

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

Volume 40, Issue 1

Phone: (203) 746 – 9022

Web Page: www.goodshepherdnf.org

JANUARY 2012

Pastor

Rev. Eric A. Wismar
pastor@goodshepherdnf.org

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Roland Klauck

President

Liz Smith
smithster60@earthlink.net

Vice-President

Linton Hamilton

Recording Secretary

Liz Thomson

Treasurer

Eric Schonenberg

Financial Secretary

Todd Durr

Newsletter Editor

Liz Thomson
office@goodshepherdnf.org

Prayer Chain

Suzanne Kloos
1(203)746-1316
suzannekloos@yahoo.com

OUR COMMISSIONERS

Discipleship—

Carol Woodside

Stewardship—

Bill Bodnar

Education—

Juanita Bok

Property—

Chip Dice

Mission—

Jennifer Seder

Youth/Fellowship—

Elizabeth Alves

Words from the Undershepherd

Dear Members and Friends of the Good Shepherd,

“Love came down at Christmas,” as the little carol goes. Nobody loved like Jesus loved. Throughout His earthly ministry, no one was too young or too old, too rich or too poor, too sinful or too sanctimonious to be within the realm of His loved. But we need to take a step further back ... and realize why He came in the first place ... or why God even made us in the first place, for that matter: **out of love**

“LOVE came down at Christmas.” **Christmas is a vision of divine love. This is the hope of the world.**

The story of Bethlehem is important ... but the receiving of the Bethlehem love is life.

I'd like to share with you a passage from a favorite book of mine. It says: “*The only thing which can satisfy humanity's heart is to love God so completely that humanity be-*



comes the channel of the divine love to its fellow human beings. The only love which will affect our fellow human beings is the supernatural love. All other love is tainted with self-interest, and this is the reason why we often fail – because we do not love enough with that divine love. If we could only love with the divine love then

*our duties to God and to our fellow human beings would become an expression of our divine love. This is the one thing we must ever seek in Bethlehem – that Bethlehem begets **in us** that di-*

vine love – a selfless, supernatural love, which is the Bethlehem love – a love which alone can ease the heartache of the world.”

Divine love is the hope of the world. That's why you need to let the world know about the love that God has given **to you** through the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's why

you need to carry on the work of Simeon and John the Baptist ... and proclaim that **He is the Christ**. Not because of His appearance. Not even because of what He taught (though He was the greatest teacher who ever lived). But because of Who He was: the Son of God ... the very embodiment of **divine love** ... the love **you** and **I** need to live out in our world as well.

May the Holy Spirit bless **you** to receive the Bethlehem love - the divine love of sins forgiven and everlasting life - through your Baptism ... through the promises of His Word ... and through the Holy Communion – the continuation of the incarnation.

See you in worship!

Pastor Wismar

President's Message

As the old year closes and the new begins, we have much to be thankful for here at Good Shepherd. The opportunity to gather in fellowship at the Amber Room on December 4th, as we concluded our Consecrated Stewards program was a wonderful way to celebrate the blessings we share as members of this congregation. Our commissioners have worked hard all year to provide us with venues for outreach and development as we continue to grow and share in the love of Christ, both internally and externally. I have been enriched by the enthusiasm demonstrated by our Board of Directors and am grateful to work with each one of them. Our Constitution Revision Committee headed by Richard Smith has been at work over the past months updating our constitution. We will be voting on revisions to the constitution at the January board meeting to present for a final vote by the congregation at the February congregational meeting. Copies of the proposed revised constitution will be available at church and will also be sent out in a mass email after the January board meeting.

The board has already voted to add a new commission to the board and we will be looking for volunteers to head and/or be a part of it. The new Media Commission will be in charge of our website and other publicity, including working on the newsletter with our board Secretary, Liz Thomson, who does a fabulous job for us every month. Please contact me, Vice-President Linton Hamilton or Pastor if you are interested in being a part of this. We would love to include the expertise of our teens with the website and social media aspect of the commission.

We are thankful that Ramon Cancel volunteered and was voted, at our December congregational meeting, to represent us at the District Convention in Springfield in June. We are fortunate to have such a capable delegate join Pastor in acting on our behalf. May the Lord's blessings be with you for a happy and healthy New Year,

Liz

Youth & Fellowship

Our fellowship activities for 2011 wrapped up with a Family Movie Night in December. We toasted marshmallows and had popcorn and hot chocolate while watching the short holiday movie “Shrek the Halls” and the unanimous choice of *Kung Fu Panda II*. Thanks to those who participated and especially to those who stuck around and helped clean up!

2012 begins with a **potluck lunch** on New Year’s Day, following worship. I hope to see many of you there! Later in January, we will begin a book club. The first selection is *The Chateau* by CD Swanson (I have a copy available if anyone would like to borrow it). The first meeting will be **Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 pm**. Additional meetings will be February 16th, March 15th, April 19th, and May 17th with books to be announced shortly. Stay tuned for details about the upcoming **Game Night Potluck!!**

Thank you and God bless, Beth

Rose Bowl Parade— January 2, 2012

The Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen’s League sponsors a float in the Rose Bowl Parade for 62 years. The Lutheran Hour theme is the only religious float in the parade this year. Rev. Greg Stolz, the speaker on the radio for The Lutheran Hour, will be riding on the float. For more information about the float visit www.petalpushers.org. For more information on the Lutheran Hour visit www.lhm.org.



A drawing of the proposed Lutheran Hour Ministries float that will appear in the 123rd Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 2 under the theme “God’s Promise for All,” based on John 3:36.



Did you give out your welcome bookmarks around your neighborhood? This was an outreach project initiated at our Consecrated Stewards Luncheon in December. As consecrated stewards it is our joy to be able to spread and share the good news of Jesus along with giving our time, talent and resources to God.



Consecration Sunday—December 4th, 2011

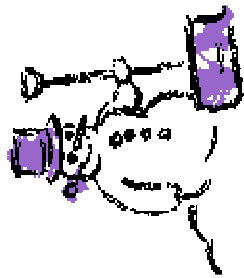




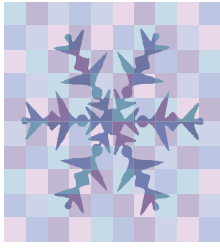
Consecration Sunday December 4th, 2011



*The altar is the
cresset where we
receive the fire of
divine love—
for the
Blessed
Sacrament
is our
Lord
Himself*



JANUARY 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30am-Communion Worship Service POT LUCK LUNCHEON	2	3	4 3:10-Confirmation	5 10:00am- WSL 12:00pm-Weight Watchers 7:30pm-Choir	6 4:15pm - Confirmation	7
8 9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Study 10:30am- Worship Service	9 7:45pm-Board Meeting	10	11 3:10-Confirmation 8:00pm-A.A.	12 12:00pm-Weight Watchers 7:30pm-Choir	13 4:15pm Confirmation	14
15 9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am- Communion Worship Service	16	17	18 3:10-Confirmation 7:30-History of Christian Theology 8:00pm-A.A.	19 10:00am - WSL 12:00pm-Weight Watchers 7:00pm- Book Club 7:30pm-Choir	20 4:15pm Confirmation	21
22 9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Study 10:30am- Worship service	23	24 7:30pm- Discipleship Meeting	25 3:10pm-Confirmation 7:30-Estate Planning with Richard & Chase Smith 8:00pm-A.A.	26 12:00pm-Weight Watchers 7:30pm-Choir	27 4:15pm - Confirmation	28
29-9:00-Sunday School 9:15-Adult Bible Class 10:30am- Worship Service CIRCUIT FORUM	30	31	28 3:10pm-Confirmation 8:00pm-AA	29 12:00pm-Weight Watchers 7:30pm-Choir	30 4:15pm - Confirmation	

Serving Page for JANUARY

	1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22	1/29	2/5
Ushers:	T. Renz	D. Kish	L. Hamilton	S. Gardner	E. Davis	R. Mulrooney
	T. Durr	C. Kish	C. Hamilton	C. Woodside	E. Davis	S. Mulrooney
	B. Durr	F. Bok	C. Hamilton	J. Scalzitti	A. Davis	B. Dice
	D. Abrantes	J. Bok	B. Tompkins		A. Golino	C. Dice
		R. Cancel	C. Tompkins		J. Kloos	R. Mulrooney
Tellers:	B. Dice	R. Mulrooney	G. Wismar	C. Dice	Todd Durr	S. Lowry
	S. Kloos	S. Mulrooney	P. Wismar	J. Dice	Paula Durr	B. Szaley
Lay Reader:	R. Smith	B. Alves	C. Brillon	B. Dice	B. Woodside	L. Smith
Greeters:	P. Durr	D. Breeger	C. Hamilton	J. Kivlen	B. Bodnar	I. Cancel
		B. Breeger			E. Bodnar	R. Cancel
Comm. Asst.:	T. Renz		R. Smith		L. Hamilton	B. Durr
Altar Guild:	H. Abrantes	T. Gilleo	A. Sohle	L. Smith	J. Kivlen	L. Thomson
	L. Seder	I. Wixted		J. McGowan	S. Haber	P. Tompkins
Acolyte:	A. Zustovich	T. Dice	L. Galino	K. Kloos	E. Bodnar	S. Renz.
Crucifer:	T. Freeborn	J. Wismar	L. White	B. Musinski	J. Davis	B. Tuffy

Anniversaries & Birthdays



Marriage

	Stephanie Zustovich	January 01	Edward Davis	January 18
	Seth Bilquin	January 01	Doris Stangl	January 18
	Alyssa Renz	January 09	Cameron Tompkins	January 18
	Stanley Gardner	January 09	Cameron Tompkins	January 18
	Matthew Miller	January 10	Laura Berendsohn	January 19
Donald and Beverly Breeger	Don Breeger	January 12	Paula Durr	January 19
<i>January 13</i>	Alexander Miller	January 15	Richard Alves	January 20
	Daniel Abrantes	January 15	Carol Cunningham	January 21
Richard and Suzanne Haber	Cole Scully	January 15	Nancy Crosby	January 25
<i>January 14</i>	Judy Bachman	January 17	Victoria Alves	January 31



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
2 Colonial Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812

Announcements



We received a thank you from the Southbury

Lutheran Home for the gift cards we gave to the residents for Christmas. The activities department purchases the gifts with these cards, getting things they know they want or can use.

FOOD PANTRY—Sunday, January 8 is our next collection day.

CIRCUIT FORUM—January 29 will be the day of the circuit forum for our circuit. A vote will be held for circuit counselor and news of the district con-

vention will be discussed. Ramon Cancel will be attending this meeting as our congregation's delegate.

WSL—The LWML New England District Convention hosted by our zone will be on April 27 & 28 in Trumbull, CT. Our ladies are preparing fifteen centerpieces. The out reach project is collecting disposable diapers for Birthright, sizes Premie, Newborn and Baby up to 28 pounds. Help us gather a good supply by bringing a box or two to church between

