

THE MESSENGER

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
September 2026



Vol. 6 Issue 9



The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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

¹³ Then children were being brought to [Jesus] in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

—Matthew 19 (NRSVue)

It's hard to believe Summer is coming to an end and Fall is beginning so soon...

This Fall we have several new things starting up at Christ the Good Shepherd. Perhaps most excitingly we are giving Faith Formation with children a go! Two parents from our congregation, Aryn Prestia and Brianne Papa, have come forward and together with a great group of other leaders, have made a plan to offer **“Sunday School” for children of all ages twice a month during worship.** With songs, bible-readings, crafts and prayer the kids will begin to be

familiarized with the stories of God's faithful people in Scripture. The first class, technically, will be on Sunday, September 20th starting at 9:50 AM, but all children are welcome to be present in worship on Sunday, September 13th, which will be both “God's work. Our hands.” Sunday and the celebration of Holy Baptism for Patrick Ayotte, whose family has recently joined our congregation.

We plan for the class for children to begin around 9:50 AM in what was once the Lounge, but now has been refurbished into our classroom. The class is expected to conclude around 10:40, or at such time that children can be reunited with their parents in the sanctuary in time for Holy Communion.

On page 6 of this month's newsletter you can find the Fall schedule for our children's Sunday School. While we are all set for teachers, we are in need of second-adult helpers. Please be in touch with the church office and we can get you onboarded!

An integral part of this new offering at our congregation has been the creation and adoption by our Congregational Council of a **Policy for the Protection of Youth and Children.** If members would like to read a copy of this policy they can be made upon request. This policy is somewhat exhaustive for many children and youth-related situations, but most importantly—it stipulates that there must be two (2) adults of at least

(Continued on pg. 3)

**CHRIST THE GOOD
SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Hamden CT 06514**

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Organist: Caroline Henry

**www.christgoodshepherdlutheran.org
office@christgoodshepherdlutheran.org**

**Council Members
1/1/26 —12/31/26**

President: Cathy Cahn

Vice-President: Jake Solomons

Secretary: Sue Hartley

Treasurer: Ruth Lye

Financial
Secretary: Lisa Ball-Goodrich

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Those sick, grieving and in need of prayer:

From our congregation

Christi & family
Family of Sharon
Rebecca
Kathy, Mary & Jessika
Richard & family
Bob

Our Family and Friends

Family of Cathy
Ellen
Joey & Paul
Danny
Katharine
Tom & Mai
Ciara & Jake
Karen
Darryl
Bev & family
Evelyn
Dot
Donna
Andrew
Shara



Those homebound or in care facilities

Carl
Elfriede
Christel
Ruth K
Sue
Charlene



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from pg. 1)

21 years of age present with children at all times, adults must maintain the proper ratios to children, and all volunteers must fulfill the requirement of applying for State and Federal background checks through our new portal, Oxford Document Management.

In addition to this new offering for kids, several other exciting things are starting up this Fall.

- On **Sunday, September 13th our 9 AM Sunday Class for adults will resume.**
- **God's work. Our hands. Sunday** will be observed on Sunday September 13th as well. We will be collecting diapers and period products to support the drive which Bethesda Lutheran Church New Haven runs each year as well as organizing a work day around our facilities and gardens.
- **Evan Felicetti, our intern from Yale Divinity School** and whom we will share with Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church, will begin the week of September 7th. He will be present with us about two Sundays a month and be available for other kinds of ministry opportunities as well.
- Our next **Congregational Meeting** is planned for Sunday, September 27th where we will hear from our council leaders as well as review a strategic plan created by some folks from our congregation using the materials from Tim Hodapp's work with us last Winter-Spring.
- Look out for a **Lutheranism 101 class for new members and others interested** that should begin this Fall, most likely meeting on Zoom.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh

God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

God's work. Our hands. Sunday 2026

This year for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, a day of service observed all across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we will be supporting our neighbors by:

- **Contributing both diapers and period products to a drive** that is being run for the Diaper Bank of CT through Bethesda Lutheran Church New Haven.
- **Hosting a work day to support and maintain the garden facilities at our own congregation.** Please be in touch with Rob Hansen or Pastor if you would like to help out, or find the sign up sheet that will be posted in the hallway at church. Lastly, if there are any Thrivent Members out there, this work-day would be a fantastic chance to use a "Thrivent Action Team" and get free dollars from Thrivent to support our work.
- **Praying for all our partner congregations** in the Greater New Haven Conference as they do God's work



S So God created man in his image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them - Genesis

E Enter his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name - Psalm 100:4

P Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid - John 14:27

T Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding - Proverbs 3:5

E Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. - Matthew 7:13

M My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me - John 10:27

B "Blessed are the peace makers: for they shall see God - Matthew 5:9

E "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain" - Psalm 127:1

R "Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by his mouth - Psalm 105:5



We support **Camp Calumet Lutheran**, the New England Synod's outdoor ministry, located on Lake Ossipee in Freedom, New Hampshire.

****** As this newsletter goes to print, Cyndi and Dustin Hansard will be running in Camp Calumet's 2nd annual **Obstacle & Trail Challenge 5K**. Look for their update in next month's newsletter! In the meantime, you can learn more by visiting this site:

calumet.org/calumetobstacletrailchallenge

**** November 6-8** a group from our church will be attending the **Camp Calumet Women's Weekend**. Please join us - we would love for our group to grow! Learn more here:

calumet.org/womensweekends

You can talk to Cyndi Hansard or Linda Ibsen for more info, and/or contact camp to reserve your spot: alice@calumet.org 603-539-3223 ext 220!

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.



Our Own Rev. Dr. Volker Attends International Congress for Luther Research



"The Rev. Dr. Volker Leppin, a voting member of CGS, is the Horace Tracy Pitkin Professor of Historical Theology at Yale Divinity School and the author of over 20 books. Dr. Leppin's scholarship is particularly interested in medieval and Reformation studies. He argues that the Reformation should be understood as a transformation of the medieval world rather than a stark rupture."

Every fourth or fifth year all Luther researchers around the globe gather for the International Congress for Luther Research. After a meeting in Thousand Oaks, CA, this year Aarhus in Denmark was the place for the convention from August 9th to 14th. As the chair of the continuation committee of the Congress, it was my honor to participate. The overall theme was the Holy Spirit, a somewhat unusual topic in Luther research. Every morning keynote speakers would address it from historical, dogmatical and constructive perspectives, and you could tell the academic backgrounds of the participants were.. Even more intense were the debates in the afternoons, when small seminars took place to debate some subtopics. This was an opportunity to learn from colleagues worldwide. Again, it is surprising how different readings of the same topic can be. In my seminar, I argued for a mystical reading of Martin Luther (this will come as no surprise for many of you), while my colleague and friend Notger Slenczka from Berlin, drawing

on the same passages in Luther, pointed to an understanding in terms of modern individualism. For a researcher, there are not many opportunities to have intense discussions like this. And also there are not so many opportunities to have joyful trips together with almost 200 Luther researchers. We did not only visit Aarhus cathedral, but also the old city of Viborg which was critical for the Danish Reformation, and a castle in the countryside. I am returning from Denmark, with a full heart that speaks of worldwide communion of Lutherans. We, in Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, are not the least part of it, since if anything was clear at the end, it was that the Spirit lives in the local congregations.



Passing the torch (well, the bottle): Anna Vind from Copenhagen, Denmark, will be the next chair of the Continuation Committee

Sunday learning for children returns to Christ the Good Shepherd!

This Fall we are excited to give Faith Formation with children a go! Two parents from our congregation, Aryn Prestia and Brianne Papa, have come forward and together with a great group of other leaders, have made a plan to offer "Sunday School" for children of all ages twice a month during worship. With songs, bible-readings, crafts and prayer the kids will begin to be familiarized with the stories of God's faithful people in Scripture. The first class, technically, will be on Sunday, September 20th starting at 9:50 AM (but all children are welcome to be present in worship on Sunday, September 13th, which will be both "God's work. Our hands." Sunday and the celebration of Holy Baptism for Patrick Ayotte, whose family has recently joined our congregation.)

The class will take place during worship, with children gathering around 9:50 AM in what was once the Lounge, but now has been refurbished into our Classroom. The class is expected to conclude around 10:40, or at such time that children can be reunited with their parents in the sanctuary in time for Holy Communion. The class will consist of

- 1) a song and circle time, sharing everyone's names.
- 2) our bible story for the day with snack (please let us know parents if your children have allergies!)
- 3) a craft relevant to the lesson for the day
- 4) a closing prayer

You can find below a schedule of leaders and topics, which come from the ELCA approved resource called the Spark Story Bible. Do notice that per our Child Safety Policy we need two (2) adults present at every class, so please get in touch with Pastor or the church office if you're interested in being a helper and you can begin our background check screening process

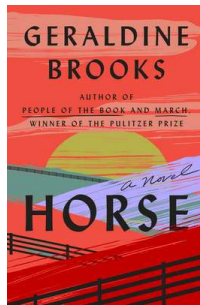


All-ages Sunday School 26-27 Schedule for Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Sunday	Spark StoryBible Topics	Teacher	Helper
Sep 13	"God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday & Baptism of Patrick Ayotte	N/A	N/A
Sep 20	Creation, Adam & Eve, First Sin	Aryn Prestia	Sue Hartley
Sep 27	Noah's Ark	Brianne Papa	TBD
Oct 18	Abram's Call, Promises to Abe, Abe & Sarah's Visitors	Aryn Prestia	TBD
Oct 25	Joseph & His Brothers, Pharoah, Joseph	Brianne Papa	TBD
Nov 8	Baby Moses, Burning Bush, Free from Egypt	Aryn Prestia	TBD
Nov 22	(Thanksgiving Food Drive) The Red Sea, Mana + Quail + Water	Brianne Papa	TBD
Dec 13	(Advent) Immanuel, Leader from Bethlehem	Aryn Prestia	TB
Dec 20	(Advent) Angel's Visit Mary, Elizabeth and Mary, Jesus is Born	Brianne Papa	TB



CGS Book Club



**Our next meeting is on September 23rd.
We will be discussing *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks**

As posted on Goodreads--- A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history. Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

We have also chosen our next book—Good People by Patmeena Sabit. The date for discussion has not been chosen, however, there are wait lists at local libraries for this book.

The CGS book club will be meeting on September 23rd 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!!!



September Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 – Naomi ?
- 4 – JoAnn Iseb
- 5 – Rev. Joshua Sullivan
- 5 – Nicole Swanson
- 17– Caroline Henry
- 22 – Kathy Dube
- 24 – Jonathan Goodrich
- 26 – Carol Lee

Anniversaries

- 7 – Ken and Chuddy Watson
- 15 - Thomas and Brenda Saal
- 25 – Bob and Krista O'Brien



Council Update

The council met on Wed 8/17. The issues discussed:

- Sue Hartley was voted in as Secretary to finish out Steve Swanson's term
- Income is down significantly in 2026 due in large part to the loss of rental income from our parsonage but also because of a slow-down in envelope giving. Financial Secretary reports total contributions are \$18,000 lower in 2026.
- Council approved a Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth with minor revisions in anticipation of Sunday School with young children to begin on Sunday September 20th from 9:50-10:40
- Sean, Olivia, Connell (baptized at CGS on May 21, 2023) and Patrick (to be baptized Sun Sep 13) Ayotte were received as members, and Gloria Wellhofer as an associate member.

Announcements

SACRISTANS ARE NEEDED!

Because of unpredictable changes in availability; we are down to only very few volunteers on the team of sacristans. Responsibilities include filling Communion Trays. Vesting the Cup on the Table, Preparing the Bread and the Wine for Procession and cleaning up after the service (training is, of course, provided) If you are interested; please contact Pastor Josh, Starr O'Connor, or Linda Kapitan.

We are asking for Volunteers to Host Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Host responsibilities:

- Make 4 pots of coffee, 1 *decaf* and 3 *regular*
- Provide snacks
 - Snack suggestions:
 - Cheese and crackers
 - Fruit: grapes, strawberries, etc. or packaged cut-up fruit assortment.
 - Cookies, brownies or coffee cake – homemade or purchased
- Set-up drinks and snacks
(Do not feel you have to feed 25 or 30 people lunch – it is just a snack!)



**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.

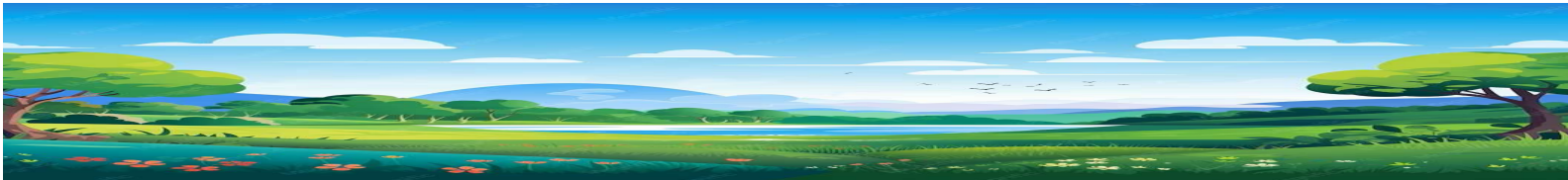


•If it's around the start time of the service, a small red tab will appear on the Facebook page indicating that we are “LIVE.” Click this tab.

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 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	4	5
6 15th Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 16th Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service Adult Class 9:00	14 Executive Committee 7pm	15	16 Council Meeting 6:30pm	17 10:30am- Coffee Klatsch	18	19
20 17th Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service Adult Class 9am Children's Sunday School 9:50	21	22	23 CGS Book Club 6:30pm	24	25	26
27 18th Sun after Pentecost 10 am Worship Service Children's Sunday School 9:50 Congregational Meeting after worship	28	29	30			



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 Piphon:

<https://nathanpipho.com/>

Executive Committee - Mon September 14th - 7 PM on Zoom
Council - Wednesday September 16th at 6:30
Coffee Klatsch - Thursday, September 3rd and 17th
Congregational Meeting - Sunday September 27th after Worship
Beginning Sep 13 Adult Class - 9 am
Beginning Sep 20 Children's Sunday School - 9:50 am "

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ASSISTANT MINISTER	LECTOR	USHERS	SACRISTAN
09/06/26	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Durbin Hunter	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Ursula Hunter
09/13/26	Cathrine Woade	Rob Hansen	Starr O'Connor Ken Watson	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
09/20/26	Ruth Lye	Ken Watson	Durbin and Ursula Hunter	Ellen Frost
09/27/26	Evan Felicetti	Cathrine Woade	Ken Watson Phil Napolitano	Sarah DeLong Jackie Menefee
10/04/26	Starr O'Connor	Cyndi Hansard	Phil Napolitano Starr O'Connor	Jonathan Goodrich



*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



09/06/26	No Coffee Hour – Labor Day
09/13/26	Rob Hansen
09/20/26	Jonathan and Skylar Goodrich
09/27/26	Cyndi Hansard
10/04/26	Ken and Chuddy Watson

09/06/26	Rob Hansen
09/13/26	Jonathan Goodrich
09/20/26	Cathy Cahn
09/27/26	Jonathan Goodrich
10/04/26	Rob Hansen

