

# THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
August, 2023

Vol. 3 Issue 8



## Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

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

It is with great joy that my wife, Madelyn, and I share that we have been blessed by God with another daughter—her name is Lucia. She was born on July 14th! Thank you to everyone who chipped in while I was away on vacation for two weeks to “rest” with my family, and thanks to Calli Micale and Volker Leppin as well who filled in on the two Sundays I was away. (My four weeks of paternity leave I will be taking in the month of October.)

With this new baby around, and with much less sleep than I would like, let me begin this month’s reflection by stating the obvious—babies cry... all the time. And this is to say that babies, even from their very first breath, suffer. Even the whole experience of pregnancy, and then labor and delivery certainly, is fraught with great pain, hardship, fear and suffering. And this carries over into being an infant, and then a toddler, and then a teenager, and pretty much stays the case throughout our entire lives. Depressing, right?

So, what do we do about this? More importantly, what does God do about all this suffering? The answers to these questions are found in the ways one cares for an infant. Firstly, babies cry out when they want something. They might not know what they want, but they know they need something. And, as a parent, you listen and try to

provide that need. God, we confess, does this. All our needs and wants are known by God, and God provides for us all that we will ever receive. But first we have to make these needs, this suffering, known. Babies teach us how to pray—loudly and often!

A second lesson is this: sometimes babies just cry, whether they get what they want or not. And we can’t always make them stop. A wise person once explained to me that when we hold a baby (or a toddler, or a spouse, or a dying loved one) when they cry, we’re not really trying to make them stop but, in fact, we’re telling them: “I am here. I am not freaked out by your emotions. You’re ok. I am here.” And this, most certainly, is what God does and has done for us. This is who and what Jesus Christ represents.

The Gospel of John tells the story. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. ... Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.” Jesus becoming flesh, teaching his disciples and walking with his followers until his death and then beyond, is all an image of God’s own way of rocking us. God has known suffering in Jesus’ crucifixion and death, and God still pours God’s own self out in both Word and Sacrament for us.

*(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**

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](mailto:pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org)

**Organist: Caroline Henry**

[www.christgoodshepherdlutheran.org](http://www.christgoodshepherdlutheran.org)  
[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**



**For the homebound-**

Ruth	Anna	John
Elfriede		

**For healing-**

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

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

And through the faith and obedience of Christ's body the Church, God still is very present with the world, through all our wants and in all our suffering.

This is perhaps the most important part of this message. If someone (a baby, a toddler, a spouse, a dying loved one) is in pain and suffering and you simply say to them, "Don't worry, Jesus is with you," that doesn't often do much good. But if you say to *yourself as you* sit with this person, "Jesus is with *me*, and has sent me to be with this person," that hits a little different. We are the ones called to be with, be present to, and to help in alleviating suffering now. God sent Christ, and Christ has sent us, his body, to be *with* the world, through all its great pains, hardships, fears and suffering.

With all thanksgiving and blessing,

Pastor Josh

## Annual “Back-to-School Backpack Project” Has Begun

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.” Thank you to those who have already dropped off donations in the labeled boxes in the narthex.

### Accepted Back-to-School Items

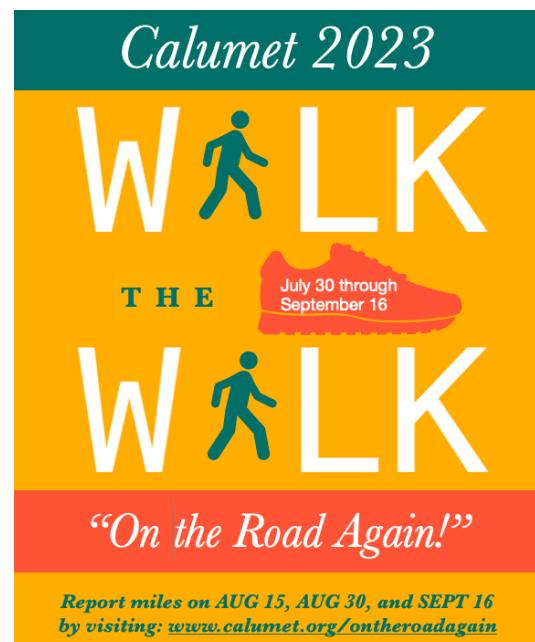
Donations of any of the following new items will be accepted by the “School Supplies Closet” and can be dropped off in the church narthex:

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

The School Supplies Closet 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).

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.*



## Starting July 30, Calumet Nation will be "On the Road Again!"

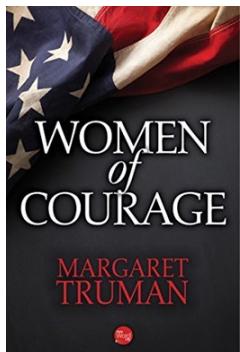
-And getting active wherever we happen to be. God has gifted us with the bodies we have and we will get it moving for 7 weeks of summer. The last day is September 16.

It is not too late to join the Christ the Good Shepherd team lead by 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.

All money raised supports Camp Calumet, a crucial outdoor ministry of the ELCA.





### As posted on Goodreads-

In this unforgettable, award-winning book, New York Times bestselling author Margaret Truman profiles twelve remarkable women, some famous, others little known.

They range from a United States senator to a Native American to a first lady. Most wore bonnets and long skirts; few had college degrees; and only a handful stepped into a voting booth. But these women spoke the same language as their sisters today. Truman's look into the past pays tribute to the courage of American women from the Revolution to the present.

The CGS book club will be meeting on October 12 at 6:30pm at Christ the Good Shepherd. If you would like to participate, please feel free to pick up a copy of the book and join us.

**Hope to see you there!!!**

### Building an Inclusive Church



Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is beginning the process to become an RIC (Reconciling in Christ) church. Being an RIC church sends a clear, meaningful message that we are a safe and welcoming church for all people, regardless of who they are, who they love, or what their identity is.

The RIC process is an opportunity for us to grow together and strengthen our ability to welcome and affirm everyone who encounters our faith community.

Keep an eye out for monthly announcements and activities as we embark on this journey together. If you have any questions or would like to join the planning committee, please speak with Cyndi Hansard, Starr O'Connor, Ruth Knollmueller, or Dave Brown.

### Community Garden Update

Our community garden is going strong! Many of the vegetables in the garden are now ready to harvest. The garden team has been busy harvesting vegetables and delivering them to the Hamden Food Bank. Peppers and zucchini are currently being harvested, and tomatoes are on the way. As I write this, we have currently donated 2.5 pounds of produce to the Hamden Food Bank; there is more on the way!

If you would like to help out in this ministry and have not been contacted, feel free to contact Rob Hansen, the garden coordinator, via email (robert.f.hansen2@gmail.com) or by any other convenient means.

A huge thanks to those who have helped out with this ministry or have expressed interest in doing so!

Our first donation to the Hamden Food Bank!



The 3 garden beds



## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Setup
8/6	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Tanja Helmert	Phil Napolitano Paul Snyder	Deb Mason
8/13	John Downs	Michael Lye	Paul Snyder	Starr O'Connor
8/20	Linda Kapitan	Michael Lye	Phil & John Napolitano	Ursula Hunter
8/27	Durbin Hunter	Ken Watson	Paul Snyder Ken Watson	Jackie Menefee
9/3	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Paul Snyder	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Deb Mason
9/10	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



8/6	Ken & Chuddy Watson
8/13	Durbin & Ursula Hunter
8/20	Linda Kapitan
8/27	O'Brien family
9/3	Ken & Chuddy Watson
9/10	Jackie Menefee & Rob Hansen

Church council did not meet in July. Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 16 at 7:00pm.

The next Congregational Meeting will be in September 2023.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Please note that newsletter articles for the September Messenger are due August 27, 2023.

# THE TIME HAS COME TO SIGN UP!

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 17  
2023

A nationwide event of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), God’s Work Our Hands Sunday is a day to demonstrate to the world that we are a loving, caring organization dedicated to serving our communities

Again this year, our church will be hosting the Greater New Haven Conference of the New England Synod, joining our six fellow Lutheran churches of the conference in service, so we want to have a strong showing of volunteers from our own congregation

There will be a variety of projects available, ones for participants of all ages and abilities, opportunities of every shape and size

Join us in spreading our Christian love as Lutherans in cheerful service to our brothers and sisters in the Greater New Haven region

**SIGN-UP BEGINS SUNDAY AUGUST 6**

Please see Leo Goodrich at church, email him at [leo.d.goodrich@gmail.com](mailto:leo.d.goodrich@gmail.com), or call / text him at (203) 710-4981

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
7/30— <i>Lace up your sneakers!</i> <i>Calumet's "Walk the Walk"</i> <i>Begins!!</i> 	7/31	1	2	3 10:30am- Coffee Klatch	4	5
6 <i>10th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	14	15	16 7pm- Council	17 10:30am- Coffee Klatch	18	19
20 <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30am Holy Communion  Articles due for September Messenger	28	29	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.*