

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.

MAY 2006

WWW.GOODSHEPHERDLUTHERANCT.ORG

World Hunger

"When I was hungry you gave me to eat...As often as you have done it to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me." Matthew 25

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

In the early days after Jesus ascended to the Father, the believers gathered together to celebrate "the love feast." They celebrated the Eucharist, followed by a great meal. After the meal, the believers were always sent out in particular to feed the hungry. There has always been this mission of the Church to feed the hungry since the command came from Jesus himself.

Today, we are also called to do the same, but the call is more urgent than ever. Bread for the World, an ecumenical hunger advocacy organization, reports that over 800 million people in the world go hungry every day! In developing countries 6 million children die annually, mostly from causes related to hunger. In the United States, one of every ten households lives in hunger or is at risk of hunger, including 13 million children.

The tragedy of all these statistics is amplified when we consider that world hunger is not a supply problem. In fact, there is enough food produced in the world to feed the entire world. The problem is the distribution of the food which is complicated by world politics, wars, and transportation problems. We Americans can hardly be proud of the fact that we have a national epidemic of obesity, while so many of Jesus' brothers and sisters are starving both here and abroad.

During the month of May, we are highlighting the problem of World Hunger. The good news is that there are many things we can do to help. Locally, we address this issue through the Shepherd's pantry. Globally, we give through the ELCA World Hunger. There are envelopes for your use on the World Hunger table in the narthex. Our coin bank on the table receives your loose change. Even a quarter can help a family eat for one day! On May 7, we can contribute and/or walk in the Crop Walk. Please consider all these various opportunities we have to obey our Lord's command.

Thanks for your generous donations in the past. Please remember the needs of the hungry continue even as the weather becomes warm. Hunger never takes a holiday. And don't forget to pray for those who must go without food this day. "Give them their daily bread."

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: Bob Wesche, Ken Heim, Linda Pleva, Bob Carlson, June Mora, Arlene Juliano, Linda Gorman, Ed Kreidler, Helen Behm, Alma Anderson, Sarah Mora, Peggy Knopf.
 Family & Friends of Members: Pedro Coutino, Dylan Cyr, Kay Inderdohnen, Pastor Rafaela Morales-Rosa, 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, Katherine Gutelius, 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 † Jim Munson †.

The family and friends of † Frank Jaspersen †, uncle of Penny DeLeo.

The family and friends of † Kathy Leavay †, relative of Erin Schwarz.

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

Psalm 147 vs. 3

Baptism

On Sunday, April 23, 2006, we welcomed into the church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Nicholas and Jessica Ries, son and daughter of Tanya Ries. Pastor Dagmar Rosenberg is their delighted grandmother.

It's A Girl! 

Congratulations on the birth of Morgan Bucherati, daughter of Carla and John Bucherati. Megan is her proud big sister.

Congratulations

Kudos to Andrea Wesche on her graduation from Southern Connecticut State University. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Double major and Honors College - Golden Key Honor Society, Full Academic Scholarship. She is teaching at Hop Brook School in Naugatuck. In addition, she is planning her June 07 wedding!

Kudos to Brandon Wesche on his graduation from Gibbs College in Norwalk, Connecticut. He is presently working at Office Max and Babies R' us and plans on a full time job in Visual Communications and Web Design.

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.

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 Steppers**. 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

SHEPHERD'S PANTRY

Needed at the Monroe Food Pantry this month
(May) : Vegetable oil and sugar
(June): Shampoo, jelly, juice boxes

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.

COVENANT TO CARE THANKS YOU...AGAIN

Thanks to everyone for your overwhelming generosity in contributing a record number of Easter baskets for our Covenant to Care kids. Special thanks go to Lisa Lengel for creating the bunny tags and to the Sunday School for their help in making baskets as a project.

As you may know, the Adopt a Social Worker program (our liaison with Covenant to Care for Children) recently was selected for Honorable Mention by the Mutual of America Community Partnership Award. This nationwide award recognizes outstanding nonprofit organizations exhibiting "exemplary leadership" through partnerships that serve as a model for collaboration for the greater good. When we extend our idea of "community" beyond our own neighborhoods and customary contacts, we are serving "the least among us," as Jesus asked us to do. This program has succeeded because of your ongoing generosity and commitment. Thanks to everyone!

Bridgeport Council of Churches

The Bridgeport Council of Churches is asking for 2 delegates from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to represent our congregation at the Council's Annual meeting which will be held on May 11, 2006 from 4:30 to 6:30 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Trumbull. Good Shepherd has generously supported The Council in the past and the congregation voted to support The Council in 2006.

The main role and responsibilities of the Congregational delegates are:

The delegate is the primary contact person between the Council and our congregation and is expected to keep the Congregation informed about Council activities and the Council informed about Congregational activities or concerns.

The delegate is the official representative of the Congregation at all Council of Churches membership meetings and is authorized to vote on behalf of the Congregation when any membership vote is required.

If you would like to serve as a delegate please speak with either Pastor Leone or Bruce Peterson.

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

A new committee has been formed to support and help maintain positive relationships among the staff of the church and between the staff and the congregation. The committee, known as the Mutual Ministry Committee, consists of six members of the congregation who have been asked to serve on the committee. Members of the committee met for the first time on April 2, 2006 and they have scheduled future meeting dates to start clarifying the purpose and the objectives of the Mutual Ministry Committee. Look for information about this new committee in future newsletters.

First Holy Communion

On Sunday, April 30, 2006, we welcome the following young people to the Lord's table for First Holy Communion: John Carlson, Christian Hoffman, Julianna Kusinski, Nicholas Ries, and Samantha Westberg.

Choir Cantata

May 21, 2006

10:30 Worship Service

and

June 4, 2006 — afternoon

Jesus The Resurrection

by Joel Lindsey and Sue Smith

Confirmation

June 4, 2006



THANK YOU

A very big 'THANK YOU' to everyone for the Valentine's Day package! Hope all is well. Things here at Navy are fine. We're all looking forward to finishing this year and moving on to summer training and leave. Best wishes to all!

Love-

Brian Kursawe

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, phone calls and get well wishes during my rotator cuff surgery and recovery. The shoulder is getting progressively stronger and I look forward to it getting back to full strength.

Sincerely,

Bob Carlson



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.

Council Meeting Highlights for April 12, 2006

Social Ministry and Outreach Committee has been very active. 49 Easter baskets were given to Covenant to Care. Crop Walk will be May 7th. Relay for Life looking for volunteer walkers for June 9th. Get well cards will be sent by Tish Wang to members in the hospital to let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Food was taken twice to the Monroe Food Pantry.

Church Council has voted to take the necessary steps to get a defibrillator.



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.

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles for the next newsletter to the church office by Monday, May 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.

"BUNCH OF GUYS" CONCERT
May 5th
7-9 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Hartford, CT

A Bunch of Guys performs at Emmanuel in conjunction with the release of their third CD. This record, entitled "Dig It", will benefit the ministries of Calumet Lutheran Camp and Conference Center. The concert begins at 7 PM in Emanuel's Nave and will be followed by a reception in the gymnasium. The cost of the event is \$0! However, those wishing to purchase CDs can do so in exchange for a minimum donation of \$15. This will be a great deal of fun for people of all ages. Directions are available on their web site:

<http://emanuelhartford.org/>

Any additional questions, contact Knute in the church office @1-860-525-0894.

If you wish to go as part of a car-pool with other folks from Good Shepherd please sign up in the narthex.

Sunday School News



May 7 - Fill the Shepherd's Pantry Sunday. Bring a non-perishable food item or paper product on Sunday, May 7th and place it in the Shepherd's Pantry. The Sunday School will help others as we learn about local hunger issues, make a mosaic frame to give to residents at the Lutheran Home in Southbury and have a healthy snack.



May 21 - Planting Sunday. Join us as we plant flowers to beautify the church grounds and celebrate the end of Sunday School with ice cream sundaes.

Help Wanted

for the Masuk Post Prom Party

for Juniors and Seniors

May 12th—13th

Seeking volunteers to help with:

- Decorations: Tuesdays in the Masuk Art Room: 7 to 9 p.m.
- Set-up: 5/12 from 2:30-11:30 p.m.
- Chaperones: 5/13, 12:00-4:00 a.m.
- Clean-up: 5/13 beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Please contact Patti Early at 261-3216 or Kathy Vuto at 452-5398 if you are interested in volunteering .



Sunday School teachers are needed for the 2006 - 2007. If you are interested, please contact Rachel Smith or Donna Duessel. It is a wonderful experience.

Happy Birthday

Joseph Pleva	2 June	John Buck	14 June
Michael Beno	3 June	Emily Kusinski	15 June
Holly Mora	3 June	Lauren Kusinski	15 June
Bret Jackson	4 June	Jeff Jackson	16 June
Jason Steinnagel	4 June	Danielle Giglietta	17 June
Nancianne Boland	5 June	Denise Shapiro	18 June
Charles Schwarz	5 June	Virginia Lengel	18 June
Mark Liechti	6 June	Susan Parkinson	19 June
Daniel Flaherty	7 June	Linzee Keeney	19 June
Lawrence Flaherty	8 June	Kayla Boland	21 June
T. Blake Cleland	8 June	Andrew Bott	22 June
Ruth Krajcik	9 June	Brian Shapiro	23 June
Matthew Juliano	9 June	Christopher Van Etten	23 June
Robert De Leo	10 June	Nicole Kaza	24 June
Kenneth Heim	11 June	Kevin Wesche	24 June
Christina Van Etten	12 June	Jack Schwarz	25 June
E. Samuel Cleland	12 June	Ken Convertito	25 June
J. Reed Cleland	12 June	Debra Convertito	27 June
Christine Quirk	13 June	June Mora	29 June
Brian Schmidt	14 June	Tony Dubuque	30 June
Erin Shapiro	14 June	Steven Schmidt	30 June

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.

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.



Treasurer's Report - March 2006 (YTD)							
YTD Contributions				YTD Expenses			
	Actual	Bdgt	Var.		Actual	Bdgt	Var.
Pledge	43,885	45,500	(1,615)	Pastoral Ministries	19,016	19,099	83
Non-Pledge	6,250	6,240	10	Mortgage	9,911	9,911	(0)
Loose Offerings	533	675	(142)	Music & Worship	6,869	7,273	404
Bldg Usage	1,650	1,650	0	Mission Support	5,489	5,840	351
Intern	182	520	(338)	Property	5,722	5,405	(317)
Church School	183	690	(507)	Office	3,933	4,652	719
Other	2,388	3,645	(1,257)	Utilities	4,944	4,383	(561)
				Christian Educ.	357	215	(142)
				Intern	0	0	0
				Evangelism	161	190	29
				Youth	0	295	295
				Stewardship	0	30	30
				Insurance	1,367	1,445	78
				Altar Guild	34	130	96
Total	55,071	58,920	(3,849)	Total	57,804	58,868	1,064
	Actual	Bdgt	Var.		Dec '04	Dec '05	Var
Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,733)	52	(2,785)	Capital Fund	(945)	1,554	2,499
				Net Worth	741,180	745,712	4,532

Significant Activity in March

- Lenten & Easter Contributions \$1,020 under budget (budget phasing)
- Bibles for Sunday School class \$121 over budget (budget phasing)
- Fire Alarm / Emergency Exit Inspection \$275 over budget (not budgeted)
- \$3,633 OII payment in the month - \$633 over budget (usage higher than anticipated)
- Deficit for the month was \$3,134, \$408 worse than budget
- \$9,912 expended for Altar Guild Room cabinets (added as an Asset of the church : Prior Year Capital Allocation)



YOU ARE INVITED!!

What:

Romantic Dinner

When and Where:

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

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. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

RSVP: Jake & Holly Jacobs, (860) 633-0492 hajajacobs@cox.net.

**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

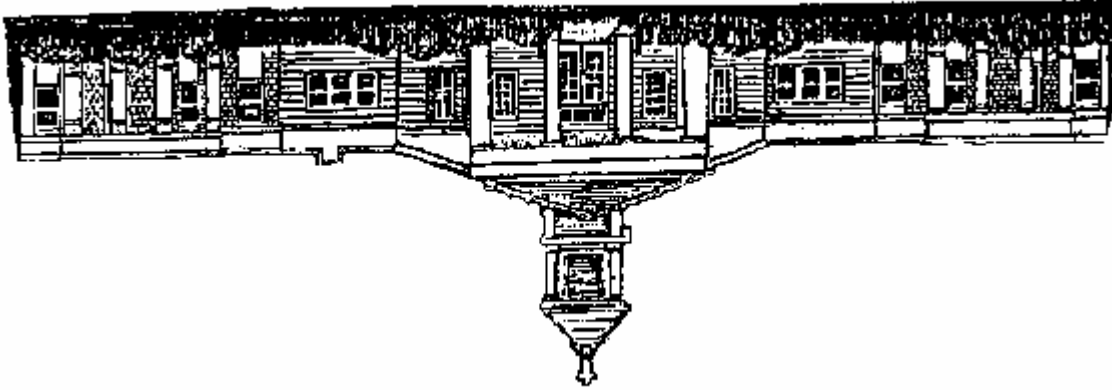
at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is a fun place to be! At VBS, children and youth laugh a lot as they go through the day, learning more about themselves, each other, and God. Your child will find that at VBS it is easy to make friends and lots of them! Counselors and church leaders strive to show children 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

Website: www.GoodShepherdLutheranCT.org

Email: goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net

Fax: 203-268-5714

Phone: 203-268-7596

Monroe, CT 06468

466 Elm Street

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CHURCH



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