

# THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
November 2025



Vol. 5 Issue 11



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan

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

How can it be that November is here! Soon we will celebrate the eternal life of all those who have died this year on All Saints Sunday. Soon we will celebrate that *only* Christ is our Sovereign and Lord on the Sunday of the Reign of Christ and soon, hard to believe, we will begin the season of Advent, the four weeks of waiting and preparation before our feast and commemoration of God becoming flesh, what we call Christmas.

Soon we will hear more from our Congregational Council about the results of our congregational survey, to which over **40** participants responded. Thank you! Curious what your siblings in Christ said? Well, below is a table of all the things that people reported which bring them joy. The number above it is the number of times it was mentioned by various people. (Respondants mentioned more than one thing). Most frequently named things are in **bold**.

1 Editing / Writing	<b>1</b> <b>Investment / Finance</b>
1 Cooking	5 Books / Learning
3 Leadership/ Organizing	<b>6</b> <b>Singing / Music</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Outdoors / Gardening</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Helping Others / Serving / Sharing Caregiving / Volunteering</b>
3 Teaching	3 Trying new things / Adapting
1 Dancing	2 Sports / Hockey / Baseball
1 AA/ Sobriety	<b>8</b> <b>Worship / Sharing faith Spirituality / Scripture</b>
3 Listening to others / Conversation	<b>8</b> <b>Arts / Crafts</b>
2 Community	<b>13</b> <b>Family</b>
3 Making Things/ Fixing Things	1 Children

(continued on page 3)

**CHRIST THE GOOD  
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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**Director of Music: Caroline Henry**

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[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  
Ken Watson  
Krista O'Brien

**November Celebrations**



**Birthdays**

5 - Bryce Knoob 13 - Elizabeth Ingerson  
18 - John Downs



**Prayer  
Works**



**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Sharon & Phil Erica & Adam  
Kathy, Mary & Jessica Rob  
Richard & Family Rebecca  
Bob Carl & Loretta  
Danny Khaled  
Elfriede, Carl, Christal, and Sue  
Family and students of Robert Cutrofello  
The People of Tanzania  
The People of Jamaica

## Pastors Message

(Cont. from pg 1)

What brings , me, Pastor Josh joy, you ask?  
Collaborating.

Please stop and admire the native shrubs and trees that have gone in as part of our on-going Pollinator Project, in collaboration with Yale Divinity School, our Pollinator Team, the scientists of the CT Ag Experiment Station, and Andrew Mangold of Paradise Gardens.

Look out this year for our Advent Evening Devotions in collaboration with Grace & St. John's. Pastor Bob Bergner and I have been talking, and it seems the Holy Spirit is leading us toward the theme of "uncertainty." Uncertainty is certainly a theme we confront in the season of Advent. How long must we wait, O Lord? Can the United States make it through this time? Who will care for the most vulnerable among us? Will our relationships be able to last? After this loss or that change, who am I? When is Christ coming? What will happen when he does become flesh, in the world, and in our hearts? Will the present order of the world pass away?

Amidst all the questions, all the joy, and all the holiday preparation—May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Yours in the Spirit,

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

Church Council met on October 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 September is ahead of 2024. Overall net income, including rental income and investment income is a negative \$4,812 through September mainly due to higher property insurance, building maintenance and other expenses. With the loss of the rental income through the rest of this year, Council discussed various options to cover the loss of the income on our operating budget. Council referred the matter to the Investment Committee to determine recommendations. Council discussed preliminary results from the Congregational survey and plan on having an off-site retreat to fully review and develop actions.

### *Holiday Outreach*

**Thanksgiving food drive** - The Hamden food bank helps over 500 families with Thanksgiving meals. Donations are now being collected to prepare food baskets for these families. The Hamden Food Bank is currently seeking **stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes (or bags of potatoes), yams, rice, corn muffin mix and turkey gravy**. Please bring these items to church on November 2, 9, and 16. Due to space limitations, we will not be collecting frozen turkeys this year. If so moved, various grocery stores usually collect turkeys that are donated to food banks.

**Holiday toy drive** - The Hamden kids holiday toy drive is an annual Hamden tradition that serves over 500 children and families. To help, we are collecting new and unwrapped toys or gift cards for children ages 0-12. Gift suggestions include **dolls, trucks, Legos, gift cards, soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, ear buds, headphones, nail polish, craft kits, remote-control cars, etc.** Please bring these items to church on November 30, December 7, and December 14.

**ELCA World Hunger** - For over 50 years, the ELCA has joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of poverty and hunger around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Monetary donations can be made through the pew envelopes and marked as ELCA World Hunger.



**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!

## Special Event



Sunday, October 19th at our Coffee Hour Julia Lawler of **New Reach** gave a presentation about the work of **New Reach**. New Reach is an organization helping people in the New Haven area, doing the work of "Building Hopeful Futures for those experiencing Homelessness and Hunger."

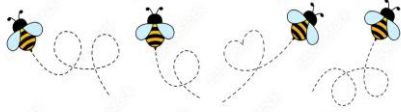
This Coffee Hour presentation was in anticipation of our Chili Cook-off planned for Sat Oct 25, the proceeds of which will benefit New Reach!



## Local News

Since the middle of July, artist Chris Gann has been commuting to Hamden from his home in Enfield to paint a mural on a previously blank brick wall at Grace and St John's Church on Dixwell Avenue across from the Hamden Police headquarters. The mural is now finished and has inspired comments from visitors such as "It's something beautiful ... something that was needed."





# Pollinator Project Update



You may have noticed some of the shrubs that have seemingly magically appeared in the front of the church, in reality it wasn't magic but the pollinator project moving forward. Thanks to the efforts of **Andrew Mangold** landscaper of Paradise Gardens, we now have 12 new shrubs: two Witch Hazel, a Service Berry, a Swamp White Oak, an Aronia, a Red Osier dogwood, a Sweetshrub, a Purple Flowering Raspberry and an Elderberry.



Checking Placement



Andrew Mangold  
Planting the first shrub



Pastor Josh and Andrew



Hard at work



Brand New Shrubs!

# First Annual Dan Smolnik Chili Cook-off Fundraiser



Above :View of 9 selections of chili

On Saturday, October 25, we had the first annual Dan Smolnik chili cook off fundraiser (over \$600 raised)

With nine selections of chili to choose from it was difficult to narrow down the competitors . it came down to three final choices. The winners were: **Liane Moreland** who took Third Place. **Jackie Menefee**, who captured the Second Place slot and **Anita Pogwaite**, who came took the top spot coming in First Place. A good time and delicious eats was had by! And to top the whole thing off, all and the proceeds will benefit New Reach!

Thank you to all who participated and donated. it was a wonderful event with good times good food and fellowship for all involved



Right:  
**Liane Moreland**  
Receiving the  
prize for Third  
Place



Left:  
**Jackie Menefee**,  
being presented  
Second Place



Right:  
**Anita Pogwaite**  
Receiving First  
Place honors

## CGS Book Club

Since its inception in the fall of 2021, we have read the following books:

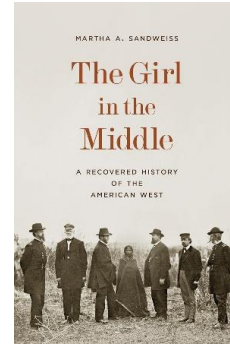
Grandma Gatewood's Walk  
 The Lincoln Highway  
 Just Mercy  
 What Happened to the Bennetts?  
 The Book of Joy  
 A Hobbit, A Wardrobe and A Great War  
 The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe  
 The Good Life  
 Faith Still Moves Mountains  
 Women of Courage  
 The Only Woman in the Room  
 Earth Abides  
 Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet  
 When Crickets Cry  
 The Rose Code  
 The Graves are Walking  
 The Memory Keeper's Daughter  
 The Women  
 The Lion Women of Tehran  
 Theo of Golden  
 We Were the Lucky Ones

For a group that meets 4 to 5 times a year, that is an impressive list. As you can see, no genre is off limits.

**If you enjoy reading, please feel free to join us. We always welcome new voices and suggestions for reading.**



Our next meeting is December 10<sup>th</sup> and we will be discussing *The Girl in the Middle* by Martha A. Sandweiss. Though this book is difficult to get, it is available on Hoopla.



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 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. We will also be celebrating the holiday season with a Potluck. Please join us for wonderful conversation and food. Even if you do not read the book and are interested in what we are all about, please join us for the potluck and conversation.

## SCHEDULE TO SERVE

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	SACRISTAN
11/02/25	Tessa Holk	Durbin Hunter	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Star O'connor
11/09/25	Linda Kapitan	Rob Hansen	Steven Swanson Deb Mason	Jonathan Goodrich
11/16/25	Grace O'Brien	Ken Watson	Bob and Kris O'Brien	Ursula Hunter
11/23/25	Durbin Hunter	Mary Lou Knoob	Tyler Knoob Ken Watson	Ellen Frost
11/30/25	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Cyndi Hansard	John Downs Steven Swanson	John Downs
12/07/25	Tessa Holk	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor Durbin Hunter	Deb Mason

*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



11/02/25	Office Staff
11/09/25	Linda Kapitan
11/16/25	Ken and Chuddy Watson
11/23/25	Cyndi Hansard
11/30/25	
12/07/23	Sarah DeLong and Rob Hansen

11/02/25	Jonathan Goodrich
11/09/25	Cathy Cahn
11/16/25	Rob Hansen
11/23/25	Jonathan Goodrich
11/30/25	Cathy Cahn
12/07/25	Rob Hansen

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
<b>2 All Saints Sunday</b> 9-9:45am Cross Generational Bible Class 10 am Worship Service	3	<b>4</b> Confirmation 5 – 6:30	5	<b>6</b> Coffee Klatch 10:30am	7	8
<b>9 22nd Sun after Pentecost</b> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service	10	11	12	13	14	<b>15</b> Birthday Event for Cole Boughton in Fellowship Hall 1-5 pm
<b>16 23rd Sun after Pentecost</b> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service	<b>17</b> Executive Committee 7 pm on Zoom	<b>18</b> Confirmation 5 – 6:30	<b>19</b> Pastor Josh Eucharist at Masonicare, Wallingford 10:30 am Council Meeting 6pm	<b>20</b> Coffee Klatch 10:30am	21	22
<b>23 Reign of Christ Sunday</b> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>30 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service						

**Confirmation** is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov 4, Nov18 from 5 - 6:30 PM  
**Coffee Klatch** is scheduled for Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM  
**Cross-Generation Bible Class** every Sunday from 9-9:45 AM  
**Executive Committee** meets on Monday November 17<sup>th</sup> on Zoom at 7 PM  
**Council Meeting** Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm  
**Pastor Josh will Giving Eucharist** Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup> at Masonicare ,Wallingford at 10:30 am