

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
November 2022



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

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

As we come round the bend of October in our culture we find ourselves very quickly in the “holiday season.” First with all our Thanksgiving rituals (which I’m sure include, but are not limited to, football, period., the joy of post-pandemic air travel, family political arguments, overeating, and Black Friday). And then quickly on we slide into twinkling lights and 24/7 Christmas radio and all the boxes containing gifts ordered on Amazon for our loved ones that begin to pile up...

But there are many other holy-days this November that we commemorate as God’s people in the Church. On All Saints Sunday on November 6th we will remember those who have died from our community this year and gone on before us into God’s eternal care. Sunday, November 20th is a special day in our cyclical worship year that celebrates the Reign of Christ (what some may remember as Christ the King Sunday), marks the end of our special calendar, and reminds us too of the end of all things. Did you know that this holy-day was rather recently conceived by the Roman Catholic church to combat the growing rise of fascism and nationalism in Italy and Europe in 1925? It

originated to remind the faithful that only Christ is our Lord, and though our allegiance to our nations of origin matter, as we endeavor to be good and just citizens, nevertheless our ultimate allegiance as Jesus’ disciples is to God alone.

And then, of course, on Sunday, November 27th we begin our observance of **Advent!** Advent, much like Lent, is a time to prepare. We prepare for Christ’s presence to come yet again to us in our lives and through the Church! But can one ever really be prepared for Christ to come into one’s life? This year for Advent we will ask that question as we continue with our 7 PM Thursday evening devotions, focusing on this topic of Christ’s “presence” and what we can make of that in our experience and in the Bible.

So, take heart! Be of good cheer!

Not because the holidays are coming, but because as God’s people we are blessed with many, many holy-days, from each Sunday when we gather to proclaim that Christ is indeed risen, to special seasons and observances that help us re-live God’s promises, Christ’s love, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Thanks be to God!

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.

**CHRIST THE GOOD
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
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Hamden CT 06514

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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 | Janice |
| Susan | Elfriede | Christopher |
| Palmer | Lois | Jim & Joanne |
| Kathy | Jessika | Elinor |
| Phil | Greg | John |
| Sue | Florence | Geneva |
| David | Barbara | Paul |
| White family | O'Connor family | |



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
December 18, 2022

Items of importance on the agenda—
 ♦ Approve proposed slate of council
 ♦ Approval proposed budget for 2023

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

| | |
|---------|---|
| * 12/1 | 7:00PM Thursday evenings |
| * 12/8 | As Pastor spoke in his message, |
| * 12/15 | <i>“We prepare for Christ’s presence</i> |
| * 12/22 | <i>to come yet again to us in our lives</i> |
| | <i>and through the Church!”</i> |





Council met on 10/19. Pastor will

be away at Synod Convocation, 11/7-11/9.
Forward Leadership— Team to attend a seminar on 10/22. In September, the seminar they attended discussed ways for congregations to build their leadership team. As our two churches joined and formed a new church, it is considered a consolidation—not a merger.

Worship— Seven-day memorial candle purchased. Time to think of ordering Christmas flowers. We will have Advent weekly devotions.

Financials— Year-to-date contributions is \$2861.35 lower in 2022 than 2021. All missions have been paid to current date.

Investment Team— Motion made to follow Steve D'Amico's initial proposal of investing \$200k in fixed income, 200k in equities and 100k in Morgan Stanley money market.

Property—14 doorways have been primed and painted, the leaking cupola and bell removed from the roof and organ cleaned. The updated quote for new ceiling and lighting will be presented to the congregation on 11/6.

Outreach— Website traffic increases each month. CGS is participating again this year in Thanksgiving baskets and Angel Tree. (See articles on page 5 & 6)

Fellowship— Book club meets 11/3 and an inservice on coffee hour preparation scheduled for 11/6.

Inreach— Calls continue to the homebound.

Education— Theme of Cross-Generation, Faith Formation class is “Do Not Be Afraid”.

Stewardship— Discussions continue.

Bylaw team— Proposed a council composed of 10 members instead of 12.

Next council meeting: 11/16/22

Next congregational meeting: 12/13/22

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the December 2022 issue of The Messenger are due Sunday, November 27.

Special Congregational Meeting November 6, 2022

Christ the Good Shepherd council has requested a special congregational meeting immediately following worship on November 6. The only item on the agenda is to vote on the following proposal-

- To install new lighting in the fellowship hall
- Replace exit signs/emergency lights in the fellowship hall and kitchen
- Rebuild kitchen lights
- Install new ceiling in the fellowship hall
- Quote includes demolition and cleanup costs.

The quote presented is for \$12,819.00.



Host- Coffee Hour

~Linda Kapitan

Interested in learning more about the kitchen and what goes into putting on a coffee hour?

Please join me on November 6th during coffee hour for a tour of our kitchen and discussion of what goes into hosting a coffee hour.

Thank you to everyone who has supported coffee hours in the past.



GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALES

A Hamden Girl Scout troop requested use of our church parking lot to sell Girl Scout cookies on the dates 11/4-11/13. On the Saturdays and Sundays, they will sell from 12-2pm. On Election Day they will be selling in the morning and afternoon. The remaining days will be for an approximate time of 3:45-5:45pm.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

| Date | Worship Assistant | Lector | Ushers | Altar Guild |
|-------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 11/6 | Lisa Ball-Goodrich | Durbin Hunter | David & Loraine Brown | Lorraine Brown |
| 11/13 | Rob Hansen | Sharon Napolitano | Phil & John Napolitano | Sharon Napolitano |
| 11/20 | John Downs | Paul Snyder | The O'Brien family | Starr O'Connor |
| 11/27 | Durbin Hunter | Ken Watson | Paul Snyder Ken Watson | Ursula Hunter |
| 12/4 | Sharon Napolitano | David Brown | Durbin & Ursula Hunter | Lorraine Brown |
| 12/11 | Lisa Ball-Goodrich | Rob Hansen | Emily Cui Ken Watson | Sharon Napolitano |
| 12/18 | Rob Hansen | Linda Kapitan | Starr O'Connor John Downs | Starr O'Connor |

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

Refuse & Recycling
November, 2022

Reminder~



| Date bins out / in | Responsible Party | Recycling? |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 11/2/ & 11/3 | John Downs | No |
| 11/9 & 11/10 | Leo Goodrich | Yes |
| 11/16 & 11/17 | Phil Napolitano | No |
| *11/24 & 11/25 Thrs Fri | Rob Hansen | Yes |
| 11/30 & 12/1 | John Downs | No |



Salvation Army's "Angel Tree" Program Looking for Angels

You don't need wings to be an angel this Christmas. As the holiday season quickly approaches, the Salvation Army is once again looking for local "angels" to help provide Christmas gifts for children of families in need through its "Angel Tree" program.

Thanks to community support, the Salvation Army "Angel Tree" program served 217 families in 2021, supplying Christmas gifts to 355 children the Greater New Haven area. Our congregation supported 10 of those children. In 2022, we also will be supporting 10 children with gifts of toys and clothing.

Like last Christmas, we hope to provide all of the children on our list with four gifts each. Each gift request—40 in all—will be represented by one "Angel Tag" on our "Angel Tree." Each of those 40 "Angel Tags" will include the child's age and gender, along with the requested toy or shoe and clothing sizes. Although there is no limit to the amount you may choose to spend per child, the suggested value of each gift is \$15-\$30.

At Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran, our "Angel Tree" will be on display beginning Sunday, November 13. Those interested in shopping for one or more children are invited to select a tag or tags from the tree and sign their name by the corresponding "Angel" on the signup sheet.

All unwrapped gifts (with "Angel Tags" attached) should be brought to church on Sunday, December 4, where they will be organized and delivered to the Salvation Army in New Haven by Friday, December 9.

Want to avoid the crowds? Monetary donations are also welcome and will enable our designated shopping volunteers to make gift purchases on behalf of the congregation. If you wish to donate by cash or check, please speak with Sharon Napolitano, Outreach Chair.

For more information, contact Sharon at snapolitano1@yahoo.com or at 203.288.8543.

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD Book Club

The CGS book club will be meeting in person on November 3 at 6:30pm.

Please go through the front door. We will meet in the meeting room as there is another group meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

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 Hoopla (a library on-line app)—both the print and audio are available.

Hope to see you there!!!



-11/11/2022

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (PBAS, p. 66)

Food Donations Needed to Fill Thanksgiving Meal Baskets

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be joining local efforts to feed those in need this Thanksgiving by participating in the Hamden Community Services Thanksgiving Food Drive. We will be collecting frozen turkeys and other items for the Thanksgiving Meal Baskets on Sunday, Nov. 6, and Sunday, Nov. 13, and we will continue our food collection for the Hamden Food Bank throughout the holiday season and beyond.

Last year, Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran provided 10 frozen turkeys, along with hundreds of pounds of trimmings and other perishable and non-perishable food items, to the Hamden Food Bank in support of the Thanksgiving Meal Baskets.

This year, the following donations are needed:

- Fresh or frozen turkeys
- Stuffing
- Boxed mashed potatoes or 5-pound bags of white potatoes
- Yams
- Rice
- Cornbread
- Gravy
- Canned/fresh vegetables
- Pasta
- Tomato sauce



CGSL Thanksgiving meal donations in 2021

Please bring all items designated for the Thanksgiving Meal Baskets to church by **Sunday, Nov. 13**, so that the food can be delivered to the Hamden Food Bank at the Keefe Center, 11 Pine Street, by Friday, Nov. 18, for inclusion in this project.

Prefer to give by check? Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. Please make your check payable to "Keefe Center Gift Fund" and mail it to:

AnneMarie Karavas
Community Services Program Specialist
Keefe Community Center
11 Pine Street
Hamden, CT 06514
###

To learn more, visit [Hamden Community Services Thanksgiving Food Drive](#).

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|---|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|------|
| | |  | 2 | 3 7am- Contemplative Prayer via Zoom | 4 | 5 |
| 6 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion Special Congregational Meeting | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 7am- Contemplative Prayer via Zoom | 11 Veterans Day | 12 |
| 13 <i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion | 14 | 15 | 16 7:00pm- Council meeting | 17 7am- Contemplative Prayer via Zoom | 18 | 19 |
| 20 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| | | | |  | | |
| 27 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion | 28 | 29 | 30 | 12/1 7am- Contemplative Prayer via Zoom 7pm- Advent Devotions | 12/2 | 12/3 |

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.*