

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.



The Way of the Cross

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

1 Corinthians 1:18

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

One of the hallmarks of the Lutheran tradition is what is called the "Theology of the Cross." It means that like Paul, Martin Luther found the power of God revealed through the suffering of Jesus Christ on a Roman cross. It is the assurance that Christ is with us and walks with us through our times of suffering and trials.

The Lenten Season which begins this month on February 22nd, (Ash Wednesday) concentrates on the Cross of Jesus and the meaning for we Christians living in the 21st century.

On Wednesday, February 29th we will begin a five week study and worship session with St. Peter's Episcopal Church entitled "Walking the Way of the Cross with Paul." The apostle Paul has often been considered a controversial figure in early Christianity especially in modern times. Paul's own complex and sometimes contradictory writings are partly responsible for his mixed image. Yet at the heart of his difficult texts (and difficult life) was a simple but potent realization: God has sent Israel a crucified Messiah. This key recognition transformed Paul's entire understanding of God's ways and of the human response to them. It made the cross of Christ central to his unfolding of what it means to believe in God and of what it means to have a life conditioned by that belief. It placed self-sacrificing love at the foundation and the core of Paul's view of God, his own apostolic ministry, and Christian life overall.

Lent is, among other things, a journey on the way of the cross—a journey of learning how to appropriate Christ's teaching about "taking up the cross" (Mark 8:34-35) for ourselves. Join us in worship and Wednesday evenings in Lent (beginning February 22nd) as we look at how one early Christian missionary, teacher, and theologian sought to "take up the cross of Jesus" in his work and in his life and how we can learn from him to do the same.

I invite you all into a Lenten reflection this Lent, centered on the cross of Christ, guided by Paul's own incorporation of the cross into his own spirituality. *"Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me; and from my contrite heart with tears two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love, and my unworthiness."*

Pastor Bryan A. Leone

February 2012

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

Boy Scout Sunday



February 5, 2012 is Boy Scout Sunday at Good Shepherd. All Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Scout Leaders are asked to wear their uniform to the 10:30 worship service. In addition, God and Family/God and Me awards will be given to the scouts who have completed this activity.

❖ *Ash Wednesday* ❖

February 22, 2012

Worship Service at 7:30 p.m.



Lenten Study With St. Peter's Episcopal

We will be participating in a Lenten Study again this year with St. Peter's. Beginning **February 29th** we will have a light supper at 6:30 P.M. followed by the Lenten Study and Worship entitled "Walking the Way of the Cross with Paul." You are welcome to come to the supper, study or both. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletin and a sign up sheet in the narthex for each week. This will help the hosts know how many people are attending.

Altar Flowers



If you would like to donate flowers, please sign up on the flower chart in the hallway and be sure to include the dedication you would like to appear in the bulletin with your offering. A donation of \$40 is requested. In addition, please indicate if you would like to take one or two arrangements after the services or if you would prefer to have one or two arrangements taken to a shut-in.

Please note that as Lent is a somber season of repentance, we will not have flowers on the altar during this time.

Highlights from Your Church Council

January 2012

New officers were elected for 2012:

President - Donna Duessel

Vice President - Bill McDonough

Secretary - Trudi Black

Treasurer - Tim Carlson

Financial Secretary - Tammy Crews

At the December council meeting, members discussed "Healthy Transitions" as we prepare for Pastor Leone's retirement and the subsequent calling of a new pastor. Thanks were given to Jeff Jackson for his presentation and research on this topic which he shared at the Annual Congregational Meeting on December 4, 2011. If you were unable to attend the meeting, the following is a recap of the presentation:

A time of/for a healthy transition...

... on June 30, 2012 Pastor Leone is retiring ...so what happens next?

4 Distinct Steps

1. Say farewell to Pastor & Kay ... a time for joy, a time to cry
 - Informal goodbyes
 - Complete covenants—Pastor and Good Shepherd
 - Formal farewell and godspeed service (*on June 24, 2012*)
 - Retirement party (*will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2012*)
 - Duration: now until June 30th, 2012
2. Secure temporary pastoral care for our congregation - 3 options that are significantly different:
 - Contact Pastor
 - Transitional Pastor
 - Intentional Interim Pastor (none currently available)
 - Duration: Now until June 30th, 2012
3. Prayerful & thoughtful discernment of our future direction/mission
 - Contact & Transitional Pastors DO NOT HELP with this step in the process
 - Pastor Leone CANNOT help with this & it should not start until he leaves
 - Interim Pastors ARE trained to do this with us, but there are none currently available, so WE must do this ourselves!
 - The depth/quality of our discernment will be determined by the grace of our Lord with a little help from the amount of time, effort and prayer we put into the process... and "we" means ALL members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.
 - Estimated duration: 3-6 months
4. Begin & complete the call process
 - Complete the Ministry Site Profile for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 - Church Council appoints the Call Committee

- Receive candidate name(s) from Synod (one at a time)
- Review each candidate
- Issue a letter of call
- Wait for arrival of our new pastor
- Estimated duration: 12– 18 months

Members of Church Council always welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions and we look forward to working with every member of Good Shepherd on this new chapter in the life of our church. Church Council members were installed on Sunday, January 22, 2012 and include:

Trudi Black

Bob Carlson

Donna Duessel

Leslie Forte

Ken Furnes

Ray Goulet

Diane Hensel

Lisa Lilly

Matthew Johnson

Dakota McDonough - Youth Representative

Bill McDonough

Christine Quirk

Charlie Simon

Rachel Smith

Inclement Weather Notice



In the event of inclement weather cancellation notices are posted:

- On the church website at www.gslc-ct.org/news
- On WICC radio 600 AM
- On WTNH Channel 8 news
- On Good Shepherd's Facebook page

Prayer List

Members: Louise Begley, Linda Bepuda, Holly Calhoun, Vic Johnson, Trudi Black, Dorothy Schrecker; Vickye Bell, Joanne Carlson, Ron Basala, Ed Mackey, Steve Krajcik, Ethan Dikmen, Martha Hoffman, Bret Jackson, Linda Pleva, Charlie Hoffman - Jewish Home, Kyle Immel, Jill Schmidt, Sarah Mora, Eric Dreher, and Helen Steinnagel.

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.**

Family & Friends of Members: Mary Beth, friend of Vic & Ellie Noll; John, brother-in-law of Janet Szulga; Paul, brother-in-law of the Convertitos; Donna, friend of Janet Szulga; Kim, friend of Andrea Sawicki; Noel, cousin of Howie Holleran; Carl, cousin of Arlene Juliano; Gladys, sister of Arlene Juliano; Karin, daughter of Joanne and Bob Carlson; Mirta, sister of Thelma Cleland; Barbara, mother of Lisa Lilly; Walter, friend of Miriam Kursawe; Dena, friend of Ken & Nina Furnes; Jim, friend of Juliano family; David, friend of Doug Juliano; Eileen, grandmother of Rose Harrell & Sydnie Chin; Vincent, brother of Louise Begley; Mary, mother-in-law of Ingrid Kessler; Greg, Lisa Lilly's father; Joe, Susan Stockman's niece's husband; JoMarie, friend of Louise Begley; Bill, brother of Pastor Leone, brain cancer; Patrick, nephew of Cindy Carlson; Laura, daughter of Bill and Marie Fisher.

Special Prayers for Armed Forces Personnel: Ryan Piccirillo, Brian Kursawe, Glenn Riccio, Damon Dykes, Megan Dobbins, Phillip Balestrieri and Guy Davis.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

The Finney family on the death of † Henry Rydz †, father of Deborah Finney.

The Schwarz family on the death of † Ely Titley †, father of Erin Schwarz.

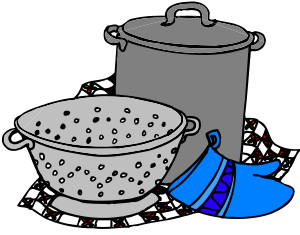
The Miller family on the death of † Charles Miller †, husband of Dorothy Miller.

The Daly Horell family on the death of a loved one as requested by the Chin family.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

Community Supper - February 1, 2012
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

Juice
Soup
Pasta Sauce
Brownie Mix
Cereal

Bread Crumbs
Pasta Roni
Snacks
Mayonnaise

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.

Megan Crow, Food Pantry Coordinator sent the following thank you card for our recent donation:

"Church Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your donation to the Monroe Food Pantry. You are all so kind to think of others. The money will be used to purchase food items."

Nearly 100 million Americans are expected to tune in to watch the Super Bowl. Many of them will be hosting or attending parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, nearly 1 billion people will be hungry—some worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and securing the next meal.

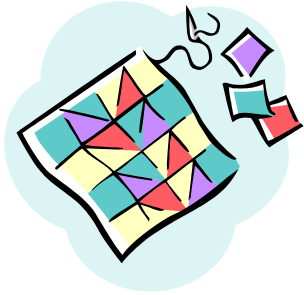


On Sunday, **February 5, 2012**, we will join thousands of Christians across denominational lines as we participate once again in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Remember to bring a "buck" and a canned good for the Monroe Food Pantry to put in your team's "souper bowl". Our youth led by our Confirmation class are coordinating this event.

Youth Group Sound Tigers Game



On Saturday, **February 4, 2012** the Youth Group is going to a Sound Tigers Game at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport. The Sound Tigers will be playing the Manchester Monarchs at 7:00 p.m. Please see Dakota McDonough if you have any questions or have suggestions for additional Youth Group activities.



Quilting Group News

Join us on Saturday, **February 18, 2012** from 9:30 a.m. to noon as we sew, iron, cut and assemble quilts for the needy. Feel free to come and go as you need. If you have questions, please speak with Ellie Noll.



BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, **March 3, 2012** at Good Shepherd.
8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Call 1-800- GIVE LIFE (448-3543) to make an appointment to donate.



I would just like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and expressions of concern. The support and encouragement has been overwhelming!

Linda Bespuda

Happy Birthday

Jennifer Qubick	1-Mar	Heather Cayer	19-Mar
Megan Pelella	2-Mar	Brian Amado	20-Mar
Tina Liechti	3-Mar	John Mora	20-Mar
Trudi Black	5-Mar	Becky Bills	21-Mar
Kenneth Aubrey	6-Mar	Morgan Bucherati	21-Mar
Scott Jackson	7-Mar	Ava Gramesty	24-Mar
Russell Lilly	7-Mar	Nora Infante	26-Mar
Michael Infante	12-Mar	Christian Hoffman	27-Mar
Judi Simon	12-Mar	Kaitlyn Infante	29-Mar
Tish Wang	13-Mar	Ursula Paradis	30-Mar
Eva Helmke	15-Mar	Mickey Pelella	31-Mar
Steve Krajcik	15-Mar	Jill Peterson	31-Mar
Emily Johnson	18-Mar		

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.

Contributions	December		YTD			Expenses	December		YTD		
	Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var		Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var
Envelopes	28,158	22,050	207,404	206,200	1,204	Pastoral Ministries	\$7,407	\$7,548	\$91,395	\$90,879	\$516
Loose Offerings	374	500	2,023	2,500	(477)	Mortgage	1,723	1,650	22,503	19,800	2,703
Church School	24	35	567	3,750	(3,183)	Music & Worship	2,868	2,979	30,831	31,259	(428)
Lent & Easter	2	0	1,691	1,600	91	Benevolence	3,147	3,005	24,148	22,390	1,758
Other	385	58	4,704	2,950	1,754	Property	718	746	13,600	9,700	3,900
Thanksgiving	2	0	167	200	(33)	Office	1,873	1,883	19,153	22,205	(3,052)
Advent/Christmas	2,964	1,700	3,084	1,700	1,384	Utilities	396	410	13,846	10,747	3,099
						Christian Educ.	(651)	94	1,246	4,720	(3,474)
						Intern	0	0	0	0	0
						Evangelism	25	21	203	250	(47)
						Youth	0	38	0	450	(450)
						Stewardship	0	0	498	500	(2)
						Insurance	852	404	5,399	5,250	149
						Altar Guild	101	147	607	500	107
						Social Ministry	70	250	200	250	(50)
Total	\$31,909	\$24,343	\$219,641	\$218,900	\$741	Total	18,531	19,174	223,629	218,900	4,729
Variance	\$7,565		\$741			Variance	(644)		4,729		
Surplus / (Deficit)	Actual \$13,378	Bdgt \$5,169	Actual (\$3,988)	Bdgt \$0	Var (\$3,988)	Cash/Investments*	Dec '10 61,737	Dec '11 \$62,053	\$316		
Current Intern Fund	\$20,195					Mortgage	163,034	\$149,091	(\$13,943)		
						Pastoral Housing	97,227	\$100,214	\$2,987		
						Capital Reserves	1,300	\$3,071	\$1,771		

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

Significant Activity in December:

Contributions were \$7,565 above budget for the month as an unbudgeted significant contribution was received
Expenses were \$644 below budget for the month, primarily due to a contribution that was received to fund the VBS deficit
Surplus for the month was \$13,378 versus a budgeted Surplus of \$5,169

Summary for the Year:

Contributions were \$741 above budget for the year
Expenses were 4,729 over budget for the year due to:
Timing of actual mortgage refinancing versus budgeted timing resulted in a \$2,700 unfavorable variance
\$1,500 paid to the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program from funds received through the Thrivent Choice Program
Snow Removal was \$2,600 unfavorable to budget
Oil expense was \$3,800 unfavorable to budget
Office Salaries were \$2,200 below budget as less hours were worked than budgeted
Determined that VBS would be an exchange activity; VBS Expense was underbudget by \$3,100, but VBS Contributions were also underbudget by \$3,100
Year-to-date deficit was \$3,988 versus a balanced budget

Directory Update

2012 Church Directories are available in the narthex.



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 prepared by the men of the church for all to enjoy. Entertainment ideas for all ages are being finalized. You, your family and your friends will be sure to experience wonderful fellowship! Watch the bulletin board in the narthex to sign up.

Only 53 days to go...