



THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
February 2022



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

“Spirituality” is not pietism but the total practice of every aspect of Christian living. A “spiritual” life is one in which the spirit of God, sought and nurtured in prayer, controls every minute of every aspect. —The Rev. Martin Thornton

Grace and peace to you from God our beginning and our ending Jesus Christ,

In the month of February, as we journey on in the light of Christ’s Epiphany toward Lent, let’s continue to deepen our understanding of who we are together as a new congregation. In your Ministry Site Profile paperwork, when seeking a new pastor, you explained that you were:

“...warm and caring, faithful, resilient, expectant, mature, and deeply committed to building a vibrant, welcoming ministry in the greater Hamden area...”

These are absolutely beautiful things! And as the above quote from the Rev. Martin Thornton (1915-1986) states, our following Christ—being filled with the Holy Spirit in our baptism—ought to direct every aspect of our lives, just as those things you mentioned above suggest. Rev. Thornton was an English Anglican priest and spiritual director and he wrote and taught extensively on how faith and theology truly bears upon real life and real people. When he writes of “pietism” above, he means sanctimonious faking, outward behavior that appears generous or faithful or deep, but lacks real

roots. Yes, as Christians there is a certain amount of “fake-it-till-you-make-it” involved. But I agree with the Rev. Thornton, only in a whole life (both on Sunday morning and outside of it) of earnestly seeking and listening to God in prayer can we ever hope the Holy Spirit to transform us into the “warm, caring, faithful, resilient, expectant, mature, and deeply committed” congregation we have set out to be together.

What are the “next steps” then? Well, please don’t resort to hand-wringing and self-loathing, saying to yourself, “I don’t have time for this, I’m just not that kind of Christian.” Both Martin Luther as well as Martin Thornton would encourage you to see that all you do in your life, if done with an eye toward the presence of God, from your career, to your time with children and grandchildren, to the way you post and interact on Facebook, to what you do when you wake up in the morning, all this is part of a “whole life” of prayer. Coming to worship on Sunday morning, hearing Scripture and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion are one part of this whole life. They are the starting point, but not the end-all beat-all.

In Rev. Thornton’s words, together, we are a people that endeavor to let God’s spirit guide us in the “...art of living as fully, creatively, and indeed joyfully, as [hu]mankind is capable.” And just as Jesus was transfigured before Peter, John and James on the mountain (Luke 9:28-36) we ourselves will be transformed by God. And our “caring,” “resilient” and “welcoming” life—that joyful and creative life amidst the stress, worry and cruelty of the world—that whole life is the gift God has given us to have, and to offer as well to our community.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

**CHRIST THE GOOD
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
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Council Members
1/1/22—12/31/22

President: Ken Watson
Vice-President: Leo Goodrich
Secretary: Brenda Samal
Treasurer: Ruth Lye
Financial Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Worship: John Downs
Fellowship: Linda Kapitan
Inreach: Ursula Hunter
Outreach: Sharon Napolitano
Property: Durbin Hunter
Learning: Krista O'Brien
Stewardship: Rob Landino



Ruth	David	Judy
Elfriede	Phil	Kathy
Thomas	Christine	Shirley
John	Shirley	Florence
Dave	Kathryn	Joni
Joyce	Silas	Family of Terrilee

Congregational Annual Meeting

February 6, 2022
Following worship service

Annual reports will be distributed.



2022 updated directories
will be available Sunday,
February 6.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that
newsletter articles for the March 2022 issue are
due by February 25, 2022.



The Synod Assembly will take place on 6/9-11 this year in Worcester, MA. We are allowed 2 voting delegates in addition to Pastor Josh. Leo Goodrich has volunteered to be a delegate. We need one more person to attend and vote on the various pieces of business. All expense are paid by the congregation. The delegates may stay overnight or drive home each day. The early discounted registration ends 3/11 so we really want another volunteer by then. Please let Pastor or me know if you can attend. It is a chance to meet other Lutherans from our area as well as the other states in New England.

Call me or Pastor if you have any questions about the Assembly.

Ken Watson

Council met January 19, 2022.

Pastor presented questions for council to discuss-

What brought us joy?—merger, new people, baptism, having a pastor, in person worship; *God feels near?*—worship, pastor left and new one soon after; *What comes easy as a community?*—volunteer work; *What was difficult?*—closing LCGS service, dealing with COVID; *Who has shown up?*—teenagers. A motion was made and approved to accept Erika Ennejjar and Marsha Hendren into membership at CGSL.

Worship—John Downs will write up procedures for assistants and ushers.

Financials—A motion was made and approved to post undesignated envelope contributions in 2022



as 90% for current expenses and 10% for undesignated missions. Synod mission contributions of 6,344.00 exceeded our budgeted amount of 5,000. Investment Committee (Ken Watson, Ruth Lye, Pastor) met with a financial advisor via Zoom and will be consulting a second one.

Property—Many things have been updated/changed. A Facility Renewal team, and trash team have been formed to assist Durbin with property work. (A work check list is posted on the bulletin board, color-coded by ease of job.)

Outreach—A Media Release and Opt-Out form was written. (Draft of Media Opt-Out on page 8.) Food was delivered to Hamden Food Bank and winter accessories from Winter Warmth Tree delivered to New Reach Life Haven Shelter.

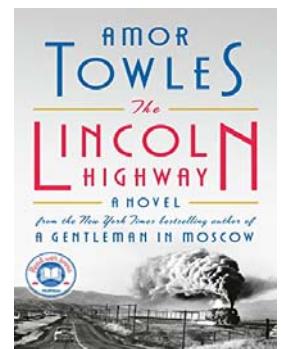
Motion was made and approved to allocate the \$221.64 from St. Paul's clothing shed to the Good Samaritan Fund.

Next council meeting—February 16.

The CGS book club will be meeting by Zoom on February 23rd at 6:30pm. (Please note this new date.)

If you would like to participate, please feel free to pick up a copy of the book and join us. I got my copy from Libby (a library on-line app)—both the print and audio are available.

Please call Linda at 203-314-2687 if you have any questions.



Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 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.

“Winter Warmth Tree” Donations Delivered to Women’s Emergency Shelter

Thirty-five pairs of winter gloves, along with 26 warm winter hats, 14 pairs of socks and an assortment of scarves, headbands and throws, adorned the “Winter Warmth Tree” at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church throughout Advent and the 2021 Christmas season.

On January 10, those items—74 in all—were bundled up and delivered to New Reach Life Haven Shelter, an emergency shelter serving single pregnant women and single women with children in the New Haven area. Jo Ann Isleb assisted Sharon Napolitano in sorting the items, which were gratefully received at the New Reach Life Haven Shelter by Victoria Hwang, Executive Assistant to the CEO.

Thanks to all who participated in this mission!



The “Winter Warmth Tree” at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was decorated with a variety of winter-weather wear for women and children served by the New Reach Life Haven Shelter.

On January 10, the “Winter Warmth Tree” items were delivered to the New Reach Life Haven Shelter, where they were gratefully received by Victoria Hwang, Executive Assistant to the CEO.



Christ the Good Shepherd's Online Presence Continues to Grow

In 2021, our website presence at christgoodshepherdlutheran.org was an integral part of our Welcome/Invite ministry. We launched our new website on January 22, 2021, and by the end of the year, more than 1,500 visitors had visited our site. While the majority of visitors were from the United States, we also had visitors from 24 other international locations.

As we continue to grow, we plan to continue to post content about our activities as a congregation, while welcoming others to our community of faith. Content may include website and newsletter articles as well as photos taken during worship, Faith Formation Class, fellowship and other church-related activities or events. In addition to the website, this content might be used in press releases, publications, presentations, or on Facebook and other social media platforms.

New Media Opt-Out Form Available

As some individuals may prefer not to have photos of themselves or their children posted on the Internet or used in other church communications, we ask that you please let us know. To help with this, we have created a new Media Opt-Out Form for individuals to sign, ONLY if they do NOT wish to have their photo or photos of their children posted on our website, on Facebook or in any church publication. This form will be available at church beginning Sunday, February 6, and signed copies will be kept on file for future reference.

If you have no objection to your photo appearing on our website or in other Christ the Good Shepherd communications, you don't need to do anything.

If you have any questions about the new Media Opt-Out Form, please speak with Sharon Napolitano.



**Christ the Good Shepherd
Imposition of Ashes
March 2, 2022
7:00pm**

This year we are blessed to welcome our christian neighbors from Dunbar United Church of Christ, Mt. Carmel Congregational Church and possibly others.

Letter from St. Pauly Textile, Inc. To Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your families safe and warm this winter. We're happy to report that 2021 was a record year. Over 40 million pounds of clothing were donated to our clothing sheds—that's over 200,000 pounds of clothing collected every business day!

Every clothing shed is an important part of the big picture. Here are some numbers to show you the impact your own shed made in 2021.

- 5.541 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2021
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 1,021 people all over the world.
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$222

Thank you so much for partnering with us on this. We truly appreciate all the support you continue to give to the clothing shed program!

Sincerely,
The Team at St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild
2/6	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Linda Kapitan	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Starr O'Connor
2/13	Durbin Hunter	Sharon Napolitano	James & Joann Learned	Sharon Napolitano
2/20	Sharon Napolitano	Paul Snyder	Phil & John Napolitano	Ursula Hunter
2/27	John Downs	David Brown	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Lorraine Brown
3/2 Ash Wednesday	Volunteer	Youth volunteer	Volunteers needed	~
3/6	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Rob Hansen	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Starr O'Connor
3/13	Durbin Hunter	Ken Watson	David & Lorraine Brown	Sharon Napolitano

If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please find a substitute, and make the change on the master schedule. Thank you for serving!



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI	SAT
February		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00am Faith Formation 10:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Congregational Meeting	7	8	9	10	11	12 Forward Leadership Seminar
13 <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00am Faith Formation 10:00am Holy Communion (<i>Souper Bowl event postponed</i>)	14	15	16 7pm Council	17	18	19
20 <i>7th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00am Faith Formation 10:00am Holy Communion	21	22	23 6:30pm CGS Book Club via Zoom	24	25	26
27 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 9:00am Faith Formation 10:00am Holy Communion	28	<i>March 1</i>	2 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm	3	4	5
6 <i>First Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00am Faith Formation 10:00am Holy Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12



Try to wear an N95 or KN95 mask to worship, if not, a surgical mask.

Surgical masks are available in the narthex. Please do not wear a single-layer cloth mask in worship. A reminder: masks only do their job if they cover both nose and mouth.

Facebook Live will always continue to be available.

If you are immuno-compromised, unvaccinated, feeling sick, have been exposed to someone who tested positive, or you yourself have tested positive, or you just are not comfortable worshiping in-person—please join us via Facebook Live! Remember to say “Hi, from so-and-so!” in the comments section so we know who is worshiping with us.

Holy Communion continues.

The communion elements are prepared by our altar guild with masks and gloves. If you are not comfortable removing your mask to receive, come forward with arms crossed for a blessing. *Please wait at the first pew in the center aisle, and allow the person in front of you time to receive both bread and wine before you come forward for bread.*

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church—Hamden, Connecticut

DRAFT VERSION

Media Opt-Out Form

Please be advised that during worship, Faith Formation, fellowship and all other church-related activities or events, photos or videos may be taken by staff or designated volunteers for use in/on bulletin boards, press releases, publications, presentations, Christ the Good Shepherd's website, Facebook and other social media platforms. As some individuals may prefer NOT to have photos of themselves or their children used for this purpose, we are providing this Media Opt-Out form.

IF YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION TO CHURCH USE OF YOUR PHOTOGRAPH, YOU DONOT NEED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM.

Please Confirm the Following:

[] I do NOT wish my likeness or the likeness of the specified minor(s) listed below used for church purposes in print publications, on the internet or in any other social media produced by Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Name: _____

Child(ren): _____ DOB: _____

Child(ren): _____ DOB: _____

Child(ren): _____ DOB: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please complete and return this form to:

**Church Office
Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 600 Shepard
Ave.
Hamden, CT 06514**

We ask that you attach a photograph of each individual covered by this Opt-Out form.