

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
September 2024

Vol. 4 Issue 9



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

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

September is here and the Holy Spirit has set in motion quite a lot for our growing congregation!

For starters, as many might remember, our congregation has been selected to participate in the **Reimagining Church** program <<<https://reimaginingchurch.yale.edu/about>>> offered through the Yale Divinity School in New Haven. From their website: “The Reimagining Church Project, a Lilly Endowment funded program, invites churches to consider their present ministry, the needs for vital churches in a post-pandemic world, and the options that are before them for envisioning new directions in ministry. Each year up to ten churches from across Connecticut work with YDS students, Yale faculty, and visionary leaders.”

Our student is an ELCA Lutheran who is in the candidacy process to become a pastor and he is a third-year Masters of Divinity student at YDS. He is **Tim Bergeland!** And has already begun to facilitate our group of five-ish folks from our congregation community that will share, grow, and brainstorm together (not to mention, requesting up to \$10,000 for an experiment with one of these “new directions” of ministry at the end of the academic year).

There really are quite a lot of other ministries in motion in our congregation as well! Take a look and give thanks to God for all the beautiful things taking shape here—

- **Cross-Generation and All-Ages Bible Study begins again on Sunday Sep 8 at 9 AM!**
- Interested in prayer, forms of Christian meditation, gifts of the Spirit or spirituality in general? Get in touch with Pastor Josh as our Congregational Care Team is seeking to **form a prayer group.**
- With Detective Gill Gallagher of the Milford CT Police Department our Outreach Team has planned a very important **seminar about Sex Trafficking in CT**; how it happens and why and what we all can do to help on **Sat Sep 14 from 3-5 PM.**
- As you hopefully have heard: **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is Sunday Sep 15** (and leading up to it) our conference of **seven** congregations 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.

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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 N.	Dustin
Christi	Tina	Bob
Rebecca	Ed & Carol	Randy & Karen
Lillian, Jeanette & family	Family of Sylvia W.	Alyssa
Pat	Gerry	Anita V.
Paul	Florence	Elinor
Mike	Sharon	

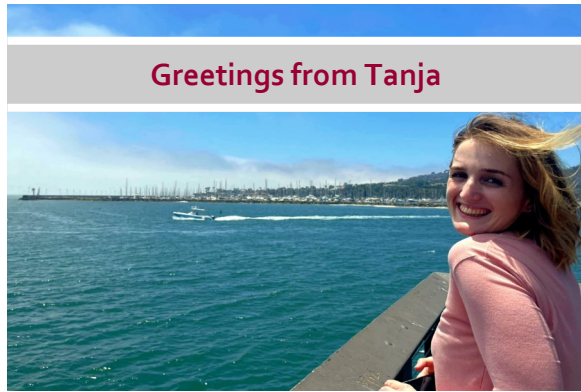
PASTOR’S MESSAGE
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Please join us as we do God’s work with our hands!

- **Reconciling in Christ**—our journey toward becoming an inclusive and affirming community—continues with a dinner-time conversation about the racial equity and antiracism components of this faithful commitment on **Thur Sep 19 at 5:30 PM.**
- Our Worship Team—along with our choir, congregational musicians, and Caroline Henry—has begun to plan some strategic and exciting **changes to our anthems and hymnody in worship**—just wait and see!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh



Dear friends from Christ the Good Shepherd,

It's been a few weeks since I left for California, and it feels like an eternity to me. I miss you all very much! Life is so different on this side of the country, and I almost had a culture shock the first couple of days. Fortunately, I didn't have much time to contemplate my life changes, as I only had one week of "free time" before I started my new job at a non-profit organization.

My work involves helping people living in vehicle encampments in Santa Barbara County find permanent housing. This issue is particularly significant in California due to our high rates of homelessness. While there have been efforts to address this problem, especially in major cities, these attempts have often resulted in merely relocating people rather than providing lasting solutions. I've come to understand that housing insecurity typically stems from a combination of personal circumstances and broader societal issues. Many individuals I've met lost their homes due to factors like increasing rents, job loss, or personal hardships. Finding stable housing is further complicated by a lack of affordable options, high living costs, and limited public transportation. These challenges create significant obstacles for those trying to secure a stable living situation.

Even though my current work is not situated within the church, I believe that ministry works in all kinds of settings. As we are all members of a common Christian priesthood, we fulfill our own vocations in the world and extend the grace of Christ to the people within our community. I'm not yet sure what my ministry in the future will look like, but I'm grateful that I get to spend my time supporting people who are often forgotten and unwanted by society.

Apart from the many challenges that California faces, I understand why so many people still want to live here. The weather is very agreeable, and with both ocean and mountains so close, there are plenty of things to do. I've tentatively picked up surfing, and I hope to keep you updated on how that goes!

On a personal note, I have some exciting news to share: Patrick and I have decided to get married on September 13th. It will be a very small ceremony at the courthouse, with just family and a few close friends. I wish the timing had been such that we could have celebrated in Connecticut – I would have loved celebrating this special day at Christ the Good Shepherd.

That leads me to my final point: I really, really miss all of you! I already knew that CGS is a special community while I was still in CT, but now that I'm so far away, I realize how hard it will be to find a church where the Spirit is moving as tangibly as at CGS, and where the people are as welcoming and warm-hearted as you all were when I came to the church. It will be difficult to find a church where the pastor is as energetic and young in spirit, and as thought-provoking and wise in their teaching as Pastor Josh.

I am very grateful to have experienced the life of a church so filled with God. And I am grateful to remain a member of CGS, even if it is from a distance.

Many blessings from the West Coast,
Tanja



Building an Inclusive Church – Dinner & Discussion Part 2: Racial Equity & Antiracism

As we move closer toward our goal of becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, the RIC team invites you to join us for another dinner and discussion!

Together we are striving to deepen and expand our ability to welcome, support, and empower everyone whom we encounter, at church and outside it. To that end, please join us on Thursday September 19th at 5:30 pm when we will learn more about both racial equity and antiracism as we journey towards RIC.

RSVP to Cyndi Hansard or Pastor Josh. If you prefer to attend via Zoom, let us know, and we will send you the link.



Church Council



Council held their monthly meeting on August 12.

Opening topic was about endings and beginnings – new school year, change of seasons, church merger, new members.

Financials– We are close to meeting our Synod Mission pledge. Total of all contributions were lower in July 2024 compared to 2023 but higher year-to-date. Many line items seem to be on budget. Investment information was not available for this meeting.

Pastor– Pastor will be on vacation 8/26-9/1. A working group has been formed for Reimagining Church– Ken Watson, Damar Pringle, Jonathan Goodrich, Denise Lundgren and Starr O'Connor. The first event is 8/27 from 5-8pm. **CGS has been invited to a joint church picnic with Grace & St. John's on Sunday, 9/29, 11am at Killam's Point Park in Branford. There will be no church service at 600 Shepard Avenue that Sunday.**

Outreach– Council discussed the steps involved to become a Creation-Care Congregation.

CGS BOOK CLUB

The CGS book club will be meeting on September 18 at 6:30pm, 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!!!

Council approved pursuing becoming a Creation-Caring Congregation. The Sex-Trafficking seminar will be held Saturday, 9/14 from 3-5pm.

Congregational Care– Cross-Generation classes resume 9/8 at 9am.

Property– Quotes will be secured for a new cleaning service. The three exterior crosses will be painted white. Our annual electricity costs will be monitored to use the most cost-efficient supplier each year.

Worship– Average attendance for the period 7/2-8/11: 42 with a total of eight on Facebook Live. Worship committee meeting 8/25 following worship service.

Other business– RIC: Hosting a second Dinner & Discussion event on 9/19 at 5:30pm. Focus will be on racial equity and antiracism.

Goodrich family hosting a post wedding party for David & Colleen on Sunday, 10/27 after worship with an open invitation to the congregation.

Congregational meeting: 9/8/24

Next council meeting: 9/23/24

Our Outreach is a three-legged stool

- **Service to Others**
- **Social Awareness**
- **Earth Stewardship**



Service to Others

Keefe Community Center Food Bank

Due to your generosity and caring, in mid-August, Outreach volunteers delivered four bags of food to be used for the backpack program (food for low income children to use over the weekend), AND an additional four bags of non-perishable food, plus some diapers, and hygiene products! It is all appreciated and needed!

Our Lord's Bounty garden continues to provide fresh food and herbs for the Keefe Center. A BIG thank-you goes out to Jackie Menefee and Rod Rinell for the extra help with delivering the food.

♥ **God's Work, Our Hand's donations are pouring in.** The deadline to contribute to this year's God's Work Our Hand's initiative is approaching.

We are gathering donations for the United Way Welcome Home Kits. In our narthex you will find paper hands hanging from a clothesline that list products needed for a Kit.

Bethesda Lutheran Church of New Haven is collecting period products (tampons and pads) as well as baby diapers for the Diaper Bank of CT.

All donations can be placed in the baskets in the narthex. Please bring them in no later than September 15th.

On Sunday, September 15th volunteers will gather at Trinity in New Haven to assemble the Welcome Home Kits, or you can join Tabor Lutheran Church in Branford to assemble packaged meals for local food banks and pantries. A sign up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the hall.

Social Awareness

Have you noticed the Ronald McDonald pop tabs jar is nearly empty? That's because Dawn Tiedemann emptied the very full container at the Ronald McDonald house! Your donations of pop tabs are recycled. The proceeds goes toward helping to care for families while their critically ill children are undergoing treatment. Let's keep Pulling Together!

Mark your calendar- Learn about the epidemic of Sex Trafficking
 **Saturday, September 14 from 3:00- 5:00 PM**

we are hosting Detective Gill Gallagher from the Milford Police. The discussion will cover what sex trafficking is, where it happens, how it happens, why victims find it difficult to escape, how the police get involved, and warning signs that someone might be trafficked and what you can do.

Following this, on Saturday, October 12th from 3:00-5:00, a speaker from the Salvation Army Bloom Initiative will hold a discussion about the Road to Recovery - Life after being Trafficked. Donations of new sneakers, travel sized personal wipes, women's underwear, and gently used winter coats are being collected for trafficked women.

We hope you will come to one or both of these important and informative discussions, and bring a friend.

Earth Stewardship

The ELCA website states: *Caring for God's creation is an ever evolving topic in this world, especially with each new natural or human-made disaster. As stewards of this world, we are called to examine our behaviors toward creation. While we need to take from the land for food and sustainability, we also need to be careful that we maintain good stewardship and do not exploit the wonderful things the earth provides.*

The environment continues to be a focus of ELCA teachings and the church's advocacy work. There are many resources to help discern, learn and act on the different aspects of caring for creation. To see all
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OUTREACH.. Continued from page 5

the ways the ECLA is involved in being good stewards of creation, click [here](https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/CreationCareNetwork) [https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/CreationCareNetwork]

Christ the Good Shepherd is actively engaged in protecting and respecting creation. We grow a vegetable and herb garden, we are planning on installing a pollinator garden, and the council has just given us their blessing to join the Lutherans Restoring Creation movement. <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org>

This is an exciting opportunity for our congregation to grow our awareness and protection of Earth's resources. Stay tuned for more on this initiative in the coming months.



Congratulations walkers on Team Christ the Good Shepherd!

So far you have walked a distance equivalent to two round trips to Camp Calumet and back! WOW!!

Cumulative totals for July and August were not ready when the September Messenger went to print but watch for results in the October edition.



Produce picked 8/25/24.



The Lord's Bounty community garden continues to grow, bearing fruit – and vegetables!

As of August 25, the garden has yielded 53 pounds of produce – all of which has been donated to the Hamden Food Bank. In addition to tomatoes, we've also harvested carrots, cucumbers, and cantaloupes! The herb bed has also yielded basil, lemon balm, and some dill.

Thanks to all of those who have helped and supported this important ministry!



Garden photos taken 8/17/24



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
9/1	Rob Hansen	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Downs Durbin Hunter	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
9/8	Linda Kapitan	Cyndi Hansard	Phil & John Napolitano	Starr O'Connor
9/15	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Denise Lundgren	Paul Snyder Ken Watson	Ursula Hunter
9/22	Durbin Hunter	Paul Snyder	John Downs Steve Swanson	Starr O'Connor
9/29	Service and potluck with G&SJ's at Killam's Point Park	Anna Hansard Rob Hansen Durbin Hunter	~	~
10/6/24	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ken Watson	O'Brien family	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**





9/1	Durbin & Ursula Hunter
9/8	Linda Kapitan
9/15	O'Brien family
9/22	Sarah DeLong Linda Ibsen
9/29	Potluck Picnic
10/6	Cyndi & Anna Hansard

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 8, 2024

Immediately following worship service

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the October Messenger are due 9/22/24.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am Holy Communion	2 	3	4	5 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	6	7 Girl Scouts Car Wash 10-2pm
8 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Congregational Meeting~	9	10 7pm- Outreach committee meeting	11	12	13	14 Sex Trafficking Talk 3-5pm
15 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~God's Work. Our Hands.~	16	17	18 6:30pm- CGS Book Club 7:30pm- Zoom- executive planning	19 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch 5:30pm- RIC Dinner & Discussion	20	21
22 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Articles for October Messenger due.	23 6pm- Council mtg	24	25	26	27	28 Girl Scouts Tag Sale 9-3pm
29 19th Sunday after Pentecost <u>11:00am Worship with Grace & St. John's Episcopal at Killam's Point, Branford. Potluck to follow.</u>	30					

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.



SAVE THE DATE!

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS PARTY
FOR DAVID AND COLLEEN**

Leo Goodrich and Lisa Ball-Goodrich cordially invite all congregation members and their families and friends to:

A Luncheon and Party to Celebrate the Marriage of their son David to Colleen King

Date: Sunday October 27, 2024

Start Time: Immediately following the worship service (in place of coffee hour)

End Time: When the last person leaves!

Where: In Sanderson fellowship hall, and the church backyard (weather permitting)

Activities will possibly include: Musical performances, karaoke, open microphone time (any amateur comedians out there?), trivia competition, outdoor games, and more!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

