

# THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
February 2026



Vol. 6 Issue 2



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan

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

Just as I shared our new Congregational Council's "dreams & challenges" last year in February, let me do so again this year in 2026. But, this year, I want to share some specific dreams and challenges, seeing as they sort of relate to one another.

Two dreams were for our "Outreach" and "Property" ministry teams to do **more** and to be **more** focused after several months of disorganization because of vacancies in leadership. But two challenges lifted up were that we seem to have **less and less** members involved, and those who are active confess they are feeling burned out by national, vocational and personal stressors.

Wanting more, having less - this sounds like a pretty tough situation, right? It is. But more than a crisis of resources, it is in fact a crisis of self-understanding. Who are we? What do we have the capacity to do? How can we respond to the immense stressors we all face, the poverty, violence, and cultural collapse we see in the news each day? More importantly: **How is God calling us to walk with Jesus?**

On the first of this month we heard in worship Jesus teaching us in Matthew's gospel that God blesses the poor in spirit; those who mourn; the meek; those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; the merciful; the pure in heart; the peacemakers; and those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness. How should that augment our "dreams & challenges"?

These questions were precisely what sparked the **congregational survey** we all took in September of last year. Well, the results-analyzed by our consultant, **The Rev. Tim Hodapp**, and reviewed by the Council - are finally in!

So, come join us **Sunday, February 15 after our 10:00 AM service** for a light lunch and beverages as we share the findings and learnings from our fall survey. We are at a point in our life when our Council has discerned it's a good time for us to pause and together reflect on where we've been, where we are now, and where God is leading. Tim will spend a **couple of hours with us to review what we've learned from the survey**. With your critical input, we're better able to determine together how we can faithfully join Christ *our* Good Shepherd, grow in our community of faith, and change the world.

(continued on page 3)

**CHRIST THE GOOD  
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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**Director of Music: Caroline Henry**

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

**Council Members  
1/1/26—12/31/26**

President: Cathy Cahn

Vice-President: Jake Solomons

Secretary: Steven Swanson  
(interim)

Treasurer: Ruth Lye

Financial  
Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich

At-large  
representatives: Rob Landino  
John Downs  
Ken Watson  
Krista O'Brien

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Sick or in need of prayer**

The people of Minnesota  
Sharon and the Napolitano family  
Rebecca  
Kathy, Mary & Jessika  
Richard & family  
Andrew  
Hannah  
Danny  
Katharine  
Tom & Mai  
Cyeria & Jake  
Paul  
Jillian  
Karen  
Ray & Cathy  
Dot  
Donna

**Homebound**

Carl  
Elfriede  
Christel  
Ruth  
Sue

**Grieving**

Family of Carol Ford  
Family of Fran Liedke  
Family of John Zaff  
Dom and the family and friends of Nick  
Sollum



## Pastors Message

(Cont. from pg 1)

Combining presentation materials, tabletop discussions, and decision-making, our time together will not only be interesting and lively, but also help us make some important decisions about “what’s next.”

**Save-the-Date: February 15, post-worship congregational gathering, 11:30-1:30 PM. Let’s listen, have conversation, and shape our future together!**

I remain yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh



## Council Update

Highlights from the January Council meeting.

- Welcomed the new council members and officers.
- Received financial reports. More details will be provided at the annual congregational meeting in February.
- Approved Sue Hartley as a new member.
- Approved the parsonage subdivision plan presented by Juliano Associates. The plan will go before the City of Hamden in the near future.
- Discussed dreams and challenges for 2026
- Approved Steven Swanson as Interim Secretary.

## February Celebrations



*Happy Birthday!*

**Birthdays**

8 – Ursula Hunter    15 – Grace O’Brien



**Anniversaries**

26 – Steven and Lynn Swanson

27 – Durbin and Ursula Hunter

**F** Fear not for I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God (Isaiah 41:10)

**E** Every good and perfect is from above (James 1:17))

**B** Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)

**R** Remember the former things of old for I am God and there is none else (Isaiah 46:9)

**U** Unto the Lord do I lift up my soul (Psalms 25:1)

**R** Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free spirit (Psalm 51:12)

**A** Abide in me and I will abide in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine neither can you unless you abide in me (John 15:4)

**Y** You who fear him, trust in the Lord – he is their help and shield (Psalm 115:11)

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH!

On January 11<sup>th</sup> the congregation got together to celebrate Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Fifth Year anniversary with a potluck after service.  
*HAPPY BIRTHDAY to CGSL!*



## Special Events

### Congregational Survey Presentation

Come join us **Sunday, February 15** after our **10:00 AM** service for a light nosh and beverages as we share our findings and learnings from our fall survey. We are at a point in our life when our Congregational Council discerned it's a good time for us to pause, and together reflect on where we've been, where we are now, and where God is leading us. Our consultant, The Rev. Tim Hodapp, will spend a couple of hours with us to review what we've learned from the survey. With your critical input, we're better able to determine together how we can faithfully join Christ our Good Shepherd, grow in our community of faith, and change the world.

Combining presentation materials, tabletop discussions, and decision-making, our time together will not only be interesting and lively, but also help us make some important decisions about "what's next."

Save-the-Date: February 15, post-worship Congregational gathering, 11:30-1:30 PM. Let's listen, have conversation, and shape our future together.



### February 18th is Ash Wednesday.

And again this year will be offering **Ashes-to-go** for folks from our parking lot. Each year the number of recipients has grown. Many tell us how appreciative they are to be able to receive ashes in this way. It is a beautiful ministry.

We need volunteers to help direct traffic during our two shifts **7:30-9:30 AM** and **11:30 AM -1:30 PM**. **Would you like to participate in this beautiful ministry?**

It requires you to be part of a small team that greet those driving in to receive ashes. Ashes are administered by Pastor Josh in the early morning and again during the lunch hour. In the past, we have passed out a prayer and some information about our church. Get in touch with the church office or with Pastor Josh.

Another continuing tradition for our observance of the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday here at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is our **lively, evening worship service with Hamden congregations at 7 PM**. This year (along with Grace & St. John's Episcopal, Hamden Plains United Methodist, Mt. Carmel UCC, and Spring Glen UCC) we will be worshipping at Dunbar United Church of Christ (767 Benham St, Hamden) at 7 PM. Please join us.

## CGS Book Club

Our next meeting is on February 11th on Zoom. We will be discussing *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* by Stephanie Dray.



As posted on Goodreads--- An epic saga from *New York Times* bestselling author Stephanie Dray based on the true story of an extraordinary castle in the heart of France and the remarkable women bound by its legacy. Intricately woven and powerfully told, *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* is a sweeping novel about duty and hope, love and courage, and the strength we take from those who came before us.

The CGS book club will be meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please email me at [cgscl.scheduling@gmail.com](mailto:cgscl.scheduling@gmail.com) so that I can send you the link to the meeting.



Greetings all!

Music continues at CGS during this Epiphany season. You don't have to be a "star" to "shine" musically with us :) Reach out if you have any musical epiphanies regarding something you would like to manifest during worship, as always!

Musically,  
Caroline

### View From the Office



Greeting to everyone at CGSL, with six months under my belt I want to thank you all for the warm reception and acceptance that I have received. I thank you all for the wonderful Christmas gift and the patience as I adjusted to my new responsibilities.

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) And I as said previously I look forward to servicing you all at CGSL.

God Bless  
Miguel

## SCHEDULE TO SERVE

DATE	ASSISTANT MINISTER	LECTOR	USHERS	SACRISTAN
02/01/26	Durbin Hunter	Ken Watson	Deb Mason Ken Watson	Sarah DeLong
02/08/26	Tessa Holk	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Starr O'Connor Steven Swanson	Jonathan Goodrich Jackie Menefee
02/15/26	Rob Hansen	Catherine Wode	Durbin and Ursala Hunter	Deb Mason
02/22/26	Tessa Holk	MaryLou Knoob	John Downs Tyler Knoob	John Downs
03/01/26	Durbin Hunter	Tessa Holk	Steven Swanson Deb Mason	Ellen Frost

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

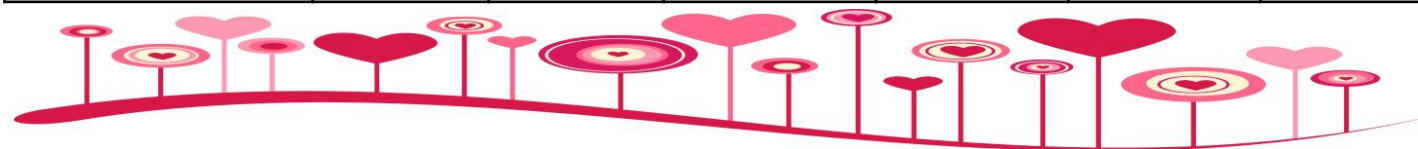
### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



02/01/26	Jackie Menefee
02/08/26	Ken and Chuddy Watson
02/15/26	Review Congregational Survey
02/22/26	Congregational Meeting
03/01/26	Rob Hansen

02/01/26	Rob Hansen
02/08/26	Cathy Cahn
02/15/26	Jonathan Goodrich
02/22/26	Rob Hansen
03/01/26	Cathy Cahn

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Confirmation 5 – 6:30	4	5 Coffee Klatch 10:30am	6	7
8 <b>4th Sunday of Epiphany</b> 9- 9:45am Cross Generational Bible Class 10 am Worship Service	9 Executive Committee 7 pm on Zoom	10	11 CGS Book Club 6:30pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	12	13	14
15 <b>5th Sunday of Epiphany</b> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service Congregational survey results presentation after worship	16	17 Confirmation 5 – 6:30	18 Ash Wednesday <b>Ashes-To-Go</b> 7:30 – 1:30 Worship 7pm Dunbar UCC, Hamden	19 Coffee Klatch 10:30am	20	21
22 <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> 9-9:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study 10 am Worship Service Annual Meeting After Service	23	24	25 Lenten Devotions 7pm	26	27	28



**Coffee Klatch** is scheduled for Thursday February 5th & 19th at 10:30 AM  
**Cross-Generation Bible Class** every Sunday from 9-9:45 AM  
**CGS Book Club** Meets Wednesday February 11th at 6:30.  
**Executive Committee** meets on Monday February 9th at 7 PM  
**Council Meeting** Wednesday February 18th at 6pm  
**Congregational survey results presentation** (with lunch in Sanderson Hall) by consultant the Rev. Tim Hodapp. Sunday, February 15th immediately following worship  
**Annual Meeting with 2025 Annual Report** Sunday February 22nd  
**Ash Wednesday evening worship service with Hamden** congregations Wednesday February 18th at 7 PM at Dunbar UCC