

# THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
July 2022



## Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

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

As the green spring has turned to hot summer here in Hamden, I've been thinking about stewardship.

Stewardship might give some of you memories of pastors begging for money and pledge cards, or bring back the anxiety of budgets in the red. Or it might instead have a pleasant connotation, with memories of big, red cardboard thermometers slowly rising as the generosity of a congregation is stoked to give toward a new project.

Stewardship does mean talking about money. But, of course, stewardship is more. To be a "steward" is to care for that which does not, in the grand scheme of things, belong to us. What an incredibly counter-cultural thing to say: that, in the end, our wealth does not belong to us! And so stewardship is a matter of discipleship, a matter of Spirit, more than merely budgetary anxieties.

Be inspired! Be fearless, despite all the signs of collapse around us. Be of good cheer this summer season, and be generous as God is endlessly generous to us. God's "mission" of loving and redeeming and reshaping the world is always happening, and will never cease. And our giving is just one way we can participate in "the reign of God coming near" (Luke 10:9).

In fact, when they are viewed as followers of Christ, none of those three things which we claim as rights in America—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—really belong to us. They are God's gifts to us to be used for the good of others. Indeed, as we heard Paul preach to the Galatians on Sunday, July 3rd: "So let

*us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all..." (Gal 6:9-10).*

This July and into August we will hear Jesus preach many times in the Gospel of Luke about the "reign of God"—about stewardship understood in this way.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus implores us to give our wealth and time to care for the outcast and sick (Luke 10:25-37); with Mary and Martha we learn that time well stewarded is not all spent not working (Luke 10:38-42);

Jesus tells his disciples our lives are meant for prayer, and from God comes all we need—our daily bread (Luke 11:1-13);

in another parable we are starkly warned that riches will not accompany us past death (Luke 12:13-21);

bluntly we are told to sell all our possessions as alms for the poor (Luke 12:32-40);

and Jesus teaches that, ultimately, all who exalt themselves will be humbled (Luke 14:1, 7-14).

With all these seemingly harsh and heavy teachings, Jesus is truly beckoning us to a free life of joyful giving. Our belonging to God in our baptism, our being made a new creation in Christ, is a gateway to a world of gift. Our lives and our wealth and freedom are all a gift. And just as Christ gave of himself completely on the cross, so are we invited freely to give.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh

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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

**In Our  
Thoughts & Prayers**

Ruth	Anna	Don
John	Elfriede	Peggy
Linda & Bob	Mary Lou	Jim & Joanne
Kathy	Jessika	Elinor
Phil	Greg	John
Joni	Florence	Silas



The people of Ukraine  
Victims & families of gun violence in U.S.

**MEETING WITH TEENS OF THE CONGREGATION**

There is scheduled a casual gathering for teens from the congregation on Friday, July 22nd from 6-7:30pm with a light dinner.

We will meet in the new classroom since AA will be in the fellowship hall until 6:30pm. I have already polled all the kids and parents and this was the date that worked the best.

Linda Kapitan is helping with the dinner and I will have a young adult help with some ice-breakers and conversation starters! -Pastor Josh

**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.

## Annual “Back-to-School Backpack Project” Returns July 10

With summer in full swing, the new school year seems a long way off. But to help prepare area students for the year ahead, the congregation of Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is once again invited to help stock the shelves of the Hamden Youth Services’ School Supplies Closet through our annual **“Back-to-School Backpack Project.”**

From Sunday, July 10, through Sunday, August 14, we will be collecting backpacks and other school supplies to benefit local families demonstrating financial need. Anyone who wishes to donate toward this project is asked to drop the requested items off in the donation boxes at church for delivery to Hamden Youth Services, 11 Pine Street, prior to the start of the 2022-23 school year.

The city's School Supplies Closet was created to assist Hamden families who are having difficulty providing the items their children need for school. The program is available year-round and is free for qualifying Hamden youth (preschool to college). Read more about the project and program requirements at <https://www.hamden.com/273/School-Supplies-Closet>.

### Accepted Back-to-School Items

Donations of any of the following new items will be accepted by the “School Supplies Closet”:

- \* Backpacks
- \* Calculators
- \* Crayons and Scissors
- \* Glue Sticks
- \* Magic Markers
- \* Notebooks
- \* Pencil Sharpeners
- \* Pencils
- \* Pens
- \* Pocket Folders
- \* Rulers
- \* Tape
- \* Three-Ring Binders
- \* Etc.

If you have any questions about this project, please speak with Sharon Napolitano, Outreach Chair, or email her at [snapolitano1@yahoo.com](mailto:snapolitano1@yahoo.com).

## CGSL Book Club- What Happened to the Bennetts

The CGS book club will be meeting in person on July 13 at 6:30pm to discuss What Happened to the Bennetts. Please go through the door to the Fellowship area.



*Why do we love coffee hour so much?*

It gives us the time to welcome new people, find out about each other and enjoy a good cup of coffee and goodies. Whether you stay for 10 minutes or an hour, it is a way to find out about who members are outside of church—what they enjoy doing, etc. Many common interests have been discovered during a coffee hour and friendships have grown from there. I am sure that there are many more reasons why coffee hour is so important to the life of the church. I would love to hear those reasons and share them with the congregation. If you are interested in sharing, please let me know.

We are always looking for people to host coffee hours and have had a few different ideas that we will try. For the months of July and August,

you can sign up for making the coffee, set up  
~OR~

bring goodies, clean up. There is always extra food in the freezer if you need filler.

The cabinets/drawers will have labels on them so that equipment is easy to find. I am also working on a document that outlines the steps to host a coffee hour.

As my parents used to say, many hands make light work. If you are interested in being part of a Fellowship Team, please let me know.

*Linda Kapitan*

## 20 New Members!

We have many reasons to be grateful, many reasons to feel blessed. In the almost year since the Rev. Joshua Sullivan accepted the call to Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, our congregation has grown and work has been done to upgrade our building.



### New members since August, 2021-

- The Rev. Joshua Sullivan & Madelyn Robertson, Simone
- Scott & Nixida Prentice, Aubrey, Charlotte
- David & JoAnn Isleb
- Linda Ibsen
- Erika Ennejjar, Adam
- Marsha Hendren
- Margaret Bogen
- Chris & Carla Trutnau, Caitlin, Kara
- Emily Cui-  
153 Woodlawn St, Hamden 06517  
153fishermen@gmail.com
- The Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin-  
volker.leppin@yale.edu

(Please add Emily Cui and the Rev. Dr. Leppin to your directory.)

Father, in the name of Jesus, thank you for making this church a mountain of voices indeed as the Spirit of God ministers to the needs of all members- *Ezekiel 2:2*

**Ready.. Set.. Go!**

**Walk the Walk for Calumet begins July 1!**

You can join Team Christ the Good Shepherd anytime between now and August 31 when it ends. Keep track of your miles each day doing an activity that you enjoy that keeps you moving! As mentioned in the June Messenger, this walk is more about camaraderie and supporting Calumet.

[www.calumet.org/walkthewalk2022](http://www.calumet.org/walkthewalk2022)



Council held its monthly meeting on June 15. At Synod Assembly, Pastor was elected Dean of the Greater New Haven Conference! He is reaching

out to conference members regarding joint participation in “God’s Work, Out Hands” on September 11.

Council voted to accept new member, the Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin.

*Investment Team*– Will be meeting to discuss choice of financial advisor.

*Forward Leadership*– on summer hiatus. Starts up again in September.

*Worship*- Following discussion on displaying flags in the sanctuary, a motion was made to display the American and Christian flag in the narthex and to place those flags in the chancel on the Sunday closest to a national holiday.

*Finances*- Total contributions in May 2022 were lower than the same time last year. Bill paying is current.

*Property*- Discussion on renovation of ceiling and lights in the Fellowship hall was tabled until next month—more inquiries on costs to be made.

*Facility Renewal*– Paint color choice will be made for the hallway and Fellowship Hall. When decided, painting can commence on the hallway only.

*Outreach*- Back to School Backpack Project planned. (See article on page 3.) The website continues to generate many visitors.

*Fellowship*- Coffee hour sign-up sheet posted. A trial approach will be taken over the summer. (See article on page 3.)

*Inreach*- Calls continue to be made.

*Education*– Lutheranism class well attended.

*Stewardship*– Rob plans to coordinate with Linda (Fellowship) on varies ideas.

**Next council meeting- July 27, 2022**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Please note that newsletter articles for the August 2022 issue of the Messenger are due Sunday, July 24, 2022.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild
9:30am 7/3	Rob Hansen	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	David & Loraine Brown	Lorraine Brown
7/10	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Durbin Hunter	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Ursula Hunter
7/17	Linda Kapitan	David Brown	James & Joanne Learned	Lorraine Brown
7/24	John Downs	Anna Hansard	O'Brien Family	Starr O'Connor
7/31	Durbin Hunter	Sharon Napolitano	Phil & Sharon Napolitano	Sharon Napolitano
8/7	Sharon Napolitano	Jess Hansard	Ken Watson Paul Snyder	Ursula Hunter
8/14	Rob Hansen	Paul Snyder	David & Loraine Brown	Lorraine Brown

*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 July, 2022



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



## THE TIME HAS COME GET READY TO SIGN UP!

**“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday**



A nationwide event of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), God’s Work Our Hands Sunday is a day to demonstrate to the world that we are a loving, caring organization dedicated to serving our communities

This year our church will be hosting the Greater New Haven Conference of the New England Synod, joining our five fellow Lutheran churches of the conference in service, so we want to have a strong showing of volunteers from our own congregation

There will be a variety of projects available, ones for participants of all ages and abilities, opportunities of every shape and size

**PLEASE NOTE: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT ON SEPTEMBER 11 TO PARTICIPATE (although it is preferred)!**

Join us in spreading our Christian love as Lutherans in cheerful service to our brothers and sisters in the Greater New Haven region

More information, including a sign-up sheet, coming soon!

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Cross-Generation, Faith Formation class in recess from July 3—September 4.				Walk the Walk for Calumet begins	1 	2 
3 <i>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10 <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	11	12	13 6:30pm Book Club	14	15	16
17 <i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	18	19	20	21 6-7:30pm Teen gathering	22	23
24 <i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	25	26	27 7pm Council	28	29	30
31 <i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	8/1 	2 	3 	4	5	6
				Walk the Walk for Calumet continues until August 31.		

### 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.*