

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

600 Shepard Avenue

Hamden CT 06514

NewsNotes....

March 24, 2021

- **Join the community of faith for worship this Sunday, March 28, Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, 10:00 a.m.** As we begin the week of the holiest days of our life together in Christ, we look forward to worshipping together in person.
 - **Blessing of the Palms. The Passion story according to St. Mark. Holy Communion.**
 - **Worship will be outdoors (weather permitting) in the courtyard at our facility at 600 Shepard Ave., Hamden.** Since the forecast seems to change a little every day, hope for positive shifts for Sunday. This will allow us to accommodate as many who want to come and be together for the first time since last fall's outdoor services. Bring lawn chairs if you can. Folding chairs will be available. All appropriate COVID protocols will be observed.
 - For more details about in-person worship, please refer to the mailing (email or snail mail) that was sent out on Monday morning.
 - **Worship will move inside if weather doesn't cooperate.** Reservations will be required as we will have to restrict seating so as to keep to safe distancing. Capacity will be around 40. Please reply to this mailing to make reservations along with the number of people who will attend. Reservations will be on first-come, first-served basis. You may also call the church phone number and leave a message to reserve your seat in the assembly. 203.288.3196.
 - **We are now working on the possibility of live streaming the worship service on Sunday morning.** Watch for news about this on Friday.
- **Tonight...you are invited to participate in the final session of our Lenten Bible Study series: "Walking in the Shadow of the Cross."** Discussion will focus on two readings to be heard this coming Sunday, Philippians 2.5-11, and Mark 15.1-47. Come, learn and grow in faith with this lively, thoughtful group even if you haven't been able to participate in earlier sessions. We will conclude with a brief version of Evening Prayer. Please let Pastor Swenson



know if you'd like to participate and he will send you a Zoom invitation and a copy of the readings: pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org.

- **This Sunday, March 28, after worship ... join the conversation in reviewing the draft of our Ministry Site Profile that is being prepared by our hard working Ministry Site Profile team.** When completed, the Profile will be sent to the Bishop's office of our New England Synod where it will be used as the key document in assessing potential candidates to serve as the new pastor of Christ the Good Shepherd Church. The Profile draft will be distributed later this week so you can read through it before Sunday. Members of the Profile team include: David Brown, Lisa Ball Goodrich, Ruth Knollmueller, Chuddy Watson, and Ursula Hunter. The Congregation Council will make final approval of the document before it is sent to the Bishop's office. The congregational conversation will be held immediately after worship on Sunday in whatever location we worship.
- **Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship Schedule ...**

Maundy Thursday, April 1
Worship via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Gather with the disciples around the table
as we see and hear Jesus' give to us a new commandment
to love one another as he loves us.

Good Friday, April 2
Worship via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

On this holy night we gather at the foot of the cross
to hear the story of Jesus' Passion from the Gospel according to St. John
and pray the ancient yet always new Bidding Prayers
embracing the whole creation in the outstretched arms of Christ on the cross.

Easter Sunday, April 4

In person worship at our facility at 3680 Whitney Ave., Hamden.

In the Picnic Grove (weather permitting) or inside.

Join the chorus of Alleluias and the shouts of "He is risen!"
as we celebrate the festival of resurrection and new life,
of God raising Jesus and giving birth to a new creation.

Watch for a mailing early next week to make reservations for indoor worship and other details for Easter worship.

- Bring your generous **Lenten World Hunger Offerings** to worship this Sunday.
 - As we have journeyed through Lent you have been invited to set aside a weekly contribution, the equivalent of the amount of money you would spend on meal in your household.
 - Now as Lent is coming to a close, please bring your generous offerings with you to worship on either Passion Sunday or Easter Sunday. Make sure to mark your checks with “World Hunger offering” in the note line.
 - During this time of the pandemic hunger, food insecurity and the number of people falling into poverty have all drastically increased, both nationally and globally. Your gifts will make a life giving difference.
 - For more about how our ELCA World Hunger Appeal works to alleviate hunger and support constructive development that combats hunger, go to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America website: elca.org/hunger.
- 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 to our prayers if necessary. Thanks!
- Please note that names offered before worship on Sunday mornings are only included for that one day. If you would like someone included on a continuing basis, please contact Pastor Swenson (see above).
- 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**.

Mission Statement

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is called and committed to building a vibrant, welcoming community to proclaim Christ, nurture the faith, serve others and bear bold witness to God’s love throughout the greater Hamden region and beyond.