

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

August 2022



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

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

Well, my siblings in Christ, hot summer here in Hamden has turned to hotter summer in August! And I'm still thinking about stewardship. As promised, Jesus in the Gospel of Luke throughout July and August has been talking about stewardship and priorities—priorities as they relate to time as well as money. Indeed, as the quip goes, “time *is* money.” We “*spend*” our time doing what is important to us. Here's one way to spend your time well with us this summer:

We have begun a new spiritual practice here at Christ the Good Shepherd. We are gathering on Thursday mornings for contemplative prayer in the sanctuary. We are using the Morning Prayer “office” from our hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) and sit quietly for 10-15 minutes. If you can be here by 7 AM when we gather, do join us! We will meet through August.

This practice came out of a pastoral conversation with one of our “new” members. And then yet another “new” member, the Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin (who teaches historical theology at Yale Divinity School) chimed in and let me know that the area of his academic expertise is the contemplative and mystical traditions of Christianity as they relate to the eras of history around the German Reformation! And what's more, many “old” members resonated with the idea as well, and said that they themselves already pray in this way on their own time.

By way of explanation, our Thursday morning prayer comes from two deep sources. Some may read “spiritual” above and think of something amorphous or wishy-washy, but think of it more like this:

“Spirituality is not pietism but the *total practice* of every aspect of Christian living. A ‘spiritual’ life is One n which the spirit of God, sought and nurtured in prayer, controls every minute of every aspect.”¹

One of the ways our ancestors in the faith have engaged in this *total practice*, and the first source of our Morning Prayer here, is the “Daily Office” of prayer. It's called an “office” because throughout the history of the church (and starting first with St. Benedict in the 500s) groups of Christians have met to pray, and pray through the Psalms, at various times throughout the day, chiefly: morning, noon, evening and night.

Along with our Episcopalian, Anglican and Roman Catholic siblings, there is the sense that: “[Sunday] Eucharist, the Daily Office, and private prayer are not isolated attempts to obtain doses of...grace, but links in a continuous chain of a life in grace, a continuous response to God's never-ending love in a marriage solemnized at our Baptism. When duty is dull we might remember that washing the dishes can be just as much an act of marital love as an embrace.”

(Pastor's Message- continued on pg. 3)

¹This and all following quotations are from: Martin Thornton. *English Spirituality: An Outline of Ascetical Theology according to the English Pastoral Tradition*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1986.

**CHRIST THE GOOD
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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**



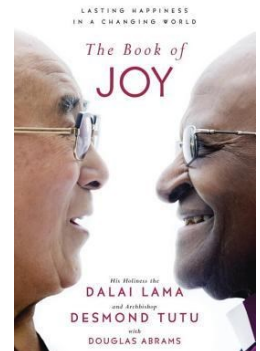
Ruth	Anna	Mary
John	Elfriede	Peggy
Palmer	Lois	Jim & Joanne
Kathy	Jessika	Elinor
Phil	Greg	John
Joni	Florence	Silas
David	Family & friends of Don Erickson	

CGSL BOOK CLUB—Next Read

I hope you are all enjoying this cooler weather. Thank you to all who were able to attend our discussion of What Happened to the Bennetts. If you have not had the opportunity to read the book, it was a quick, enjoyable read.

Our next book is—The Book of Joy, written by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams.

(Book club-continued on page 7)



**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.

(Pastor's Message- continued from pg. 1)

The second source is the ancient Christian of "contemplation." Any kind of prayer or spiritual practice, whether it be a walk in the woods and a sense of union with creation, a unitive love for all of God's creatures expressed in service, or "wordless prayers of 'simplicity' and 'loving regard'" are all "contemplative" since they: "imply a direct, intuitive awareness of God rather than discursive mental activity." That's a fancy way of saying: prayers need not always be words. We are allowed to just be aware of God and rest in God's presence as a kind of prayer. Indeed, St. Paul tells us in Romans: "we do not know how to pray as we ought, but [the Holy Spirit] intercedes with groanings too deep for words."

On Thursdays mornings, planted firmly in the foundation of the Psalms, we pray both ways!

As I said in July, with all these intense teachings from Jesus in Luke's Gospel on Sunday mornings as we gather for Eucharist, he is calling us out of our false selves mired in greed and panic to live into our true selves, our Baptismal selves, united with Christ in freedom and joy. And in our new, true lives, we are freed to be generous with our wealth and our time, which means to value nothing greater than God. And the best way to value God, to cherish God, is to *rest in God*.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh



Confirmation day, June 5, 2022
Pastor, Jess Hansard, Anna Hansard, Grace O'Brien

Why I "Walk the Walk" for Calumet

-By Kat Napolitano

I'm "*Walking the Walk*" for Calumet because camp was always my favorite part of the summer growing up. Going to camp for two weeks each summer allowed me space to form my faith in a community of peers, where I could listen, sing, and discuss with hundreds of people my age. It also allowed me to see role models in the young adult counselors, who were actively living and sharing their faith week after week.

While I learned typical camp activities, like how to sail a boat and shoot a bow and arrow, I also credit Calumet for developing my independence. This foundation has served me well in my next steps, living and working in places like Boston, Los Angeles, London, and now Austin. I walk so more campers can experience the joys of Calumet, just like I did.



Council met July 27, 2022.

Rev. Joshua Sullivan was elected Dean of Greater New Haven Conference at the June Synod Assembly.

(See correspondence at end of newsletter.)

Worship– Have more volunteers to serve during worship but still need one more person for altar guild. Worship schedule goes back to 10:00am on Sept. 11.

Financials– June reports reflect an increase in total contributions in comparison to this time last year.

Property– The vinyl baseboard for the hallway arrived and Durbin is seeking volunteers to help install it– after the doorways are painted.

Outreach– Website continues to attract many visitors each month. Food drive collections for Hamden Food Bank are delivered monthly. Calumet’s Walk the Walk continues through August 31. There are 13 members on our team. Back-to-School Backpack Project started July 10 and continues through August 14.

Fellowship– Written instructions prepared for coffee hour. Book club’s next read is The Book of Joy.

Inreach– Calls continue to be made to members.

Education– Contemplative prayer began on Thursday mornings, 7-7:30am. Four teens participated in the July gathering.

Council motioned to designate the monies received in the second quarter from St. Pauly Shed to a local non-profit community center in Hamden.

Next council meeting- August 17

Congregational Meeting- September 25

“Back-to-School Backpack Project” Continues

Before you know it, school bells will be ringing. Help us stock the shelves of the Hamden Youth Services’ School Supplies Closet through our annual “Back-to-School Backpack Project” to support local families in need as they prepare for the new school year.

We will be collecting backpacks and other school supplies through Sunday, August 14. Anyone who wishes to donate toward this project may do so by dropping off the requested items in the donation boxes at church. The school supplies will be delivered 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 & Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Magic Markers
- Notebooks
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencils
- Pens
- Pocket Folders
- Rulers
- Tape
- Three-Ring Binders
- Etc.

Announced in church Sunday, July 31–
Thank you for your continued generous donations. We still have 2 more Sundays to support Hamden youth! Backpacks are a needed item.

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

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild
9:30 a.m. 8/7	Sharon Napolitano	Jess Hansard	Ken Watson Paul Snyder	Ursula Hunter
8/14	Rob Hansen	Paul Snyder	David & Loraine Brown	Loraine Brown
8/21	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Connor
8/28	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Napolitano	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Sharon Napolitano
9/4	John Downs	Durbin Hunter	James & Joanne Learned	Ursula Hunter
10:00 a.m. 9/11	Durbin Hunter	Rob Hansen	O'Brien Family	Loraine Brown

*If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please find a substitute, and let John, Pastor and Brenda know.
Thank you for serving!*



Ursula, Durbin, Kris and Linda discussing color choices for vinyl baseboard. The hallway has a fresh coat of paint. Once the doorframes are painted, the baseboard can be installed.

Trash Duties for August, 2022



Date bins out / in	Responsible Party	Recycling?
August 3-4	John Downs	Yes
August 10-11	Leo Goodrich	No
August 17-18	Phil Napolitano	Yes
August 24-25	Rob Hansen	No

THE TIME HAS COME TO SIGN UP!



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

SIGN-UP BEGINS SUNDAY, JULY 31

Please see Leo Goodrich at church or email him at leo.d.goodrich@gmail.com.

(Book Club...continued from page 2)

As quoted from Goodreads:

The occasion was a big birthday. And it inspired two close friends to get together in Dharamsala for a talk about something very important to them. The friends were His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The subject was joy. Both winners of the Nobel Prize, both great spiritual masters and moral leaders of our time, they are also known for being among the most infectiously happy people on the planet.

From the beginning the book was envisioned as a three-layer birthday cake: their own stories and teachings about joy, the most recent findings in the science of deep happiness, and the daily practices that anchor their own emotional and spiritual lives. Both the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu have been tested by great personal and national adversity, and here they share their personal stories of struggle and renewal. Now that they are both in their eighties, they especially want to spread the core message that to have joy yourself, you must bring joy to others.

Most of all, during that landmark week in Dharamsala, they demonstrated by their own exuberance, compassion, and humor how joy can be transformed from a fleeting emotion into an enduring way of life.

We will meet at 6:30pm on September 15th at CGS. The Fellowship door will be unlocked. If you would like to attend and have a conflict, please let us know. This group is very flexible.

Thank you. Enjoy the rest of your summer.
Linda

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the September 2022 issue of The Messenger are due Sunday, August 28, 2022.



Confirmands Anna and Grace receiving congratulations from the congregation.

Walk the Walk Update


In just two weeks, our congregation's team walked a total of 400+ miles. That's the same as walking to Camp Calumet and back one time! As a whole, all the participating walkers across New England walked over 50,000 miles in those first two weeks. We are off to a great start toward reaching this year's goal of 350,000 miles, but we could sure use your help!

So far, there are 13 of us on Team Christ the Good Shepherd walking the Walk for Calumet, but there's always a place for YOU to join our team too! Just donate \$25 to camp and keep track of your steps each day. Every two weeks, team captain Cyndi Hansard will reach out and ask for your miles. It's that simple! Camp will even send you a t-shirt.

To sign up, go to
calumet.org/walkthewalk2022

Or contact Cyndi Hansard:
cyndi@aya.yale.edu



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Cross-Generation, Faith Formation class in recess from July 3—September 4.	1	2	3	4 <i>Contemplative Prayer</i> 7-7:30am	5	6
7 <i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	8	9	10	11 <i>Contemplative Prayer</i> 7-7:30am	12	13
14 <i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	15	16	17 <i>Council Mtg</i> 7pm	18 <i>Contemplative Prayer</i> 7-7:30am	19	20
21 <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	22	23	24	25 <i>Contemplative Prayer</i> 7-7:30am	26	27
28 <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	29	30	31	9/1	2	3
4 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	5 	6	7	8	9	10

Walk the Walk for Calumet ends August 31.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

September 25, 2022

Following worship service

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 worshipping 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 worshipping 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.*



New England Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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July 8, 2022

Christ the Good Shephard
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Dear Leaders and All Members of Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Recently your pastor, The Rev. Joshua Sullivan, was elected to serve as Dean of the Greater New Haven Conference of the New England Synod. I am grateful not only for his willingness to serve in this important capacity in the life of the synod, but also for your support for this new responsibility. I realize that this position will require some time and effort for work outside the congregation and I trust that you and your pastor will communicate regularly to one another so that this new role can be a blessing and not a burden.

Since our most precious faith community is usually the congregation, it always takes an extra dose of awareness and curiosity to understand the critical importance of the wider church. The strong witness of the Lutheran Church in New England, the work of the ELCA, and the amazing global ministry of Lutheran World Relief are all examples of how the work of Jesus Christ is strengthened by working together. The seminaries, schools, disaster relief work and social service agencies of the Lutheran Church are an incredible and interrelated system that is one of the most powerful witnesses to God's love in the world. All of these expressions of the church embody our commitment to the world, as explained in our ELCA statement: God's Work. Our Hands.

Thank you for the part that you are playing in assuring that we all can work together effectively to do God's work with our hands. As the Holy Spirit unites us in faith, we are also united in our efforts to care for one another in this ministry. I have enclosed a copy of the role of the dean for your attention. Please do not hesitate to call my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ,

Bishop James E. Hazelwood
New England Synod

Enclosure

JEH/lw

The Role of Dean of the Conference

New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Synod Constitution: S12.01.01. Conferences

i. In consultation with the bishop of this synod, the conference shall elect a dean who shall be a rostered pastor of the conference, and a minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or an ordained pastor from a denomination in full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who is currently serving an ELCA congregation in the conference. The term shall be two years. The dean shall be an ex-officio member of the conference council. The dean shall serve as an extension of the bishop's office at the bishop's discretion. The dean's oversight and administration shall be among the rostered ministers and their families for fellowship and support. Duties of the Dean may more definitively be outlined by the conference assembly with the approval of the Bishop. If the ecumenical partner pastor serving as dean ceases serving a congregation in the conference, that pastor shall also cease to serve as the dean.

The dean of each conference shall be the primary liaison between the conferences and the office of the bishop and may serve an unlimited number of terms. Before the election of a new dean, the standing dean shall contact the bishop with suggested nominations. Upon agreement, those names (or one name) shall be presented for election by the conference assembly. Deans shall be installed annually at a synod gathering. Deans meet twice a year with the bishop and staff and maintain contact as needed in the intervening months. The work of the office of dean includes the following responsibilities. The deans shall:

Provide Pastoral Care for Rostered Minister

- welcome new rostered ministers to your conference and provide ongoing support; be available for counsel and discussion for pastoral needs and concerns.
- urge each rostered minister and family to select designated pastors
- choose a retired minister of Word and Sacrament as "Conference Chaplain" to assist in pastoral care
- encourage healthy leadership practices, including physical, emotional, relational and spiritual health
- encourage relationships with mentors, spiritual directors and counselors
- contact the bishop or staff with serious concerns and issues

Foster collegiality and growth in ministry

- plan regular pericope study and encourage attendance
- support participation in events of the conference and wider church
- advocate for the planning of social activities and other conference events
- encourage continuing education
- model and insure accountability for the annual congregational report, annual report to the bishop and monthly mission support remittances

Additional responsibilities

- contact by phone the chief lay leader of any congregation where there has been the announcement of the resignation or retirement of the pastor to assure of your support in the time of transition

The Role of Dean of the Conference
New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- plan one visit during the transition to check on parish records and financial matters
- preside at the installation of new rostered ministers
- submit an annual report for the synod assembly
- assist with communication to assure timely notification in urgent situations
- maintain contact with the associate to the bishop on a regular basis

July 2017

July, 2017