

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
May, 2023

Vol. 3 Issue 5



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

He is risen!—He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

Was not Easter filled with joy this year? As the disciples on the road to Emmaus have said, were not our hearts burning within us? Not only was it delightful to worship with all kinds of guests, friends, and familiar faces, on Resurrection morning—but I, especially, was *so moved* by all the different ways our congregation illuminated their Alleluia letters that went to the “spa.” Please take a closer look at these banners as they hang in the hallway on your way to the fellowship hall. In our era of collapse, division, anger, and fear that we are living through, these little things are more than just silly crafts, they are real acts of joy, of a faithful and hopeful defiance.

Indeed this year brought such wonderful Holy Week and Easter celebrations and collaborations! We had a joyful Palm Sunday breakfast and powerful Passion-Palm Sunday to begin the week. On the Monday of Holy Week we concluded our Lenten Devotions with a contemplative Evening Prayer at Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church. On Maundy Thursday the faithful from our congregation remembered Jesus' last meal with his followers. And we also embodied Jesus' commandment for us all to love and be loved, with many offering both their feet and hands to be washed. Good Friday was especially meaningful

this year as we had help from many folks from Grace & St. John's who gathered with us to tell of Jesus' passion and to worship Christ's cross, the source of our life and hope.

Thank you to all those who served as ushers, readers, acolytes, assisting ministers, altar servers, flower-setter-uppers and all-around-helpers throughout this busy season! And thank you for allowing me to rest the following week! And thank you as well for welcoming The Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin as he preached and presided in my absence.

Now, as Spring continues to blossom around us, let us remember that Easter is more than one Sunday, but a whole season until Pentecost Sunday! And let us, in this season of new life, heartily welcome both Debra Mason and Yale Divinity School student Tanja Helmert as new members into our congregation. And as many baptisms of young children are scheduled for this Spring and Summer too, with Deb and Tanja and these happy parents, we can all rejoice together, remembering God's promises made known in the waters of Holy Baptism, and affirming our commitment to follow Jesus on both the Way of the Cross and the Way of New Life.

Blessings along the Way,

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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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	James
Paul	Elfriede	Gerta
Palmer	Lois	Matt
Kathy	Jessika	Mary Lou T.
Phil & Sharon	John	Tonya
Stephanie	Florence	Geneva
David	Barbara	JoAnne
Jim & Joanne	Bruce	Family of Clara
Christopher	Elinor	Gale
Gary	Family of Marty	Family of Silas

Faith Lutheran Church, Cambridge

All victims & their families of gun violence



Welcome Tanja Helmert!

*Council approved her membership
request at their April meeting.*

Christ Good Shepherd *Why* statement:

To embrace the renewing presence of God's love, so that we can embrace change and courageously create a welcoming and safe community that inspires service to others.



SYNOD ASSEMBLY

death & resurrection in the 21st century church

The New England Synod 2023 Assembly is coming fast, and will take place from Friday, June 9 through Saturday, June 10, 2023 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA. This gathering is a time for our collection of congregations to do business and to hear from different leaders and presenters.

This year's theme-

A Church Born in the Tomb: Death & Resurrection in the 21st Century Church.

Among the topics to be addressed at this assembly:

- ⇒ plans for the 2024 bishop election process,
- ⇒ follow-up report of the anti-racism group,
- ⇒ presentations on collaboration projects from around the synod,
- ⇒ and a conversation around the many ways we are seeing death, resurrection and new ways of being the body of Christ in this century.
- ⇒ **Especially exciting, on Saturday June 10 our congregation has been asked (with the help of Rev. Stephen Wilco from synod staff) to lead a break-out group workshop discussion about death and resurrection in the merger process! Starr O'Connor has said maybe so far, but the discussion could definitely benefit from more of you all coming along (if only for this workshop and nothing else).**

Congregations are allotted **two voting members** to attend along with their clergy (that's me.) Leo Goodrich has said yes, we can have one more. In addition to these two voting members and their clergy, each congregation has the opportunity to register **additional voting members** who fall into the categories of youth (14-18), young adult (19-30), persons of color, or those with a primary language other than English.

If you are interested in attending as a voting member, please speak to Pastor or Ken Watson. You can either commute the two days, come only one day, or like Leo and myself, stay in hotel accommodations in the city of Worcester paid for by our congregation. As Leo and Rob who went last year can attest, assembly is a very eye-opening and encouraging look into our larger church body.

~Blessings, Pastor Josh

Easter Sunday Flower Display

Our sanctuary reflected a celebration of the resurrection of life on Easter Sunday thanks to the colorful and varied flowers displayed on the altar. So much appreciation going out to all the parishioners who contributed to the display.

Extra thanks to JOHN DOWNS who ordered, picked up, helped hang shelves, and arranged the display in preparation for the festivities and to Chris Trutnau for volunteering his expertise lining and setting up the shelving display.

Many thanks, also, to the parishioners who have volunteered to serve as worship assistants, lectors, ushers, and altar set up team.

Just a reminder: "Altar Set Up Team", (formally known as "Altar Guild") is NOT gender specific. We would love to see more men signing up so that we can have a more balanced and equitable group.

Please contact Leo Goodrich or Starr O'Connor, (starrlo@att.net) if you would like to be added to the list.



Chris Trutnau and John Downs setting up the shelving and organizing plants.



The beautiful display completed-ready for Easter Sunday!



Starr making final adjustments to plant placement.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild
5/7	Linda Kapitan	Michael Lye	O'Brien family	Starr O'Connor
5/14	Durbin Hunter	Tanja Helmert	Paul Snyder Ken Watson	Ursula Hunter
5/21	Rob Hansen	Anna Hansard	Cyndi & Anna Hansard	Deb Mason
5/28	John Downs	Paul Snyder	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Jackie Menefee
6/4	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Tanja Helmert	Starr O'Connor Ken Watson	Ursula Hunter
6/11	John Downs	Anna Hansard	Cyndi & Anna Hansard	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 HOSTS



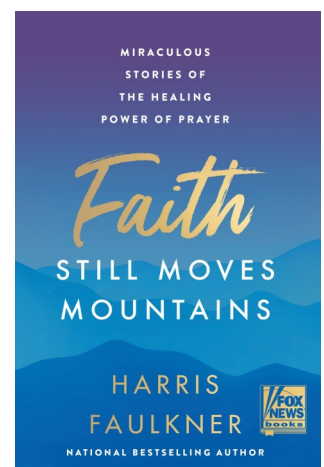
5/7	Linda Kapitan
5/14	Cyndi & Anna Hansard
5/21	O'Brien family
5/28	Rob Hansen
6/4	Ken & Chuddy Watson
6/11	Jackie Menefee

CGSL Book Club

Thursday evening, April 27, the book club met and had an interesting discussion about the book, *The Good Life*. We discussed the longitudinal study, how we see social dynamics changing in this technological era and curious as to what this study will reveal in another 5-10 years.

Now on to the next read-
Faith Still Moves
Mountains: Miraculous
Stories of the Healing
Power of Prayer
-by Harris Faulkner

Discussion of this book
will be on July 20 at
6:30pm.





Council met on 4/19.

Pastor– Pastor reviewed the events during Holy Week and Easter (as he reported in his article on page 1). On March 29, seven young adults attended a young adult meeting at church. Council approved the request from Tanja Helmert to join CGSLC.

Worship– Twenty-eight flower plants were ordered for Easter. Average worship attendance for March was 47. A notebook, labeled Ushers, is on the narthex, detailing said duties.

Financials– Lisa reported that total contributions in March 2023 were a bit lower in comparison to March 2022– but, year-to-date total contributions for 2023 were much higher than the same period in 2022. Our church is growing and activity increasing so expenses are up due to expenditures in improving our facility. Re: investment activity with Morgan Stanley– any dividends are reinvested.

Property– Upcoming work to be done is pipe repair of the furnace vent and purchase of a new hot water heater for the parsonage. Durbin made a few carpenter bee traps to sideline the carpenter bees from ruining the wood outside the fellowship hall. Council discussed and approved using a PO Box as a secure site for people sending checks to the church. The camera used to record worship services is not working correctly. Leo will call the company.

Outreach– A Spring Giving Campaign is underway (see article on this page.) A collection box will be set up in the narthex for donations.

The community garden is still a work in progress. Rob Hansen is the point person.

Special projects– God's Work. Our Hands will take place 9/17/23. Seven churches will participate.

Congregational Care– Funds have been donated to purchase NRSV Lutheran Study Bibles for Cross-Generation Sunday School. Calls continue to be made to the homebound. Palm Sunday breakfast was a great success and people are volunteering to host coffee hours. Lenten devotions ended the Monday of Holy Week meeting at Grace & St. John's. Council approved the purchase of flash drives to hold the five videos of the Lutheranism class.

Discussion will continue on the rededication of the fellowship hall and dedication of the meeting room. Next council meeting: May 17.

Spring Giving Campaign Underway

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran is collecting new linens and other items to benefit families transitioning from homelessness into housing as part of our 2023 Spring Giving Campaign.

The campaign, which runs through June 4, will benefit families, women and children served by New Reach, a non-profit organization based in New Haven. Since 1990, New Reach has helped thousands of vulnerable households and families throughout New Haven and Fairfield counties achieve stability and self-reliance through a continuum of housing interventions and support.

Current needs include pillows, blankets, comforters, twin-XL sheets, towels and toiletries, such as body wash, shampoo and conditioner. Please note that all donated items should be new and will be collected at Christ the Good Shepherd.



Gift cards to Wal-Mart, Target, Stop & Shop, Shop Rite and Big Y, as well as Visa gift cards in increments of \$25, will also be accepted.

A collection box is located in the church narthex for donations. Gift cards will be stored separately. If you wish to donate a gift card, please leave it with Sharon Napolitano, Outreach Co-Chair, or put it in a separate envelope, designated for "New Reach" and place it in the offering plate.

To learn more about services or to donate online, visit New Reach at www.newreach.org.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the June Messenger are due May 28.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion ~HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY~	15	16	17 7pm– Council mtg	18 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i>	19	20
21 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27 <i>Vigil of Pentecost</i>
28 <i>Day of Pentecost</i>  9:00am Cross-Generation Faith 10:00am Holy Communion Articles due for June Messenger	29 	30	31	6/1	6/2	6/3

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 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.*