

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
December, 2023

Vol. 3 Issue 12



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA SULLIVAN

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

This year feels a little rushed as we come again around the cyclical bend of our church year to December and to Advent. CVS and Walgreens were awash in green and red the minute the Thanksgiving leftovers hit the fridge, but here at Christ the Good Shepherd we can bask, at least for a short, time in blue—the blue of Advent.

Because the Advent and Christmas season this year feels a little rushed, I invite you to pay close attention to our schedule. Christmas Eve, the Nativity of Our Lord, falls on a Sunday. To best mark that strange occasion we will be sharing the 4th Sunday of Advent (December 24th) with our Episcopalian siblings of Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church in Hamden. On December 24th at 9 AM we will be worshiping together with them in their church building located at 2927 Dixwell Ave (ample parking is available behind the DeMatteo Building at 2911 Dixwell). So, in the morning, it's a 4th Sunday of Advent collaboration, but in the evening at 5:30 PM we're back in our sanctuary, and it'll be Christmastime already.

This year feels a little rushed too because we will only have three Thursdays to gather for our 7 PM contemplative devotions as well. Caroline Henry, our talented church musician, will be playing music for us this year, and our theme will be “peace”—we will offer our heartfelt pleas and laments for peace in our broken world.

This year feels a little rushed and I forgot to mention in worship the amazing 17 turkeys and pounds and pounds of potatoes and stuffing and fixins’ to boot that we gathered with the leadership of the Outreach Team for the food pantry at the Keefe Community Center.

This year feels a little rushed as the days get shorter and the nights colder.

This year feels a little rushed as the gathering of gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree is already done and will be delivered just days after the 1st Sunday of Advent.

This year just feels a little rushed. And maybe it's the urgency of war, or of change, or of sickness and longing and loss in our community. I don't know what it is, but this year feels a little bit rushed, and so let us pray together that Christ will come quickly, come swiftly to save us from our schedules, knock us out of our routines, open our eyes and make us awake to the slow bend of eternity that calmly abides in us and all around us.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh



**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
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Organist: Caroline Henry

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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	Elfriede
Sue	Palmer	Gerry
John	Matt	Pat
JoAnne	Ben	Florence
Sharon	Mike	Paul
Elinor	Dustin	
Kathy & family	Jim & Joanne	
Sharon & family		
Family of Joseph Goodrich		
Family of Phil Krakowiak & First Lutheran of West Haven		
Homebound members		
Pray for Hope & Peace in the world		



**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.



Council met on 11/29/23.

Pastor— CGS has been granted over \$4,000 from the “reimagining Church” program. Funds are designated to expand our community garden, install an irrigation system and start a pollinator garden in the front of our facility. Members, Tanja Helmert, supervised ministry intern, was entranced into the ordination process and the Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin transferred his membership to the roster of leaders in the ELCA. *Worship*— Average attendance in November-40. Poinsettia sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board. Order was placed for a new altar cloth, lectern scarf and chalice veil for Advent.

Financials— Lisa reported although October figures were lower in comparison to the same time last year, year-to-date figures all show an increase. Ruth reviewed the treasurer's report. We have used about \$22,000 from investments, mostly for property improvements. Investment dividends have helped with total income figures. The proposed 2024 budget was reviewed and accepted with amendments and will be presented to the congregation for approval on 12/17.

Property— Durbin secured a quote on updating the lighting in the narthex and sacristy. Council approved the work to begin in January, 2024.

Outreach, Community— Thanksgiving meal basket is complete and food delivered. (See article on page 4 for details and photos) There are still 10 tags remaining to be filled on the Salvation Angel Tree. Gifts need to be brought to the church on 12/3. The Winter Warmth Tree is going up 12/9. (See article on page 5) Tanja has been making changes to the church website, highlighting ministries.

Outreach, Special projects— Sound system team reviewed the proposed options and a motion was made to accept the selection as presented by the team at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Council accepted the motion.

Congregational Care— Calls continue to those unable to attend worship services and coffee klatch continues on the first and third Thursday at 10:30am.

Old business— The proposed slate of council for 2024 was presented and is printed on this page. The slate was approved by council and will be presented to the congregation on 12/17 for approval.

New business— December 7 will be the 5th anniversary of Pastor Josh's ordination. We will acknowledge this important time during coffee hour on 12/17.

Congregational meeting: 12/17

Next council meeting: 12/20

PROPOSED SLATE OF COUNCIL 2024

The following proposed slate of council was presented and approved at the November 29 council meeting. It will be presented to the congregation for approval on December 17.

President	Cyndi Hansard
Vice President	~open~
Secretary	Brenda Samal
Treasurer	Ruth Lye

Financial Secretary— Lisa Ball-Goodrich

Worship Team Chair— Starr O'Connor

Facility-Property Team

Chair— Leo Goodrich

Congregational Care

Team Chair— Linda Ibsen

Outreach Team Chair— Denise Lundgren



Poinsettias for Christmas

It is time to sign up for poinsettia plants which have traditionally decorated our altar for Christmas services. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the hallway bulletin board. Please indicate number of plants that you would like to order, your name, and, (if you choose), who you would like to name as memorial.

Price of plants has not yet been determined. Will announce and post as soon as possible. (Last year they were \$14.00 each.) Payments can be included in regular weekly offering envelopes; indicating separate line item of "Christmas Plant".

Ordered plants may be taken home after Christmas services.



Narthex takes on a fresh new look, in time for this year's food drive.

Denise Lundgren and John Downs (pictured here) assisted with this year's project.

Thanks for the Annual Thanksgiving Meal Basket Support

Nearly 225 pounds of turkey and other holiday favorites were collected this year as part of our Thanksgiving Meal Basket donations to the Hamden Community Services Food Drive.

At Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran, we collected 17 frozen and fresh turkeys, 20 boxes of stuffing, nine boxes or bags of rice, seven boxes of mashed potatoes, 12 bags of potatoes, nine yams, 17 jars of gravy, 16 boxes of pasta and 30 boxes of muffin mix. Cranberries, apple sauce and pumpkin pie filling were among the other holiday goodies.

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. This year's goal was to serve as many as 800 families in need.

Congregational members Denise Lundgren and John Downs assisted Sharon Napolitano, Outreach Co-Chair, with sorting, bagging and delivering the food to the Hamden Food Bank, 11 Pine Street, on Monday, Nov. 20.

Thanks to all who supported this effort.



New Advent Paraments On Their Way!

The church council has approved the purchase of new "Sarum Blue" matching paraments for the altar and lectern. They will be embroidered with a beautiful gold star in celebration of the advent season. Unfortunately, they are still "on order" and could take a couple more weeks to arrive.

Looking forward to seeing a fully decorated altar and lectern when they can be displayed.



Anna Olson (a 60 year member of LCGS) and her family send their warmest thanks for the wonderful card signed by congregation members that Pastor Josh presented at her 100th birthday gathering. Her room is still adorned with many best wishes cards, flowers, and balloons.

Winter Warmth Tree Collection to Begin December 10



Help us decorate the Winter Warmth Tree in the narthex this holiday season with new cold-weather outerwear and other items to benefit those served by New Reach Life Haven Shelter.

We will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves, as well as socks, slippers, throws and other items through Sunday, Jan. 7, for this emergency shelter, which serves single women with children and single pregnant women in their last trimester. The collection will get underway on Sunday, Dec. 10.

In 2022, our congregation collected 81 warm-winter items for this shelter. This year, donations to our Winter Warmth Tree will be delivered to Life Haven the week of January 8th.

Book Club has been rescheduled

Book club discussion of
The Only Woman in the Room
 has been changed to-
Wednesday, 12/13, at 6:30pm.

(The original date conflicted with Advent Devotions.)

Hope you are enjoying the book!

Gifts Due for “Angel Tree” Program December 3

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran is once again supporting the Salvation Army’s “Angel Tree” program, providing Christmas gifts and clothing for children in need. If you haven’t had the opportunity to select an Angel tag yet, there are still a few left; monetary donations are also welcome to support gifts from the congregation.

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 from four families with gifts of toys and clothing; in 2023, we are supporting 13 children from five area families.

Like last Christmas, we hope to provide all of the children on our list with four gifts each. Each gift request—52 in all—is represented by one “Angel Tag” on our “Angel Tree.” Each of those 52 “Angel Tags” 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.

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. If you wish to donate by cash or check toward the congregational gifts, please speak with Sharon Napolitano, Outreach Co-Chair.



December Services & Devotions

Advent Devotions—Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21. The theme will be “Peace” and Caroline will accompany with contemplative music.

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Join in the celebration of Pastor Josh’s 5th anniversary of his ordination (which is 12/7) A special coffee hour will immediately follow the congregational meeting.

Sunday, December 24, 2023 9:00am

Morning worship service will be at Grace & St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Parking is available behind their building at 2927 Dixwell Avenue, or in the medical office lot nearby.



December 24, 2023

5:30pm

Candlelight Service at Christ the Good Shepherd.

Sunday, December 31, 2023 10:00am

Service of Lessons & Carols

We welcome members of Grace & St. John’s Episcopal for a service of Lessons & Carols.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Setup
12/3	Tanja Helmert	John Napolitano	Paul Snyder John Napolitano	Deb Mason
12/10	Durbin Hunter	Linda Kapitan	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Ursula Hunter
12/17	Tanja Helmert	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	O'Brien family	Starr O'Connor
12/24 9:00am	Morning worship service at Grace & St. John's Episcopal, 2927 Dixwell Ave, Hamden			
12/24 Christmas Eve 5:30pm	Linda Kapitan	Paul Snyder	Paul Snyder Ken Watson	Ursula Hunter
12/31	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	~	Starr O'Connor Paul Snyder	Deb Mason
1/7/2024	Linda Kapitan	John Napolitano	O'Brien family	Ursula Hunter

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**


12/3	Cyndi & Anna Hansard
12/10	Linda Kapitan
12/17	“Cookie Sampler”
12/24	No coffee hour
12/31	Durbin & Ursula Hunter
1/7/2024	Linda Kapitan

**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

December 17, 2023

Immediately following the worship service. Two items of business to vote on are-

- ◊ 2024 Budget
- ◊ Proposed Slate of 2024 Council

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the January Messenger are due December 31, 2023.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	4	5	6	7 10:30am- Coffee Klatch 7pm- Advent Devotions	8	9
10 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Reconciling in Christ meeting~	11	12	13 6:30pm Book Club	14 7pm- Advent Devotions	15	16
17 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Congregational Meeting~	18	19	20 7pm- Council	21 10:30am- Coffee Klatch 7pm- Advent Devotions	22	23
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 9:00am Service at Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church 5:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist	25 <i>Nativity of Our Lord</i> 	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> 10:00am Service of Lessons & Carols	1/1/2024 <i>Name of Jesus</i> 	3	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	
Articles due for January Messenger						

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.



University Lutheran Ministry of New Haven
305 Saint Ronan Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511

November 16, 2023

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
600 Shepard Avenue
Hamden, CT 06514

Dear Mission Partner friends in Christ,

Last night at our midweek Taizé Prayer service I noticed students counting down the days until November Break — a whole week to slow down, enjoy time with friends and/or family, and give thanks! Now I also find myself with a bit of a break where I can express my thanks to those who give to LuMin at Yale and empower our ministries.

Your donation of \$180 that we received in September 2023 is so deeply appreciated, as are your previous contributions, and your ongoing prayerful support for the LuMin campus ministry community. Thank you so much!

With all that is happening in our world that can leave us wondering what the future will hold, take heart in knowing that we are together working to nurture faith and leadership among the college and graduate students God has entrusted to our care. As Thanksgiving Day approaches, you can be sure that I am thanking God for you and your partnership in this vital ministry.

With overflowing gratitude and love,

Kari Henkelmann Keyl

Pastor, University Lutheran Ministry of New Haven (LuMin at Yale)
luminatyale.org ~ karihenkelmann.keyl@yale.edu

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