship events.) Property work



needing attention are: back door to fellowship hall needs to be painted and the orange panels under the windows need work. Worship service on Christmas Eve will again be at 5:00pm. The next council meeting is 11/20.

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

10:00am



THE STAFF

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

3680 Whitney Avenue

Hamden CT 06518-1516

FIRST CLASS MAIL