

# THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
July 2025



Vol. 5 Issue 7



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan

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

As June comes to an end and July is here,  
what started as a chilly spring certainly has  
turned into a hot summer fast! Let's recap the  
whirlwind that was June, as God continues to  
encourage and strengthen our congregation.

On the very first of the month, Sunday June  
1, our congregation not only welcomed  
Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church to  
worship with us, but we held a duly called  
congregational meeting and, among other  
things, decided to begin the process of selling  
the parsonage.

On Sunday June 8th our community pulled  
up stakes to worship with the good people of  
Trinity Lutheran Church in New Haven,  
celebrating a service of Holy Communion  
and marking the occasion of Tyler Knoobs  
confirmation! After two years of study, the  
congregation heartily supported Tyler and his  
family as he affirmed his baptismal vows  
with 5 other awesome youth.

Tyler's confirmation verse was: "The Lord is  
my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me  
lie down in green pastures; he leads me  
beside still waters; he restores my soul. He  
leads me in the path of righteousness for his  
name's sake." –Psalm 23. Congratulations,  
Tyler!

On June 15 our new Administrative Assistant,  
Miguel Roman, began his work with us!  
Please find the introduction that Miguel has  
written for this month's newsletter. I, for one,  
am so very pleased with his work thus far,  
creating our bulletins and newsletters,  
answering phones and email, and being both  
an efficient and friendly face to our  
congregation. Miguel is in the office  
Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:15  
AM - 2:15 PM; stop by and say, "Hello!"

June was also a month of remembrance, as  
we held memorial services for two of our  
members who recently died and joined the  
Church Triumphant; Marsha Hendren (June  
7) and Dan Smolnik (June 28).

A new Zoom bible study for some young  
adults connected to our community hit its  
stride in June, meeting each Wednesday of  
the month at 7:30 PM. This group of faithful  
folks in their late-teens and twenties has been  
moving slowly through the book of Exodus  
in the Hebrew.

Many other ministries and activities abound.

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



**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Family & friends of Dan Smolnik  
 Family of Bobby  
 Bobby Knoob  
 Linda  
 Kathy & Jessika  
 Phil & Sharon  
 Cianna, Richard, Apollonia  
 Rebecca  
 Bob  
 Elfrede, Carl, Christal, and Sue  
 Pam V

Julie & Family	Denise C	Tom
Kevin	Patty	Katharine
Paul	Jillian	Carol
Karen	Gerry	Elinor
Alyssa	Joshua P.	

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

Weather permitting, we will be worshipping outside and holding a festive congregational picnic on June 29th. Christi Sharon and the Outreach Team are hard at work supporting local partners like Dinner for \$1 and New Reach. Coffee Klatsch on 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 10:30 AM is going strong (we even beat our record for attendance on June 19th, with so many educators from our community now available to gather). Our Lord's Bounty Garden is growing and growing—if you've got a chance, hike up the hill and take a look. The Pollinator Project Team is gathering quotes and writing their grant.

And one note looking ahead to July, **I will be off on vacation beginning Monday, July 21 until Monday, July 28th. Please be in touch with Miguel in the office if you have a pastoral need on these dates, and he will connect you with a visitation pastor who will be available to help out.**

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.

## Council Update

A Congregational meeting was held on June 1. Financial reports through April were provided and pastor thanked the congregation for the financial generosity. The new council structure of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Financial Secretary and 5 at-large positions is working out well. One at-large position is open. Christi provided a report from the Synod Assembly meeting at the end of May and three action items for congregations to consider: Share the Gospel; build relationships with the community; and do justice. Christi provided examples of how our partnerships with the Keefe Center Hamden food bank, New Reach, and Grace and St John's Episcopal Church supports those action items. Leo provided an update on facility improvements.

Upon the recommendation from Church Council, a motion was presented to the congregation to sell the parsonage after providing notice to the current tenant. There was discussion on the process for dividing the property, reasons for selling the property and alternatives. At the conclusion of the discussion, the motion to sell the parsonage was approved by a majority vote.

Church Council met on June 12 in regular session. Financial reports were received showing operating contributions slightly ahead of 2024 through May. Total of all contributions including mission giving and capital improvement are slightly behind mainly due to higher capital improvement giving in 2024. Ordinary income through May is slightly behind 2024 but overall net income, including rental income and investment income is higher mainly due to gains on sale of investments for repositioning our portfolio.

## OUTREACH

### *A Garden Update from Rob*

The Lord’s Bounty community garden is blossoming! There are blooms on many of the plants in the garden, which means that the first harvest is not too far away. Thanks to those who have volunteered to help, and special thanks to **Jake, Dawn and Ken** for their help over the past couple weeks!

A recent addition to the garden is the compost tumbler. This will help turn food scraps into compost to feed the garden, which will feed the food insecure in Hamden. You are welcome to contribute to this effort! The most helpful things that you can contribute for composting are anything from plants or produce. For example:

- \*peelings and scraps from fruits and vegetables
- \*rotten fruits and vegetables
- \*crushed egg shells
- \*coffee grounds

Products from animal sources (such as meat scraps, bones, and dairy products) and products containing fats or oils are not good for compost because they can attract other animals and stop the composting process. In addition, processed foods or anything that appears to be diseased should stay out of the compost pile. If you have any questions about what can or cannot be composted, ask **Rob Hansen.**



Our first peapod!



Compost Tumbler; Ready to turn food scraps into compost to feed the garden!



The garden in action.



OUTREACH

❖ Thank You for the Outreach Efforts in June!

\*On June 22, six volunteers prepared our first meal for 20 women living at Martha's Place, a New Reach Shelter in New Haven. On the menu was Waldorf chicken salad and corn on the cob, the shucks of which were the first offerings to the new compactor! For dessert was a decadent brownie trifle (wow) , courtesy of **Liane Cassidy**. In addition, Nick and Jameson Papa had help from their parents to decorate and fill 30 treat bags for children living in another New Reach shelter. Many, many thanks to **Lynn and Steve, Dottie, Liana, Brianne and Anthony, Nick and Jameson** for helping with this endeavor!



Above : Steve Swanson and Liane Cassidy Preping for Martha's Place



Left: Dottie Helping to prepare a Meal for Martha's Place



Right: Lynn Swanson helping to prep a meal for Martha's Place



Above: The Papa Family assembling 30 treat bags ofr children living in New Reach Shelter



Meal cooked for women in Martha's Place

OUTREACH (cont. from 5)

\*Friday, June 20 was balmy, but breezy—the perfect evening to celebrate Dinner for a Dollar’s 14th Anniversary in Hamden! This was truly a community effort with volunteers from The United Way, Jordan’s Furniture, Medtronic, and Grace & St. John’s Episcopal. Our contribution of the ice cream truck added to the festive atmosphere. This was the first year for an ice cream truck at the event, and it was definitely a hit and a memorable contribution to a ministry that deserves to be joyfully celebrated! Thank you, CGSLC—our support for Dinner for a Dollar is greatly appreciated!!



Above: The line at the Dinner for\$1 Anniversary

Below: Side View of the Ice Cream Truck CGSLC Sponsored



Outreach Opportunities in June



Above: Christi Sharon, Rob Hansen, and the Swansons in front of the Ice Cream Truck CGSLC Sponsored for the Dinner for \$1 Celebration

\*And a special thank you to **Sharon Napolitano** who expertly adds to the “News & Updates” on our website. Sharon turns words into interesting headlines and stories. Check out Sharon’s latest “News & Updates” posting at christgoodshepherd.lutheran.org titled “**Rob Hansen featured on WTNH: Community can play role in reducing high ozone levels.**” Thank you so much Sharon for your time and talent! As Pastor Josh has said, “If people want to learn about CGSLC, they go to our website.”



Rob Hansen Talking with WTHN News reporter

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

\*During June, we collected 10 bags of grocery items for the Hamden Food Bank! Almost all of the donations were specifically what the food bank requested— PB&J, mac and cheese, cereal, granola bars, fruit cups, single-serve pasta, canned meats, and rice. Keep up the good work, CGSLC! Pick up the complete list in the narthex.



### Our Help is Appreciated: Words of Thanks from New Reach

At CGSLC, we are deepening our relationship to New Reach Inc. which works to prevent homelessness, and provides shelter/services to individuals who are homeless. Since the spring, we have provided candy-filled eggs for Easter, prepared deli trays & fruit salad in May and a meal and “treat bags” just last week. We also placed an ad for CGSLC in the New Reach auction program expressing our “joyful support” of the organization’s work and mission I am in regular contact with Julia and Mary (who work in Development) and sometimes even with Joanne Sciulli, the director herself. They really appreciate our efforts and often express that in their emails: “joyful support” of the organization’s work and mission I am in regular contact with Julia and Mary (who work in Development) and sometimes even with Joanne Sciulli, the director herself. They really appreciate our efforts and often express that in their emails:

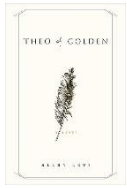
*“We are so appreciative of the parish support. Thank you for all you are doing to help us with our mission. We couldn’t do it without people like you.”* — **Mary Grande, development consultant**

*“Thank you so much for your continued support for New Reach Inc. in the most recent years. In uncertain times like these, support for the homeless population is needed now more than ever.”* — **Julia Lawler, development assistant**

*“We are so appreciative of the parish support. Thank you for all you are doing to help us with our mission. We couldn’t do it without people like you.”* — **Mary Grande, development consultant**

*“Thank you so much for your continued support for New Reach Inc. in the most recent years. In uncertain times like these, support for the homeless population is needed now more than ever.”* — **Julia Lawler, development assistant**

My introduction to New Reach was at Christmas time last year when Denise and I dropped off the gifts our congregation purchased for families. A New Reach representative gave us a tour of their office on Peck St. in New Haven. On the grounds, is a warehouse where food is collected for FISH, which stands for Food In Service to the Homebound, which delivers food to people who can’t get to grocery stores. I didn’t know that! I learned so much about the various services New Reach provides from that December visit and from a subsequent meeting and conversations with New Reach staff. It’s hard to convey all the good that New Reach does for people! *A representative from New Reach will visit our church on Sunday, Oct. 19 to share all that New Reach does and to answer questions.* Look for more information about this in the August Messenger, as well as about our **“Host for Change” Chili Cook-Off** at church on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 5 pm!



## 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!!!**



## July Celebrations

### Birthdays

9- James Learned  
14- Lucia Sullivan  
27- Adam Hendren  
29- Thomas Knoob  
29- Meagan Vann  
30- Durbin Hunter



"After two years of preparation with Pastor Ryan Mills and Pastor Josh, Tyler Knoob was confirmed with 5 other students from Trinity Lutheran Church on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. Thank you so much to everyone from our congregation who made the trek down to New Haven to support Tyler and his family!"



Above: Tyler and his parents, Tommy and Anne, and his brother Bryce, as well as Mary Lou, his paternal grandmother, his maternal grandparents, and his uncle Mark

Left : From Left to Right: Pastor Josh, Collin Morris, Tyler Handy, Ella Setaro, Clair Prud'homme, John Mills, Tyler Knoob, Pastor Ryan Mills

## SCHEDULE TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ALTAR SETUP
07/06/25	Durbin Hunter	Rob Hansen	Steven Swanson Ken Watson	Starr O'Connor
07/13/25	Michael Lye	Ken Watson	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Lorraine Brown
07/20/25	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Durbin Hunter	John Downs Steven Swanson	Ursula Hunter
07/27/25	Linda Kapitan	Michael Lye	xxxx	Sharon Napolitano
08/03/25	Casey Fish	Cyndi Hansard	Starr O'Connor Ken Watson	Starr O'Connor
07/06/25	Durbin Hunter	Rob Hansen	Steven Swanson Ken Watson	Starr O'Connor

*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



07/06/25	Rob Hansen Jackie Menefee
07/13/25	Cyndi Hansard
07/20/25	Sarah DeLong
07/27/25	Linda Kapitan
08/03/25	Leo and Lisa Ball-Goodrich



Hello CGSLC! Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Miguel Roman and I'm the new Office Assistant for CGSLC. I will be providing office support on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:15 -2:15. I can be reached at the office number 203-288-3196 or by email at: [christgoodshepherdlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:christgoodshepherdlutheran@gmail.com) I look forward to serving Pastor Josh and your congregation for quite some time. Feel free to come say Hello!

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	4 	5
6 4th Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service	7	8	9	10 Council Meeting 6pm	11	12
13 5th Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service	14	15	16 BookClub 6:30pm	17 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	18	19
20 6th Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service New Reach Meal Prep after service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 7th Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service Outreach Team Meetings 6:30pm	28	29	30	31		

## If you have 2 minutes, watch this!

I really appreciated attending synod assembly this year; it was my first time as a voting representative. *Thank you very much for this opportunity!* One of my favorite parts of assembly was meeting people in the synod and in the church-wide ELCA who are involved in outreach ministries locally and globally. Recently, I received this link, a 2-min. video, in a list of resources from one of my new ELCA World Hunger connections. It is upbeat and encouraging! Sure, there is work to do, but I think we at CGSLC are on the right track, building partnerships in the community. I look forward to widening our awareness of ELCA World Hunger's global work, too. I hope you'll watch this! -Christi Sharon-  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCKBPJE7udU>

### 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.