



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

April Newsletter

2016

...We are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture... Psalm 100:3

We are a congregation empowered by the Good Shepherd to:

Nurture and Support His flock through Christ-centered worship.

Welcome All, offering trust and respect while sharing God's unconditional love.

Reach Out to the broader community through service and responsible stewardship of all God's creation.



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Pastor Amy's Office Hours:

T/Th/F: 10 a.m.-12 noon, W: 10:45 a.m.- 12:45 p.m.

Check out our website!

<http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org>



WORDS FROM PASTOR LARSON

Beloved of God,

This month, let's consider the second question I have for us this year: How will we best live out our mission to "welcome all, offering trust and respect while sharing God's unconditional love"? Especially, how will we show welcome and God's unconditional love to those most in need, including Syrian refugees?

There has been a lot of support at Good Shepherd, and in Decorah, for the resettlement of Syrian refugees in Decorah. The Social Justice Subcommittee and the Congregation Council have supported Good Shepherd exploring this possibility. Other ELCA congregations in our conference and other Decorah area congregations have expressed a desire to participate. I have had a number of conversations with our Northeastern Iowa Synod and with people from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS). However, things have stalled for a number of reasons. First, the US is currently allowing very few Syrian refugees into the country. Second, congregations are playing a smaller role in resettlement and more is being coordinated by social service agencies like Lutheran Services in Iowa. Because social service agencies are playing a much bigger role, it is harder for them to resettle refugees in more remote locations like Decorah. Third, given the political climate in Iowa and the US, there is a focus on settling refugees in areas where there are already Syrians who can provide support for new arrivals.

Given these realities, the Social Justice Subcommittee will be considering other options at our next meeting. We'll consider whether we should explore other options for Syrian resettlement, work towards resettlement of Central American refugees, focus on Path to Citizenship efforts (see below) and/or focus on other outreach efforts in Decorah. Whether or not we can help with resettlement of Syrian refugees, we can and we will continue to live out our mission to "welcome all" with a special focus on those most in need. Here are some ways we will be doing this in the year ahead. How will you be a part of this?

Path to Citizenship – This is a northeast Iowa organization whose mission is to aid people who need help navigating the complicated path to legal status. Founded by a coalition of Decorah area faith groups and working in partnership with Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), a national ministry of the United Methodist Church, Path to Citizenship provides free legal advice on the immigration process. With the help of JFON immigration attorneys, it holds quarterly legal aid clinics and has no-interest microloans available to assist low income families with legal fees and associated costs. Good Shepherd members Kate Narveson and David Judisch serve on the steering committee of Path to Citizenship.

My Neighbor is Muslim – This is a seven-part study written by Luther College faculty member Todd Green. We will be doing this study at Good Shepherd. Dr. Green will lead us in session one on Sunday, April 10, during the Adult Forum time. The next six sessions will take place Wednesdays (April 13 – May 18) at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and will be led by Good Shepherd members.

Reconciling in Christ Sunday - We will affirm our commitment to being a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation in worship on Sunday, April 17. Good Shepherd member Amalia Vagts will serve as preacher. Amalia is Executive Director of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM) which supports LGBTQ rostered leaders and congregations seeking to proclaim love and justice for all. We will take a special offering for ELM as we celebrate RIC Sunday.

Bring Friends to Worship Sunday - Sunday, May 1, we will have a festive worship service with brass. Everyone is encouraged to invite friends to worship. You can also tell them they'll get to experience the

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great “Behold, I Make All Things New Liturgy.” After worship we’ll have a brunch. Start planning now to invite friends.

Always introduce yourself to people you don’t know - When we see people at church that we don’t know, we often think that we should and so don’t introduce ourselves. We shut ourselves off from hospitality and conversation this way. Instead, try saying something like ... “we may have met but I’m not sure, my name is...”. It is better to introduce ourselves over and over than to avoid someone we think we should know.

Invite guests to coffee - Look for guests after worship and invite them to join you for coffee. Coffee hour is often the most intimidating time to be a guest.

Always fill out the fellowship pads - Even if you know everyone in your pew, week after week, please fill out the fellowship pads. Guests seated around you will notice you doing it and it will help them feel comfortable filling out the pads. They will see that this is something we do each week and not something to single out guests. I do make a lot of contacts with guests from information I get from the fellowship pads. Make sure to pass the pads back down the row so everyone can see the names in there.

Sit closer to the front and in the middle of the pews - Many guests prefer to sit in the back of the sanctuary or on the ends of pews. Please choose to sit closer to the front and in the center of the pews to leave room for guests.

May the God who welcomes us with open arms work within us to show the love of Christ to all.

In Christ,

Pastor Amy

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

To help congregation members better care for one another, we would like to indicate which Good Shepherd members have requested that their relatives and friends be on the prayer list. If you have requested that someone be on the list, please contact the church office to tell us the connection and indicate if you still request prayers for this person. Names that have been on for quite a while will be removed unless we hear otherwise.

Relatives and Friends: Weston Noble, Marion Beatty, Nathan Berg, Emily Bishman (Tanya Gertz’s sister-in-law), Jim Cascio (Mike Blair’s brother-in-law), Mike Dikelsky, Jody Kruegel, Josh Martin, Lisa Quenan, Pat Plude, Victor & Maria Sistepaz, Lyle & Walter Steele, John Tapscott (Matt Tapscott’s father), Don Williams, Sarah Ylvisaker Storvick, All Residents & Staff of Aase Haugen, Eastern Star, and Wellington Place; Mary Beth & Bayo Oyebade and the Mashiah Clinic in Jos, Nigeria; our Companion Congregation in Tsumeb, Namibia.

CONGREGATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month at our council meeting, we began by sharing responses to Ephesians 3:16-21, a prayer by Paul that we might know “the breadth and length and height and depth” of Christ’s love, which through us “is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.” We might think of our imaginations as boundless but Christ’s love does even more, a thought that opens out a dizzying, glorious vista of the infinity of grace.

We opened with this passage because Pastor Amy has brought us the question “How can we deepen our prayer lives as individuals and as community?” The question proved fruitful in helping us to think about all the variety of things we do as a congregation as varied forms of prayer. That idea invites us to think afresh about what prayer is, about the many ways we address God and the many purposes for which we invoke the Spirit. And that gives me another opportunity to share with you a poem by George Herbert, a sonnet called “Prayer”:

Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.

No main verb, just a series of metaphors without conjunctions, a form often used in mystical writing to suggest a rapturous response to God. I share this poem with you as an invitation to think about each metaphor, one a day (I count 27 of them, if you count line 9 as five). What does it say to you about what prayer can be? What kinds of give and take between us and God does it help you see?

Council’s discussion of the many forms prayer takes was useful preparation for one main piece of business, to discuss whether and how to continue holding the Welcome Neighbors picnic. When first held, several committees together organized the event, and it was imagined as a way to share our gratitude for God’s blessings, especially the community in which we live. It was not imagined as an evangelism effort, yet recently the evangelism committee has ended up with the whole work of pulling off a rather big event. We’re therefore putting out an invitation to all who might be interested in being part of a big organizing team, so that we can spread around the tasks and free up the evangelism committee. Interested in joining the team? Let a council member know! Help the picnic be “heaven in ordinary” clothes.

Kate Narveson

WORSHIP NOTES

Baptismal Font at Entrance to Sanctuary during Easter: On the seven Sundays in the season of Easter, we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. To help us in this remembering, the baptismal font will be placed just outside the entrance of the sanctuary during the Easter season and filled with water. As you enter the sanctuary you are invited to dip your finger into the font and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.

The “Behold, I Make All Things New Liturgy” by Benjamin Splichal Larson will be used during the Easter Season- April 3- May 15.

Reconciling in Christ: We will have a recognition of our status as a Reconciling in Christ congregation on April 17. Amalia Vagts will preach that Sunday. Amalia is a Good Shepherd member and Executive Director of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, an organization which affirms and supports LGBTQ Lutheran rostered leaders and those pursuing a call to rostered leadership, while engaging allied congregations and ministries to proclaim God’s love and seek justice for all.

Bring Friends to Worship - May 1: In conjunction with the evangelism committee, a special worship service will be planned on May 1 meant to bring friends to church. We will have special music by the band and by children. The service will be followed by a brunch. See GS announcements for more details.

Communion for homebound: Pastor Amy is visiting our members in long term care facilities each month and those who are homebound in their own homes once a quarter. She requested that Worship and Music spearhead the training and recruiting of a few members to serve communion to our homebound members on a monthly basis. Brad Hanson agreed to work with her on this effort. There is a brief blessing that can be incorporated into worship at the end of the communion service that can make the consecrating and sending out of the elements to our homebound members visible. It makes those serving communion commissioned to do so, the elements themselves would be consecrated in the assembly (and be same elements used by the

assembly), and the homebound members who receive them to be connected to the rest of the body of Christ in worship.

Holy Communion during Easter season - standing at altar rail: During the Easter Season, seven Sundays, the church remain standing during communion to celebrate that we have been raised to new life in Christ. Sharing in communion at the altar rail nurtures a sense of community and provides more opportunity for reflection so this Easter season we will stand at the altar rail during Holy Communion.

A New Liturgical Season, Colors, and Symbols -

The Season – The Fifty Days of Easter began on Easter Sunday and lasts through the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 15. It is a time of celebration and rejoicing over the resurrection of our Lord.

Colors – White, symbolizing the joy, gladness, purity, and light of Christ, is the predominate color for the Easter Season. It is seen in the gates of the sanctuary weavings, altar and pulpit paraments, and Pastor Amy's stole. Gold, the color of royalty, is also woven into the design of the paraments and pastor's stole. On Pentecost the color will be red.

Symbols – The Paschal Candle, symbolizing Christ's resurrected presence, is the large white, decorated candle prominently displayed near the altar throughout the season. It will be lit when the sanctuary is open for worship and extinguished after worshipers leave as a reminder of the unity of the fifty days of celebration. In the center is a gold pastoral staff shaped like a shepherd's crook incorporating a gold cross with silver highlights.

Wednesday Worship: will be held in Lent, June and July, and Advent.

APRIL ALTAR GUILD

Judy Schoel (convener), Bob Larson, and Glendalu Wuest.

Deepening Our Prayer Life
Offered by Jane Jakoubek, Good Shepherd Member and Spiritual Director

Prayer is at the heart of our relationship with God. It is how we communicate with God. In prayer, all parts of our relationship to God get expressed. We give thanks. We sing God's praises. We ask for things we need. We pray for others. When we want to grow closer to God, we look at how we can deepen our prayer life.

Prayer takes many different forms. In worship, we listen to prayers spoken by others. We say prayers aloud together. Many of the hymns we sing are prayers. Our prayers are lifted up in music from the organ, handbells, other instruments, and the choir. We are invited to pray silently at the end of sermons. We may be praying as we approach communion or afterward.

Prayer is a special focus for us now at Good Shepherd. It is a vital part of all of the ministries we support as a congregation. It is a vital part of our lives as followers of Jesus. Deepening our prayer life supports all parts of our lives, as individuals, as families, and as a congregation.

Here are some ways to deepen your prayer life:

Carry the prayer from the end of the sermon into the coming week. Take moments throughout the day to return to the prayer invitation we heard at the end of Pastor's sermon. It may help to jot a few notes on a small card or your mobile device to help you remember. Notice as you use this prayer more, how the prayer time changes. Also notice how the prayer is changing you.

Build prayer into your daily life. The long-standing practice of praying before meals is one example. Take time at dinner to invite each person to share their highs and lows, then saying a prayer giving thanks for the highs and asking God's help for the person with the lows. Use time in line at the store or on hold during phone calls to ask God for what you need right then—patience, wisdom, courage, energy to finish the task at hand. Look for a few minutes of quiet each day when you can pray.

The Lenten devotional helped us practice following a daily focus for prayer. If you found that helpful, look for other daily resources in print or online. As you go through the day, take a minute to return to the focus for the day, noticing God's presence in your life, giving thanks for the ways God is caring for you, lifting your petitions to God, noticing how God is inviting you to reach out in love to those around you.

Learn about a prayer retreat. A prayer retreat is time to learn about and focus on prayer. Come to an Adult Forum on **April 17** to learn about and give input about a prayer retreat. Congregation members who have participated in programs focusing on prayer will share ideas for us to consider. Given our life as a congregation and our individual lives at home and work, it seems like fall might be a good time for one or more prayer retreats. Jane Jakoubek will moderate the Forum conversation.

Think about spiritual direction. A spiritual director is a fellow Christian who accompanies others on their spiritual journey. Through private conversations, you focus on the parts of your spiritual life you want to explore: growing closer to God, deepening your prayer life, sorting through spiritual issues and concerns. You can participate in spiritual direction at no cost with a fellow congregation member, Jane Jakoubek, who has time to meet with a few more people starting in fall. Talk to her at church or email janejakoubek@gmail.com to learn more.

April 2016 Ministry Schedule

DATE	LITURGY/WORSHIP	USHER	FELLOWSHIP
Sunday, April 3 <u>BROADCAST</u>	Asst. Minister: Bob Larson Communion Asst.: Jane Kemp Cantor: Dan Raney	1. *Ray Torresdal 2. Glenn Nelson, Jane Borelli Greeter: Borelli/Nelson Acolyte: Maggie Norris Nursery: Mara Holland	1. *Doris Barnaal 2. Joanne Kjome 3. Ann Naslund 4. Joyce Epperly 5. Ed Epperly
Sunday, April 10	Asst. Minister: Janeen Christy Communion Asst.: Jon Christy Cantor: Dennis Barnaal	1. *Pam Torresdal 2. Ray Torresdal Greeter: John Moeller Acolyte: Abby Larson Nursery: Anthony Ruiz	1. *Jerrine Jacobsen 2. Lindy Moeller 3. Doris Barnaal 4. Joyce Epperly 5. Ed Epperly
Sunday, April 17	Asst. Minister: Jane Kemp Communion Asst.: Kim Kavan Cantor: Jonathon Struve	1. *Russ Freerking 2. Glenn Nelson, Jane Borelli Greeter: Nelson/Borelli Acolyte: Jack Norris Nursery: Natalie Tapscott	1. *John Moeller 2. Marion Jefferson (Food) 3. Marie Freerking 4. Doris Barnaal 5. Joanne Kjome
Sunday, April 24 <u>BROADCAST</u>	Asst. Minister: Bob Felde Communion Asst.: Elizabeth Kaschins Cantor: Dan Raney	1. *John Moeller 2. Dick Wuest Greeter: Amalia Vagts Acolyte: Eli Gertz Nursery: Amalia Vagts	1. *Jerrine Jacobsen 2. Glendalu Wuest 3. Joyce Epperly 4. Ed Epperly 5. Lindy Moeller
		* Lead Usher	* Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP

Ministry Teams for May - June 2016

The following people are assigned to Ministry team this spring. Please continue to sign up for specific dates on the bulletin board by the library. Also note the special event in May at Eastern Star.

Liturgy

- 1) Buckingham Megan
- 2) ChristyJon
- 3) ChristyJaneen
- 4) FeldeBob
- 5) SteeleMarty
- 6) HanssenSarah
- 7) ThompsonKathryn
- 8) HollandSteve
- 9) HollandKrista
- 10) JakoubekJane
- 11) KempJane
- 12) LarsonBob
- 13) NaslundBob
- 14) SnowLuther
- 15) SolbergBrian
- 16) MarinackMakayla

Fellowship

- 1) AndersonJutta F.
- 2) AndersonAlbert
- 3) AndersonMarilyn
- 4) BarnaalDoris
- 5) Blair Sue
- 6) Blair Kate
- 7) DonlonCheryl
- 8) EpperlyEd
- 9) FreerkingMarie
- 10) HansonMarion
- 11) HoverCharilyn
- 12) JacobsenJerrine
- 13) JeffersonJohn
- 14) JeffersonMarion Pruitt
- 15) JonesBeth
- 16) KjomeJoAnn
- 17) LaursenJeri
- 18) MoellerLindy
- 19) NaslundAnn
- 20) NelsonBeverly
- 21) RefsalNorma
- 22) SchoelJudy
- 23) KildegaardLise
- 24) SwansonKristin
- 25) WilkinsonJaci
- 26) WuestGlendalu

Ushering

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1) Barnaal | Dennis |
| 2) Duffy | Drew |
| 3) Struve | Jonathon |
| 4) Epperly | Joyce |
| 5) Frank | Jerry |
| 6) Freerking | Russ |
| 7) Hanson | Brad |
| 8) Kaasa | Haldis |
| 9) Kavan | Choung |
| 10) Kavan | Cheuang |
| 11) Laursen | Reg |
| 12) Vagts | Amalia |
| 13) Moeller | John |
| 14) Nelson | Glenn |
| 15) Nelson | Jane Borelli |
| 16) Raney | Daniel |
| 17) Rathje | Rae Jean |
| 18) Schoel | Tim |
| 19) Sheridan | Bev |
| 20) Torresdal | Raymond |
| 21) Torresdal | Pam |
| 22) Wuest | Richard |
| 23) Ylvisaker | Richard |

EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Lenten Updates: We far surpassed our goal of raising \$2,000 to split between Lutheran Disaster Response, which supports assistance for Syrian refugees, and the Community Food Pantry at First Lutheran Church. Thank you to all who donated so generously to the Sunday School Lenten Project! The Education Committee coordinated the soup supper on March 9th. The children came to church after school and made two soups, a chicken soup from the Soup for Syria cookbook and a taco soup. We also had a snack, made crafts, played games and practiced bells for the Lenten service that evening. The children have been enjoying Sue Blair's puppet ministry following the Wednesday night Lenten services.

Sunday School: Our themes from Desmond Tutu's Children of God storybook are. . . .

April 3rd – Jesus is Alive, Luke 24 and John 20

April 10th – Ten Commandments, Exodus 20

April 17th – Esther, Esther 1-10

April 24th – St. Grubby's Day – no Sunday School
The children are invited to participate with their families and help with property projects during Sunday school time.

SAVE the DATE! We will host Vacation Bible School on August 15th-17th; 5 -7:30 pm - hearty snack/simple supper served from 5-5:30pm. If you are interested in assisting with VBS, please contact Megan Buckingham, meganjbuckingham@gmail.com.

CAMP EWALU BUDGET DEFICIT

Camp Ewalu is facing an \$80,000 gap between expected income and expenses. Most of this budget deficit is due to high medical benefit costs; which have tripled over the last four years. Please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry with an additional financial gift at this time.

CONFIRMATION NOTES

Special thanks to our Confirmation Mentors: Judy Schoel, Jane Jakoubek, Bob Felde and Reg Laursen who met with our confirmands Ava Holland, Natalie Tapscott, Keaton Solberg and Anthony Ruiz during the Wednesday Lenten soup suppers. The confirmands and mentors shared in the practice of Fatih5 which involves reading scripture, talking about scripture, sharing highs and lows, praying for each other and blessing each other. Confirmands and Mentors reported this was really powerful.

Confirmation/Youth Sundays in April

We will meet April 3, 10 and 17. One of those Sundays will be on suicide prevention, date to be announced asap.

OVERNIGHT CAMP AT EWALU

Good Shepherd youth who have completed grades 2-12 are encouraged to attend Camp EWALU this summer. Camp is a great way to enjoy God's world, make new friends, have fun, and grow closer to God.

Good Shepherd youth will be attending EWALU in Week 7, July 31-August 5, but you are welcome to attend anytime. The congregation will provide camperships to show our support for this great faith building experience. To register or learn more go to www.ewalu.org. Let Pr. Amy know when you register and she'll get the camperships funds to you.

EWALU DAY CAMP FOR DECORAH YOUTH

Ewalu will be offering a Day Camp in Decorah for youth who have completed grades K-6. It will be held at First Lutheran Church August 6-12 from 9am -3pm. The cost is \$52. Good Shepherd will be helping to support this Day Camp and many Good Shepherd youth will be participating. Contact Pr. Amy if your child is interested or if you want to host or provide meals for day camp staff.

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

APRIL AND MAY 2016

SUNDAYS:

April 3: 49 Years of Military Occupation in The Holy Land (Jon Ailabouni)

For nearly half a century, Israel has maintained the military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. The millions of Palestinians who live in the occupied territories are subjected to routine human rights abuses including excessive use of force, arrest and imprisonment without charge or trial, ill-treatment and torture of detainees, forced evictions and home demolitions, and the denial of free speech, assembly, and movement. Jon Ailabouni, a Decorah-based Palestinian-American, will share his family's experience and his insights into the situation as well as the potential for peaceful resolution through the engagement of American citizens.

April 10 : My Neighbor is Muslim: Introductory Session (Dr. Todd Green)

Dr. Green will lead us in the first session of a seven-part study on how we can welcome Muslim neighbors into our communities. The next six sessions of this study will be held Wednesday nights at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

April 17: Prayer Retreat Opportunities at Good Shepherd (Jane Jakoubek)

A prayer retreat is time to learn about and focus on prayer. Learn about and give input about prayer retreat options this fall. Congregation members who have participated in programs focusing on prayer will share ideas for us to consider.

April 24: St. Grubby's Day

Help Good Shepherd spruce up for Spring. Clean windows, clean rugs, clear away cobwebs and bugs, pick up sticks, paint, refinish, unclutter, etc. Serve your church while having great fellowship AND you get to wear your grubbiest work clothes to church. 15 min after church gets out, we will begin! Did we mention pizza? Congregational clean-up day, no forum

May 1 : Bring Friends to Worship Day

We will share in a brunch with guests after worship, no forum.

May 8 : Our Christian Response to Climate Change in our Church and in our Homes (Dr. Jim Martin-Schramm, Discussion Leader)

Good Shepherd has accomplished a great deal over the last several years. We are an **Energy Star** building because of our reduced consumption of energy and fossil fuels. We also have accomplished a lot in our homes. How can we as good and faithful stewards of God's creation take further actions to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels at Good Shepherd, in our homes, within our community, and throughout Iowa?

May 15: The History of Liturgical Colors in the Hymnal (Barbara Berg)

The history of the use of paraments, including the colors and symbols, using our hymnals as the primary resources.

WEDNESDAYS:

My Neighbor is Muslim, Sessions 2-7, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18

6-7:00 PM (prior to choir rehearsal) in the Fellowship Hall. Participants are invited to bring a simple supper for themselves and eat it during the discussion. Led by Adult Forum Committee and Good Shepherd Members. All sessions are helpful as stand alone discussions so come to any and all that your schedule allows.

This resource was developed by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and written by professors at Luther College and Luther Seminary and for use in Minnesota. You may download the series at: <http://www.lssmn.org/refugeeservices/study/>; <http://lirs.org/myneighborismuslim/>

GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER ABOUT RESERVING RED ARM CHAIRS

This is a reminder that the red arm chairs in the Fellowship Hall are reserved for those who need extra support when using chairs. Thanks!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Spring is a great time to craft a Prayer Shawl in a lightweight, colorful yarn. Please join the Good Shepherd Prayer Shawl Ministry on April 20 from 1-3:00 p.m. at the home of Jane Kemp. We will share fellowship, knitting and crocheting ideas, and bless completed shawls before giving them to members and friends who are grieving, ill, healing, or celebrating God's presence in their lives.

BRING FRIENDS TO WORSHIP SUNDAY

Start planning--and inviting--now for Sunday, May 1st, and Bring a Friend to Church. We'll have a special welcoming in the service, joyful noises from the bells and the brass band, we'll sing the "Behold, I Make All Things New" liturgy, and have an egg-bake brunch following the service in the fellowship hall. There will be May baskets for all visitors and maybe some other surprises. What better way to celebrate during the 40 days of Easter?

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

Anna and Russell Norris

301 Upper Broadway

Decorah, IA 52101

Jonathon Struve and Drew Duffy

902 Maple Avenue,

Decorah, IA 52101.

JOIN THE "WELCOME NEIGHBORS" ORGANIZING TEAM

The Welcome Neighbors picnic, held the Second Sunday of September, has for many years been a wonderful community event and a fun start to the fall season at Good Shepherd. The Evangelism Committee is hoping to set up an Organizing Team to take charge of this event.

In the past, the tasks have included:

1. Organizing the outdoor space: ordering the tent, setting up tables and chairs, preparing the firepit, decorating and signage
2. Organizing the food: ordering and preparing the hot dogs and buns; drinks
3. Community outreach and invitations
4. Publicity and press releases: (we have great templates for all of these)
5. Organizing music and performances; sound system
6. Children's activities
7. supervising the kitchen and clean up
8. organizing the volunteers and recruiting
9. and...? Creative new ideas welcomed, too!

We have built up a lot of expertise to share, and we have ideas about how to make many of these tasks efficient. And many hands make light work! Do you think you could step into one or more of these roles? Please contact Pastor Amy or Lise Kildegaard (Chair of the Evangelism Committee). We'd like to get a team assembled this Spring.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: APRIL 21

APRIL SCRIPTURES

Second Sunday of Easter April 3, 2016	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter April 10, 2016	Acts 9:1-6	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
Fourth Sunday of Easter April 17, 2016	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
Fifth Sunday of Easter April 24, 2016	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Personal Care Kits during Lent. We collected items for 27 kits but still need a few bars of soap. We will have a basket in the narthex if anyone would like to contribute additional bars of soap. We will also need bars of soap for our Baby Care Kits. Baby Care Kits will be assembled by the CLA circle at their April meeting. Items included in the kits provide the things a mother needs to care for her baby the way she hopes to- soft blankets to give warmth and comfort, soap to keep germs away and clothes to dress her baby. City-wide garage sales are coming this month, so be on the look-out for cotton T-shirts, baby gowns or sleepers, receiving blankets, jackets or sweaters and socks in good condition that could be used in these kits. Donations can be left in the WELCA cupboard in the north classroom or given to Gail Judisch. The kits will be collected and taken to LWR warehouse on May 7.

The Upper Iowa River Cluster D Spring Gathering will be held Saturday, April 30 at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church beginning at 9 am. At the 2014 Triennial Convention the Women of the ELCA made a commitment to promote awareness of worldwide human trafficking, bullying, harassment and related violence, and to work at preventing it through prayer ministry and political action. We are excited to announce that our guest speaker at the April 30 Gathering will be Kelly Butcher of “Wings of Refuge” from Iowa Falls, Iowa. www.wingsofrefuge.net. She will be talking about the safe house and how they restore the confidence and dignity of girls brought back from sex trafficking through holistic healing and restoration. This will be a perfect follow-up to the “Stop Human Trafficking” workshop held at First Lutheran Church in Decorah on April 17 at 4:00 p.m. Please invite church and community friends to this event! The speaker will be first so your friends may feel free to leave afterwards if they wish. Kelly will have literature and things to buy on display.

Please bring any of the following items as an in kind donation to “Wings of Refuge:

- * Art supplies like canvases, acrylic paint, craft supplies
- * Paper products, toilet paper & paper towel, Kleenex, napkins, copy paper, business size envelopes
- * Cleaning supplies, 61 ink for printer, gift cards for Fareway, Walmart, Target, Gardening Stores
- * Workout DVDs, a TV and DVD for new workout room, dumbbells, jump ropes, pedometers, stability balls
- * Gardening supplies: rakes, gloves, seeds, bird seed and feeders, annual and perennial plants for planter

COMING EVENTS:

April 30 Cluster D Spring Gathering, Washington Prairie Lutheran Church

May 6 May Friendship Day, First United Methodist Church

May 7 LWR pickup, Olson Explosives

May 18-19 W/ELCA Bible Study Seminar Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Registration deadline is May 1

April Circle Schedule

April 5— Mary Circle, 4:00 p.m. Marion Hanson host

April 12 - Anna Circle, 9:30 a.m. Joanne Ylvisaker hosts

April 13—Miriam/Ruth Circle, 2:00 p.m. Mary Fritz hosts

April 26—CLA Circle, 7 :00 p.m. Fellowship Hall, Baby Care Kit Assembly

SOCIAL JUSTICE

LSI BULLETIN/NEWSLETTER

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, more than 7,400 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2014. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety and stability services and mental and behavioral health treatment.

LSI's early childhood programs prevent child abuse by giving parents support and resources to build a healthy, stable home environment for their children. In 2015, LSI made more than 15,000 home visits to parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers!

LSI's Family, Safety, Risk and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's residential programs at Beloit and Bremwood serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

All About the Love

The heartbeat of Syntesha's home is made up of three little words: I love you. I love you. I love you. "I tell my son all day, 'I love you,'" she said. "I didn't know what love meant until I had my baby. The definition of love has changed for me."

Syntesha grew up in a troubled, violent home. Her childhood involved fights. Skipping school. Living with one grandparent, then another.

"I wouldn't even call it a home," she said. "My mom and dad were in and out of jail growing up. They were young. I'm 21, and my mom is 35. I've been through anything you can name. Physical, emotional, sexual abuse. Homeless. Shelter. Evicted."

At 18, she was barely ready to take care of herself, let alone a child. So when she was seven months pregnant, she signed up for LSI's home visiting services. LSI helped this motivated young mom with potty training, budgeting and positive parenting tips and encouraged her college dreams.

"If you're a single mom, I think this is the absolutely best program," Syntesha said.

Now a full-time college student, Syntesha is working hard for her dreams while also preparing to welcome another child into her family. She hopes to help local youth who face the same struggles she

"I want my son to know there are bigger and better things out there in the world."

What a big, brilliant, beautiful kind of love.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP

"Stop Human Trafficking" will be presented Sunday, April 17, 4 p.m. at First Lutheran Church. Michael J. Ferjak, senior criminal investigator with the Iowa Department of Justice – Office of the Attorney General, will answer questions and present information about human trafficking, how local hoteliers and law enforcement can combat it, and available resources to respond.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which children and adults are illegally traded and exploited for sex or forced into labor against their will. The Northeastern Iowa Synod is committed to offering workshops to raise awareness about human trafficking and how to respond if someone suspects a human trafficking situation. The workshop is free and open to the public. To learn more, contact First Lutheran at 563-382-2638 or the synod office at 319-352-1414.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECORAH COVENANT CHURCH will host free showings of “War Room”. The title 'War Room' because, like the military, we should seek God for the right strategy before going into combat – like daily issues we face in our lives. The movie will be shown at the church, 115 Washington St., on Friday, April 1 & Saturday, April 2 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

DECORAH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS : Annual Spring Dinner will be held Sunday April 3, 2016 at Saint Benedict Church Hall in Decorah. The menu is Yankee Beef Pot Roast, hot vegetable, real mashed potatoes, salad and dessert. Serving 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Advance tickets available from members or the parish office.

8TH GRADE BREAKFAST is April 3rd. Serving from 8 am until Noon. Join us for Breakfast at the All Vets Club for the 8th Grade Class Fund Raiser for their D.C. trip. Serving scrambled eggs, sausage or ham, hash browns and toast with choice of juice, milk or coffee. This is a Free Will Donation. All proceeds go to the kids.

WINNESHIEK MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY ANNUAL SPRING BRUNCH Awarding 2016 Health Career Scholarships, Saturday, April 9, 9 am. Advanced ticket purchase required - \$8 per person . Serving stuffed egg bake, fresh fruit, muffins, coffee/milk, Winneshiek Medical Center, lower level conference rooms .Call [563-387-3036](tel:563-387-3036) for information.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS SALAD LUNCHEON — Thursday, April 7th, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., St Benedict Parish Hall. Tickets are \$8, available at the door, Parish Office and from CDA Members. Carry out available.

SPRING FLING, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016! Need help with spring cleaning? The Luther College Student Congregation will assist area residents who need help with yard work and household chores. All work is done on a volunteer basis. Any donations received will be divided between local and global ministries. Contact the Luther College Ministries office at [563-387-1040](tel:563-387-1040) or email ministry@luther.edu by Friday, April 15, to request a Fall Fling team.

THE LUREN SINGERS along with Nicole Winke will be performing a public concert in honor of Msgr. Ed Lechtenberg on Sunday, April 10th, beginning at 3 p.m. at the St. Patrick Church, Waukon, Iowa. The family-friendly concert is perfect for all ages. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be taken, with the proceeds benefiting the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. For more information about this event, contact the Allamakee County Conservation Office at 563-586-2996.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES, March 15, 2016

Present: Pr. Amy Larson, Kate Narveson, Drew Duffy, Lise Kildegaard, Amalia Vagts, Reg Laursen, Jonathon Struve, Megan Buckingham, John Moeller and Jeri Laursen

Devotions involved council members discussing and praying about Ephesians 3:16-21 using the Faith5 modified for leaders.

Long Term Planning:

Discussion highlights:

Vagts noted her hope that when meeting, council members would both bring and leave with a good feeling, and asked "How can we do our work on council to renew us and not burn us out?" Are there things that all committees can do when they meet together? (devotions, discussions of faith, as well as business?) To help ensure church involvement is renewing, not draining, we need a livelier feedback loop between committees and others.

Are the committees too small? We could extend invitations to contribute, targeting particular talents/interests of church members (ex: how the art committee was formed). How could we have energizing gatherings of people invested in particular ministries?

Suggestions: Prayer of the Day could include a petition of a particular committee. Also, an evangelism minute, Pulpit talk, adult forum as active rather than passive, fellowship hour conversation opportunities, a deeper conversation with members on the work of a particular committee. Perhaps committees could serve more as steering committees that guide working groups/teams that form to do a particular task like the Welcome Friends and Neighbor's Picnic or VBS.

Kate: "Prayer is the church's breath returning to it's birth." (from George Herbert's sonnet "Prayer"): all we do can be prayer.

Ongoing Business:

Mailing of financial statements: As a representative of the Stewardship Committee Vagts moved that financial statements be generated quarterly but mailed only twice a year. Quarterly statements would be available at church for pick up and after a few weeks those remaining would be shredded. Remaining statements in July and January would be sent to members. It was suggested that an email be sent to the members when the statements were available for pick up.

Welcome Friends and Neighbors picnic: Evangelism Committee asked the council if we should continue this picnic. It has taken a lot of the Evangelism member's time with no membership gain. Narveson stated that the purpose of the picnic when it first began was not to recruit members. The committee admitted that they could manage the scheduling better and perhaps should recruit more workers. Other efforts were suggested. Bring a Friend to Church on May 1; ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service. Vagts

(Continued on page 16)

moved, Buckingham seconded that the picnic no longer be just the work of the Evangelism Committee and that we invite interested members to be a part of the organizing team. Kildegaard said the committee would make a list of the duties.

New Business:

Dave Judisch proposed that Good Shepherd serve as a sponsor for the October 6 Decorah Community Meal at First Lutheran. J. Laursen moved, Kildegaard seconded to do this. Motion passed.

The Evangelism Committee moved (no second needed) to designate May 1 as “Bring Friends to Worship Sunday”. The Bells and Brass will play and there will be a brunch. Motion passed.

Lenten/Easter Offering: Pr. Amy moved that the Lenten offering be divided between EWALU and ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Buckingham seconded, motion passed.

April 17 is RIC Sunday. Amalia Vagts will preach. Pr. Amy moved that there be a special offering for Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, the organization Amalia directs which supports LGBTQ rostered leaders and congregations seeking to proclaim love and justice for all. Buckingham seconded, Vagts abstained, motion passed.

The June Council meeting will be rescheduled to July 19 due to vacation conflicts.

Recurring Work of the Body:

Education Committee: Megan Buckingham

The \$2000 goal for the Sunday School offering has been met (Syrian Refugee and Local Food Pantry), Sunday School continues with Bible stories and music and the committee is finalizing plans for VBS.

Evangelism Committee: Lise Kildegaard

Usher and Greeter name tags are being used. “Bring Friends to Church” will be May 1. Gail Judisch has purchased Easter cards to be sent to shut-ins.

Property and Management Committee: Reg Laursen

The new table set up for Fellowship Hour/Soup Suppers was met favorably, St. Grubby’s Day will be Sunday, April 24, mowing crew schedule is being worked on. The committee will be working on rental guidelines/wedding policy for the church.

Stewardship Committee: Amalia Vagts

It was suggested by the committee that the third usher be the Greeter and the Nursery provider. Special events on the calendar (Bingo/Birthday Parties) will be added to the Ministry Team lists. The committee would like the council to think about use of our sanctuary space for more worshipers in the future.

Worship Committee: Jonathon Struve

Holy Week schedule has been set, RIC Sunday will be April 17, “Bring Friends to Church” will be May 1. Brad Hanson has agreed to spearhead the effort of recruiting a few members to serve communion to our home-bound and shut-ins on a monthly basis. The committee is considering a proposal to have Wednesday services on a seasonal basis: June/July; Advent and Lent.

Pastor’s Report: Pr. Amy

Pr. Amy will set a Confirmation date after conferring Confirmands.

Work on the membership rolls will begin. Don Berg, Sharon Rendack and Jeri Laursen will help. Drew Duffy

is researching software to use.

President's Report: Kate Narveson

Discussion continues on the possibility of sponsoring a Syrian Refugee family.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Our net income to date is \$4,193.12. Benevolences are paid quarterly so in fact, expenses through February are approximately \$6000 over our income. This doesn't reflect a significant decline in giving compared to last year but rather the one-time expense of \$6000 for a new copy machine. The handbells bill has been paid. Total for Lent/Sunday School offering is \$2386.35. R. Laursen moved, Struve seconded to accept the report, passed.

April Newsletter deadline is March 17. Next Council meeting is Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.

Vagts moved to adjourn, Buckingham seconded, passed. The evening ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeri Laursen

The Music Page

Behold, I Make All Things New

1.
Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might

2.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho-san - na in the high-est

3.
Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Ben Larson's Sanctus

During the season of Easter, we will be singing Ben Larson's beautiful liturgy, "Behold, I Make All Things New." We were introduced to this music last year by Pastors April and Judd Larson, and we're so excited to bring it back to Good Shepherd. Below is an excerpt from benstillsings.com, where you can hear more of Ben's music and read about his life.

"Behold, I Make All Things New" was written by Ben Splichal Larson. Ben was killed in the Haiti Earthquake on January 12, 2010, when he was there with his wife, Renee, and his cousin, Jon. Ben sang the "Lamb of God," of setting 10 in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book, while buried in the rubble and then died. Originally, "Behold, I Make All Things New" was written to reach and inspire 18-35 year olds, an age demographic that is often least represented in weekly worship. As people learn to sing this music, it becomes apparent that the liturgy appeals to all ages, being sung in both large and small congregations, as well as campus ministries. This liturgy can utilize a variety of instruments, from piano, organ, guitar, drums, bass, C instrument, mandolin, etc. This liturgy is meant for whatever instrumentation a congregation has and is meant to be sung freely. We also invite people to download the music and simply use it for devotions, driving in a car, or meditation. We hope "Behold, I Make All Things New" blesses your life even outside of Sunday worship. It was Ben's intention, and now his family's prayer, that the music he wrote to the ancient worship language of the church be a catalyst for renewal, hope, and faith for people and congregations. In the spirit of Ben, we give his liturgy to the Church with joy and pray it may bless all who sing it.

April Music Schedule

4/3: Choir
4/10: Choir
4/17: Choir
4/24: Band

The choir rehearses at 7 pm Wednesdays
Band rehearsals are 8 pm Wednesdays
All are welcome!

April 2016

decorahgoodshepherd@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:30 AM Band rehearsal</p> <p>9:30 AM Easter Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM No Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45 AM No Sunday School</p> <p>27</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>6:30 PM AL/ALON</p> <p>28</p>	<p>7:00 PM CIA Circle</p> <p>29</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</p> <p>30</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>31</p>	<p>11:00 AM Vietnam Veterans Event</p> <p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Broadcast</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45 AM Adult Forum</p> <p>10:45 AM Youth/Confirmation Pr.'s of-fice</p> <p>11:45 AM Sandy Good recital</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>6:30 PM AL/ALON</p> <p>4</p>	<p>4:00 PM Mary Circle</p> <p>5</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</p> <p>6</p>	<p>5:00 PM Community Meal</p> <p>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 AM Adult Forum</p> <p>10:45 AM Youth/Confirmation Pr.'s of-fice</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>6:30 PM AL/ALON</p> <p>7:00 PM Jane Jakoubek</p> <p>11</p>	<p>8:30 AM Jane Jakoubek</p> <p>9:30 AM Anna Circle</p> <p>1:15 PM Town and Country Garden Club</p> <p>2:00 PM Pr. Amy @ Well, Pl. Intensive</p> <p>6:30 PM Adult Forum Slip-Committee</p> <p>8:00 PM Worship & Music Committee</p> <p>12</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting</p> <p>1:15 PM Miriam / Ruth Circles</p> <p>2:00 PM Education Committee</p> <p>3:30 PM Prayer Support Muslim</p> <p>6:30 PM Adult Forum Slip-Committee</p> <p>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</p> <p>13</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>10:00 AM Adult Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 PM Travel Club</p> <p>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>14</p>	<p>11:00 AM Stewardship Committee</p> <p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>Reconciling in Christ Sunday</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:45 AM Youth/Confirmation Pr.'s of-fice</p> <p>10:45 AM Adult Forum</p> <p>5:00 PM Farmer's Market Spring Meeting</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>6:30 PM AL/ALON</p> <p>18</p>	<p>12:30 PM Opportunity Homes</p> <p>7:00 PM Council Meeting</p> <p>19</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 AM Opportunity Homes</p> <p>1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry</p> <p>6:00 PM My Neighbor is Muslim</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</p> <p>20</p>	<p>10:00 AM Adult Bible Study</p> <p>12:30 PM Opportunity Homes</p> <p>5:00 PM Decorah Community Meal</p> <p>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>21</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>St Grubbys day</p> <p>Broadcast</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM No Adult Forum</p> <p>10:30 AM No Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45 AM No Sunday School</p> <p>24</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>6:30 PM AL/ALON</p> <p>25</p>	<p>7:00 PM CIA Circle</p> <p>26</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>2:00 PM Pr. Amy @ Aase Haugen</p> <p>5:30 PM Robert Wolf rehearsal</p> <p>6:00 PM My Neighbor is Muslim</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>10:00 AM Adult Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 PM Robert Wolf rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>28</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>5:30 PM Robert Wolf rehearsal</p> <p>29</p>	<p>WELCA Cluster D Gathering</p> <p>30</p>

March 2016	April 2016	May 2016
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27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	29 30 31

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April 2016
Newsletter

