

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.



"LIVING STONES"

Come to him, a living stones, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." (1 Peter 2:4-6)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

When these words were written, the Christian church was in its infancy. There were no Christian churches, in fact, Christians worshipped in their homes. They would go to the temple, participate in the Jewish services, then go to individual believer's homes and share the bread and wine and Jesus' presence. When Jesus established a church, he did not establish an organization with a building. To the contrary, Jesus founded his church on the confession of Peter, and every other believer's confession of faith till the end of time. For our foundation of our "spiritual" building is Jesus Christ, and we followers are the "living stones" which are Christ's church.

Fifty years ago this fall, the original "living stones" of our congregation came together and signed a charter, committing themselves as the first generation of a new community of believers. Through the years the actual building where the people have met to worship and be strengthened for service in Christ's kingdom has undergone many changes. Some of the original "living stones" have moved away to become part of other congregations, while other "living stones" have attached their rocks of faith here. And still others have joined the church triumphant. We look back with fond memories of all that has been accomplished in Christ's service, but we also look ahead in faith to the next half century.

This fall there are many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service. Where will you place your "living stone" in our life together? Sunday School begins September 11th with Rally Day; Confirmation classes begin September 12th; and an exciting, different Adult Forum will explore interfaith relations with Jews and Judaism beginning on September 13th. The Sunday Adult Bible Study under the leadership of Ken Furnes begins September 18th and the women's monthly Bible Study begins on September 28th. Choir Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 6th. Climaxing our fall studies will be a visit to our forum on November 8th by Rabbi Rachel Gurewitz, Associate Rabbi of B'nai Israel in Bridgeport.

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September 2011

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

Our anniversary committee is preparing a celebratory worship service on November 6th and a wonderful dinner on November 11th. Many of these happenings are detailed throughout this newsletter; be sure you read it from "cover to cover," and plan on joining us as we grow in faith together in many and various ways.

The theme for our annual Stewardship Drive is "Believe in Tomorrow." Our thanks to Ken and Deb Convertito for chairing this effort again this year. In this our 50th anniversary year I can't think of a more appropriate theme.

I am excited for the many opportunities for ministries that our Lord is calling us to. It's going to be a great year!!

In hope and faith,

Rev. Bryan A. Leone
Pastor

Fall worship schedule

begins on September 11, 2011

Worship Service
8:00 a.m.

Christian Education
9:15 a.m.

Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

Annual Rally Day Picnic

Sunday, September 11th 2011

Come and enjoy some fellowship, hosted by the Stewardship & Christian Education committees!

- After the 10:30 am worship service. All of the early morning worshipers are encouraged to come back to church for a delicious lunch!
- Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided
- A sign-up form is located in the narthex.

Everyone is invited!



Prayer List

Members: Trudi Black (prayers of thanksgiving for her recovery ahead of schedule), Dorothy Schrecker – Jewish Home, 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, 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: 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; Carl, cousin of Arlene Juliano; Beverly, mother of Vicki Creutz; Rose & Roger, friends of the Julianos; Sandra, friend of the Nolls; Pastor Gene Mitchell (Greater Hartford Conference); Janet, sister of Carolyn Immel; Richard, cousin of Peggy Uhde; Laurrie, 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; Renate, friend of Kay Leone; Bill, brother of Pastor Leone; Patrick, nephew of Cindy Carlson; Lois, niece of Joan & Ray Doherty; Dale, relative of Jane Fieberts; Gale, relative of Jane Fieberts; Rick, nephew of Ken & Nina Furnes; 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: Scott Crews, Brian Kursawe, Glenn Riccio, Damon Dykes, Megan Dobbins, Phillip Balestrieri and Guy Davis.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

The Huck family on the death of † Jean Huck †, wife of John Huck.

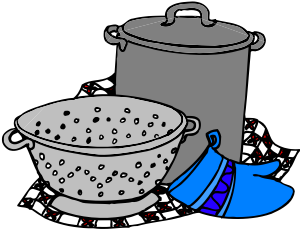
The Jackson family on the death of † Rusty Jackson †, father of Jeff Jackson.

The Convertito family on the death of † Almarie Convertito †, mother of Ken Convertito.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

Community Supper - October 5, 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
Canned fruit
Spaghetti sauce

Kidney beans
Black beans
Juice

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.



The Garden Table

If you have a garden and have vegetables you wish to share, bring them to church and leave them on the table in the narthex for others to take. All donations go to World Hunger.

Covenant to Care Thanks the "Backpackers"

Thanks to everyone for your special generosity during these tough times in contributing backpacks and school supplies for our Covenant to Care kids. Your contributions are an important part of providing encouragement to these at-risk kids to stay in school.





Collection for troops in Afghanistan

Captain Scott Crews, brother of Tammy Crews McDonough was deployed to Afghanistan in July. There is a box in the narthex with a list of items we are collecting for his unit. We will make an effort to send a shipment each month as a sign of our support and thanks. For a detailed listing, see the sheets in the narthex, click [here](#) or contact the church office.

Thank you

Dear Friends,

Larry and I can't begin to thank you for all of the support you have provided during this long recovery from my broken foot. We know that the prayers and positive thoughts are largely responsible for the foot finally beginning to heal. The last nine weeks would have been a lot longer without the cards, calls and meals you provided [Lar is especially grateful for those...]. We are so blessed to be a part of a loving, Christian community like Good Shepherd. Keep praying so I can get rid of the big boot before our grandson is expected in October. You have the power.....

Thanks again,

Trudi Black

Highlights from your Church Council August 10, 2011

Bob Carlson reported that the plans for the 50th Anniversary Dinner have been progressing. It will be held at the Stone Barn in Monroe on November 11th at 6:00 p.m. The buffet will be \$32 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. Bruce Peterson will be the emcee and the entertainment will be a jazz band that has performed at our church before. Invitations will be sent to all church members.

Despite the fact that we only had 21 participants, our VBS was very successful. The counselors from Calumet kept the children quite busy with a theme for each day, songs and skits.

Pastor reported that we need to get an Evangelism Committee re-established. A chairperson is needed, along with committee members, to get it started.

50th Anniversary News

Mark your calendars for two anniversary celebrations !

Sunday, November 6th – Celebration worship with Bishop Margaret Payne leading our worship service at 10:30 a.m. followed by brunch in Gibiser Hall

Friday, November 11th – Anniversary dinner at the Stone Barn at 6:00 p.m. Contact the church office for a reservation form for the dinner if you have not received one. We do not want anyone to be missed.

We look forward to having you join us for this historic celebration at either or both functions. It should be a fun time for all, a chance to renew friendships and join in the warm fellowship that is a Good Shepherd

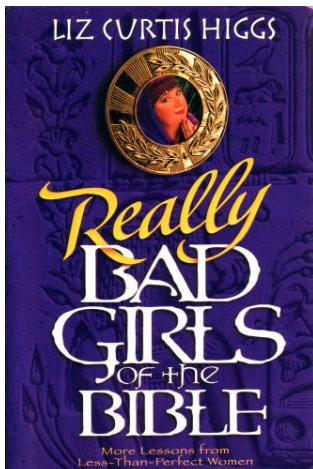
November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 ☆	7	8	9	10	11 ☆	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Bell Choir and Senior Choir Rehearsals Begin

As the bell choir and senior choir return from their summer vacation, we would welcome new members - all ranges and talents accepted. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 6:45 p.m. for bell choir and 7:30 p.m. for Choir. We will start off with a Choir party on Tuesday, September 6th at the Leone's home. Anyone who enjoys music and singing is more than welcome. Please contact Vic Johnson for more information.



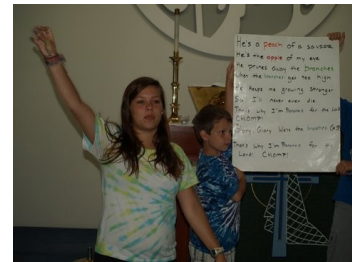
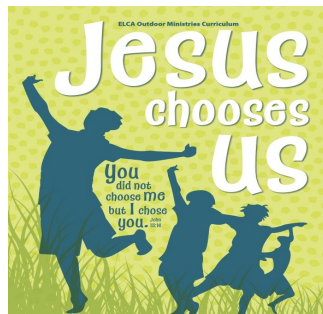
Women's Bible Study

The women of Good Shepherd will continue this Fall to explore the Bad Girls and Really Bad Girls of the Bible. There will be two sessions; [September 28th](#) and [October 26th](#) at 7 pm, both on [Wednesday evenings](#). The focus of our first session will be on Herodias. Suggestions for our 2nd study will be discussed in September.

Are you interested in a Saturday morning study in November? If so, express your thoughts and suggestions to Renee Shoop.

VBS

Thank you to all who helped make Vacation Bible School a success this year. Good Shepherd had 21 campers and 4 counselors who enjoyed a week of music, crafts, water fun and outdoor games all designed to inspire the campers' faith in God. Thanks goes out to everyone who loaned air mattresses, dropped off snacks, provided dinners or donated money. Although we would have liked to have met our goal of enrolling 30 campers, GSLC can still be proud of the experience we provided for these children. With appreciation, Cindy Carlson and the Christian Ed Committee



Sunday School News

Attention Sunday School students and parents: Get Ready for Rally Day on **Sunday, September 11th** at 9:15 AM, when we will open the Sunday School year with "Celebrating 50 years of Good Shepherd". You may sign up your children ages 3 and up for Sunday School on Rally Day. The day will conclude with our Rally Day picnic following the 10:30 worship service.

Celebrating 50 years of Good Shepherd

Happy Birthday

Dorie Behn	1-Oct	Matthew Johnson	18-Oct
Billie Flaherty	1-Oct	Alyssa Gorman	20-Oct
Steven Liechti	1-Oct	Peg Wesche	20-Oct
Marie Fischer	2-Oct	Jillian Bobowick	21-Oct
Charlie Simon	5-Oct	Alana Wesche	24-Oct
Susan Hough	6-Oct	Larry Black	25-Oct
Dorothy Kaiser	11-Oct	David Furnes	25-Oct
Maury Heim	12-Oct	Susan Stockman	25-Oct
Brandon Wesche	12-Oct	Evan Wieler	28-Oct
Helen Steinagel	13-Oct	Craig Finney	29-Oct
Tim Carlson	15-Oct	Bryan Leone	29-Oct
Sarah Mora	16-Oct	Jade Serrano	29-Oct
Eric Johnson	17-Oct	Jeffrey Heim	31-Oct
Claire Troesser	17-Oct		

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 - July 2011											
Contributions	July		YTD			Expenses	July		YTD		
	Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var		Actual	Bdgt	Actual	Bdgt	Var
Envelopes	15,702	16,000	118,502	119,300	(798)	Pastoral Ministries	\$7,462	\$7,548	\$54,094	\$52,835	\$1,260
Loose Offerings	234	150	1,328	1,300	28	Mortgage	1,723	1,650	13,890	11,550	2,340
Church School	0	370	401	1,269	(868)	Music & Worship	2,014	2,251	17,832	18,378	(546)
Lent & Easter	0	0	1,689	1,600	89	Benevolence	1,674	2,375	14,038	12,618	1,420
Other	29	352	3,162	1,921	1,241	Property	1,000	1,061	9,361	5,656	3,705
Thanksgiving	0	0	0	0	0	Office	1,625	2,336	10,943	13,948	(3,005)
Advent/Christmas	0	0	0	0	0	Utilities	501	435	10,048	7,005	3,043
						Christian Educ.	18	0	609	935	(326)
						Intern	0	0	0	0	0
						Evangelism	8	21	115	146	(31)
						Youth	0	38	0	263	(263)
						Stewardship	0	0	0	0	0
						Insurance	380	404	3,027	2,828	198
						Altar Guild	30	50	212	238	(26)
						Social Ministry	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$15,965	\$16,872	\$125,082	\$125,390	(\$308)	Total	16,434	18,169	134,169	126,400	7,770
Variance	(\$907)		(\$308)			Variance	(1,734)		7,770		
						Cash/Investments*	61,737	\$57,920			(\$3,817)
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$469)	(\$1,296)	(\$9,088)	(\$1,010)	(\$8,078)	Mortgage	163,034	\$154,374			(\$8,660)
Current Intern Fund	\$19,121					Pastoral Housing	97,227	\$98,690			\$1,464
						Capital Reserves	1,300	\$2,467			\$1,167

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

Significant Activity in July:

Contributions were \$907 below budget in July and are \$308 below budget year-to-date

Expenses were \$1,734 below budget for the month

- Bridgeport Council of Churches was budgeted at \$800, but no expenditure has yet to be made

- Synod Conference/Assembly was budgeted at \$771, however, expenses were incurred in June (YTD - Synod Conference/Assembly is \$300 underbudget)

Deficit for the month was \$469 versus a budgeted Deficit of \$1,296

Deficit for the year is \$9,088 versus a budgeted Deficit of \$1,010

The Third Course

Saturday, October 1, 2011 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church 73 Lancaster Street Worcester, MA

Registration \$25.00

Need Information? Speak with Ursula Paradis

Details and Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

New England Women of the ELCA

A Day of Food for the Spirit



**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 206 days to go...



www.gslc-ct.org/like

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