

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

600 Shepard Avenue
Hamden CT 06514

NewsNotes ...

March 17, 2021

- **Join the community of faith for worship this Sunday, March 21, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom. The Fifth Sunday in Lent.** As we continue this Lenten journey of remembering, returning and renewal in the faith, we hear Jesus' words about seeds planted into the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which the whole creation will be included. Invite family and friends to share in worship each Sunday. Watch for the Zoom invite to come on Friday morning. Or find it over the weekend on the church website: christgoodshepherdlutheran.org.
- **Tonight ... join in the Lenten Bible Study, "Walking in the Shadow of the Cross," 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.** We will read and reflect together on three texts to be heard this coming Sunday morning: Jeremiah 31.31-34, Psalm 51.1-12, and John 12.20-33. Come, learn, and grow in faith with this lively, thoughtful group. No experience necessary. Only curiosity and an open mind. Newcomers always welcome. Each hour long session will conclude with a brief version of evening prayer. Please let Pastor Swenson know you would like to participate tonight and he will send you a zoom invitation and a copy of the texts for tonight: pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org. Thanks!
- **Thanks to everyone who participated in our very helpful, thoughtful conversation this past Sunday about "what we are looking for in a new pastor."** Feedback from our conversations will now be processed by our Ministry Site Profile team as they work to complete the Profile describing our congregation and our expectations for the days ahead. We anticipate sharing a draft of the profile with the congregation on March 28 before the Congregation Council approves it and sends it on the Bishop's Office of the New England Synod as they consider potential candidates to serve as the new pastor of this congregation. Members of our Ministry Site Profile Team include: David Brown, Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Ursula Hunter, Chuddy Watson and Ruth Knollmueller.



- At their Monday, March 15, meeting, the members of the Congregation Council took a number of important steps in moving the ministry of Christ the Good Shepherd Church forward:
 - Set a worship schedule for Holy Week and Easter Sunday aiming for outdoor worship on Palm/Passion and Easter Sundays with indoor worship as backup. (See below)
 - Approved a new mission statement for this congregation presented by the “Why Us” team:

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.

Our thanks to the “Why Us” team who filtered carefully the insights from the congregation during the February 28 “Why Us” event in order to write this bold statement: Ken Watson, Sharon Napolitano, and Loraine Brown. This statement will be included in the Ministry Site Profile and used broadly in our communications.

- Approved the appointment of Krista O’Brien, Rob Hansen, Durbin Hunter, Linda Kapitan, and Cyndi Hansard to serve on the Candidacy Committee which will be responsible for the process of interviewing candidates to serve as our next pastor and to recommend a candidate to the Congregation Council. Once the congregation’s Ministry Site Profile has been completed this group will meet with Mark Winzler, Associate to the Bishop, to begin the search process.
- Renewed our contract for another six months with realtor Arnold Peck to continue seeking a buyer for our facility at 3680 Whitney Ave. Last week he reported he was working with a potential buyer.
- Affirmed recommendation that we move forward in trust with the process of calling a new pastor despite not yet having a firm offer on the Whitney Ave. facility.
- **How are you doing with your special World Hunger Lenten giving?** The needs are great and your generosity is encouraged.
 - You are invited to set aside on a weekly basis the amount of money you would spend on one meal in your household (you decide the amount).
 - *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 06518.

- *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 vital 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 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.

Worship for Holy Week to Easter Sunday, March 28 - April 4

After careful conversation at its meeting on Monday evening the Congregation Council outlined the following worship schedule for Holy Week and Easter Sunday...

Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion

March 28, 10:00 a.m.

Outdoor Worship in the Courtyard at 600 Shepard Ave.

Bring lawn chairs if you can. (Folding chairs will be available.)

Appropriate social distancing. Masks necessary.

If the weather does not permit, then...

Indoor worship, also at 600 Shepard Ave.

Because social distancing will still be in effect, seating will be limited (capacity 40).

Making reservations ahead of time will be necessary.

A special email will be sent on Monday next week for you to reserve a place for the indoor service in the event that we have to be inside.

Maundy Thursday

April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Good Friday

April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of our Lord

April 4, 10:00 a.m.

Outdoor Worship in the Picnic Grove at 3680 Whitney Ave.

Bring lawn chairs. (Folding chairs available.).

Appropriate social distancing. Masks necessary.

Once again, if the weather does not permit us to worship outside, then...

Indoor worship at 3680 Whitney Ave.

Because social distancing will still be in effect, seating will be limited (capacity 40).

Reservations will be necessary and can be made by responding to email sent to you on Monday, March 29.

We are hoping to live stream the Palm/Passion and Easter Sunday services for all those who will not be able to attend in person. Watch for more news on this and other worship details next week.