

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 2006

WWW.GOODSHEPHERDLUTHERANCT.ORG

A Christian Guide to Voting

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed and those who resist will incur judgment" Romans 13:1-2

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther is credited with many things, among them being an indirect founder of the democratic form of government. We often only see him as a religious reformer, yet many of his writings stress the need for public education not only in matters of faith, but in all subjects including government. (Refer to his letter "To The Councilmen of All Cities in Germany" 1524 for example). It is a sad commentary on our nation that in the past two presidential elections, less than one-half of all eligible voters exercised their right. Christians have a moral and civic responsibility to vote. And, we should not throw away our faith when we step inside the voting booth. The following is meant as a helpful guide to Lutheran Christians. It is based on two basic assumptions: 1. God is not a Republican or a Democrat nor does God favor one party over the other. 2. Christians should prayerfully consider the policies of all candidates against a range of Christian ethics and values. Here are some basic Biblically based values to consider.

The Reverence for Life *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not murder'; and whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment"* Matthew 5:21 Jesus expands on "Thou shalt not kill" to include even anger as a violation of this commandment. It is appalling to me that some who are swift to condemn abortion in the name of Christ also approve of the death penalty in his name. What part of "Thou shalt not kill" don't they get? We should look for candidates who stand for dramatically reducing the abortion rate by preventing unwanted pregnancies, providing meaningful alternatives and necessary supports for women and children, and reforming adoption laws. Regarding the death penalty, there is no Biblical justification for it whatsoever. Only God has that right. We should support candidates who want to eliminate the death penalty. It is biased against the poor who cannot afford adequate legal representation, and is racially disproportionate. We should also seek out candidates who support the ending of the genocide and torture in the Sudan and elsewhere around the world.

Strengthening Families Strong families are the foundation of a healthy

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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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society. Which candidates are supporting policies that will strengthen marriage and family formation, reduce teen pregnancy, encourage responsible fatherhood, prevent the abuse and neglect of children, and reduce and prevent domestic violence? Strengthening families should be an important personal and national priority without scapegoating gays and lesbians for the breakdown of the family.

Peace and Justice *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." "You have heard that it was said 'you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you may be children of your Father in heaven..."* Matthew 5: 9; 6: 43-45 Which candidates advocate fair and even treatment for Israelis and Palestinians? Which ones favor justice for the Iraqi people? Which favor multi-national solutions to the crises of extreme global poverty, hunger and epidemics?

Stewardship of the environment God created the world, and gave humanity the great privilege and responsibility of being good stewards of this fragile, beautiful earth. (Genesis 1 and 2). Which candidates support recycling, conservation, and pollution controls for the common good?

Human Rights, Dignity, and Gender Justice. We are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). What do the candidates say about immigration policies, human trafficking world wide, fighting HIV/AIDS, ending torture, and the rights of women?

This list is hardly exhaustive; there are other issues as well. Furthermore this list is not meant to endorse or criticize any candidate or political party. The choice in the end is yours. However, it is my hope that this will help us all bring our faith into the voting booth when we vote on November 7. Let us pray that no matter the outcome, that God's will be done.

Pastor Bryan A. Leone



Prayer concerns come in a variety of ways and have a variety of needs. There are current **immediate** needs as well as **long term** needs. Our newsletter prayer list contains both needs.

Members: Helga Furnes, Kay Leone, Peg Wesche, Bob Wesche, Linda Pleva, Arlene Juliano and Sarah Mora.

Family & Friends of Members: Faith Holmes, Ingeborg Reine, Margaret, Lorna Walter, Andy, Nochele Revere, John Bily, Mary Curtis, Kenneth Volek, Evelyn Sogaro, Christine Lawrence, Ty Bordenet, John Hannan, Joy Kotrch, JoAnn Slinn, Raymond J. Plouffe, Ron & Carlene, Pedro Coutino, Dylan Cyr, Kay Inderdohnen, Harlan Fagan, Victor Poklemba, Judy Thomas, Ellie Garnett Ferguson, Jean and Alex McKinnon, Nancy Evola, Bill Giarla, Trudy Molnar, Edward Szulga, Gertrude Heim, Lynn Bernardini, Larry Belotti, 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, Aaron Jackson Bob Morschauer and Karl Ekeberg.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

The family and friends of +Thomas Hoffman+, nephew of Charlie and Martha Hoffman.

The family and friends of +Russell Johnson+, grandfather of Tim Carlson.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147 vs. 3

From the Intern**A New Hymnal:
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship***

You may have heard it on the street, you may have heard the buzz—a new hymnal for the ELCA is coming out, and it's red. Not like the previous *Service Book and Hymnal*, the new hardcover book is wrapped in a hue called "new cranberry."

This new hymnal represents the culmination of the *Renewing Worship* program started five years ago, in 2001. *Renewing Worship* was an ELCA church wide program to study and renew the music, liturgy, and worship aids that are available for use in the many congregations within our church. This multi-year program involved study, conversation, and exploration by any ELCA congregation interested and willing to participate; over 800 congregations and thousands of persons joined the discussion, while pastors, theologians, liturgists, professors, and musicians offered their professional opinions and assistance. *Renewing Worship* resulted not in one monolithic book, but rather a plethora of fascinating study guides, manuals, and worship resources available through our publishing house, Augsburg Fortress. These materials have already helped Lutherans think more deeply about what we do in worship and how we do it.

Presenting information about the hymnal is part of my internship project; I combined my knowledge of the progress of the hymnal with additional research for presentations to both the Worship & Music committee and the Church Council. The Worship & Music committee voted to recommend the purchase of the hymnals to the Church Council. At the September meeting of the Council, a vote was taken to accept the recommendation and purchase 150 copies of the hymnals by October 2nd in order to save \$2.50 per hymnal (\$17.50 before, \$20.00 after).

Because of the great early response to the hymnal, Good Shepherd's order, placed on September 28th, put us in line for hymnals coming out of the third printing; they should be

shipped in late January, 2007. Good Shepherd will utilize an interest free payment plan spread out over 2007. Hymnals will be available for purchase as memorials and special gifts for the congregation.

This hymnal will be the most expansive worship book ever produced for Lutheran worship. It contains no less than 10 Holy Communion settings representing an array of musical styles, along with *Matins (Morning)*, *Vespers (Evening)*, *Compline (Night)*, and Responsive Prayer services. It includes fully 893 songs (743 without the Psalms) from a variety of genres, though the majority of those in the *Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW)* will again be found in this book. Interestingly, this new hymnal will be a devotional resource for individuals and families too; it contains a Luther's Small Catechism, all the Psalms, and a Daily Lectionary. How in the world did they get all of this into one book? Through the advancement of science; new paper technology has allowed all of these materials to be printed on paper that is stronger, thinner, and more opaque!

On October 21st, seven members of Good Shepherd attended an introductory session at Immanuel Lutheran Church, in Meriden, CT. Bob and Joanne Carlson, Charlie Simon, Vic Johnson, Larry Black, Pastor Leone, and I all learned a great deal more about the hymnal through a marathon session of presentations and hymn singing. (see picture)

While this hymnal is intended to replace the *LBW*, it will not replace the need for other supporting resources, like *With One Voice*. It is a core worship text and represents a little from a wide variety of traditions—other materials are intended to complement its use as particular congregations choose.

More information about the hymnal will be posted soon and you can check out the copies of those who received them on October 21st. Learning about and how to use this new resource will be a communal adventure over the coming months and years.

Intern,
Joshua D. Rinas

Social Ministry and Community Outreach Committee

Many bags of food again, have been taken to the Monroe Food Pantry and the Backpack program for children in Bridgeport was successful. It's hard to believe how much this food is appreciated when so many of us have so much. Please continue to check the sign on the food pantry shelves for what foods are needed each month.

If you would still like to purchase the olive oil—perhaps for a hostess/holiday gift—please see or contact Doris Schwarz who is still taking orders for it. This, too, is a worthy cause.

In order not to repeat the information, please see the article in this newsletter about the Thanksgiving baskets that Jane Fieberts has written.

Do you knit or crochet? Would you be interested in learning? We have a variety of charities seeking handmade items for people in need or who are experiencing difficult periods in their lives. Children's sweaters to be brought to areas of urgent need (through Guideposts), tiny newborn hats for babies in underdeveloped nations (through Save the Children) or healing shawls for the American Cancer Society are some of the possibilities. Please speak to Trudi Black to look at some samples, get a pattern or discuss learning a new, relaxing, lifetime skill. There are many members with talents to share; think what we can do **together!**

Watch your bulletins for information on the Angel Tree which will be put up in November with gifts due in early December.



SHEPHERD'S PANTRY - The Social Ministry and Community Outreach Committee invites you to contribute items to the Shepherd's Pantry located in the narthex. Needed at the Monroe Food Pantry in November: stuffing and potatoes (fresh, canned or boxes of instant mashed potatoes); in December: hot chocolate mix, mustard, canned mushrooms, canned olives.

COVENANT TO CARE THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS PLANS

The Sunday School has once again decorated grocery bags that will be available in the narthex at the end of October for Thanksgiving dinner donations for our Covenant to Care families. Everything is due by noon on November 19th.

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 19th.

This year, we have only a limited number of Styrofoam coolers available for turkeys, so **if you are donating a turkey or turkey breast, please bring it in a cooler if possible. Put your name on the cooler, so it can be returned to you that same day.** You also may leave turkeys in the kitchen freezer or refrigerator provided you let me know they are there. Another option is to donate a grocery store gift card or gift certificate in lieu of buying groceries.

And if you have leftover Halloween candy, please consider saving and donating it for the holidays (candy is candy, regardless of the wrapper!). Just put it in a separate bag for the 19th and mark it as such.

For Christmas, the list of names and gift suggestions will be posted in mid-November, and gifts will be due December 10th. 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

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles for the next newsletter to the church office by Wednesday, November 15, 2006. You may E-mail your articles (goodshepherdlutheran@snet.net) or put them in the box in the church office.

Church Council Highlights October 11, 2006

It was reported that the Finance Committee has been working on the 2007 budget. Many of the Committee chairpersons have already submitted their estimates and still several need to be determined. A preliminary budget will be posted on the bulletin board.

150 ELCA Worship books have been ordered and should arrive late in January. A motion was accepted that donations will be solicited and/or new memorial money will be used to pay for the new hymnals. 6 congregational members will go to Meriden late in October to learn about this new worship resource.

Mutual Ministry Committee

The Mutual Ministry Committee is now operative. We have three objectives that concern us:

1. To provide a confidential opportunity for church members and staff to voice their church-related concerns.
2. To assist in finding resolutions to church-related issues and concerns.
3. To provide positive support for both members and staff.

Following is a list of committee members and phone numbers:

Larry Black	261-6576
Vicki Creutz	374-4529
Lisa Lengel	924-7044
Roy Remlin	929-7028
Jill Schmidt	270-0453
Doris Schwartz	261-5420

Members or staff with concerns can contact any of the committee members, or place correspondence in our mailbox in the church lounge. These concerns will be addressed as soon as possible by the committee, and shall be kept confidential. No written record of these concerns will be kept, and information will not be shared without permission. The purpose of this committee is not to circumvent active discussion and direct resolution of concerns, but as a resource for all the Good Shepherd family in God's work.



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

On Sunday, October 8, 2006, we welcomed into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Ava Margaret Vojtek, daughter of Hilary and Rich Vojtek. Karen and Jeff Jackson are the proud grandparents.

On Sunday, October 22, 2006, we welcomed into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Adam John Songini, son of Heather and Bob Songini. Nancy and John Gennette are the proud grandparents.



Weddings

Our congratulations and best wishes to Christopher and Amy Hough on their marriage, Saturday, September 30, 2006. Pastor Leone was the celebrant. Sue and Jim Hough were the happy parents of the groom.

Congratulations

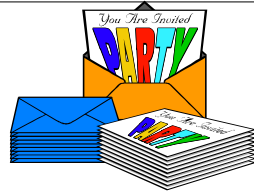
Our congratulations to Colin Morrison on his achievement of Eagle Scout. Colin received the award at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony on Saturday, October 7, 2006. Colin's Eagle Scout project was the handicap ramp at the Monroe Food Pantry. Outstanding accomplishment, Colin!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

December 10, 2006 immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Please plan to attend.

New Year's Eve Party



Who: Sunday School Students and Everyone
 When: Sunday, November 26, 9:15 am
 Where: Gibiser Hall
 Why: To celebrate the end of the church year and make an Advent Craft - Jesse Tree ornaments for your family.

Upcoming Events -

The Sunday School will sing at the 10:30 service on November 5th as the culmination of our three-week unit on baptism.

Sunday School Christmas Program - December 17th

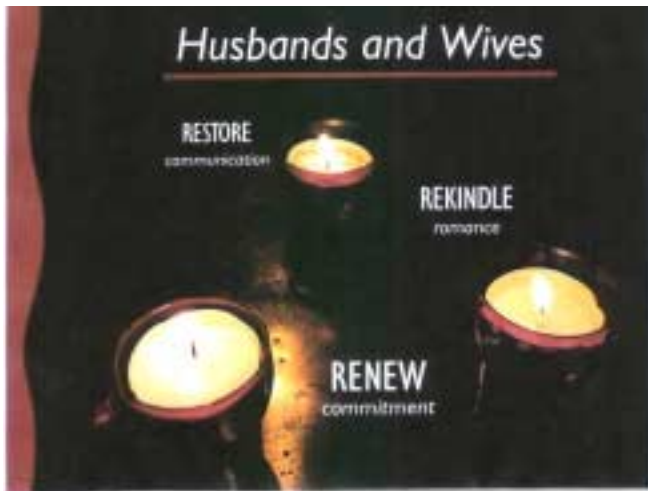
COMMUNITY SUPPER



The next community supper will be on Wednesday, December 6, 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.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The youth group is conducting a cell phone drive to donate to the battered women's shelter. This drive will continue through the end of December. The collection box is in the narthex. Thank you for your support.



Connecticut Marriage Encounter Weekend!!
 November 10 - 12, 2006

A weekend without Kids, Jobs, or other distractions.
 Just you and the person you chose to spend your life with!

For details contact Ken & Gina Schiess 203-426-2961 or see Pastor for the video (VHS or DVD available) or visit www.ilmeone.org - No one needs a weekend... but everyone deserves a weekend.

Hi to all the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,



Bill and I left Good Shepherd in July, 2000, but have kept abreast with members through the monthly newsletter that we receive. Good Shepherd was a part of our lives for a number of years and we have appreciated receiving news through the newsletter. Unfortunately, we did not keep in contact with members individually, as our lives became a part of a new church community in Greenport, NY at the end of Long Island.

We are both doing well. Bill has retired and enjoys the new life here. I continue to work and will probably do so for a few years. We would love to hear from members that we knew. Our new address is 210 Sixth Street, Greenport, NY 11944 .

Good Shepherd was a blessing to us and to our son Bill while we were there and we have many fond memories of the time we spent in Connecticut. We would welcome hearing from you and would always welcome those we knew for a visit.

Gods Blessing,
 Bill and Myrna Hanff

Happy Birthday

Miriam Kursawe	1 December	Jennifer Morrison	21 December
Steven Shapiro	8 December	Nina Furnes	22 December
Glen Noll	9 December	Margaret Uhde	24 December
Jeffrey Burnaska	9 December	Joanne Carlson	25 December
Kathryn Hensel	12 December	Donna Hoffman	25 December
Thomas De Leo	12 December	Wayne Hoffmann	27 December
Andrea Wesche	15 December	Karilina Pleva	28 December
Tyler Hoffmann	16 December	Karen Jackson	29 December
Joy Baxter	17 December	James Schwarz	29 December
Edward Mackey	18 December	Ethan Dikmen	30 December

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.

Treasurer's Report - SEPTEMBER 2006 (YTD)							
YTD Contributions				YTD Expenses			
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Bdgt</u>	<u>Var.</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Bdgt</u>	<u>Var.</u>
Pledge	\$136,964	\$133,084	\$3,880	Pastoral Ministries	\$55,107	\$57,347	(\$2,240)
Non-Pledge	16,371	17,560	(1,189)	Mortgage	29,734	29,733	1
Loose Offerings	1,697	1,850	(153)	Music & Worship	21,318	21,032	286
Bldg Usage	3,885	3,850	35	Mission Support	16,975	16,690	285
Intern	429	1,480	(1,051)	Property	15,427	15,448	(21)
Church School	3,279	3,610	(331)	Office	13,486	13,189	297
Intern - Joshua Rinas	4,740	0	4,740	Utilities	7,729	7,047	682
Other	7,656	6,945	711	Christian Educ.	3,181	4,375	(1,194)
				Intern	7,140	0	7,140
				Evangelism	290	860	(570)
				Youth	0	865	(865)
				Stewardship	476	560	(84)
				Insurance	4,248	4,471	(223)
				Altar Guild	365	400	(35)
				Church Devlpmnt	0	5,000	(5,000)
Total	\$175,021	\$168,379	\$6,642	Total	\$175,474	\$177,017	(\$1,543)
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Bdgt</u>	<u>Var.</u>		<u>Dec '05</u>	<u>Sep '06</u>	<u>Var</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$453)	(\$8,638)	\$8,185	Capital Fund	(\$945)	(\$3,556)	(\$2,611)
J. Rinas - Intern \$'s	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500	Net Worth	\$741,180	\$758,195	\$17,015

Significant Activity in September

Pledge / Non-Pledge Split to be made in October

\$1,122 Favorable Contribution Variance driven by favorable Intern Contributions

No spending against Church Development Fund YTD

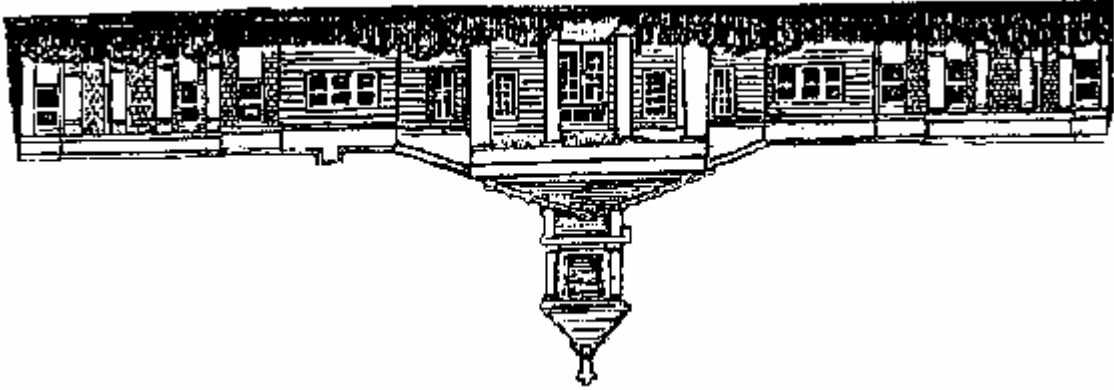
\$745 Credit received from Synod for 2005 Oil Refund Program

\$575 of Evangelism Program \$'s not spent (phasing)

Pastor September 30th payment not made by bank until October 2nd (3 payrolls in October : 1 in September)

Pastor Continuing Education Expenses above plan due to Mission Event and Bishop Convocation

\$1,858 Deficit favorable by \$6,231 to budget



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT
9:15 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICES:
SUNDAY AT 8:00 A.M.
& 10:30 A.M.

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

466 Elm Street
Monroe, CT 06468

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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