

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

600 Shepard Avenue

Hamden CT 06514

NewsNotes ...

February 24, 2021

- **Worship with the community of faith this Sunday, February 28, the Second Sunday of Lent, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom.** Sunday's readings invite us to explore the meaning of trust in God's Word and God's promises as we journey through life. Watch the Zoom invitation to come to you via email on Friday morning.



Or if you miss it, find the invitation for worship on the church website: **christgoodshepherdlutheran.org**.

Even though we are distant we are one in Spirit as we worship.

- **Join in the Lenten Bible Study, "Walking in the Shadow of the Cross," on Wednesday evenings beginning tonight, 7:00-8:00pm, via Zoom.** We will read and reflect together on selected Scripture readings that will be heard on Lenten Sundays. Tonight the theme for our discussion will be "Trust." We will look at three readings: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16, Romans 4.13-25; and Mark 8.31-38. No experience necessary. Come and learn and grow in faith. Each hour long session will conclude with a brief version of evening prayer. Pastor Swenson will lead these conversations. Please let him know of your interest in participating so he can send you a Zoom invitation: **pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org**. Thanks.
- **Our next congregational wide conversation as we continue reflecting on and building our community in Christ will be this Sunday, February 28. Right after worship. It will be our "Why Us" event.** During this event we will focus our attention on such questions as: *"Why has God planted us here, in this place, today? Why do we exist? Why us?"* Everyone should have received a special email or snail mailing about this event last Thursday. Please spend some time with the proposed "homework" before Sunday morning. Your thoughtful preparation will greatly enrich the conversation. (If you missed or misplaced the email, please let us know: **office@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org**, and we'll send another copy. Or check the church website for link.). We look forward to lively, constructive conversation as

we build of understanding of God's calling for our ministry. *Use the Zoom invitation for Sunday's worship for this meeting.*

- Share in a special Lenten offering to support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal!
 - In our Ash Wednesday liturgy 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, you are invited to support the life-giving work of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal by setting aside what you would spend on one meal a week in your house (you decide the amount) to contribute to the Appeal.*
 - *To make your contribution-* you are invited to use your church offering envelopes by writing a check to **Christ the Good Shepherd Church** for the amount you have determined, write in the memo line on the check: World Hunger Appeal, and then put an “X” next to the “other” line on the outside of the envelope. Write a check weekly or for the whole six week Lenten/Holy Week season. Or simply send a separate check for this purpose (please indicate in memo line) to Christ the Good Shepherd Church, 600 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514.
 - *The pandemic has caused great increases in people suffering from hunger domestically and globally.* According to the World Food Program, the number of people worldwide on the brink of starvation has doubled during the past year — from 135 million to 270 million. In the United States food insecurity has risen dramatically during the pandemic — one in six Americans and one in four children, more than 50 million people (a 50% increase over 2019!) — are now facing food insecurity.
 - *For more information about the wide work of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal* which reaches people both in our nation and around the globe go to: elca.org/hunger. Your generous giving will make a world of difference. Thank you!
- **If you would like to turn to daily Lenten devotions online, one option is by following God Pause, a daily devotion from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.** Their Lenten devotions “Awesome Mystery” are available at: luthersem.edu/godpause. Subscribe and devotions will be sent to your mailbox every morning. You can also download the Lenten devotions by hitting link.
- On February 18 we received the disappointing news that the purchase and sale agreement for the Good Shepherd Church property was cancelled. The property is now again actively on the market. Arnold Peck continues to serve as the church's real

estate agent. While we await a new potential buyer the ministry of the church continues to thrive and lean into a bright new future.

- Elfriede Fleischmann, a member of Christ the Good Shepherd Church, is now back at Meadow Mills Assisted Living and Memory Care, 153 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT 06517, after her hospitalization and surgery from a broken hip. She would welcome cards and prayers. (Please let us know if someone in your family is ill and would welcome prayers and well wishes from the congregation and we will, with your permission, publish them in these *NewsNotes*.)
- 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**.