

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
April 2025

Vol. 5 Issue 4



Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

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

As April begins we are still on our 40 day Lenten journey to prepare our hearts to receive the sorrow of Jesus' life-giving passion and the unlooked-for joy of his resurrection. And there continues to be a great many opportunities to deepen our faith and ready ourselves.

Let us extend a big thank you to Volker Leppin, our resident scholar and Yale professor, who taught a class about Francis of Assisi on Sunday, March 23 at 9 AM and another on the spirituality of Martin Luther on March 30th. We look forward to more in the future!

Our Lenten Devotions on Wednesday nights have been as rich and Spirit-led as ever. Discussing the theme of "Listening in the Wilderness," so far we have read about Haggar and Ishmael in Genesis, the complaints of the Hebrew people and the manna from God in Exodus, as well as the "sound of sheer silence" through which God came to Elijah in the book of First Kings. There are still a few opportunities to gather with us at 7 PM for dark, quiet, contemplation of scripture, and group discussion on Wednesday, April 2nd (discussing Isaiah) and 9th (Revelation). And we will head down to Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church (2927 Dixwell Ave) on the Monday of Holy Week (April 14, 7 PM) for more of the same.

Once again this year our congregation, led by the strong, yet silent Congregational Care Ministry Team, will host a Palm Sunday breakfast on April 13th at 8:30 AM. It will be a full-on potluck, so please indicate what you intend to bring and/or how many will be in your party on our sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Palm-Passion Sunday leads us head-long into Holy Week and the Three Days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) of the Paschal Mystery. This year we will observe Holy Communion and footwashing on Maundy Thursday (April 17, 7 PM @ CGS) and read of Jesus' passion and adore his life-giving cross on Good Friday (April 18, 7 PM @ CGS). Also, for the second year, we will be observing the Great Vigil of Easter, a service of scripture lessons and song, darkness and fire, Holy Communion and Holy Baptism, commemorating Jesus' passing from death on Saturday into new life at dawn on Sunday. Consider joining us as we gather with Grace & St. John's at 4 AM on Sunday, April 20th.

And, of course, on Easter Sunday at 10 AM, having bedecked ourselves in color and regalia, flowers adorning our humble altar, we will unveil our Hallelujahs back in our own sanctuary on Shepard Ave and we will shout once more: "**He Is Risen Indeed!**"

I remain yours in the new life which comes only from Christ,

Pastor Josh

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
1/1/25—12/31/25**

- President: Cyndi Hansard
- Vice-President: Cathy Cahn
- Secretary: Steven Swanson
- Treasurer: Ruth Lye
- Financial Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich
- At-large representatives: Jake Solomons
John Downs
Leo Goodrich
Christi Sharon

PRAYER CONCERNS



| | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------------|
| Ruth P. | Christel | Elfriede |
| Sue | Carl | Kathy & Jessika |
| Deb | Gerta | Dustin |
| Rebecca | Bob | Katharine |
| Joshua P. | Cianna | Alyssa |
| Carol | Karen | Apolonia |
| Gerry | Jillian | Paul |
| Elinor | Pat | Marsha |
| Mary Lou T. | Alice | Patty |



Greetings all,

It's been a pleasure the last few months hearing more of the various musical talents in our congregation! The suggestion box continues to sit on the piano welcoming your input.

If anyone is interested in being musically involved in the upcoming Easter Sunday service, don't hesitate to reach out so we can make that happen! We will be inviting a guest musician to Easter service as usual, so there will be additional opportunity for collaboration!

Musically,
Caroline

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

April 13
8:30-9:30am



A potluck breakfast will be held on Palm Sunday. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the church hallway.

Leo Goodrich is making pancakes and there will be sausages, coffee, tea and juices. The additional "potluck" foods can be anything from donuts to casseroles. Dishes should be brought in warm, if possible.

Help needed the night before-

- Set-up tables with placements and flowers
- Set out plates, silverware and napkins
- Set-up coffee, tea and juice area.
- Help in the kitchen Sunday morning.

Speak with Dorothy Podgwaite or Leo Goodrich if you can assist.



Easter Flowers

A sign-up sheet for Easter flowers has been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the narthex. Parishioners may choose lilies, tulips, daffodils, or hyacinths. You may also add "IN MEMORY OF" notation which will be announced in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Floral orders are \$12.00 each. Money can be put in regular collection envelopes with note on front stating that the contribution is for Easter flowers.

Thank you for the beautiful and delicious tasting cake you had for us on Sunday March 16th. We were touched by your thoughtfulness.

Larry and I enjoyed our last Sunday with you very much. Over coffee we had a chance to say our goodbyes and to remember some good times we had together. I hope to see some of you at Camp Calumet in the fall!



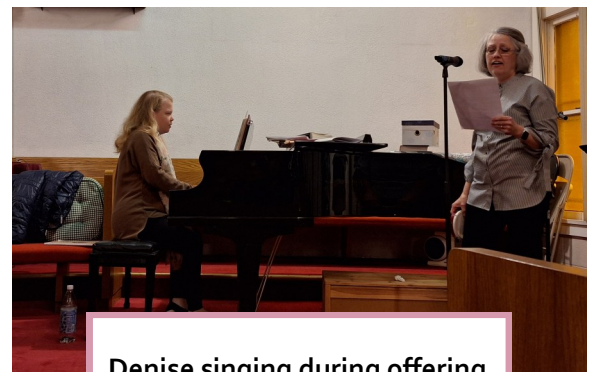
Larry & Denise

You will all be missed! as Bob Hope used to say, **'Thanks for the memories!'**

If you're in the area and want to stop by or if you want to write us, here's our new address:
11 Borough Rd
#3106
Concord, NH 03303

Warmest regards,
Denise and Larry Lundgren

Pastor delivering farewell message to Denise & Larry



Denise singing during offering



Sunday, April 13

Palm-Passion Sunday

Breakfast 8:30-9:30am

Holy Communion 10:00am

Monday, April 14

Evening prayer at Grace & St. John's Episcopal 7:00pm

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion 7:00pm

Friday, April 18

Good Friday

Worship Service 7:00pm

Sunday, April 20

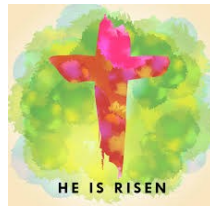
**Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Sunday**

Great Vigil of Easter 4:00am

At Grace & St. John's Episcopal

Holy Communion 10:00am

At Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran



COUNCIL UPDATE

Our Church Council welcomed John Downs and Christi Sharon as Council At-Large members to fill the terms vacated by Denise Lundgren and Deb Mason. Financial reports were received which continue to show positive trends through February even with weather cancelling one Sunday service and another one held virtually.

(Council update continued...)

Giving through Tithe.ly continues to build up which offers the ability to set up automatic monthly donations. Pastor Josh highlighted the continued growth of Ashes-to-Go as over 350 people of all ages and backgrounds received ashes. Lenten mid-week services will be held during Lent and offer a time for prayer and reflection. Team reports were also received and here are a few highlights:

- Congregational Care: Palm Sunday pot luck will be held on Sunday April 13 in place of the cross generation education hour. Planning will begin for a Church picnic in late June.
- Outreach: We are collecting 200 plastic eggs and 400 pieces of candy for an Easter egg hunt at New Reach. The Lord's Bounty community garden will have a work day on April 5th and 6th to get ready for this year's planting. The congregation will be asked to adopt a plant or buy plants for the garden as well as other wish list items.
- Property: Lighting in the bathroom has been completed and the next phase will be replacing the lighting in the main hallway and the meeting room. Council discussed bringing phase 2 of the parking lot resurfacing to the Congregational meeting in June.
- Worship: There is a sign-up sheet for Easter flowers. The team is also discussing ways to encourage more members to participate in Sunday morning worship duties (assisting ministers, altar guild, lectors, ushers, and coffee hours hosts).

Next Council meeting will be on Thursday April 10th at 6:00 pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY ASHES-TO-GO



Ash Wednesday about 260 cars drove through our parking lot for Ashes-To-Go!



Pastor Josh and the Rev. Milton Brasher-Cunningham from Mount Carmel Congregational church imposed the ashes.

Dan Smolnik, Denise Lundgren, and Christi Sharon helped with the traffic flow. The 100 double-sided postcards with our church information were all distributed by 9:30 am!



Many of the people who received ashes heard about the event from a friend or co-worker. Denise also promoted Ashes-To-Go on Patch.com, and the event received 46,240 looks!

CGSL OUTREACH IS A THREE-LEGGED STOOL

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



THREE WAYS TO GIVE FOR LENT AND EASTER

1) **Through April 6, we will collect new plastic eggs and wrapped candy** for an egg hunt for 30 children living in the New Reach Shelter. The goal is to collect 200 plastic eggs and 400 pieces of wrapped candy.

(Eggs should be at least 2 inches and candy should not contain nuts or peanut butter.)

On April 6 after church, we will fill the eggs. All, including youth, are invited to help!

2) **Food donations to the Hamden Food Bank have been down.** Increasing our food donations during Lent will be greatly appreciated.

3) Monetary donations can also be made to **ELCA World Hunger** and **Lutheran Disaster Response.** The latter provides assistance nationally and internationally and is an ELCA ministry. If you wish to designate your contribution, do so on an envelope or on the memo line of your check.

We had a successful diaper drive for the Keefe Center in Hamden!

Together we collected 7+ boxes of diapers, 18 baby food items, and 18 packs of wipes/baby shampoos/lotions. In addition, 3 infant sleepers and 6 pairs of infant socks will be given to mothers living in New Reach housing.

Thank you to everyone for your donations!



Inside Dinner for \$1 on Fridays at Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church

You've probably seen the Dinner for \$1 sign. Here's a glimpse of what happens inside!

Between 2 and 3 pm — Cooks arrive at Grace & St. John's for meal preparation. Food donations come from many places, including the Midwest Food Bank of New England and Haven's Harvest. Sometimes leftovers are donated by Yale University and Hopkins School which shortens prep time.

5pm — Volunteers arrive to set up the table for the to-go meals. A drink table is also set up where guests can get hot and cold drinks. Sometimes there are bulk donations, such as hand-made soap, couscous or beans that need to be portioned out for guests to take home, as well as bread and bakery items to be checked. Even though dinner isn't served until 6 pm, some guests begin to arrive much earlier for fellowship.



5:30 pm — To begin, 40 to-go meals are packed as singles or doubles. Dessert for to-go's is often donuts which are donated by Whitney Donuts.

6 pm — Dinner is ready and guests line up to get their meals. The basement accommodates 50+ guests. While guests eat, volunteers prep more to-go meals, wrap cutlery in napkins for next week's to-go meals, and talk with guests.



6:30 pm — At 6:30 pm sharp, guests can "grocery shop" from the tables along the back wall. Items vary week-to-week, but typical items include canned goods, cereal, bread, chips, candy, hygiene items, sometimes clothing, etc. Seconds are available and dessert is served. Ice cream sundaes are a favorite, but sometimes there is pie or cake!

7pm — Guests are on their way by 7 pm. Volunteers clean tables and sweep, and dishes are loaded into the dishwasher.

If you are interested in helping, talk to Christi Sharon or show up at Grace and St. John's on Fridays about 5:15 pm.



Volunteers who prepped and served meals

P.S. — Dinner for \$1 is also served on Sundays between 3-4 pm in a parking lot at 1935 State St., Hamden, from a refurbished delivery truck. 3 people package the meals and 2 people take orders and hand out the meals. The first time I served on a Sunday, I met a former student, now in his 30's, who works in the Dinner for \$1 truck!



Christi with former student

There are many options for our congregation to get involved in this vital, upbeat ministry! If you are interested or have questions, I'm happy to talk with you!

THE LORD'S BOUNTY GARDEN UPDATE

Growing season is coming up fast! There are ways to help, even if you aren't a master gardener.

First, come to the work day on Saturday, April 5 from 10-2 pm. Lunch will be provided, too. Anyone who isn't helping clean out the garage can work at cleaning and prepping the garden beds.

Second, there is a wish list for the garden. What might you have and be able to donate?

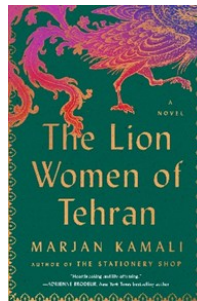
- Metal plant labels
- Floating row covers
- Material for plant support (netting, slats, hardware cloth)
- Compost
- Mulch for paths
- Flats of plants

Finally, sign up to be on a gardening team. Once growing season is underway, Rob Hanson will assign teams to weed/water, harvest and deliver. No experience needed. You can be assigned to a team of experienced gardeners. And volunteers willing to deliver produce to the Keefe Center are definitely needed.



Cathy C. & Christi S. at the garden table on Sunday 3/23.

CGS BOOK CLUB



As posted on Goodreads---

A heartfelt novel of friendship, betrayal, and redemption set against three transformative decades in Tehran, Iran.

In 1950s Tehran, seven-year-old Ellie lives in grand comfort until the untimely death of her father, forcing Ellie and her mother to move to a tiny home downtown. Lonely and bearing the brunt of her mother's endless grievances, Ellie dreams of a friend to alleviate her isolation

Luckily, on the first day of school, she meets Homa, a kind, passionate girl with a brave and irrepressible spirit. Together, the two girls play games, learn to cook in the stone kitchen of Homa's warm home, wander through the colorful stalls of the Grand Bazaar, and share their ambitions for becoming "lion women."

But their happiness is disrupted when Ellie and her mother are afforded the opportunity to return to their previous bourgeois life. Now a popular student at the best girls' high school in Iran, Ellie's memories of Homa begin to fade. Years later, however, her sudden reappearance in Ellie's privileged world alters the course of both of their lives.

Together, the two young women come of age and pursue their own goals for meaningful futures. But as the political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point, one earth-shattering betrayal will have enormous consequences.

[Nominee for Readers' Favorite Historical Fiction \(2024\)](#)

* * * * *

The CGS book club will be meeting on May 7 at 6:30pm. Please join us for wonderful conversation.

Hope to see you there!!!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

| DATE | WORSHIP ASSISTANT | LECTOR | USHERS | ALTAR SETUP |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4/6 | Durbin Hunter | Ken Watson | John Downs Steven Swanson | John Downs |
| Palm Sunday 4/13 | Rob Hansen | Durbin Hunter | Durbin Hunter Ken Watson | Ursula Hunter |
| Maundy Thrs 4/17 | <i>(Assistant needed)</i> | Paul Snyder | John Downs Steven Swanson | Sarah DeLong |
| Good Friday 4/18 | Rob Hansen | Ken Watson | John Downs Ken Watson | John Downs |
| Easter Sunday 4/20 | Lisa Ball-Goodrich | Paul Snyder | Starr O'Connor Steven Swanson | Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee |
| 4/27 | Durbin Hunter | Cyndi Hansard | Durbin & Ursula Hunter | Starr O'Connor |
| 5/4 | Linda Kapitan | Rob Hansen | O'Brien family | 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**



| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 4/6 | Ken & Chuddy Watson |
| 4/13 4/20 | No coffee hour |
| 4/27 | Cyndi Hansard |
| 5/4 | Linda Kapitan |



APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries-

- 9- Rev. Dr. Volker & Chantel Leppin
- 28- Frank & Penny Podgwaite

Birthdays-

- 2- Jake Solomons
- 4- Aubrey Prentice
- 6- Tanja Helmert
- 9- Tyler Knoob
- 9- Robert Landino
- 19- Martin Cruz

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|------|--|---|--|---|
| | | 1 | 2 7pm– Evening prayer with Lectio Divina | 3 10:30am– Coffee Klatsch | 4 | 5 10-2pm– Garden workday with lunch |
| 6 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Garden worktime after worship | 7 | 8 | 9 7pm– Evening prayer with Lectio Divina | 10 6pm–Council mtg | 11 | 12 |
| 13 <i>Palm-Passion Sunday</i> 8:30am Palm Sunday Breakfast 10:00am Holy Communion | 14 7pm– Evening prayer at Grace & St. John’s Episcopal | 15 | 16 | 17 {No- Coffee Klatsch} 7pm– Maundy Thursday service | 18 7pm– Good Friday service | 19 |
| 20 <i>Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday</i> 4:00am Great Vigil of Easter at Grace & St. John’s 10:00am Holy Communion at CGSL | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion Articles for May Messenger due 4/27 | 28 | 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.