

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
May 2022



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

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

“Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
Alleluia!”

We proclaimed this amazing and baffling truth on our first Easter Sunday together! And what a joy it was (despite absences due to Covid, both mine and others...) to journey through Passion/Palm Sunday, to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and finally to the brightness of Easter morning. Thank you again to all the leaders who stepped up, said yes, read, prayed, arranged, cleaned, played, beautified and helped make these Holy Days as wonderful and faithful as they could be.

But the reality is that as April turns to May this year, keeping the world-changing truth of Jesus' Resurrection close to our hearts is a serious challenge. It is especially hard with the news of Ukraine in the background, with the ongoing reality of racial inequality and the constant drag of Covid—and certainly it's tough to stay cheery once all the brightness of Easter morning and the smell of the lilies has faded. ***How do we make the Resurrection a part of our everyday lives?***

Well, that is the beauty of the “Easter Season,” which is the 50 days (including 6 Sundays) that stretch from Easter until Pentecost on June 5th. In these days we hear stories of God’s people encountering the gentle, compassionate and altogether transformed Risen Christ. Thankfully, these stories show us God’s people not getting things quite right, mis-seeing and mis-reading. And these stories also show us God’s people being worked upon by God all along, by the Risen Christ who journeys with them.

As you heard on the Second Sunday of Easter, part of what the Risen Christ does in the Gospel of John is “breathing” on the disciples, and saying to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” God is indeed *always* working on us, and that work we call the Holy Spirit. As part of my own prayer-life I sometimes use a version of the Roman Catholic “Book of Hours,” which is a guide for daily prayer, both personal and communal. This particular Book of Hours was published in 1993. As a prelude to the prayers for Wednesday it says something that is very important for us to remember about God the Holy Spirit:

On Wednesday we find the person who walks courageously because they are certain that God is everything and is merciful. This is why “My heart and flesh ring out their joy to the living God.” My whole life belongs to Christ: “You are God’s temple. The Spirit of Christ dwells in you.” *The Spirit is what makes us perceive God in the life of the senses, it enables us to experience God. The Spirit is the principle whereby God, who is invisible, becomes perceivable.* How does this happen? God makes God’s Presence felt when all creatures are perceived as signs.



And so I pose these *real* questions to you all:

- How and when has the Holy Spirit been working on you in our past 8 months together?
- Where have you seen God? What parts of creation have helped you to see Christ?
- How has the Spirit of the Risen Christ been working on our congregation and our greater communities?

(continued on page 3)

**CHRIST THE GOOD
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN**

CHURCH
600 Shepard Avenue
Hamden CT 06514

The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan
Office— 203-288-3196
Cell— 860-748-3837
pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org
www.christgoodshepherdlutheran.org
office@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org

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

***In Our
Thoughts & Prayers***

Ruth Anna Don
John Elfriede Peggy
Charlene Joan Jim & Joanne
Paul Elaine Tom
Kathy Jessika Elinor
Phil Greg Christine
Joni Florence Silas
John Mary Lou
Family & Friends of Michael



Spring has Sprung!

Picturesque tulips
are blooming by the
church sign and
sidewalk.

**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.



Thanks for Supporting the Personal Hygiene Drive

Fourteen bottles of body wash, 27 bars of soap, 50 toothbrushes, 35 tubes of toothpaste, along with bottles of shampoo and conditioner, moisturizer, deodorant, antibacterial soap, razors, shaving cream and an assortment of paper goods and other hygiene products were among 232 items collected during our Personal Hygiene Drive at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran.

The donations, which were collected over a five-week period during Lent, will 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. The drive concluded on Palm Sunday and the donations were delivered to the shelter on April 12. *Thanks to all who participated!*

(Pastor's message...continued from page 1)

These are not just rhetorical questions! **I would like to actually hear from you:** email, call, take me aside after worship. And if you believe God has given you the courage, then I believe it is time for us to share these stories together—on Sunday mornings. Let's celebrate the Resurrection this Easter Season by *telling* how the Holy Spirit is giving us the ability to feel and to know God.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the June 2022 issue of the Messenger are due May 22, 2022.



Confirmation is a public profession of faith (Affirmation of Baptism) prepared for by long and careful instruction.

On June 5, Pentecost Sunday, three of Christ Good Shepherd youth will be confirmed.

Anna Hansard

Jess Hansard

Grace O'Brien



- ♥ To our painters, Linda, Ursula and Sarah, (*pictured above*) who volunteered their time and talents to paint the meeting room a peaceful light blue! The Facility Team chose a flooring that should be installed sometime in May/June.

And to our volunteers assisting with Outreach Ministries-

- ♥ Starr O'Connor for delivering the personal hygiene items to New Reach Life Haven Shelter.
- ♥ JoAnn Isleb for delivering five bags of non-perishable food items to Keefe Community Center.



Calling all Friends of Calumet!

Please join our congregation's team for Calumet's Walk the Walk fundraiser!

We welcome people of all fitness levels. There is no set amount you need to walk, and absolutely no judgment. We simply want everyone to have fun, get some exercise, make new friends, and help Camp Calumet.

The event runs from July 1 to August 31, and all you have to do is keep track of your activity as best you can and periodically report your miles to our team captain—Cyndi Hansard. We also hope to organize some group walks, but these would be completely optional.

Registration opens on May 15, and it only costs \$25 to participate. You even get a Walk the Walk t-shirt as part of your fee! Last year our team consisted of 7 humans and 1 dog. We would love to double our numbers this year, so please join us!

Go to www.calumet.org/walkthewalk2022 for more info, and contact team captain Cyndi Hansard with any questions.





Council met on April 27. The meeting commenced with discussion on the following questions.

“How has the Holy Spirit been working on you in our past 8 months together?”- Dealing still with COVID in our lives; war in Ukraine-history repeating itself; God is evident in people helping others through this. *“How has the Spirit of the Risen Christ been working on our congregation, and our greater communities?”*- Through all the workings of our church in the community.

Council welcomed guest speaker, Susan Brown, who runs the Purple Pantry Box. She talked of the outdoor pantry boxes that are currently in 12 locations in Bridgeport, West Haven and Milford.

Financials– Giving on Ash Wednesday totaled \$639 which was donated to Columbus House. Total contributions for March show a slight increase over that of last year.

Evangelism– Rob prepared a list of ideas for future events for council to review.

Property– Durbin is securing two quotes from electricians for lighting and ceiling replacements. Renovations continue on the new meeting room.

Worship– More volunteers are needed on altar guild.

Inreach– The Shepherding Team continues to reach out to designated members of the congregation.

Fellowship– A sign-up sheet has been posted for hosting coffee hours.

Outreach– Website continues to receive many visitors. Food was delivered to Keefe Community Center, and personal hygiene items collected during Lent to New Reach Life Haven Shelter (see article on page 3.) Also during Lent, a special collection was done to support Lutheran Disaster Response-Eastern Europe Crisis Response.

Education– A Lutheranism class will begin Thursday, May 5 at 7pm. Confirmation is June 5.

Next council meeting is May 18.

Congregational meeting June 12.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE (A) LUTHERAN?

Join Pastor Josh for a five-week introduction to (or refresher in) our particular flavor of Christianity – **Lutheranism**! Participants can attend the sessions in person, join in via Zoom, or watch the sessions streaming live or recorded on the church Facebook page, accessible through the church website (christgoodshepherdlutheran.org).

Dates: Thursdays beginning May 5, 2022 (five consecutive weeks)

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: CGSLC sanctuary

Registration: For in-person and Zoom participants, please email the church at christgoodshepherdlutheran@gmail.com by Wednesday May 4. No registration is required for Facebook viewing. If you are unable to register by email, please call the church office at (203) 288-3196.

Cost: FREE!

We will use the book **“Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism As a Way of Life”**, by **pastor and illustrator Daniel Erlander** (provided to all participants free-of-charge). This book shows Erlander's "unique vision of the Lutheran faith as a way of teaching, worshiping, and living. This rich, compelling book has guided generations interested in enriching their faith in a meaningful way. Covered topics include history, liturgy, the Eucharist, saying yes and no, and more."

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild
5/1	John Downs	David Brown	David & Loraine Brown	Lorraine Brown
5/8	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Durbin Hunter	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Ursula Hunter
5/15	Durbin Hunter	Paul Snyder	Ken Watson Paul Snyder	Starr O'Connor
5/22	Sharon Napolitano	Ken Watson	Phil & John Napolitano	Sharon Napolitano
5/29	Rob Hansen	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Starr O'Connor
6/5	John Downs	David Brown	James & Joanne Learned	Lorraine Brown
6/12	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Rob Hansen	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!

Trash Duties for May, 2022

Date bins out / in	Responsible Party	Recycling?
May 4-5	John Downs	No
May 11-12	Leo Goodrich	Yes
May 18-19	David Brown	No
May 25-26	Rob Hansen	Yes



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 3rd Sunday in Easter 9:00am Cross Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	2	3	4	5 7pm- Lutheranism Class	6	7
8 4th Sunday in Easter 9:00am Cross Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	9	10	11	12 7pm- Lutheranism Class	13	14
15 5th Sunday in Easter 9:00am Cross Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	16	17	18 7pm Council	19 7pm- Lutheranism Class	20	21
22 6th Sunday in Easter 9:00am Cross Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	23	24	25 6:30pm Book Club <u>Just Mercy</u>	26 7pm- Lutheranism Class	27	28 Vigil of Pentecost
29 7th Sunday in Easter 9:00am Cross Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	30	31	June 1	2 7pm- Lutheranism Class	3	4
5 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 9:00am Cross Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion Confirmation						

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.*