

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

Volume 41, Issue 5

Phone: (203) 746 – 9022

Web Page: www.goodshepherdnf.org

MAY 2013

Pastor

Rev. Eric A. Wismar
pastor@goodshepherdnf.org

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Roland Klauck

President

Liz Smith
lizgslc@gmail.com

Vice-President

Linton Hamilton

Recording Secretary

Liz Thomson

Treasurer

Eric Schonenberg

Financial Secretary

Tim Renz

Newsletter Editor

Liz Thomson
office@goodshepherdnf.org

Prayer Chain

Suzanne Kloos
1(203)746-1316
suzannekloos@yahoo.com

OUR COMMISSIONERS

Discipleship—

Carol Woodside

Stewardship—

VACANT

Education—

Juanita Bok

Property—

Chip Dice

Mission—

Elinor Leili

Youth/Fellowship—

Elizabeth Alves

Media—

VACANT

Words from the Undershepherd

Dear Members and Friends of the Good Shepherd,

Over 100 million people in the United States are unchurched. The number of self-identified Christians in America has dropped by 10 percent from 1990 to 2008. New religions have been on the rise. Buddhism has increased 500 percent and the number of Islam followers is up by 300 percent. Perhaps most alarming is the 300 percent increase of Americans who identify with no religion at all – this accounts for 12 million Americans. The most unchurched generation is the millennial generation. One in four teens and young adults identify with no religion at all.

Jesus has commissioned us to bring the Gospel to all nations. Our nation is especially in need of hearing the life-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ—this is especially true of New England. In a recent Gallup pole, people were asked the question, “*Is religion an important part of your daily life?*” The results were broken down by state and every single one of our New England states unfortunately made it on to the list of “Top 10 Least Religious States” in our nation. Truly the mission field is right outside our door.

With this in mind I would like to invite you to be a part of an outstanding opportunity. On **Saturday, May 11th from 9:00am-2:00pm**, our circuit will be hosting a **MISSION U** School of Witnessing training, a program of the Lutheran Hour Ministries. It is being held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Danbury—18 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury, CT 06811; Church: (203) 748-3320.

MISSION U School of Witnessing trains lay people to share the Gospel in a 21st-century setting. It offers six different courses: MU-101 – Equipping to Share: Everyday Evangelism; MU-102 – Witnessing Methods: Seven Styles of Faith-sharing; MU-201 – Dealing with Tough Questions; MU-202 – The Outreach-minded Church: Unified Vision and Mission; MU-203 – Sharing the Gospel in a Digital Age; and MU-301 – “Christ Alone” in a Coexist World. The session you are being invited to is **MU-101 – Equipping to Share: Everyday Evangelism**. This course will challenge you to recognize and embrace your role as Christ's witness. You will identify witnessing obstacles and receive biblical tools to overcome them. You will learn to recognize and to initiate faith-sharing conversations. You will practice sharing your faith in unique contexts and within relationship models that you may likely encounter. The course will provide ample hands-on application to increase confidence. It is my hope and prayer that you will take the time to be a part of this singular opportunity.

See you in worship!

Pastor Wismar



MAY 2013

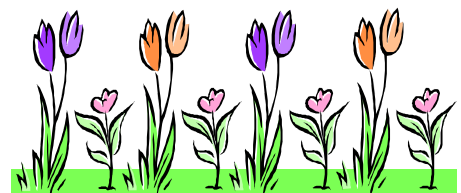
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:00am-Sunday School & Conf 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am- Communion Worship Service WALKING CLUB	6	7	1 7:45 pm- Choir 8:00 pm -AA	2 12:00pm-Weight Watchers	3	4
12 9:00am-Sunday School & Conf 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am-Communion Worship Service MOTHER'S DAY	13	14 7:45 pm-Board Meeting	8 7:45 pm- Choir 8:00 pm - A.A.	9 12:00pm-Weight Watchers	10	11 MISSION U Immanuel- Danbury 9am - 2pm
19 9:00am-Sunday School & Conf 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am Communion Worship Service	20	21 7:15 pm- Christ & Coffee	15 7:45 pm- Choir 8:00 pm - A.A.	16 10:00am- WSL 12:00pm-Weight Watchers	17	18
26 9:00am-Sunday School & Conf 9:15am-Adult Bible Study 10:30am-Communion Worship Service	27 Memorial Day	28 7:30 pm- Discipleship	22 7:45 pm- Choir 8:00 pm - A.A.	23 12:00pm-Weight Watchers	24	25
	29 7:45 pm- Choir 8:00 pm - A.A.	30 12:00pm-Weight Watchers	31	30 12:00pm-Weight Watchers	31	

Serving Page for MAY

	5/5	5/12	5/19	5/26	6/2
Ushers:	D. Kish C. Kish F. Bok J. Bok	L. Hamilton C. Hamilton C. Hamilton B. Tompkins P. Tompkins	E. Davis E. Davis A. Davis A. Golino	B. Dice C. Dice R. Cancel J. Kloos	T. Renz T. Durr B. Durr D. Abrantes
Tellers:	T. Renz R. Renz	C. Dice J. Dice	T. Durr P. Durr	B. Dice S. Kloos	G. Wismar P. Wismar
Lay Reader:	B. Dice	B. Woodside	L. Smith	R. Renz	L. Seder
Greeters:	D. Breeger B. Breeger	C. Hamilton	S. Haber	B. Bodnar E. Bodnar	I. Cancel R. Cancel
Comm. Asst.:	L. Hamilton		B. Durr		T. Renz
Altar Guild:	T. Gillio I. Wixted	A. Sohle	L. Smith B. Breeger	J. McGowan H. Scully	L. Thomson P. Tompkins
Acolyte:	L. Golino	A. Miller	M. Miller	J. Berendsohn	E. Bodnar
Crucifer:	Cam Brillon	J. Hamilton	M. Wixted	J. Wismar	B. Tuffy

Anniversaries & Birthdays

James and Suzanne Kloos	Emily Bodnar	05	Todd Durr	17
<i>May 2</i>	Benjamin Tuffy	07	Joshua Hamilton	20
Tim and Renee Renz	Chris Tompkins	09	Genevieve Gilbert	21
<i>May 5</i>	Dylan White	10	Loraine Seder	22
Charles and Trudy Gilleo	Tim Renz	12	Carrie White	23
<i>May 12</i>	Nicole Hildreth	13	Jocelyn Lehmacher	24
	Sandra Lowry	14	David Abrantes	30
	James Kloos	14		
	Mia Wismar	14		
	Trudy Gilleo	16		
	Ramon Cancel	17		



NICE TO KNOW—The Synod's periodicals, The Lutheran Witness and The Reporter, have received a total of eight "Best of the Christian Press Awards" from the Associated Church Press (ACP) for work published in 2012. Founded in 1916, the ACP is the oldest inter-denominational religious press association in North America. One award for The Lutheran Witness was for "Best in Class, Mobile Publication" for its digital and mobile applications which began in December 2012.

LWML—The LWML has exceeded its \$1.825 million mission goal for 2011-2013 by \$9,269.27. These offerings were given by the 250,000 nationwide members of LWML with their mite boxes. The money funds mission projects worldwide that are chosen by the 600 delegates who attend the biennial conventions. You can read about these projects in a Reporter Online story. The next convention (the 35th biennial) is in June in Pittsburgh and three of our WSL members will attend when new mission projects will be selected for 2013-2015 and a new dollar goal set. LWML president, Kay Kreklau, told members "Your offerings have enabled the LWML to continue to reach out and share about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to those who are hurting and lost around the world.

Juanita Bok is participating in the walk-a-thon at the convention and is seeking sponsors. If you can donate please let her know.

MEMORIALS—Memorials were given for John Gilbert from: Shirley Chromik and Ronald & Ethel Kern. For Norma Wismar given by: Doris Simonides

PRAYERS—In our prayers and thoughts are Doris Stangl and Sandy Lowry, who are recovering.

BAPTISM—Baptized on April 27 were Aiden and Tyler Davie, children of Dan Davie and Tara Falls. We welcome into our family of God.

70th ANNIVERSARY—On April 17, Carol and Fred Cunningham celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary!!! What an accomplishment! Congratulations to them—and many more!!

THANK YOU—A big thank you to Brian Tompkins (a property commission member) for installing more rods on the storage rack where the altar paraments are hung. This has been a great improvement for the altar guild ladies. A big thank you to Bob and Carol Woodside as well for fixing a number of tech problems in the office this past week that all seemed to pop up at once—greatly appreciated!

Youth & Fellowship

Walking Club—Thank you to those who have been joining us for our Walking Club this spring! We've been to Bear Mountain Reservation, Tarrywile Park, and Richter Park so far. On May 5th, we will be walking in the neighborhood adjacent to our church—Possum Drive. The Kent Falls hike and picnic has been re-scheduled for Sunday, May 26th. Bring your sneakers and join us for some fresh air and fellowship!

Child Molestation Prevention Plan—Our church insurance company is requiring us to have a program in place addressing the prevention of child molestation. In the past, we have had no such policy or screening process for our teachers and youth workers. While we have never had any reason to be concerned about the welfare of our children while on the church premises, the realities of this day and age make the protection of our children and our church organization more important than ever. In order to comply with our insurance company's requirement and also to move forward with a greater degree of responsibility, we will be conducting **Child Molestation Prevention Training and ask that all teachers, youth leaders, and potential chaperones or helpers attend one of the sessions.** This is a joint effort by the Youth Commission and Education Commission and so will be conducted by Beth Alves and Juanita Bok. Please attend one of the following sessions:

Saturday, May 18 9:00—11:00 am

Monday, May 20 7:00—9:00 pm

Questions can be directed to Beth, Juanita or Liz Smith. Thank You!

New Commissioner Needed !! - I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your Youth and Fellowship Commissioner these last three years! I have had tremendous support from Pastor, the church board, and everyone in the congregation who has attended events, contributed to coffee hours, baked or cooked for potlucks, read good books, slept on the floor for lock-ins, and negotiated the rocky paths of many of our hikes! It has been a very rewarding time for me, but it is time to pass the baton! Please prayerfully consider this opportunity....

ANNOUNCEMENT—Our Spring congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on June 9th. As per our new church by-laws, we have only two congregational meetings each year—please take the time to stay and be a part of it!