

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
April 2024

Vol. 4 Issue 4



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

Grace and peace to you in the name of the risen Christ!

“Alleluia! He is risen indeed!” We all shouted this Easter.

And for those few brave (and sleepless) folks this year, we shouted this phrase together with our Episcopalian siblings at the Great Vigil of Easter at 4:30 AM down at Grace and St. John's Church in Hamden. Led by Tanja Helmert, our Yale Divinity School intern, as well as G&St.J's priest Rev. Bob Bergner and a lay leader of theirs, Gretchen Pritchard, we planned a wonderful, collaborative service.

For those who've never been to a Vigil, it's not quite like anything else. It begins in darkness, a fire is kindled, the Paschal candle is lit from this fire, then all those attending have their own candles lit from this light of Christ. Lessons telling of God's saving power from the Hebrew Bible are read by candlelight with prayers and sung responses, the assembly then gives thanks to all the saints gone before us, we renew our baptismal vows, process out of the church (while it is transformed for Easter celebration), knock on the doors just as the sun is rising, then: Alleluia! the assembly enters. We sang joyful songs, we read the resurrection Gospel according to St. John and celebrated Holy Communion together.

It was great. And it looks like we'll be celebrating this Great Vigil again next year with our friends at Grace & St. John's!

On Easter Sunday morning at 10 o'clock we celebrated as well. Beautiful flowers, the hand-written Alleluia's (and Hallelujah's) that we stored away adorned the walls, many guests were among us. At this celebration we heard from Mark's gospel and his sparse but equally exciting resurrection story.



And, have you noticed, whether it's Matthew, Mark, Luke or John: there is no description of this resurrection event, it is stubbornly mysterious. In Mark there is a “young man” seated there, who tells the woman Jesus is gone, they are filled with amazement and run. In John there is no angelic figure, no young man, just an empty tomb with death-clothes neatly folded up and disciples running to see. John's gospel of course tells Mary Magdalene's interaction with the Risen Christ. But he is seemingly unrecognizable, she thinks him a gardener! She wants to hold him to him, he sends her away, and she runs, too.

And although we do confess these things called “the resurrection of the dead” and “the life everlasting” or even the “life of the world to come”—we also can see the mysterious, tricky power of Jesus' resurrection in our everyday, just as the disciples and Mary did. Let me ask some questions for you all to ponder:

(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**

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Organist: Caroline Henry

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Council Members
1/1/24—12/31/24

- President: Cyndi Hansard
- Vice-President: Rob Hansen
- Secretary: Brenda Samal
- Treasurer: Ruth Lye
- Financial Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich
- Worship: Starr O'Connor
- Congregational Care: Linda Ibsen
- Property: Leo Goodrich
- Outreach: Denise Lundgren

**In Our
Thoughts & Prayers**



- | | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|
| Ruth | Leo & Christel | Elfriede |
| Sue | Carl | Kathy & Jessika |
| Palmer | Sharon N. | Pat |
| JoAnne | Ruth L. | Florence |
| Pat | Gerry | Paul |
| Elinor | Dustin | Alyssa |
| Sharon | Jim & Joanne | Nancy |
| Mike | Sadie | Miles |
| Audrey | Martin | Anita V. |

The people suffering and mourning in Gaza as well as in Israel.

The people of Ukraine, the people of Russia.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE..continued from page 1

Have you looked for death, gone to mourn among tombs, and instead found an absence of absence, instead found community—and a message of life that gripped you, sent you away to those you loved filled with hope?

Have you ever expected the worst, but found that, nevertheless, a curious, unstoppable hope has pulled you through?

Have you ever seen two communities, pressed down by the forces of society and cornered by crumbling buildings and a lack of energy, decide to die to themselves, come together, and then experience a confusing and joyful resurgence of life?

I have.

May all glory and honor be to God our beginning,
Jesus the first born of the dead,
and the Holy Spirit our true breath,

Pastor Josh



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

As our congregation journeys through the RIC process together, our ultimate goal is to expand our ability to welcome, support, and empower everyone whom we encounter, at church and outside it. To that end, we plan to host a series of events where people can ask questions, share stories, and learn from each other as we discern what it means to be an RIC congregation.

On March 21st, we held our first RIC event: a pizza dinner with discussion led by Pastor Josh. Seventeen church members attended, listened to Pastor and each other, asked thoughtful questions, and learned more about how we can welcome, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. The event was a success and we look forward to offering another one soon.

At the March event, a handout was shared describing the purpose of the RIC program, the specific requirements our church must adopt in order to become an RIC congregation, and links to more information. To access this handout, [click here](#) or ask Cyndi Hansard or Pastor Josh for a hard copy. We hope to see you at our next RIC event!

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH



Church Council

Council met 3/18/24.

Denise led the ice breaker discussion— *What childhood or adult life figure did you hold in high esteem and what*

characteristics you most admired and want to follow?

Pastor— Holy Week services: Monday evening, 3/25, prayer and Lectio Divina in collaboration with Grace & St. John's; 3/28, Maundy Thursday; 3/29, Good Friday; 3/31, Easter Vigil with Grace & St. John's at 4:30am and then Easter Sunday at 10am. Pastor will be taking time off 4/1-4/6.

Financial Secretary— Comparisons to last year are encouraging. Total operating contributions, total missions and capital improvement show an increase. Monies have been donated toward a new stove.

Treasurer— February was a good month. Property repair costs are down but electric costs are up again.

Dreams— A RIC Dinner & Discussion is planned for 3/21 at 5:30pm.

Worship— Average attendance the past 4 Sundays was 45; Wednesday evening Lenten prayer— 14. White and gold paraments have been delivered. Easter flowers have been ordered and Chris

Trutnau and John Downs will arrange them in the sanctuary.

Property— Council approved an additional \$1591 for the purchase of the sound system as costs have gone up since the initial estimate. Council also approved costs for the addition of an extra circuit for the coffee station.

Outreach— Talked of signage welcoming all to CGSL. Steve S. secured funds through Thrivent for use with our Community Garden. The "Garden Center" is on display in the fellowship hall. Planning a possible seminar on 4/20 about Spring planting. Two garden workdays scheduled— 4/6, 9-12pm and 4/7 after worship.



Congregational Care— Calls and cards continue to go to the homebound and coffee klatsch meets twice a month. A kitchen committee met to discuss renovations.

Old business— A stewardship group formed to discuss strategies.

New business— Council approved a recommendation from the investment committee to withdraw funds from the lower interest Fidelity savings account to pay bills—if needed.

Next council— April 22 at 6pm.



ELCA.org/World Hunger

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” —1 John 3:18

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Part of our church’s long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God’s promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. In 2024 we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of this ministry. We have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever.

Hunger facts

- 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.
- According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population.
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.

Contributions can be placed in your church envelope – marked for ELCA/world hunger, or you can [donate online](#). Thank you for giving.



Spring Housekeeping?

St. Pauly's shed is a great option for clothing and bedding that you no longer want.

What to Drop-off:

Used Clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.

What Not to Drop-off:

Furniture, electronics, household items, books, toys, garbage, pillows, rags, and fabric scraps.

How this works:

Community members drop off clothing at the clothing shed located at CGS Lutheran church.

We (St. Pauly Textile, Inc.) purchase the clothing (\$ per pound) from your church.

We then use the money received from St. Pauly to help support your Outreach projects and community missions.

[About St. Pauly Textile Inc.](#)

Other donation centers:

Household and construction items can be taken to **ReStore** (associated to Habitat for Humanity). There is a store in Wallingford. For more information:

<https://newhavencountyrestore.org/>

Cars, boats, motorhomes, and motorcycles can be donated to the veterans or to the Lutheran church charities.

[https://www.vehiclesforveterans.org/car-donation-form/Vehicle Donations \(lutheranchurchcharities.org\)](https://www.vehiclesforveterans.org/car-donation-form/Vehicle%20Donations%20(lutheranchurchcharities.org))

Durable medical equipment can be donated to Mae’s Closet. You can also pick up needed items for a very small donation.

<http://www.carenewhaven.org/maes-closet-475414-8333.html>

Please call (475) 414-8333 to see if your items are available or to make a donation.



Synod Assembly begins 12:30pm on Thursday, June 6 and concludes by 1:00pm on Saturday, June 8.

If you are interested in attending or have questions about the assembly, you may speak to Pastor Josh. Accommodations are paid for by the church.

(Early Registration for Synod Assembly continues through April 7.)

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

~Thank you Sue H. and Cathy C. for the submitted photographs on this and the next page~



April is National Garden Month. A perfect time to join hands to get our community garden ready for planting!



Our community garden plans are sprouting up – have you visited our Garden Center table?

We have plants to adopt (pot, peat pods, seeds, instructions, and guidance provided)

There's a sign-up sheet for two workdays in April (lunch to follow). A fun way to get to know each other and to get some important work done.

The garden needs a name – please place your suggestion for a name in the suggestion box.

We also need volunteers to sign up to be routine helpers –

- * Weeders/waterers
- * Pickers of vegetables
- * Delivery of fresh vegetables

All the fresh vegetables are taken to Keefe Community Center/Food pantry in Hamden. This is OUR churches community garden, and OUR united effort to help fight hunger. Will you join us?





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SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
4/7	Durbin Hunter	Rob Hansen	O'Brien family	Ursula Hunter
4/14	Tanja Helmert	Durbin Hunter	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Connor
4/21	Tanja Helmert	John Napolitano	Phil & John Napolitano	Deb Mason
4/28	Rob Hansen	Anna Hansard	Cyndi & Anna Hansard	Jackie Menefee
5/5	Tanja Helmert	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor John Downs	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



4/7	Sarah DeLong Linda Ibsen
4/14	Jackie Menefee Rob Hansen
4/21	Durbin & Ursula Hunter
4/28	O'Brien family
5/5	Linda Kapitan Johnson




Many thanks to Starr O., Chris T., and John D. for setting up the beautiful display for Easter.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the May Messenger are due April 28, 2024.

The new white paraments!



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	5 	6 Community Garden Workday 9-12pm
7 <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Community Garden Workday~	8 Council 101- Zoom 7-8:30pm All Things Stewardship	9 7pm- Outreach team mtg	10 6:30pm- Book Club	11	12	13
14 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	15	16	17	18 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	19	20
21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	22 6pm-Council	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Articles due for May Messenger	29	30	5/1	5/2	5/3	5/4

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.