



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

December 2018

Pastor's Message

Advent's Blue Highway

In a world that has already barreled right through Thanksgiving on a mad dash straight to Christmas, we are, as God's people, invited to take a road less traveled. Call it a blue highway.

Remember blue highways (the ones colored blue on those old gas station road maps — the ones that hardly ever, once they were unfolded, got folded back to the way they came) ... those back roads, winding, slow, necessarily unhurried, sometimes quite narrow pathways, demanding patience, urging us to look closely and take in the beauties and curiosities of the landscape, awakening us to the unexpected, taking us through oft forgotten places? They're far more interesting, those blue highways, than those multi-lane highways that sweep us far too swiftly through the land.

The church has a name for the blue highway that wends it's way to Christmas. It's called Advent. It will begin, Sunday, December 2.

This blue highway does its best to prevent any mad dash to Christmas. There are detours and unexpected turns along the sometimes bumpy way, occasionally interrupted by distinct notes of unmistakable joy. We'll be led way out into the wilderness where our ears will be left ringing by the thundering voice of John the Baptist warning us to get our acts together, our crooked ways straight, and our hearts open to the life transforming power of a Savior who's going to slip into our lives with a love so wide, so deep, so great you'll never really be able to measure it, or stop it, for that matter, from its unceasing yearning to embrace you.

(continued on page 3)

Celebrate Christmas at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd!

**Christmas Eve, Monday,
December 24, 5:00 p.m.**

Rejoice in the birth of Christ
as we gather in the candlelight
to sing beloved carols,
proclaim the good news,
and share the feast.

*O come, all ye faithful...O come, let us
adore him, Christ the Lord!*

**First Sunday of Christmas,
December 30, 10:30 a.m.**

Yes! Christmas is more than a day.
But it is a short season!
Come while the festival continues!
There are more carols to sing.
There is more joy to proclaim.
On the verge of a new year,
come celebrate and sing!

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 12/2 | Voters' Meeting &
light luncheon |
| 12/9 | Caroling for homebound |
| 12/12 | Mid-month coffee gathering |
| 12/19 | Council meeting |

www.goodshepherdhamden.org/calendar

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

3680 Whitney Avenue
Hamden CT 06518-1516
(203) 248-7420

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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



TURKEY TROT

We were able to "trot" **TWENTY** turkeys right on down to the Hamden Food Bank this year, thanks to your generosity and John Down's willingness to tote all those heavy packages to their destination! One reason for our increased donation this year is the extra money that was collected at November coffee hour; which allowed us to purchase even more turkeys than had originally been donated.

THANK you, again, for your GIVING!

(Pastor's message continued from page 1)

We'll travel to still, silent places of prayer, to places where unimaginable news bursts out and visions of a world turned upside down break out into song, like the lowly lifted up and the powerful knocked right off their high horses, and the poor sitting down to a feast like no other and the arrogant rich left in the cold.

The journey on the blue highway is not so much accompanied by happy carols but by songs of longing, of hope and expectation that are a fitting prelude to the chorus of pure delight that erupts with angelic voices when the place where the highway leads us is reached. Indeed the highway on which we travel is colored blue because blue is the color of hope and expectation.

It is a highway for the world we live in — a world hungry for light to break into the darkness.

For while the journey may begin in the shadows it is always leading us toward the promise of light, toward the One who comes among us to be light — unending, unceasing light — for us.

You know that deep blue color of a clear pre-dawn sky just before the sun slowly rises in the east? That's the color of the road before us calling us into the light no darkness can ever overcome. Blue is the color of the highway unfolding before us leading us home to the One who comes to dwell with us in healing mercy and love that reaches out to bind together in peace a terribly broken world.

Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!

Advent and Christmas Blessings to you,

Les Swenson, Transitional Pastor

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 1– Chuddy Watson
- 7– Christopher Knoob
- 29– Emily Olson



Baptisms

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

Tis the Season for:.....GIFTING!

Hamden Youth Services has expressed a need for GIFT CARDS, (suggested: Target and Amazon), to be distributed to impoverished families to help with Christmas expenses.

In response we will be setting up a "Gifting Tree" in the narthex, starting this Sunday, December 2nd. Gift cards, (any amount) can be attached to decorative snowflakes, (provided for you), to be hung on tree.

Let's watch these snowflakes turn into a "blizzard of blessings" for struggling families in our community!.

"A rule of the blue road: Be careful going in search of adventure—it's ridiculously easy to find." from Blue Highways: A Journey into America, William Least Heat-Moon

Some Notes about the Advent Wreath...

Each Sunday of the Advent season after we have sung the Gathering Hymn, worshippers will turn to the Advent Wreath, listen to a prayer, light a new candle, and sing the song, "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah." The lighting of the wreath is a beloved tradition in the church and in many homes.

Here are some informative notes about the Advent Wreath from the ELCA Website* to help you understand its background, purpose and meaning...

The Advent wreath has its roots in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People sought the return of the sun in the dark time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. As early as the middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world.

This symbolism can be just as strong for us today. As is the case with all symbols, they speak most loudly to remind us of God's promises of life when they are drawn directly out of our daily experience and environment. One should consider using only natural materials from God's creation when making an Advent wreath...Branches of holly, laurel, and other green shrubs, which retain their freshness longer than pine, may also be used. The circular shape, a symbol of eternal life, is most important. Using an alternative shape,

such as a log, would diminish the meaning of the symbol, which is no longer a circle. There is no one prescribed color for the candles, although several traditions are current. Four natural colored candles are always appropriate and symbolize the Light for which we wait. Four blue candles matches the blue used for the season, a color representing hope...

Liturgical renewal in the last decades of this century has shifted the focus of these four weeks to one of hope and expectation of the coming of the Christ. This hope looks forward not only to celebrating the child in the manger, but even more to Christ's coming in glory at the end of time--a continuation of the eschatological emphasis of the last Sundays after Pentecost. Candles in rich royal blue are symbolic of this hope. Coincidentally, these two colors, purple and blue, have long been associated with the same ideas: the symbolic colors of royal blood and of longing; the natural colors of the dawn before the sun rises and the deep shades of midnight.

*See "Worship Formation and Liturgical Resources: Frequently Asked Questions." elca.org



Lighting the Advent Candles

Individuals or families requested to light an Advent candle and read the short prayer following the gathering hymn.

The prayer will be in the bulletin insert each week.

If you would like to light our way one Sunday in Advent, please talk to Pastor or John Downs.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Worship Assistant 2	Reader	Ushers	Altar Guild
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
12/16	Elizabeth Ingerson	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Barbara Kuslan	Ruth Lye Leonard Lye	Starr O'Connor
12/23	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Jim Learned	Chuddy Watson
12/24 5:00pm	Elizabeth Ingerson	Anthony Papa	Brianne Papa	Ken Watson	Anthony Papa Brianne Papa	Sarah DeLong
12/30	Nicholas Papa	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Downs Starr O'Connor	Starr O'Connor
1/6	Nicholas Papa	John Downs	Ken Watson	Leo Goodrich	Leo Goodrich Reggie Chang	Chuddy Watson
1/13	Nicholas Papa	Anthony Papa	Brianne Papa	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Jim Learned	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!

Christmas Poinsettias

The sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex.

Cost is \$15 per plant. Please sign up by December 16. Thank you!



Rides for Ruth

- December 2 Lisa Ball-Goodrich
- December 9 Linda Kapitan
- December 16 Leonard Lye
- December 23 Jim Learned
- December 24 John Downs
- December 30 Starr O'Connor
- January 6 Mary Lou Knoob
- January 13 Jim Learned

Special Council Meeting to Discuss Partnerships in Ministry

The Rev. Paul Sinnott, Associate to the Bishop of the New England Synod, ELCA, will join the LCGS Congregation Council on Wednesday evening, December 5, 6:30 p.m., for a special meeting focusing on the possible paths and the implications of partnering with other congregations in ministry.

Over the past few months, Council and congregational conversations have led to the conclusion that a potential path for the future of this congregation is to develop some form of partnership with one or more congregations in the Hamden-New Haven corridor, specifically other congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Before conversations with other congregations begin, we will talk with Pastor Sinnott about the best ways to approach and pursue those conversations.

As with all Council meetings, this meeting is open to all interested members of the congregation. This is a journey we are taking together.

Advent Devotions at Home...

Luther Seminary, in St. Paul, MN, one of our ELCA seminaries, has a helpful Advent devotion series on its website: luthersem.edu. Scroll down the home page to section highlighting "God pause." Press "God pause devotions." You will then be led to "God pause" page where you can either sign up for daily email devotions or download the Advent devotions which are based on the Advent hymn, "Hark! The Glad Sound."

Council Meeting

Council met on 11/26. Pastor  reviewed the upcoming meeting with Rev. Paul Sinnott. (See article this page.) Pastor would like to continue the caroling to homebound.

On 12/9, following worship, bring yourselves and your voices to Elfriede's home to delight her with Christmas carols (about 5-6 hymns).

Pastor has agreed to extend his covenant through the end of June, 2019. The 2019 proposed budget was reviewed and approved for recommendation to the voters'. There was discussion re: adding Synod Mission Pledge as a line item on the budget. Our 2018 pledge is below so a motion was made and accepted to make up the difference of shortfall using general funds. Motion made and accepted to pledge \$5,000 to Synod Mission in 2019. Christmas decorations setup– 12/2 Advent Candles; 12/9 wreaths; and 12/16 tree. Any help is appreciated. Next council meeting: 12/19.

Proposed Slate Council 2019

President:	Ken Watson
Vice-President:	(Vacant)
Treasurer:	Leonard Lye
Secretary:	Brenda Samal
Financial Secretary:	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Christian Education:	(Vacant)
Fellowship:	Linda Kapitan
Evangelism:	Leo Goodrich
Stewardship/Missions:	Starr O'Connor
Worship:	John Downs
Property:	James Learned

Help needed with weekly bulletin inserts in February 2019- Looking for someone to copy bulletin inserts and set up full service notebooks for the month of February. Everything will be printed. Takes about 1–1 1/2 hours a week to copy and prepare notebooks and bulletin inserts. Please see Brenda if you can assist. Thank you!

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



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Hamden CT 06518-1516

FIRST CLASS MAIL