

The Shepherd's Call

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
"Growing in and Sharing the Love of Christ"

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 2

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FEBRUARY 2016

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

As I think of February, the last thing on my mind is Lent. Maybe that is surprising to you, but February, in my mind, is a blip on the calendar filled with days for presidents or spent in a month long reflection of African Americans in our country. Because my mind is occupied by the past and present of our world, Lent seems far away. The topics of February's mental occupation—President's Day and Black History Month—are great topics to consider and I, by no means, wish to put them down. Yet, on February 10th Ash Wednesday will begin the Lenten season. After a year filled with the clamor of violence and the destruction of terror the words from Ash Wednesday capture what seems to be the only remaining reflection on our existence. "From dust you are and to dust you will return," the refrain from Genesis goes.

I'll admit, my reflections are dreary at best; but they capture something of our Lenten season because we often associate Lent with gloomy introspection. We're all sinners and Paul reminds us of it in Romans 3 ("No one is righteous, no, not one."). If you are at all familiar with the Lenten season, you know that Lent is filled with repentance, preparation, and reflection. We reflect on our sins and repent of them. We prepare for that Easter joy of the resurrection. And it is in that order that we move; from reflection and repentance to preparation in anticipation of joy. Unfortunately, something seems to be tripping me up with this cycle as I think of the upcoming Lenten season. Of course, we all are in need of repentance and forgiveness; but as I continue to remember the last 12 months, it doesn't feel like I need to repent. How could I repent on behalf of a world ripped apart from violence? How could I prepare for Easter only thinking of my own sins when the world we live in and love continues to spiral out of control—at least for our experience of our world? Our experiences of violence and despair in the past years bring me to a different type of Lenten experience, one that considers the present and the future as well as the past.

This Lent we will spend our mid-week services (every Wednesday from Ash Wednesday until March 16) interacting with art from and one particular artist. Corita Kent, also known as Sister Mary Corita Kent, was an American Catholic nun, artist, and educator. Corita lived from 1918 until 1986 and during her teaching and art career she found occasion to reflect on the world around her, often a world in turmoil. Her art reflected the up-and-coming medium of Pop Art like Andy Warhol. Unlike Warhol, who was leveling a critique of high-art, Corita took common images and used them to reflect on social issues within her Christian faith. Her bright and vibrant Pop Art was mixed with poems or quotes meant to cause reflection on the present situation in the 60's and 70's along with a consideration of what the future could be like if we responded with Christian love and compassion. Through the art of Corita Kent and the Gospel of Luke, I hope to offer a Lent filled with hope for the future instead of one filled with dread because of the past. We have hope for the future. Even in the midst of tragedy we have a promise from God that he is still bringing restoration to creation and that Christ will return to make all things new. As we prepare for Easter in this Lenten season, do not forget that in Christ all things are made new. Perhaps February is a great month for Lent after all.

In the peace of Christ,

Pastor Justin

CHILI COOK-OFF FEBRUARY 20th - Saturday, 5:30 pm

Get your recipe ready and enter for a prize ---everyone will receive beans and cast their vote for the winners --

Bring a friend and help make the evening a success---

Cost per person \$10----Family \$20.

We will be donating 1/2 of our receipts towards a mission project and 1/2 of our receipts towards items needed for our church.

Our mission project is Very Special and will be announced at the chili cook-off.

So please come and share in the fun.



Elinor, *Fellowship*

Happy "Early" Valentines Day! The month of Love where we send cards with hearts to others. We all need to love and be loved. Recommitting ourselves to those we love is only the first step. As Christians we have an obligation to love and serve others. Matthew 22:39 tells us to "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself ."

Two years ago we did a community outreach program called FEEDING CHILDREN EVERYWHERE. This year we want to participate in the **HomeFront Project**. It is a community based volunteer repair program to provide free repairs for low income homeowners. It will take place in early May, and I hope that we can get at LEAST 15 volunteers from our congregation to participate.

Also, this year we will be the host for the **Good Friday Men's Breakfast**. We are looking into a place to have it since the High School will no longer be available. We will need several volunteers to help with tickets and setting up. Stay tuned for details.

I would like to end in a quote from Mother Teresa. "Give your hands to SERVE and your heart to LOVE."

Don, *President*



Feed the hungry

WOMEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE

Thank you to all who donated to the giving tree in December for the Women's Center in Danbury. Gift cards totaled \$320 and the center was very appreciative of our gifts. All Food Pantry items will go to the Women's Center in February so let's fill up the bin.

We had fifteen people take a purple pocket which is wonderful. Remember to fill it each month and return it in October.

Thank You

To Ed and Judy Davis for donating a wireless microphone for use in the sanctuary.

To Ed Seder and Pastor Justin for their continued work on the sound system, which has been in use and is appreciated by all.

To all those who attended and brought refreshments to the baby shower for Joanna and Corey Dunne on January 17.

2017 marks the 500th year of the Reformation led by Martin Luther. There will be celebrations and services during this time both in Germany and the United States. Pastor Gregory Wismar announced that there will be two tours conducted next year that will be reformation related. If interested see Pastor Wismar. Also lcms.org has and will have details about 2017.

Pastor Justin attended a Post Seminary Applied Learning Conference January 25 -27 in Springfield, Mass. This was presented by the New England District and gave the newcomers a chance to get together and to receive some support in their new service.

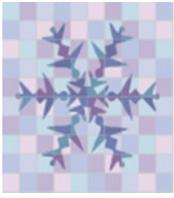
*The office e mail has been changed to - office@goodshepherdnewfairfield.org
This is the place to send newsletter items ,which you are encouraged to do.
Also let us know of any errors.*

Jean Stroberg, one of our founding members passed away in December. She and her husband ,Al ,were very active in the congregation and served Good Shepherd in many ways. Their son, Kenneth, was the first confirmand in 1970, a class of one confirmed by Pastor Michael Burt.

Lenten Services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 10. The Lenten experience and art of Corita Kent will be the theme . Soup and salad suppers will begin at 6:00 pm. Sign ups accepted.



FEBRUARY 2016



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

SERVING PAGE for FEBRUARY

	2/7	2/14	2/21	2/18	3/6
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:	C. Dice J. Bok	C. Woodside J. Bok	B. Dice S. Kloos	T. Renz R. Renz	C. Dice J. Bok
Lay Reader:	L. Smith	R. Renz	B. Woodside	N. Falsetti	C. Woodside
Greeters:	S. Haber	C. Hamilton	S. Kloos	D. Breeger B. Breeger	B. Bodnar E. Bodnar
Comm. Asst.:	R. Smith	L. Hamilton	T. Renz	L. Smith	R. 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

Thomas Dube Jr.	Feb.03
Hallie Durr	Feb.03
Donna Ferris	Feb.03
Kiera Dupre	Feb.11
Karlheinz Berendsohn	Feb.11
Brian Durr	Feb.13
Joyce Klauck	Feb.17
Charles Gilleo	Feb.20
Jim Falsetti	Feb.22
Chris Smith	Feb.22
Richard Haber	Feb.24

Alicia Zustovich	Feb.28
Melody Meisenholder	Feb.28



Helena and William Scully
February 10

