

# THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
June 2026



Vol. 6 Issue 6



The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace and peace to you, dearest saints of Christ the Good Shepherd,

*“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” — 2 Corinthians 3:18*

What better way to celebrate the end of the Easter season, the feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the birth of our Church, then to have two wonderful young people from our community **affirm their baptism**? So let us continue to welcome to a new level of maturity on their faith journeys, Bryce and Sophia. And just as we always urge our confirmation students to never “check out” once they have reached this milestone, so should we not “check out” from our own growth. As we read Paul imploring the church in Corinth above, we go from “one degree of glory to another.” We never arrive, we are always walking, growing, transforming, and changing.

To that end, there are two new opportunities to worship and study at Christ the Good Shepherd this summer!

As we had last year, we continue again with a **Zoom Bible Study for Young Adults on Tuesdays from 7-8 PM** in the months of June, July and August. Our first gathering will be Tuesday, June 2nd. (If there are older adults who would like a similar opportunity please be in touch and we can find time in the schedule!)

Another opportunity open to all who are available (and based on some of the input and help we received from the Rev. Tim Hodapp): we will hold **Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM** in-person in our sanctuary. **Our first session will be Monday, June 9th.** In keeping with our observance of Evening Prayer with Lectio Divina in past seasons of Advent and Lent, this time for prayer, bible discussion and silence will be very similar... except, in the morning!

Some more summer calendar reminders: our **Congregational Picnic** will take place on June 14th immediately following worship (which will be outdoors, weather permitting); our **Coffee Klatsch** Faith and Discussion Small Group continues on 1st & 3rd Thursdays throughout the summer; our **Sunday Worship time will remain at 10 AM all summer**; whereas our 9 AM Bible Study will take a summer hiatus following our last gathering on Sunday, June 21st.

*(Continued on pg. 3)*

**CHRIST THE GOOD  
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**600 Shepard Avenue  
Hamden CT 06514**

**for sensitive mailings use:  
PO Box 185531  
Hamden CT 06518**

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Cell– 860-748-3837**

**[pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org)**

**Organist: 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**



Family of Sharon  
Rebecca  
Kathy, Mary & Jessika  
Richard & Family  
Bob  
Prince  
The Family and friends of the Rev Derk-  
Michel Strauch  
The Rev Gibson  
Carl  
Elfriede  
Christel  
Ruth K  
Sue  
Charlene  
The Family of Connie  
Cap  
Ellen  
Joey & Paul  
Danny  
Katharine  
Tom & Mai  
Cyeria and Jake  
Katherine  
Karen  
Ray & Cathy  
Dot  
Donna  
Andrew  
Darryl  
Shara  
For our siblings in Christ in our sister synod,  
The Lutheran Church in Jordan and the  
Holy Land, and all who are suffering,  
fleeing, grieving and rebuilding in Palestine  
and across the Mideast.

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from pg. 1)

And lastly, in other exciting news, I strongly encourage you to check out the article in this month's Messenger written in part by Andrew Mangold from Paradise Gardens, LLC. As I hope you have all noticed, he has completed Phase 2 of our Pollinator Project and we are excited to see these local plants grow and thrive!

Ever yours in the Spirit,

Pastor Josh Sullivan



## Council Update

Church council met on May 13 and approved the following actions:

Set Sunday June 7, 2026 as a congregational meeting.

Approved Bryce Knoob and Sophia Papa as members through confirmation.

Approved Charlotte Morris as a new member.

Approved Jonathan Goodrich as representative to the upcoming synod assembly meeting.

Approved the purchase of a new paschal candle and new altar candles.

Approved the candidacy process for Tessa Holk as she continues her theological education at Boston University and her continued discernment into ordained leadership in the ELCA.

## June Celebrations

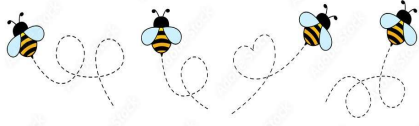
### Birthdays

- 3 – Nicholas Papa
- 9 – Erika Hendren
- 11– Penny Podgwaite
- 14– Susan Landino
- 15 - Rebecca Cahn
- 16 - Rev. Rod Rinell
- 18 – Brianne Papa
- 24 – Madelyn Robertson
- 24 - Dawn Tiedmann
- 26 – Steven Swanson

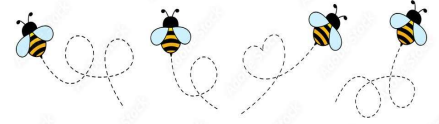


### Anniverseries

- 28 - Thomas and Mary Lou Knoob



## Pollinator Project Update



As many have hopefully noticed, the second phase of our Pollinator Project has been planted by our gardening expert Andrew Mangold of Paradise Gardens, LLC.

In his report to our team, Andrew notes that he's planted the following 40+ species on our land:

### Woody (shrubs):

Beach plum  
Blueberry  
Elderberry  
New Jersey Tea  
Red osier dogwood  
Snowberry  
Spicebush  
Spirea  
Witch Hazel

### Herbaceous (flowering perennials):

Beardtongue  
Bee Balm  
Bergamot  
Blueflag  
Bluestem Grass  
Coreopsis / Tickseed  
Creeping Phlox

Creeping Thyme  
Echinacea  
Goldenrod  
New England Aster  
New York Ironweed  
Prairie Dock  
Phlox  
Rattlesnake Master  
Spurge  
Violets  
Wild Aster  
Wild Strawberry  
Wood Betony

This also in addition to some trees including a Swamp Oak, as well as some Hawthorns out beyond the driveway on the strip of grass between Shepard and Sherman.

In Andrew's own words, the "sheet mulch layer," that is the corrugated cardboard covered in 6-10 inches of wood chips, "is working well, smothering out nearly all of the unwanted plants underneath ... and building fertility. The thick chip layer is holding a lot of moisture which is great for the previously dry soil. There is a lot of mycelium growing in the chips, which is also very good for our perennial plants. The sheet mulch is holding back the plants we do not want while building a thick living layer of living soil which is great for the site, great for the plants, and great for ecology overall. Non-toxic sheet mulch layers really build a LIVING HABITAT - not just a pretty (yet sterile) visual garden.

"To even better help the sheet mulching work, it was seeded in every step with white clover, to ensure that as the sheet mulch breaks down, favorable groundcover seed take over and fill in the freshly built soil, instead of weeds. ::

*(Continued on page 5)*

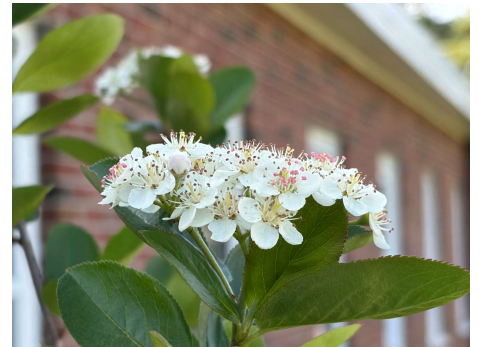
## Pollinator Project

### Update

As of now, the white clover seeds that I spread generously throughout the layers of chips are just beginning to sprout, and should fill in over all of the chips over the next few months, creating a living groundcover over the chips that will help to suppress other unwanted plants from being established, without outcompeting the pre-established plants that we do want. In fact, the clover will support our pre-established plants by fixing nitrogen and attracting pollinators. New weed seedlings will have a harder time growing through the clover. “Try not to trample the clover when it is sprouting, and sprinkle with water if it looks dry, but it should quickly become a strong layer that you can walk and does not need watering. I also planted several strong pots of goldenrod into the retaining wall that I previously weeded for more bee habitat and more diversity, and to fight against the heavy presence of mugwort/bittersweet there. And finally, the mixed hedge along the long wing of the building was weeded and then thoroughly seeded with a native perennial wildflower seed mix,

“Overall, the site is set up and prepared to keep growing with minimal maintenance, but there are steps that you and your team can take to help it along and grow even better.

“Thanks for having me. We are doing great work! May the Earth recover and may humanity heal. — Andrew M”



**J** Jesus said if you want to be perfect, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven then come follow me - Matthew 19:21

**U** Unto you I lift my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens - Psalm 123:1

**N** No weapon forged against you will prevail and you will refute every tongue that accuses you - Isaiah - 54:17

**E** Every day I will praise and extol your name forever and ever - Psalm 145:2



## 2026 Graduation List

**Elizabeth Ingerson** - daughter of Sarah DeLong will be graduating from the University of New Hampshire. She has heard back from several medicine graduate programs and will be making a decision soon

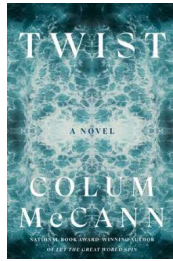
**Grace O'Brien** – will be graduating from North Haven high School on June 16th. She committed to UCONN, Storrs, with a proposed major of physiology and neurobiology

**Tessa Holk** – will be graduating from Quinnipiac University May 9<sup>th</sup> with a bachelors in Psychology ,she is planning to attend Boston University in the fall pursuing a double degree, Masters of Divinity and Masters of Social Work



We can never be too old to graduate. Our own **The Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin** received an honorary doctorate from the United Lutheran Seminary in Pennsylvania on May 23rd. And as he said to Pastor Josh (who received his Masters in Sacred Theology from ULS in 2019): 'We are officially fellow alumni now!.' Let us rejoice in the great diversity of gifts and talents God has provided us in our humble congregation.

## CGS Book Club



As posted on Goodreads--- A propulsive novel of rupture and repair in the digital age, delving into a hidden world deep under the ocean. Resoundingly simple and turbulent at the same time, *Twist* is a meditation on the nature of narrative and truth from one of the great storytellers of our times.

We have also chosen our next two books—*Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, followed by *Good People* by Patmeena Sabit. Dates for discussion have not been chosen, however, there are wait lists at local libraries for these books. These will probably be our two books to round out the year.

The CGS book club will be meeting on July 15th at 6:30. We will be meeting in person. Please join us. If there is a book that you would like to read and discuss, we welcome recommendations and enjoy exploring different genres.

Hope to see you there!!!



## View From the Office



Good Day CGSL,

It is June 2026. One year ago, I became the office administrator for Christ The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. It's amazing how quickly a year is gone by and at the same time how much I've grown in this role. I thank and appreciate you all for being as kind, understanding and helpful as you have been doing this period. I can honestly say that I've truly have enjoyed my time here and I look forward, with God's will and blessing, to continue to serve for many years to come. I thank Pastor Joshua Sullivan, the church council, the heads of the various boards and departments and especially Brenda Samal for their patience understanding and guidance as I worked to fill this role and fulfil the needs of this congregation.

### 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.



## ASSISTANT MINISTERS NEEDED!

Because of unpredictable changes in availability; we are down to only very few volunteers on the team of assistant ministers. Responsibilities include recording names of people in need of prayer as announced during the opening "joys and sorrows" portion of our service. You will read Prayers of Intercession, including those names, during the service. Also you will help Pastor with preparation and distribution of communion. Other short prayers will be read by you during the service. PLUS you get to wear one of those cool white ropes! (training is, of course, provided) If you are interested; please contact Pastor Josh, Starr O'Connor, or Linda Kapitan.



**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!



**TO ACCESS OUR  
LIVESTREAM ON  
SUNDAYS**

•Head to our website:

<https://christgoodshepherdlutheran.org/>

•Scroll down just a bit and find this button:

CLICK TO WATCH WORSHIP →

•This will take you to our Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/christgoodshepherdlutheran>).

•There will be a screen asking you to log in in Facebook, but you DO NOT need to have a Facebook account. You can ignore this prompt by clicking on the “X” in the top right corner.



•If it’s around the start time of the service, a small red tab will appear on the Facebook page indicating that we are “LIVE.” Click this tab.

LIVE

•Otherwise, remain on the page and scroll down to our “feed” and wait for the “Live” tab to show up.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	5	6
7 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service Congregational Meeting	8	9 9:30am- Morning Prayer 7 pm YA Zoom Bible Study	10	11	12	13
14 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service Church Picnic after Worship Service	15 Executive Committee 7pm	16 9:30am- Morning Prayer 7 pm YA Zoom Bible Study	17 Council Meeting 6:30pm	18 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	19	20
21 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service	22	23 9:30am- Morning Prayer 7 pm YA Zoom Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service	29	30 9:30am- Morning Prayer 7 pm YA Zoom Bible Study				



The New England Synod's E-News and Updates Email:

<https://list.robly.com/subscribe?a=76e59318b279425c2786c3a4164ddc44>

The blog of the Bishop of New England Synod, Nathan Pipho:

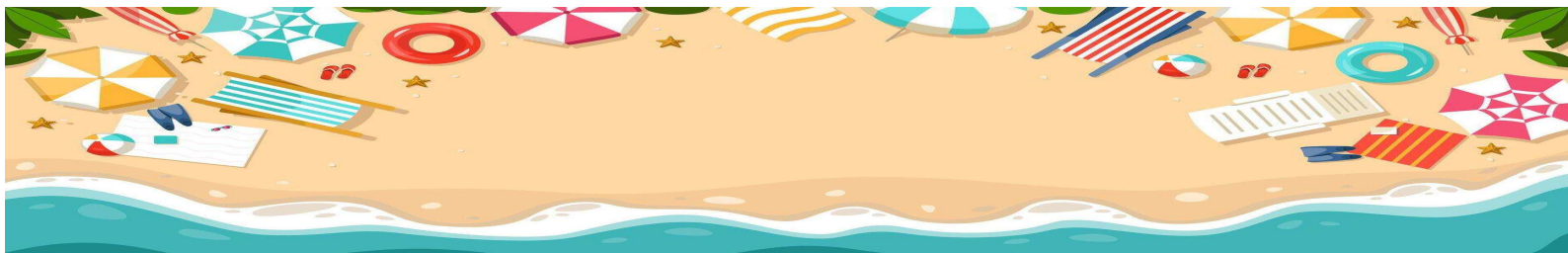
<https://nathanpipho.com/>



**Coffee Klatch** is scheduled for Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> & June 18<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am  
**Cross-Generation Bible Class** every June 7<sup>th</sup> Skips June 14<sup>th</sup> and meets for the last  
time June 21<sup>st</sup> from 9-9:45 AM  
**Executive Committee** meets on Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM  
**Council Meeting** Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
**Young Adult Bible Study** Summer Tuesdays  
**Morning Prayers** Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ASSISTANT MINISTER	LECTOR	USHERS	SACRISTAN
05/31/26	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Ursula Hunter
06/07/26	Linda Kapitan	Rob Hansen	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Ellen Frost
06/14/26	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Cyndi Hansard	Phil Napolitano Starr O'Connor	Starr O'Connor
06/21/26	Rob Hansen	Ken Watson	Ken Watson Phil Napolitano	Ursula Hunter
06/28/26	Cathy Woade	Durbin Hunter	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Jonathan Goodrich
07/05/26	Starr O'Connor	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	John Downs	John Downs



*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**



05/31/26	Cyndi Hansard
06/07/26	Brett and Aryn Prestia
06/14/26	Church Picnic
06/21/26	Jackie Menefee & Sarah DeLong
06/28/26	Ken and Chuddy Watson
07/05/26	4 <sup>th</sup> of July - No Coffee Hour

05/31/26	Rob Hansen
06/07/26	Jonathan Goodrich
06/14/26	Rob Hansen
06/21/26	Jonathan Goodrich
06/28/26	Cathy Cahn
07/05/26	Rob Hansen

