

# 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.*



## Faithful Stewards

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:10-11*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

I'll bet many of you decided to skip over this page because of the title, and probably thought, "Oh, no, not another 'Stewardship Letter!' I thought we only got those in the fall." In his book, "The Steward" Douglas John Hall writes, "The word 'Stewardship' brings to mind the horrors of home visitations, building projects, financial campaigns, and the seemingly incessant harping of the churches for more money. Ministers cringe at the mention of Stewardship Sundays: must they really lower themselves to the status of fund-raisers once more?"

If you have read this far, don't worry! This is not a letter about financial stewardship. It's about being a good steward of the particular, individual gifts that God has given to each and every one. The dictionary defines "steward" as "A person who manages another's property, finances, or other affairs; or a person in charge of the household affairs of another." We Christians are privileged to be called to be a people in charge of managing the household affairs of God. Being a steward is a statement of faith: God owns it all, we are mere temporary tenants entrusted with God's property to manage it the way God would want us to manage it in accordance with the teachings and guidance of Jesus Himself who lives within each of us through the Holy Spirit.

In the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, (Luke 16:19-31) the rich man is not condemned because he is rich. Rather he is condemned for the way he manages the wealth that was entrusted to him. There is no acknowledgement that the wealth entrusted to him was not his to begin with, but God's. Therefore, the man had the responsibility to use it in a God-pleasing way, that is sharing his bounty with poor Lazarus who only wanted the food that the rich man was throwing away. But instead the rich man ignored the man in need who was at his door. The rich man considered himself to be the permanent owner of all the goodies he had amassed. His greed led to his downfall.

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June 2011

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

As we approach the summer season it's a good time to do some self-examination. What are the gifts God has entrusted me with? How am I managing them? Am I using them in service to God and to others? Am I managing God's property entrusted to me in a God-pleasing manner?

May all of us know the blessings this summer season brings, and may we all joyfully, prayerfully, and thankfully enjoy the privilege of being entrusted with the management of God's affairs on this earth and continue to be "faithful stewards" of the bounty of God.

*Pastor Bryan Leone*

## Confirmation



**Sunday, June 12, 2011**

9:30 a.m.

## What Were You Doing in 1961?

Were you practicing duck and cover drills in school? Dancing to Chubby Checker's Let's Twist Again? Gathering together with your family to watch The Ed Sullivan Show on Sunday nights? Going to the movies to see the original One Hundred and One Dalmatians or the Guns of Navarone? Celebrating the Yankees win over the Cincinnati Reds in the World Series?

In 1961, an enthusiastic group of dedicated Lutherans were holding Sunday worship at Monroe Elementary School and starting Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

If you would like to help plan celebrating Good Shepherd's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, please contact Donna Duessel.



## First Holy Communion

**May 15, 2011**



On Sunday, May 15, 2011, we welcomed to the Lord's Table for First Holy Communion: Michelle DeLessio, Zoe Helmke, Megan Pelella, Christopher Tveter, and Nathan Wieler. The students sang "Here is Bread" accompanied by Mickey Pelella on guitar. They also baked the communion bread for the day.

Special thanks to Emily Pelella for the wonderful pictures.

# Prayer List

Members: Joanne Carlson, Ron Basala, Vic Johnson, Ed Mackey, Steve Krajcik, Charlie Miller, Ethan Dikmen, Martha Hoffman, Sue Hough, Bret Jackson, Linda Pleva, Charlie Hoffman, Kyle Immel, Jill Schmidt, Sarah Mora, Alma Anderson, 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: Pastor Gene Mitchell (Greater Hartford Conference), pancreatic cancer; Almarie, mother of Ken Convertito; Janet, sister of Carolyn Immel, awaiting whipple surgery; Richard, cousin of Peggy Uhde; Laurie, friend of Nancy Gennette; Jeanne, friend of Nancy Gennette; Greg, father of Lisa Lilly; Jim, friend of Don & Arlene Juliano; Nancy, friend of Arlene Juliano; Rusty, father of Jeff Jackson; Renate, friend of Kay Leone; Bill, brother of Pastor Leone; Frank, neighbor of the Jackson's; Patrick, nephew of Cindy Carlson; Margaret, friend of Cindy 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.

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

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

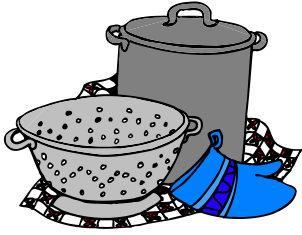
Psalm 147 vs. 3



*Weddings*

Congratulations to Kelly and Joe Bellizzi on their wedding, April 22, 2011. Pastor Leone officiated at the ceremony. Bob and Patricia McFarland are her happy parents.

**Community Supper - June 1, 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:**

*Toilet paper*  
*Paper towels*  
*BBQ sauce*  
*Tuna*  
*Mayonnaise*  
*Disposable razors*  
*Sunscreen*

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.

**Highlights from your Church Council**  
**May 11, 2011**

Our 50th anniversary celebration will take place on November 6, 2011 with an activity following the 10:30 a.m. service. Donna Duessel, chairperson, is looking for volunteers to help with this committee.

Pastor reported that his retirement date will be June 24, 2012 but he will attend the New Orleans Youth Gathering in July if a group from our church wants to attend. Bob Carlson volunteered to go with Pastor Leone to speak to the Bishop about the process for retirement/new pastor. A report will be made at the June Council meeting.

The church picnic is June 26th at Wolfe Park.



## Annual Church Picnic and Worship Service



This year the Annual Church Picnic will be **Sunday, June 26, 2011 at Wolfe Park, Monroe**. Please park in the gravel parking lot if you do not have a park sticker. Plan to come about 9:30 a.m. to talk to your friends, put your chairs in place (please bring your own lawn chairs), and prepare for the special outdoor morning worship service. The Outdoor Worship Service will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and be followed by a picnic and outside games. In the case of inclement weather, we will have the worship and picnic at Good Shepherd. Relatives and friends are welcome!

The sign up sheet is in the narthex with a list of some of the foods we would like to have at the picnic. If you would be able to bring some of these, sign up for them. We also need ice which is most useful if you freeze it in large chunks. The planning committee will provide the beverages, hot dogs and hamburgers.

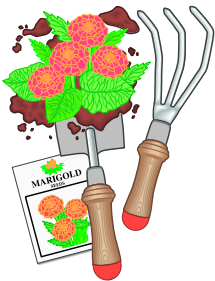
*Enjoy an inspiring outdoor worship service, a delicious cookout and plenty of outdoor fun including children's games, volleyball, softball, bocce, water balloons, and more...*

## Relay for Life 2011



Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is a unique activity that offers individuals of all ages an opportunity to join the fight against cancer. We are gathering a team of Good Shepherd members and friends to participate in this event again this year. To join us, please sign up at [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org). **The Relay will be held on the afternoon and evening of June 10 and conclude the morning of June 11.** Team members will share a "campsite" at Masuk High School in Monroe and take turns walking around a path lighted by luminaries honoring cancer victims and survivors. A variety of fun and entertaining activities for children and adults is also planned.

We hope that we will have lots of participation again this year. Those who have been involved in past years will certainly attest to the uplifting and worthwhile nature of this event. If you have any questions, please speak with Kay Leone or Claire Troesser.



## Help Needed

Do you like to garden? Can you help weed and water the flowers at church? We have a sign up on the bulletin board to help keep the flowers looking their best. The flowers are a welcoming sight to visitors and members alike. Please sign up for a two week period and then weed and water the flowers as needed during that time. Many hands make light work and keep the church looking beautiful!

## Thank you!

*My sincere thank you to all my friends at Good Shepherd for their prayers, cards, visits, food and support during my operation and recovery. It is so wonderful to be part of such great support and love shown by all. I thank God for my Good Shepherd family.*

*May God bless you all,*

*Joanne Carlson*

### **ARE YOU GRADUATING?**

*Tell us about it! Email us at [goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net](mailto:goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net) or put this information in the inbox in the church office.*



Name

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Graduating from

---

Future plans: (i.e. college, high school, employment, wedding plans or anything else of interest)

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Did you receive any awards, scholarships, etc.? If so, please list them below.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*When people give their best, The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport does its best.*

If you like working with young children, you can be a mentor or tutor with **Project Learn** every week or every month. If you would rather commit once or twice a year, please consider hosting or funding a summer picnic or holiday party for our kids. Contact Sean Campbell at [seancampbell@ccgb.org](mailto:seancampbell@ccgb.org).

Do you have experience with computers and/or teaching? **CO-OP Center** would love to have you help with our computer training or high school equivalency classes- either teaching or tutoring. Contact Dan Braccio at [danbraccio@ccgb.org](mailto:danbraccio@ccgb.org).

If community events are more to your liking, **Bridge Building** could use your time organizing and presenting opportunities to bring together diverse people and community around vital issues such as Poverty, Hunger, Affordable Housing, and Health Care. Contact Larri Mazon at [lwmazon@gmail.com](mailto:lwmazon@gmail.com).

Maybe you would like to invest expertise in **Finance, Marketing, or Fundraising**. Then the Board of Director Task Forces or Sub-Committees might be just the thing. Contact John Cottrell at [johncottrell@ccgb.org](mailto:johncottrell@ccgb.org).

The 39 feeding programs in our **Hunger Outreach Network** are always looking for dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Byron Crosdale at [byroncrosdale@ccgb.org](mailto:byroncrosdale@ccgb.org).

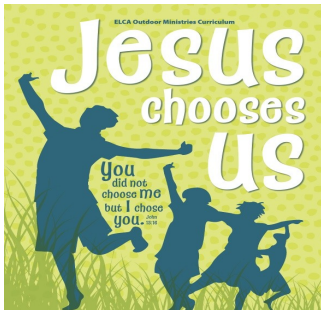
Do you want to be an advocate for youth? **The Janus Center for Youth in Crisis** could use your help in spreading the word about the services that they offer. You could conduct periodic Safe Place audits at one of our 57 safe place sites, or you could hand out program material at a community event. To find out how you can get involved, contact Dale Holder at [daleholder@ccgb.org](mailto:daleholder@ccgb.org).

**Summer Fun at  
Vacation Bible School  
Monday- Friday  
August 1 - 5, 2011**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
466 Elm St  
Monroe, CT 06468  
203- 268- 7596**

8 am- 9 am Drop Off  
9 am- 4 pm VBS  
4 pm- 5 pm Pick- up  
Ages: 4- 14  
\$100

**Vacation Bible School  
It's for kids  
Who want to have fun!  
Who want to make friends!  
Who want to know that  
Jesus loves them!**



**The Day Will Include:  
Music and Singing  
Drama and Dance  
Stories of Jesus  
Arts & Crafts  
Fun Times  
Great Friendships  
Super Role Models**

Expertly trained staff from Calumet Lutheran Camp will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to provide the best Vacation Bible School experience your child can have!

## Vacation Bible School

at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is a fun place to be! At VBS, children and youth laugh a lot as they go through the day, learning more about themselves, each other, and God. Your child will find that at VBS it is easy to make friends and lots of them! Counselors and church leaders strive to show children in Learning Groups as well as in arts & crafts and games and singing ... that God loves them.

Good Shepherd is a church of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and welcomes all children. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be assisted in providing the best VBS experience for your child by counselors and experienced leaders from Calumet Lutheran Camp & Conference Center in NH. Calumet's 50 years in camping makes them experts at knowing how to create an atmosphere where your child will be safe and supervised by well- trained staff. All staff participate in an intensive week- long training which includes safety procedures, risk management, first aid, and more. There's at least one counselor for every six kids. Karl Ogren, Calumet's Director oversees all staff hiring and training, program development, and its implementation.

## Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
M/ F Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Age by VBS \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Cell Phone or Pager ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Cell Phone or Pager ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Tuition: \$100/ week (enclosed) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 1 – 5, 2011

Make checks to:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

# Happy Birthday

Rob Uhde	1-Jul	Rob Troesser Jr.	13-Jul
Stephen Bospuda Sr.	2-Jul	Marc Carlson	14-Jul
Debra Kaza	2-Jul	William Noll	15-Jul
Ava Vojtek	2-Jul	Scott Stockman	17-Jul
Susan Chin	3-Jul	Penny De Leo	20-Jul
Kaylee Jackson	4-Jul	Bill Helmke	21-Jul
Amy Turner	5-Jul	Nancy Gennette	22-Jul
Deborah Finney	7-Jul	Tyler Calhoun	25-Jul
Thomas Behn	8-Jul	Tricia Bobowick	26-Jul
Arlene Juliano	8-Jul	Janis Mahoney	28-Jul
Sonny Mackey	8-Jul	Ronald Basala	29-Jul
Kyle Kessler	12-Jul	William Fischer	29-Jul
Keegan Mc Donough	13-Jul	Rachel Lilly	31-Jul

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	April		YTD			Expenses	April		YTD		
	Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var		Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var
Envelopes	23,652	15,800	68,226	67,750	476	Pastoral Ministries	\$7,462	\$7,548	\$30,047	\$30,191	(\$144)
Loose Offerings	291	250	634	750	(116)	Mortgage	1,723	1,650	8,722	6,600	2,122
Church School	82	47	298	355	(57)	Music & Worship	2,549	2,509	10,532	10,460	72
Lent & Easter	1,282	1,600	1,564	1,600	(36)	Benevolence	3,947	1,595	8,520	6,948	1,572
Other	83	58	2,528	1,311	1,217	Property	826	507	6,613	3,327	3,287
Thanksgiving	0	0	0	0	0	Office	1,986	2,047	6,392	7,163	(770)
Advent/Christmas	0	0	0	0	0	Utilities	422	906	7,839	5,024	2,816
						Christian Educ.	12	0	209	97	112
						Intern	0	0	0	0	0
						Evangelism	0	21	44	83	(39)
						Youth	0	38	0	150	(150)
						Stewardship	0	0	0	0	0
						Insurance	453	404	1,774	1,616	158
						Altar Guild	99	0	148	188	(40)
						Social Ministry	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,390</b>	<b>\$17,755</b>	<b>\$73,250</b>	<b>\$71,766</b>	<b>\$1,484</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,479</b>	<b>17,224</b>	<b>80,841</b>	<b>71,847</b>	<b>8,993</b>
<b>Variance</b>	<b>\$7,635</b>		<b>\$1,484</b>			<b>Variance</b>	<b>2,255</b>		<b>8,993</b>		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Bdgt</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Bdgt</u>	<u>Var</u>		<u>Dec '10</u>	<u>Apr '11</u>	<u>Var</u>		
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$5,911	\$531	(\$7,591)	(\$82)	(\$7,509)	Cash/Investments*	\$61,737	\$56,902	(\$4,835)		
Current Intern Fund	\$14,693					Mortgage	\$163,034	\$157,489	(\$5,546)		
						Pastoral Housing	\$97,227	\$97,654	\$428		
						Capital Reserves	\$1,300	\$1,967	\$667		

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

#### Significant Activity in April:

Envelope Contributions significantly exceeded budget because of two one-time contributions  
 Envelope Contributions were \$7,852 above budget in April, and are now favorable by \$476 year-to-date  
 Total Contributions were \$7,635 above budget in April and are \$1,484 above budget year-to-date  
 Expenses were \$2,255 over budget for the month  
 - \$1,397 was received and remitted to the Neighbor to Neighbor program (neither contributions or expenses were budgeted)  
 - Mission Support was \$955 above budget due to favorable contributions in the month  
 - \$200 of unbudgeted maintenance expense was incurred to pump/drain the sewer lines  
 Surplus for the month was \$5,911 versus a budgeted Surplus of \$531  
 Deficit for the year is \$7,591 versus a budgeted Deficit of \$82



## Come to the Lutheran Home of Southbury Guild Fair

**Saturday, June 4th 10 AM to 3PM**

At the Lutheran Home 990 Main Street North, Southbury



*Gifts, Crafts, Toys, Vintage Linens, Books, Plants  
Baked Goods, Raffle Baskets, Hot Dogs, Sandwiches, Candy, Cookies, Popcorn, Strawberry Shortcake, Ice Cream and More!*

If you have items you would like to donate to the fair, there is a box in the narthex for your contributions. Peg Wesche, Dorothy Kaiser or Renee Shoop are happy to answer any questions. All funds will be used to enhance the quality of life for residents receiving care at the Lutheran Home of Southbury. This annual event is sponsored and coordinated by the dedicated volunteers of the Southbury Guild.



The Synod Mission Team of the [New England Synod](#) would like to invite you to participate in collecting donations for [Synod Assembly June 3-5 in Springfield, MA](#). This year the [Saturday \(June 4th\)](#) is devoted to [community service projects in Springfield](#). There will be 600 Lutherans around the city performing these projects.

Some of the projects will be assembling Emergency Kits for [Lutheran Social Services](#), Open Pantry Springfield, and Springfield Rescue Mission.

The congregations in the Southern Mission Area are being asked to collect 25 of one or more of the following items for Open Pantry Springfield "Hygiene Kits for Homeless People"

- \* travel size toothpaste and toothbrush
- \* deodorant
- \* soap and travel soap dish
- \* shampoo
- \* conditioner
- \* feminine hygiene products
- \* disposable razors
- \* pocket size tissues and large Ziploc bag
- \* white socks (different sizes)
- \* plastic grocery bags
- \* a book of postage stamps



**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 298 days to go...**