

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
October 2025



Vol. 5 Issue 10



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan

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

*“...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.” –Romans 12:2*

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, we
continue to transform, we continue to be
flexible here at Christ the Good Shepherd as
the Spirit calls us and leads us.

To that end, we are conducting a
Congregational Survey to discover just where
we are heading, what our strengths are and
what capacity truly is. Have you taken it yet?
Please take just a few minutes and follow this
link, or scan this QR Code with your phone:



<https://forms.gle/NYyRc7cS6WntHqq96>

Curious what folks have said? Well, the
Congregational Council and I will be pouring
over the results as they still come in the
weeks and months ahead. But I am overjoyed
to share with you just a sampling of these
incredible, life-giving answers, from
members and guests, young and old, past and
present:

When you engaged with Christ the Good Shepherd for the first time (either through the merger process or as a new member) what did you notice?

- “Felt welcomed in. Over time there has
been amazing support for our family.”
- “We all loved the Lord and wanted it to
work.”
- “Very welcoming atmosphere. Simplicity
of service (room for reflection). Deep care
for fellow congregants & others.
Connection to the natural world &
creation.”
- “I felt the Spirit leading.”

Why did you choose to stay?

- “I keep feeling a pull to grow &
participate. Being here is fun &
enlightening. It's like fertilizer.”
- “...I felt excited about the potential of the
direction the church was moving...”
- “I felt comfortable.”
- “The feeling I got the first time I went
honestly. It was just such a warm place
that made me feel at peace.”

(continued on page 3)

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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
Ken Watson
Krista O’Brien

October Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Charlotte Prentice | 18- Dorothy Podgwaite |
| 9- Bob O’Brien | 27- Dustin Hansard |
| 12- Joanne Learned | |
| 13- Sharon Napolitano | |
| 14- Suzanne Boor | |
| 14- Simone Sullivan | |
| 15- Kara Dziekan | |



Prayer Works



PRAYER CONCERNS

For all bishops and shepherds of the church, especially our newly installed presiding bishop of the ELCA, The Rev. Yehiel Curry.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Erika & Adam | Rob |
| Christi | Kathy |
| Jessika | Sharon & Phil |
| Rebecca | Richard & Family |
| Rebecca | Carl & Loretta |
| Bob | |
| Elfriede, Christel, Ruth K., and Sue | |

Pastors Message

(Cont. from pg 1)

- “Sermons are clear, challenging, strong connection to Baptism and Eucharist (life-giving centers).”

Name a moment or a ministry where you have seen CGS functioning at its best / adhering closest to God’s calling for us / living up to our potential / etc.

- “I love the Bible Studies where everyone has tolerated my questions..”
- “For me there are two that are a close tie (and somewhat related!) One ministry is the partnership with Grace & St. John's The other (which partly came from that) was the community garden.”
- “Being a welcoming congregation!”
- “The garden and food donations to those in need is living up to our potential in helping those in need.”
- “The Lord's Bounty Community Garden seems to be the ministry which best uses the church's resources including the property, relationships, and manpower the church has to do God's work in the community.”
- “Listening and honestly caring for those who share joys & concerns. Community garden and (I am sure) Pollinator Garden”

In your own life, what excites you or gives you joy? What are you good at?

- “Sharing - Doing new things - still trying to find out...”
- “I enjoy making things! I am also good at teaching.”
- “When I see my family health and I am good at helping others when I can through listening and taking to them”

- “The best thing that gives me joy is my family, best friends ,cousins, uncles, auntie and grandma and grandpa.”
- “It's working with people.”
- “My family; teaching & encouraging others”
- “...Talking about God and being with God fulfills my soul. My future excites me because there is so much I can discover and grow...”

These answers are why we are here, this is why God has called us together. How exciting a time to be together! I look forward to hearing more and to charting our course based on this data, our confession of faith, and nothing else.

I remain yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh

Worship Volunteer Call

DIVINELY DELICIOUS DONUTS COFFEE HOUR: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5th

Please join us for an informational coffee hour on October 5th, PLUS fresh donuts! We will be sharing the specifics of serving as a Worship Assistant, Lector, Usher, Sacristan, and Technology Support Person. There will be time for questions and the opportunity to volunteer to become more actively involved in Sunday services. What are you called to do?

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.



Greetings all, and happy fall!

The late summer musical offerings have included the blues, a klezmer-inspired version of "Trees of the Field", and just last Sunday the ever-meditative resonance of the tongue-drum led us across a medley of familiar hymns. In case you ever doubted, there is a place for whatever instrument you play! Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me (Caroline) if you would like to contribute to the music at our church. If you have something in mind, or are looking for guidance on what to play, I can facilitate in either case! Thanks to all for the wide diversity of music that has been brought forth this year!

Musically,
Caroline



Council Update

Church Council met on September 15 in regular session. Financial reports were received showing operating contributions slightly ahead of 2024 through August. 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 August is ahead of 2024. Overall net income, including rental income and investment income is a negative \$2,959 through August mainly due to higher property insurance, building maintenance and other expenses. Council also made the following actions:

- Approved a motion to cancel additional features of [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com) that the Church is not using. This does not impact that on-line giving through Tithe.ly which will continue
- Approved recommending the Congregation pass a motion at the upcoming Congregational meeting to approve up to \$8,500 in surveyor's expenses in order to subdivide the parsonage property
- Approved accepting into membership Dr. Brett Matthew Prestia, Aryn Martin Prestia, Parker Otto Prestia, and August Owen Prestia; and
- Approved advancing \$3,500 to Andrew Mangold of Paradise Gardens to begin work on the Pollinator Garden with funds coming from accounts designated for the Garden. We anticipate receiving the full \$10,000 Reimagining Church grant in December.

We support Camp Calumet Lutheran, the New England Synod's Outdoor Ministry on Lake Ossipee in Freedom, New Hampshire!



Boom Chicka Move summer fundraiser: Pictured are 6 of our 15 team members who walked, danced, hiked, kayaked and more to help raise money for Camp Calumet this summer. We moved our bodies a total of 2,442 miles in July & August; that's the same as walking from our church up to Camp Calumet and back – 5.5 times! Our team helped raise over \$450 for Calumet, and all the participants across New England raised a total of \$31,645.



Greetings Boom Chicka Movers!

We wanted to share the great news that we have **exceeded our mileage goal** for Boom Chicka Move and are currently reporting **104,015 miles!** That's a lot of miles and memories all done to support Calumet and our mission. Thank you all for the great effort.

Congratulations on another successful year for Boom Chicka Move!

Boom Chicka Boom!

Calumet Staff

(received from Callumet)





Calumet Obstacle & Trail Challenge

On September 12, Cyndi Hansard participated in Camp Calumet's first annual Obstacle & Trail Challenge to help raise money for kids to attend camp. Along with 19 other adventurous people (including Bishop Piph!), she ran, crawled, and climbed her way across camp's beautiful property for a 5k trail run with the added challenge of a dozen obstacles along the way. Thanks to the generosity of friends, family, and members of our congregation, she raised over \$800 for camp, and all the participants together raised over \$22,000. Cyndi would like to thank everyone who supported her run through donations, well wishes, and prayers – it is all very much appreciated!

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!



Calumet Women's Weekends

In November of 2023 and 2024, a group of us went to Calumet for a retreat. We met women from Lutheran churches around New England, spent time outdoors breathing in the fresh air and enjoying God's creation, we grew in our faith and supported each other with our friendship, we did crafts and yoga and so much more. **We are returning again this fall from November 7-9. Please join us!** See Cyndi with questions or email alice@calumet.org



Pollinator Project Update



As many of you have heard or know by now, we are engaged in undertaking significant changes to our outdoor facility in collaboration with Yale Divinity School and their Reimagining Church Program that was led last year by YDS student Tim Bergeland.

We are told that we will indeed be in receipt of significant funds to put our "Pollinator Project" in motion. Keep a look out for changes even this Fall as we prepare the soil, smother unwanted invasive species, and maybe even get some shrubs and trees in the ground before Winter comes. To that end, we are inviting donations of large pieces of corrugated cardboard. (Please put them in the Janitorial Closet that is beside the Coat Room.) For a more detailed explanation of how this project will enhance our ministry here at Christ the Good Shepherd, check out this portion of our grant application:

"We anticipate our on-going Pollinator Project to enhance our ministry in the following ways. To begin, even in its planning stages, our congregation has become more connected to area scientists and environmentalists as we have consulted with them, sharing how we are inspired by Christ's incarnational presence to love all our neighbors, not just the human ones. This theme of Creation Care is deeply important to many of our community members and we hope this project will only continue to create more ideas for ways to engage in this ministry.

We also expect that other people in our broader community will engage with us because of these values being made so visible. The project, along with our vegetable garden expansion, will multiply our members' connections to each other as well. Maintaining the garden and the plantings through their stages of establishment will require teamwork and collaboration as we 'get our hands dirty' side by side. We anticipate that the visibility of this 'oasis' of natural habitat and the paths leading up to our vegetable garden will show our community that there are no barriers to entry into our ministry. We plan to present these new spaces as sites of collaboration with schools and other institutions to teach about our environment and native species, to offer them as community meeting areas, as well as establish practices that utilize them as worship sites and places of both celebration and meditation."





First Annual Dan Smolnik

Chili Cook-off

Fundraiser

Sat. OCTOBER 25
5-7 PM

Fellowship Room

Free will

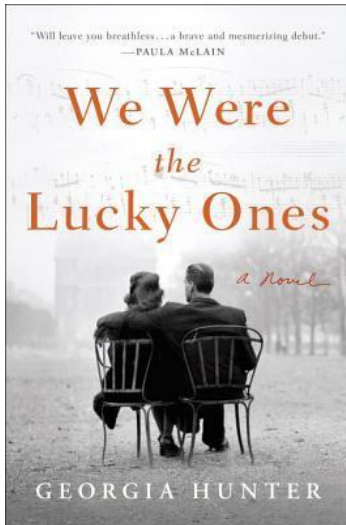
Donation

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT NEWREACH

For questions or more information please contact CATHY (914)262-9674

**Come for Fun, Good Times, and Good Food!
Sign up Sheet on Bulletin Board**

CGS Book Club



This month's read:

We Were the Lucky Ones
by Georgia Hunter

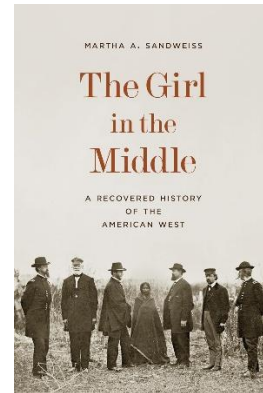
As posted on Goodreads---It is the spring of 1939 and three generations of the Kurc family are doing their best to live normal lives, even as the shadow of war grows closer. The talk around the family Seder table is of new babies and budding romance, not of the increasing hardships threatening Jews in 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
10/05/25	Grace O'Brien	Ken Watson	Bob and Kris O'Brien	Deb Mason
10/12/25	Rob Hansen	Cyndi Hansard	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Conner
10/19/25	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Tessa Holk	John Downs Steven Swanson	John Downs
10/26/25	Durbin Hunter	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Cyndi Hansard Ken Watson	Ursula Hunter
11/02/25	Tessa Holk	Durbin Hunter	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Starr O'Connor

*If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please find a substitute, and let Linda K., Pastor and Miguel know. **Thank you for serving!***

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



10/05/25	Ken and Chuddy Watson
10/12/25	
10/19/25	Rob Hansen and Jackie Menefee
10/26/25	
11/05/25	Bob , Kris, and Grace O'Brien



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 Coffee Klatch 10:30am	3	4
5 17th Sun after Pentecost 9-9:45am Cross Generational Bible Class 10 am Worship Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 18th Sun after Pentecost 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service Pastor Josh Away	13 Executive Committee 7 pm	14 Confirmation 5 – 6:30	15 Council Meeting 6pm	16 Coffee Klatch 10:30am	17	18
19 19th Sun after Pentecost 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service New Reach Informational Session at Coffee hour	20	21	22 CGS Book Club 6:30pm	23	24	25 Chilli Cook-Off 5-7pm
26 Reformation Sunday 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31	

Confirmation is scheduled for Tuesday October 14, Nov 4, Nov18 from 5 - 6:30 PM
Coffee Klatch is scheduled for Thursday October 2nd & 18th at 10:30 AM
Cross-Generation Bible Class every Sunday from 9-9:45 AM
Executive Committee meets on Monday Oct 13th at 7 PM
Council Meeting Wednesday October 15th 6pm
A New Reach representative will be giving an **informational session** leading up to our Chili Cook-off fundraiser for New Reach at **Coffee Hour on Sunday Oct 19.**