

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
November 2024

Vol. 4 Issue 11



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

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

I have found myself in a strange predicament as I prepare to write my message for this month's newsletter. There seems to be both so much to say, and yet nothing at all.

As you read this issue of "The Messenger" Election Day will likely be upon us, or will have just passed. And I implore you all to pray. Pray for our nation, pray for your neighbors. Because, as author and spiritual leader Valarie Kaur has written, "...as much as we must fight for our convictions and stand for what is just, remember that all those people who vote against you are not disappearing after Election Day or Inauguration Day. We have to find a way to live together still."

So, how do we "live together still" in the Greater New Haven area at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church?

Part of what our congregation has done and will always continue to do is serve and give. Our Outreach Team is collecting turkeys and Thanksgiving fixins' for our long-time community partners at the food pantry in the Keefe Community Center of Hamden again this year. We will be collecting Christmas gifts for families who are served by New Reach (an organization that "inspires independence for all

people affected by homelessness and poverty through a continuum of housing and support using the most innovative, progressive, equitable and inclusive methods," according to their website.) And we are beginning to gather a team of people to help prepare meals at Dinner for Dollar, hosted by Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church.

The other ways that we will "live together still" are unfolding, but the seeds, I think, have already been planted in our little, merged community. Who would have thought Christ Lutheran and Good Shepherd could ever have successfully come together in Hamden, knowing how starkly different they were? ("For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." -Mk 10:17) Here, we hold so many views all along the political spectrum, some of us are indeed poor, while some are rich. We embody a multitude of racial identities, sexual orientations and gender identities. Here, these diversities are not hypothetical. They are real here, we are complex.

At Christ the Good Shepherd at least, the way we can "live together still" is by confessing Christ and Christ crucified; by gathering together to hear God's Word and experience God's grace in the Sacraments. What comes in the days and years ahead for our culture, I do not pretend to know. Let us together pray for an end to violence, for peace, for justice done, for prisoners set free, for good news proclaimed to the poor, just as both Isaiah and Jesus have prayed. I share a prayer

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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
Rebecca	Bob	Mary Lou
Joshua P.	Nicole	Robin
Ed & Carol	Randy & Karen	Pat
Gerry	Anita V.	Paul
Elinor	Mike	

Family of Pastor Paul Krampitz and Bethany
Lutheran Church

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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taken from our hymnal for your use at home:

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In times of danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Yours always in Christ,

Pastor Josh



Council met 10/21.

In September 2023, the people of Christ the Good Shepherd began the **Reconciling in Christ (RIC)** process. Since then, we have engaged in many conversations and learning opportunities as we strive to let everyone know that we are a safe and welcoming church for **all** people, regardless of who they are, who they love, or what their identity is.

In order to receive the RIC designation, there are some specific things we must do:

- create a welcome statement for our church that specifically welcomes LGBTQIA+ people AND names our commitment to racial equity or anti-racism,
- commit to being open to call a pastor who is LGBTQIA+ and/or a person of color,
- allow our sanctuary and community space to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings,
- make a meaningful contribution each year to support the national RIC program.

We encourage everyone to attend our annual meeting on Sunday December 8th to show your support for our readiness to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Between now and then, if you have any questions about RIC, please contact Pastor Josh or Cyndi Hansard.

Here is our new welcome statement that was written by our RIC team and approved by our church council in October 2024:

At Christ the Good Shepherd, we celebrate that all people are uniquely and wonderfully made in God's image. We respect the dignity and worth of all. Following Christ's example, we welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are: people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions; people of all ages and abilities; people of all races and cultural backgrounds. We strive to embrace the diversity of our community in the Greater New Haven area, and we commit to work toward both gender justice and racial equity through the ministries of our church.

Pastor led the opening discussing an excerpt from the book, *Ethics* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Financials– Lisa reported our Synod mission pledge has been reached. A motion was approved to apply the 10% from undesignated offerings to operating contributions instead of Synod pledge until the end of the year. More people are using Tithe.ly to send their church contributions. Income from St. Pauly's Shed is increasing, showing the care of many donating to the church. Total operating contributions are \$5659 higher in 2024 in comparison to 2023. Ruth reported the Good Samaritan fund is in the positive. Most line items are close to the 2024 projected budget.

Pastor– Pastor related the ministry that Linda Ibsen started– Coffee Klatsch– has been ongoing now for two years.

RIC– The proposed welcome statement was read and approved by council. It will be presented to the congregation on 12/8

Property– The Goodrich family is renting Sanderson Hall 11/16 for an engagement party for Jonathan & Skylar. The kitchen stove hood vent completed, the new sound system has a few issues to resolve and the waterline to the garden almost complete.

Outreach– CGS will be collecting turkey's, etc., for the Keefe Center, planning in the works for a pollinator garden and will participate in a Gift-A-Family program in December.

Worship– Average attendance: 53

Investments– Account is up over 7%.

New business– Motion approved to accept as members of CGS, Damar Pringle and Chris Branch.

Next council meeting: 11/18.

Congregational meeting: 12/8.

Day of Thanksgiving-
Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



BAPTISM- October 13, 2024 CGS celebrated the baptism of Jonalise Jasmine Vivian Lin Branch. Pictured are Jonalise with her mother, Nala Branch and father , Robert Lin.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

In 2025, CGS would like to acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries in our newsletter, *The Messenger*, so we can rejoice with you on your special day.

An email from the church account will be sent to members to whom that information is missing. A telephone call will be placed to those without email. The email will state that we are only asking for the month & date of your birthday.



Thank you!

CGSL Book Club

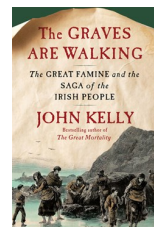
The CGS book club will be meeting December 4, 6:30pm at Christ the Good Shepherd to discuss *The Graves are Walking*. We will also be having a holiday celebration potluck. Please bring some goodies and join us for wonderful conversation.

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Kudos to the choir led by Caroline Henry and Rob Hansen for their impressive rendition of A Mighty Fortress is Our God on Reformation Sunday. Your

voices were heavenly! I happened to be standing near David Goodrich's new bride, Colleen, who turned to her husband and mouthed "WOW!" during the presentation. We all agree! Looking forward to our musical future.



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.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday December 8, 2024

Agenda items to vote upon:

- * 2025 Council Slate
- * 2025 Budget
- * RIC Welcome Statement

Council chairpersons will give brief updates as well.

AWARENESS:

Homelessness has been increasing in CT over the past 10 years. The following issues play a major role in the growing numbers.

- Domestic abuse
- Mental health
- Drug abuse



Spotlight on the Work Being done by
The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army offers a multi-faceted approach to help those who are homeless, addicted, trafficked, and hungry

Homelessness - Shelter guests are provided with comprehensive services, including: emergency housing, nutritious meals, case management, and assistance with job searches. Shelter staff work to help guests in securing an income, applying for benefits, applying for assistance for first month's rent or a security deposit, as well as finding suitable accommodation that will allow guests to transition back into the community successfully.

Combat Addiction - Every single day, men and women learn to abandon their substance reliance through work therapy, individual and group counseling sessions, life skills development and spiritual guidance at our Adult Rehabilitation Centers.

Build Work and Social Skills - The physical and spiritual components of the program equip members to provide for themselves and others as they set and maintain sustainable employment goals. Salvation Army Stores were started more than 100 years ago as a way to provide work experience for the men, and now women, in our rehabilitation programs. These same stores also raise the funds that make it possible for the program to be offered free of charge to participants.



*We can provide support by taking donations and shopping at our local Salvation Army Thrift Store:
1359 Dixwell Ave, Hamden*



Human Trafficking is the illegal sale of human beings using force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation and/or forced labor.

The Salvation Army's dedication to offering care, support, and hope to those caught up in trafficking, and associated drug addiction was made abundantly clear after listening to Susan Noviello, the Anti-Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, on October 12. The discussions held in October on Sex Trafficking brought us a new awareness into the dire circumstances of the victims, and the immensity of the issue here in Connecticut.

Specialized Case Management: To meet survivors' needs, a long-term, individualized, three-phase case management program has been developed where the survivor meets one-on-one with a Survivor Support Specialist who works in collaboration with local community agencies that assist us in supporting survivors. Through the three phases, Strengthen, Heal, and Revitalize.

Food, Clothing, Shelter, and Financial Assistance are available for survivors to ease their journey and support their path to self-sufficiency. Financial assistance can include rent, utilities, medical/dental expenses, transportation, education, job training, and other expenses vital to meeting a survivor's needs.

Community Training and Education: Program staff coordinate community outreach efforts which consist of developing partnerships with law enforcement, other social service agencies, and community resources, and educating the community on human trafficking and the barriers that survivors face.

Street Outreach: An outreach team that consists of support specialists and trained volunteers who carry out routine street outreaches for the purpose of identifying victims of trafficking to provide hope, information, and services to those still in the grips of trafficking.

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Due to many generous donations, we were able to provide **The Salvation Army** with a large box filled with much needed items for the Bloom Initiative Street Outreach.

Please continue to support **The Bloom Initiative**. Consider leaving donations of gently-used shoes and coats and new undergarments in the Narthex for the Salvation Army.

OUTREACH



This year, as in years past we will be bringing Thanksgiving food items to the Keefe Center Food Bank in Hamden.

They are looking for turkeys of all sizes, potatoes, canned vegetables, yams/sweet potatoes, stuffing/dressing, and gravy, cornmeal muffin mix.

Consider donating aluminum roasting pans as well, and thanksgiving napkins for a special touch. Leave all donations in the Narthex. The outreach team will get the item delivered.

24 Please note, the deadline for donations is Sunday, November 24

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. (ELCA website)

Our Outreach is a three-legged stool

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



We continue to build a partnership with this New Haven organization. New Reach offers assistance to those facing homelessness by offering eviction prevention, crisis services, and housing. For more information, click [here](#).

This year we are participating in *Gift-A-Family* 🎁

We hope to provide Christmas gifts to three families of 3 children each that are being assisted through the New Reach program.

You may select a ‘gift tag’ that lists a desired gift from a display in the Narthex – look for the display coming soon!

Our gifts to the children will be taken to New Reach in New Haven between November 25 and December 13th.

New Reach offers this word of thanks - Your willingness to make a difference in someone's life during this holiday season is truly commendable. Your participation in Gift-A-Family is a testament to the spirit of giving and community support, and we are honored to have you as part of our initiative.



Go **tail** it on
the mountain.



Additionally, this year there is an opportunity to help ELCA World Hunger/ Good gifts through the purchase of **God's Global Barnyard**

– goats, pigs, chickens, and honeybees.

Monetary donations for the Barnyard animal of your choice can be placed in the collection basket or dropped in a drop box that will be placed in the Narthex. More information will be posted in the Narthex soon!

ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you.

A VERY full large jar of pop top tabs was taken to the Ronald McDonald House by Dawn T. Thank you for participating in this project to help families who have children with serious health conditions. The Ronald McDonald house works with a local recycler to turn those tabs into money.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) teaches that God created all life and that humans are responsible for caring for creation as stewards of the world. Plans are moving forward for the refreshing of the front yard landscape which will include a pollinator garden.



The church council has authorized the removal of the overgrown hedges and trees in the front of the church. This will be replaced with a variety of native, eco-friendly plantings and small trees. Additionally, to one side of the yard, a pollinator and butterfly garden will be planted. Over time, we hope to make the garden a peaceful place for contemplation and enjoyment for the community at large.

Projects the team will be working on this winter:

- ◆ Gathering quotes for the removal of the old landscape in early spring.
- ◆ Applying for grants.
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Selecting plants that are organically grown and will provide color and sustenance, and some shade from spring till fall.

Donations to this project are welcomed and appreciated.

The Outreach team will meet at 7:00 pm on November 12. All are welcome.

SERVICE

The outreach team is working on plans to participate in serving meals occasionally on Friday's **Dinner for a Dollar** held at Grace and St. Johns.

Possibly interested in helping?

Contact Denise Lundgren.

Meet the newlyweds— David & Colleen Goodrich!

Sunday, October 26, Leo and Lisa hosted a post-wedding celebration for their son and daughter-in-law. The special coffee hour was enjoyed by all and was a wonderful opportunity to offer congratulations.



Colleen & David Goodrich



Goodrich family— Leo, Lisa, Colleen, David, Jonathan & his fiancée, Skylar



Pastor leading in prayer.

Everyone enjoying the fellowship and good food!



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
11/3	Linda Kapitan	John Napolitano	Phil & John Napolitano	Ursula Hunter
11/10	Rob Hansen	Paul Snyder	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Connor
11/17	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Dan Smolnik	Paul Snyder Ken Watson	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
11/24	Durbin Hunter	Rob Hansen	Starr O'Connor Phil Napolitano	Starr O'Connor
12/1	Rob Hansen	Denise Lundgren	John Downs Steven Swanson	Ursula Hunter

*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**


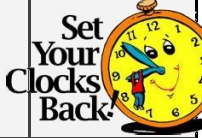




* **Damar Pringle**

* **Chris Branch**

11/3	Linda Kapitan
11/10	Leo & Lisa Ball-Goodrich
11/17	Durbin & Ursula Hunter
11/24	Jackie Menefee Rob Hansen
12/1	Ken & Chuddy Watson

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the December issue are due **11/24**.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2 
3 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Daylight Saving Ends~	4	5	6	7 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	8	9
10 <i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> 	12 Synod Convocation 7pm- Outreach Team mtg	13	14	15	16
17 <i>26th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	18 6pm- Council meeting	19	20	21 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	22	23
24 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	25 Articles for December Messenger due.	26	27	28 Day of Thanksgiving 	29	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.