

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
May 2024

Vol. 4 Issue 5



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

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

Wow, May is already here! Spring is sprunging, grass growing, the life of flowers, bees, trees, bugs, shrubs and grubs that all were lying dormant for winter are returning to life.

Our community garden set up solely to help feed the people of Hamden in partnership with The Keefe Center has come to life again, too, and has expanded, and has scores of new volunteers, and... it has a name!—**Lord's Bounty Community Garden**. Thank you to our Outreach Team lead by Denise Lundgren, thank you to Rob Hansen, our gardening expert. And thank you to Cathy Cahn who won the name-suggesting-contest.

Speaking of Cathy, she is but one of so many new members who have decided to join with us so far this year as we journey with Christ. On the Day of Pentecost this year (Sunday, May 19) all our new members are invited to affirm their baptism and mark a new beginning in their life of faith with us at Christ the Good Shepherd. We will be inviting forward Cathy Cahn and her adult daughter Rebecca; Ellen Frost (Phil Napolitano's sister); The Rev. Rod Rinell; as well as Richard Kibwassali, his wife Shubi

Rweyemamu, and their young daughters Cianna and Geovanna. There may indeed be others! But we will have to wait and see.

In other joyful news, my nine month old daughter Lucia Joyce will be baptized by the Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin on Sunday, May 12. Pastor Leppin is a professor of historical theology at Yale, he is also a member of our congregation and recently transferred his status as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament to our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I am overjoyed he has said yes to letting me be simply a father at this joyful entry of my daughter into her life in Christ's Body, the Church.

And Sunday, May 26 will be a bittersweet celebration as we will be saying good-bye to our Yale Divinity School part-time intern Tanja Helmert. Tanja will be graduating with her Master of Divinity degree from YDS on May 19 and moving to California to accompany her partner Patrick who was accepted into a PhD program at UC Santa Barbara (congratulations to him!). On May 26 we will present her with a parting gift, give thanks for God's Holy Spirit that has called Tanja and brought her into our midst for this past year and more, and we will also pray that God would continue to guide and uplift her in the days ahead as she continues along the path of Candidacy in the ELCA.

(continued in 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 use:

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
1/1/24—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 |
| Ody & family | Gerry | Paul |
| Elinor | Dustin | Alyssa |
| Sharon | Jim & Joanne | Mike |

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..continued from page 1

Let none say that our little community is not bursting with life, just as our Lord's creation in this Northern Hemisphere is bursting with life, just as our Lord's tomb Eastertide after Eastertide, Sunday after Sunday is also—bursting with life.

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



Christ the Good Shepherd Outreach



Community in Unity

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.

This spring we have come together through action and donation to support efforts we all believe in.

Together we accomplished SO much! The month of May promises to be another successful outreach month.

During Lent our congregation gave \$1680.00 to the ELCA.org. *You all are amazing and generous!* **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. Your gifts support health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy. (source ELCA.org)

Upcoming Drive in July/Aug:



Filling of backpacks

Take advantage of sales on backpacks, and school supplies to help us fill backpacks for children from low-income families.

MAY is for Mothers



During May, let's show a little love to homeless mothers who are living in [NewReach](#) shelters in New Haven with their children while they wait for new housing. Currently, here are 40 women we can help.

Please donate \$25.00 gift cards from Target or Walmart. (Please keep each card to only \$25.)

In the narthex, there are cards available for you to write a personal note of encouragement.



- * The Rev. Rod Rinnell
- * The Kibwassali family
 - Rashid Richard Collins
 - Shubi Jacqueline Rweyemamu
 - Cianna Madelyne
 - Geovanna Winnie

newreach  Offers eviction prevention, crisis services, safe shelter, food, intensive support and guidance, and affordable living spaces for those needing short and long-term assistance in CT.

Volunteers needed at community agencies



Nutrition Security Solutions, Inc. (NSS) is located in North Haven and serves the Hamden area. NSS programs are structured to provide nutritious food to vulnerable populations from an empowering standpoint. Our programs provide greater autonomy and choice for the people we assist.

NSS is looking for volunteers who care about seniors and people with disabilities who are living in poverty along with social and food inequities that make them food insecure. To learn more about volunteering [click here](#)
Tel: [203-901-6958](tel:203-901-6958) Email: nss.inc496@gmail.com

United Way of Greater New Haven - Hunger initiatives

From meeting immediate needs by providing meals to people in crisis, to long-term solutions that improve accessibility to nutritious food, United Way of Greater New Haven supports strategies and programs to ensure someone's zip code doesn't determine their health status.

We can all work together to improve the health of individuals and families in our community. Taking care of basic needs as well as investing in long-term strategies will help everyone reach their full potential. From mobile food pantries and community gardens to community awareness campaigns, ending hunger in our community is possible. Together we can help improve individual lives and make our community stronger. (source: <https://www.uwgnh.org>)

[Click here](#) to see a list of volunteer opportunities through United Way.

Community Garden Updates



The Garden Center table was visited by many who wanted to learn more about our garden efforts. Over 14 people took home seed kits to grow plants for our community garden! Dawn Tiedemann is the contact for all our plant adoptees. Dawn will be letting you each know when to begin to harden the plants to ready them for the garden. If you have any questions, please email Dawn. Sometime later in May we will have a planting ceremony. We'll keep you updated.



In April church members were invited to submit a name for the community garden. Three exceptionally good suggestions were turned in. The Outreach committee voted, and the winner was Cathy Cahn's suggestion: *Lord's Bounty Community Garden.*

On April 6 and 7 we worked together in the garden to expand the footprint. The group installed new fence posts, additional fencing was installed, the dirt in the existing garden boxes was turned over, weeds were pulled, and some seeds were planted. Fellowship and lunch were enjoyed each day after our work was completed.

Thank you to Lynn and Steve Swanson, Sarah DeLong, Dawn Tiedemann, Leo Goodrich, Ken Watson, Tanja Helmert, Jake Solomans, Cathy and Rebecca Cahn, and Rob Hansen for your help in getting the garden expansion project moving forward.

On May 4th from 9:00 – 1:00 another workday is scheduled. This time, we will be building and/or installing 3 new garden boxes, and a water line. With any luck, we will also have dirt to put into the boxes. *Thank you to those who quickly volunteered to help.* Lunch will be served.

Once the crops start to grow in the garden we need volunteers to weed, water, and pick the produce, and deliver to the Keefe Center in Hamden. Please consider signing up for one or all of these tasks on a periodic basis. A sign-up sheet for Lord's Bounty Community Garden volunteers will be in the Narthex.



Church Council

Council met 4/22/24.

Pastor led with devotions and prayer. We are going forward with another type of discernment with a Yale Divinity student, Tim Bergeland, as part of the Reimagining Church program.

Leo led the ice breaker discussion— *Where would you like to go— real of fictional?*

Pastor— Holy Week and Easter was a very busy time. Many guests were welcomed and have two requests for membership. Council is very receptive to participating in the Reimagining Church program.

Financial Secretary— March had 5 Sundays and Easter so total contributions was quite a bit higher in comparison to 2023. Contributions toward the Lenten World Hunger Appeal totaled \$1680.00.

Treasurer— We had a profit January-March of 2024 as opposed to a loss in that same time 2023.

Dreams— Discussed under Pastor's report-Reimagining Church program.

Worship— Average attendance for Sundays 3/24-4/14: 66.

Property— Team recommends repairing the parking lot in phases—starting with the worst areas being the two entrance/exit areas as soon as possible. After discussion, a motion was made to recommend to the congregation the approval of the expenditure of not more than \$22,000 to replace the two entrance/exits to the parking lot. A special congregational meeting is scheduled for May 19. More information is being gathered about the stove replacement and hood.

Outreach— Seven bags of groceries were delivered to the Hamden Food Bank in March. May outreach campaign will be to support NewReach homeless mothers and children with \$25 gift cards. (See article on page 3) The community garden has been named— **Lord's Bounty**.

Congregational Care— Team is discussing ways to make meals available to families (as the Aykroyd family) as they deal with difficult situations. CGS book club meets June 5 to discuss *When Crickets Cry*.

RIC— Camp Calumet's book club will be discussing the book, *The Wake Up*, about racial equity for those who would like to participate via

Zoom.

Investment Team— met with Steve D'Amico, financial advisor on 4/17. He was invited to speak to council in the near future.

Old business— Stewardship team formed. Tanja talked about AED and NARCAN.

New business— Motion approved to install as new member the Kibwassali family and the Rev. Rod Rinell. A special coffee hour is planned to say farewell and godspeed to church member and Yale Divinity student intern, Tanja Helmert.

May 19—special congregational meeting

May 20— council meeting



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

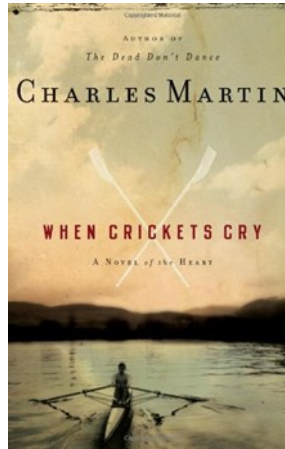
If you are interested in attending or have questions about the assembly, you may speak to Pastor Josh. Accommodations are paid for by the church.

CGS 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!!!



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.



On May 26, we wish Tanja Helmert, our church family member, **Farewell and Godspeed!**

For this past school year, Tanja has worked along with Pastor Josh and members of the congregation as a Yale Divinity School supervised ministry intern. We all appreciate all that she has done for Christ the Good Shepherd and wish her the best.

A special coffee hour is planned following worship on May 26.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
5/5	Tanja Helmert	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Ursula Hunter
5/12	Tanja Helmert	John Napolitano	Phil & John Napolitano	Volunteer needed
5/19	Durbin Hunter	Paul Snyder	O'Brien family	Starr O'Connor
5/26	Rob Hansen	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor Paul Snyder	Deb Mason
6/2	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Rob Hansen	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Jackie Menefee

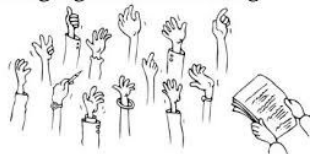
*If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please find a substitute, and let Leo, Pastor and Brenda know.
Thank you for serving!*

**COFFEE
HOUR
HOSTS**



5/5	Linda Kapitan Johnson
5/12	Sarah DeLong Linda Ibsen
5/19	Jackie Menefee Rob Hansen
5/26	Durbin & Ursula Hunter
6/2	Ken & Chuddy Watson

**Special
Congregational Meeting**



**Special
Congregational
Meeting**

Sunday, May 19

Immediately following
worship service.

Agenda: To present and
discuss a motion to
repave the entrance/exit
driveways of the parking
lot.





**Quarterly
Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, June 2

Immediately following
worship service.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please
note that newsletter articles for the June
Messenger are due May 26, 2024.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	3	4 Community Garden Workday 9-1pm
5 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	6	7 7pm- Outreach team mtg	8	9 Ascension of Our Lord	10	11
12 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Baptism of Lucia Sullivan~	13- Council 101 Zoom 7-8:30pm What does our constitution actually say		15	16 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	17	18 Vigil of Pentecost
19 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Special Congregational Mtg~	20 6pm-Council	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>The Holy Trinity</i> 9:00am Cross Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Godspeed to Tanja Helmert~ Articles due for June Messenger	27 	28	29	30	31	

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.