

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
October 2024

Vol. 4 Issue 10



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

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

“The witness of this church in society flows from its identity as a community that lives from and for the Gospel. Faith is active in love; love calls for justice in the relationships and structures of society. It is in grateful response to God’s grace in Jesus Christ that this church carries out its responsibility for the well-being of society and the environment.” — ELCA social statement *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, pp. 1-2.

Election season is upon us. Our nation is as divided as ever. What is the Church of Christ to do?

Well, as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt religious organization, we are barred from endorsing candidates for public office. However, we are not totally voice-less. We are NOT barred from hosting public forums, candidate debates (providing all candidates are invited), talking about issues, bills and referendi. Our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, if you didn’t already know it, has a robust public policy office in Washington, D.C. where they engage in many of the above stated kinds of non-partisan advocacy.

The public policies that the ELCA advocates for is always informed by our “social statements,” which are documents that have been passed as approved church teachings by a two-thirds majority of our national gathering of lay and ordained people called the Churchwide Assembly, in addition to “social messages” which are shorter documents that have been passed by a majority of the Churchwide Council. For example:

“God who ‘executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry’ (Psalm 146:7) is revealed in Jesus, whose mission was ‘to bring good news to the poor ... release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor’ (Luke 4: 18-19).” — ELCA social statement *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, p. 2

“We also advocate an earthly peace that provides security from violence and aggression, seeks just order in place of tyranny or anarchy, checks unrestrained power, and defends and enhances the life of people who are poor and powerless.” — ELCA social statement *For Peace in God’s World*, p. 7

“[A]s people of biblical faith, who live together in trust and hope, our primary motivation is the call to be God’s caregivers and to do justice.” — ELCA social statement *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*, p. 8

(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**

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

PRAYER CONCERNS



Ruth P.—Christel—Elfriede—Sue—Carl—Ruth L.—
Lillian, Jeanette & family—Kathy & Jessica—Sharon N.
—Rebecca—Dustin—Bob—Damar & Chris—Joshua P.
—Nicole—Robin—Ed & Carol—Randy & Karen—
Alyssa—Pat—Gerry—Anita—Paul—Florence—
Elinor—Mike—Sharon
Pray for end of violence and strife in the Mideast
Pray for those affected by Hurricane Helene

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

“Some people object to the church involving itself in matters related to government, in ‘politics.’ Taking partisan stances is not the church’s role, but ‘politics’ has to do with negotiating how the benefits and burdens of living in a society are shared.” — ELCA social message “Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy,” p. 2.

In our nation we have been blessed with a representative democracy, and as Lutherans we believe our government—deeply flawed though it may be—nevertheless is a gift from God, allowing human beings to do and accomplish so much more than they ever could simply as individuals.

So, let us all pray for our democracy in the days and months ahead. Let us pray for our all neighbors and those whom we deem our enemies and political opponents. Let us pray especially for all those for whom all elections and policies matter most, those for whom our Lord Jesus Christ’s concern in the gospels was so clearly focused: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.” (Luke 6:20-21).

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh

GODS WORK.OUR HANDS SUNDAY WAS AGAIN A SUCCESS THIS YEAR!

Disciples from all seven churches of the Greater New Haven, CT Conference of the New England Synod of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have been collecting, packing, organizing all throughout August and September, with their service work culminating on Sunday, September 15. Through the youth of Bethesda New Haven, the conference collected period products and diapers for the The Diaper Bank of Connecticut. With the help of Trinity Lutheran Church and United Way of Greater New Haven all the churches of the conference collected home goods for "Welcome Home Kits" that will give formerly un-housed people a warm "welcome" to their new homes. And over at Tabor Lutheran Church, with the help of the The Outreach Program, their faithful packaged thousands of meals that will be distributed in the Greater NH area.

May all the glory be given to God!



CGSL Book Club

As posted on Goodreads---

It started in 1845 and before it was over more than one million men, women, and children would die and another two million would flee the country. Measured in terms of mortality, the Great Irish Potato Famine was the worst disaster in the nineteenth century--it claimed twice as many lives as the American Civil War. A perfect storm of bacterial infection, political greed, and religious intolerance sparked this catastrophe. But even more extraordinary than its scope were its political underpinnings, and *The Graves Are Walking* provides fresh material and analysis on the role that Britain's nation-building policies played in exacerbating the devastation by attempting to use the famine to reshape Irish society and character. Religious dogma, anti-relief sentiment, and racial and political ideology combined to result in an almost inconceivable disaster of human suffering.

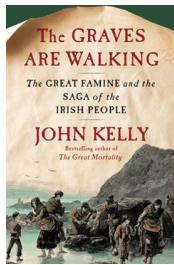
This is ultimately a story of triumph over perceived destiny: for fifty million Americans of Irish heritage, the saga of a broken people fleeing crushing starvation and remaking themselves in a new land is an inspiring story of revival.

The CGS book club will be meeting on December 4 at 6:30 at Christ the Good Shepherd. We will also be having a holiday celebration potluck. Please bring some goodies and join us for wonderful conversation.

Hope to see you there!!!

FIRST AID

There are first aid products located in the kitchen, in a lower cabinet on the left side. There is a label on the door. It's located there so that there is access for the various groups who use our facility. It's a collection of 4 kits, so if you can't find what you need in the first kit, look further.



Council met 9/23.

Rob led opening devotion-- talked of the inception of the community garden. From an idea of a garden ministry to a task force giving of their time and talents constructing, planting, nurturing and naming the garden to producing approximately 150-160 lbs. of fresh produce for the Keefe Community Center.

Financials-- Lisa reported current contributions and year-to-date totals are higher than 2023 and people are beginning to use Tithely to send in contributions. Motion accepted to designate a \$2,000 S. Wakefield memorial donation evenly between the Good Samaritan fund and Capital Improvement for outdoor improvements. Ruth reported financial data was not received in time to compile the August reports. Council will review them at the October meeting.

Pastor-- Reimagining team meets with Tim Bergeland 9/24. Pastor encouraged the various teams to meet periodically to discuss ideas being presented. Confirmation, in collaboration with Trinity New Haven, has begun again.

Outreach-- Team has been very busy-- garden work day scheduled for 10/12; interior directory signs are going up; Road to Recovery talk presented by Salvation Army Bloom initiative scheduled for Saturday, 10/12 from 3-5pm at CGSL.

Worship-- Average attendance 8/18-9/22: 42. Team met 8/25.

Property-- Motion approved to increase rent on parish house by \$100/month. (Last increase was in 2017.) Sound system is operational. The two story cross outside the sanctuary was painted by Cathy Cahn, Pastor and Damar. Underground water line to garden finished, thanks to Ken, Leo, Damar and Branch family.

RIC-- Next meeting is 9/30 at 2pm. Purpose is to draft our church's welcome statement-- to be presented to council and then the congregation.

Investment Committee-- (Report given at 9/8 congregational meeting) Third quarter meeting coming up. An Investment Continuing Resolution was drafted over the summer.

Old business-- Information on AED System Package was distributed for council to review. NARCAN is currently stored in the workroom.

Next council meeting-- 10/21 at 6pm.

Property Work

On the Labor Day holiday, volunteers worked to clean and paint the exterior cross white. Thomas Knoob picked up the rented trailer and lift for the job. Cathy Cahn, Pastor Josh, Leo and Damar and others gathered to began painting. Below are photos of the scope of the work. Pastor Josh can be seen finishing the top part of the cross.



Thank you everyone for your time and talents!



On Thursday September 19 we hosted our second RIC dinner and discussion, this time with a focus on racial equity and antiracism. Thanks to Pastor Josh's leadership, attendees learned a lot and gained a better understanding of how we can support and welcome people of color.

On Monday September 30th the RIC team met to draft our church's welcome statement which is a crucial step in our journey to becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. This welcome statement will be presented for approval at the October council meeting, and we expect to present it in its finished form at our December congregational meeting.

We at Christ the Good Shepherd are always working to improve our hospitality and ensure that we are an inclusive and welcoming church. Thank you to everyone for your interest and participation in our journey to becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Killam's Point Conference Center Service and Potluck Picnic September 29, 2024

Christ the Good Shepherd was invited to join in worship and a potluck picnic with Grace & St. John's on 9/29. The inclement weather kept the worship service indoors but the weather improved and people gathered outdoors to enjoy the good food and fellowship!



Pastor Josh preached & presided. Rev. Bergner, Deb Mason and The Ramblers provided the music.



POST 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 Recent 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!

Lutheran Disaster Response to Hurricane Helene victims

*"God is our refuge and strength."
— Psalm 46:1*

(Excerpts from email)

Lutheran Disaster Response has strong relationships in the region and is already at work on the ground. Working alongside synods and other partners, Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to expand to all impacted areas. We anticipate that our greatest impact will be reaching those in underserved and rural areas.

A storm may be over quickly, but its impact lingers. Lutheran Disaster Response stays until the work is done — even when it takes weeks, months or years, and the storm has faded from the headlines. **When you give to Lutheran Disaster Response, you provide crucial support and the flexibility to go where help is needed most.**

Find information and resources about Lutheran Disaster Response's hurricane relief here.

Service

God's Work Our Hands was a huge success due to the generosity of your time and donations! Thank you! Pastor Josh blessed our donations during the service on September 15th.



With the combined help of the other churches in the conference, the United Way will be able to provide a sweet homecoming to people coming out of a shelter into their new apartment. ❤️

Our Outreach is a three-legged stool

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

Hamden Food Bank - Donations of low-salt, low-sugar, low-fat foods for the Hamden food bank, and single serving, no-fuss meals, packaged fruit, and self-stable milk for the young children's Backpack program will continue to be gathered each Sunday. We delivered **7 bags of food** in September!

The Lord's Bounty Garden is winding up for the year. And what a year we've had. Over 150 pounds of produce has been delivered to the food pantry at the Keefe Community Center!

A clean-up day is coming soon - TBD. We will work at pulling out the old vegetation and doing various clean-up activities. An announcement will be made during service. Please sign up on the sheet in the hall.



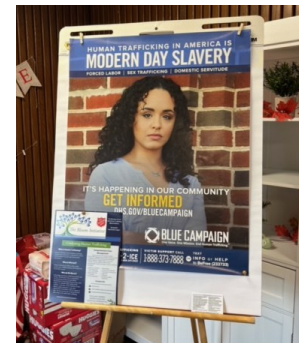
In late October and November, we will be collecting Thanksgiving meal items for specific families living in New Reach facilities. More on this soon!

New Reach is an organization offering Eviction Prevention, Crisis Services, and Housing. The 2022 annual report can be downloaded by clicking this [link](#)

Awareness

On September 14th, the first of two Sex Trafficking discussions were held. Detective Gillian Gallagher shared her experience and expertise and answered all our questions. We learned about what it is, the way people can get groomed and trapped into being a slave and how difficult it is to bring people out of this slavery.

On Saturday, October 12, from 3-5:00, we will learn what comes next for those trying to break free of Sex-trafficking. It's a long, up and down road. Our speaker will be Susan from the Bloom Initiative. We hope you'll come and bring a friend. There is a lot we can learn.



The Salvation Army's Bloom Initiative works with survivors of sex and/or labor trafficking, male or female, ages 16 and up, who reside in the following towns: Hartford, East Hartford, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Newington, Bloomfield, and Windsor. The mission statement of The Bloom Initiative is to work alongside survivors of human trafficking on their journey from exploitation to empowerment. Source: <https://portal.ct.gov/>



Cleaning out your clothes closets? Donations of clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, comforters and towels can be put in the St. Pauly Shed. *No pillows, glass, kitchen items, furniture, or electronics please. All items should be in a tied plastic bag.*

Funds received from St. Pauly's shed go to support Outreach projects.



The NEW INTERIOR SIGNS are going up!

Lynn Swanson and Denise Lundgren washed all the interior doors in preparation and starting to install them. Keep looking for more signs to appear on doors in the next couple of weeks!



Earth Stewardship

Caring for Creation - Pollinator Garden and Earth-friendly Revitalization of the Front Landscape

A sub-committee that will work on the project has been created. The members so far are Steve Swanson, Jake Solomon, Dawn Tiedemann, and Denise Lundgren (me). In addition, Sarah DeLong and Jackie Menefee have shown their interest by contacting local resources that can bring ideas and resources to the project!

The landscape will be made up of earth-friendly, native flowers, shrubs and trees that support and nurture birds, bees and butterflies, while providing beauty and shade.

What will the team do?

Determine the design by working with professionals, getting quotes, submitting grants and seeing the project through to completion – hopefully to be completed by the fall of 2025

How can you help?

- √ Donations to the project can be made by adding a memo to your check and/or envelope.
- √ Sharing your experience if you've been involved in the major redo of landscape
- √ Being part of the sub-committee and discussions

If you are interested in being involved, contact Denise.

ELCA Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide presents this prayer-

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to God the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you.

Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you.

All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home,

and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
10/6	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	O'Brien family	Deb Mason Jackie Menefee
10/13	Durbin Hunter	Denise Lundgren	John Downs Paul Snyder	Ursula Hunter
10/20	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Durbin Hunter	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Connor
10/27	Rob Hansen	Paul Snyder	Starr O'Connor Steve Swanson	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
11/3	Linda Kapitan	John Napolitano	Phil & John Napolitano	Starr O'Connor

*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**



10/6	Dorothy Podgwaite
10/13	Jackie Menefee Rob Hansen
10/20	O'Brien family
10/27	Leo & Lisa Ball-Goodrich
11/3	Linda Kapitan

BOOM CHICKA MOVE!


Congratulations walkers on Team Christ the Good Shepherd!



The results are in! 17 people on Team CGSL walked 2,040 miles during the months of July & August!

That equates to traveling from church to Calumet over six times!!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the November issue are due 10/27.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	4	5
6 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Baptism	7	8	9	10	11	12 Garden workday Road to Recovery discussion 3-5pm
13 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	14	15 ELCA World Food Day	16	17 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	18	19
20 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	21 6pm- Council meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Goodrich post-wedding celebration coffee hour	28	29	30	31 		

Articles for November Messenger due.

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.