

The Shepherd's Call

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 1

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JANUARY 2016

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Mission—

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Youth/Fellowship—

Elinor Leili

Media Outreach—

James Kloos

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear friends and members of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

Jessica, Jude, and I have been here in Connecticut for about five months now. That amounts to about 25 weeks, 170 days, around 4,080 hours, or even 244,800 seconds. It seems like no time at all and it went by so quickly. Yet, in that small amount of time—though the amount of seconds seems daunting—there has been a lot to talk about. First, we wish to thank everyone for the gifts and blessings we have received since we have been here. The love and welcome shown to us through gifts and hospitality will not be forgotten. Second, this congregations needs to be commended for the diligence and hard work committed to our transition this summer. A lot of work was done on the church grounds and in the parsonage to prepare for our arrival. Many of you went above and beyond and I doubt any amount of thank-yous could express our gratitude or give an amount of thanks equal to the gifts, labor, and blessings this congregation has been in the past five months.

Looking behind is something we do at the end. We reflect and consider what has happened. It is the end of 2015. Some, if not all of you, will inevitably reflect and consider the year that has past. If you've been paying attention then you are probably as happy as I am that this year is over. While many good things have happened, they have been overshadowed by horrific events. It is more than our ability to receive information quickly that has burdened us this year. The world seems out of control and more divisive than ever. It would be naïve to say that the church's message of peace through this Christ Child—the one whom we celebrated on Christmas—can easily solve the world problems. God is not some magician who wiggles his nose or snaps his fingers and instantly things are alright. Instead, God gives to the Church, the body of Christ, the message of reconciliation of which we are ambassadors.

This brings up the next thing we usually do at the end. We look for new beginnings. At the beginning of this year we have much for which we can be thankful. Here at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd we are thankful for smiling faces and fellowship. We are thankful for another year to serve New Fairfield and the surrounding area. We are thankful for so much and we give glory to God through his Son Jesus Christ that we can serve and show the love that he has shown to us. However, being thankful is but one thing we do at the beginning. We also renew, recommit, and—perhaps—even make new commitments. As you reflect on this past year and look ahead to the next ask yourself, "Am I in need of renewal? What should I recommit to?" Or perhaps you may need to ask, "What new commitments should I be making?" Maybe you are overextended and need to find ways to rest and experience renewal by doing less. Maybe you have taken up unhealthy habits this past year that need to go away. Or, maybe you need to make a new commitment. Perhaps in our frenetic New England culture we all need to make a new commitment to see each other's needs, the needs we are frequently too busy to see. These questions and ideas are not meant to instill guilt but to help us realize that as we live as God's people in the world that we are called to reimagine the world and work toward restoring all things. So set some goals, ask some questions, and look ahead each month, each week, each day, each minute, and each second.

A blessed New Year to you all in Christ,

Pastor Justin, Jessica, and Jude

MESSAGES - PRESIDENT

Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Philippi, "Do not worry about anything!"

REALLY! It seems that this is a stressful time of year with Christmas bills mounting, health issues, family concerns and job issues. Letting go of our anxiety is easier said than done.

But Paul encourages us to give our worries and fears over to God; to live our lives with joy, peace and gratitude, all made possible by handing over all concerns and worries to God in prayer. What a friend we DO have in Jesus!

On a lighter side to help lower some stress, Beverly and I would like to open our home to the congregation on Sunday, January 10th, between 2-4 pm. Join us and enjoy a glass of wine and some cheese while perusing her miniature village that she has set up for several years. Don

VICE PRESIDENT

Linton is on the trail of the person who is going to fill the open position of MISSIONS. So be thinking about it or volunteer. He also will soon be working on a slate for the May elections.

TREASURER

Greetings LCGS. I will have a 2015 financial report next month after the books are closed.

We received a generous bequest from an estate of a member. People are remembering the good work of the church.

An audit committee is being formed for the annual financial audit of church. If you are able to help, please reach out to Linton. If you are asked to help, please do so. The annual audit is a very important function for the church. Eric

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to all for your pledges for and the return of your Time and Talent sheets for 2016. Linton will be using those sheets, so be ready. The boxes of giving envelopes for 2016 have been distributed. You can pick yours up at church if you do not have yours yet. Loraine

FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, January 17th, we are having a [Baby Shower for Joanne](#), our terrific organist. Please bring a gift (she is expecting a baby boy) It will be immediately following our church service---- finger foods, desserts, cheese & crackers, etc. Thank you in advance for your contributions. This is a most exciting time for Joanne & her husband and we want to help welcome their new baby into this world. Elinor



January 24 - 6:30 pm

Pastor Gregory Wismar will present a slide presentation of his next tour to the Maritimes in August.



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY- --- FEBRUARY 20th (2016) ----- CHILI COOK-OFF--

start searching for the winning recipe

SYNOD SNIPPETS

In October at the annual convention of two LCMS partner churches in Russia, communion was celebrated together for the first time. These two churches are 2,081 miles apart. They belong to the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church which has most of their congregations in western Russia.



Lutheran Federal Credit Union opened its doors in December to serve the LCMS in all 50 states. With the credit union LCMS members can now open savings and checking accounts, get consumer loans, obtain credit cards and utilize household financial tools. Accounts are federally insured for up to \$250,000 and smartphones can be used for online banking.

The “we Raise: Youth Feeding Children Around the world” crowdfunding platform, hosted by wheat Ridge Ministries, has received an extra \$25,000 to help package another 100,000 meals for the hungry at the next Youth Gathering. Two hundred and sixty eight people, congregations and organizations contributed toward reaching this goal. The total of \$125,000 comes from registration fees, LCMS mercy ministries and this campaign which ended in October, and will provide 500,000 meals. The 2016 Gathering will be in New Orleans from July 16-20.

A new mission project catalog is now available on the Synod’s website lcms.org/projectcatalog. The catalog provides information about specific national and international mission projects open to receive special gifts and offerings. Each project listed identifies the specific person or team responsible for the work and donations will only be used for the specific project chosen by the donor.

The Synod’s radio station KFUD-AM “The Messenger of Good News” turned 91 on December 4, 2015. It is one of the oldest continuous Christian broadcasts in the world. The director is Rev. Rod Zwonitzer and there is a staff of nine members.





JANUARY 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 6:30pm Knitting	5	6 7:30 pm—Choir 8:00 pm—AA	7 10:00 am—WSL	1/8	2/9
10-9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30 am Divine Service with Communion 2-4pm Fellowship- Breeger's	11	12	13 11:30 pm - Choir 8:00pm—AA	14	15	16
17-9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30 am Divine Service with communion 11:30am-Baby Shower	18 6:30pm Knitting	19 7:45 pm Board	20 7:30 pm—Choir 8:00pm—AA	21 10:00 am -WSL	22	23
24-9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Service with Communion 6:30pm-Maritime trip	25	26 7:00 pm - Discipleship	27 7:30pm-Choir 8:00pm— AA	28	29	30
31-9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Service	28	29	30 7:30pm-Choir 8:00pm— AA	31		

SERVING PAGE for JANUARY

	1/3	1/10	1/17	1/24	1/31
Ushers:	T. Renz E. Davis E. Davis C. Woodside	D. Kish C. Kish F. Bok 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:	T. Renz R. Renz	C. Dice J. Bok	C. Woodside J. Bok	B. Dice S. Kloos	T. Renz R. Renz
Lay Reader:	L. Smith	R. Renz	B. Woodside	N. Falsetti	C. Woodside
Greeters:	J. Smith	B. Bodnar E. Bodnar	S. Kloos	D. Breeger B. Breeger	S. Lowry
Comm. Asst.:	L. Smith	R. Smith	L. Hamilton	T. Renz	L. Smith
Altar Guild:	H. Abrantes L. Seder	L. Smith B. Breeger	J. McGowan H. Scully	L. Thomson P. Tompkins	E. Leili L. White

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Donald and Beverly Breeger

January 13

Alyssa Renz January 09 Cameron Tompkins January 18

Matthew Miller January 10 Laura Berendsohn January 19

Richard and Suzanne Haber

January 14

Don Breeger January 12 Paula Durr January 19

Alexander Miller January 15 Nancy Crosby January 25

Daniel Abrantes January 15 Jimmy Kilgallon January 26

Cole Scully January 15

Judy Bachman January 17

Edward Davis January 18

