# *the LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE Good Shepherd*

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

**~.CONNECTIONS.~**

**February/March Newsletter 2025**



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**Sunday Service at 9:30am**

**Sunday School is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month**

The choice is clear:  
  
Meanness or Mercy …  
Cruelty or Compassion …  
Conformity or Freedom …  
  
With a flurry of Executive Orders in his first week in office, the President of the United States has made his choice clear. He is choosing meanness and cruelty and demanding conformity.  
  
In the love of Jesus Christ, as a bishop in Christ’s church, and speaking on behalf of all those targeted by these Executive Orders, I speak against the mean and divisive actions of the President of the United States. While I respect that elections have consequences and winners can enact policies that reflect the will of the majority, the massive amount of swift Executive Orders, on all aspects of American life, reflect a vision for division that do not reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ nor do I believe, ultimately, reflect the will of a majority of Americans.

All January 6th insurrectionists are pardoned … governmental workers are encouraged to snitch on their coworkers as programs encouraging diversity, equity, and inclusion are banned … permits for wind energy are rescinded while those for oil and natural gas are expanded … citizens forced into gender conformity that does not align with their lived experiences … neighbors forced into fear over ICE raids, afraid that at any moment they may be caught without the paperwork proving their legal residency in the United States and instantly flown out of the country.

These actions are mean, they are cruel, and they demand conformity to the vision of one man imposed upon the country.    
  
I speak out today because when I was elected Bishop of the New England Synod in June 2024, I shared that my top three priorities would be to tell the story of Jesus, nurture relationships, and do racial justice.  
  
At this moment in time, the story of Jesus I tell is told in Matthew 25 where Jesus tells a parable of a king separating sheep and goats for reward and judgment. Apart from the scenes of judgment which can be difficult for Lutherans, I see a beautiful incarnational promise. Jesus makes the stunning point that when we serve our neighbors in need we serve Christ himself. The sheep judged righteous are told “Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). On the other hand, the goats judged unworthy are told, “Truly, I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me” (Matthew 25:45). To be in relationship with the stranger, the sick, the prisoner is to be in relationship with Christ himself! To fail to serve the least among us is to fail to be in relationship with Christ himself!  
  
In an already polarized society where the United States Surgeon General has warned of an epidemic of loneliness as social connections come apart, and where one study among transgender adults in the United States found that 81% had thought about suicide and 42% had attempted suicide, the President is actively sowing division, breaking apart relationships, and ignoring the least among us. He is incurring judgment upon us as a nation in implementing policies that turn us away from one another and from caring for the least among us.  
  
The choice is clear.  
  
We can choose the President’s path in our silence and inaction, by yielding to despair, and by throwing up our hands in frustration if we believe the lie that there is nothing we can do.    
  
Or, we can retain our power and authority as baptized children of God and choose the path of Jesus Christ in our daily interactions, in our community service, and in our public advocacy.

The path of Jesus is mercy, compassion, and freedom … it calls us to see the image of God in all our neighbors and celebrates a diversity of lived experiences … it invites us to understand that Christ-like sacrificial service for our neighbors is the key to life.  
  
The path of Jesus leads us into trouble for eating with the outcasts, sinners, and others society reviles … it calls us to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, care for the sick, and visit the prisoner regardless of citizenship status … it calls us into relationships with our transgender siblings and all who are bullied and targeted by the President’s actions.  
  
The path of Jesus Christ celebrates and welcomes the Holy Spirit guiding, leading, and sustaining us in community with one another… it finds its strength and power in the Holy Spirit filling us with boldness to love, serve, build, create, and enact relationships and communities announcing the dignity and worth of all people.

The choice is ours. In my words and deeds as the Bishop of the New England Synod I choose the path of Jesus Christ. I choose the path of mercy, compassion, and service that leads to the life, healing, and salvation of the world.  
  
I invite you to join me on the path of Jesus. As you do so, be encouraged and emboldened by the faith of the psalmist who sang: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.” Psalm 46:1-4  
  
May our actions and service for our neighbors in Christ’s name be the glory we give to God!

Bishop Pipho

**Outreach**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Hello Global Refuge Supporters,  Amidst all the uncertainty, we appreciate your incredible support of the Hope for the HolidaysTM2024 program. Over 300 communities participated and wrote 10,000 cards that  conveyed welcome and encouragement to our newest neighbors across the country.  Thank you for your part!   One chaplain shared, "The Feedback regarding the Christmas cards has been amazing. The beautiful and even some handmade Christmas cards contained thoughtful notes of encouragement and prayer...on behalf of the residents that received the Christmas cards with great joy...Thank you!" | | |

Our Lenten Offering will be given to Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale. Their work assisting those in need of help in our communities is vital. The food pantry is only one part of of what they do connecting people with services they need, educational programs, youth programs, help from their emergency fund and more. Please place your donations in the envelopes for Lenten Offering, checks to LCGS with Lenten Offering on the memo line.

**Announcements**

**I will be away from February 22-March 16.** If anyone can help to check messages and bring in the mail, it would be much appreciated. Thanks, Karen

**Sunday School** is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, during worship. **There will be no Sunday School on March. 2**

**Acolytes Needed!**

Hi everyone,

After 2/9, we have 6 Sundays in a row without anyone signed up. My sister and I have been helping out to fill in the blank spots but we will be away for the 2 weekends of February school vacation week. Please consider adding your name to any available Sunday. Thank you, Caden

**Don’t forget to turn your clocks ahead on March 9!**

**Soup and Fellowship**



**Thursdays In Lent**

**beginning March 13**

**5:45 PM**

Followed by



Holden **Evening Prayer**

**at 6:30**

**If you wish, bring a nonperishable donation for**

**our Jonnycake Center food pantry basket.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**Ongoing Prayers for:**

*For additions or deletions please e-mail or call the church office.789-7776, or* [*lcgsmail@gmail.com*](mailto:lcgsmail@gmail.com)

Amy Hinkle

Karin Kohl

Traci Purvis

Jessica Maynard

Bobbie Peterson

C. Duncan

Margaret Franks

Billy Wernquest

Ruth Wernquest

Holly Deutsch

Mary Jane Briggs

Bill Deutsch

Gary Durett

Natalie Schanck

Mike Carty

Barbara Smith

Phyllis Farley

Brian Mitchell

Barney

Joyce Pearson

Amy Phillipo

James Meyers

Naomi Sawyer

Carolyn Hathaway

Betty Hathaway

The Greer family

Karolyn Lee

Liam Varnelis

Josh Peterson

Kathy Lee

Chris Rose

Lisa Ferry  
Ellora Hendrickson

Melvin Platt

KC Christensen

Jan Briggs

Ruth McGuy

Bud Godwin

Lisa Lessman

Taylor Lessman

Joan & Sheldon Pratt

Jerry Paquin

Stanley Larson

Ellen Hedlund

Donald & Bernadine Cunnigen

Maggie Reichgott

Tucker Maute

Karen Perry

Mark Quinn

Tim Diskin

**+LOVED ONES IN THE ARMED FORCES**+ Manny Morales, Michael Bock

Matthew Kankash, Heath O’Neill, Andrew Anderson, Noah Cooper, Dan Berkowitz

 **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.

# February BIRTHDAYS

Fred Baillargeron 4

Geri Chiulli 4

Anika Baum 7

Kathy Vigness-Raposa 8

Earle MacGillivray 9

Nadia Duffer 9

May Kimber 10

Vanessa Reyes 10

Jennifer Gangi 11

Avis O’Neill 24

Zoey Gibby 24

Brierley Raposa 27

Caden Baum 28

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Lauren Jewell 8

David Blackwell 10

Kristina Bacon 12

Rose Padilla Gangi 13

Jean Vican 16

Deb Crary 27

# *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:

Will be announced after next week’s (Feb.10 council meeting)

**WORSHIP ASSISTING SCHEDULE**

**February 2025**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Feb 2** | **Feb 9** | **Feb 16** | **Feb 23** | **March 2** | **Ash Wed**  **Mar 5** |
| PASTOR  ---------------  Assisting Minister | D. Kohl  ------------  K. Amitrano | D. Kohl  ------------  K. Bacon | D. Kohl  -----------  F. Baillargeron | D. Kohl  ------------  M. Bender Lee | D. Kohl  **------------**  K. Bacon | D. Kohl  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Lector | F. Baillargeron | D. Nunez | S. Gaunt  K. Amitrano | S. Teller | F. Baillargeron | A. Senerchia |
| Greeter-Ushers | J. Vican | S. Gaunt  K. Amitrano | S. Gaunt | B & S Teller | B & B Smith |  |
| Communion Assistant(s) | A. Anderson | A. Senerchia | K. Amitrano | D. Crary | A. Anderson |  |
| Altar Care | M & G Morrison | K. Amitrano | A. Senerchia | J. Crary | M & G Morrison | A. Senerchia |
| Acolyte | 1. Baum | S. Clunan |  |  |  |  |

**WORSHIP ASSISTING SCHEDULE**

**March 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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|  | **Mar 2** | **Mar 9** | **Mar 16** | **Mar 23** | **Mar 30** | **April 6** |
| PASTOR  ---------------  Assisting Minister | D. Kohl  ------------  M. Bender Lee | D. Kohl  ------------  K. Bacon | D. Kohl  -----------  F. Baillargeron | D. Kohl  ------------  K. Amitrano | D. Kohl  **------------**  M. Bender Lee |  |
| Lector | F. Baillargeron | D. Nunez | K. Bacon | S. Teller | R. Stokes |  |
| Greeter-Ushers | J. Vican | R. Passananti/M. Palmer | B & B Smith | B & S Teller | S, Gaunt/K. Amitrano |  |
| Communion Assistant(s) | A. Anderson | A. Senerchia | D. Crary | A. Anderson | J. Vican |  |
| Altar Care | M & G Morrison | A. Senerchia | J. Crary | K. Amitrano | A. Senerchia | M & G Morrison |
| Acolyte |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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|  | 2025 | **FEBRUARY** | | SUNDAY |  |  |  |
|  | CALENDAR YEAR |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 01 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 |
|  | 9:30 Worship Sunday School c  Confirmation Class | I pm Social Group Zoom bible study 6:30pm | 7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters |  | 7 pm Choir |  |  |
|  | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|  | 9:30 Worship | Zoom council meeting  7 pm | 7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters |  | 7 pm Choir |  |  |
|  | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
|  | 9:30 Worship Sunday School Confirmation Class | I pm Social Group Zoom bible study 6:30pm | 7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters |  | 7 pm Choir |  |  |
|  | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 01 |
|  |  | Zoom bible study 6:30pm | 7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters |  | 7 pm Choir |  |  |

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| 2025 | **MARCH** | | SUNDAY |  |  |  |
| CALENDAR YEAR |  | |  |  |  |  |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 01 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 |
| 9:30 Worship Confirmation Class | I pm Social Group  Zoom bible study 6:30pm | 7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters | Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 | 7 pm Choir |  |  |
| 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 9:30 Worship | Zoom council meeting 7pm | 7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters |  | 5:45 Soup & Fellowship 7 pm Choir |  |  |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 9:30 Worship Sunday School  Confirmation Class | I pm Social Group Zoom bible study 6:30pm | 7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters |  | 5:45 Soup &  Fellowship 7 pm Choir |  |  |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
|  | Zoom bible study 6:30pm | 7:30 Peace Group 9:30 quilters |  | 5:45 Soup &  Fellowship  7 pm Choir |  |  |
| 30 | 31  Zoom bible study 6:30pm | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 |

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