

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
August 2024

Vol. 4 Issue 8



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

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

Let us give thanks and praise to God that the time is coming soon for our Greater New Haven Conference of the New England Synod to observe this year's **God's work. Our Hands.** day of service! On **Sunday September 15** and leading up to it, our conference of **seven** congregations (Bethesda New Haven, Emanuel New Haven, First West Haven, Christ the Good Shepherd Hamden, Tabor Branford, Trinity New Haven, and Trinity Milford) will join with over 8,700 congregations participating in this annual ELCA day of service. Across the country, thousands of Jesus' disciples will engage in service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Please join us as we do God's work with our hands!

There are **three** opportunities this year to love and serve others as God has loved and served us in Christ, through monetary donations, collections of needed items, and hands-on service—

1) Bethesda Lutheran Church of New Haven is coordinating a conference-wide drive to collect **period products (tampons and pads)**

as well as **baby diapers** for **The Diaper Bank of CT**. They tell us: "In the book of Acts, Lydia welcomes prisoners into her home and Priscilla ministers alongside Paul. Since the birth of the church, the Holy Spirit has empowered women to lead God's work in the world. According to the Connecticut Diaper Bank, 1 in 8 women and girls in Connecticut live below the federal poverty level. And almost 60% of impoverished families struggle to afford necessities. Lack of period products results in missed opportunities at work and school. Infants require up to 12 diapers per day (\$80 per month). Without access to diapers, parents face an increased risk of postpartum stress. A shortage of supplies affects human health and inhibits the full range of what God calls women to be and do."

2) Working with **The United Way of Greater New Haven** again this year, we will be collecting items for **Welcome Home Kits** aiding area families experiencing homelessness as they transition into housing. These items will be collected by all the churches of our conference and assembled on Sunday September 15th at Trinity in New Haven. Denise Lundgren, our Outreach Chair, is hoping to assemble a full kit from our congregation, so keep your eyes peeled for flyers and announcements.

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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

PRAYER CONCERNS



- | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Ruth P. | Christel | Elfriede |
| Sue | Carl | Kathy & Jessika |
| Ruth L. | Sharon | Dustin |
| Christi | Ruth L. | Bob |
| Rebecca | | |
| Lillian & family | | |

Guidance of our New England Synod of the ELCA and for bishop-elect Nathan Piphon who takes office on August 1.

The people suffering from violence in the Mideast, Gaza, and Israel.



Team Christ the Good Shepherd consists of 16 walkers so far- walking to benefit Camp Calumet.

The total reported for July from 12 team members totals 1091 miles!!!

The month of July was challenging with record hot and humid weather but that did not stop our team from **BOOM CHICKA MOVING !!**

Keep on walking! One more month to go!

Outreach is a three-legged stool

- **Serving** those in Need
- Social **Awareness**
- Earth **Stewardship**

SERVICE



God Work Our Hands

will be celebrated in our New Haven area local churches on Sunday, September 15. Again this year, we are collecting household items for the **United Way Welcome Home Kit**. A display will be in the narthex that has all the items that are needed to complete a kit. We hope you'll consider participating in this annual event. The goal is to gather the items to complete one full kit.

Pastor Josh has created a flyer to promote the various **God's Work Our Hands** projects local Lutheran churches are participating in. It will be in a church bulletin and posted on the Outreach bulletin board. You may participate in any of the available projects being held.

Backpack Program – Food for kids to take home over the weekend Keefe Center in Hamden

In July we kicked off the new initiative to help support the Backpack Program by donating single serving shelf-stable foods, milk, and juice for young children who are from food insecure homes. These children rely on weekday meals that are provided by school. The Keefe Center distributes food to the children in Target bags (backpacks) to be consumed during the weekends.

Your donations to this program have been pouring in! We delivered 4 bags of food at the end of July.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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3) Tabor Lutheran Church of Branford will also once again be working with **The Outreach Program** to package Mac & Cheese and Rice & Bean meals that will be delivered to local food banks and pantries. Last year they packaged ~7,500 meals! They have met their initial goal of raising \$2,400, but will gladly welcome any additional donations so long as they are given by August 15th. Volunteers will work the **assembly line** on Sep 15 at 11:00 AM.

If you all are anything like me, I often ask myself: "What can I—measly nobody, miserable sinner—do to help in this age of collapse, of turmoil, change and fear?"

Martin Luther is famous for saying that if he knew the world was ending tomorrow, he would plant a tree. What does this mean? It means that hope in Christ's mercy dies not! It means that in answer to my question of despair, we must answer that our God of grace is in charge, and we are called to turn our hearts outward, toward others who need our help and our love, just as we so desperately need God's help and love.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh

Thank you! The need is great, and your donations are very appreciated.

In addition to the single-serving food options for children, we will also take donations of Target Bags.

Back to School

If you feel you would like to donate school supplies, The Community Center will take those donations as well – year-round. I've been told they have plenty of supplies currently, but if you want to contribute standard school supplies and Kleenex, you may place them in the Narthex donation box.



Council met 7/15/24.

Financials– There were five Sundays in June 2024 but operating contributions was lower than 2023. St. Pauly’s Textile Shed funds are increasing as clothing donations continue. Year-to-date total contributions are higher in 2024 than 2023. Profit & Loss statement for the period January-June shows a positive net income.

Ice Breaker– *With which Biblical character do you relate to—or a book character who inspired you.*

Pastor– There are many things happening in our church showing the Holy Spirit working among us.

Dreams & Challenges-Stewardship ideas presented. Potential projects: pollinator garden, continued work on parking lot, ADA accessibility. Leo hopes to launch Tithe.ly in September.

Congregational Care– Calls and cards continue to go out to sick, homebound and visitors. Book club

meets 9/18. Registration still open for women’s camp at Calumet.

Worship– Discussed committee meeting notes which include utilizing our many musically talented church members, installation of our new sound system and having a Hymn Sing Sunday.

Outreach– Council approved renovation of the landscape around the front and side of the church and includes designation of a pollinator garden.

Property– Work continues on the kitchen renovation. Broken door closures to be replaced. Sound system components delivered to the church.

Investment Team– Council accepted the draft Investment Policy Statement as presented.

RIC– A meeting will be scheduled before the next council meeting.

Next council meeting: 8/12/24

Congregational meeting: 9/8/24

AWARENESS

Sex Trafficking - It happens in every state and to every race, gender, and social class. All people can become vulnerable to this predator crime.



[Click here](#) to read a recent article from WSHU.org Connecticut News about how it happens in CT. What is life like after coming out of sex-trafficking? I invite you to read an article from [Psychology Today](#).

CGS Book Club

The CGS book club will be meeting on September 18 at 6:30, at Christ the Good Shepherd. We will be reading The Rose Code by Kate Quinn. If you would like to participate, please feel free to pick up a copy of the book and join us.



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.

If you have not joined us and there is a book that you would like to read and discuss, please let us know. We are always looking for reading material that challenges and intrigues us. Our reading group is open to any genre/topic.

Hope to see you there!!!

Prayers for students returning to the classrooms-

Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy. Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

We pray for new college students, that they may find the support and encouragement of a faith community, grow in their faith and discover new opportunities for service.

AWARENESS...



ANNOUNCING: On Saturday, September 14, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM we will host Detective Gillian as our speaker to discuss Sex Trafficking.

She is well versed in this social epidemic, and will educate us on what it is, how it can happen, and how to help prevent it. There will be a question-and-answer portion following her talk.

Please invite your neighbors, your family and your friends to participate in this important and relevant event. As we get closer, we'll be advertising on Facebook, and in local publications.

STEWARDSHIP

Lord's Bounty Garden

Produce is being picked by volunteers and delivered to the Hamden Community Center on a weekly basis.

Leaf lettuce, Romaine lettuce, string beans, tomatoes and lots of herbs were delivered recently. The summer squash is ripening nicely. Plenty of tomatoes are growing and will need to be picked in the days/weeks ahead. We may even have carrots big enough to pull in a few weeks.

Thank you to all those who have stepped up to help pick, weed, and deliver! This mission could not be a success without you!

STEWARDSHIP..

Pollinator Garden and Landscape Update

More and more churches and public spaces have created beautiful gardens that are beneficial to nature and our crops. Now that my eyes are open, I am spotting pollinator gardens of all sizes around and near the Hamden area.

I am pleased to announce that the council voted to move forward with the planning and estimates for refreshing the landscape in the front lawn and planting our own pollinator garden. CGS wants to continue to be good stewards of God's creation. This is one more way we can accomplish this.

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in gardening, nature, flowers, and the environment to help with planning, designing, and hopefully implementing the changes to the churches landscape and the installation of a pollinator garden. There is much work to be done, but more of it is administrative, than physical.

Skills needed - time, dedication, and willingness to help. No bending, kneeling or lifting required.

Interested, or curious? Contact Denise Lundgren to get more information.

Each of us can make a difference. [Click here](#) to learn 7 ways we can help pollinators.



“So,” you ask, “what is the real risk of getting stung around a pollinator garden?”

According to NativePlantGardener.ca., it is exceedingly low. The article states, that you are probably more likely to get stung walking down the sidewalk or opening your garden shed door than from bees in a garden. This is for a number of reasons.

The article goes on to say, “First of all, most of our native bees are solitary. Many don’t even have stingers. And when they’re busy foraging amongst the flowers, they are not paying any mind to the large mammal (the human) that is nearby. This holds true even for the bees with stingers, such as honey bees and bumble bees (only the females of these species sting, by the way). Bees normally only sting if they feel threatened or if they are accidentally (or deliberately) molested or provoked.” (source: <https://nativeplantgardener.ca/>)



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
8/4	Linda Kapitan	Cyndi Hansard	O'Brien family	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
8/11	Rob Hansen	Paul Snyder	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Connor
8/18	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Napolitano	Paul Snyder Steven Swanson	Ursula Hunter
8/25	Michael Lye	Ken Watson	Starr O'Connor John Downs	Deb Mason
9/1	Rob Hansen	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Phil & John Napolitano	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee

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

**COFFEE
HOUR
HOSTS**




8/4	Linda Kapitan
8/11	Ken & Chuddy Watson
8/18	Jackie Menefee Rob Hansen
8/25	Leo & Lisa Ball- Goodrich
9/1	Durbin & Ursula Hunter

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 8, 2024

Immediately following worship service

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the September Messenger are due 8/25.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	2	3
4 <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:00am Holy Communion *RIC team meeting after service	5	6	7 7:30pm- Zoom- executive planning	8	9	10
11 <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:00am Holy Communion *Outreach meeting after service	12 6pm- Council	13	14	15 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	16	17
18 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:00am Holy Communion	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:00am Holy Communion	26	27	28	29	30	31

Articles for September
Messenger due 8/25.

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.