

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.



On Being a Good Christian Steward

“Jesus said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-20)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

Have you ever stopped to think what were the main subjects of Jesus' preaching and teaching? Biblical scholars agree that first and foremost Jesus preached about the Kingdom of Heaven and what it meant to live on this earth guided by the advent of God's kingdom on earth with Jesus' ministry. But closely related to that was Jesus' second major topic: How do we live our lives using or abusing the gifts that God has entrusted to us? This occupied many of Jesus' parables and sermons.

There are two questions which modern “wannabe” disciples of Jesus must ask: 1. What are the particular gifts or talents God has entrusted to me? and 2. How does God want me to use those gifts in service to Christ and his coming Kingdom? In the culture and times that we live in, this is not as easy as it may first seem. The late Thomas J. Murphy, Archbishop of the Diocese of Seattle Washington has written volumes on this subject. He writes that the two questions I just posed can also be asked in this way: 1. What do I own? and 2. What owns me?

Archbishop Murphy further wrote: “In some ways it may be harder to be a Christian steward today than at times in the past. Although religious faith is a strong force in the lives of many Americans, our country's dominant secular culture often contradicts the values of the Judaeo-Christian tradition. This is a culture in which the destructive ‘isms’ of materialism, relativism, hedonism, individualism, and consumerism exercise seductive, powerful influences. There is a strong tendency to privatize faith, to push it to the margins of society, confining it to people's hearts or, at best, their homes, while excluding it from the market place of ideas where social policy is formed and men and women acquire their view of life and its meaning.”

“Evangelization is not the priority it should be. How to use people's gifts and charismas, how to empower the laity, how to recognize the role of women, how to affirm racial, cultural, and ethnic minorities, how to

November 2011

Inside:

50th Anniversary	2
Annual Meeting	2
Prayer List	3
Community Supper	4
Food Pantry	4
Covenant to Care	4
Blessing of the Pets	5
Fall Clean Up Day	5
Facebook	5
Sunday School News	6
Doing What Matters	6
Happy Birthday	7
Treasurer's Report	7
Christmas Shopping Spree	8
Marriage Encounter	8
Spaghetti Dinner	8
Nobel Peace Prize	9
Living Christ's Love	9



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

(Continued on page 2)

overcome poverty and oppression – these and countless other issues remain vexing questions, as well as opportunities.

“Jesus’ invitation to follow him is addressed to people of every time and condition. Here and now it is addressed to us – citizens of a wealthy, powerful nation facing many questions about its identity and role. We pray that the Holy Spirit, whose gracious action conforms us to Jesus Christ and to his Church, will enlighten us all and help us to renew our commitment as the Lord’s disciples and as stewards of his bountiful gifts.” 1

In this month of national thanksgiving, and celebration of the 50th anniversary of our founding as a congregation, Archbishop Murphy’s comments could not be more apropos. Let us all prayerfully consider them as we recommit ourselves as living disciples beginning the next 50 years of mission and service of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

In Christ’s service,

Bryan A. Leone, Pastor

1. An excerpt from, Murphy, Thomas J., Stewardship, A Disciple’s Response

You are invited to celebrate Good Shepherd’s 50th Anniversary!



The celebration begins on Sunday, November 6th at 10:30 a.m. with Bishop Margaret Payne presiding at a special worship service. Talented musical writers, composers, and performers will sing and play at the service. A delicious brunch and fellowship will follow. Look for the Good Shepherd flock on banners created by the congregation for this special anniversary. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway for photos of Good Shepherd when it first began surrounded by 50 acts of living Christ’s love by church members. Have you met the challenge and participated in doing what matters? Is it on the board? If not, let the church office know and we will add it.



On Friday, November 11th at 6:00 p.m. the celebration continues at the Stone Barn with dinner and entertainment. Bruce Peterson will be the master of ceremonies and the River Boat Ramblers will provide the musical entertainment. Don’t miss this opportunity as we celebrate the past history of Good Shepherd and look forward with joy to the future. If you have not sent in your dinner reservation, please contact the church office as soon as possible to join the celebration.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Please save the date and plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting at Good Shepherd on Sunday, **December 4, 2011** immediately following the 10:30 worship service. A light lunch will be provided.

Prayer List

Members: Pastor Leone, at home recovering from surgery; Audrey Heim, at home recovering from orthopedic surgery; Trudi Black (prayers of thanksgiving for her recovery ahead of schedule), Dorothy Schrecker; Vickye Bell, Joanne Carlson, Ron Basala, Vic Johnson, Ed Mackey, Steve Krajcik, Charlie Miller, Ethan Dikmen, Martha Hoffman, Sue Hough, 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.**

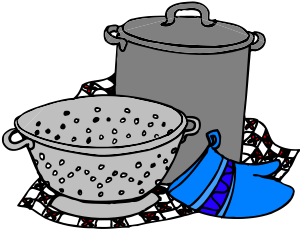
Family & Friends of Members: Mary, mother-in-law of Ingrid Kessler; Greg, Lisa Lilly's father; Joe, Susan Stockman's niece's husband; JoMarie, friend of Louise Begley; Arleen, friend of Eileen Remlin; Eric, brother of Eileen Remlin; Guy, friend of Matthew Johnson; Teresa, granddaughter of Elizabeth Cukan; Bill, brother of Pastor Leone, brain cancer; Al, friend of the Hassingers, heart surgery; Rick, nephew of Ken & Nina Furnes; Kenny, friend of Amber Serrano; T.J., friend of Amber Serrano; Dorothy, friend of Pastor & Kay Leone; Marge, colleague of Kay Leone; Dave, cousin of Sharon Duda; Bill & Ellen, friends of Pastor Leone; Deborah Finney's father; Mary, sister of Sam Barate; Jim, relative of Donna Duessel; Mirta, sister of Thelma Cleland; Joann, daughter-in-law of Dottie & Charlie Miller; Bob, friend of Dottie & Charlie Miller; Joe, friend of Matthew Johnson; Rose, friend of Nolls & Barate; David, friend of Miriam Kursawe; Anne, friend of Miriam Kursawe; Paul, brother-in-law of Ken & Deb Convertito; Carl, cousin of Arlene Juliano; Joyce, friend of Janet Szulga; Diane, friend of Janet Szulga, Peter, Megan and Caleb, daughter, son-in-law, and grandson of the Begleys; Rose & Roger, friends of the Julianos; Sandra, friend of the Nolls; Pastor Gene Mitchell (Greater Hartford Conference); Janet, sister of Carolyn Immel; Patrick, nephew of Cindy Carlson; 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: Ryan Piccirillo, Scott Crews, 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

Community Supper - December 7, 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

SOUP

JUICE

Mashed potatoes

Stuffing

Brownie/cake mix

Laundry detergent

Dish detergent

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 Thanksgiving and Christmas Plans



Look again this year for green recyclable bags in the narthex on October 30th for our Covenant to Care Thanksgiving food donations. Bags will be due by 11:30 on November 20th. The usual suggestions apply — cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, canned pumpkin or pumpkin pie mix, a bag of onions, potatoes and/or carrots, dinner rolls, and canned veggies (corn, peas, beans, yams, etc.) — and anything else you feel is suitable.

In lieu of lugging around heavy turkeys, donations of shopping gift cards are preferred. However, if you wish, frozen turkeys or turkey breasts should be brought to church no sooner than the morning of the 20th. If possible, please bring your turkey in a cooler labeled with your name so it can be left for you to pick up the next Sunday. You also may leave turkeys in the kitchen freezer or refrigerator that day, provided you let me know they are there.

For Christmas, the list of names will be posted in mid-November, and gifts will be due December 4th.

Thank you for your continued involvement in this important outreach program.

Jane Fieberts



Blessing of the Pets



On Sunday, October 2nd, Good Shepherd members Lisa and Russell Lilly and their Chihuahua Willy, Pat and Bob McFarland with their cat Chloe, and Sandy Troesser with her dog Kemo (a Leonberger dog) attended a Blessing of the Pets ceremony on the Monroe Green. Pastor Leone and Rev. Kurt Huber of St. Peter's Episcopal Church presided over the ceremony which included hymns and individual blessings of each animal present. Pastor Leone also brought along dog biscuits.

The annual Blessing of the Animals takes place on a date near St. Francis Feast Day on October 4th. Francis of Assisi is the Roman Catholic patron saint of animals and the environment. "As Francis blessed and loved all of God's creation, giving thanks for all of God's creatures, may we give thanks to God for our pets and animals," the ministers recited during the ceremony.

(special thanks to Lisa Lilly for the wonderful photos)



Fall Clean Up Day Saturday, November 5, 2011

Please mark your calendars and save the date to join the Property Committee for fun and fellowship as we rake leaves and clean the church. Many hands make light work! Rain date November 12, 2011.

Like us on Facebook!



www.gslc-ct.org/like

If you're on Facebook, you can now [like us](#) for updates and announcements straight to your News Feed!

Sunday School News



Sunday School in November will feature 3 weeks of fun Firelight lessons on the 10 Commandments starting on Nov. 6th.

November 27th will be a special Family Worship service and families will be making Advent wreaths to celebrate the season.

You're Invited To Be



Doing What Matters

The "Doing What Matters" Facilitateam invites you to explore what we have heard during our first year of listening and discernment. Last June, at Synod Assembly, we revealed the fruits of Phase 1 of the "Doing What Matters" process. This November we'll take a closer look at the purpose statement and guiding principles, asking ourselves what it means *to go where LOVE leads and to serve where LOVE calls* and how *praying always, giving of ourselves, standing with others, embracing change and diversity, and making room for joy* will guide us as we pursue God's purpose for the New England Synod. We will also begin Phase 2 of the process; discovering assets, wows(!), and needs in both our congregations and in our communities. As we have found, and are still finding, God is up to something in every corner of New England! Where is LOVE leading and calling?

One Day... One event... Three locations

Saturday, November 5th, 2011

9:30am – 3:00pm

Concordia Lutheran Church- Manchester, CT

Early registration fee, before October 28th, \$10/person

Late registration fee \$20/person

Please contact the church office for registration forms, etc.



**LUTHERAN HOME OF SOUTHBURY RESIDENTS'
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SPREE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2011
10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**



**The Cathedral Room glows with the Christmas Spirit
A lighted Christmas Tree
Gift tables covered in red and green
Tis' the Annual CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SPREE**

**THERE IS A COLLECTION BOX IN THE NARTHEX FOR DONATED
ITEMS.**

**ALL DONATED ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 30th OR YOU CAN DELIVER THEM TO THE HOME BY WEDNES-
DAY, NOVEMBER 2nd. THANK YOU!!**

Any questions, please speak to Dorothy Kaiser or Peg Wesche



**Connecticut
Marriage Encounter Weekend!
November 11-13, 2011**

**A weekend without Jobs, Chores or other distractions.
Just you and the person you chose to spend your life with!**

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

No one needs a weekend...
but everyone deserves a weekend.



**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 145 days to go...

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Lutheran African peace activist

Ursula Paradis attended the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Spokane, Washington and one of the two main speakers was Leymah Gbowee. She was delighted to hear the announcement on Oct. 7th from Oslo, Norway that Leymah Roberta Gbowee, Lutheran Liberian peace activist, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Committee declared that Leymah Gbowee "mobilized and organized women across ethnic and religious dividing lines to bring an end to the long war in Liberia, and to ensure women's participation in elections. She has since worked to enhance the influence of women in West Africa during and after war".



Have you met the challenge? Is your star on the bulletin board in the hallway?

Check out the bulletin board in the hallway to see how Good Shepherd members are participating in acts of living Christ's love. Your help is needed to meet our challenge of 50 acts of living Christ's love!

