

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
June 2024

Vol. 4 Issue 6



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

Grace to you and peace from God our Beginning and the Lord Jesus Christ,

As you might have heard, I and our council president Cyndi Hansard are venturing to Worcester, MA from June 6-8 for our annual New England Synod Assembly. This year is especially exciting as we will be saying goodbye to our outgoing bishop of 12 years and 2 terms, The Rev. James Hazelwood, and electing a new leader for the 5+ states of our region of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Many folks from both our predecessor congregations to our new, merged community have shared with me stories illustrating their disappointment with the office of the bishop. And, to be honest, I always find this quite amusing. Only rather recently has our Lutheran expression of church established an office of the bishop for our synods and for our national church (formerly they were called "presidents"), and even then, our national denomination, the ELCA, only was formed in 1988! This is all to say, what power, really, has the bishop that we get so angry, disappointed, and jaded toward them?

Answer: only the power of persuasion (and some other important constitutional legal power, but limited.) We are not the Roman church whose

bishops (especially the bishop of Rome) have unmitigated power, nor are we like the historically grounded Episcopal church (whose name literally means, "bishop"). Our bishop is the figurehead for our synod, a leader, a guide, but like all ordained persons, our bishop is a shepherd.

Whoever our next bishop will be, their calling is to shepherd the pastors and congregations of our synod into an ongoing era of unpredictability and unprecedented change. More and more churches are closing and merging (like we did), more and more congregations are experimenting, adapting and rethinking (like we have been). Our synod, I would think, would want a leader to help this process forward, to coach us and console us all along the way. Certainly, our faith in the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is unchanging, as is our commitment to a Gospel of Grace and the presence of God in Holy Communion and Holy Baptism. But how we express these truths, how we celebrate them, and what actions God is calling us to, these must change.

So, please pray. Pray for wisdom and bravery for our synod, peace and discernment for the candidates who have been preselected and those who will be named at the assembly, safety and insight for those who will gather in Worcester from across our wide synod. And let us also give

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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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**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	Christel	Elfriede
Sue	Carl	Kathy & Jessika
Dave	Sharon N.	Pat
Anita V.	Ruth L.	Florence
Rebecca & Cathy	Gerry	Paul
Elinor	Dustin	Alyssa
Sharon	Jim & Joanne	Mike

Family of Ruth

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

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

The people of Ukraine, the people of Russia.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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hearty thanks for our current bishop and all his staff, who have done so much for all of us as they have each answered God's call to be shepherds.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh



- * Casey Fish
- * Kara Dezelin



CGSL church outreach mission is to focus our God-given resources of money, time, and talent to help those most vulnerable to inadequate housing and food resources.

Lord's Bounty Community Garden

May brought the completion of the garden expansion project.

We now have six raised garden boxes and a new gate thanks to many dedicated volunteers. Cathy Cahn has made a cute name sign for the garden. Thank you, Cathy!



Many dedicated volunteers have been working hard over the past two months to get the garden ready. The Lord's Bounty Community Garden is truly an example of a community coming together in love to serve God's people.

This month the garden has been expanded from 3 raised beds to 6, and compost, soil, and mulch have been added through the combined hard labor of Tanja, Ken Watson, Cathy Cahn, Rob Hansen and our girl scout troop. Sarah DeLong donated raspberry bush saplings to add to the types of fresh produce we can provide over time. We hope to add additional fruit bushes and trees to our garden over time.

On Sunday, May 26th some of the plants grown by our congregation at home as part of the Adopt-a-plant program were presented and blessed. If you are growing plants at home, but were not able to attend on Sunday, just bring them to church on your next visit and place them on the table in the narthex. Kindly leave a note to tell us what vegetable or herb you grew.



After service, Rob, Dawn and Denise gave the plants a new home in the garden. We look forward to sharing more pictures as the plants mature. Below are some photos of the work that's been completed.



This month the project to bring a water line up to the garden for easy watering will be completed by the properties team. In the meantime, we are using a long hose.

Volunteers are needed for watering, weeding, harvesting, and delivering the vegetables. The sign-up sheet can be found in the hallway 'Sign-up sheet bulletin board'.





CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Tanja Helmert graduated 5/19, with a Masters of Divinity. She is heading to California with Patrick who is beginning a PhD program at UC Santa Barbara in the Fall. She plans to find work in chaplaincy and continue in the ELCA candidacy process.



Tanja has also completed her ministry internship at CGSL. A special coffee hour was held in her honor on May 26 and she was presented with the gift of an Alb from the congregation.



Tanja cutting the special cake and with gift from Deb Mason.
(More photos on page 5.)

New member **Casey Fish** is graduating from Amity Regional High school in Woodbridge on June 5th and he plans to go up to Syracuse to study Landscape Architecture.



Nicholas Papa, son of Anthony & Brianne Papa, will be graduating from Cheshire High School this year with five honor cords and the presidential excellence award.

He will be attending Messiah University, majoring in computer science, in the Fall.





Council met May 20.

Icebreaker– Rob asked *Where have you seen God at work?*

Pastor– Tim Bergeland, a Yale Divinity School student, will work with CGSL in the Reimagining Church program. We need to set up a team of 4-8 people to relay dreams for our church and work with Tim to discern what could be done. A stewardship meeting is planned soon. Denise suggested a Welcome Packet for visitors.

Financials– Last year Easter was in April so comparisons of total contributions showed a lower number in 2024 but year-to-date totals are higher.

Dreams & Challenges– ELCA passed a Civic Government and Social message in 2020. Paul Snyder and Pastor Josh will lead two discussions– on June 9 and June 30 (*see article on page 6.*)

Worship– Council voted to keep worship time at 10:00am in the summer.

Property– Driveway proposal presented to the congregation on 5/19 passed. Motion approved for renovation of existing kitchen stove hood. Motion approved for purchase and installation of new 36 inch gas range and removal of old kitchen range. Motion approved for electrical work in the fellowship hall.

Outreach– Would like to have a harvest celebration in the Fall. Girl Scout Troop will be working on the community garden Wednesday evening. Five bags of groceries and one of personal hygiene items taken to Keefe Center.

Congregational Care– Meals have been organized for the Aykroyd family.

New business– Financial advisor, Steve D’Amico will speak to council at the June meeting.

Next council meeting: June 17 at 6:00pm



Tanja's parents, Tanja and Pastor Josh



Tanja receiving congratulations from members of congregation.



L- Pastor & Tanja

Below– Tanja with Deb and Starr



UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS ON CIVIC LIFE, GOVERNMENT AND FAITH

Leading up to the presidential election this Fall, Paul Snyder has wanted to take advantage of the ELCA's very helpful Social Messages (approved by ELCA Church-wide Council) and Social Statements (approved by a 2/3 majority of ELCA Church-wide Gathering) pertaining to this topic.

ELCA Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement

Sunday, June 9– after worship, discussion will be led by Paul Snyder and Pastor Josh.

ELCA Draft Social Statement Civic Life and Faith

Sunday, June 30– after worship, discussion will be led by Paul Snyder and Pastor Josh.

CGSL BOOK CLUB

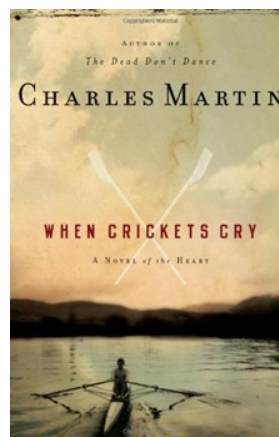
The CGS book club will be meeting on June 5 at 6:30, at Christ the Good Shepherd. We will be reading When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin. If you would like to participate, please feel free to pick up a copy of the book and join us.

We also chose our next book, The Rose Code by Kate Quinn. We have not picked a date for that discussion, it will be sometime in the summer. There seemed to be many holds on the book, so we wanted to make sure that people had a chance to get a copy to read. Plus, it was a little longer and we wanted to give people the time to read it.

Hope to see you there!!!



May's Drive - Thank you for your donations of gift cards for the woman in transition at NewReach in New Haven. This allows them to shop for items they need as they transition out of the shelter into their new home.



As posted on Goodreads--
A man with a painful past.
A child with a doubtful future.
And a shared journey toward healing for both their hearts.



As posted on Goodreads
--*The New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Huntress* and *The Alice Network* returns with another heart-stopping World War II story of three female code breakers at Bletchley Park and the spy they must root out after the war is over.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
6/2	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Rob Hansen	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
6/9	Durbin Hunter	Paul Snyder	Paul Snyder Ken Watson	Ursula Hunter
6/16	Rob Hansen	Ken Watson	Starr O'Connor	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
6/23	Durbin Hunter	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	O'Brien family	Starr O'Connor
6/30	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Paul Snyder	Starr O'Connor	Deb Mason
7/7	Rob Hansen	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**



6/2	Ken & Chuddy Watson
6/9	Sarah DeLong Linda Ibsen
6/16	Goodrich family
6/23	Durbin & Ursula Hunter
6/30	Jackie Menefee Rob Hansen
7/7	Ken & Chuddy Watson





**Quarterly
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 2**
Immediately following
worship service.



**Worship service time will remain
at 10:00am throughout the
summer months.**

Cross-Generational classes on hold for July and August and will resume in September.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the July Messenger are due June 23, 2024.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Congregational Meeting~	3	4	5 6:30pm- Book Club	6 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	7	8
Synod Assembly– Journey Forward						
9 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Discussion-ELCA Social Message on Government & Civic Engagement	10 7-8:30pm Council 101 Zoom	11 7pm- Outreach team mtg	12	13	14	15
16 4th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion 	17 6pm- Council	18	19 	20 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch 	21	22
23 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Articles due for July Messenger	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Discussion-ELCA Draft Social Statement Civic Life	7/1	7/2	7/3	7/4 	7/5	7/6

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.