



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

December 2015

Pastor's Message

I love Christmas Eve. I love the preparations, the changing of the altar paraments from blue to white, the placing of candles and wreaths in windows and on doors, and – since I admit I'm sort of an Advent snob, I love listening to Christmas carols for the first time all season (ok, it's true, I start playing them after the 3rd Sunday of Advent). I especially love it in the snow, but I'm ok if it's not snowing, and I love gathering with *everyone* for worship. While I know there are plenty of folks out there who grumble about people who only come to church on Christmas and Easter (many clergy call these folks "C and E's") my personal take is that if one is only going to come to church twice a year, Christmas (and Easter) are really great times to do so! On these holy days we reconnect with the touchstones of our faith – the incarnation, God becoming flesh and walking among us as Jesus, and God overcoming the power of sin and death, as Jesus is crucified and resurrected.

Christmas and Easter (but Christmas, especially) are also great times to come together as family. Whether family is "where they have to take you in" (apparently Robert Frost wrote that) or "where your heart is" (Hallmark penned that), spending time with our families always seems to touch deep places inside us. Whether we are blessed with happy memories, or struggle with painful ones, Christmas gatherings put us in touch with our most personal, vulnerable places. And that's right where we encounter Jesus.

God, as Jesus, comes to us with one purpose in mind, and one only: to love us. God has always loved God's people with an everlasting, unconditional love- and as in Jesus God wants us to know that there is no human pain or joy that God has not experienced- or blessed. Like curling up with a warm blanket and a cup of tea next

to a fire, God/Jesus envelops us with healing, passionate love. When we are so hurt and sad that we don't want to go outside, God/Jesus comes and sits with us the way a faithful dog never leaves its master's side. And when we are so happy we just want to jump up and down God/Jesus joins us, smiling, on that trampoline. There is no place in our lives where God does not want to be or which God does not want to bless. And the coming of Jesus among us as a cute, hungry, smelly, sleepy baby is the way God shows us this. Imagine cradling pure love in your arms, and having the warmth seep into your very bones. Something to celebrate, indeed!

My prayer for each of us is that this Advent season, amidst everything else that is going on, we find some time to open our hearts, once again, to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

And then come, let us adore him: Christ, the Lord!

Blessings for these holy days—

Pastor Daphne †



Upcoming Events

- 12/2 Book Club
- 12/10 Council meeting
- 12/13 Confirmation with Pastor
- 12/20 Voters' Meeting

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**
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(203) 248-7420

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Cell—401-924-4673

www.goodshepherdhamden.org

The Staff Editor

Brenda Samal
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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 Daphne | Barbara Kuslan & family |
| | Leroy 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 & Darryl | Amanda | John |
| Abby Joe & Peg | Emily | Alex |

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

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Sarah Delong email: srdelongi@yahoo.com

Ken Watson cell: 475-202-3871

Jonathan Rowold: add Trisha Carney

***Blue Christmas Service*
December 21, 7:00 pm.**

While many people are caught up in the joy of celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas, cooking food and visiting family, there are many for whom this time of year is not in the least bit joyous.

Some of us are affected by the shorter days, some are mourning deaths of relationships or loved ones, and some are remembering losses from long ago.

The "Blue Christmas" service was developed to recognize the reality of the darkness that sometimes descends in our lives, and to help us all look forward to the coming of the Light of the World. Through prayers, quiet, and the laying on of hands for healing, the Blue Christmas service provides us with an opportunity to join in solidarity with all those who are challenged this time of year.

Join us – for yourself or someone else!

Pastor Kari Henkelmann Kyle will join Pastor Daphne in the leadership of this service.

Happy Advent season!

I always love the season of Advent, as we remember the birth of Christ all month, like our own little annual nativity journey. You'll hear the season present in the hymns we sing on Sundays and in the choir anthems as well! I do want to let you know that this Christmas I have a special situation - fortunately, my grandmother is celebrating her 90th birthday (and possibly last), and the entire family is flying to North Carolina to celebrate! Unfortunately, this means that I will be away both Christmas Eve and Christmas day, so I am in the process of securing substitute musicians for these days. I will be thinking of you those days and wish I could be there to bring music to what I have come to know as a very warm and welcoming church! Blessings of Christmas peace and beauty be yours this season!

*Caroline
Music Director*

Welcome Megan Bishop and Brian Lee!

November 29 is the first Sunday in Advent, and a great day to welcome Megan Bishop and Brian Lee into membership. Megan and Brian have been worshipping with us since the end of October.

Recent residents of Hamden, Megan Bishop and Brian Lee are recently engaged and are planning a July 2016 wedding. Brian is an aerospace engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft and an avid Penn State football fan; Megan is an English teacher at North Branford High School and is currently obtaining her 6th year degree in Educational Leadership from Quinnipiac University. Megan and Brian enjoy good food, good wine, and being active; they attend a Crossfit gym in Hamden together.

**Toy Collection for
Keefe Community Center**

The Community Center is requesting toys for children ages 5-10. (See related article on page 4)

If monetary donations are received, that will be used to purchase gift cards for the older children. They like gift cards to Target, Walmart, McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, etc.



For now— let us decorate the Narthex tree with toys!

* * * * *

The Hamden Food Bank feeds over 400 Hamden families each month. Food products needed:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Beans | Soups | Rice |
| Beef stew | Powdered milk | Bottled water/juice |
| Cereal | Canned fruit | Crackers/cookies |
| Condiments | Chef Boyardee | Dish detergent |
| Ensure / Boost | Corned beef hash | Vanilla glucerna |
| Grits | Evaporated milk | Laundry detergent |
| Mac & Cheese | Knorr side dishes | Oatmeal |
| Pancake Syrup | Manwich | Pasta |
| Rice A Roni | Muffin mix | Spam |
| Spaghetti sauce | Pancake mix | |

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

| DATE | ACOLYTE | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | READER | USHERS | ALTAR GUILD |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 12/6 | Emily Olson | Linda Kapitan | Linda Kapitan | Lisa Martinell John Downs | Starr O'Connor |
| 12/13 | Aoife Weishedel | Paul O'Braonain | Barbara Kuslan | Sue Hartley James Learned | Lisa Martinell |
| 12/20 | Anthony Papa | Mary Lou Knoob | Ken Watson | Dottie Podgwaite Ken Watson | Chuddy Watson |
| 12/24 6:00pm | Anthony & Nicholas Papa | Paul O'Braonain | Ken Watson | Dottie Podgwaite Ken Watson | Liane Moreland |
| 12/24 10:00pm | Emily & Jonathan Olson | Jonathan Goodrich | Lisa Ball-Goodrich | Goodrich family | Starr O'Connor |
| 12/25 9:30am | ~ | Mary Lou Knoob | ~ | Sue Hartley James Learned | Lisa Martinell |
| 12/27 | Elizabeth Ingerson | John Downs | Ken Watson | Sue Hartley James Learned | Chuddy Watson |
| 1/3/16 | Anthony Papa | Jonathan Goodrich | Barbara Kuslan | Lisa Martinell John Downs | Liane Moreland |

*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!*



Our "Mitten Tree" has a new name: the "Giving Tree!"

After contacting The Keefe Community Center, we have learned that the needs of our community have changed. This year we will be donating toys to children ages 5-10, and placing a tag on our tree in the narthex for every toy donated, Let's fill the tree with generosity!

The Giving

PARENTS: why not take your children Christmas shopping and have them pick out a toy for a child in need? Then they



FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH OCTOBER, 2015

| | 2015 | 10/12 of 2015 ADJUSTED BUDGET | Over (Under) BUDGET | Prior year Comparative 2014 through October |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Receipts thru October | \$65,735 | \$71,238 | (\$5,503) | \$65,713 |
| Expenses thru October | \$69,005 | \$71,238 | (\$2,233) | \$71,286 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | (\$3,270) | \$0 | (\$3,270) | (\$5,573) |

Our total Operating giving for OCTOBER 2015 was \$5,232 and expenses were \$6,515 giving us a deficit of \$1,283—increasing our prior deficit of \$1,937 into year-to-date deficit of \$3,270. This compares to a deficit of \$5,573 thru October of last year. With a monthly budget of \$7,392 it appears that November will be short of budget with \$5,647 received with one week to go.

John E. Downs, Treasurer

JOYFUL GIVING

The time before Christmas (we call it **Advent**, but much of the people in this country call it the “Christmas Shopping Season”) can be incredibly **stressful**. Parents worry about how to create a magical Christmas Day (with **presents!**) while trying to stay within a budget; children are so distracted by the idea of Santa (and **presents!**) that they can lose sight of “the reason for the season;” adolescents are trying to balance **family expectations** with their desire to connect with their friends; married couples are trying to figure out how to keep both of their families **happy**; and single and newly-single people are challenged to be with their families of origin even though they just might **NOT BE IN THE MOOD**.

In the midst of all this, we are challenged to be as **generous** to others as God is to us. Here’s an idea: after Christmas, instead of asking, “what did you get for Christmas?” or “what was the best present you got this year?” how about asking **“what was the best present you gave this year?”** You might be surprised at how just that one question can make a difference in your **celebration** of the generosity of God!

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 1-Chuddy Watson
- 7-Christopher Knoob
- 14-Alyssa Aykroyd
- 29-Emily Olson
- 31-Kristin Rosa



Baptisms

- Jessika Dube, Jonathan Goodrich,
- Leo Goodrich, Barbara Kuslan,
- Christi Sharon, Marie Woronick

**Invitation from Zion Lutheran Church
Susan Cosgrove, Music Ministry Chairman**

“We are presenting an exciting celebration of our faith through a Festival of Lessons and Carols based on the traditional King’s College Service on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 2:00pm in our sanctuary. We would like to invite everyone to participate in this wonderful afternoon of Word and traditional Carols. There is no admission fee for this event but we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the North Haven Food Pantry.

This will be a wonderful afternoon of the active celebration of our Savior’s birth through scripture and congregational singing. We hope many of your church members will join us this day and any choir members will join our choir and others to sing our joy and praise.”

Please let Pastor Daphne know if you are interested in singing with the choir so they can send copies of the music.



2016 Council

Are you looking for a chance to give of your talents to Good Shepherd?

Whether you are a new member or a member who might be looking for a way to become more active in our congregation, this is the opportunity for you.

The Good Shepherd Council is looking for members for year 2016. As we have discussed over the course of the past year, giving monetarily is not the only way to support the church. We each attend Good Shepherd for a variety of reasons, and it takes the involvement of many members to keep the congregation moving forward. As we navigate through times when mainstream church membership is declining, we are always looking for new ideas to help Good Shepherd thrive.

The proposed slate for 2016 is as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Vacant |
| Vice-President | Linda Kapitan |
| Secretary | Brenda Samal |
| Financial Secretary | Lisa Ball-Goodrich |
| Treasurer | John Downs |
| Evangelism | Starr O’Connor |
| Christian Education | Vacant |
| Fellowship | Vacant |
| Stewardship/Missions | Sue Hartley |
| Property | Jim Learned |
| Worship | Ken Watson |

Positions could also be split between 2 people, i.e. one person could organize the events and the other could attend the meetings. There is a job description for each position if you are interested. Meeting obligations are: council meetings once a month and congregational meetings four times a year.

Please give prayerful consideration to supporting and giving back to the church in this way for next year. If you are interested, you can speak with Linda Kapitan, Lisa Ball-Goodrich or Pastor. Thank you for considering this opportunity- for those of us already participating, it provides far more joy than hardship.

From the New England Synod newsletter about the Syrian refugee crisis-

On the Syrian refugee crisis

The Nov. 13 terrorist attack on Paris, which followed similar large-scale attacks in Beirut and Baghdad, has had wide-ranging effects on the world, and the horror and tragedy of that day still lingers even as we search for peace and justice.

In the frenzied, panicked days since that horrific night in Paris, calls for the closure of borders to refugees from Syria have increased in strength, volume and number. Most recently, Massachusetts governor Charlie Baker said he is "not interested" in accepting Syrian refugees into the Commonwealth.

"The safety and security of the people of the Commonwealth of Mass. is my highest priority, so I would set the bar very high on this," Baker said.

Baker is not alone. He joined more than two dozen other governors across the U.S. in vowing not to allow refugees from Syria into their states. That group includes Maine's **Paul LePage** and New Hampshire's **Maggie Hassan**.

While safety and security are vital to the health of the nation and its citizens, the New England Synod joins many organizations both within and outside the realm of spirituality in expressing concern about the barring of those who need sanctuary the most.

Bishop James Hazelwood is co-signing a letter being sent from the Massachusetts Council of Churches to Gov. Baker, pleading for him to reconsider his stance on refugees coming to the Commonwealth.



Ascentria
CARE ALLIANCE
Empowering People. Strengthening Communities.

We also echo the statements made by Ascentria Care Alliance - namely that "it's important to be mindful of the fact that many of today's refugees, including Syrians, are fleeing the same kind of violence by ISIS and other terrorist groups in their home countries."

Angela Bovill, CEO of Ascentria, appeared on WBUR-FM's "Morning Edition" show this morning to speak with host **Bob Oakes**, and reminded listeners that it is not easy for refugees to reach America, but when they do they often become valuable members of their new society.

"The United States has been resettling refugees for a long time and it has been a controversial issue in the media now again for a long time, and what we know is given enough time, people that are able to finally make it to the United States, do incredible things," Bovill said.



The Papa & Moreland family cheering on Anthony Papa!

Confirmation: Colaborate

Our Confirmation class has grown to 6 students! We meet twice monthly at Good Shepherd after church and once a month at various churches with our BERGS* cluster. We'd

also like to have a retreat at Calumet this summer if we can schedule it!

Our three year program covers Lutheran History and Confessions, New Testament, and Hebrew Scriptures. Students can enter at any time. This is a very interactive curriculum and we have only two rules in class: no put-downs (especially of siblings) and everyone has to talk. We learn and grow in our faith together!

SCHEDULE:

Nov 29: 12:30 – BERGS* cluster gathering at Emmanuel, New Haven (includes lunch)

Dec 13: 12:15 at LCGS

Dec 27: NO CLASS

Jan 10: 12:15 at LCGS

Jan 24: 12:15 at LCGS

Jan 31: 12:30 BERGS* location TBA

Feb 7: 12:15 at LCGS

Feb 21: 12:15 at LCGS

Feb 28: 12:30 BERGS* location TBA

March 6: 12:15 at LCGS

March 20: 12:15 at LCGS

April 3: 12:15 at LCGS

April 17: 12:15 at LCGS

April 24: 12:30 BERGS* location TBA

May 1: 12:15 at LCGS

May 15: 12:15 at LCGS

May 29: BERGS* location TBA

*Bethesda, Emmanuel, Resurrection, Good Shepherd

'Twas a week before Christmas...

by Idgie the corgi

'Twas a week before Christmas
When all through the (parish) house
Not a human was stirring; Punky chased off the mouse.
The kitchen and bathrooms were cleaned with great care
In hopes that parisioners soon would be there!

My mother and Lisa refused to bake bread
Because visions of partying danced in their heads:
Baked cookies and cider matched my Elfin cap
And there was no time for a Saturday nap!

The closing of car doors then made such a clatter
That I leapt off the couch to see what was the matter!
Away to the side door I flew like a flash
Put my nose through the cat door and caught an eyelash!

The moon in the light of the new-fallen snow
Made it easy for people to follow the glow
Because what to their wondering eyes then appeared
But a house 'decked for Christmas and Rudolph the deer;

When the ugliest sweater
Waved the welcoming stick
they recognized Mom – you expected St. Nick?

You are cordially invited to a pre-
Christmas party
(it's only the third week of Advent,
after all)
at the parsonage
Saturday, December 19
4pm—6pm

RSVP:

Pastor Daphne or Lisa Martinell
203-248-7420 -or- 203-213-5971

Feel free to bring treats to share and.....
**For those who wish to participate there
will be an
"Ugly Christmas Sweater" Contest
complete with a prize!**

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



THE STAFF

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL