

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.

MARCH 2006

WWW.GOODSHEPHERDLUTHERANCT.ORG

40 Days to the Cross
Lent Begins March 1, 2006

Many Christians dread the season of Lent. On the eve of Ash Wednesday, often called "Mardi Gras" (Fat Tuesday), it has become a tradition for Christians to party with wild abandon to "get it out of their system," before the season of repentance and denial begins. Many also use the season of Lent to give up unhealthy habits: smoking, drinking, overeating, etc. While these rituals of self-denial can be valuable and healthy, too often we go back to our bad habits as soon as Easter Sunday arrives.

Repentance means transformation: not for only forty days, but a change for the rest of our lives. We are challenged to observe the disciplines of Lent, in order to draw closer to God and let God transform us into better disciples. The Bible tells us that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness preparing himself for his ministry (Mark 1:13). So we are called to spend 40 days in preparation for our ministries which will continue as long as we live. What are some of the disciplines we are challenged to pursue during this holy season?

First of all "Ash Wednesday." The highlight of Ash Wednesday, is of course, the imposition of ashes on our foreheads with the words, "Remember, that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19) This was God's chilling "mortality reminder" to Adam, who had just been thrown out of paradise. But the ashes of our mortality, are formed in the shape of a cross, which is the promise that even "when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death," we will never be alone, but be accompanied by the Christ himself who has been there for us.

On subsequent Wednesdays during Lent, we will join with our sisters and brothers from St. Peter's to explore the "The Psalms – The Prayerbook of the Bible" using the meditations of Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

If you are not in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer, Lent is a great time to start. Devotionals are available in the narthex, and you may also check our church library for other helpful guides.

On Saturday, March 18th, join us for "Coffee and Conversation" where we'll read together and discuss the Trial and Passion of Jesus Christ according to John's Gospel.

Last but not least: if you're not in the habit of weekly Word and Sacrament, why not start during Lent. Be fed with his Word, and nourished with his body and blood, so that you may be partners with him in his great victory over sin and death. Come and be fed and nourished, and leave to enthusiastically serve. Let's pray that our Lenten journey together will bear much fruit for the glory of God and the work of his son, Jesus the Christ.

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

Family & Friends of Members: Eva Morales, Amanda Kearney, Judy Thomas, Christina Leone, Ellie Garnett Ferguson, Pastor Birgitt Ivarson, Kathy and Brian Mincielli, Jean and Alex McKinnon, Nancy Evola, Kathy Leavay, Kelly Keough, Katherine Gutelius, Frank Jaspersen, Don Messner, Toni De Carlo, Zandra, Rob, Bill Giarla, Carl Noll, Trudy Molnar, 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, Aaron Jackson and Mike Horvath.

*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.

Council Meeting Highlights for February 8, 2006

A special Congregational Meeting will be held on March 5th after the second service in order to vote on the additional funds that are needed for the curtain drain in the driveway.

New Member Sunday will be on March 12th. There will be a coffee hour after the service to welcome these new members.

Sunday School News

Enjoy a Lenten pretzel on Sunday, March 12th! The Sunday School will be baking pretzels to remind us of Lent and prayer.

The pretzel is believed to have been invented by an Italian Monk in the 6th century who rewarded church-going youngsters with this doughy bribe. The word pretzel probably descends from the Latin word "Pretzola," or "little reward," and evolved into the Italian word "brachiola" which means "little arms." Legend has it that the pretzel represents arms crossed in prayer, and that the three holes represent the Trinity.

The pretzel is the most appropriate food symbol in Lent. It still shows the form of arms crossed in prayer, reminding us that Lent is a time of prayer. It consists only of water and flour, thus proclaiming Lent as a time of fasting.

Pretzels

1 package dry yeast
1 ½ cups warm water
¾ tsp. salt
1 ½ tsp. sugar
3 to 4 cups flour
1 egg, beaten
coarse salt
Heat oven to 425 degrees.

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add ¾ teaspoon salt and sugar; stir. Blend in flour, one cup at a time, using hands to mix in the last amount.

Knead on floured surface until smooth, about 10 minutes.

Shape into 4 to 5 inch sticks or pretzel shapes. Place on a foil covered baking sheet. Brush with egg and sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until golden brown.

Ash Wednesday

March 1, 2006

Worship Services at noon & 7:30 P.M.



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. Entertainment provided by performance artist Kandie Carle. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to reserve a seat for the evening.

Lutheran Social Services Sunday **March 5, 2006**

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

Congregational Meeting **March 5, 2006**

Following the 10:30 worship service, the meeting will include a discussion and vote on the curtain drain proposal for the front of the church and paving the walkway to the mailbox.

Lenten Study With **St. Peter's Episcopal**



We will be participating in a Lenten Study again this year with St. Peter's beginning Wednesday, **March 8, 2006**. We will have a soup & sandwich supper at 6:30 P.M. followed by the Lenten Study which will be based on "Psalms—The Prayer Book of the Bible" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. If you would like to purchase the book, it is \$6.00. You are welcome to come to the supper, study or both. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for each week. This will help the hosts know how many people are attending.

Welcome

Reception of New Members **March 12, 2006**

If you are interested in joining Good Shepherd, please speak with Pastor Leone. New members will be received at the 10:30 worship service. A coffee hour to welcome the new members will follow the service.

Coffee and **Conversation** **March 18, 2006**



Join Pastor Leone for coffee and conversation from 9:00—11:00 a.m. and discuss the Trial and Passion of Jesus Christ according to John's Gospel.

Girl Scout Sunday

March 19, 2006 is Girl Scout Sunday at Good Shepherd. All Girl Scouts, Brownies, and Scout Leaders are asked to wear their uniform to the 10:30 worship service.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 9	Palm/Passion Sunday	Services at 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Thursday, April 13	Maundy Thursday	Service at 7:30 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



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.

The Valparaiso University Chorale, Christopher M. Cock, conductor, is among the top Lutheran collegiate choirs in the United States, upholding the highest standards of choral art through the performance of the greatest choral literature of all eras. On Friday, March 10 at 8pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, 884 Newfield Ave, Stamford, CT the Chorale will perform a variety of sacred and secular music. Featured works include Aaron Copland's "The Promise of Living," J.S. Bach's "Ich lass dich nicht," Erik Whitacre's "Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine" and Olivier Messaien's "O Sacrum Convivium."

Church Library News

Our gracious thanks for the following donations to the church library book cart:
Meditations on the Word by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
A Child's Good Night Prayer by Grace MacCarone
This is the Star by Joyce Dunbar
The Growing Reader Book of Prayers by Joy MacKenzie
Paw Paw Chuck's Big Ideas in the Bible by Charles R. Swindoll
Family Bible Flip Quiz by Janet Dyson
The Story of Abraham adapted by Maxine Nodel

"Resurrection Song" A Musical Drama at Miracle Faith World Outreach, 754 Main Street, Monroe on Easter Sunday at 6:00 pm

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday, February 5, 2006, we joined thousands of Christians across denominational lines as we participated once again in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." The Confirmation Class thanks the congregation for their generous donation of \$248.00 and 89 cans of food for the Monroe Food Pantry.



Happy Birthday

Jeffrey Schmidt	1 April	Megan Bucherati	15 April
William Kaiser	1 April	Lynn Heim	16 April
Jane Fieberts	2 April	Eric Dreher	16 April
Lindsey Shapiro	5 April	Jason Black	17 April
Claudia Anderson	6 April	Linda Linley	20 April
Duane Noll	7 April	James Remlin	22 April
Steven Hoffman	7 April	Richard Boland	24 April
Emily Savastano	8 April	Karl Westberg	26 April
Douglas Juliano	10 April	Ray Anderson	27 April
Benjamin Black	15 April	Thomas Quirk	28 April
Matthew Hensel	15 April	Ryan Lengel	29 April
Megan Morrison	15 April		

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.

COVENANT TO CARE EASTER BASKETS

Look in the narthex in mid-March for a basket filled with bunny tags labeled with the names and ages of our Covenant to Care children. Please return a tag attached to an Easter basket (wrapped in protective cellophane) by Palm Sunday, April 9th. Candy, an Easter card, crayons and coloring books for young children, and hair items, sports balls or gift certificates for older children--or anything else you can think of--are all welcome. Suggestions will be posted. Remember that although many of the kids on our list are older, they still love getting a plush toy or some other gift that shows they haven't been forgotten. Thanks for being there!

Newsletter Deadline

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

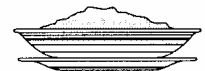
SHEPHERD'S PANTRY



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

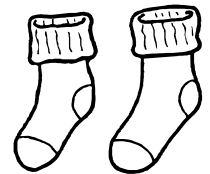
Beans—Garbanzo beans, black beans, and refried beans.

COMMUNITY SUPPER



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.

SOCK DRIVE



The Social Ministry Committee invites you to participate in the Bridgeport Rescue Mission's Sock Drive. New and used socks for men, women and children in good condition are needed. Socks for children are especially in demand. We will collect them on Sunday March 5, 12 and 19. Please put them in the basket in the narthex.

THANK YOU**Social Ministry and
Community Outreach**

Dear Good Shepherd,

Thank you very much for the decorative Valentine gift packages. The cookies and goodies were delicious.

We really appreciate it!

Jennifer & David Ballerini

Dear Good Shepherd,

I received the package you sent to me on Wednesday. I appreciate the cookies, popcorn and candy and the time it took to put it all together. Thank you for thinking of me.

Stephen Bspuda

Hi,

I just wanted to say that I just received my Valentine's Day cookies in the mail and thank you sooo much for them!!! As a young and starving college kid, these cookies were literally a gift from God=)

Thanks again, and I can't wait to come back and see everyone.

XOXOXO

~Emily Johnson

Thank you for the cookies and candy. They're delicious!

-Eric Johnson

The newest committee at Good Shepherd is called Social Ministry and Community Outreach. The goal of this committee is to provide outreach to the communities at large with either service, time or donations. Actually this has been going on for a long time at our church by many people performing as a chairperson for each project, such as the Angel Tree, Covenant to Care, the Community Supper, collection of Campbell Soup Labels, the Monroe Food Pantry, etc.

Each month we will be highlighting the activities that will be taking place for the next two or three months. By doing this we hope you will become aware of those events and will, perhaps, participate in them if you have the time or interest. Many are on-going and require very little work. Campbell Soup labels and aluminum tabs from soda cans can be put into the containers on the credenza in the narthex. The soup labels go to the Navajo Lutheran Mission in Arizona. The tabs are collected by the Shriners and the proceeds purchase needed items for the Shriner's Children's Hospital. Used cell phones are collected for the Umbrella Shelter to help victims of domestic violence.

Our projects in the near future are Bridgeport Rescue Mission's Sock Drive, Easter baskets for Covenant to Care, Salvation Army collection of winter coats, hats, and gloves and the CROP walk in April.

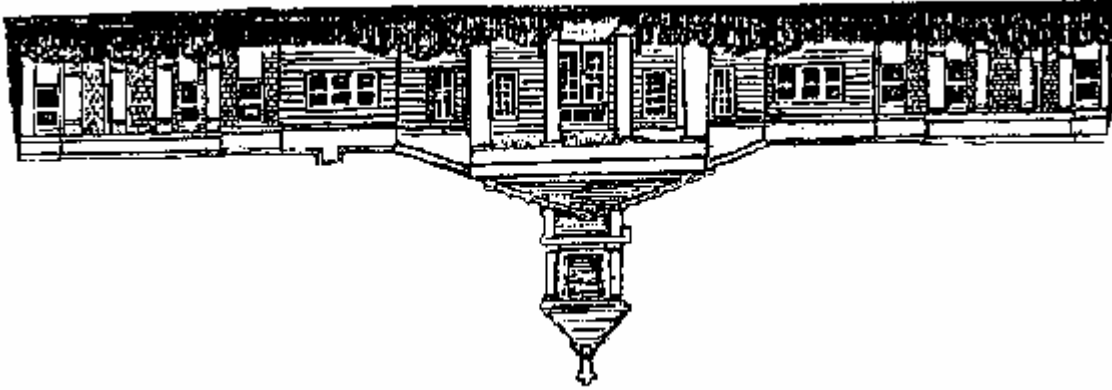
For March the Monroe Food Pantry needs beans: garbanzo, black and refried.

If you have an interest or any questions about our committee, please contact me.

Diane Hensel

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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT 9:45
AM.

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

Website: www.GoodShepherdLutheranCT.org

Email: goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net

Fax: 203-268-5714

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