

The Shepherd's Call

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 5

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MAY 2015

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Mission—

Elinor Leili

Youth/Fellowship—

VACANT

Media Outreach—

James Kloos

Dear Members and Friends of the Good Shepherd,

By the time this May 2015 edition of our Shepherds Call has gone to print, I will have only two Sundays left with you all as your pastor – May 3rd (which is also Confirmation Sunday) and May 10th, when we can look forward to having our New England District President, Pastor Timothy Yeadon with us for worship as well. My time together with you is coming to an end, and as I reflect back on the past decade, I'm amazed at the ways that we have grown together and shared together in the love of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

We have grown together through His Word as I have proclaimed it to you week after week, as we have proclaimed it to one another through our hymns and liturgy and as we have received it through His precious body and blood shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Many of you have also experienced tremendous spiritual growth through the various Bible studies and programs that I have led here throughout the years, through our daily "P.M. in the A.M." morning prayer times, as well as through your own personal scripture readings, prayers and devotions. It has been a decade of great growth!

It is also been a decade of great sharing – especially for me as your pastor. I have had the opportunity to share with many of you the great joys and celebrations of life – weddings, baptisms, the birth of children. I have also had the opportunity to share with all of you the times of great sorrow and grief – es-



pecially as we have mourned the loss of beloved brothers and sisters in Christ from our midst. It is an honor and a privilege to have shared in all these most sacred and important times in life as the body of Christ here in New Fairfield, Connecticut. Together we truly have grown in and shared the love of Christ.

So at this time I simply say "thank you." Thank you for your love, your prayers and your encouragement. It has been a blessing for me to have been your pastor and now that privilege will soon be passed on to another pastor. I am confident that our good and gracious Lord will call someone here who will be a great blessing to you as your new shepherd and I know that all of you will be as great a blessing to him as you have been to me.

Looking to the future, I see continued blessings and joys shared among you, continued caring for each other through the difficult times of life and continued growth through God's powerful Word and His sacramental gifts of Grace. I see you continuing to be exactly what you are – the body of Christ. You, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, are the body of Christ and you are in Christ Jesus our Lord. And knowing that we are in Christ Jesus our Lord, we know – always – that the best is yet to come. I would like to share with you as my final words to this farewell letter the final words that I shared at the close of Alma Sohle's funeral sermon:

Our Christian story is an incredible story, a love story, with chapters yet to be written ... and in those chapters that await us: **the best is yet to come**, as the writer of Ecclesiastes says: *"He has made everything beautiful in its time."* To this we echo St. Paul: *"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* In Jesus name. Amen.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

Pastor Wismar

With regret, we are all aware that May 10 is Pastor Wismar's last service at our church. He has accepted the call to serve the congregation at Holy Cross in Trumbull, Connecticut. We certainly ask for God's blessing on him in his new position and on his family as they go onto a new experience in their lives. No doubt we will see them from time to time at zone and district events. Pastor Yeadon, New England District President, will be with us for that service on May 10.



DISCIPLESHIP

We have been busy preparing for the pastoral vacancy and lining up volunteers to handle things that the pastor normally does such as: preparing the Sunday bulletin, ordering communion supplies, taking phone calls, etc. If you can help please let me know. People on the serving page roster are asked to please remember when they serve. If you cannot make it that Sunday please call or better yet, get a substitute for that day.

WOMEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE

On April 19, fourteen members of GSLC went to the LWML Gathering in Newtown; nine women and five men. Pastor Harper spoke on What a Christian Should Know About Islam, a timely topic. \$199 were received in the offering for the mites fund. So far nationally the goal of \$1.83 million has been exceeded. Remember to use Goodsearch.com as your search engine and choose LWML as your charity. \$22,640.60 has been raised through this vehicle.

STEWARDSHIP

In this season of spring there is an air of many changes for us. Some that are uplifting, some that contribute to our spiritual growth and some which call upon our faith in our Lord Jesus to help sustain us. I felt a sense of great joy in returning to my spiritual family, especially to a family who demonstrate love and compassion for each other. And it is these qualities, which you all possess, which make the Good Shepherd family so special.

In my quiet times of recent travels, I read an inspiring book, "Invisible Acts of Power – Personal Choices that Create Miracles." Two quotes really touched me which I would like to share with you. *"Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service. How do we put the love for God in action? By being faithful to our family. And to the duties that God has entrusted to us. Whatever form we are, able or disabled rich or poor, it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing – a lifelong sharing of love with others."* That was a quote from Mother Teresa. And from Helen Keller: *"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do something I can do."*

Our Lord Jesus has given us a great helper in the Holy Spirit, especially in times of change in which our personal lives continue on the journey of life. Pray for it, listen to it, allow it to guide you, for the Holy Spirit is wiser than any of us.

Nan Falsetti, Stewardship Chairperson

VICE PRESIDENT

It was decided at the April board meeting that the May Officer/Board Elections should be suspended and moved to the November congregational meeting. First, it will offer greater continuity between the board members and our new Pastor. Second, we have had trouble filling church board positions for the last few years. This will give us additional time to seek members for these positions. If you have any questions or would like to inquire about serving on the board please contact me.

Yours in Christ,
Linton Hamilton
203-746-6975

MISSIONS

We sent out care packages to six college students last month. Thank you to all who contributed items to the cause.

EDUCATION

Due to Miharu leaving us, Tara Booth will take her class and combine it with Miharu's for the rest of the Sunday School term. Miharu also served as superintendent. This means we need someone to serve as superintendent and as a teacher.

Please consider and volunteer. How about adding a male staff member to Sunday School?

PROPERTY

MAY 16—CLEAN UP DAY

Please come and help clean up our grounds and building on May 16, Saturday.

We will work on the grounds and replace ceiling tiles and paint the ceiling in the down stairwell of the church building.

JUNE 27—PARSONAGE WORK DAY

We will be painting and working on the front lawn repair. A list of all the work we want to do is posted on the bulletin board in church. A sign up sheet is also posted—please use it.

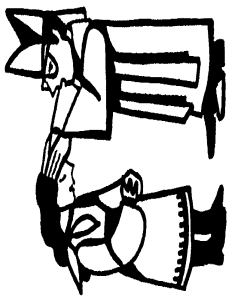
Let's all come and work to make sure things are in good shape when our new pastor comes to our congregation.

YOUTH/FELLOWSHIP

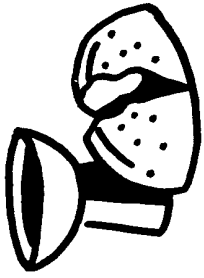
As you can see on page one, the Youth/Fellowship commissioner position is still **vacant**. We have suggested that it can be filled by two people—one for youth and one for fellowship. These are important aspects of a congregation which can help us grow.

Please consider serving.





MAY 2015



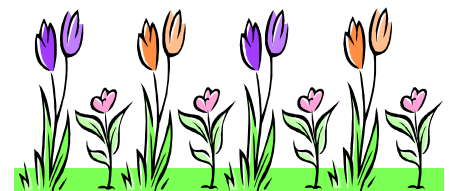
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3- 9:00am-Sunday School & Conf. class 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am-DIVINE SERVICE With communion	4 6:30pm - Knitting	5 7:30pm— Stewardship	6 8:00 pm—AA	7 10:00am—WSL 8:00pm—Choir	8	9
10- 9:00am Sunday School & Conf. class 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am DIVINE SERVICE with Communion	11 6:30pm - Knitting	12 7:45pm— Board	13 8:00pm—AA	14 8:00pm—Choir	15	16 <i>Property Clean Up Day</i>
17- 9:00am Sunday School & Conf. class 9:15am –Adult Bible Class 10:30am DIVINE SERVICE with Communion	18 6:30pm - Knitting	19	20 8:00pm—AA	21 10:00am—WSL 8:00pm—Choir	2	23
24- 9:00am-Sunday School & Conf. class 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am DIVINE SERVICE with Communion	25	26 7:30pm— Discipleship	27 8:00pm—AA	28 8:00pm—Choir	29	30
31-9:00am-Sunday School & Conf. class 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am DIVINE SERVICE with Communion			<i>May3-Confirmation May 10-Pastor Wismar's last service Pastor Yeardon will be with us</i>			

Serving Page for MAY

	5/3	5/10	5/17	5/24	5/31
Ushers:	T. Renz E. Davis E. Davis C. Woodside	D. Kish C. Kish F. Bpk J. Bok	L. Hamilton C. Hamilton B. Tompkins P. Tompkins	E. Davis E. Davis A. Golino C. Woodside	C. Dice B. Dice J. Kloos
Tellers:	G. Wismar P. Wismar	T. Renz R. Renz	C. Dice J. Bok	T. Booth P. Durr	B. Dice S. Kloos
Lay Reader:	B. Woodside	Youth	L. Smith	R. Renz	N. Falsetti
Greeters:	D. Breeger B. Breeger	C. Hamilton	S. Haber	B. Bodnar E. Bodnar	S. Kloos
Comm. Asst.:	L. Hamilton	T. Renz	L. Smith	R. Smith	L. Hamilton
Altar Guild:	J. McGowan H. Scully	P. Tompkins L. Thomson	E. Leili L. White	H. Abrantes L. Seder	L. Smith B. Breeger
Acolyte:	C. Follen	K. Wismar	R. Rojas	A. Renz	S. Zustovich
Crucifer:	S. Zustovich	A. Golino	E. Bodnar	C. Follen	R. Rojas

Birthdays and Anniversaries

	Emily Bodnar	05	Todd Durr	17
James and Suzanne Kloos	Benjamin Tuffy	07	Joshua Hamilton	20
<i>May 2</i>	Robert Elliot	09	Lorraine Seder	22
Tim and Renee Renz	Dylan White	10	Carrie White	23
<i>May 5</i>	Tim Renz	12	Jocelyn Lehmacher	24
Charles and Trudy Gilleo	Sandra Lowry	14	David Abrantes	30
<i>May 12</i>	James Kloos	14		
	Mia Wismar	14		
	Trudy Gilleo	16		



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

We have been truly blessed by God to find out on Wednesday night that a Concordia Seminary Graduate has been assigned to our congregation !! About twenty people gathered at church to watch the service and hear the calls announced.

Justin Smith is our new pastor.

He is 29 years old, married and from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His wife, Jessica, is 28 years old and from Suttons Bay, Michigan. Justin has a B. A. in Theology and a M. of Divinity. He is working on an S.T.M. Jessica is a Lutheran Elementary Teacher.

His placement preferences included an established church, sole minister, and any area of the U.S. More details will follow.

His announcement came towards the end, so it got a little nerve wracking, but we made it. We are extremely fortunate to have such a short time without a pastor. Pastor Yeardon even called the gathering after the service and Pastor Smith talked for a bit to the group.

JOYOUS THANKFUL NEWS!