# *the LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE Good Shepherd*

# A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**~.CONNECTIONS.~**

**June Newsletter 2025**

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**Sunday Service at 9:30am**

From the Pastor

June 2025

June is a great month. Summer is well on its way and the days are getting longer and better to spend time outside. It’s almost like a rebirth of nature. In the church, looking at our own calendar June this year brings us three Sundays with special emphasis.

On **June 8, 2025,** the church celebrates Pentecost, 50 days after Easter. Sometimes called the birthday of the church, Pentecost marks the day the Holy Spirit came on the disciples gathered in Jerusalem, and with the sound of a mighty wind and flames of fire those first disciples proclaimed to the public that Jesus is God’s presence among us. Because it was a special day of celebration for the Jewish people, folks from all over the known world were gathered in Jerusalem. The amazing thing is that all of them heard the disciples proclaiming their message in the individual language of each of those gathered there. That same Holy Spirit still enables us to hear the message of God’s grace in Jesus Christ in a way that helps us to know that God’s gift of Jesus and the community of the church are meant for each of us. This year on Pentecost at Good Shepherd we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism (known to us as the

Rite of Confirmation). Plan to be with us as some youth and adults will affirm the grace of baptism as the path for living as a follower of Jesus. On **June 15**, the church celebrates the Holy Trinity. Now that God has revealed the full nature of God’s being as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the church takes a day dedicated to the personal nature of God. The Holy Spirit shows us a God who is involved with all our life as humans. We know that God has created us and in Jesus we learn that our creation was not just for a limited number of years on this earth. Jesus’ resurrection shows us that our creator creates a life beyond our experience on earth.

And God’s Holy Spirit reveals the closeness with which God regards us, leading us and guiding us in understanding and in love for others. It’s true, there really is no teaching more mysterious than the Triune nature of God. We can’t speak about God in abstractions, but we can speak about God in personal encounters with our God.

On **June 29**, the church commemorates Ss Peter and Paul. Their story is one of reconciliation and growth in love. You can read about the argument they had with one another in Galatians 2:10-14. On June 29, the church commemorates Ss Peter and Paul. Their story is one of reconciliation and growth in love. You can read about the argument they had with one another in Galatians 2:10-14. They eventually reconciled their difference and worked together: Peter sent to Christians of Jewish backgrounds and Paul to Gentile who became Christians.. It is a day that recalls us to consider the essential nature of our faith to be people of forgiveness and understanding, especially across lines that might divide us. So, June is a month of growth, not just in our gardens but also in our life with God. This is why we gather on Sundays at 9:30 to grow in faith and hope and love as we serve one another and those our world would like to forget.

In hope,



**Outreach**

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL IN JUNE**

Food, clean water, medications, education, disaster response both here and globally. Our donations to Hunger Appeal will help with all of those! Place your gifts in envelopes provided

on the tables in the narthex, checks payable to LCGS with World Hunger Appeal on the memo line. The need is great everywhere. Thanks, and Blessings!



On Sunday, June 1, the 70+ quilts that our quilting group made over the course of a year were blessed. They are ready to be sent on their way to Lutheran World Relief. First our quilters will drive to a quilt ingathering in Connecticut. From there a tractor trailer will haul quilts from around New England to a warehouse in Maryland. From the warehouse the quilts will be distributed around the world (including the USA) wherever there is need.

Thank you to our quilters and to all who contribute monetarily, donate fabric, thread and other supplies. If anyone cares to help defray the cost of shipping, simply make out your check to LCGS and write “Adopt a Quilt” on the memo line.

Quilters meet most Tuesdays at 9:30. Anyone is welcome!

SCHOOL KITS



In addition to shipping off our quilts, we will be sending all the school bags full of supplies that the congregation generously filled. The quilters are currently assembling a new batch of school bags to be filled this summer and fall when school supplies go on sale. This second batch of bags will be sent off next spring with another supply of quilts.

If anyone would like to sew a few school bags at home, there are several kits of precut fabric with instructions on the credenza in the narthex. If you do take a kit, please leave your name on the signup sheet. THANKS!



**Jonnycake Market Bring donations to:**  Jonnycake Center for Hope

22 Kersy Rd. Peacedale, RI 02879

**Donation Food List**

**Stock the Market** If you would like to help us settle into our new home, please stop by and drop off a desired food item for the Jonnycake Market. Donation bins will be on our porch, making it easy to pull up and drop off. There are a number of healthy items that we would especially like to have on our shelves. Please feel free to share this list with your family, neighbors, and friends and visit [www.jonnycakecenter.org/the-food-pantry/](http://www.jonnycakecenter.org/the-food-pantry/) for more information. **Keep the food coming!** Healthy nonperishable foods, whole grain pasta, organic beans, peanut butter, and some holiday staples are especially welcome.

**Announcements**

1. **Congratulations Graduates**

**Graduates 2025:**

1. **Nadia Duffer,** daughter of Theresa, graduated from Lasalle Academy and will attend URI on the fall to study engineering.
2. **Patricia Shea,** daughter of Molly and Dan, graduated from The University of New Hampshire, School of Law. She will begin working for the county of Nassau’s district attorney.
3. **Christian Lopez,** grandson of Pastor and Karin Kohl graduated from URI, with a degree in computer science.
   * 1. **Catherine Thompson,** granddaughter of Pastor and Karin Kohl graduated from Lasalle Academy. She will attend Endicott College in the fall.

# Meet Our Newest Members! (new feature)

# Heather Skidds

# If you’ve been able to attend services, you already know what a blessing our Minister of Music Heather Skidd’s beautiful voice and amazing musical skills are to our congregation. Now Heather has officially joined our church family. Originally from Connecticut, Heather lives in Exeter and has been active in RI’s music world for many years, especially as a choir director and organist/pianist at many area churches. She has been working in church music since she was 16 years old when she started as the Children's Choir Director at her local parish. She studied Music Education as an undergrad and continued on to earn a MA in Liturgical Music in grad school. A music teacher for 15+ years, she is currently making a job change from serving as the Performing Arts Department Chair at Rocky Hill Country Day School to the Director of Education at South County School of Performing Arts. She has been the Director of the North Kingstown Community Chorus for 9 years.

# Heather’s family includes her husband Dennis and their two college age children, Aidan & Saylor. They also have two small dogs, Nutmeg & Willow. They are an ecumenical family with some going each Sunday to Unitarian Universalist of South County in Peacedale or Christ the King just down the road in Kingston. Heather became acquainted with Good Shepherd driving by it daily when she worked at Christ the King, when her kids attended Compass School and used our building, and through time spent inside for scouts and music recitals. She has been Roman Catholic for most of her life, including graduate study at a School of Theology. She decided to make a transition to the Lutheran Church after some changes in her family life. She says, “I appreciate that LCGS welcomes all and focuses on community service.”

# Jim & Jen Zoulias

# Jim is originally from Westminster, MD and Jen grew up in Worcester, MA. He has been a career Navy man for 29 years, so it’s no surprise they currently live in Newport. Jen was a stay-at-home Mom for 23 years, but has also worked as a teacher’s assistant and as a manager in a grocery store. They have two daughters who are grown and out of the house.  Kasey is 29 and Hannah is 24.

# In their spare time Jim & Jen enjoy trying out the restaurants in Newport, so perhaps it’s a good thing they also like to exercise, walk, hike and play pickle ball! Jen was raised in the Covenant church and Jim grew up in the United Church of Christ, but they just spent three years at a Lutheran church in Nebraska before moving here. We are so happy they liked it enough that they searched for another Lutheran Church when they moved here, and found Good Shepherd on the Internet.

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# Crissy Bayless, Lisa Kuosmanen, and Sophie Kuosmanen

# Sophie Kuosmanen is no doubt familiar to many of you who are able to attend services, as she frequently serves as one of our acolytes. Born in Georgia, she moved here with her family and lives in Wakefield. Sophie is an 8th grade student at Broad Rock Middle School, where her favorite subjects are social studies, advanced math, Spanish, and science. She was in the Dual Language Immersion program in South Kingstown and has been learning Spanish in school since Kindergarten! Next year she will be a freshman at South Kingstown High School where she will be in the Computer Science CTE program.

# Sophie loves sports, yearbook club, playing the trumpet and piano, and hanging out with her friends and family. She plays club tennis at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport and plays on both travel and middle school softball teams. We are delighted to welcome her and her two moms, Lisa and Crissy, into our church family.

# Lisa Kuosmanen grew up in Acton, MA, and was baptized and confirmed at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church there. She says, “I have always been Lutheran, as it is the religion from both sides of my family. My whole family is from Finland; I am a first-generation American on my dad's side of the family and second-generation on my mom's side.” She lived in Georgia for many years and attended St. John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta, where daughter Sophie was baptized.

# Lisa works as a Senior Career Education Specialist at the University of Rhode Island, where she provides career advising support for undergraduate STEM students. She also teaches at URI (career strategy and planning, internship seminar, first year student planning for academic success), serves on the leadership team for Rhody F1rst (URI's first generation student initiative), and advises the Society for Women in Computing (student organization). She has worked at URI in her career advising role for 10 years. Prior to coming to URI she worked in sport and event operations for professional, amateur and nonprofit teams and organizations for 12 years, and also founded and ran a recruiting division for an international marketing agency out of Atlanta, GA for 10 years. Outside of work she loves to spend time with her family, coaches Sophie's sports teams, plays tennis, travels, and likes to hike, bike, kayak, read, create photo books, and make videos.

# Crissy is originally from Stuttgart, Arkansas, but spent most of her life in Atlanta, Georgia. She has been a professional photographer for 22 years. Her business, Bayliss Photography, specializes in weddings, sports, school & family photos. She is looking forward to photographing events for the church! Outside of work hours (which often include weekends, not surprisingly), she enjoys playing tennis and doing anything with her family. “Sophie keeps us busy!” she says. Their family also includes two Yorkie pups, Chewie & Sabbie (named after their favorite tennis player).

# Crissy says, “I was raised Baptist. My grandfather was a Baptist minister. I spent 4 nights every week in church. I’m very happy switching over to the Lutheran church. I feel more accepted in this church.”

# Lisa adds, “I discovered Good Shepherd when we moved to the area and I was looking for Lutheran churches, plus it's very close to my home and work. We enjoyed visiting and felt very welcomed by everyone, and now we are excited to be members!”

# We at Good Shepherd are excited, too, to welcome all of these new members into our church family!

1. 

# The heat is rising!

# Check out our progress in paying down our mortgage. You can see how we are doing on the big wall “thermometer” to the right of our kitchen entrance. The heat is inching up. Thank you to all who have been contributing. Any amounts, large or small, will help us reach our goal of paying off the balance. Please keep the donations coming. Contributions are welcome anytime.

1. **Ongoing Prayers for:**
2. *For additions or deletions please e-mail or call the church office.789-7776, or* [*lcgsmail@gmail.com*](mailto:lcgsmail@gmail.com)
3. Kaitie Connors De
4. Linda Barany
5. Ellen Bennett
6. Jocleyn Theroux
7. Mari Dulek
8. Karin Kohl
9. Jessica Maynard
10. Bobbie Peterson
11. C. Duncan
12. Margaret Franks
13. Billy Wernquest
14. Ruth Wernquest
15. Holly Deutsch
16. Mary Jane Briggs
17. Bill Deutsch
18. Gary Durett
19. Natalie Schanck
20. Mike Carty
21. Barbara Smith
22. Phyllis Farley
23. Brian Mitchell
24. Barney
25. Joyce Pearson
26. James Meyers
27. Naomi Sawyer
28. Carolyn Hathaway
29. Betty Hathaway
30. Margie Bell
31. Pat Sweeney
32. Karolyn Lee
33. Liam Varnelis
34. Josh Peterson
35. Kathy Lee
36. Chris Rose
37. Lisa Ferry
38. Ellora Hendrickson
39. Melvin Platt
40. KC Christensen
41. Jan Briggs
42. Ruth McGuy
43. Bud Godwin
44. Lisa Lessman
45. Taylor Lessman
46. Joan & Sheldon Pratt
47. Jerry Paquin
48. Stanley Larson
49. Ellen Hedlund
50. Donald & Bernadine Cunnigen
51. Maggie Reichgott
52. Tucker Maute
53. Karen Perry
54. Mark Quinn
55. Tim Diskin
57. **+LOVED ONES IN THE ARMED FORCES**+ Manny Morales, Michael Bock
58. Matthew Kankash, Heath O’Neill, Andrew Anderson, Noah Cooper, Dan Berkowitz

# 

# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Ralph Stokes 4

Liz Hassinger 12

Finn Leedahl 13

Graham Stokes 23

Kenneth Kemp 24

Arlene Phillips 26

# *Happy birthday to all! May God bless you with a happy, healthy year.*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD** (office # 789-7776)

# Pastor: The Reverend Dennis Kohl

Minister of Music-Heather Skidds

Office Administrator- Karen Amitrano

# Please contact the church office for any pastoral needs or emergencies

# 2025 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL:

Eric Taylor 783-3969 Caden Baum 644-7436

Deb Crary 932-8543 David Lindstrom 626-8083

Annie Senerchia 207-2033 Fred Baillargeron 847-3285

Gail Eastwood Stokes 667-2803

Kris Bacon 855-3277

**\*COUNCIL OFFICERS: President-**Fred Baillargeron, **Vice President-**Kris Bacon**, Secretary -**deb Crary, **Treasurer-**Eric Taylor

**WORSHIP ASSISTING SCHEDULE**

**June 2025**

**\* Can’t serve** on your assigned date? PLEASE 1) **ask someone to swap dates**, and 2) **notify the church office**.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **June 1** | **June 8** | **June 15** | **June 22** | **June 29** | **July 6** |
| PASTOR  ---------------  Assisting Minister | K. Bacon ------------  M. Bender Lee | D. Kohl  ------------  F. Baillargeron | D. Kohl  -----------  K. Bacon | D. Kohl  ------------  C. Baum | D. Kohl  **------------**  K. Amitrano | D. Kohl |
| Lector | R. Stokes | A. DiBiasio | S. Gaunt | F. Baillargeron | M. Bender Lee |  |
| Greeter-Ushers | R. Passananti/M. Palmer | B & B Smith | J. Vican | S. Gaunt/ K. Amitrano | K. Bacon |  |
| Communion Assistant(s) | K. Amitrano | D. Crary | A. Anderson | J. Vican | A. Senerchia |  |
| Altar Care | M & G Morrison | J. Crary | A. Senerchia | K. Amitrano | K. Bacon | M & G Morrison |
| Acolyte | A. Baum | L. DiBiasio |  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2025 | **JUNE** | | SUNDAY |  |  |  |  |
|  | CALENDAR YEAR |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |  |
|  | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 |  |
|  | 9:30 Worship | **I pm Social Group** | **7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |  |
|  | 9:30 Worship |  | **7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters 7pm zoom council meeting** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |  |
|  | 9:30 Worship | **I pm Social Group** | **7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |  |
|  | 9:30 Worship |  | **7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 29 | 30 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 |  |
|  | 9:30 Worship |  | **7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 06 | **07** | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 |  |