

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.

NOVEMBER 2005

WWW.GOODSHEPHERDLUTHERANCT.ORG

The End – and a New Beginning

"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour"
Matthew 25:13

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

After reading my letter in the September newsletter regarding the end of the world, one person said to me, "I don't know, Pastor Leone, since your letter Hurricane Katrina hit, then Hurricane Rita, the earthquakes happened in Pakistan, the floods in the Northeast, and now the earthquake in Japan and Hurricane Wilma! Sure looks like the end times to me."

Well, if you want to hear more about the "end times" worship with us in the month of November. We will hear 3 parables on the first three Sundays of November, regarding Jesus' preaching about "the end." And November 20, Christ the King Sunday, marks "the end" of the Church year. This year we'll hear about the "King" and his final judgment. Then, the last Sunday of November is a new church year, the 1st Sunday of Advent. We'll hear Jesus once again, preaching about his return in glory. So, there's plenty of "end times" preaching that you're going to hear, both from Jesus and me.

Well, I won't leave you hanging as to what I replied to the parishioner that voiced concern that we are in the "end times." To put in quite bluntly, Christians have always lived "in the end times." The resurrection/ascension of Jesus Christ and his promise to come again has put all Christians of every age living "in the end times." The clincher is: Christians have never known how long these "end times" will go on. The apostle Paul believed he would see Christ's return in his lifetime, but here we are some 1,950 years later, and no return. People in the middle ages, plagued by war, disease, famine, and religious corruption, believed that Jesus would return in their lifetime. But, some 500 years later, and no return. During World War II, with the rise of Hitler, many people believed he was the anti-Christ who would usher in the return of Jesus. 60 years later, no return. There have been other eras as well, the rise of world wide communism and the cold war, nuclear arms proliferation, the terrorist attacks, and violent weather, the AIDS pandemic, and now fears about the "Bird Flu" which have all peaked people's interest again, in thinking about "the end times."

Jesus has a lot to say about all these predictions, summed up in the verse printed above. You will never know, the hour or the day, so always be prepared, and do the work God gave us to do, while we still have our life

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ON THE WEB:

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

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to live. Each day ushers in a new beginning, a new opportunity to serve our Lord. So celebrate with us this November: the month of "the end" and the month of "a new beginning."

Pastor Bryan A. Leone

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, Helen Behm, Alma Anderson, Sarah Mora, Peggy Knopf
 Family & Friends of Members: Faith Fox, Wilbur and Gertrude Heim, Kathy Wolf, Rev. Fred Schramm, Dennis Krize, Lynn Bernardini, Ceil Edquest, Pastor Julie Haspel-Schoenfeld, Pastor Paul Henry, Reverend H. George Anderson, Susan Merkel, Richard Ruesch, Jack Gula, Larry Belotti, Karen Marie Smith, Joy Dubail, Paul Kennedy, Matt Coy, Nancy Evola, Toni De Carlo, 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 Brake-wood, Jason Macionus, George Sheehy and Aaron Jackson.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

The family and friends of † Robert J. Stehle †, father of Nancianne Boland.

The family and friends of † Domenick Trombeta †.

*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.

COVENANT TO CARE THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS PLANS

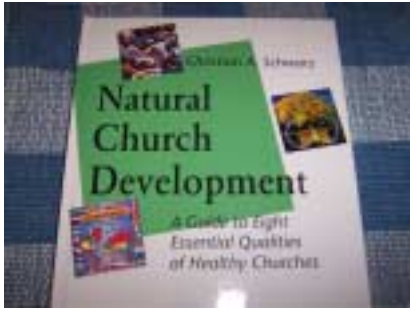
As Thanksgiving approaches, it's also nearing time to assemble and donate food items for our Covenant to Care families so that they may enjoy a festive holiday meal. Again this year, the Sunday School will be helping to decorate the 25 bags that will be put out in the narthex at the end of October to be filled with various items. Everything will be due on November 20th.

Donations can include cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, canned pumpkin or pumpkin pie mix, a bag of onions, potatoes and/or carrots, dinner rolls, and canned veggies (corn, peas, beans, yams, etc.), or anything else you feel is suitable. If you'd like to contribute a frozen turkey or turkey breast as well, please plan to bring that to church no sooner than the morning of the 20th. There will be a limited number of styrofoam coolers available for temporary storage until everything is picked up that day around noon, or you may leave the turkeys in the kitchen freezer or refrigerator provided you let me know they are there. You may also donate a grocery store gift card or gift certificate in lieu of buying groceries.

For Christmas, the list of names and gift suggestions will be posted in mid-November, and gifts will be due December 4th. Because many of the kids are teenagers, gift certificates to stores like Old Navy, Bob's, TJ Maxx, etc., always make great gifts—and they fit all!

Thank you for your continued involvement in this important outreach program.

Jane Fieberts



On Wednesday, November 9, 2005, at the Church Council meeting, the Church Council will begin to discuss the book titled, "Natural Church Development", by Christian Schwarz. This discussion is part of the long range planning process. Every member of Church Council received a copy of the book and their homework for the next council meeting is to read the Introduction and Part 1. The Church Council is inviting and encouraging every member of Good Shepherd to participate in the long range planning process. The church council meeting will begin with the discussion of the book and will last between 30 to 45 minutes. The council meeting will follow the book discussion. You do not have to stay for the council meeting. If you would like to participate in the long range planning process and the book discussion, please tell Council President Bruce Peterson as soon as possible so a book may be ordered for you. Yes, you too will have homework!!!

Community Thanksgiving Service

Come to an interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 20, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the Monroe Congregational Church. The new interim Associate Pastor Ken Frazier will preach and the newly installed Methodist Pastor Gregg Gabor is working on the liturgy. The Monroe Moslem and Jewish communities have been invited.

WEEKLY E-MAIL NEWS

The weekly e-mail message has begun and it is receiving rave reviews. Containing bible verses, the weekly calendar of events at church, unexpected/emergency announcements, special notices, etc. and written by Pastor Leone, it is a wonderful way to start your week. All you have to do to begin receiving this weekly e-mail is just send your e-mail address to the church office at goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net.

Church Council Long Range Planning Retreat Summary

On October 1, 2005, the Church Council began the long range planning by meeting at Pastor Leone's beach house in Clinton, CT. The following topics were discussed:

- A) History of Good Shepherd – presented by Bob Wesche
- B) Good Shepherd's strengths and weaknesses
- C) Good Shepherd's Mission Statement – Are we fulfilling our mission?
- D) Factors that are affecting Good Shepherd's ministry
- E) Briefly discussed the eight quality characteristics of a healthy church, as presented by Christian Schwarz in his book "Natural Church Development". The council decided to study Schwarz's eight quality characteristics of a healthy church and his ten action steps toward natural church development. The study will begin at the November council meeting and will finish by the February 2006 council meeting. Every member of Good Shepherd is invited and encouraged to join us. We will start each council meeting with the study, which will last between 30 to 45 minutes.
- F) The council will develop a 3 to 5 year plan

A survey for the Natural Church Development Program was also completed by council members and members of the congregation who attended worship services the past two Sundays. 30 surveys will be randomly selected and returned in order to get the results. The purpose of the survey is to determine Good Shepherd's strengths and weaknesses. The Church Council would like to thank everyone who took time to complete a survey. The results will be published in next month's newsletter.

**Council Meeting Highlights for
October 12, 2005**

The Financial Secretary's report was presented which revealed contributions exceeded the budget for September 2005, but 22 pledges are still behind in the amount of \$ 10,900.00.

The Treasurer's report was presented. See the highlights of his report in this newsletter.

Pastor is still looking for members of the congregation to serve on the Mutual Ministry Committee. Two people have agreed to be on the committee. The committee needs 6 total members. If you would like to serve on this committee please speak with Pastor.

The paving project will begin after October 25, 2005.

Council is working on replacing the exterior church sign.

Council will begin discussing the book, "Natural Church Development" by Christian Schwarz at the November 2005 council meeting. This is part of the long range planning process.

Treasurer Tim Carlson presented two budgets that were prepared by the Finance Committee. One budget was the "must have" and the second was the "desired" budget. All the items on each budget were reviewed and discussed. The Council decided to have the Finance Committee update both budgets and again present a "must have" budget and a "desired" budget at the November 2005 council meeting. Council will discuss both budgets and may develop a third budget. The Council approved budget will be presented to the congregation at the congregational meeting on December 4, 2005.

The complete Council meeting minutes are on the bulletin board in the hall by the Narthex.

FOR THINE IS THE POWER

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank every one who completed and returned their Faith giving card, their Intention card or their Victory card for the year 2006. We all have received many blessings from God and we can not forget everything we do have has come from God. A story for reflection:

THE WISE WOMAN

A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation.

The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime.

But, a few days later, he came back to return the stone to the wise woman. "I've been thinking," he said. "I know how valuable this stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me this stone."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ANNUAL

CONGREGATIONAL

MEETING

December 4, 2005 immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Please plan to attend.

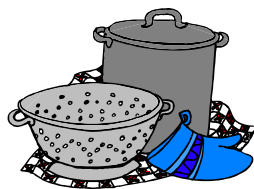
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Debra, Ken & Daniel Convertito



Brian, Carolyn, Riley & Kyle Immel

More new member photos to follow in next month's newsletter.

**COMMUNITY SUPPER**

The next community supper will be on Wednesday, December 7, 2005. 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.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL for COOKIES

We have had multiple requests for the following recipe. THANKS for sharing!

From the kitchen of Miriam Kursawe

Oatmeal Sandwich Cookies

1 1/2 cups shortening
 2 2/3 cups packed brown sugar
 4 eggs
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 2 1/4 cups all purpose flour
 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 4 cups old fashioned oats

Filling:

3/4 cup shortening
 3 cups confectioner's sugar
 1 jar (7 ounces) marshmallow creme
 1 to 3 tablespoons milk

In a mixing bowl, cream shortening and brown sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Beat in vanilla. Combine flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt and nutmeg; add to creamed mixture. Stir in oats. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart onto lightly greased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

For filling, in a mixing bowl, cream shortening, sugar and marshmallow creme. Add enough milk to achieve spreading consistency. Spread filling on the bottom of half o the cookies; top with remaining cookies.

Yield: about 4 1/2 dozen.

**You Are Invited!
New Year's Eve Party!**

Who: Everyone
 When: Sunday, November 20th at 9:15 a.m.
 (this is the last Sunday of the church year)
 Where: Gibiser Hall
 Why: To make a family Advent wall hanging to
 prepare for the new year



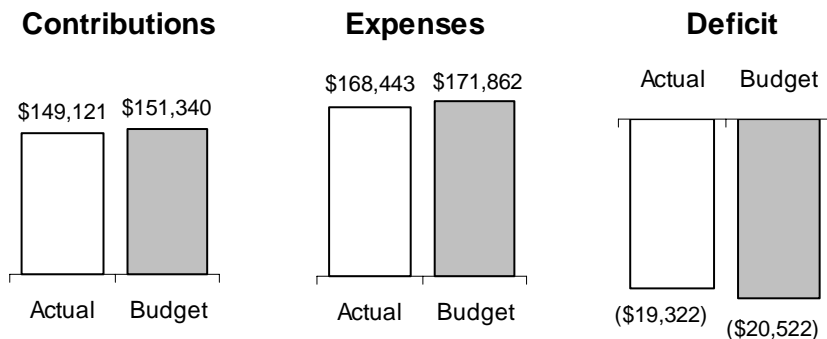
Donuts, muffins, juice, coffee and tea will be served.

Mark your calendar for other Sunday School activities.

- November 27 Make ornaments for Good Shepherd's Jesse Tree (Jesus' family tree and an Advent tradition at Good Shepherd)
- December 10 Saturday morning practice for the Children's Christmas Program
- December 11 Children's Christmas Program at the 10:30 service and at Lutheran Home in Southbury in the afternoon

September YTD Financial Summary

For the nine months ended September 2005, Contributions were \$2,219 unfavorable to budget and Expenses were \$3,419 favorable to budget. We have incurred a deficit of \$19,322. As a result of our expenses being higher than our contributions, we have had to use \$10,000 from General Reserves to fund our ongoing expenses.



22 Pledges Behind 8 On Pledge 24 Pledges Ahead
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Happy Birthday

Miriam Kursawe	1 December	Joy Baxter	17 December
Glenn Carlson	3 December	Edward Mackey	18 December
Steven Shapiro	8 December	Jennifer Morrison	21 December
Glen Noll	9 December	Nina Furnes	22 December
Jeffrey Burnaska	9 December	Margaret Uhde	24 December
Kathryn Hensel	12 December	Joanne Carlson	25 December
Christopher Hough	12 December	Donna Hoffman	25 December
Thomas De Leo	12 December	Wayne Hoffmann	27 December
David Kaza	15 December	Karilina Pleva	28 December
Andrea Wesche	15 December	Karen Jackson	29 December
Tyler Hoffmann	16 December		

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.

Southbury Lutheran Home Residents' Christmas Shopping Spree

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to you all for your prayers, visits to the hospital and at home during and after my recent surgery. My family and I especially appreciated the wonderful meals many of you brought to us also.

It is definitely comforting to know that so many people care and are concerned.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,

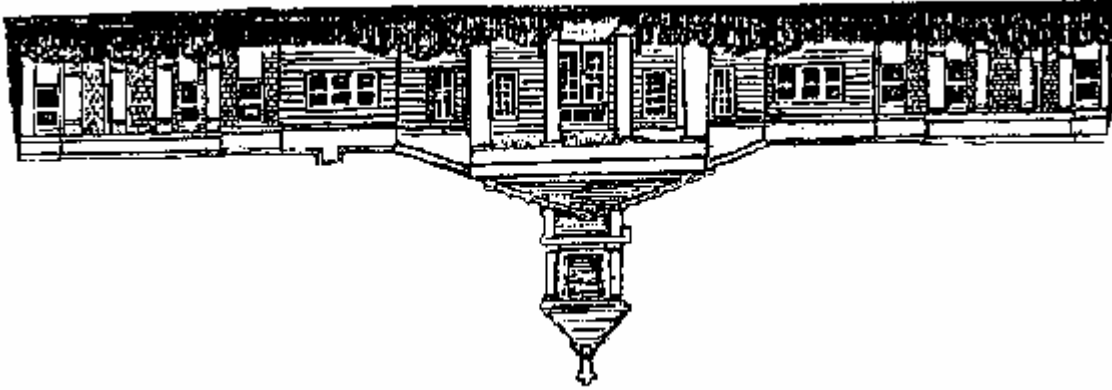
Diane Hensel

Residents enjoy Christmas shopping and finding something they like for their family, their friends, and yes—something for themselves. The Southbury Guild asks members and friends of the Home to bring in items to be sold at a reasonable price for that "special" family member, or friend, or for themselves.

We need volunteers to "wheel in" or "walk in" residents to the Christmas Shoppe so they can shop for members of their family and friends.

We need gifts for men and women and children. These can be toiletries, handkies, jewelry, knee-hi stockings, socks, items of clothing like sweaters, or blouses, stationery, holiday cards, stuffed animals, toys, etc. All items have to be NEW. We also will have some home-baked foods.

Your gifts can be placed in the decorated box in the narthex during the month of October. Please help the Guild make this affair successful. All the receipts of the Spree go back to the Home for its special needs.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT 9:45 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICES:
SUNDAY AT 8:00 A.M.
& 10:30 A.M.

Website: www.GoodShepherdLutheranCT.org

Email: goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net

Fax: 203-268-5714

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CHURCH



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