



# THE STAFF

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

December 2016

### Pastor's Message-

#### Advent and Christmas!

When I was a little girl, I was very impatient for Christmas to arrive. In those days, it was all about the presents, and I made it my life's work to find everything my mother had carefully wrapped and hidden away. No closet went unsearched, no attic corner left untouched – and one year I feel certain that I actually unwrapped some presents, carefully untying the ribbon and detaching the scotch tape, replacing everything just as carefully after my curiosity was satisfied. I honestly don't know why I was so intent upon knowing ahead of time what I would receive – but truth be told, knowing what I was going to receive didn't "ruin" Christmas for me -- I think in retrospect it made the waiting that much more exciting.

These days, I don't have to go looking in closets or up in the attic to find my Christmas present: I already know what I will be receiving: the miraculous, awesome, amazing gift of God walking among us as Jesus, born as a baby to an unwed mother in Bethlehem. In the midst of a time when the people of God were living in occupied territory, had little control over their lives and those who were poor were dependent on the charity of others to survive, God arrived! And so it is today: Jesus walks among and with us all – regardless of our income, class, or cultural status. Jesus comes to comfort those of us who are frightened, lonely, sick or grieving. Jesus comes to encourage those of us who have difficult jobs, families, or futures. Jesus comes to lead all of us into ways of truth, justice and mercy – teaching us to love others as much as God loves us: generously, unconditionally, and non-judgmentally. Jesus comes to us whether or not we are ready, or think we deserve to receive him – Jesus just comes to us because that's what God does.

For me, knowing what my Christmas present will be, even when, like a subscription to a magazine, it comes every year, doesn't "ruin" it for me --- it just makes the waiting that much more exciting! I hope that you will enjoy this season of anticipation as much as I will – so that we can celebrate together on the 25th of December the gift that is beyond anything we can imagine – Emmanuel: *God with us.*

Joy and peace to you and yours!

*Pastor Daphne †*



### CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

#### Christmas Eve

Family service with communion and children's sermon: 5:00pm

Candlelight service with communion and sermon: 11:00pm

#### Christmas Day

Service of Christmas 9:30am\*  
hymns, communion and message

**\*Please note that even though Christmas is on a Sunday this year, we will hold worship at 9:30, rather than 10:30. Worship will return to its regular time on January 1st.**

### Upcoming Events

- 12/4 Voters' Meeting
- 12/21 Blue Christmas Service 7:00pm
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Family Svc 5:00pm  
Candlelight Service 11:00pm
- 12/25 Service of Christmas 9:30am
- 1/1/17 Worship Service 10:30am

[www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar](http://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](http://www.goodshepherdhamden.org)

***The Staff Editor***

Brenda Samal  
E-mail: [bsamal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsamal@sbcglobal.net)

**Council Members**  
**1/1/16—12/31/16**

President	Linda Kapitan
Vice-President	~vacant~
Treasurer	John Downs
Secretary	Brenda Samal
Christian Education	Brianne Papa
Evangelism/ Publicity	~vacant~
Fellowship	Sue Landino & Emma Barnes
Financial Secretary	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Stewardship/ Missions	Sue Hartley
Property	James Learned
Worship	Ken Watson



	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Paul &amp; Stacy Barnes</i>
	<i>Daphne</i>	<i>Barnes</i>
<i>John Downs &amp; family</i>	<i>Elfriede</i>	<i>Anna</i>
<i>Family of Holly John W.</i>	<i>Lisa B-G</i>	<i>Mary Lou</i>
<i>Jimmy Sue</i>	<i>Amanda</i>	<i>Victoria</i>
<i>Emily Marianne</i>	<i>CindyLu</i>	<i>Pam</i>
<i>Harold Arnold</i>	<i>Pat</i>	<i>Mike</i>
<i>Rex</i>	<i>Gertrude</i>	<i>Howard Emily L.</i>
<i>Alex</i>	<i>Linda &amp; Darryl</i>	<i>Dube family Bill &amp; Ellen</i>
<i>Abby</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Alan Francisco V.</i>
<i>Lisa Martinell &amp; family</i>	<i>Barbara</i>	<i>Starr</i>

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL HOLIDAY**

Sunday School will not meet  
12/18  
12/25  
1/1/17

See you in 2017 on January 8!

**NEXT BOOK CLUB SELECTION-**

The Hamilton Affair  
Elizabeth Cobbs

Wednesday, January 25th at 7pm in the parsonage.  
Happy reading!!!



Worship Service  
December 21, 2016  
7:00 pm

Many people find this time of year difficult. Some are affected by the shortened days, others are worried about what the new year will bring, and others are simply deeply aware of the absence of loved ones who have died or moved away. The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas can be particularly challenging because the sense of being “out of sync” with the cultural messages of joy and happiness just makes us feel worse.

The “Blue Christmas” candlelight service offers an opportunity to acknowledge these feelings rather than pretend they aren’t there. Within the context of prayer, song, and laying on of hands, all who attend are welcomed as they are, and invited to make a space for the light of God. As Leonard Cohen sang in the song “Anthem:” “There is a crack in everything; that’s how the light gets in.”

We gather on the night of the longest day of the year to shine that light into the hearts of those who need it the most.

*Join us!*

## BAPTISM

Gabriel William Ripa will be welcomed into the Body of Christ and our community of faith on Sunday, December 18. Congratulations to parents Emma Barnes and Adam Ripa, brother Justin Barnes, uncle Jason Barnes and grandparents Paul and Stacie Barnes!

## AUNTIE LISA!

Lisa Martinell became an aunt for the first time on Monday, November 28, when her niece Ava Elizabeth Martinell was born. Parents David and Erin Martinell are thrilled, as are grandparents Pat and Joe.



## Resurrection Lutheran Church to Close December 4, 3:00 pm

After years of ministry and service in the Hill neighborhood of New Haven, Resurrection Lutheran Church will be closing. Many members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd remember that the church that preceded Resurrection, Zion Lutheran, was the force behind the formation of the “mission” parish of Good Shepherd. For many years, members of Good Shepherd have supported the ministry of Resurrection, including providing mittens and scarves to the children of Resurrection, sending monetary contributions, and being in a confirmation cluster.

A closing worship service of gratitude and thanksgiving will be held at Resurrection at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 4. Bishop Hazelwood will preside and all are welcome.

## Council Notes

Council met 11/29/16. Pastor attended a Safe Church training. Now that Consecration Sunday is over, volunteers will be asked to form a committee for the "In My Backyard" grant awards. Question was brought up about renting the parsonage to senior Quinnipiac students after September, 2017. A "Joy" banner has been ordered for Advent. The October financial reports showed a continued deficit. Brianne posted an ad for the old playset and got a response. Ads were placed in local free papers for the Blue Christmas Service. Our church will be advertised on the Reconciling with Christ website as a church that performs same sex weddings. New roofs were put on the parsonage and garage and trees were trimmed around the property. Mt. Carmel Tree Service has agreed to plow our property again this year for the same price as last. The proposed 2017 budget was accepted and will be presented to the congregation at the voters' meeting. The proposed 2017 council will also be presented to the voters' as well-

*President:* Linda Kapitan, *Vice-President:* open, *Treasurer:* John Downs, *Financial Secretary:* Lisa Ball-Goodrich, *Secretary:* Brenda Samal, *Christian Education:* Brianne Papa, *Worship:* Ken Watson, *Evangelism:* open, *Fellowship:* Emma Barnes & Liane Moreland, *Property:* James Learned, *Stewardship/Missions:* Sue Hartley.

## CONSECRATION SUNDAY WAS A SUCCESS!

Thanks to a hardworking committee and our inspiring speaker Janet Waters, Reformation Sunday was celebrated in a special way this year with a celebratory luncheon following worship. Our first full "pledge drive" in years was supported by more than 22 family units, 14 of whom pledged to increase their thankful support of God's work in their lives in their giving next year. Janet Waters reminded us all that God's gifts to us are unending and overwhelmingly wonderful, and that one concrete way we can respond is through our giving to the church. May God bless each one of us as we seek to express our gratefulness in meaningful ways.

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays

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



### Baptisms

Jessika Dube, Jonathan Goodrich, Leo Goodrich, Barbara Kuslan, Christi Sharon



Former pastor Gene Habin on recent visit to Good Shepherd

## **CONFIRMATION (and Pizza!) TO BEGIN JANUARY 25 -**

The first Confirmation class for the year will be at 4:30 on Wednesday, January 25 for **all students and parents**. We will review the curriculum, talk about the schedule, and eat pizza!

Classes will be weekly on Wednesdays, with breaks for school holidays.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
12/4	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Sue Hartley	Emma Barnes	Reggie Chang	James Learned Sue Hartley	Lisa Martinell
12/11	Aidan Weishedel	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Dorothy Podgwaite	Chuddy Watson
12/18	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	~	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Leo Goodrich Leonard Lye	Liane Moreland
12/24 5:00pm	Emma Ingerson	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Emma Barnes	Jonathan Goodrich	Leo Goodrich Leonard Lye	Liane Moreland
12/24 11:00p	~	John Downs	Sue Hartley	~	Reggie Chang	James Learned Sue Hartley	Starr O'Connor
12/25 9:30am	Jonathan Olson	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Paul O'Braonain	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Dorothy Podgwaite	Chuddy Watson
1/1/17	Anthony Papa	Jonathan Goodrich	Lisa Martinell	Emma Barnes	Barbara Kuslan	John Downs Lisa Martinell	Lisa Martinell

*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!***

### FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH OCTOBER, 2016

	<b>2016</b>	10/12 of 2016 <b>BUDGET</b>	Over (Under) <b>BUDGET</b>	Prior year Comparative 2015 thru October
Receipts thru October	\$59,995	\$77,804	(\$17,809)	\$65,735
Expenses thru October	\$70,562	\$77,804	(\$7,242)	\$69,005
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$10,567)	\$0	(\$10,567)	(\$3,270)

Our total Operating giving for OCTOBER 2016 was \$6,092 and our expenses were \$8,717 giving us a loss for the month of \$2,625 increasing our year-to-date loss to \$10,567. As the above shows our giving this year is behind last year by \$5,740 and behind our budget by \$17,809. Our average expenses are below our budget by about 10 % but should increase over the last two months as we incur increased seasonal costs.

Through October of 2016 we have accrued \$4,711 toward our New England Synod annual pledge of \$6050. With two months to go we should be close to our commitment. *John E. Downs, Treasurer*

**DIRECTORY UPDATES**

Caroline Henry  
665 Whitney Avenue Apt 7  
New Haven, CT 06511

Lisa Martinell  
50 Brooklawn Dr.  
Meriden, CT 06450  
203-631-1130  
martinell2014@yahoo.com

Emma Barnes and Adam Ripa  
1560 Rhey Ave  
Wallingford, CT 06492

**NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVES**

John Downs delivered **13 turkeys and 13 bags of groceries** to the Hamden Food Bank this month. Sue Hartley delivered **6 bags** to the Cheshire Food Bank. Thanks to all who made donations!



**“GIVING TREE”: ELCA Good Gifts and toys for Hamden children**

Our Advent Giving Tree in the Narthex offers two opportunities to make a difference this year:

You can provide chicks, a pig or a goat, fill a knapsack with school materials or fund a Young Adult in Global Mission (among other things) by taking an ornament off the tree and making a donation to ELCA “Good Gifts” fund. If you can’t make it into church, you can go directly to the website and make a gift there: <https://community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts>.

If you would prefer to purchase a gift for a local child, Hamden Community Services is collecting toys for infant – age 12 until December 12. Please bring your gift and put it under the tree with a notation for the age and gender (as necessary) for the child in need. Then hang a tag on the tree with your name on it.

We hope that by Christmas all the Good Gift ornaments will be gone, indicating gifts to those in need around the world, and in their place will be many tags signifying gifts to Hamden children!

***We Are The Champions !!***



Congratulations to Anthony Papa and the Cheshire Rams on an awesome season!

They won the 2016 7th Grade Shoreline Youth Football Conference Championship!!



Following discussion of the book, The Quartet



Al Gollenberg, a long time past member of Good Shepherd, passed away 10/19/16. He held many positions on council.

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

**Calumet Christmas Joy has something for everyone!**

You can order ornaments, t-shirts, the Boom Chicka Boom sign, and more right online. Just click on the link below.

The Christmas Alternative Gift Guide is a perfect landing spot for you if you're trying to find a gift for the Calumet fan who has everything. There are several options to choose from and Calumet sends you a gift card that you can give to your Calumet fan. To read more, click on the link below.

If you would like a Christmas CD by A Bunch of Guys, or other Bunch of Guys CDs, contact Knute at [knute@calumet.org](mailto:knute@calumet.org). For more information, click on the link below.

The deadline for ordering is December 21. If you have a question, or need some more information, email Paula at [paula@calumet.org](mailto:paula@calumet.org).



Ornaments, sign, t-shirts, etc.

**Volunteer and Give Back \$1 Million to Hamden's Low Income Families**

Volunteer a few hours each week, just during tax season, to expand the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in Hamden

**Top 4 Reasons to Volunteer with Hamden VITA**

1. You can make a real impact
2. Flexible volunteer schedules (weeknights, daytime or Saturdays—just during the 12 weeks of tax season—mid-Jan thru Mid-April)
3. You learn to prepare taxes online!
4. Meet your neighbors

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Jim Emswiler at [emswiler1@comcast.net](mailto:emswiler1@comcast.net).

**Holiday Programs at Bethesda**

**Amahl and the Night Visitors  
Family Holiday Show**

Sunday, December 11, 7:00pm  
Bethesda Lutheran Church  
450 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

The one-act opera by Gian Carlo Menotti was first performed on Christmas Eve, 1951 by the NBC Television Theater. Amahl, which features a child in the lead role, is a perfect introduction to opera for children and families.

The event is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected with all proceeds going to IRIS, a refugee resettlement agency in New Haven.

**University Glee Club of New Haven  
Directed by Lars Gjerde**

Sunday, December 4, 4:00pm  
Cost: \$15 donation at the door

The hour-long program features glee classics, holiday pops, and sacred music for the season.

THANK YOU for a wonderful year...

... to Council members who have served so faithfully this year: **Linda Kapitan, Brenda Samal, John Downs, Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Jim Learned, Starr O'Connor, Brianne Papa, Emma Barnes, Susan Landino, Sue Hartley and Ken Watson**... to Finance and Staff Support Committee members for attending to the finances and staff concerns, including **Leonard Lye, Ruth Lye, Linda Kapitan, Jim Learned, Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Ken Watson and John Downs**...to all those who set up and clean up for coffee hour, including **Dorothy Podgwaite, Emma Barnes, Lisa Martinell, Trish Rowold, Ruth Podgwaite and Jim Learned**... to **John Downs and Sue Hartley** for delivering food to local food banks and to all who so faithfully bring food... to all who sing in the choir and provide inspiring music every Sunday morning: **Marylou Knoob, Chuddy Watson, Linda Kapitan, Sue Hartley, Trish Rowold, Paul O'Braonain, Liane Moreland, Emma Barnes and Caroline Henry**... to those who work behind the scenes to be sure the church is clean, the grass is mowed, the parsonage roof is replaced and the trees are trimmed, including **Jim Learned, Jonathan Goodrich and family, Reggie Chang and Ken Watson**... to those who assist in putting worship folders together: **Lisa Martinell, Jim Learned, Liz and Emma Ingerson, Marylou Knoob** and others... to the members of the book club for interesting books and great discussions: **Lisa Martinell, Barbara Kuslan, John Downs, Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Trish Rowold, Brenda Samal, and Reggie Chang**...to all who assist in worship as readers, assisting ministers, acolytes and altar guild: **John Downs, Barbara Kuslan, Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Jonathan Goodrich, Leo Goodrich, Nicholas Papa, Anthony Papa, Lisa Martinell, Dorothy Podgwaite, Leonard Lye, Reggie Chang, Linda Kapitan, Sue Hartley, Liz Ingerson, Emma Ingerson, Emily Olson, Jonathan Olson, Aoife Weishedel, Aidan Weishedel, Paul O'Braonain, Chuddy Watson, Starr O'Connor, Liane Moreland and Ken Watson**...to the Consecration Sunday Committee for their amazing work: **Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Linda Kapitan, Ken Watson, Brenda Samal, Dorothy Podgwaite, Barbara Kuslan and Liane Moreland**... to all who make fellowship gatherings so delicious, especially **Sue Landino, Liane Moreland, Chuddy Watson, Dorothy Podgwaite, Ruth Podgwaite, Trish Rowold, Emma Barnes, Emily Landino, Lisa Ball-Goodrich and Lisa Martinell**... to **Brianne Papa** for overseeing the Playground project and the children who use it and the adults who supervise, including **Justin Barnes, Katie Chapman, Sophia, Nicholas and Anthony Papa, Aliya laFave, and Cayia Strassheim, Liz and Emma Ingerson, Brianne Papa, Emma Barnes and Dorothy Podgwaite**... to **John Downs** for organizing road trips and entertainment events...and to **everyone else** who has made this year a special one for our wonderful church community... God's work: our hands!

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