

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
January, 2023

Vol. 3 Issue 1



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

Happy New Year people of Christ the Good Shepherd!

*And grace and peace to you in the name of Christ
Jesus the Lord.*

This year we have a special treat. January 1, New Years' Day, also happens to be on a Sunday. And January 1, as some might know, is the Eighth Day of Christmas (the First is December 26 and last and Twelfth being January 6, Epiphany). On the Eighth Day of Christmas, in the Western Church, we celebrate the feast of the **Name of Jesus**—because in Luke's Gospel it is reported that on the eighth day after his birth, and according to Hebrew custom, the Christ child was circumcised and named Jesus as the angel had told Mary to do.

So, this year, let us begin our year remembering Jesus' name, which means *God-saves* in the original Hebrew. Through this name we make our prayers and supplications made known to God, by this name we are baptized, by this name we are bound and reunited with God, by this name God has revealed God's infinite love to us.

Back in the Ancient Near East, a name was a powerful thing! And even we don't always tell our names to everyone. We certainly tell our children not to tell their names, or their last names, to strangers. In the ancient Hebrew world, you didn't just tell your name to everyone, because they would then have access to your private, inmost

being. Just think of these two naming stories from book of Genesis. In the Jacob story, remember the angel wrestles with him and asks him his name, and once the angel has the name, he has the power to change it—to Israel, *the-one-who strives-with-God*. Think of the Abraham and Sarah and Hagar triangle as well. Hagar is thrown out with her baby Ishmael into the wilderness to die, but there God sees her, and saves her, and she is said to have named God—*God-of-seeing*—a powerful thing!

But God gives us God's name: *God-saves*. God gives us eternal access, intimacy, welcome and belonging in this name—what we call salvation. And so the person who is called by this name, Jesus, we also call our Savior!

So, this year, resolutions aside, let us endeavor to begin the year knowing we are marked by this name, in our baptism. We belong because of this name. Let it guide our steps, our decisions, and our prayers.

Yours in Jesus' name,

Pastor Josh

Dearest Christ the Good Shepherdians,

As many of you know—I've developed quite a taste for Whitney Donut! I'll be sure to use your very generous Christmas gift to support both my donut and coffee obsession and to support this local business. But, truly, Maddy and I thank you for your kindly gift and pray you will all have a delightful and transformative 2023.

-Pastor Josh

**CHRIST THE GOOD
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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**Council Members
1/1/23—12/31/23**

President: Ken Watson

Vice-President: Cyndi Hansard

Secretary: Brenda Samal

Treasurer: Ruth Lye

Financial Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich

Worship: Starr O'Connor

Congregational Care: Linda Ibsen

Property: Durbin Hunter

Outreach:
Community Service: Sharon Napolitano

Special Projects: Leo Goodrich

***In Our
Thoughts & Prayers***



Ruth	Anna	Janice
Paul	Elfriede	Christopher K.
Palmer	Lois	Christopher R.
Kathy	Jessika	Elinor
Phil	Linda	John
Stephanie	Florence	Geneva
David	Barbara	Family of Ellen
Geiger family	Family of Mark	Family of Jim M.
		Rob, Sue & family



My sincerest thanks for your generous Christmas gift! I feel grateful and blessed to be a member of this wonderful church and congregation.

Wishing you many blessings in the New Year!

**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.



Council met early this month, 12/7, in order to conduct business prior to the 12/11 congregational meeting.

Pastor—Reviewed his report. Advent is a time to recenter. A book written by Rev. Dr. Voelker Leppin was shown. Also, a guest of note, Christian Wiman, wrote a book of poetry. Motion approved to accept Jackie Menefee into membership at CGSL. She will affirm her baptism on 12/11. Forward leadership team will attend a retreat on 1/6-1/7/23 at Calumet.

Worship— Average attendance in November: 47. In the new year, an inventory of paraments will be done.

Financials— Total contributions in November 2022 \$1799.17 higher than 2021. Monies received from St. Pauly's shed is at \$947.84. Motion approved to send \$500 from the TD Bank Podgwaite CD that became due to ELCA World Hunger.

Property— An additional \$800 approved for additional work on return ducts in the fellowship hall. The renewal team will begin painting in the fellowship hall after Christmas. Some outdoor tree trimming was done.

Outreach— 13 turkeys and 10 bags of trimmings was collected for the Keefe Center Thanksgiving Meal Basket. We supported 10 children from four families with gifts of toys and clothing. The Winter Warmth Tree will be set up in the narthex, ready to be decorated with hats, scarves, throws,etc.

Fellowship— Thank you to Ursula and Durbin Hunter for boxing up the extra kitchen dishes to donate to IRIS. Book club meets 1/12/23 via Zoom.

Inreach— Calls continue to the homebound.

Education— Cross Generation classes continue with an average of 12 in attendance. Advent devotions started 12/2.

Congregational meeting planned for 12/11 to vote on slate of council and 2023 budget.

Council discussed the tabled item from November re: request from a Pentecostal church for use of our church. After more research and meetings with their church elders, council agreed that our location would not be suitable for them. Next council meeting: January 18, 2023 at 7pm.

REMINDER: Annual reports are due in January for distribution at the February congregational meeting.

Fellowship hall and kitchen updates

New lighting in the kitchen and new lighting and ceiling in the fellowship hall was approved at the special congregational meeting on November 6. Durbin contacted the contractors and work begin the following week.

Below is the fellowship hall stripped of ceiling tiles, lights and insulation.



And now, here we are, CELEBRATING the completed work with a light lunch/coffee hour following the December 11 congregational meeting! (Attached to the newsletter is the requested recipe for Santa Claus cake served that day.)



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild
1/1	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Paul Snyder	Paul Snyder John Downs	Ursula Hunter John Downs
1/8	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ken Watson	Starr O'Connor Ken Watson	Starr O'Connor
1/15	Rob Hansen	David Brown	David & Lorraine Brown	Lorraine Brown
1/22	Sharon Napolitano	Durbin Hunter	Phil & John Napolitano	Sharon Napolitano
1/29	Durbin Hunter	Rob Hansen	Emily Cui John Downs	Ursula Hunter
2/5	John Downs	Paul Snyder	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Connor
2/12	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	David Brown	O'Brien family	Lorraine Brown

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

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

1/1/2023 Happy New Year!

1/8/23 Linda Kapitan

1/15/23 Ursula Hunter

1/22/23 Dottie Podgwaite

1/29/23 Starr O'Connor



As been said before, coffee hour and the fellowship time it provides is such an important part of our congregation life. Thank you to everyone who signed up for being a part of the coffee hour schedule. If you have not signed up yet and would be interested in "hosting" a coffee hour approximately three times a year, please reach out to someone on the Fellowship Team. The schedule will be posted in the Messenger monthly, just like our worship schedule.

Thank you also to everyone who brings goodies on a regular basis. Please feel free to continue to do so. We always have so much diversity in what is offered, and such wonderful cooks/bakers in our congregation.

-Linda Kapitan



Thanks for the 2022 Salvation Army “Angel Tree” Support

Thanks to all who helped bring a smile to a child's face this holiday season through the Salvation Army “Angel Tree” program, which provides new clothing and toys for families in need. In 2022, our congregation supported 10 children from four families in the Greater New Haven area.

Like last Christmas, we provided all of the children on our list with a gift of clothing plus three additional gift requests. Each gift request—40 in all—was represented by one “Angel Tag” on our “Angel Tree.”

Thanks to all of our shoppers as well as to those who contributed cash donations toward this project. Thanks, too, to Jo Ann Isleb and Starr O'Connor for their assistance in sorting the gifts for delivery to the Salvation Army in New Haven. Project chair Sharon Napolitano delivered the items to Salvation Army on Monday, December 12, for distribution to our Angel families.

Thanks again for your generosity and support!

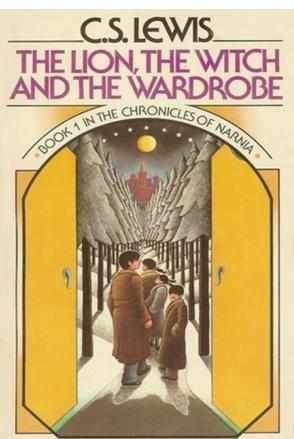


The Salvation Army “Angel Tree” gifts were sorted and packed up for delivery to Salvation Army on December 12.

CGSL Book Club

The CGS book club will be meeting on Zoom January 12th at 6:30. I will send out a Zoom invitation the morning of. If you would like to participate, please feel free to pick up a copy of the book and let me know. I will include you on the invitation.

According to Goodreads--The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe tells the story of four ordinary children: Peter, Susan, Edmund & Lucy Pevensie. They discover a wardrobe in Prof. Digory Kirke's house that leads to the magical land of Narnia, which is currently under the spell of a witch. The four children fulfill an ancient, mysterious prophecy while in Narnia.



Hope to see you there!!!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the February Messenger are due January 23, 2023.



Sharon preparing the altar for the next week.

Christ the Good Shepherd was bustling on December 11. A congregational meeting was held following worship. Fellowship hosted a light luncheon in our newly renovated fellowship hall. Then came decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.



In the photo on the right, Ken and Durbin are finishing assembling the tree and Phil is readying for cleanup. Many hands make light work!
(More photos on page 7)





Our “Winter Warmth Tree” Collection Continues

We will continue to collect winter-weather wear for our “Winter Warmth Tree” through Sunday, January 8. The congregation is invited to help decorate the branches of the tree with new outerwear for women and children of all ages. We are in need of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks, slippers and throws.

Donations to our Winter Warmth Tree will benefit those served by New Reach Life Haven Shelter, an emergency shelter for single women with children and single pregnant women, and will be delivered to the shelter in January.

If you have any questions about this project, please speak with Sharon Napolitano.

~~~~~ ~More Christmas decorating~ ~~~~~

Durbin steadies the ladder as Rob hangs one of the wreaths in the sanctuary.



Sue and Sarah help decorate the Christmas tree.



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1  May the faith of God be with you this year. May the peace of God surround you, and may you be blessed each day! <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	7 Forward Leadership Retreat
8 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion Holy Baptism	9	10	11	12 6:30pm-CGS Book Club via Zoom	13	14
15 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	16	17	18 7pm- Council	19	20	21
22 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	30	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.*



Santa Claus Cake

Time: 1 hour 20 minutes

Yield: 16 servings



Ho ho ho! Merry Christmas! While you could leave out the traditional milk and cookies for Santa, we think old Saint Nick might want something even better (and named for him)! Santa Claus Cake dresses up like its namesake too, with the tender white cake filled up with scarlet, tart, and sweet cranberries. Crunchy walnuts add texture and holiday cheer, as does the tangy, luscious cream cheese frosting. No one would mind if you took a bite from the piece of Santa Claus Cake you left out for Kris Kringle... especially not the man himself. Something this delicious will definitely end up on the nice list!

Ingredients

- ♦ ***For the cake:***
 - 1 (16.25-ounce) package white cake mix
 - 1 1/3 cups water
 - 3 large eggs, room temperature
 - 1/3 cup canola oil
 - 1 tablespoon orange zest, grated
 - 1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries, thawed and coarsely chopped
 - 1 cup walnuts, finely chopped
- ♦ ***For the cream cheese frosting:***
 - 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
 - 1/2 cup butter, softened
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 3 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
 - 1/2 teaspoon orange zest, grated
 - 1/4 cup walnuts, finely chopped

Directions

Step 1

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Step 2

Grease two 9-inch round baking pans and line the bottoms with parchment paper. Grease the paper.

Step 3

In a large bowl, combine the white cake mix, the water, the eggs, the canola oil, and 1 tablespoon of the orange zest.

Step 4

Using a hand mixer, beat the mixture together on low speed for 30 seconds, then on medium speed for 2 minutes.

Step 5

Stir the cranberries and 1 cup of the walnuts into the batter.

Step 6

Transfer the batter to the prepared pans.

Step 7

Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 30-35 minutes.

Step 8

Cool the cakes in the pan for 10 minutes then transfer the cakes to wire racks to cool completely, making sure to remove the parchment paper.

Step 9

Allow the cakes to cool completely.

Step 10

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, the butter, and the vanilla until blended.

Step 11

Gradually beat in the confectioners' sugar and the remaining orange zest until smooth.

Step 12

Spread the frosting on the cakes, stacking them and frosting the tops and the sides of them.

Step 13

Sprinkle the cake with the remaining walnuts.

Step 14

Serve.