

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAMDEN, CT

NewsNotes . . .

February 3, 2021

- **Join this community of faith for worship via Zoom this Sunday, February 7, 10:00 a.m., the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany.** While distant from one another we are still woven together as one as we gather around hearing God's Word, prayer and song. This Sunday we sing with the Psalmist: *Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!"* (Psalm 147.1). Watch for the Zoom invitation in your email this Friday. Or find it in the church's brand new website: christgoodshepherdlutheran.org.
- **Then after worship ... join the conversation at this congregation's first Annual Congregational Meeting** (use the same Zoom invitation). We'll take a look over our shoulders at the year just past, a year of tremendous progress and constructive change for us, and then look ahead to the year ahead, a year of opportunity and promise. We'll review the steps this congregation will be taking toward the calling of a new pastor. Ken Watson, president of the congregation, will preside. Look forward to receiving a book of reports in your email or land mail sometime mid-week (land mail might be a bit later). And have no fear — the meeting will be over long before the 6:00 start of the Brady Bowl.
- **Thanks much to the nearly 30 folks who participated in this past Sunday's "History Event #2!"** The conversation was lively, filled with helpful insight and constructive, positive perspective. Hope, excitement and expectation were expressed for the days ahead. Watch for Linda Kapitan's notes from the meeting to be distributed soon. And thanks to Linda, Dawn Tiedemann and Loraine Brown, the planning team for the two history events.
- **And plan to participate in the next event helping to build a sense of community among us and to more clearly define our mission and purpose as a new congregation...the "Why Us" event on Sunday, February 28. Right after worship (on Zoom of course).** During this event we will focus our attention on such questions as: *"Why does our congregation do what we do? Why has God planted us here, in*



this place, today? Why do we exist? Why us?" The planning team for this event — Ken Watson, Sharon Napolitano, and Loraine Brown — is already at work to help make this a lively and productive time together.

- 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 next week’s NewsNotes for an announcement telling when you may pick up ashes for you and your household at 600 Shepard Ave.
 - **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 will be heard on Sunday mornings during the Lenten season. Pastor Swenson will lead the conversation. Each session will conclude with a brief version of Evening Prayer.
 - 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.
- **Check out these two pictures of the new look worship space at Christ the Good Shepherd Church.** Thanks to Durbin Hunter for the photos ... the full view from back to front (still with purple altar paraments which were on the altar when we halted in person worship after March 15 last year!) And the choir/organ area now with open space for baby grand piano to be moved in.



- **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 (860.857.9362) or email: pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org.
- **For those who mail in their contributions to support the ministry of this congregation,** please send them directly to Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Financial Secretary, 71 Vista Road, North Haven, CT 06473. Since mail is only picked up at church on an occasional basis, we want to make your contributions secure. Thanks so much for your generous offerings that support the work we do together.