

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
April 2022



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

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

April is a month of daffodils and tulips, of that reddish gray of new growth on trees and the smell of wet soil churning with life anew. May God grant us all the grace of experiencing the budding and growing of April in Connecticut in our spiritual lives as well as we celebrate the “Paschal Mystery” together as a budding and growing congregation!

But what is that thing called the “Paschal Mystery,” why not just say “Easter?” Well, in April this year we finish our 40 day Lenten journey, and we pass into the Three Holy Days of Maundy Thursday (April 14, 7 PM), Good Friday (April 15, 7 PM) and Holy Saturday, and then we are filled with shining joy on Easter Sunday morning (April 17, 10 AM).



If we want to get at the meaning of the “Paschal Mystery,” maybe a good place to start is the word. “Pascha” comes from the Hebrew word for Passover. In the very first Passover story in Exodus 12 the Israelite people have a very serious run in with death, just before they are liberated finally from enslavement. God gives them instructions to eat a special meal and to mark their doors with blood.

God said to Moses and Aaron,

“¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you....”

The Gospels report that it is this ritual meal that Christ and his disciples are sharing the night before Jesus is handed over. But when we say “Paschal Mystery” it is more than us Christians just taking and reshaping the Jewish ritual meal for our own usage. Instead, we are talking about Jesus’ own “passing” through death and into new life, as well as our own “passing” from death to life in the waters of Baptism.

In case you were ever curious why there is a big, white beeswax candle with the year printed on it in our sanctuary... it’s called the “Paschal Candle!” And traditionally, each year, on the night of Holy Saturday, it is dedicated anew. You might have noticed this candle is lit on all the special days commemorating Jesus in our calendar, and also at all baptisms and funerals as well. This candle shines with the “The Light of Christ” explains our Episcopal siblings¹

Indeed, this light and life is what “Easter” (a term which came into use later) is all about, but in an unshakable bond with all the other Three Days: Maundy Thursday and the celebration of the meal; Good Friday and Jesus’ real death and burial; and the special movement from Holy Saturday night into Easter Sunday morning. This all together is the “Paschal Mystery.” A wonderful, amazing, life-giving mystery that we are graced to share in by the waters of our Baptism, that we participate in every time we celebrate the Eucharist, and we are reminded of it at every funeral we hold in our sanctuary.

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¹ *Praying Shapes Believing: A Theological Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer*. Leonel L. Mitchell. Updated by Ruth A. Meyers. (New York: Seabury Books, 2016), pg. 81.

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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



Mary	Jessika	Judy
Elfriede	Phil	Maria
Phil	Christine	Tom
John	Paul	Florence
Elinor	Silas	Joni
Greg		Family of Shirley
		Family of Phyllis

Mary Lou Knoob & family
Elaine Richetelle & family

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So, in the lengthening of days in April in our hemisphere, in the growing and opening of flowers and leaves, may you all know and trust that each Sunday (and really, each morning!) is a sign of new life, a sign of God's great Paschal Mystery.

In Christ,
Pastor Josh

Pastor's Vacation Dates

Pastor Josh will be on vacation from
April 18-April 25.

The Rev. Bob Bergner of Grace and St. Peter's will provide emergency pastoral care: (475) 228-6707.

The Rev. George Kinney will be presiding on Sunday, April 24.

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

April 10, 2022
8:30am

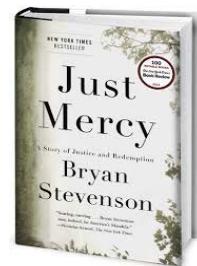
A sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board.



CGSL Book Club

Our next book to discuss will be **Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson.

It is a non-fiction book about a lawyer and the people he defends.



A discussion date has been set for May 25 at 6:30pm.

Successful Ash Wednesday Events Usher in Lenten Season

More than 100 people made their way to Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (CGSLC) on Wednesday, March 2, to receive ashes as part of a multi-congregational “Ashes-to-Go” event, marking the official start of the Lenten season. It was followed that evening by a memorable interdenominational Ash Wednesday worship service hosted by CGSLC, which included five clergy and members of their congregations from six Hamden churches, resulting in a near-capacity crowd.

“It was an incredible ministry of holiness,” Pastor Josh Sullivan said. “It was such a holy moment and I’m so grateful to have been part of it. I really felt gathered by God at the Ash Wednesday service. It just felt like God’s people in Hamden and the greater Hamden region were gathered together. It was really special.”

In addition to Pastor Josh, other Hamden clergy and congregations participating in the “Ashes-to-Go” event and interdenominational Ash Wednesday service were The Rev. George Manukas of Dunbar United Church of Christ; The Rev. Robert Bergner of Grace & St. Peter’s Episcopal Church and St. John the Evangelist Episcopal of Yaleville; The Rev. Jeremiah Paul of Hamden Plains United Methodist Church; and The Rev. Olivia Robinson of Mount Carmel Congregational Church.

Ashes-to-Go

For Christians, the imposition of ashes on their foreheads symbolizes repentance for sin as well as devotion to God.

“On Ash Wednesday, our foreheads are marked with ashes as a two-fold reminder,” Pastor Josh explained. “First, the ashes remind us that we believe that all false things will pass away, and second, and most importantly, the ashes help us confess that our true self comes only from God.”

On March 2, the opportunity to receive “Ashes-to-Go” was offered in a morning session at CGSLC from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., and in a lunchtime session, which ran from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Drivers who stopped for ashes drove their cars into the church parking lot, where clergy were stationed outside.

“It turned out to be very successful,” said Leo Goodrich, CGSLC Council Vice President, who helped organize the inaugural event. “More than 100 people received the ashes, and many were very grateful to us for doing that.” Other congregational members assisting with the “Ashes-to-Go” event were John Downs, Linda Ibsen, Sarah DeLong and Ruth Knollmueller.

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Melisa Velez Vieira and her daughter, Izabella, pictured with Pastor Joshua Sullivan, were among those who stopped by to receive “Ashes-to-Go.”

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Opens Shed to Collect Clothing

Cleaning out your closets? Now you can bring your used clothing donations to Christ the Good Shepherd. CGSLC has partnered with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to provide a wood-frame clothing drop-off shed, designed to give church and community members a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

St. Pauly Textile Inc. partners with a network of businesses and various organizations to distribute donated textile items locally, nationally, and worldwide, where they are ultimately re-worn by people who need them. CGSLC receives funding for donated clothing and has the option to use donations to serve community needs.

With over 1,100 clothing drop-off sheds in place, St. Pauly Textile collects over 100,000 pounds of clothing every day that ends up in approximately 44

different countries (including the U.S.). In 2021, the company collected and distributed more than 40 million pounds of clothing or about 80 million garments, which clothed an estimated 10 million people. The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau. To learn more about the company, visit the St. Pauly website at stpaulytextile.com.

Only accepted items: Clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals. No other items should be placed in or outside the shed. All items should be placed in strong, plastic garbage bags and double-tied tightly before placement through the opening in the side of the shed.

Please **do not** donate the following: Books, furniture, electronic items of any kind, toys (other than stuffed animals), pillows, household or kitchen items, rags or fabric scraps, etc.



A St. Pauly Used Clothing Drop-Off shed is installed at CGSLC

Volunteer(s) Needed for CGSLC Clothing Collection Ministry

[Jesus said:] "... I was naked, and you gave me clothing, ..." *Matthew 25:36 (NRSV)*

We are in need of one or more volunteers who are interested in helping with our clothing collection and re-distribution ministry. This would involve a commitment of 1 hour or less (depending upon the number of volunteers) to maintain the St. Pauly clothing collection shed. The assignment involves checking inside the shed twice a week (one day can be Sunday morning) to clear the bags away from the intake chute, make sure all items are in tightly-closed, non-ripped plastic bags, and removing any non-allowable items.

Please contact Leo Goodrich by email (leo.d.goodrich@gmail.com) or phone (203-710-4981 [cell - call or text] or 203-287-9748 [landline - call only]) with any questions or to volunteer.

Lenten Giving to Support Eastern European Relief Efforts

Given the growing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the surrounding region, our congregation is asked to consider directing their Lenten giving this year to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as ecumenical partners such as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, to provide refugees with immediate support and supplies, such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

While we have traditionally supported the ELCA World Hunger Appeal through our Lenten offering (as announced in the March issue of "The Messenger"), this year our congregation will support relief efforts in Eastern Europe instead. Your gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

To donate toward our congregational effort:

- Write a check to **Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** for any amount, and indicate "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" in the memo line. On the outside of your envelope, be sure to indicate the amount of the donation on the "Other" line and place your envelope in the offering plate; or-
- Submit or send a separate check by mail to **Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**, 600 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514, indicating "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" in the memo line.

For more information about Lutheran Disaster Response, visit the ELCA website at elca.org/disaster.



Lutheranism Course

Interest has been expressed to Pastor Josh regarding a course on Lutheranism. Pastor plans to begin a discussion group on Thursday, May 5, at 7pm. It will be held in person at the church as well as via Zoom. If you wish to attend via Zoom, please call the church office and leave your name or speak to Pastor Josh.



Personal Hygiene Drive Continues through April 10

Our Personal Hygiene Drive to benefit those served by New Reach Life Haven Shelter, an emergency shelter for single pregnant women and single women with children in the New Haven area, is well underway.

If you would like to participate, please consider donating any of the following new and unused personal hygiene products:

- * Deodorant
- * Body Wash/Soap (full size)
- * Shampoo/Conditioner (full size)
- * Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- * Feminine Hygiene Products
- * Shaving Razors/Shaving Cream
- * Moisturizer
- * Tissues
- * Toilet Paper (individually wrapped or small packs)
- * Antibacterial Hand Soap

We will be collecting these items through Palm Sunday, April 10. If you have any questions about this project, please speak with Sharon Napolitano.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild
4/3	John Downs	Sharon Napolitano	Phil & Sharon Napolitano	Sharon Napolitano
4/10 Palm Sunday	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	David Brown	David & Loraine Brown	Lorraine Brown
4/14 Maundy Thurs	Durbin Hunter	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Paul Snyder	Ursula Hunter
4/15 Good Friday	Sharon Napolitano	Linda Kapitan	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	~
4/17 Easter	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	James & Joanne Learned	Starr O'Connor
4/24	Rob Hansen	Sharon Napolitano	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Sharon Napolitano
5/1	John Downs	David Brown	David & Loraine Brown	Lorraine Brown
5/8	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Durbin Hunter	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Ursula Hunter

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

EASTER FLOWERS



A sign-up sheet for Easter flower plants has been posted and the final date to sign up is Sunday, April 3.

The cost of each plant is \$9.00.

Trash Duties for April, 2022



Date bins out / in	Responsible Party	Recycling?
April 6-7	John Downs	No
April 13-14	Leo Goodrich	Yes
April 20-21	David Brown	No
April 27-28	Rob Hansen	Yes

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.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Memorial Service for James Knoob, Sr. 11am
3 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Cross Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	4	5	6	7- Lenten Mid-Week Devotions 7:00pm		9
10 Palm Sunday 8:30am- Pancake Breakfast 10:00am- Holy Communion	11	12	13	14 Maundy Thursday 7pm	15 Good Friday 7pm	16 Holy Saturday
17 Easter Sunday 10:00am Holy Communion	18	19	20	21	22	23
			Pastor Josh on vacation 4/18-4/25			
24 2nd Sunday in Easter 10:00am Holy Communion <i>Articles for May Messenger due</i>	25	26	27 7pm Council mtg	28	29	30
1 3rd Sunday in Easter 9:00am Cross Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	2	3	4	5	6	9

Masks optional

In light of the changes in mask policy in the town of Hamden and decreased COVID cases across the state, the congregational council has voted to make masks optional during worship and inside the building.

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.*

(Ash Wednesday... continued from page 3)

A Service to Remember

To top off a successful Ashes-to-Go event, nearly 80 people turned out for the interdenominational Ash Wednesday service, which included moving pastoral reflections and a rousing musical rendition of “I’ll Fly Away” led by all five clergy. During a freewill offering, nearly \$700 was collected for Columbus House, whose mission it is to serve people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

“Ash Wednesday isn’t usually a joyful service, but we gathered together six churches with five ministers and marked the beginning of Lent,” Pastor Josh said. “It was an incredible service. If you weren’t able to attend, I invite you to watch the service on Facebook Livestream, if you can.” By Sunday evening, March 6, the interdenominational Ash Wednesday worship service had nearly 100 views.



The Hamden Interdenominational Clergy Band leads a rousing rendition of “I’ll Fly Away.”

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the May 2022 issue of the Messenger is April 24, 2022

Church Council



Council met 3/16/22.

As part of continuing discernment practice, council discussed- *When have you felt ‘gathered’?* Worship—meetings—church dinners—special services, i.e. Ash Wednesday. *When have you felt ‘sent’?* Collecting for Ukraine—attending meetings, i.e. Shepherding—casual conversations with others.

Financial-Finance Committee presented continuing resolutions regarding use of memorial funds. It was approved to- 1) fold memorial funds from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church into a generic memorial fund; and 2) existing and future undesignated funds given in memory of a person will be put in a general memorial fund. (The full resolutions will be presented to the congregation for vote at the next congregational meeting.) The Investment team spoke with two investment advisors and will submit a proposal to council.

Worship-Average attendance in February was 32. Ash Wednesday- 76.

Property-Renovations continue on the new meeting room. New plexiglass placed on altar and step edging installed on level platforms in the front of the church.

Outreach-Support continues throughout Lent for New Reach Life Haven Shelter as well as ELCA World Hunger Relief. A St. Pauly Textile shed has been place at CGSL.

Fellowship-Pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday planned and a luncheon following the memorial service for James Knoob. Coffee hours continue and host volunteers are needed.

Inreach-The Shepherding team will focus on reaching out to the homebound and on newer members of CGSL.

Education-Confirmation and cross generation faith formation classes continue. Interest expressed for a Lutheranism course.

The next council meeting is April 27.