

# THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
March, 2023

Vol. 3 Issue 3



## Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

*Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord,*

Lent is off to a very meaningful start. I will never forget the gratitude on each of the faces of all the faithful people who pulled into our parking lot to receive ashes to mark the beginning of their Lenten journey on Wednesday, February 22. Not only did Channel 8 come out, but the folks who stopped spontaneously gave us over \$150! Later that evening we then took this money along with our joy down to Hamden Plains United Methodist Church and joined together with our UCC, Episcopal and Methodist siblings in Christ for a very special (and musical!) in-person Ash Wednesday service.

Now, in the month of March, Lent is well on its way. And it has become clear that a theme is emerging for us as a congregation, and that theme is hunger.

Hunger is our theme, firstly, because we have been given the opportunity, as members of the New England Synod, to take on the Lenten practice of giving to ELCA World Hunger. This year a generous \$100,000 matching gift has been made to the New England Synod for this purpose—together we all have the potential of giving \$200,000! And these funds are sorely needed in our community and world, according to a newsletter article from the New England Synod: “Currently, global hunger is at unprecedented levels, the largest in modern history. The war in

Ukraine resulting in a lack of wheat for the world, the most severe drought in Africa in 40 years, the economic consequences of COVID-19, climate change and high inflation all are creating challenges facing hungry people now. As people of faith, we in the New England Synod can help!” Every dollar we raise as a congregation for ELCA World Hunger will be matched and given to this venerable expression of God’s love through our nation-wide church.

Secondly, hunger will be our theme because, together with Grace & St. John’s Episcopal Church of Hamden, we will be exploring the images of food and meals in the Gospel of Luke in our Thursday evening Lenten devotions at 7 PM. On their own, Grace & St. J’s will be learning with a book by Yale Divinity School professors Miroslav Volf and Matthew Croasmun called *The Hunger for Home: Food & Meals in the Gospel of Luke*. And in our congregation we will be meditating on the same very passages from Luke’s Gospel and using the prayers provided in this fantastic resource. Our two churches will come together for prayer and fellowship during Holy Week and compare notes. To explain what they’re up to, the authors write,

“The hunger for home sums up our hearts’ deepest longings. ... Yes, as the saying goes, the path to the human heart is through the stomach. There are perhaps fewer stronger memories of home, few things that can bring us more intimately back to our homes of origin, than the smell of a favorite food. ... The claim here,

*(continued on page 2)*

## 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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**The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan**

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**Organist: Caroline Henry**

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[office@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org](mailto:office@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org)**

**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	Sandy
Paul	Elfriede	John S.
Palmer	Lois	Matt
Kathy	Jessika	Elinor
Phil	John	Linda
Stephanie	Florence	Geneva
David	Barbara	Family of Frank
Jim & Joanne	Bruce	Phil & Mary
Alex	JoAnne	Family of Bill Davies

*(Pastor's message, continued from page 1)*

if we have ears to hear, is this: the home of God, too, is enacted in a meal. There are tastes and smells of the home of God. As Luke presents him, Jesus is the herald of the home of God, made known in his invitation to the table."

What a gift from the Holy Spirit that these two Lenten opportunities—one for prayer and fellowship, the other for almsgiving and mercy—have come to our doorstep. I look forward with joy for what the Holy Spirit will do next.

Blessings along the Way,

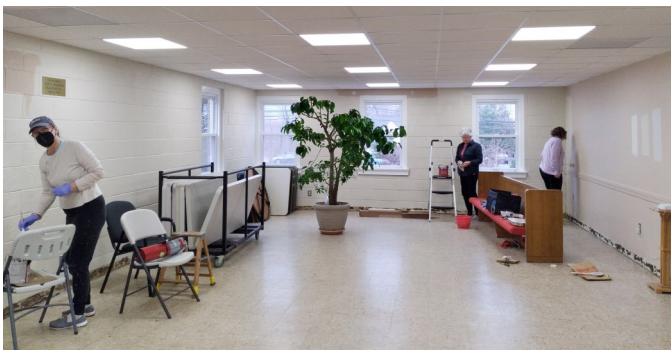
Pastor Josh

## St. Patrick's Day-Themed Coffee Hour to Support ELCA World Hunger

It will be corned beef and cabbage and other Irish fare following the morning worship service on Sunday, March 12, at Christ the Good Shepherd. Please join us for this St. Patrick's Day-themed coffee hour, hosted by the Napolitano family. A free-will offering will be collected at this event to benefit ELCA World Hunger.



If you plan to attend, please sign up on the signup sheet in the church hallway, so that we can get an accurate head count. If you wish to assist with setup, kitchen detail, donate a dessert or to help in some other way, please speak with Sharon Napolitano or Jo Ann Isleb, our point person for the ELCA World Hunger campaign.



February 17– With the work on the ceiling/lighting complete the painting crew- Ursula Hunter, Linda Ibsen and Sarah DeLong -put their time and talents to work, applying a fresh coat of paint on the walls in the fellowship hall. By February 26, their work was complete! Now Durbin Hunter and volunteers will attach the floor kickplate.



ELCA World Hunger

## SUPPORT WORLD HUNGER DURING LENT

From 2019 to 2022, the number of undernourished people grew by as many as 150 million, a crisis driven largely by conflict, climate change, disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, including the conflict in Ukraine, the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and the severe drought in Africa. Currently as many as 828 million people go hungry in the world.

During Lent we can contribute to the fight against world hunger. Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is participating in ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Please consider giving as you are able to this important cause.

### Options to donate:

Write a check to Christ the Good Shepherd Church and write "World Hunger" on the memo line. On your envelope indicate the amount of your donation on the "other" line and place your envelope on the offering plate.

Mail a check to Christ the Good Shepherd Church, 600 Shepard Ave, Hamden, CT 06514 and write "World Hunger" on the memo line.

Additional information is available on the [elca.org](https://elca.org) website about ELCA's work with world hunger.



**SPRING FORWARD  
2023**

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild
3/5	Sharon Napolitano	Rob Hansen	Ursula Hunter John Downs	Sharon Napolitano
3/12	John Downs	Michael Lye	David & Loraine Brown	Loraine Brown
3/19	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Anna Hansard	Emily Cui John Downs	Ursula Hunter
3/26	Durbin Hunter	Paul Snyder	O'Brien family	Starr O'Connor
Palm Sunday 4/2	Rob Hansen	Ken Watson	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Connor

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

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE



3/5	Goodrich family
3/12	Napolitano's
3/19	O'Brien family
3/26	Watson's
Palm Sunday 4/2	~

## EASTER FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Easter flowers is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Parishioners may choose lilies, tulips, daffodils, or hyacinths. They may also add "In Memory of" which will be announced in the church bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Flower orders are \$9.00 each. Money can be put in regular collection envelopes with note on front stating that you are for Easter flowers.





## Souper Bowl Luncheon Scores

Soup, sandwiches and a variety of desserts were enthusiastically devoured at Christ the Good Shepherd's Souper Bowl Luncheon on Sunday, February 12.

Forty-three participated in the post-worship event that featured six varieties of soup and other fan favorites, ahead of Super Bowl LVII, in which the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles, 38-35. During the noontime luncheon, chaired by Loraine Brown, **81 cans of soup** were collected for the Hamden Food Bank.

Thanks to Phil and Sharon Napolitano, Ursula and Durbin Hunter and Dorothy Podgwaite for their help in setting up for the luncheon, and thanks to all who brought food to share.



..more photos on page 8



## Annual Congregational Meeting

Christ the Good Shepherd held their annual Congregational Meeting on February 5, and then their monthly council meeting on February 8.

*Pastor*— CGSL welcomed many guests in January. Synod is taking notice of our congregation with our consolidation/merger and continued growth. "Joys & Concerns" is a good time to share and celebrate.

*Worship*— We averaged 40 in worship during January. Easter flower sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway.

*Financial reports*— CGSL finished the year close to the projected budget. There was many facility updates in 2022. January 2023 was a very strong month with some large contributions.

Monies from the sale of LCGS was invested with Morgan Stanley in January.

*Property*— Window frames in the fellowship hall have been painted and next will be the walls. WIFI amplifiers have been placed around the building enabling a strong service.

*Outreach*— 81 items from the Winter Warmth Tree were delivered. Food drive continues for Hamden Food Bank and cans of soup will be collected at the Souper Bowl luncheon. Leo sent an article about Ashes-to-Go and Ash Wednesday worship service to The Advisor and will also post on our website and Facebook page. In the coming year, Leo pursuing online giving and updating the sound system.

*Congregational Care*— Plans for a possible retreat in the Spring. Shepherding ministry continues to reach out to the homebound. They wrote a ministry statement: *The Shepherding Ministry is to contact and care for those who are absent, sick, homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise need the loving contact of a church friend.*

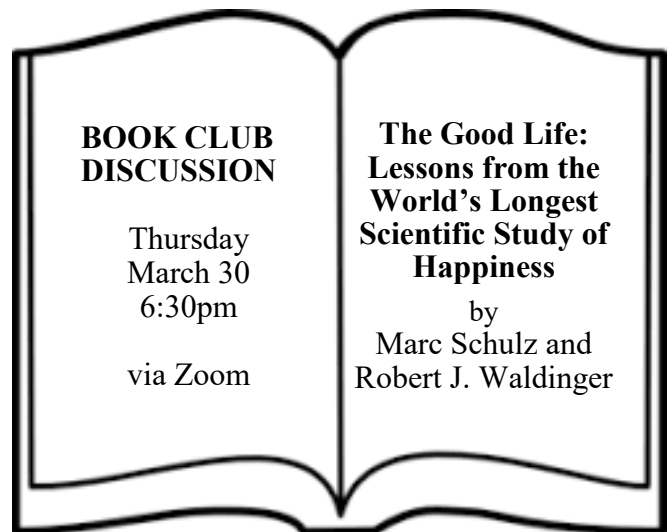
Lenten devotions and contemplative prayer will be on Thursday evenings during Lent at 7pm.

Council approved designating monies received from St. Pauly shed (\$1,055.23) to world causes and local causes- Grace & St. John's Dinner for \$1; Lutheran World Relief; and Lutheran Church of West Haven.

Council will continue discussion about Reconciling in Christ and Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Next council meeting: March 22.

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## ALTAR GUILD

We are looking for parishioners to help with altar set up before services. Its easier than you think!

- \* Promising personal training sessions.
- \* If we get enough people; you will only be called to set up once every two months.
- \* If you are unable to serve on an assigned Sunday....there is always someone available to cover for you.

Our congregation is growing and "many hands make light work". If interested, please email Starr O'Connor, (starrlo@att.net).

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Please note that newsletter articles for the April Messenger are due **March 26 2023**.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<i>Thursday evening Lenten devotions– Lectio Divina method of contemplation that is: reading from Scripture, discussing, praying and resting quietly in God</i>			1	2 7pm-Lenten Devotion and Contemplative Prayer	3	4
5 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	6	7	8	9 7pm-Lenten Devotion and Contemplative Prayer	10	11
12 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion ~St. Patrick's Day Coffee Hour~ Daylight Saving Time begins	13	14	15	16 7pm-Lenten Devotion and Contemplative Prayer	17 	18
19 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion 	20	21	22 7pm-Council	23 7pm-Lenten Devotion and Contemplative Prayer	24	25 Annunciation of Our Lord
26 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion  Articles for April Messenger newsletter due	27	28	29	30 7pm-Lenten Devotion and Contemplative Prayer  Book club discussion via Zoom, 6:30pm	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 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.*



Everyone enjoyed a  
wonderful Souper Bowl  
meal and fellowship!  
February 12, 2023

