

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

Lutheran Congregations Merge in Hamden

Two Lutheran churches in Hamden, the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Christ Lutheran Church, have embarked on a new journey together as a merged congregation as of January 1, 2021. The new congregation is called Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

The merger offers the promise of a brighter future for the two congregations, which have both experienced decline in membership over the last decade. “We will be better together. The possibilities for developing and growing ministry are greater,” says the Rev. Les Swenson, who is serving as the transitional pastor of the new congregation until a new pastor is called.

The two congregations, both organized in the 1950s, have been worshipping and carrying out their ministries together since June 2019. The deliberate path toward merger was completed on November 15, 2020, when the members of both congregations unanimously approved the merger agreement.

Because of its concern for the health and well-being of one another, the congregation currently holds its Sunday morning worship services and other gatherings on Zoom.

As part of the merger agreement, the congregations decided that it will use the current Christ Church facility, 600 Shepard Ave., Hamden, as its future center for ministry. The Good Shepherd facility, 3680 Whitney Ave., is now for sale.

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the largest Lutheran body in the United States with about four million members in over 10,000 congregations.

For more information about this new congregation, you are invited to go to the church website: christgoodshepherdlutheran.org.

For further information, contact Les Swenson, current transition pastor, at 860.857.9362, or pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org.