

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
February 2025

Vol. 5 Issue 2



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

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.

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

When the new iteration of our Congregational Council met last on January 23, we did a little bit of dreaming. We also added a heavy dose of realism, too, reflecting on the challenges that face us in this new year and beyond. Those of you who know how I like to teach—rest assured, yes, I leaped up to the white board and took notes. Here is a transcription of our discussion (in only the order they came up, and note that there is no necessary, direct correspondence between the two columns):

Dreams	Challenges
Audio Visual Equipment	Stewardship and monetary constraints
Putting in windows in the Sanctuary	People, new members
Moving forward with Reconciling in Christ ministry	Current members and leaders with not enough time; burn out.
Driveway repair	
Improving Accessibility for people with disabilities	
Music Ministry	
New tables and chairs	
Hire an Administrator to utilize our Tithe.ly church software and volunteer coordination	
Families with young kids	
Meaningful Young adult ministry	

Some of these dreams are wonderfully mundane and easy to accomplish: new tables and chairs. Some are complex, amorphous and emotional: welcoming more families with young kids. And all the challenges we identified are just as complex, and will require great, adaptive shifts.

(continued on page 3)

**CHRIST THE GOOD
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Council Members
1/1/25—12/31/25

- President: Cyndi Hansard
- Vice-President: Cathy Cahn
- Secretary: Steven Swanson
- Treasurer: Ruth Lye
- Financial Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich
- Worship: Debra Mason
- Congregational Care: Jake Solomons
- Property: Leo Goodrich
- Outreach: Denise Lundgren

PRAYER CONCERNS



- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ruth P. | Christel | Elfriede |
| Sue | Carl | Kathy & Jessika |
| Mary Lou | Ruth L. | Dustin |
| Rebecca | Bob | Katharine |
| Joshua P. | Gerta | Alyssa |
| Carol | Karen | Dean |
| Gerry | Jillian | Paul |
| Elinor | Family of John | |
| Norm & Mary Lou T. | Family & students of Bill Rusch | |
| Family of Palmer | | |



March 5th is Ash Wednesday. We again will be serving the public by offering Ashes to motorists from our parking lot. Each year the number of recipients has grown. Many tell us how appreciative they are to be able to receive ashes in this way. It is a beautiful ministry.

Would you like to participate in this beautiful ministry? It requires you to be part of a small team that greet those driving in to receive ashes. Ashes are administered by Pastor Josh in the early morning and again during the lunch hour. In the past, we have passed out a prayer and some information about our church.

Speak to Pastor Josh, Leo Goodrich, or Denise if you're interested in helping.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE*continued from page 1*

One of these dreams/challenges that we have sunk our teeth into already is “Music Ministry.” As I hope you have read or heard, Caroline is working hard to reimagine our “choir” to be more of an ensemble of congregational singers and musicians, incorporating more kinds of genres and music styles into our worship.

To this end, if you have thoughts or feelings, complaints or praise, PLEASE attend the gatherings of what we are now calling our Music Ministry Team (our first meeting is Sunday, February 2nd after worship), headed by Deb Mason and Damar Pringle, or get in touch directly with Caroline Henry our Director of Music. This will be the group that will help Caroline to take the temperature of our community and chart a path forward.

Another “challenge” that did not make it onto the council’s list, but will continue to plague us all whether we want to admit it or not, is the current political climate. Perhaps some of you saw the message from our New England Synod Bishop, Nathan Piphoo, lamenting the recent spate of executive orders from our president. I hope we can all admit that, regardless of our political positions, though executive orders have become commonplace this is an unprecedented use of power. As followers of Jesus, who put our ultimate trust in the grace, mercy and love of God, we have got to reckon with how this administration’s policies and procedures will or will not align with our commitments as Christians, as Lutherans, and as members of this congregation.

For a pointed example: just months ago we voted unanimously to become a haven for our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ, to welcome them, affirm their gender identities and sexual orientations, in short, their humanity and their love. But this past week we heard that gender has been decided by executive order, that trans people may in fact be barred from military service.

As your pastor I *will not* tell you what to think or how to vote. But these are dangerous times, and I

fear in the months and years to come they will only become more and more dangerous for the most vulnerable among us.

For my part, I *will* always and only declare what we together believe is true: that all human beings are sinners, throughout all history and all time (especially as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz...) we have been lost completely to selfishness, violence and blindness; and, obviously, we continue to be lost. But despite our being completely and utterly lost, God has cast upon us the mantle of righteousness that is Christ. And we are called not to reflect the “meanness, cruelty or conformity” of sin, but, as Bishop Piphoo has put it, we are invited to embody the newness of life that is Christ, which is “mercy, compassion and freedom.”

I remain yours in Christ,

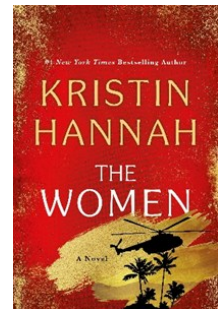
Pastor Josh

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CGS BOOK CLUB

Our next read is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

As posted on Goodreads---



From the celebrated author of *The Nightingale* and *The Four Winds* comes Kristin Hannah's *The Women*—at once an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

The CGS book club will be meeting on March 13 at 6:30pm. Please join us for wonderful conversation.

Hope to see you there!!!

CGSL OUTREACH IS A THREE-LEGGED STOOL

- ◇ Service to Others
- ◇ Stewards of the Earth
- ◇ Social Awareness



Lord's Bounty Community Garden Update

It's not too early to start thinking about the vegetable garden. The Outreach Team

already had a meeting to discuss next summer's garden. There will be some changes based on things that worked and did not work last year. One thing that will be easier is watering, thanks to a big project completed last year, getting water to the plot. We talked about a new system using 2 person teams assigned to one week at a time, perhaps 2 or 3 times over the summer (depending on how many teams we get) to perform watering as needed, weeding, harvesting and delivery to the food bank. We will also have a work day to clean up the garden in the spring, and to plant the crops. If all you want to do is deliver the produce, that will be needed too. More information will be coming as we get closer to spring, but **if you are interested in being on a team, or just helping once, please let Rob Hansen know.** The saying "many hands make light work" rings true!



The outreach team will meet again to discuss the garden on **March 12 at 7:00 pm.** ALL ARE WELCOME!



This year we will again be giving you the opportunity to **Adopt-a-Plant.** Rather than asking you to grow plants, although you can if you want to, we will be asking you to adopt a flat of vegetable plants by donating the cost to buy them.

We will also have a **Wish List** of items we need for the garden. Like last year, we will have a table set up to promote the garden plan and to allow you to contribute toward its success.



February is Love Your Neighbor Month at Christ the Good Shepherd.

Again this year we support children and struggling families by donating diapers, baby lotions, baby shampoo, diaper rash cream and baby food.

All donations will be given to the Keefe Center. Products can be placed in the Narthex (lobby).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
 February 9, 2025
 Annual reports will be distributed

The Salvation Army Bloom Initiative

benefited from numerous winter coats, shoes, and underclothes that you recently donated. These will be given out by the Bloom initiative street ministry to women and men on the streets who are caught up in the human trafficking web.

Along with providing immediate emergency direct services for victims of human trafficking, the Salvation Army Bloom Initiative takes a holistic approach to healing; supporting each survivor's unique journey from victimization to hope for a future free from exploitation (<https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/southern-new-england/fight-for-justice/>)



1/29/25- Sue from the Bloom Initiative is coming to pick up 17 coats, seven pair of shoes and boots a basket of under clothes.



John Downs to deliver 11 bags of food to the Keefe Center on 1/30/25. This represents donations between December & January.



The front yard has been cleared of the old landscape and the ground has been leveled to make room for new foundational plantings, flowering shrubs and small trees and a pollinator garden. **Kathy Connelly** from **Speaking of Landscapes** will consult us on a landscape plan, and plant list. All plants will be native and grown without the use of harmful pesticides. Kathy has helped many conservation groups and gardening organizations with their planning and implementation throughout Connecticut.

From her website:

I believe that enduring landscape design balances our desire for attractive spaces with care for our fellow creatures and the environment we share. I aim to use four resources in every project: Artistic design, horticultural science, landscape craft, and an interpretation of how people relate to the location. When those resources are working together, we can produce enduring and satisfying landscape installations.

My design services include landscape assessments, comprehensive plans, plant research, and project management. My specialties include lawn reduction, groundcovers, flowering meadows, waterside buffer gardens, deer-resistant designs, hard-to-grow hillsides, and foundation gardens. I am well-versed in the use of native plants, as well as reduction and removal of invasive weed species.

Interested in being part of the garden discussion? Contact Denise or Pastor Josh. Donations for the garden project are welcomed.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
2/2	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Cyndi Hansard	Cyndi Hansard	Deb Mason
2/9	Durbin Hunter	Denise Lundgren	Phil & John Napolitano	Ursula Hunter
2/16	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Ken Watson	John Downs Steven Swanson	John Downs
2/23	Rob Hansen	Dan Smolnik	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
3/2	Durbin Hunter	Denise Lundgren	Phil & John Napolitano	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**



2/2	Sarah DeLong Linda Ibsen
2/9	Ken & Chuddy Watson
2/16	Cyndi Hansard
2/23	Dan & Alex Smolnik
3/2	Jackie Menefee Rob Hansen

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS




Anniversaries-

26- Steven & Lynn Swanson
27- Durbin & Ursula Hunter

Birthdays-

8- Ursula Hunter
15- Grace O'Brien
17- Scott Prentice

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please note that newsletter articles for the March Messenger are due **2/23**.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Music Ministry Team Meeting	3	4	5	6 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	7	8
9 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Annual Congregational Meeting	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	17 Executive committee mtg via Zoom	18	19	20 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch 6pm- Council meeting	21	22
23 7th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Articles for March Messenger due 2/23.	24	25	26	27	28	

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.