

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
September 2025



Vol. 5 Issue 9



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan

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

As Fall approaches it becomes increasingly clear that, here, at Christ the Good Shepherd, we are called by God's Holy Spirit to continue evolving and transforming. Some things remain the same: Our **Cross-Generation Bible Class starts again on Sunday, September 7th at 9:00 AM.** And confirmation classes begin again as well, meeting twice a month at 5:00 PM on Tuesday evenings.

But transformation is the name of the game when it comes to following Jesus:

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of people."—Mt 4:19

"Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."—Jn 3:3

"See, I am making all things new."—Rev 21:5

"...be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."—Rom 12:2

Indeed, our Congregational Council has undergone good and important changes since I was called as your pastor. We shifted from individuals being burdened with accomplishing all the various tasks associated with the different areas of ministry (worship, outreach, property, fellowship, etc), to creating Teams which were led by Team Leaders. After some period of trial and error, we settled on four Teams: Worship, Congregational Care, Property, Outreach. The leaders of these teams also served as members of our Council.

But quickly this system began to show signs of weakness, too. Serving on council and coordinating a Team was more than most volunteers were willing or able to do! So, as you might remember, at a Congregational Meeting last year, we voted as a congregation to pull these responsibilities apart. We have Team Leaders, and we have At-Large Council Representatives. If these Leaders and Representatives so happened to have dual-roles, that was their choice.

Well, as we start our program year this September, two of our Team Leaders have had to step down. We do not currently have a Team Leader for Congregational Care, Property or Outreach. And so, as this year goes ahead, we must hold in tension the reality that we are called and empowered by God to do ministry, but we are also busy, stressed, broken people. Nevertheless, ministry is getting done. Our property is being maintained by a team of people.

(continued on page 3)

**CHRIST THE GOOD
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Organist: Caroline Henry

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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 Works



PRAYER CONCERNS

- Family of Fred Liedke
- Family of Mary Lou Thetford
- Kathy
- Jessika
- Phil & Sharon
- Rebecca
- Bob
- Elfriede, Carl, Christel, and Sue
- Christi
- Carl
- Erica & Adam
- Fred, Mary Lou, Mary, and Trey



September Celebrations

Birthdays

1- Naomi Swanson 22- Kathy Dube
 4- Jo Ann Isleb 24- Jonathan Goodrich
 5- Leo Goodrich 26- Carol Lee
 5- Nicole Swanson
 5- Rev Joshua Sullivan
 17- Carolin Henry



Anniversaries

7- Ken & Chuddy Watson
 15- Thomas & Brenda Samal
 Bob & Krista O'Brien



Council Update

Church Council met on August 21 in regular session. Financial reports were received showing operating contributions slightly ahead of 2024 through July. 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 July is ahead of 2024. Overall net income, including rental income and investment income is a negative \$2,348 through July mainly due to higher property insurance, building maintenance and other expenses. Council also made the following actions:

- Approved Ken Watson and Kris O'Brien as Council At-Large members to fill the remaining 2025 terms of Council members who needed to step down; and
- Approved the draft Reimagining Church grant to support the Pollinator Project..

The Next Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday September 28th immediately following worship.

Pastors Message

(Cont. from pg 1)

The process to sell the parsonage, which was voted on at our previous Congregational Meeting, is moving forward with the help of key leaders. New council members have stepped forward to fill in the gap (thank you Kris O'Brien and Ken Watson)! Our Pollinator Project proposal has been submitted to the Reimagining Church folks at Yale Divinity School, and we are poised to "press play" on this very exciting project to steward our property. The Lord's Bounty Garden up on the hill has been tended and cared for all summer by an awesome group of people, with over 30 lbs. of produce delivered to food-insecure people via the Keefe Center in Hamden.

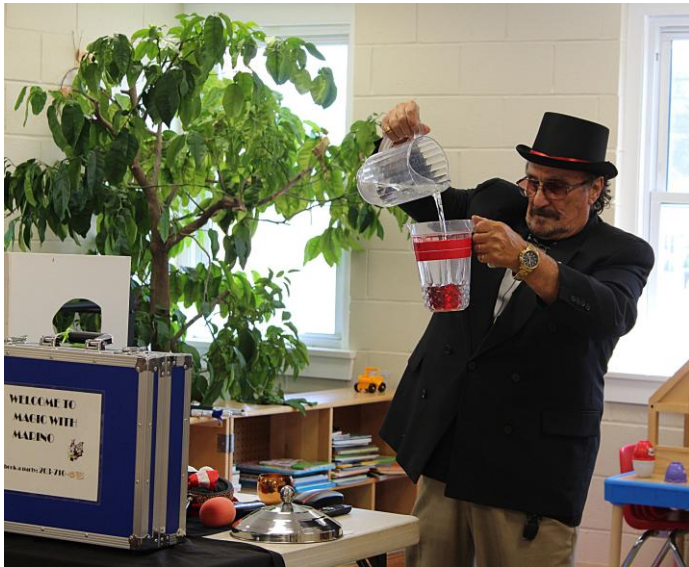
To be quite frank, I'm not worried about this latest shift. What will it be? What will it entail? Will some ministries come and others go? I don't know. I surrender to that not-knowing. Only as the Holy Spirit calls, and with great caution and trepidation, should we endeavor to do God's work in the world. I see this moment in our congregation simply as another in a long series of exciting opportunities to more clearly embody the creative, transformative and self-giving presence of God.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh



On Sunday, August 10, the congregation was entertained during coffee hour with Magic by Marino



Above:
Magician Marino turning water into wine



Magician Marino introducing the bunny in the hat



Below:
Abracadabra Cash appears in a once empty tin



Magician Marino Lavorgna and Mike Lye

Marino has been doing magic shows for 20 years and has made an impact on our Connecticut community.

Lords Bounty Community Garden

The Lord's Bounty community garden is going strong! Our garden volunteers are busy harvesting vegetables and delivering them to the Keefe Center in Hamden. As a bonus, pollinators are also busy visiting all the flowers that are in bloom. As of August 24, 41.5 pounds of vegetables and herbs have been harvested and delivered to the Keefe Center, and there will be more to come. A huge thank you to all the garden volunteers for their hard work! If you would like to volunteer, contact Rob Hansen. No garden experience is required! There are a couple more garden-related events that we're working to plan:

- A **garden workday** sometime in late September or October to tidy up the paths, shore up the fence, and perhaps clear out beds.
- A **harvest celebration** sometime in November to celebrate this year's successes and recognize the efforts of this year's volunteers.
- If you are able, feel free to visit the garden any time!



Boom Chicka Move July Totals.

Hello Team!

Thanks again for joining our team to move and raise money for Camp Calumet Lutheran on Lake Ossipe in Freedom New Hampshire.

Our Team:

- Has 15 members
- Raised \$450 for Calumet
- Walked 1,116 miles in July. That's enough to walk to camp and back 2.5 times!

Keep up the good work!

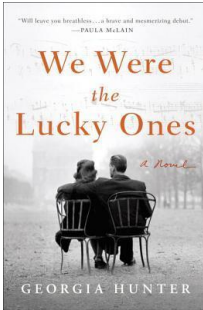
Cyndi

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.

CGS Book Club



Next read: *We Were the Lucky Ones*
by Georgia Hunter

As posted on Goodreads---It is the spring of 1939 and three generations of the Kurc family are doing their best to live normal lives, even as the shadow of war grows closer. The talk around the family Seder table is of new babies and budding romance, not of the increasing hardships threatening Jews in their hometown of Radom, Poland. But soon the horrors overtaking Europe will become inescapable and the Kurcs will be flung to the far corners of the world, each desperately trying to navigate his or her own path to safety.

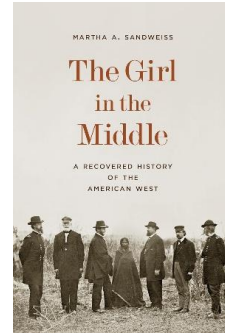
An extraordinary, propulsive novel, *We Were the Lucky Ones* demonstrates how in the face of the twentieth century's darkest moment, the human spirit can endure and even thrive.

The CGS book club will be meeting on October 22 at 6:30. Please join us for wonderful conversation.

Hope to see you there!!!



In planning ahead and as this book seems more difficult to get, our December 10th Book Club event will be *The Girl in the Middle* by Martha A. Sandweiss



As posted on Goodreads--- In 1868, celebrated Civil War photographer Alexander Gardner traveled to Fort Laramie to document the federal government's treaty negotiations with the Lakota and other tribes of the northern Plains. Gardner, known for his iconic portrait of Abraham Lincoln and his visceral pictures of the Confederate dead at Antietam, posed six federal peace commissioners with a young Native girl wrapped in a blanket. The hand-labeled prints carefully name each of the men, but the girl is never identified.

Spinning a spellbinding historical tale from a single enigmatic image, *The Girl in the Middle* reveals how the American nation grappled with what kind of country it would be as it expanded westward in the aftermath of the Civil War.

The CGS book club will be meeting on December 10th at 5:30. We will also be celebrating the holiday season with a Potluck. Please join us for wonderful conversation and food.

SCHEDULE TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	SACRISTAN
09/07/25	Linda Kapitan	Cyndi Hansard	Star O'Connor John Downs	John Downs
09/14/25	Rob Hansen	Durbin Hunter	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Deb Mason
09/21/25	Durbin Hunter	Rob Hansen	Steven Swanson Starr O'Connor	Ursula Hunter
09/28/25	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Downs Cyndi Hansard	John Downs
10/05/25	Grace O'Brien	Ken Watson	Bob O'Brien Kris O'Brien	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee

*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



09/07/25	Linda Kapitan
09/14/25	Cyndi Hansard
09/21/25	Bob, Kris and Grace O'Brien
09/28/25	Rob Hansen and Jackie Menefee
10/05/25	Ken And Chuddy Watson



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 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 Confirmation 5:00 -6:30pm	3	4 Coffee Klatch 10:30am	5	6
7 13th Sun after <i>Pentecost</i> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 14th Sun after <i>Pentecost</i> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service	15 Executive Committee Zoom 7 pm	16 Confirmation 5:00 -6:30pm	17 Council Meeting 6pm	18 Coffee Klatch 10:30am	19	20
21 15th Sun after <i>Pentecost</i> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 16th Sun after <i>Pentecost</i> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service Congregational Meeting After Worship Service	29	30				

Confirmation is scheduled for Tuesday Sept 2 & 16 from 5-6:30 PM
Coffee Klatch is scheduled for Thursday Sept 4th & 18th at 10:30 AM
Cross-Generation Bible Class begins again on Sep 7, from 9-9:45 AM
Executive Committee meets on Zoom Monday Sept 15th at 7 PM
Council Meeting Wednesday Sept 17th 6pm
Congregational Meeting is Sunday, Sep 28 immediately after worship.