

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.*

FEBRUARY 2006

WWW.GOODSHEPHERDLUTHERANCT.ORG

## Lost in Southington

*"As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—And Jesus said to them, Follow me and I will make you fish for people. And immediately they left their nets and followed him." (Mark 1:16-18)*

It was a stormy night with blustery winds. I was on my way up Route 8 to visit with the Congregation Council of Zion Lutheran Church in Southington, Connecticut. I thought I knew where I was going. After all, I had downloaded my destination into Map Quest, and my computer had printed out detailed information on how to get to the Church. "At exit 30 off of I-84, take a right onto Marion St; go for 1.6 miles, take a right onto Berlin St., then another right onto Pleasant Street, then finally a right onto Woodruff." "Simple enough," I thought, "No Problem." But boy was there a problem.

After exiting I-84 at exit 30, I took a right. There was a sign that read "Marion St." I'm ok. I went 1.6 miles, no Berlin St. I slowed down and examined the signs for every right turn. Same story. No Berlin St. I ended up in Georgetown. "Must have gone too far," I thought. "I missed the turn." So I back tracked. No Berlin St. I ended up where I began. There was a Mobil gas station there, but being male, I just couldn't stop to ask directions. The directions must have meant turn left, instead of right. So I did. Unfortunately, I ended up on I-84 again heading toward Hartford. I got off at the next exit, and went back to exit 30. Well, it was already five of eight (the meeting began at 7:30pm), so I decided to swallow my male pride, and ask for directions. The clerk in the station had never heard of Berlin, Pleasant, or Woodruff Streets. Oh great! He pulled out a map of Southington and could not locate any of the streets there either! "Are you sure the church is in Southington?" he asked. I said, "Yes," but I really was beginning to wonder! So I went back to my car and called the Church. Unfortunately, the answering machine picked up because the Council was meeting in the trailer behind the Church! So, I went back in the gas station. One last attempt. I turned to a guy who had a few groceries in his hands, and I asked him, "Do you know where Woodruff St. is? I'm looking for Zion Lutheran Church." "Yes I do!" he replied, "It's only about 4 miles from here but kind of complicated. It would be easier if you just *follow me*. My car is the Pontiac right there." Should I follow this stranger not knowing where he might lead me? He looks okay, but who knows? But, I decided to take a chance: so I followed him.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### ON THE WEB:

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

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The trip seemed to last forever! I followed him down many streets, with names I had never seen in Map Quest. Then, he pulled down a side street, turned around, rolled down his window and said, "Whoops! I made one mistake, but follow me." So I did. I turned around and followed him. At long last, he pulled onto Woodruff St. and into the parking lot of the Church. He rolled down his window again, and I did the same to thank him. He added with a smile, "I'm a confirmed Lutheran", and drove away.

Jesus asks us to take a chance and follow him also. Not knowing where he is leading us individually or as a Church, we follow him in faith, knowing that no matter how many detours we may encounter in life, he will lead us safely to our final destination. During this final month of Epiphany, may you be able to discern where he is leading you, and may we all then have the faith and courage to "follow him."

Wishing you blessings on the journey,

Pastor Bryan A. Leone

### Weekly Devotional Message

Now also on the church website!

Go to [www.GoodShepherdLutheranCT.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLutheranCT.org) to view this inspirational message from Pastor Leone.

If you would like to receive it as a weekly email message, please call the church office at 268-7596 or send us an email message at [goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net](mailto:goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net).

### 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.

## Prayer List

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: Arlene Juliano, Jim Munson, June Mora, Harry Thiede, Linda Gorman, Ed Kreidler, Kay Leone, Helen Behm, Alma Anderson, Sarah Mora, Peggy Knopf.

Family & Friends of Members: Nancy Evola, Kathy Leavay, Kelly, Katherine Gutelius, Mona Cerullo, Frank Jaspersen, Don Messner, Toni De Carlo, Zandra, Rob, Bill Giarla, Carl Noll, Trudy Molnar, Carl Carbotti, Edward Szulga, Dawn Baxter, Shirley Brooks, Faith Fox, Gertrude Heim, Rev. Fred Schramm, Dennis Krize, Lynn Bernardini, Ceil Edquest, Pastor Julie Haspel-Schoenfeld, Reverend H. George Anderson, Richard Ruesch, Jack Gula, 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.

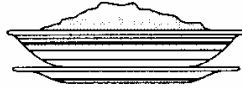
### Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

The family and friends of † Pauline Gundersen †, sister of Steve Krajcik.

The family and friends of † Paul Kennedy †, uncle of Gina Schiess.

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

Psalm 147 vs. 3

**COMMUNITY SUPPER**

The next community supper will be on Wednesday, February 1, 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.



On Sunday, February 5, 2006, the ELCW will meet and assemble Valentine boxes, which are sent to the college students of Good Shepherd. Please join us following the 10:30 worship service for this fun event. If you would like to bake a batch of cookies, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

If a college student's address is not already in the church office, please call 268-7596 or e-mail it to [goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net](mailto:goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net).

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

On Sunday, February 5, 2006, we will join thousands of Christians across denominational lines as we participate once again in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Watch the bulletin boards for specific information and remember to bring a "buck" and a canned good for the Monroe Food Pantry. Our youth led by our Confirmation class are coordinating this event.

**Bonhoeffer Study begins February 8<sup>th</sup>**

PBS is airing a new documentary on the life of Pr. Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Feb. 6 (check local listings) to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor, educated in the United States, who returned to his native Germany and became part of the Confessing Church movement which began Germany's only true organized challenge to the Nazi regime. His participation in a plot to assassinate Hitler, led to his execution at the age of 39.

St. Peter's Church is hosting a three week series beginning February 8<sup>th</sup> and has invited us to participate. Sessions will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 15, and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 AM and 8 PM. On February 8, we will discuss the documentary and begin to study one of Bonhoeffer's books, "Meditating on the Word." If you would like a copy of the book, please remit \$9.00 (cash or check made out to St. Peter's) to Pastor Leone by Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex.

**BOY SCOUT SUNDAY**

February 12, 2006 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.

# Happy Birthday

Gina Schiess	1 March	Letitia Wang	13 March
Jennifer Qubick	1 March	Stephen Krajcik	15 March
Megan Pelella,	2 March	Emily Johnson	18 March
Tina Liechti	3 March	Heather Simon	19 March
Edward Kreidler	4 March	Julia Belmont	19 March
Trudi Black	5 March	John Mora	20 March
Melissa Heim	5 March	Brian Amado	20 March
Scott Jackson	7 March	Lisa Mc Eachern	24 March
Russell Lilly	7 March	Christian Hoffman	27 March
Judith Simon	12 March	Jesse Mc Eachern	29 March
Heather Morrison	12 March	Jill Peterson	31 March
Margaret Dubuque	13 March	Louis Pelella	31 March

The current month's birthday listing is now 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.



*Baptism, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*

On Sunday, January 29, 2006, we welcomed into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Jillian O'Haley Bobowick, daughter of Tricia and Derek Bobowick. DJ is her proud big brother. Eileen and Howard Holleran are her delighted grandparents.

## Coffee and Conversation

Join Pastor Leone on Saturday, February 25th for coffee, donuts, and conversation on The Sermon on the Mount.

## Ash Wednesday

March 1, 2006  
Worship Services at noon & 7:30 P.M.

## Lutheran Social Services Sunday

March 5, 2005

We welcome Elizabeth Connelly from the Lutheran Home in Southbury, CT who will speak to us regarding LSS's ministry.

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, March 11, 2006 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.

## It's A Boy!

Congratulations to Erin and Mark Schwarz on the birth of their son, James Roy Schwarz. Charlie and Jack are his proud big brothers. Doris Schwarz is his delighted grandmother.

*May God's light shine on James, and fill his years with health, happiness, and walking always with his Lord.*

### Council Meeting Highlights for January 11, 2006

The Council has finished with their discussion of the Natural Church Development book. The next step to be taken is to have a trained coach come to Good Shepherd this spring to help us define our goals. Members from the congregation will be asked to become involved with the Council in this process.

A special congregational meeting will need to be called because of the cost of the curtain drain to be installed when the new driveway is put in this spring.



Come to the Annual Spaghetti Dinner  
on Saturday, March 4, 2006  
at 6:30 P.M.

The men will prepare and serve, so come for an evening of good food and fellowship. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to reserve a seat for the evening.

## Sunday School News!

Join us for two Fun February Events:

Sunday, February 5 - Decorate Valentine Cookies for college student care packages. You can even eat or take home one or two cookies.

Sunday, February 26 - Bury the Alleluia's and paint butterfly suncatchers that will be used to decorate the church on Easter. The Sunday School students will sing at the 10:30 service.

Coming in March . . .

Pretzel Sunday

Firelight Series - Believe the Creed

### Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles for the next newsletter to the church office by Wednesday, February 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](mailto:goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net). Thank you for your cooperation.



### SHEPHERD'S PANTRY

Needed at the Monroe Food Pantry this month (February):

Paper products— paper towels, napkins, and tissues. The pantry is running very low on these items. Toiletries are not covered by food stamps as they are considered a "luxury item".

## Treasurer's Report - December 2005

Contributions			Expenses				
	Actual	Bdgt	Var.		Actual	Bdgt	Var.
Pledge	161,674	153,418	8,256	Pastoral Ministries	73,450	74,107	657
Non-Pledge	31,681	26,000	5,681	Mortgage	39,645	39,645	0
Loose Offerings	3,956	2,500	1,456	Music & Worship	27,064	28,897	1,833
Bldg Usage	6,350	6,500	(150)	Mission Support	21,766	20,150	(1,616)
Intern	2,173	3,500	(1,327)	Property	21,846	19,870	(1,976)
Church School	1,057	2,300	(1,243)	Office	16,308	15,686	(622)
Other	13,022	10,782	2,240	Utilities	13,205	10,430	(2,775)
				Christian Educ.	2,929	5,315	2,386
				Intern	2,098	3,500	1,402
				Evangelism	2,998	3,605	607
				Youth	195	2,253	2,058
				Stewardship	1,337	1,350	13
				Insurance	6,109	5,770	(339)
				Altar Guild	807	590	(217)
<b>Total</b>	<b>219,913</b>	<b>205,000</b>	<b>14,913</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>229,756</b>	<b>231,168</b>	<b>1,412</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Bdgt</b>	<b>Var.</b>		<b>Dec '04</b>	<b>Dec '05</b>	<b>Var</b>
Surplus / (Deficit)	(9,843)	(26,168)	16,325	Capital Fund	9,997	(945)	(10,942)
				Net Worth	730,217	741,180	10,963

## Unusual Activity in December:

\$8,000 2006 pledge received in 2005

SS Curriculum was \$751 over budget (phasing from 2006)

Altar Guild was \$183 over budget due to the purchase of altar linens

Oil was \$2,951 over budget (higher rate / phasing from 2006)

Other Operating Expenses were \$330 higher than budget due to the cost of the Annual Meeting lunch.

Mission Support was \$1,047 above budget given the higher than budgeted contributions



### Lenten Services With St. Peter's Episcopal

We will be participating in a Lenten Study again this year with St. Peter's. We will have a soup & sandwich supper at 6:30 P.M. followed by the Lenten Study. The schedule will be determined very shortly. 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.

#### Tab Collection Project

Do you wonder what happens to the aluminum tabs from cans collected by Good Shepherd? We recently received a letter from Helma Court No. 64 Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, Springfield, Massachusetts that explains the process.

"The tabs that are collected from so many helpful people are brought by our volunteers to a metal recycling facility where they are redeemed. With the proceeds we receive, we purchase needed items for the children at the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

For the years 1990 thru 2004 the total pounds of tabs and aluminum is 494,622. Items have been purchased and donated to the Shriners Hospitals for Children Springfield Unit, Boston Burns Unit, and many of the twenty two Shriners Hospitals in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In 2005, we purchased 10 Lead Aprons for Mexico City Hospital, 1 Sternal Saw for the Springfield Hospital, and 2 Exam Tables for the Springfield Hospital.

Thanks to all who helped in this project throughout the years!"



### GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY AFTERNOON WITH THE BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS

#### Norfolk Admirals vs. Bridgeport Sound Tigers

When:

Sunday, February 19, 2006 at 1:05PM

Where:

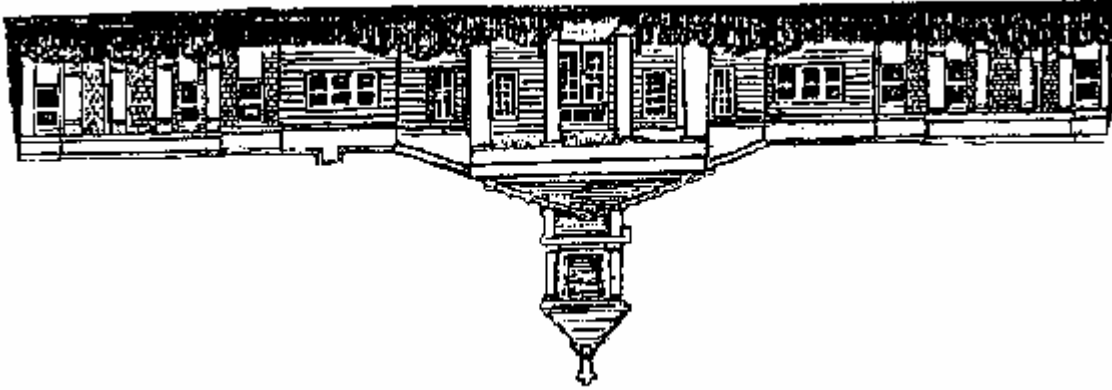
The Arena at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport

Seat Prices:

15 yrs old and younger: \$ 8.00

Adults: \$ 12.00

The Stewardship Committee has planned a family event for all members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and their friends. Families with children and without children need to sign up on the bulletin board in the church narthex by Sunday, February 12, 2006. A minimum of 20 people is needed to get the group rates. Even if you don't like hockey, attending a Sound Tigers game is a lot of fun. Bruce and Jill Peterson will be collecting money and answering any questions.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT 9:45  
AM.

WORSHIP SERVICES:  
SUNDAY AT 8:00 AM  
& 10:30 AM

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