

The Shepherd's Voice

Through the Holy Spirit, we are called by God to live Christ's love as we touch all those in our lives, our church, and our communities.



A Call for Economic Repentance Buy Equal Exchange, Fairly Traded Products!

"Come now, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you." James 5:1-6

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

As residents of one of the richest counties of the wealthiest country on the earth, it's good for the soul, during this season of repentance to think about and pray about the wealth that God has blessed so many of us with, and pray about how God wants us to use the wealth with which we have been entrusted. The word, "economics" comes from a Greek word meaning, "management of one's household." In the global sense it refers to how we are managing God's household. In other words, are we good tenants of God's blessings, (stewards) or do we consider ourselves, the masters of our own wealth?

The way we spend money, and on whom and what we spend our money is not irrelevant to the faith we profess. It is both a reflection of the faith we confess on Sunday mornings and our personal money management that speak volumes of the faith, the good news, we are called to spread. Our spending habits should not create or sustain people in poverty or oppression, activities that were and are abhorrent to our Lord.

A very specific example of our dollars testifying to our faith is our Equal Exchange, Fair Trade Coffee project which we have pledged to support as a congregation. You may ask, how in the world can our purchase of so called "fairly-traded" coffee, teas, or chocolates testify to our faith? Buying name brands of these items in our supermarkets keeps the wages paid to the producing farmers unfairly deflated, keeping many farming families in poverty and despair with no chance of ever advancing themselves. "Equal Exchange," "Fairly traded" products negotiate higher, wages for farmers, eliminate the "middle men," encourage private, de-

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April 2011

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

mocratic co-ops of small farmers, and encourage economic growth in developing countries of Latin and South America as well as Africa. Isn't that more fair, more Christian? So, if you are not currently buying your coffee or tea from our Equal Exchange Kiosk in our narthex, pray about it, and ask yourself why.

During the farming season in our state, I would encourage you also, to avail yourself of the wonderful farmers' markets that we have locally. The farmers' markets in Monroe and Shelton (and other local communities) help support and protect our local farmers, and the produce is fresh and healthier for us all as well.

I confess to you that I have always had a soft-spot in my heart for farmers since my Grandfather Leone was a farmer himself, who had a large private family run farm in East Hartford. As a boy I remember watching how hard he worked to farm the land and make a sustainable living.

I recently saw a bumper sticker that read simply, "No Farms, No Food." How true that is! In many areas of our country and the world, the smaller family farmers are being gobbled up by mega farming corporations. During the recent economic recession, many small farmers not only in our country but throughout the world have been forced out of business, and into poverty. If we consciously buy products locally from our family farmers, and globally support small family farmers as well through Equal Exchange programs, we are helping people help themselves and alleviating the plight of the impoverished throughout the world.

The next time you enjoy a cup of coffee or tea at our coffee hour (and we proudly serve only Equal Exchange coffee and teas) or brew a pot of fairly traded coffee or tea at your home, you not only are enjoying a great cup of coffee, but also you are heeding our Lord's command as well; a small gesture that has global impact, and confesses our faith.

And.....please remember to thank Janet Szulga, our Equal Exchange coordinator, who maintains and supplies our Equal Exchange Kiosk. Thank you Janet!

Blessings on your Lenten journeys,

Pastor Bryan A. Leone



Holy Week Worship Schedule

<i>Sunday, April 17</i>	<i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i>	<i>Services at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, April 21</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Service at 7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, April 22</i>	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Saturday, April 23</i>	<i>Easter Vigil</i>	<i>Joint Service at St. Peter's at 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Sunday, April 24</i>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>Ecumenical Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. on Monroe Town Green Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m at Good Shepherd</i>

Prayer List

Prayer concerns come in a variety of ways and have a variety of needs. There are current **immediate** needs as well as **long term** needs. Our newsletter prayer list contains both needs.

Members: Joanne Carlson, Vic Johnson, Ed Mackey, Ursula Paradis, Steve Krajcik, Ethan Dikmen, Sue Hough, Kathy Goulet, Martha Hoffman, Charlie Hoffman, Kyle Immel, Jill Schmidt, Bret Jackson, Alma Anderson, Sharon Duda, Eric Dreher, Helen Steinnagel, Linda Pleva and Sarah Mora.

Family & Friends of Members: Renate, friend of Kay Leone; Bill, brother of Pastor Leone; Frank, neighbor of the Jacksons; Patrick, nephew of Cindy & Tim Carlson; Margaret, friend of Cindy & Tim Carlson; Karen, sister of Deborah Finney; Lois, niece of Joan & Ray Doherty; Dale, relative of Jane Fieberts; Gale, relative of Jane Fieberts; Rick, nephew of Ken & Nina Furnes; Joyce, friend of Janet Szulga; Ann, friend of Vic & Ellie Noll; Frank & Jean, friends of Vicki Creutz; Allen, brother of Ray Goulet; Leslie, friend of Melissa Leone Delaney; Dee, friend of Donna Duessel; Carol, aunt of Cindy Carlson; Christina, granddaughter of Miriam Kursawe; Sarah, friend of Dakota McDonough; Connor, student of Trudi Black; Maria, friend of Vic, Ellie and Sam; Tina, neighbor of Vic, Ellie and Sam; Donna, mother-in-law of Linda Pleva; Cyril, friend of Sam Barate; Rita, friend of Janet Szulga; Deanna, friend of Janet Szulga; Jeff and Laura, son-in-law and daughter of Bill and Marie Fisher; Linda, sister-in-law of Vic Johnson.

The **Prayer Requests for Family & Friends Notebook** is on the counter in the narthex. If you would like to add a loved one to the list, simply write the name in the book. If you would like a prayer card sent to your loved one, please include the full name and address. Prayer requests may also be made by email or phone and will be included in the notebook by the church office. Should a loved one need prayers for longer than three months, simply add their name to the list again. **To keep the list current and up to date, only the names recorded in the Prayer Request for Family & Friends Notebook will be listed on the prayer list. If you have not recorded a loved one's name, please do so.**

Special Prayers for Armed Forces Personnel: Glenn Riccio, George Carris, Damon Dykes, Bob Morchauser, Megan Dobbins, Phillip Baliestrieri and Guy Davis.

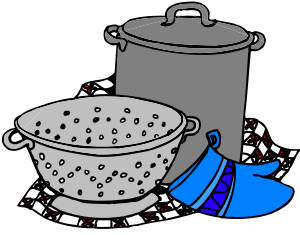
Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

The Wesche family on the death of † Bob Wesche †.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

Community Supper - April 6, 2011 at Golden Hill Methodist Church, Golden Hill Street, Bridgeport



Cooks and set up crew needed between 2:30 -3:00 P.M. There is a serving crew, therefore only cooks are needed from Good Shepherd. If you haven't already signed up and would like to help, **please put your name on the list in the narthex.** We can discuss car pooling if you want to. Servers are responsible for cleaning up, so when we are finished with the meal preparation, we are free to leave. Any questions, please speak to Peg Wesche or anyone who has attended a supper before. Thank you!



Shepherd's Pantry

We need:

Mayonnaise
Toilet paper
Beef stew
Canned chicken
Laundry detergent

Cream style canned corn
French cut canned green beans
Healthy snack foods
Canned spinach
Canned peaches/pears

The Social Ministry and Community Outreach Committee invites you to contribute items to the Shepherd's Pantry located in the narthex. The items are delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry once a month. The Pantry also accepts Big Y coins (gold and silver) which can be put in the basket that has been placed on the Shepherd's Pantry shelves in the narthex. If you have any questions, please speak with Diane Hensel.

Covenant to Care Easter Baskets and Umbrella Collection



Easter baskets for our Covenant to Care kids will be due on Palm Sunday, April 17th. Tags with the names and ages will be in the narthex on March 27th. Remember that although many of the kids on our list are older, they still love getting a small gift that shows they haven't been forgotten—and candy works for every age.

Also, Good Shepherd has been asked again this year to take up a special donation in support of ending the cycle of child abuse as part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. On April 3rd, look for an inverted umbrella in the narthex, representing a means of sheltering children, for the collection of any donations you may wish to make towards this effort.



Thanks to everyone for your help with these outreach efforts.

Jane Fieberts

Thank you!

Members of Good Shepherd-

Thank you so much for the thoughtful Valentine's Day package! All of my friends enjoyed and appreciated the delicious home baked goods, and the valentines are a great decoration on my dorm room wall! It meant a lot to know you were thinking of me.

Thanks Again,
Lindsey Shapiro
University of New Hampshire



Hello, Thank you for the gift... it really made the day much better =)

-Garrett Uhde
MICA—Maryland Institute College of Art



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Thank you very much for the box of goodies. cookies, and candy! I really appreciate it 😊
Thank you again!

Alana Wesche ♡



Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the amazing valentine package that I received at UCONN! Everything in it was delicious and my floormates and I loved the treats! Thanks to everyone who helped put it together!

Love,
Kelly T.
xoxo!



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church members,
Thanks so much for the valentine's package - the snacks and candy were delicious, and were a great surprise when I checked my mailbox!

David Furnes



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Thanks very much for the valentine box. It was delicious and I really appreciate it!

Alex Buck



New Member Sunday

Good Shepherd is planning a new member Sunday on Sunday, April 17th, If you are would like to formally join our worshipping and serving community please let Pastor Leone or the Church office know.

Women's Bible Study Continues...

On Wednesday, April 27th, another session of "Really Bad Girls of the Bible" will be held at 7 PM. Starting with Athaliah, whose story can be found in 2 Chronicles 21-23, we will discover what she did to the house of Judah. We will then move to Herodias where we will explore why her statement "off with his head" sealed her place in the "Bad & Proud of It" category of women. All women, their family and friends are welcome as we dive into the lessons we can learn from these "less-than-perfect" women of the Bible.

Highlights from your Church Council April 2011

A "Revision to Financial Guidelines" was presented by Ken Furnes and was accepted by the Council. It states how the "Discretionary Fund," that is administered by Pastor, will operate and be handled.

After much discussion it was decided to not have the Spaghetti Supper this year. It will be revitalized for next year with additional planning.

Save the Date: Church Picnic at Wolfe Park on June 26, 2011.

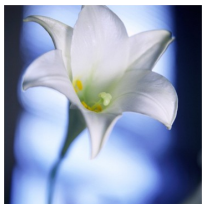
A GOOD MARRIAGE REQUIRES FALLING IN LOVE MANY TIMES...



The next weekend is scheduled for April 8-10, 2011 in Meriden, Connecticut

For more information or a registration brochure, visit our website
www.GodLovesMarriage.org
or speak with Jeff and Karen Jackson.

...WITH THE SAME PERSON



Altar Flowers during Lent and Easter Plants

Since Lent is a somber season of repentance in the church calendar, the Worship & Music Committee has decided that there will be no altar flowers during Lent.



Easter plants will again be available for the Easter Sunday Worship Service. If you would like to order an Easter lily, tulip or daffodil plant to adorn the altar on Easter Sunday, please take an envelope from the bulletin board in the narthex. The cost is \$15.00 for a lily plant, \$8.00 for a tulip plant, \$8.00 for a daffodil plant and orders must be placed by **Sunday, April 10th**. Please put the completed envelope in the offering plate.

Sunday School News



On April 3rd, all Sunday School students and their extended families are invited to a special World Hunger Family Worship service at 9:15 AM in Gibiser Hall. As part of the service, the families will be "thinking globally while acting locally" by putting together special food baskets for the Monroe Food Pantry. The food pantry has asked Good Shepherd for 3 infant baskets, 7 toddler baskets, and 5 Easter meal baskets for families.

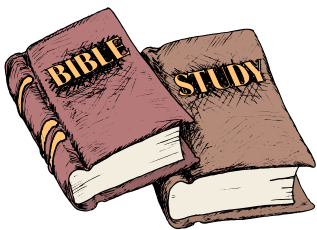
We would ask anyone who wishes to contribute food donations for these baskets to bring them by April 3rd. Sunday School families may bring food items with them to the service. Some of the items we are looking for: jars of baby food and infant cereal, baby and toddler feeding supplies such as sippy cups and bowls, healthy food options for toddlers; like mac and cheese, fruit cups, granola bars, and canned veggies and finally, food items for a traditional Easter celebration. The Christian Education committee thanks you in advance for your generosity and for helping our young people learn about hunger in our world.

VBS

Vacation Bible School

August 1-5, 2011

Save the dates! Camp Calumet is once again coming to Good Shepherd this summer and will run a full day vacation bible school program. Ages 4-14 are invited. Watch the bulletins and upcoming newsletter for more information. Teens and adults who are interested in volunteering, please contact Cindy Carlson.



Lenten Study with St. Peter's Episcopal

We will be participating in a Lenten Study again this year with St. Peter's. We will have a light supper at 6:30 P.M. followed by the Lenten Study. You are welcome to come to the supper, study or both. The April schedule is: 4/6 Good Shepherd; 4/13 St. Peter's.



Join us for a study of relevant Lenten Scripture texts along with a brief Vespers service and great fellowship with our Episcopalian partners.

A sign up sheet is in the narthex for each week. This will help the hosts know how many people are attending.

Happy Birthday

David Wang	1-May	Eileen Holleran	11-May
Riley Immel	2-May	Dorothy Mackey	12-May
Samantha Westberg	2-May	Paul Amado	12-May
Lauren Bspuda	3-May	Alexis Calhoun	15-May
Myles Dikmen	3-May	Howie Holleran	17-May
Bill Karchere	3-May	Brian Mahoney	22-May
Dorothy Schrecker	4-May	Christian Steinnagel	23-May
Kathy Johnson	5-May	Kristina Qubick	27-May
Kim Mora	7-May	Robert Troesser	28-May
Bill Uhde	7-May	Lisa Pelella	29-May
Maggie Smith	8-May	Anne Marie Carlson	30-May
Bob Johnson	8-May		

The current month's birthday listing is posted on the bulletin board outside of Pastor Leone's office. If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office and the files will be updated. We do not want to miss anyone's birthday.

Treasurer's Report - February 2011											
Contributions	February		YTD			Expenses	February		YTD		
	Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var		Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var
Envelopes	12,321	15,800	29,724	36,150	(6,426)	Pastoral Ministries	\$6,557	\$7,548	\$14,019	\$15,096	(\$1,077)
Loose Offerings	97	150	205	350	(145)	Mortgage	1,723	1,650	5,276	3,300	1,976
Church School	53	110	140	203	(63)	Music & Worship	1,923	2,657	4,463	5,245	(782)
Lent & Easter	0	0	0	0	0	Benevolence	1,246	1,857	3,039	3,825	(786)
Other	496	58	836	455	381	Property	3,034	777	5,074	1,939	3,135
Thanksgiving	0	0	0	0	0	Office	1,342	1,593	2,825	3,330	(505)
Advent/Christmas	0	0	0	0	0	Utilities	506	1,483	4,990	2,809	2,181
						Christian Educ.	0	0	0	97	(97)
						Intern	0	0	0	0	0
						Evangelism	19	21	19	42	(23)
						Youth	0	38	0	75	(75)
						Stewardship	0	0	0	0	0
						Insurance	453	404	867	808	59
						Altar Guild	11	0	11	16	(5)
						Social Ministry	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$12,967	\$16,118	\$30,905	\$37,158	(\$6,253)	Total	16,814	18,026	40,585	36,583	4,002
Variance	(\$3,151)		(\$6,253)			Variance	(1,212)		4,002		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Bdgt</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Bdgt</u>	<u>Var</u>		<u>Dec '10</u>	<u>Feb '11</u>	<u>Var</u>		
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$3,847)	(\$1,908)	(\$9,680)	\$575	(\$10,255)	Cash/Investments*	\$61,737	\$53,968	(\$7,768)		
Current Intern Fund	\$14,604					Mortgage	\$163,034	\$159,542	(\$3,492)		
						Pastoral Housing	\$97,227	\$97,227	\$0		
						Capital Reserves	\$1,300	\$1,633	\$333		

* Excludes Memorial, Exchange, Intern, Pastoral Housing and Campership Funds

Significant Activity in January:

Envelope Contributions were \$3,479 below budget, 2nd shortfall in a row
 Total Contributions were \$3,151 below budget
 Expenses were \$1,212 below budget
 - Oil expense budgeted in February, incurred in January
 - February Pension Invoice not paid until March (1,044)
 - Snow Removal \$2,145 overbudget for the month due to significant storms in January/February
 Deficit for the month was \$3,847 versus a budget of \$1,908

Congratulations



Dakota McDonough attended the Grand Assembly Connecticut for the International Order of Rainbow Girls the weekend of March 18th-20th in Waterbury, CT. She was elected Grand Representative to the states of Arkansas and Michigan. Congratulations and good luck to Dakota with her new responsibilities!



Save the Date
Annual Spaghetti Dinner
March 24, 2012



Don't miss out! Mark your calendars for March 24, 2012 for the Annual Spaghetti Supper. We are planning a special event to include delicious food, great entertainment and wonderful fellowship. Watch upcoming newsletters for more details...

Only 330 days to go...



ELCA Response to the Japanese Earthquake

The ELCA stands in solidarity with its companion on the ground, the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC), as they assess the safety and security of its members and communities served by the church. Through its predecessor bodies, the ELCA has been present in Japan since 1892 and will accompany the JELC in its planned response to this disaster. Elsewhere in the Pacific region, the ELCA remains in contact with companions in the Pacific Islands, South America and throughout the coastal region of the U.S. to respond as needed to the tsunamis caused by the earthquake.

What you can do:

Pray:

As the news of the earthquake was announced at the leadership conference in Malaysia, a representative from the Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church, a church that has recently had to deal with massive flooding and an earthquake in New Zealand, shared that of all the outpouring of help from the international community received "prayer was the most important gift." Ally Streed, an ELCA missionary deployed by the Global Mission unit and stationed in Saitama, stated, "Please keep the people of Japan (and just Japan in general) in your thoughts and prayers. This is the biggest earthquake they've seen since the Kobe earthquake of 1995."

Give: Those who give to shared mission support and ELCA World Hunger are already helping to fund the ongoing work in Japan and the deployment of mission personnel through ELCA Global Mission. Special needs and opportunities have arisen in response to the current crisis. The ELCA invites gifts to ELCA Disaster Response in order to continue its work in Japan and surrounding region. You may provide support in the following ways:

- Donate [Online](http://elca.org) elca.org
- Send Checks to: *ELCA Disaster Response*
39330 Treasury Center
Chicago, IL 60694
Memo: Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.