

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.

JUNE 2006

WWW.GOODSHEPHERDLUTHERANCT.ORG

Discerning the Holy Spirit

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (Helper) to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be among you".....I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you....."When the Advocate (Helper) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning."
(Selected passages from the Gospel of John, chapters 14-16)

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Jesus promised that his Holy Spirit would be with his disciples from the day he left this earth, until the day he returns. Furthermore, he promised that the Holy Spirit would "abide" among the community of the faithful, "help" them, "guide" them, and "encourage" them, in the way of all truth. "Your word is truth." (John 17:17). But there are many conflicting voices today who claim that they are guided by the Holy Spirit, but come up with conflicting doctrines. Who can we trust? Who can we believe? St. John himself gives us an answer. He writes, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does away with Jesus is not from God." (1 John 4:1-3) But even with these words from St. John, we are still left wondering: there are many people who confess "Jesus is Lord!" but then profess issues and exhibit behavior which is contrary to his commandments, and his gospel of inclusion. Furthermore, there are such documents, novels, and movies as "The Gospel of Judas," "The DaVinci Code," "The Left Behind" series, and the "Passion of the Christ" which challenge our understanding of the gospels and the very life

(Continued on page 2)

ON THE WEB:

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Prayer list	2
confirmation	3
cantata	3
Church picnic	3
Summer worship	3
Relay for life	3
Social ministry	3
Tag sale	3
Treasurer's report	4
Sunday school news	4
gardening	4
Council news	4
Happy birthday	5
Community supper	5
Newsletter deadline	5
graduation	5
Thank you	6
Crop walk congratulations	6
Book store	6
Vacation bible school	7

(Continued from page 1)

and ministry of Jesus Christ which we have come to understand from our traditional faith, Sunday school teachers, etc. So what we have is what Bishop Hanson, presiding Bishop of the ELCA, has referred to as a "crisis of interpretation." He has called for an ecumenical council to deal with this very issue. In the meantime, what are we to do, and who are we to believe? The Lutheran Church has given us some guidelines to help:

1. Apostolic succession. For Luther and the reformers, apostolic succession relating to tracing ordination back to the original disciples, was less important than apostolic succession of the faith. In other words, the faith of the disciples received from Jesus himself, through and by his Holy Spirit, was paramount. So we uphold the Lutheran confessions as expositions of that faith, as well as the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian) as true teachings of the traditional apostolic faith. Any preaching or teaching contrary to the faith exposed in these documents is to be rejected as false.

2. Exclusion vs. inclusion. Any teaching contrary to Christ's gospel of inclusion is also to be rejected. Jesus includes, others may exclude, but when humans in our sins exclude for whatever reason, Jesus stands with those who have been excluded.

3. Jesus' commandment of Love. Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Anything preached contrary to this commandment of altruistic love (agape) is to be rejected.

We can be thankful as Lutherans that we take the deposit of the apostolic faith gleaned from the Scriptures very seriously. I sincerely hope and pray, that you will remember the above guidelines, when the culture of today assaults or challenges our faith with wild premises and notions. When Sunday School and Bible studies resume in the fall, I hope that you will take advantage of as many as possible. May the Spirit of the Risen Christ keep us steadfast in the one true apostolic faith.

Rev. Bryan A. Leone
Pastor

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: Peg Wesche, Bob Wesche, Ken Heim, Linda Pleva, Bob Carlson, June Mora, Arlene Juliano, Linda Gorman, Helen Behm, Alma Anderson, Sarah Mora, Peggy Knopf.
Family & Friends of Members: JoAnn Slinn, Raymond J. Plouffe, Ron & Carlene, Billy Malchisky, Rosemary Kerilla, Pedro Coutino, Dylan Cyr, Kay Inderdohnen, Harlan Fagan, Victor Poklemba, Bill Uhde Sr., Deacon Ian Black, Judy Thomas, Ellie Garnett Ferguson, Jean and Alex McKinnon, Nancy Evola, Katherine Gutelius, Toni De Carlo, Bill Giarla, Trudy Molnar, Edward Szulga, Shirley Brooks, Gertrude Heim, Lynn Bernardini, 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 and Aaron Jackson.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

The family and friends of Ceil Edquest, aunt of June Mora.

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

Psalm 147 vs. 3

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.



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

Choir Cantata

June 4, 2006 — 3:00 P.M.

Jesus The Resurrection
 by Joel Lindsey and Sue Smith



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.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS

Sunday, June 18, 2006

Worship Services at 8:00 & 9:00 a.m.

(please note: two services and worship times)

Social and Community Outreach Committee Report

Ten bags of food were taken in early May to the Food Pantry and then another twenty bags of food and paper items were taken following the Sunday School Hunger Day drive.

Jelly, juice boxes and shampoo are being asked for June. In July, Canned vegetables: spinach, beets, mushrooms, potatoes, carrots, green beans, asparagus are requested. Good Shepherd can be proud of their effort in helping the needy families in Monroe with their donations.

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. 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 Steppers 2**. If you prefer, we can register you at church. 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

SUMMER TAG SALE

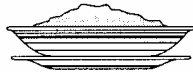
The Evangelism Committee is planning a tag sale for late July or early August - proceeds to be used for further narthex improvements. So please save those "treasures" you might be discarding i.e.: baby equipment, books, toys, housewares, furniture (not heavy or upholstered), baby clothes (up to 4T only), tools, etc. More details will follow next month.

Happy Birthday

Robert Uhde	1 July	Scott Stockman	17 July
Stephen Bospuda	2 July	Penny De Leo	20 July
Helga Bornemann	5 July	Nancy Gennette	22 July
Debra Finney	7 July	Anthony Giglietta	22 July
Arlene Juliano	8 July	Tyler Calhoun	25 July
Thomas Behn	8 July	Tricia Bobowick	26 July
Brian Fothe	10 July	Christine Ballerini	28 July
James Morrison	12 July	Ronald Basala	29 July
Marc Carlson	14 July	David Ballerini	31 July
William Noll	15 July	Rachel Lilly	31 July
Allison Herrmann	15 July		

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.

COMMUNITY SUPPER



The next community supper at Golden Hill UMC in Bridgeport will be on Wednesday, June 7, 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.

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles for the next newsletter to the church office by Thursday, June 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.

ARE YOU GRADUATING?



Tell us about it!

Name _____

Graduating from _____

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

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

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Straight from my heart this thank you is sent to tell you all how much your thoughtfulness meant.

Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, cards, visits, gifts, and get well wishes during my recent heart surgery and recovery. Also many thanks from my family and me for all the delicious meals we received. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

I am truly blessed to have such caring friends at Good Shepherd. I am doing well, and just got the ok to resume driving! I am also starting a cardiac rehab program for three months. I hopefully will get stronger every day! I am also very happy to be back in the nursery. I missed all of my buddies very much!

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

June Mora

THANK YOU

As we look ahead to a new phase of our lives, it becomes increasingly hard to think about leaving Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd has been such a big part of our lives. Our memories are filled with the love of this congregation and we will take this with us to forever keep in our hearts. Thank you for letting us be a part of your lives. Thank you for a wonderful luncheon — thank you to the Altar Guild for my necklace, New Testament, and for all the years of serving with you — thank you for the grill tools that will give me a chance to be a part of picnics to come.

Harry & Kirsten

THANK YOU

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! For all your thoughts, concerns, love, prayers, cards, messages and support to me and Peg, Thank you! My problem was hit head on by the many prayers and it couldn't resist. I am feeling much better. I'm so grateful for my family at home, my Good Shepherd family and certainly the doctors, P.A. and medical staff who got me through this one!

I am so blessed.

In God's Peace and Love,

Bob W

CROP WALK CONGRATULATIONS

On May 7, 2006 Kim Mora participated in the Crop Walk for Hunger in Bridgeport. This was a special day for her. It was her 27th birthday! Also 22 years ago, Kim participated in her first Crop Walk. She was only 5 years old and walked 15 kilometers on her own two feet. She received a doll from the Bridgeport Council of Churches for being the youngest walker to complete the walk. This doll was presented to her at the Annual Church Picnic at Smith's Grove in 1984. She still enjoys walking in the Crop Walk.

And thanks to our Crop Walk Team which this year included Miriam Kursawe, Richard Boland, Kayla Boland, John Mora, Kim Mora and Pastor. Over \$100 was raised for World Hunger.

Share the Word Christian Bookstore recently opened at 71 South Main Street (Rte 25) in Newtown (phone: 364-9673). For any person who puts his/her name on their mailing list, Share the Word will donate 2% of his/her purchases to that person's church. Once the amount from Good Shepherd customers accumulates to \$25, they give a gift certificate in that amount to Pastor Leone.

Special thanks to Cindy Carlson for the above information.

**Summer Fun at
Vacation Bible School
Monday- Friday
August 14- 18, 2006**



**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!



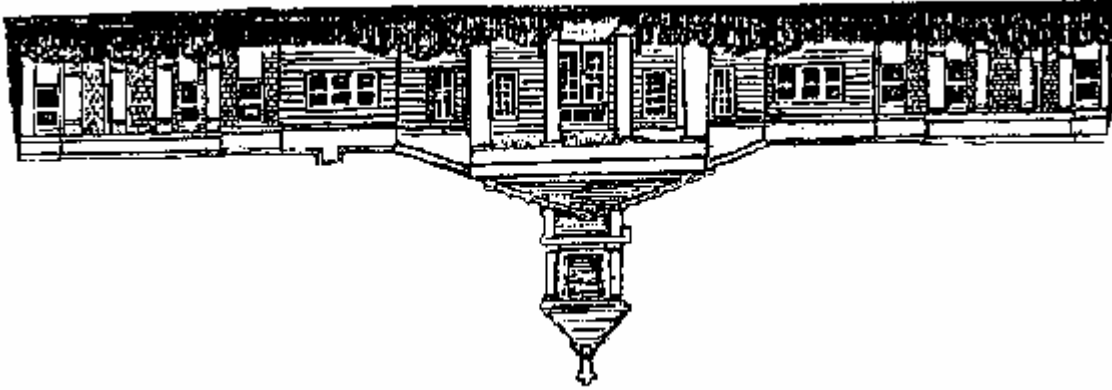
Vacation Bible School

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 47 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 children & youth camp director for ten summers, 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 14- 18, 2006
 Make checks to:
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT 9:45
AM.

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

Phone: 203-268-7596
Fax: 203-268-5714
Email: goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net
Website: www.GoodShepherdLutheranCT.org

466 Elm Street
Monroe, CT 06468

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG
US Postage Paid
Permit # 79
Monroe, CT
06468