

# THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
June 2025



Vol. 5 Issue 6



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan

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

Spring and so quickly turning to summer as June is already here. God's Holy Spirit is flowing freely here in our community and there is so very much to be excited about. Our Lord's Bounty Community Garden has been planted and we give great and abundance thanks to God for bringing forth the earth's increase and for calling a wonderful set of people (led by Rob Hansen) from our congregation to tend these 6 raised garden beds.

An important reminder: **on Sunday June 8th at 10:15 AM we are worshipping with Trinity Lutheran Church of New Haven (292 Orange Street, New Haven, CT 06510). There will be no worship service held in our building on 600 Shepard Ave. in Hamden on this day!**

As some of you may know, over these past 2 years we have been collaborating with Pastor Ryan Mills of Trinity New Haven for confirmation classes. Six students from Trinity and one from CGS (Tyler Knoob)

have been growing and learning together, and now are ready to affirm their baptisms, to take ownership of their lives of faith. We will do this all together at Trinity New Haven on June 8th at 10:15. Free street parking is available on Sundays on both Wall and Orange Streets. Free parking is also available on Sundays in the lot at the corner of Wall and State Streets.

Another exciting reminder about the future of our **"Pollinator Project"** at CGS. As hopefully you have all noticed, the shrubs outside the front of our facility have been removed, and this was done after the council approved the concept of putting in a pollinator garden. Simultaneously, our congregation throughout this past year had been participating in the program through the **Yale Divinity School** called **Reimagining Church**. YDS provided us with a student facilitator (Tim Bergeland) who helped a team of folks (which did not include me) dream and discern how to "reimagine" church in Hamden, in our current age.

The climax of this program comes in the form of a project proposal, one that the organizers of Reimagining Church (itself funded by a grant from the Lily Foundation) are intending to fund. These grant monies are not to be used on capital improvements, they say, but on ministry experiments. So, here is the project proposal as it stands now:

*(continued on page 3 )*

**CHRIST THE GOOD  
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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Hamden CT 06514**

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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
- At-large representatives: Jake Solomons  
John Downs  
Leo Goodrich  
Christi Sharon

**PRAYER CONCERNS**



Linda	Kathy	Phil & Sharon
Cianna	Richard	Apollonia
Rebecca	Bob	Elfriede
Carl	Christel	Sue
Anita V.	Patty	Katharine
Paul	Jillian	Carol
Karen	Gerry	Elinor
Alyssa	Joshua P.	
Hunter & Lipnick families Family & friends of Dan		



**Anna Hansard,** daughter of Dustin & Cynthia Hansard, graduates from North Haven High School in June. She will be attending Yale University in the Fall.

**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**  
June 1, 2025  
Following worship service

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE *(cont. from 1)*

“In order to reimagine stewardship of God’s creation, we propose to invite both our community and the environment into a new garden ecosystem. We plan to do this by creating pollinator habitat to support local insect and wildlife species, expand our community vegetable garden which helps feed local food insecure people, and create seating and pathways for our neighbors.”

What was the “Reimagining Church” team has now transformed into the “Pollinator Project Team” and they are *hard* at work contacting experts, local scientists, others who have embarked on similar pollinator-supporting plantings, as well as contractors and nurseries. This will most like be a 2-3 year project, but with funding from YDS I hope you are as excited as I am!

Here’s what our consultant Kathy Connolly has written:

“The [churches] building’s long form gives it a strong presence along the road front. This is a potential asset, as improvements to the landscape **will visibly communicate the care and thoughtfulness of the congregation**. In addition, the sight of people outdoors caring for the land, relaxing, picnicking, or at play communicates a relaxed, inviting, vibrant atmosphere. Your intentions to use ecological principles, including more native plants, less lawn, and no invasive plants, also speak to your thoughtfulness about modern issues. All these ideas may become essential parts of ‘reimagining’ the church and creating greater participation.”

Our current plan is to create a triangle of flowering herbaceous perennials in front of the building, gravel aprons to reduce weeds and lawn maintenance, two seating areas with native shrubs and small trees beside them, a more accessible pathway to the vegetable garden which will expand from 6 to 9 beds, and trees at the north end of the current front lawn area as well.

Why native plants, you might ask? Check out this from *Green Old Saybrook Community Tree and Shrub Planting Guide*, by Connolly and Chatfield from 2024—

“Native plants occur naturally in a particular region or habitat, often in communities of species that coexist well together. They have co-evolved with native insects, pollinators, birds, and wildlife over the course of thousands of years. Our landscape today consists of a combination of native and non-native plants, and it only partially resembles the landscape in which these plants evolved. Yet native plants are more important than ever for maintaining a healthy, biodiverse ecosystem. It is not enough for native trees and shrubs to exist only in forest preserves, which are often too far apart for insects, birds, and animals to obtain the resources they need to thrive. Home and community landscapes are a critical part of the ecosystem.”

And why support pollinators? Check out this from *Creating a pollinator garden for native specialist bees of New York and the Northeast*, by Van Dyke et al. from 2020—

*(continued on page 4)*

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE *(cont. from 3)*

“Dramatic losses of managed honey bee colonies beginning in 2007 created serious concerns about bee populations in general. Since then, we have discovered many bumblebee species are also in decline worldwide. However, these social bee species are not the only bees that are under threat. Long-term studies based on 140 years of museum records document even steeper species declines in native solitary and semi-social bees (see Bee life history and social behavior). The causes of bee decline are varied. Native, wild bees in general—like the specialist bees we are focusing on in this guide—may be threatened in different ways than honey bees. The most likely threat to native bees is habitat loss, and the associated loss of key floral and nesting resources.”

Why do this at all? Well, check this out from the first chapter of Genesis —

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”

<sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind

and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> **God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.**

With thanksgiving,

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.

OUTREACH

Thank you to May Outreach and Garden Volunteers

❖ Thank you, Rob and the garden team— Dawn, Jake, Ken, Cathy, Jonathan, and Sarah—for planting the donated plants on May 18 after church, and to Pastor Josh who blessed the Lord’s Bounty Garden. All of the beds, along with some grow bags, are planted with tomatoes, squash, peppers, onions, cucumbers, basil, thyme, parsley, marigolds and nasturtiums. “One of the highlights,” said Rob Hansen, “was seeing Dawn and Ken help out some of the less experienced volunteers.” In addition, the waterline that Leo and company installed got a lot of use, and will make gardening easier this year!

❖ Also on May 18, two deli platters and fruit salad were made and delivered to the mothers/children New Reach shelter in New Haven. Thank you, Brianne and Anthony Papa, for expertly arranging the meats and cheese and thank you, Norma and Caesar Matos, Liane Cassidy, Barbara Bouvier for your help making the fruit salad.



Above left: Ken setting up trellis; above right- Sarah planting



Ruth hands pepper plants to Cathy for planting.



(5/25/25)  
Ruth, Jonathan,  
Leo, Rob, Pastor,  
Ken & Cathy



Liane and Barbara (left) and Norma & Caesar (above) cutting up fruit



Anthony & Brianne arranging meat and cheese platter

## OUTREACH *(cont. from 5)*

\*12 bags of grocery items were delivered to the food bank at the Keefe Community Center in May. Donations of easy-to-prepare, or ready to eat breakfast and lunch foods are greatly needed while children are home during the summer. Peanut butter/jelly, cereal, pasta sauce, granola bars, mac and cheese—a more complete list is available for you to take in the narthex.



Josh (from Keefe Center) and Christi (CGSL) with the 12 bags of grocery items.

## Outreach & Garden Opportunities in June

**June 1 - June 15 will be “training” weeks in the garden** with Rob Hansen for those who would like to get practice tending the garden. If you are interested, let Rob know. The gardening schedule begins June 16. A copy of the schedule, as well as a description of the various duties will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board and in the kitchen.



## Volunteering Time & Talent

### Brenda Samal knits or crochets prayer shawls!

Her outreach project started years ago when her family attended their great nephew's confirmation. The women's group presented white prayer shawls to all of the confirmands as they had done for years. This is what kindled Brenda's desire to make prayer shawls for members of our congregation. When they are completed, they are washed, blocked, a cross is sewn on one corner, and a prayer card included so the recipient knows the church community is thinking of them and remembering them in prayer. How many has Brenda made? Between 10-12 and she is at work on the next one. The shawls are given to Pastor Josh to give away. If you'd like to see one of the shawls, or request one, see Pastor Josh. Brenda's prayer shawls are beautiful works of art!



**Fri., June 20, 6 - 7:30 pm is Dinner for \$1's fourteenth Anniversary Celebration** at Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church in Hamden. Weather permitting, the event will be outside. There will be a band or two, and **our church's contribution to the festivities will be an ice cream truck!** This is a great community event, that in the past has drawn a crowd of about 100 people, including various local and state govt. reps. The United Way of Greater New Haven is also involved. **All are welcome!!**

## Outreach Opportunities *(cont. from 6)*

**Sun., June 22 we will prepare a hot meal for Martha's Place**, another New Reach shelter for 20 women, starting at 11:30 a.m. following coffee hour. We will also pack small "treat bags" to be distributed to 30 children at the shelter. Packing the treat bags is a fun opportunity for our youth to be involved in outreach.

**Our congregational "business card" is available on the white shelving in the narthex.** Take a few and keep them in a convenient place. When you meet someone looking for a church, or if you have a meaningful conversation with someone, give that person a card with our worship time and contact information. It's a way to say "You're invited and welcome here." You might write your first name on the back of the cards. If someone does visit our church, he/she will have someone to look for!



## Pollinator Garden Update: A Project in Progress

Since April 30, members of the Pollinator Project Team have met *3 times!* In addition, Pastor Josh has consulted *2 times* at church with scientists from the CT Agriculture Experiment Station!! With each meeting, progress is being made on this project! There is more DIY involved than we thought, but Kathy Connolly will continue to consult with us as we make decisions, and she is an excellent resource for contractors and vendors.

Because the plan and the budget for the project has to be submitted by Sept. 1, the committee had to envision the entire scope of the project first. Next, priorities were identified for what work would be done first. Basically, this will include enhancements to the front of the church, as well as a path to the Lord's Bounty Garden.

Work/enhancements in the front will include: (1) a 225 sq. ft. triangle-shaped meadow (to the left of the front door as you look at the church), (2) a 9 in. deep gravel apron along the front of the church (extending around to the side door), and (3) a seating area (in front, to the right of the path). (4) A white or pin oak will be planted (on the right side of the lawn). (5) Around the seating area, there will be a smaller tree/tall flowering shrub with additional smaller shrubs that extend toward and continue in front of the church. The white or pin oak is a "keystone" pollinator that will attract/support as many as 500 pollinator species. All of the plantings will be native to this area, and for aesthetics, take into account layering (for height) and seasonal succession (for color).

The work for this project will take time! Currently, Cathy is getting quotes for the gravel work/de-sodding of the meadow area/path to garden area, all of which can be done by a single contractor. Ken is consulting with vendors about the cost of specific native plantings that will be well-suited to the soil and seasonally enhance the front of the property. Once the Re-imagining Church funds are received, the actual work can begin. Results of that work will be seen in steps and stages. For example, the de-sodding of the meadow area and the laying of the gravel apron will be noticeable, as well as planting the white or pin oak tree. However, growing the actual meadow will take time, perhaps up to 3 years. After the area is de-sodded, we will wait to see "what comes up," if needed herbicide will be applied, then plugs of blue stem grass will be planted.

*(continued on page 8)*

## Pollinator Garden *(cont. from 7)*

The Pollinator Project Team is working diligently and moving the process along! We have a host of good resources available, including the direction of a knowledgeable consultant and good leads on vendors for plants and contractors. While the Pollinator Project involves more DIY than we may have thought at first, the results—and the process—will be worth the work and the wait.



## CGS Book Club

Next read: Theo of Golden  
by Allen Levi

*As posted on Goodreads-*

Questions linger about Theo, a pleasant but mysterious stranger, after his arrival in the southern city of Golden. Who is he, and why is he here? He arrives early one spring and by chance - or is it? - he visits a coffee shop where 92 framed pencil portraits are on display. Inspired, Theo sets out on a mission of purchasing all the portraits one at a time and quietly bestowing them on their 'rightful owners.' Stories are told; friendships are born; and lives are changed. Theo of Golden is a beautifully crafted story about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the far-reaching possibilities of anonymous kindness.

The CGS book club will be meeting on July 16 at 6:30m. Please join us for wonderful conversation. If you would like a copy of the book, most libraries do not seem to carry them, Linda Kapitan has a couple of extra copies. Please let her know.

**Hope to see you there!!!**

## June Celebrations

### *Anniversaries*

2- Phil & Sharon Napolitano  
28- Thomas & Anne Knoob

### *Birthdays*

9- Erika Hendren  
11- Penny Podgwaite  
14- Susan Landino  
15- Rebecca Cahn  
16- Rev. Rod Rinell  
18- Brianne Papa  
24- Madelyn Robertson  
24- Dawn Tiedemann  
26- Steven Swanson



Greetings all! As we wrap up Easter season I am grateful for all the musical offerings we have heard these past weeks! Besides the string players who joined us for Easter Sunday, parishioners old and young have filled the sanctuary with the sounds of guitar, voice, egg shaker, and recorder, with music from a variety of genres. It has been a special delight to hear from new voices (and hands) and to get to collaborate with many of you on these projects.

Pentecost/summer approaching means some of us will have even more time to explore future collaboration opportunities, so as always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have a song you would like to try or just want to know how you could get plugged in (no pun intended).

## SCHEDULE TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
6/1	Rob Hansen	Casey Fish	John Downs Steven Swanson	John Downs
*6/8		Durbin Hunter		
6/15	Michael Lye	Rob Hansen	Ken Watson Steven Swanson	Starr O'Connor
6/22	Linda Kapitan	Ken Watson	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
6/29	Casey Fish	Cyndi Hansard	Starr O'Connor John Downs	John Downs
7/6	Durbin Hunter	Rob Hansen	Ken Watson Steven Swanson	Ursula Hunter

\*Worship service 10:15am at Trinity Lutheran, 292 Orange Street, New Haven

*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



6/1	Leo & Lisa Goodrich
6/8	At Trinity Lutheran, New Haven
6/15	Sarah DeLong
6/22	Linda Kapitan
6/29	<b>Church Picnic!</b>
7/6	Jackie Menefee, Rob Hansen

**Want to find out something about the person you sit next to in the pew?**

Please join us on Sunday, June 22 at coffee hour as we share some laughs and little known facts about each of us through a few ice breakers.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<i>1 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i> 9:30am All-Ages Learning 10:00am Holy Communion ~Congregational Meeting~	2	3	4	5 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	6	7
<b><i>8 Day of Pentecost</i></b> 10:15am Worship at Trinity Lutheran, New Haven	9 7pm- Executive Comm. Zoom	10	11 6pm- Outreach Team mtg	12 6pm-Council mtg	13	14 
<i>15 The Holy Trinity</i> 9:30am All-Ages Learning 10:00am Holy Communion 	16	17	18	19 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	20 6-7:30pm Dinner for \$1 Celebration (at G&SJ)	21
<i>22 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun after Pentecost</i> 9:30am All-Ages Learning 10:00am Holy Communion 11:30am Meal prep for New Reach	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>29 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun after Pentecost</i> 9:30am All-Ages Learning 10:00am Holy Communion 11:30am <b>Church Picnic</b>	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.