

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

APRIL 2006

WWW.GOODSHEPHERDLUTHERANCT.ORG

EASTER: COME PARTY FOR 50 DAYS!!

"Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him." Mark 16:6

These incredible words, uttered by a young man in a white robe on that awesome morning, will usher in the longest party you will ever attend. That's right, you read the headline right! On April 16th, we begin a party that will last for 50 days, as we celebrate the resurrection, ascension, and release of the Holy Spirit to the entire world.

These fifty days of Easter are filled with an abundance of feasting and joy as we celebrate the abundant new life that we have all received through the power of Jesus' resurrection. The seven weeks of triumphant victory celebrate the Risen Christ who crashes through walls into the midst of his mourning disciples, who makes himself known in the breaking of bread, who reveals himself as our "Good Shepherd," and the vine from whom we receive our nourishment. We are reminded of his new commandment to love one another, and Jesus' final prayer for us as he sends us out into the world, armed with the power of his Holy Spirit. It is as though our joy cannot be contained, and the fire of Pentecost impels us out into the world to share that joy. The Lenten season which began in ashes will end June 4th, Pentecost Sunday with fire.

But the world does not see Easter like this. All the Easter cards and Easter candy will be gone from the shelves of all the stores, the day after Easter, April 17th. But Easter in the church is more than a day. And it's really more than the 50 days we celebrate in the Church calendar. The celebration of Easter really is a lifelong celebration. The paschal candle burns throughout the 50 days of Easter as a symbol of Jesus' risen presence among us. But the candle also burns for all baptisms and funerals reminding us that *"when we were baptized we were baptized into Jesus' death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."* Romans 6:3-5

So, join us, not only on Easter Sunday, but throughout the entire 50 day celebration, as we rejoice in the holy mysteries as God moves us from death to life, crucifixion to resurrection, ashes to fire. May God grant us all the joys and blessings of this holiest of all seasons.

Pastor Bryan A. Leone

ON THE WEB:

- The newsletter, lay ministry schedule and calendar are on the web as soon as they are printed.

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Council Meeting Highlights for March 8, 2006

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

Members: Linda Pleva, Bob Carlson, June Mora, Arlene Juliano, Jim Munson, Linda Gorman, Ed Kreitler, Helen Behm, Alma Anderson, Sarah Mora, Peggy Knopf.

Family & Friends of Members: Harlan Fagan, John Slinn, Victor Poklemba, Bill Uhde Sr., Deacon Ian Black, Eva Morales, Amanda Kearney, Judy Thomas, Ellie Garnett Ferguson, Kathy and Brian Mincielli, Jean and Alex McKinnon, Nancy Evola, Kathy Leavay, Kelly Keough, Katherine Gutelius, Frank Jaspersen, Toni De Carlo, Bill Giarla, Trudy Molnar, Edward Szulga, Dawn Baxter, Shirley Brooks, Gertrude Heim, Lynn Bernardini, Ceil Edquest, Larry Belotti, Joy Dubail, Matt Coy, Astrid Fagan, Kate Dreher, Tom & Collette Ramsberger, Florence Petrozzano, and Alex Szulga.

Special Prayers for Armed Forces Personnel - Glenn Carlson, Glenn Riccio, George Carris, Damon Dykes, Eric McFadden, James Brakewood, and Aaron Jackson.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

The family and friends of † Harry Thiede †, husband of Lillian Thiede.

The family and friends of † Pastor Birgitt Ivarson †.

The family and friends of † Dawn Donofrio †, neighbor of Eric Dreher.

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

Psalm 147 vs. 3

The Evangelism Committee has received a conceptual drawing of how we might improve our narthex. They will be discussing the possibilities of the stages that this might take place.

A new church sign has been decided upon which will be done by a Monroe company and will use urethane foam for the sign and pressure treated wood for the posts. The price should be about \$2,500 to be completed after the driveway is paved. A smaller sign for the Lover's Lane driveway will be investigated.

There have been two requests for the building to be used on a weekly basis. Some work needs to be done prior to giving them each a month's trial period.

The annual church picnic will be held at the church on June 11th.

Baptism

On Sunday, March 26, 2006, we welcomed into the church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, James Roy Schwarz, son of Erin and Mark Schwarz. Charlie and Jack are his proud big brothers. Doris Schwarz and Ely and Irene Titley are the delighted grandparents. Godparents are Colleen Fitzgerald and Matthew Sordi.

PATIENT NEWS

If you or a family member is admitted to the hospital, please remember to call Pastor Leone or the church office. The new HIPPA privacy rules prevent hospitals from notifying the pastor and do not allow the information desks to give the information out when called.

Social Ministry and Community Outreach Committee

Many things have been happening in this committee. Close to 150 pairs of socks will be taken to the Salvation Army Rescue Mission before the end of March. Thank you for helping to make the goal of 30 pairs a reality. Food has also been taken twice this month to the Monroe Food Pantry. Macaroni and cheese and various other food items are needed during April. Again, thank you for your generosity in this mission.

Trudi Black received a thank you letter from the Salvation Army for our participation in the Angel Tree Program. 4,954 children were helped this year with gifts for Christmas. We were part of this gift-giving.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive was a successful event with 55 productive units collected. Rich Pallidino from the American Red Cross expressed his thanks and looks forward to working with us again next year.

Our projects in the near future will be the CROP walk in May and the Relay for Life on June 9th. The Relay Chairpersons are Doris Schwarz and Miriam Kursawe. They would like volunteers to sign up to represent our church that night at Indian Ledge Park in Trumbull. Registration information is included below.

RELAY FOR LIFE 2006

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 planning to gather a team of Good Shepherd members and friends to participate in this event again this year. The Relay will be held on the afternoon and evening of June 9 and conclude the morning of June 10. Team members will share a "campsite" at Indian Ledge Park in Trumbull and take turns walking around a path lighted by luminaria honoring cancer victims and survivors. A variety of fun and entertaining activities for children and adults is also planned.

The registration procedure has changed this year and team members will sign up via the Internet. We welcome your on-line registrations at

www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=124966. Our team is **Good Shepherd Step-pers**. If you have any problems with registration, contact Online Fundraising Chair Linda Hallinan at lrhallinan@yahoo.com or call her at 258-4973. You can pay the \$10.00 registration fee on line or you can give it to us. Checks should be made payable to the American Cancer Society.

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. Last year our team raised about \$1,000 for the fight against cancer, and our hope is for an even larger donation from Good Shepherd this year!

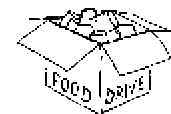
Please call us if you have any questions!

Miriam Kursawe and Doris Schwarz

CROP WALK

May 7, 2006 1:30—5:00 p.m.

Join the Confirmation Class "team" in a walk for hunger sponsored by the Bridgeport Council of Churches. We will meet at the Congregational Church in Bridgeport at 1:30 p.m. We invite you to walk with us and/or pledge your support for our walk. Jesus made it very clear that we are to feed the hungry of the world. *"When I was hungry you gave me to eat. As you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me."* (Matthew 25) With someone here in the United States and overseas dying of hunger and hunger related illness every forty seconds, the Crop walk affords us the opportunity to be Christ's disciples as we do his will.



SHEPHERD'S PANTRY

Needed at the Monroe Food Pantry this month (April): Macaroni & Cheese

Holy Week Worship Schedule

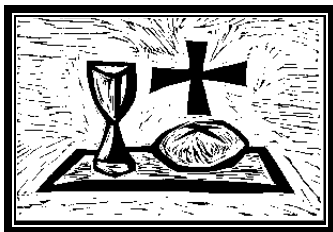
Sunday, April 9	Palm/Passion Sunday	Services at 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Thursday, April 13	Seder Meal and Service	Meal & Service at 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 14	Good Friday	Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 15	Easter Vigil	Joint Service at St. Peter's at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 16	Easter Sunday	Ecumenical Sunrise Service at 6:30 A.M. on Monroe Town Green Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 A.M. at Good Shepherd

Passover Seder

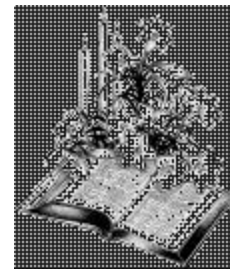
Thursday, April 16, 2006

6:30 PM

Jesus of Nazareth requests the honor of your presence at an authentic Passover Seder meal just like the one he celebrated the night before he was handed over to death. We will meet in Gibiser Hall for the entire meal/service. The symbolic foods of the Passover will be present, as well as a traditional roasted chicken dinner. Manishevitz wine will be served for adults over the age of 21, but if you would like you may "BYOW" (Bring your own wine.) Grape juice will be available for children, youth and adults who prefer it. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up by April 9th (Palm Sunday).



First Holy Communion
Sunday, April 30, 2006
10:30 a.m.



Easter Flowers

Tulip and Easter Lily plants are again available for the Easter Sunday Worship Service. The envelopes to order the plants are on the bulletin board in the hallway. Tulip and Easter Lily plants are \$15.00 each this year. Please be sure to include the dedication you would like to appear in the bulletin and put the completed envelope in the offering plate. The deadline for ordering plants is April 9, 2006. You may take the plant(s) with you after the Easter Sunday Worship Service.



Confirmation
June 4, 2006
10:30 a.m.

**WELCOME
NEW
MEMBERS!**

The following people joined our family of faith on Sunday, March 12. Get to know your new brothers and sisters in Christ, and remember to wear your name tags!

Gordon and Thelma Cleland, and their sons, Samuel, Reed, and Blake. Gordon hails originally from Montreal, Canada. Thelma was born in El Llano, Panama. Gordon is a self-employed attorney, and Thelma works as a scientist and patent agent. Samuel and Reed are twins, and Blake is the youngest son. All three boys enjoy bicycling. The whole family enjoys swimming, and Gordon and Thelma enjoy(?) shoveling snow! They look forward to enjoying more hobbies in 2018, when their youngest son enters college! The Clelands reside in Monroe. The Flaherty family are the Cleland's sponsors.

V. Craig and Deborah Finney are residents of Shelton. Craig was born in Shelbyville, Tennessee and Deborah is from Bridgeport. They have two grown daughters, Kristen and Lindsay. Craig is President of W.E. Basset Co., in Shelton, a manicure and personal care manufacturing company. In his spare time, Craig enjoys boating and reading, and is an avid football fan (Dallas Cowboys.). Debra is employed by Kiddie Campus in Monroe.

She enjoys boating, gardening, and reading. Dorothy and Bill Kaiser are the Finney's sponsors.

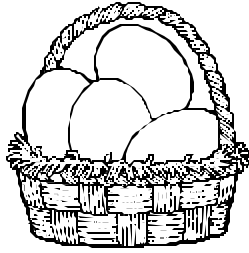
Virginia Lengel, mother of Scott Lengel, transferred from another Lutheran Church in order to worship with her family. She was born in Bridgeport. Her pride and joy are her children and her 5 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Her sponsor is her grandson, Ryan Lengel.

Tanya Ries, and her children, Nicholas and Jessica recently migrated to Shelton, CT from Marietta, Georgia. Tanya is the daughter of Pastor Dagmar Rosenberg. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, and visiting museums and parks with her children. The Ries' sponsor is Vicki Creutz.

Harry and Lillian Thiede recently moved to Senior Dr. in Monroe. They unofficially transferred in October and had planned to be officially received on March 12. Instead on March 8th, Harry officially was received into the church triumphant, and on March 12th we celebrated the gift of his life in a memorial service at church. Harry and Lillian were married 56 years and their pride and joy is their family: 3 sons, and 2 daughters, the youngest of whom, Rachel Smith is our co-superintendent of Sunday School. Lillian has been an active member of many congregations, and in her spare time enjoys reading, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Our thanks go to Eileen Holleran and the Evangelism Committee for the wonderful reception they put together for our newest family members.





COVENANT TO CARE EASTER BASKETS

"OLD" KIDS NEED BUNNIES, TOO!

As we once again fill Easter baskets for our Covenant to Care kids (due on Palm Sunday, April 9th), the question is sometimes asked: Why are there so many "old" kids? The answer is that older children who are part of Covenant to Care because they have had to be removed from unhealthy and sometimes dangerous home situations are often overlooked by potential adoptive families who generally opt for younger children.

Many of the kids under our "care" are in their teens and it's not as easy to buy very "young" pre-made Easter baskets for them. But we're told that even teenage boys like stuffed bunnies—though maybe they won't admit it!!—and you can always buy a bunny, some chocolate and maybe a sports ball, hair scrunchies or a game for kids of this age. Or, families could go together to buy a gift certificate at the Gap or Old Navy.

The bunny tags are in the narthex and show the child's name and age. If they have all been taken, you can still take advantage of the opportunity to contribute a pre-made basket. In this very wealthy state, there is no shortage of kids in need. Thanks for your ongoing efforts, and Happy Easter!

Sunday School News

The Sunday School is learning about the Apostle's Creed and has photographed many symbols of the Trinity. Check out the bulletin board for the pictures. Come listen to us sing "I Believe It" on April 2nd at the 10:30 service. Believe the Creed!

The Sunday School will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 9th, during the Sunday School hour. Join us in finding the eggs!

Each Sunday School class has chosen a tag from the Covenant to Care Easter Basket and will be putting together their baskets on April 9th.

We will also be sending home coin banks on April 23rd to collect pennies and other coins that will be donated to local hunger programs in May when we learn about local hunger during Sunday School.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL August 14-18, 2006

Save the dates! Camp Calumet is 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.

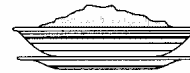
Happy Birthday

David Wang	1 May	Paul Amado	12 May
Samantha Westberg	2 May	Alexis Calhoun	15 May
Lauren Bspuda	3 May	Harry Granfors	16 May
Scott Lengel	3 May	Howard Holleran	17 May
Dorothy Schrecker	4 May	Scott Fothe	18 May
Kathleen Johnson	5 May	Emily Juliano	19 May
Alexander Van Etten	5 May	Michael Carey	22 May
Kimberly Mora	7 May	Elizabeth Carey	22 May
William Uhde	7 May	Christian Steinnagel	23 May
Robert Johnson	8 May	Kyle Lengel	27 May
Maggie Smith	8 May	Kristina Qubick	27 May
Abigail Parkinson	9 May	Lisa Pelella	29 May
Eileen Holleran	11 May	Ann Marie Carlson	30 May
Dorothy Mackey	12 May		

The current month's birthday listing is now posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. 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.



THANK YOU



COMMUNITY SUPPER

Dear Friends at Good Shepherd,

Thank you for the Valentines Day Cookies and treats. They were really great and I appreciate all of you thinking of me at school.

Jeff Heim
Bridgewater State College

The next community supper at Golden Hill UMC in Bridgeport will be on Wednesday, April 5, 2006. Cooks begin at 3:15 P.M. and servers at 5:00 P.M. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Should you have any questions, please contact our coordinator, Janet Szulga. Confirmation students working the supper get credit for community service.

Dear Good Shepherd,

I just wanted to say thank you so much for the Valentine's Day package. I as well as many of the girls on my floor really enjoyed the cookies and candy. It was a very thoughtful gift that was definitely much appreciated. I will see you all soon.

Thanks again,
Erin Shapiro

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles for the next newsletter to the church office by Saturday, April 15, 2006. You may email your articles or put them in the box in the church office. The email address for the church is goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net. Thank you for your cooperation.

Treasurer's Report - February 2006 (YTD)							
	YTD Contributions				YTD Expenses		
	Actual	Bdgt	Var.		Actual	Bdgt	Var.
Pledge	29,521	31,500	(1,979)	Pastoral Ministries	12,704	12,768	64
Non-Pledge	3,553	4,320	(767)	Mortgage	6,607	6,608	1
Loose Offerings	320	475	(155)	Music & Worship	4,642	4,925	283
Bldg Usage	1,100	1,100	0	Mission Support	3,616	3,964	348
Intern	112	360	(248)	Property	4,099	3,861	(238)
Church School	107	460	(354)	Office	2,166	2,718	552
Other	1,561	1,785	(224)	Utilities	870	988	118
				Christian Educ.	115	45	(70)
				Intern	0	1	2
				Evangelism	109	90	(19)
				Youth	0	190	190
				Stewardship	0	1	2
				Insurance	911	975	64
				Altar Guild	34	90	56
Total	36,274	40,000	(3,726)	Total	35,873	37,224	1,353
	Actual	Bdgt	Var.		Dec '04	Dec '05	Var
Surplus / (Deficit)	401	2,778	(2,377)	Capital Fund	(945)	(1,779)	(834)
				Net Worth	741,180	745,577	4,397

Significant Activity in February

Contributions were \$1,899 short of budget as one of four services cancelled due to snow storm



Attention all Married Couples! You are invited to a free Romantic Dinner held on May 6th or May 20th. Come enjoy a quiet, romantic dinner for two, enjoy good food and good company, and find out what a Marriage Encounter Weekend is all about. To make your dinner reservation or if you have questions, please contact Jake & Holly Jacobs at (860) 633-0492 or hajajacobs@cox.net. Space is limited to the first 14 married couples at each location, so reserve your space now!

May 6, 2006 6:00 P.M. at Lutheran Church of St. Mark, Glastonbury, CT

May 20, 2006 6:00 P.M. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Monroe, CT



**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
AND WORSHIP SERVICE**

This year, the Annual Church Picnic will be **Sunday, June 11, 2006** at Good Shepherd. Please save the date and watch for details, sign up sheet, etc. in the narthex.

