

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAMDEN, CT

NewsNotes . . .

January 27, 2021

- **Join this community of faith for worship on Zoom this Sunday, January 31, the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 10:00 a.m.** While distant we are still woven together as one as we gather around God's Word, prayer and song. This week we join with the Psalmist in singing: *"Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the...congregation."* Watch for the Zoom invitation in your email this Friday. Or find it in this congregation's brand new website: christgoodshepherdlutheran.org.
- **Also this Sunday...right after worship (after a brief time to stretch and perhaps get a cup of coffee or tea), you are encouraged to participate in our "History Event #2"!** Two members of our History Event team, Linda Kapitan and Dawn Tiedemann, will guide us through some of our learnings from the first event on January 14. We'll then reflect together on how our histories can help shape the future of our new congregation as we move forward into the days of challenge and opportunity ahead of us. We look forward to lively and productive conversation together. We'll conclude before 12:30. (Use the same Zoom invitation for Sunday's worship for this meeting.)
- **Then on Sunday, February 7, participate in the first Annual Meeting of this new congregation** as we look back on 2020, a year like no other, yet a year of progress and constructive change for us, and as we peer into 2021, a new year of opportunity and development. We'll discuss the steps the congregation will be taking toward the calling of a new pastor. Ken Watson, President of the congregation, will preside at the meeting. Look forward to receiving a packet of annual reports in your email (or land mail) next week. (For those writing reports, please forward them to Brenda Samal by this coming Sunday. Thanks.) The meeting will convene shortly after our 10:00 Zoom worship.
- **Renovation Update** ... the new carpets are now in place in the worship space and in the church office, the altar, lectern and pulpit have been put back in place, the choir section pews are back where they belong (except for one to make room for the baby



grand piano now in the choir room and soon to be moved). Soon we will be ready to welcome worshippers to come and worship in person. When will that be? We dare not make predictions, but we trust as soon as we can given our commitment to keep our environment and one another as safe as possible.

- Looking ahead to Lent. Our journey through this season of remembering, returning and renewal begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17.
 - **Worship on Ash Wednesday, 7:00 via Zoom.** A Service of the Word as we hear the words of the prophet Joel ringing in our ears: “Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart...Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...” Ashes will be made available to you so that you may apply them during the service. Watch for news for when you may pick up ashes for you and your household.
 - **Join in our Lenten Bible Study, “Walking in the Shadow of the Cross,” on five Wednesday evenings beginning February 24, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom.** We will study and reflect together on selected texts that we will hear on Sunday mornings during the Lenten season. Pastor Swenson will lead the conversation. Each session will conclude with prayers.
 - In the confession we use on Ash Wednesday, we are invited into the “disciplines of Lent — self examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love.” As we practice those disciplines in our own ways, **we invite you to participate in the gathering of a special offering during the Lenten season to support the vital work of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s World Hunger Appeal.** The invitation is for you to set aside what you would spend on one meal a week (you decide what amount) to contribute to the Hunger Appeal. The number of those suffering from severe hunger and food insecurity has doubled globally during the pandemic. Our gifts will make a life saving difference. Watch for more details as Lent approaches.
- Have you checked out the new website for Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church? You should! Go to: christgoodshepherdlutheran.org. A great source of information and news. Will be updated regularly. Thanks to Sharon Napolitano and Jonathan Goodrich for all their works in developing and launching this new asset for ministry!
- If you would like a family member or friend included in the prayers on Sunday morning, please let Pastor Swenson know via email: pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org 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, pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org.