

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
July, 2023

Vol. 3 Issue 7



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

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

This month, there is a picture I would like to share. And there's a story behind the picture. It is a picture of the *back* of our facility.



(In case your newsletter is printed in black-and-white, it is also a picture of a rainbow casting its delightful glow over our building.)

But *I* didn't take this picture! One afternoon, while I was chatting with Rob Hansen as he was watering our community garden, I noticed a young man coming up the hill into the grassy area with his dog. So I greeted him.

He asked if it would be ok if he tossed the ball around for his dog up there, and I said sure. He was impressed by our community garden and we got to talking. He said he grew up Catholic and inquired, "What even is "Lutheran"?"

I said... "Well, it's a lot like the Roman Catholic church, at least our worship is, essentially, the same, with roots that are deep in the history of the western church. But we are also a reforming church—we hold the bible to be our norm, so we only have two sacraments, communion and baptism."

He nodded, a little absently.

So I told him, "Reforming also means that, inspired by Jesus' teachings and actions in the Gospels, as Lutherans we are trying to become more welcoming and merciful, welcoming of folks who are LGBTQIA+, and more expansive in our partnerships with other Christian denominations, like our ongoing relationship with Grace & St. John's down the road."

(continued on page 3)

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**

600 Shepard Avenue
Hamden CT 06514

(for sensitive mailings:
PO Box 185531
Hamden CT 06518)

The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan
Office— 203-288-3196
Cell— 860-748-3837
pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org
Organist: Caroline Henry

www.christgoodshepherdlutheran.org
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***



For the homebound-

Ruth	Anna	John
Elfriede		

For healing-

Bob	Matt	Sharon
Paul	Volker	Florence
Brenda	Stephanie	Jessika
Kathy & family	Geneva	Dustin
Mary Lou T.	Elinor	Lois
David	Palmer	Gale
Jim & Joanne		

Newly baptized and new members-

Connor	Leopold	Lillian
Denise & Larry	Tanja	Deb

**July 2—August 27, 2023
Holy Communion
9:30 a.m.**

**Summer
Worship**

(Pastor's message..continued from page 1)

"Well," he said, "that kind of welcome was certainly what Jesus was talking about in the Gospels, wasn't it?"

I said, "Yeah! Whoever your priest was growing up, he'd be proud." And he reached down and patted his dog and nodded, seeming to remember his childhood priest fondly.

Then I also shared that our church is merged, taking the big leap to die and then come together again as a new thing. And that has opened us to all kinds of things, like this garden project for the Keefe Center we are doing, which he was really interested in.

He said he loved coming up to our property after work because it was really peaceful, and he liked all the trees. He noticed we had some special species of trees too, on the strip of property that faces Sherman Ave.

And then he said, "I almost forgot, I have a photo I want to show you!"

He took out his phone and scrolled through and there was this photo above, a huge, full rainbow cresting over our church. And I said, "Hey, you should text that to me, folks here would love to see that."

Isn't that fascinating that it wasn't the pastor who was there to witness this rainbow, it wasn't a member of our congregation, it wasn't even Rob or any of the gardening crew. It was this guy, our neighbor, it was Jake. To me this says: what we are doing here—the way that we are stewarding our property, our burgeoning presence as a beacon of welcome and grace in a decaying world—matters. But what God is doing through us is not going to make it onto the ticker on MSNBC or FOX (thank God). It's both too little and too important for that—just like a rainbow.

A rainbow is the white light of our sun refracting through little droplets of lifegiving water in the air, split into all the brilliance of the visible spectrum of color! A rainbow is a sign of God's covenant,

revealed to Noah in Genesis, that God will *never* abandon or destroy creation again with a flood. It is a sign also of welcome, inclusion and mercy. God is up to wonderful things, and we are so blessed to be along for the ride.

In Christ I am yours,

Pastor Josh



LITURGICAL DANCE

Dance practices are now being held on Sundays after coffee hour. Our routine for July 30th is, (kind of, sort of), coming together. But it is NOT too late to join us. Please do!

Thanks for the "Spring Giving Campaign" Support

Boxes and bags filled with blankets, sheets, towels and toiletries were among the many items collected at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran this spring, as part of our 2023 Spring Giving Campaign. In addition, nearly \$300 worth of gift cards were donated, all to help area families transitioning from homelessness into housing.

The campaign, which ran April 16 through June 4, benefits 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.

The donations were delivered to New Reach on June 5.

Thanks to all for your support!

RITE OF BAPTISM

June 25, 2023

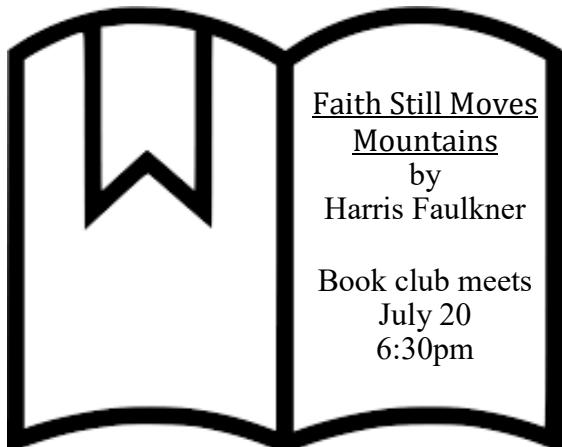
Leopold and Lillian Bouvier



L-R: Jean-Claude holding Leopold and Elizabeth holding Lillian

PARAMENTS FOR ALTAR

Memorial funds have been earmarked for purchase of new décor for our altar and lecterns. A small committee has been formed to determine what is needed, make choices and purchase. If you have suggestions or would like to join, notify Starr O'Connor or John Downs.

**What is a Pray-Ground?**

If you attended worship Sunday, June 25, you probably noticed that the front right side of the pews had a section designated for young children and their parents. With the increase in young families with children attending worship, the congregational care committee had discussed ways to make worship more meaningful for the children.

This “pray-ground” is a place for young children to experience worship and be more engaged in the service. There is a small table with soft toys, coloring materials and books.



Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me.”
(Matthew 19:14)



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Setup
7/2	Durbin Hunter	Michael Lye	Paul Snyder Ken Watson	Ursula Hunter
7/9	Rob Hansen	Tanja Helmert	John Downs Starr O'Connor	Deb Mason
7/16	John Downs	Paul Snyder	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Connor
7/23	Linda Kapitan	Michael Lye	John Downs Ken Watson	Deb Mason
7/30	John Downs	Tanja Helmert	Starr O'Connor Paul Snyder	Jackie Menefee
8/6	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Tanja Helmert	John Downs Paul Snyder	Deb Mason

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



7/2	Rob Hansen
7/9	Starr O'Connor
7/16	Lisa Ball-Goodrich Leo Goodrich
7/23	Linda Kapitan
7/30	Lisa Ball-Goodrich Leo Goodrich
8/6	Durbin & Ursula Hunter

Welcome New Members!

Larry & Denise Lundgren

They will affirm their baptism
on Sunday, July 9.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the July Messenger are due July 23.

Annual “Back-to-School Backpack Project” Is Back

Summer may be in full swing, but our annual “Back-to-School Backpack Project” is just getting started. From Sunday, July 16, through Sunday, Aug. 13, we will be collecting new backpacks and other school supplies to help stock the shelves of the Hamden Youth Services’ “School Supplies Closet.”

Last year, our congregation collected 18 backpacks and hundreds of dollars’ worth of school supplies for the School Supplies Closet, which benefits Hamden families who demonstrate financial need. Located in the Hamden Youth Services Bureau at 11 Pine Street, the School Supplies Closet is available year-round and is free for qualifying Hamden youth (preschool to college).

Accepted Back-to-School Items

Donations of any of the following new items will be accepted by the “School Supplies Closet” and can be dropped off in the church narthex:

- ◊ Backpacks
- ◊ Calculators
- ◊ Crayons and Scissors
- ◊ Glue Sticks
- ◊ Magic Markers
- ◊ Notebooks
- ◊ Pencil Sharpeners
- ◊ Pencils
- ◊ Pens
- ◊ Pocket Folders
- ◊ Rulers
- ◊ Tape
- ◊ Three-Ring Binders
- ◊ Etc.

Read more about the program requirements at <https://www.hamden.com/273/School-Supplies-Closet>.

If you have any questions, please speak with Jo Ann Isleb, who is leading this year’s Backpack Project at Christ the Good Shepherd.

Paternity Time Off for Pastor

As many of you know, my wife and I are expecting our second child sometime in July! The Congregational Council has approved my plan to take 2 weeks of vacation in July after the baby is born. And then in October, after my wife’s maternity has run out, I will take the 4 weeks of paid paternity (that have been so generously offered to me in my contract here) to be with the new baby.

So! That means there will be some guests among us this July. **Depending on when the baby comes some of these guests may or may not be preaching**, but here’s what to expect:

July 16 - at 9:30 AM Member of our congregation and professor of church history from Yale The Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin will preach and preside at a Service of Holy Communion. If baby is not here yet I will preside.

July 23 - at 9:30 AM Yale PhD student and candidate for ordination in the ELCA, Ms. Calli Micale, will preach and preside at a Service of the Word.

July 30 - at 9:30 AM The Rev. Bob Bergner will preach and preside at Holy Communion here, and the good and generous people of his parish Grace & St. John’s Episcopal Church Hamden will be here too. In a gesture of hospitality we will be using the Book of Common Prayer as our worship resource this day. If baby comes early, I will be back, and Rev. Bob will be off the hook!

For pastoral care or any other pastoral emergencies while I am away please be in touch with Pastor Chad Adamik. Pastor Chad lives in Branford and is currently on leave from call, but is helping out at Tabor Lutheran in Branford as they search for and call a new pastor. His cell number is: (502) 663-3888.



The following is a synopsis of the June 4 congregational meeting and the June 21 council meeting.

Pastor— Pastor attended Synod Assembly with Tanja Helmert and Leo Goodrich. Lisa Ball-Goodrich, Ken Watson and Ruth Knollmueller joined them—attending a workshop discussion on “The Changing Church-Death & Resurrection. Council approved two new members, Denise & Larry Lundgren.

Worship— Average attendance in June was 54. Summer worship time is 9:30am from July 2—August 27.

Financials— A generous donation was received for the air conditioning installation. Expenses have increased and year-to-date contributions are higher than last year. We participated in the Lenten ELCA World Hunger Match, collecting \$1513. \$500 was raised at the Palm Sunday breakfast.

Property— Following the congregation’s approval for the air conditioning project on June 4, a vendor was chosen and work will begin Tuesday, June 27.

Update—The church now has air conditioning!
Outreach— Committee discussed ways to improve the narthex and make our food collection more visible. The back-to-school project begins July 16. The community garden is growing and was blessed on June 4. We will again participate in God’s Work. Our Hands on September 17.

Congregational Care— Committee talked of setting up a “pray-ground” in the sanctuary and a play area in the fellowship hall for use during coffee hour. Coffee klatch is continuing on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30am.

Council will not meet in July.



Calumet “Walk the Walk”

It’s that time of year again— the weather is warming and flowers blooming, making for beautiful scenery as you log in miles for Calumet’s “Walk the Walk”. This is a fun – **no pressure**— walk and you only have to report your miles three times to our team captain, Cyndi Hansard.

Registration is open online at - <https://calumet.org/ontheroadagain>. When you get to the “team or individual” option, select TEAM and choose Christ the Good Shepherd from the dropdown menu. If you want this year’s t-shirt, be sure to register by July 10.

Blessing of the Community Garden

On Sunday, June 11, Pastor led the congregation in a blessing of the new community garden following the morning worship service. Together we remembered with prayers and scripture how God has made all things, human beings, plants, insects and microorganisms alike that make a garden grow. And we realize that we, as a congregation, are like a garden, growing under the tender care of the Holy Spirit. A reading from Jeremiah 31:12 declared: "They shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again." And we prayed: "O God, we praise you for the green plants that make oxygen we breathe and for the animals that breathe it with us. Sustain us all together in this place by your Spirit."



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Holy Communion	3	4	5	6 10:30am-Coffee Klatch	7	8 11:00am-Memorial service for Steve Morris
9 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Holy Communion	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 7th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Holy Communion ~Back-to-School Backpack Project begins~	17	18	19	20 10:30am-Coffee Klatch 6:30pm-Book club	21	22
23 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Service of the WordArticles due for August Messenger.....	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Holy Communion Liturgical Dance						

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.*