

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

600 Shepard Avenue
Hamden, CT 06514

NewsNotes...

January 20, 2021

- **Join the community of faith for worship this Sunday, January 24, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Third Sunday after the Epiphany.** Gather together with one voice and heart to sing, pray and hear God's Word proclaimed. Hear the story of Jesus calling the fisherfolk Simon and Andrew, James and John to follow him "to seek other seas." How is God calling you to serve in new ways? Watch for your Zoom invite to arrive via email on Friday.
- **History Event #1. Thanks to the 30 or so folks who participated last Sunday in our lively conversations about the journeys traveled by our two former congregations in the years before we became one!** It was a joy to listen to stories, recall fond memories and learn from one another. Stay tuned for the **second session of our "History Event" on Sunday, January 31**, via Zoom, shortly after worship. Our Event Team (Linda Kapitan, Dawn Tiedemann and Loraine Brown) is now compiling information and perspectives gained from last Sunday, so we can share learnings and think together about how our histories can contribute to our common future.
- **Annual Congregational Meeting set for Sunday, February 7, following worship.** We will gather together to reflect back on 2020 and the challenges and accomplishments we experienced as a congregation on the verge of a new beginning. And even more we will look ahead to the months and to the year ahead as we continue to build and strengthen our life together as Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The outline for steps leading toward the calling of a new pastor for the congregation will be presented. (Ministry leaders ... please submit your reports to Brenda Samal before January 31 so she can compile them and distribute before February 7. Thanks!)
- **Sunday Zoom Worship to continue in coming weeks.** At the January 18 Congregation Council meeting it was decided that we continue on our current path of putting the health of one another as a top priority by worshipping via Zoom in the next few weeks. This path will again be reconsidered at the Council's next meeting



on February 15. We know this is not the ideal path but continue to see it as the best of the imperfect choices we face. And we are confident we are inching closer to the day when we will gather in person again.

- And speaking of gathering together in person for worship, as we anticipate that day, you should know that the **planned renovations of the worship space at the future Christ the Good Shepherd Church facility are well underway**. New carpeting (a beautiful red) has been laid. Space has been created for the baby grand piano (now in the current music room) to be placed in the church nave next to the organ. A rear pew has been removed to provide space for wheelchairs. The altar area has been slightly renovated to allow for the altar to be free standing and the worship leaders to face the congregation. Also, the church office has received a new carpet. Here are a couple of pictures:



- **Coming soon and very soon...a new website for our new congregation!** Thanks to Sharon Napolitano and with the expert assistance of Jonathan Goodrich, our new website is nearly ready for launch. Those who have received a sneak preview all give it great reviews. It will be the place to go to keep up on the latest news from Christ the Good Shepherd Church, and we trust the very place people interested in finding a Lutheran Church in the Hamden area will go to discover this new and welcoming community of faith! We hope to invite you to take a look at the new website through next week's NewsNotes.
- **Greetings from the piano bench!** As I announced last Sunday after church, I'm excited to try a "virtual choir." You may have seen these floating around the internet by now.... Many groups have done them especially over the pandemic, and I thought we might have a try at it, too!

The song will be "***This Little Light of Mine***" because most likely everyone already knows it, so it will be easy to sing with no rehearsal. If you are interested in joining, email me and I will email you back the music and a recording to practice singing along to! I'll include instructions on how to record, also. For those who wish to sing but don't know how to handle recording, I will be at the church by appointment (any weeknight, or next Sunday after Zoom church, for instance) and can set up my computer/microphone for you to sing into. Just email me if interested.

Also, I wanted to thank you all for your generous Christmas gift—thank you so much!

Best, *Caroline*

- Lisa Ball-Goodrich will hand out 2020 contribution statements for Good Shepherd members on Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Christ parking lot. IF you cannot make it, she will mail your statement to your house.
- **Looking ahead to Lent** ... the Lenten journey of remembering and returning begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 17**. We will gather that evening for worship via Zoom at 7:00. A **Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., will begin on February 24** and will continue through March 24. During Lent, the people of this congregation will be asked to participate in a special way of contributing to the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal by donating the cost of one dinner meal a week. Watch for more details on all our Lenten ministries in the coming weeks as the season approaches.
- **If you would like a family member or friend included in the prayers on Sunday morning**, please let Pastor Swenson know via email: **pastorlrs@comcast.net**, or call or text: 860-857-9362). Also please share the good news that someone you have had on the prayer list over the past weeks has been restored to health or is well on the way to healing. We will rejoice with you and take that person off the list. And of course, will return them if necessary. Thanks!
- If you have concerns or questions about life at Christ the Good Shepherd Church or have personal concerns you wish to share, please feel free to contact Pastor Swenson via phone, text or email: 860.857.9362, **pastorlrs@comcast.net**.