

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
November, 2023

Vol. 3 Issue 11



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

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

As I return from parental leave I would like to once again thank you all for including this very important time with my children as part of the compensation for your pastors! I cannot say that it was a relaxing time... but it was a very meaningful four weeks spent caring for my children.

But it was also a stressful time, not because of diapers and naps-gone-wrong, but because, as many of you have already noted, while I was away lots of terrible things have happened in our world. A long-simmering and long-in-the-making conflict in Israel/Palestine, the land that we call holy, has broken out again with distressing bloodshed and hostage-taking and civilian casualties. Yet another mass shooting has taken place in Maine. Refugees are being deported en masse from Pakistan. Political fighting and dysfunction continues here in the United States. Add this all to the ongoing war in Ukraine, and you really have an overwhelming amount of suffering that we are witnessing all around us.

Now, none of this is particularly new. The bible is surely full of this kind of horror. That, of course, doesn't excuse these acts, or make the deaths of little children, regardless of where they live, any less wrong. Certainly, being at home with my two little ones, so fragile, so helpless, it really drives it

home: What, really, stands between my family—your families—and this broken world of sin and suffering? Sadly, nothing. And while I certainly did miss being among you, what I missed the most was experiencing, regularly and together, the promises of God in scripture and in prayer and in relationships. Promises that help us make sense of this kind of suffering.

When we proclaim a crucified God, a God that mysteriously was born into human frailty, we—quite controversially—proclaim a God that suffers. But that's not really it, though. What we proclaim is a **God that loves**. And, as we all probably know, to love is to open oneself to great suffering. It's not that God wanted to be a drama-queen and get nailed to a cross for the sheer pain of it. But, we believe, this was the destined outcome for our God who is love. The embodiment of an infinite love results in infinite openness. Our limited eyes see this as Jesus on the cross.

And that is the challenge of these times. Can we really stop and look? Or do we lay blame for the suffering. "It's their own fault, it's just desserts, etc. etc." We are called to look, and looking, we are called to speak and act. Because just stop and think: why *are* all the atrocities I listed above bad? Why *do* we feel so much when we witness them? After all, why should we care? Because, like God, we, too, have a love for creation. The love of God has been made part of us, part of our calling. We are called to feel deeply, to be opened and transformed by both love and the suffering it creates. Maybe we

(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
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***



Ruth	Anna	Elfriede
Dave	Larry	Mary Lou
John	Matt	Pat
Family of Janet	Ben	Florence
Sharon	Bobby	Paul
Elinor	Willie	Dustin
JoAnne	Gerry & Terry	Joe
Kathy & family	Jim & Joanne	

PASTOR'S MESSAGE.. continued from page 1

do not want to admit it, we hide that love deep down beneath cynicism or despair or political necessity. But I know it still hurts. Because we believe that all of us, as human beings, have been made in God's own image—to love; and as the Church we have been baptized into Christ's own life and death—to proclaim that love.

And as the Church today, with wars raging and refugees fleeing and the planet warming, perhaps our message seems like only a whisper amidst great shouts for power and revenge and justice. And it is a whisper. But, don't forget, Jesus' ministry was only a gentle whisper too. And though it may seem a whisper, this Word of Life that we proclaim is all that we have, and all that we need. For God has proved God's love for us—while we and all people still were yet sinners Christ died for us. This is our image of love we hold on to, showing us that beneath all things is this love.

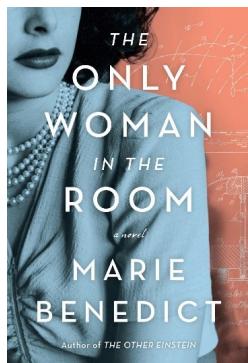
And this love never ends.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

Christ the Good
Shepherd
Book Club

December 7
6:30pm



*As posted on Goodreads---*Hedy Kiesler is lucky. Her beauty leads to a starring role in a controversial film and marriage to a powerful Austrian arms dealer, allowing her to evade Nazi persecution despite her Jewish heritage. But Hedy is also intelligent. At lavish Vienna dinner parties, she overhears the Third Reich's plans. One night in 1937, desperate to escape her controlling husband and the rise of the Nazis, she disguises herself and flees her husband's castle.

She lands in Hollywood, where she becomes Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But Hedy is keeping a secret even more shocking than her Jewish heritage: she is a scientist. She has an idea that might help the country and that might ease her guilt for escaping alone—if anyone will listen to her.

The CGS book club will be meeting on December 7 at 6:30 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.

We also decided to have a little holiday celebration that night. Eggnog and soda, fruit, dessert and reuben dip, so far.

If you are able to attend and would like, feel free to bring something to nosh on. The more the merrier.

Hope to see you there!!!



Council met 10/25/23.

Worship— Team has been researching new altar cloths— specifically blue and white ones— and presented costs of altar cloths, lectern scarf and chalice veil.

Financials— Year-to-date total contributions are \$16,218 higher than totals in 2022. Office expenses and salaries increased. Rental income and investments help our net income. Ruth started working on the budget for 2024.

Property— Durbin has a list of work to be done. If you see something in need of repair, you can contact him.

Reconciling in Christ— The team needs to meet again.

Outreach-Community— Sharon reported on updating the narthex area. Council approved a motion to allow expenditures up to \$900 for refreshing the narthex with furniture and other accent items. See pages 4 & 5 for upcoming community projects— Thanksgiving Meal Baskets and The Angel Tree. Tanja has been updating the church website with more information about the church and our various ministries.

Outreach-Special Projects— Leo suggested using the income from St. Pauly clothing shed towards our special projects outreach. Council discussed quotes received for an updated sound system for the church. The sound system team (Leo Goodrich, Deb Mason, Rob Hansen and Pastor) will review the quotes in-depth and report back to council in November.

Congregational Care— Book club will meet 12/7. Six women from our church are attending a Women's Retreat at Calumet.

Old Business— Nominating committee is speaking with people to serve on the 2024 council.

New business— Durbin motioned to keep the parish house rental at \$1800/month for one year and council approved. The current occupants have lived there for 10 years.

Next council meeting: 11/29/23

Congregational meeting: 12/17/23

- ⇒ Do you like social media?
- ⇒ Would you like to learn how to make videos?

JOIN THE CGSLC STREAM TEAM! (•••)

We are in need of one or more individuals to occasionally livestream Sunday worship services to our Facebook page.

In particular, we need help on-

NOVEMBER 19 & DECEMBER 31.

Streaming is simple and easy. You only need a smartphone or notepad computer. We provide the Logitech Mevo Streaming Video Camera. You will be trained in person, and written instructions are provided.

Please contact Leo Goodrich or Jonathan Goodrich by seeing them at church, calling the church office and leaving a message, or through the church email.



Thank you Troop 60875 for your hard work tending our community garden!
(See article on page 6)

“Angel Tree” Program to Launch Nov. 19 at Christ the Good Shepherd

As the holiday season quickly approaches, the Salvation Army is once again looking for local “angels” to help provide Christmas gifts for children of families in need through its “Angel Tree” program. The program will get underway at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran on Sunday, Nov. 19.



ANGEL TREE

In 2022, the Salvation Army’s “Angel Tree” program served 253 families, supplying Christmas gifts to 567 children in the Greater New Haven area. Our congregation supported 10 of those children with gifts of toys and clothing; in 2023, we plan to increase our support to 12 children.

Like last Christmas, we hope to provide all of the children on our list with four gifts each. Each gift request—48 in all—will be represented by one “Angel Tag” on our “Angel Tree.” Each of those 48 “Angel Tags” will include the child’s age and gender, along with the requested toy or shoe and clothing sizes. Although there is no limit to the amount you may choose to spend per child, the suggested value of each gift is \$15-\$30.

Those interested in shopping for one or more children are invited to select a tag or tags from the tree, which will be set up in the Narthex, and sign their name by the corresponding “Angel” on the signup sheet.

All unwrapped gifts (with “Angel Tags” attached) should be brought to church on Sunday, Dec. 3, where they will be organized and delivered to the Salvation Army in New Haven by Friday, Dec. 8.

Want to avoid the crowds? Monetary donations are also welcome and will enable our designated shopping volunteers to make gift purchases on behalf of the congregation. If you wish to donate by cash or check, please speak with Sharon Napolitano, Outreach Co-Chair.

Help Us Fill Thanksgiving Meal Baskets

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be joining local efforts once again to feed those in need this Thanksgiving by participating in the [Hamden Community Services Thanksgiving Food Drive](#). At Christ the Good Shepherd, we will be collecting frozen turkeys and other holiday fare to help fill the Thanksgiving Meal Baskets Sunday, Nov. 5, through Sunday, Nov. 19.

Last year, we delivered 13 turkeys and 10 bags of trimmings to the Hamden Food Bank in support of this project. In 2022, more than 500 area families were recipients of the Thanksgiving Meal Baskets, and this year the Hamden Food Bank hopes to serve as many as 800 families in need.

Following are the food donations needed:

- * Fresh or frozen turkeys
- * Stuffing
- * Boxed mashed potatoes
- * 5-pound bags of potatoes
- * Yams
- * Rice
- * Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- * Turkey gravy
- * Pasta

WHAT TO PUT IN
Thanks
GIVING
FOOD BASKETS
FOR NEEDY FAMILIES



Please bring all items designated for the Thanksgiving Meal Baskets to church by **Sunday, Nov. 19**, so that the food can be delivered to the Hamden Food Bank at the Keefe Center, 11 Pine Street, on Monday, Nov. 20, for inclusion in this project. Lists of the food items needed are available in the Narthex.

If you would like to make a monetary donation toward this project, or have questions on how to obtain a Thanksgiving Meal Basket, please contact AnneMarie Karavas at the Hamden Food Bank at 203-562-5129, ext. 1113.

If you have any questions about the Thanksgiving food drive at Christ the Good Shepherd in support of this project, please speak with Sharon Napolitano, Outreach Co-Chair.



Christ the Good Shepherd Community Garden

The first year for the Christ the Good Shepherd community garden has come to an end. Back in May, Christ the Good Shepherd started the community garden as an experiment in partnership with the Town of Hamden and Grace and St. John's Episcopal Church. The garden came together slowly, but by the end of June, it was up and running – thanks to support from the town of Hamden and this congregation. Volunteers from the community and this congregation stepped in throughout the season to help weed, water, harvest, and deliver.

One of the groups that helped with the garden was Girl Scout Troop 60875, who recently began meeting at the church. In mid-September, the girls of this troop spent their meeting time tending to the garden. The tasks that these girls took on included weeding and clearing beds, spreading mulch, and filling beds with soil. The girls enjoyed themselves and were fascinated by the insects and worms in the garden. The troop was also kind enough to donate mulch and soil for the garden!

As of Oct. 29, 111 pounds of produce has been harvested and donated to the Hamden Food Bank. This includes-

- 15 yellow squash
- 13 zucchini
- 9 butternut squash
- 5 cucumbers
- 29 bell peppers
- 18 banana peppers
- 54 grape tomatoes
- 38 full-size tomatoes
- 2 bunches of chard and parsley

This is not a bad start for the first year!

I would like to extend enthusiastic thanks to everyone who helped out with this garden this year.

There are plans to expand the garden for next year, so we could use more help! If you are interested, get in touch with Rob Hansen or any of the members of the outreach committee.



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Setup
11/5	Tanja Helmert	Paul Snyder	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Deb Mason
11/12	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Napolitano	Phil & John Napolitano	Jackie Menefee
11/19	Linda Kapitan	Anna Hansard	Cyndi & Anna Hansard	Starr O'Connor
11/26	Tanja Helmert	John Napolitano	Phil & John Napolitano	Ursula Hunter
12/3	Tanja Helmert	Ken Watson	Paul Snyder Ken Watson	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**


11/5	Goodrich family
11/12	Sarah DeLong
11/19	O'Brien family
11/26	Jackie Menefee Rob Hansen
12/3	Cyndi & Anna Hansard

**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

December 17, 2023

Immediately following the
worship service.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the December Messenger are due November 26, 2023.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 10:30am- Coffee Klatch	3	
5 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Daylight Saving Time Ends~	6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> Honoring ALL WHO served THANK YOU VETERANS 
12 <i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Service of the Word	13	14	15	16 10:30am- Coffee Klatch	17	18
19 <i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Articles due for December Messenger	27	28	29 7pm- Council	30		

Masks are optional-

If you or a loved one is immune-compromised, or you just want to be safe, feel free to wear a mask.

Facebook Live-

Facebook Live worship will *always* continue to be available.

In-person worship-

Please do not come to in-person worship or other church events if you are feeling sick or you yourself have tested positive. Please follow the updated CDC guidelines for isolation/quarantine.

Holy Communion-

Holy Communion continues as before, with wine in individual cups and wafers. 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. If you are not comfortable removing your mask to receive, come forward with arms crossed for a blessing.