

# THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
May 2025

Vol. 5 Issue 5



## Pastor's Message

THE REV. JOSHUA N. SULLIVAN

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

### **“Christ is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!”**

This was our cry on Easter Morning at 10 AM in our sanctuary. But it was also our cry on the front steps of Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church on the corner of Dixwell and Whitney Aves at around 5:30 AM at Easter dawn. The Easter Vigil we observed this year in collaboration with our Episcopalian siblings in Christ was just as awesome and inspiring as it was last year.

Here is the invitation with which the Great Vigil begins:

“Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.”

Be it known: this was not just an Episcopalian thing we that we glommed onto. We used our very own Paschal Candle! Leo supplied the firepit and I, the wood, for the new fire. Rod Rinell and Tim Bergeland helped read the lessons. It was with the

leaders of both our churches (Tanja Helmert, actually last year) we *crafted* this vigil, using resources from both our traditions, and even resources from the traditions much more ancient than simply “Lutheran” or “Episcopal.”

One of those ancient traditions that we included is the Easter Sermon of St. John Chrysotom (347 - 407AD). Arnie Pritchard from GSJ proclaimed this sermon out into the morning, and it is just so awesome—so ancient and yet so new, so liberating, so filled with the proclamation of God's grace and mercy that we all so desperately need as the anxiety of our age threatens to break us and our relationships apart. It is so wonderful that I want to share it in its entirety here, and maybe it will inspire one of our own to volunteer to proclaim it at Easter dawn in 2026...

Whoever is devout and a lover of God,  
come, enjoy this beautiful and radiant Feast  
of Feasts!

Whoever is a good and faithful servant,  
rejoice, and enter into the joy of your Lord.  
Whoever is weary of fasting,  
receive now your recompense.

All who have labored from the first hour,  
let them today receive their just reward.  
Those who have come at the third hour,  
with thanksgiving let them keep the feast.  
Those who have arrived at the sixth hour,  
let them have no misgivings; for they shall  
suffer no loss.

*(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**

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**Organist: Caroline Henry**

**[www.christgoodshepherdlutheran.org](http://www.christgoodshepherdlutheran.org)  
[office@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org](mailto: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**



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

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE..continued from pg. 1**

Those who have delayed until the ninth hour,  
let them draw near without hesitation.  
Those who have arrived even at the eleventh hour,  
let them not fear on account of their delay.

For the Lord is gracious, and receives the last even as the first;  
he gives rest to the one who comes at the eleventh hour,  
just as to the one who has labored from the first.  
He has mercy upon the last, and cares for the first;  
to the one he is just, and to the other he is gracious.  
He both honors the work, and praises the intention.

*(continued on page 3)*

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**..continued from pg. 2

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord,  
and whether first or last receive your reward.  
O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy!  
O you zealous and you negligent, celebrate the Day!  
You that have fasted, and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today!  
The table is rich-laden, feast royally, all of you!  
The calf is fatted, let no one go forth hungry!  
Let all partake of the Feast of Faith.  
Let all receive the riches of goodness.  
Let none lament their poverty, for the Universal Kingdom has been revealed.  
Let none mourn their transgressions, for Pardon has dawned from the Tomb!  
Let no one fear Death, for the Saviour's death has set us free!

He that was taken by Death has annihilated it!  
He descended into Hell, and took Hell captive!  
He embittered it when it tasted of his Flesh! And anticipating this, Isaiah exclaimed: "Hell was embittered when it encountered thee in the lower regions."

It was embittered, for it was abolished! It was embittered, for it was mocked!  
It was embittered, for it was purged! It was embittered, for it was despoiled!!  
It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!!!

It laid hold of a mortal body, and found that it had seized God! It laid hold of earth, but confronted heaven!! It seized what it saw, but crumbled before what it had not seen!!!

"O Death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory?"

Christ is risen, and Hell is overthrown!  
Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!  
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!!  
Christ is risen, and Life reigns!!!  
Christ is risen—and not one dead remains in the tombs!!!

For Christ being raised from the dead, has become the first-fruits of them that slept. To him be glory and dominion through all the ages of ages! Amen!

Christ is risen!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Christ is risen!!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!!

Christ is risen!!!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!!!

In Christ,

Pastor Josh



**May 30 (10:30am)—May 31, 2025 (1:00pm)**

We want to encourage a wide and diverse representation of voting members. **Our synod constitution allows each congregation to send their pastor/deacon or licensed lay minister plus two lay voting members.** In an effort to encourage broad participation, the Synod Council has authorized the option of sending additional lay voting members provided they are a person of color, primary language other than English and/or a youth/young adult (age 14 to 30).

For more information, click on the following link:  
<https://nelutherans.org/assembly>

## DID YOU KNOW.....?

**Dawn Tiedeman delivers “pop tabs” to the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut** which is only steps away from Yale Children’s Hospital. This home-like environment, where families can stay for free during the duration of their child’s treatment, is a non-profit that relies on donations from individuals and the help of volunteers, as well as corporate support. In addition to pop/soda tabs, you can also save ANY metallic tabs, such as from cat food cans, soup cans, or any can with a metallic pull-tab! The pull-tab program brings in an average of \$6,000 each year and the money covers a range of expenses from utilities to necessities for families. Our collection jar is located to the right of the door as you walk into church.

Maybe you know that **John Downs collects eye glasses** for Lions Club International, but did you know that in addition to donating your old eyeglasses, you can also donate reading glasses and sunglasses? You can also donate damaged glasses that are recycled, keeping them out of landfills. Recycling unusable glasses provides “scrap to cash” income for Lions Club charitable causes. 100% of public donations to Lions Club are used for charitable purposes.

Now that you know...save those reading and bent glasses and sunglasses.

And why not keep a container in your kitchen or car for those pull tabs...and bring them all to church!

**If you volunteer or contribute to a charitable organization about which you are passionate, we’d like to share that with our congregation!**

We have some volunteers who are willing to speak about their charitable causes at education hour, but this is not required. Our aim is to build awareness and share the outreach ministry our members do individually. Perhaps we can provide support as a congregation too in simple ways, like collecting metallic tabs or glasses! Speak with Christi Sharon about this...Did you know **Brenda Samal knits prayer shawls?** Look for her story in the June Messenger.



Thank you to Chris Trutnau and John Downs for setting up the beautiful display of memorial Easter flowers.



### Council Update

Financial reports through March were received. Weekly offering envelope contributions and Tithely giving continue to show good trends compared to 2024. Overall contributions, including mission and capital giving, is trailing 2024. This is mainly due to lower rental income as there is one less group using our facilities. Capital improvement contributions are also lower as 2024 including contributions received for the kitchen renovation and parking lot repavement.

Actions taken by Council include:

- Setting June 1, 2025 as the next congregational meeting following service.
- Setting June 29, 2025 as a date for a congregational picnic following service.
- Agreeing to hold a joint worship service at Trinity New Haven on Sunday June 8, 2025 to celebrate Tyler Knoob’s confirmation.
- Approved a motion to bring to the congregation a proposal to sell the parsonage property sometime after the current lease expires.
- Approved a motion to explore joining an electricity purchasing co-op if it will lower utility costs.

Next Council meeting will be on Thursday May 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm.



### PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST PHOTOS

(more posted in the church hallway)



**MAY CELEBRATIONS**



*Anniversaries-*

*Birthdays-*

- 3- Brandon Cruz
- 9- Rob Hansen
- 13- Mary Lou Knoob
- 16- Linda Kapitan
- 16- Brenda Samal
- 17- Ruth Knollmueller
- 18- Lisa Ball-Goodrich
- 21- Chris Branch
- 23- Kathryn Napolitano
- 30- Linda Ibsen



**Emily Olson**  
 (daughter of Gary Olson)  
 Graduates May 11 from  
 the University of  
 Connecticut, majoring in  
 Ecology and  
 Evolutionary Biology.

**Matthew Lye**  
 (son of Leonard Lye III)  
 Graduates May 17 from  
 Notre Dame High  
 School.

**BOOK SIGNING EVENT**

Many thanks to Dan Smolnik for organizing and the Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin for signing copies of his books, *Francis of Assisi: the Life of a Restless Saint* and *Martin Luther: A Late Medieval Life* on Sunday, April 27. Proceeds from the event will be used for the pollinator garden.

Dan stated, "I had originally donated 5 each of the Martin Luther and of the St Francis books. Two of the St Francis books were inscribed and all five of the Martin Luther books went. Several people approached me afterwards and asked for a Martin Luther book so I've ordered a fresh batch of those."

"I consider the event a great success in that, through Volker's generosity of his time and considerable talents, CGS was able to quickly raise a nice starter fund for the garden this year. It is my understanding that at least some of the money raised from the book signing will be used to purchase some much-needed capital equipment for the garden. More on that later."

"In other words, this story isn't over yet. The CGS congregation has come together in this effort most generously and as a wonderful faith family. Thanks for allowing me a small part in it."



### Thank you to April Outreach and Garden Volunteers

\*On the April 5 work day, the shed was cleaned out, thanks to the efforts of Ken, Steve, Rob and Jake. Leo and Cathy got rid of 6 fans and 4 air conditioners. The Lord’s Bounty garden beds were cleaned up as well—Thank you Sarah, Dawn, Ken and Christi. The garden will be planted on Saturday, May 17, if the plants are ready. (The alternate date is May 24).

\* \* \* \* \*

\*John Downs delivered 11 bags of grocery items to the Hamden Food Bank. Our contributions to the food bank increased during Lent at a time when donations were greatly needed.

\* \* \* \* \*

\*Thank you to Steve for his continuing service at Dinner for \$1 in April!

\* \* \* \* \*

\*Tyler and Bryce had help from their father, Norma, Brenda and Christi to fill **200** Easter eggs with 1000 pieces of candy for the egg hunt for 30 children at the New Reach shelter!

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who made this event possible (and a success!) with donations of plastic eggs and candy. Our New Reach contact said the kids *loved the egg hunt*, and I hope to receive pictures from New Reach soon to share.

\* \* \* \* \*

\*Thank you to Chris Trutnau and John Downs for setting up the Easter memorial plants on Saturday, 4/19, and to Leo and Jonathan Goodrich for the work they did on the sound system the same day.



After a morning of hard work, the garage and gardens were cleaned up.



## Volunteers are needed May 18, right after coffee hour!

We will be prepping snack trays for 20 moms and 30 children at the New Reach Shelter. Outreach will purchase a variety of deli meats, cheeses, crackers and fruit. The prep will be easy—arranging the trays, making fruit salad, and mixing dip! Please let Christi Sharon know if you'd like to help.

FYI—This will be our contribution to New Reach for “Mother’s Day,” a week later, to avoid conflicts with Mother’s Day plans your family may have.



## Other Updates from the Outreach Team

The bulk of our April meeting was spent discussing the direction of CGSLC Outreach going forward.

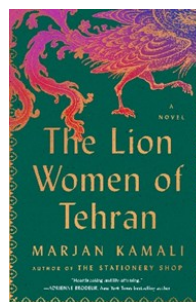
\*First, we reviewed the number of “asks” we have for special collections for monetary contributions or items in a year. Besides the ongoing Food Bank collections, there are 6 times a year when we seek contributions. They are: **Thanksgiving, Christmas, Diaper Drive, Easter eggs & candy, Adopt-a-Plant, and God’s Work/Our Hands.** There are no plans to add to the list for this year.

\*Second, we discussed a number of new ideas! We will continue to deepen our commitment to New Reach in New Haven by preparing a snack tray one Sunday a month for the family shelter. Our May snack trays will be our first offering, and the hope is that, we will “graduate” to

prepping simple meals. Dottie and Ursula have been a great help with recipe ideas! Three volunteers are already on board, and we’re looking for more! If you have interest or questions, see Christi Sharon.

\*Third, we discussed ideas that will tie together fellowship events with outreach! In the fall, we are looking forward to having a fellowship event at church...**on a Saturday evening!** Building use on Saturday has already been discussed and given the stamp of approval by council!! The Outreach Team has discussed some fun ideas this event, but it is still in the planning stages, so all ideas are welcome! A free will offering will benefit New Reach, and plans are in the works for matching funds, too! A date and a “theme” for this event will be determined at the next Outreach Team meeting on June 11 at 6 pm.

\*Stay tuned for more new ways CGSLC will be reaching out to the community in May and June!



## CGS BOOK CLUB

*As posted on Goodreads---*

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

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
5/4	Linda Kapitan	Rob Hansen	O'Brien family	Ursula Hunter
5/11	Casey Fish	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Durbin & Ursula Hunter	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
5/18	Michael Lye	Ken Watson	John Downs Ken Watson	John Downs
5/25	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Durbin Hunter	Starr O'Connor Durbin Hunter	Ursula Hunter
6/4	Rob Hansen	Michael Lye	John Downs Steven Swanson	John Downs

*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**





- \* June 1, 2025  
Congregational Meeting  
Immediately following the  
worship service
- \* June 8- Day of Pentecost  
Joint worship at Trinity  
Lutheran, New Haven. Tyler  
Knob is among the  
candidates for confirmation.

5/4	Linda Kapitan
5/11	Jackie Menefee Rob Hansen
5/18	Sarah DeLong Linda Ibsen
5/25	~no coffee hour~
6/4	Leo & Lisa Goodrich



“Over the past year, nature has been our sanctuary. This Mother’s Day, let us celebrate Mother Nature and recognize how our bond with the natural world can help not only nurture our inner selves, but remind us too of the role we play within the rich tapestry of life.”  
— Catherine of Wales

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	2	3
4 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion	5	6	7 6:30pm- Book Club	8	9	10
11 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion 	12	13	14	15 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch 6pm-Council mtg	16	17 Garden planting
18 5th Sunday of Easter 9:30am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion ~Snack tray prep for New Reach~	19	20	21 6:30pm- Pollinator garden mtg	22	23	24 (Alternate date for garden planting)
25 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Cross-Generation 10:00am Holy Communion 	26	27	28	29 Ascension of Our Lord	30 <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Synod Assembly</div>	31
Articles for June Messenger due 5/25						

**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.