

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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



February 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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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>



FROM THE PASTOR

Beloved of God,

I've been using this letter to invite our reflection on each part of the Good Shepherd Mission Statement. This month let's consider our commitment to: **"Reach out to the broader community through service and responsible stewardship of all God's creation."**

The scriptural image that comes to mind when I think about outreach, service and stewardship of God's creation is found in Mark 4: 30-32 "[Jesus said], With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

There are times when the message and work of the church can seem as insignificant as a small seed. There are so many in need. There is so much pain and violence. The world is ravaged by climate change. Our efforts to reach out, to serve and to care for God's creation can seem so futile.

Yet Jesus reminds us that though we may only have a tiny seed, it is enough. This tiny seed is the promise of God's coming kingdom, the assurance that God is at working to bring new life for all of creation. This seed does and will grow to be a great treelike shrub which reaches out and gives shelter, comfort and new life to all creation.

We are the branches in God's work of reaching out to heal and renew the world. As Jesus says elsewhere, "I am the vine, you are the branches." When we practice outreach, service and stewardship, we are living as branches of God's kingdom. Our efforts may seem small and insignificant but they are part of the larger work of God in the world.

Good Shepherd is doing this work of outreach, service and stewardship well. As individuals, you serve so faithfully in the larger world in paid and unpaid roles. As a congregation, our service and stewardship is very powerful. Our budget for 2016 includes another increase in benevolence giving. The new LED lights make the church more energy efficient. The Certified Nurse Aide training course we just hosted offered people a hand up into health care jobs and helped train more caregivers for our long term care facilities. (The council will soon consider whether we will offer more classes in the future.) We support the the Path to Citizenship program with finances and leadership from our members (Path to Citizenship provides free legal advice on the immigration process. With the help of immigration attorneys, they hold quarterly legal aid clinics and have no -interest microloans available to assist low income families with legal fees and associated costs.) We take part in the Decorah Community Meal. Women of the ELCA (WELCA) and the children prepare school kits, baby care kits and health kits for people living in poverty. WELCA raises funds through Krumkake sales at Nordic Fest, the soup luncheon and country store auction and then gives those funds away.

Further opportunities for service and stewardship that I see include more engagement with the Path to Citizenship, Syrian refugee resettlement, affordable housing initiatives in Decorah and support for the work of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM). "Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries affirms and supports LGBTQ Lutheran rostered leaders and those preparing for rostered leadership while engaging allied congregations and ministries to proclaim God's love and seek justice for all." (see more at elm.org) In part, this organization helps Reconciling in Christ congregations, like Good Shepherd, to more fully live out our statements of welcome. Our member, Amalia Vagts, is Executive Director of ELM. I believe this is an organization that should receive our support.

As we do this work of outreach, service and stewardship, let's remember Jesus words John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." Let us be grounded in worship, scripture and prayer so that we can go out with joy and hope doing the life giving work of God's kingdom.

In Christ,

CONGREGATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

Instead of "dear friends," I was tempted to write "dear brethren and sisterns" because my sister and I used to think it was really funny to be sisterns (yes, I know that's not really a word). But one of the things I value about a congregation is that it brings together people who often would not mix otherwise, given the way we all tend to self-select into groups of people who are related by blood, or who share an interest, or work life, or political views, or income level. And so I write to you as friends, in that rich sense that Pastor Amy's sermon captured beautifully: we are members of a body, all contributing our part. The body works better for each of us, and we are each better as part of this body. It is a gift to be a member of such a body, and an honor to be elected to lead the Council in the coming year.

I am happy to report that the annual meeting was convivial, productive, and relatively brief. We heard that our financial statement is in good order, and expressed heartfelt thanks to out-going treasurer Clara Knudson, who kept track of endless details with care and good humor. We heard about how the position of Music Director has been rethought to reflect the expanded role Brooke Joyce has taken on. Our stewardship committee presented their plan for a new process for inviting members to serve as worship assistants, ushers, and hosts at fellowship. That process will start on a trial basis in April. If you haven't yet turned in a form noting which roles you're willing to play and what quarters of the year are best, the committee is still eager to collect those. Out-going president Jim Fritz alerted us to the need for an amendment to the constitution to reflect the disbanding of the ministerial support committee and its replacement by the executive committee; that amendment will come before us at the next congregational meeting.

While President Fritz expressed some compunction at "dropping the ball" on that issue, I think I speak for all of us in thanking him for the astonishing number of balls he did keep in the air this past year. It feels good to know that the physical fabric of the church is in excellent shape, the offices newly equipped, and all that work done with a mindfulness both of environmental stewardship and support of our local businesses.

Where are we called next? I look forward to helping Pastor Amy give shape to her vision for her ministry. And I urge you to share with me anything you desire to see us undertake, or reflect on, or celebrate, as friends in Christ.

-Kate Narveson

ROOF REPAIR FUNDS

Dear Good Shepherd members,

Many thanks for a great 2015. I'm excited to see what 2016 brings us as we have so many great possibilities to serve: Syrian refugee resettlement, benevolences to the greater world, seminary assistance for the Wicks, serving the underserved of our community, etc. Add that to the list of possibilities for us to make a difference right in our own "backyard" i.e. new furnaces, solar panels, a tree "shelter belt" in our back yard, etc. and you can see that the possibilities are wonderful!

However, we must first pay off our roofing project. This is my final request to see if we can do it early. While a generous family has offered us a great loan opportunity, I'd like to avoid needing it any further. Please consider a small donation for the roof repayment. When you send your check, please put "roof" in the memo line so it can be noted appropriately.

When this debt goes away we can begin the list of exciting projects we all wish to accomplish! Thanks for your consideration of this request!

Jim Fritz

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES

January 19, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pr. Amy Larson, President Jim Fritz, Kate Narveson, Clara Knudson, John Jefferson, Drew Duffy, Jonathon Struve, Jeri Laursen and Makayla Marinack

Drew Duffy opened with devotions.

Duffy moved, Narveson seconded to approve the December minutes. Motion passed.

Laursen moved, Tapscott seconded to accept the agenda for the meeting. Motion passed.

Education: Megan Buckingham

The Sunday School is using "Children of God Storybook Bible" for their lessons. They begin with music, read the story for the Sunday, act it out (maybe more than once) and then do an activity related to the story. The committee is working on Vacation Bible School plans. Megan Buckingham will represent the committee as chair in 2016.

Evangelism: Matt Tapscott

The committee is working on outreach ideas for 2016. Lise Kildegaard will be chair of the committee for 2016 and other members are Sharon Rendack and Gail Judisch.

Property and Management: Drew Duffy

Magnetic door stops have been installed in the Pastor's office and the church office. The kitchen water heater has been programmed. The proposed budget for 2016 is \$215,148. Reg Laursen will chair P/M in 2016.

Pr. Amy reported that Sarah Wicks has decided to get a master's degree (2 year program) at Wartburg Seminary and has requested a congregational registration form from Good Shepherd. She will start with a few classes this spring and begin full time in the fall. Pr. Amy asked that we increase the Wick's family compensation from the budget by \$500. Jim Fritz will bring a friendly amendment to the annual meeting that we add \$500 to line item 402: Seminary Assistance.

Stewardship: John Jefferson

The two adult forums held these past two Sundays went well. Data will soon be evaluated. The trial run of the new format will begin after Easter. No congregational vote is necessary. Amalia Vagts will be chair of Stewardship in 2016.

Worship: Jonathon Struve

Wednesday, January 6 was the Epiphany Service followed by a potluck. About 35 attended. Wednesday services have been suspended until Ash Wednesday, February 10. Lenten Services (5:30) will be followed by Soup Suppers (6:15). Sign-up sheets will be set out beginning January 31 for people to bring food and work in the kitchen. Each committee of the council will be assigned one Sunday to oversee the supper. Executive officers were asked to work with the committees. Jonathon Struve has agreed to remain the chair for 2016.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

Pr. Amy reported that Sarah Wicks has discerned a call to diaconal ministry (ministry of word and service) and will begin a master's degree (2 year program) at Wartburg Seminary. She has requested that we do the congregational registration for her so that she can begin the candidacy process with the ELCA to be approved for diaconal ministry. Duffy moved, Struve seconded to approve the congregation registration form for Sarah Wicks and offer her support in prayer for this candidacy process. Motion passed. Syrian resettlement update discussion will continue at the February meeting. There will be discussion at the annual meeting as to how the annual reports are distributed to the members in the future. It will be suggested that the agenda, year-end financial statements, proposed budget and nomination sheet be sent to members 10 days prior to the annual meeting and committee reports be available for pick up at the church the Sunday before the meeting and at the annual meeting. Pr. Amy asked that Jenny be paid for the 9 hours of extra work she put in last week preparing the annual report. Tapscott moved, J. Laursen seconded that this be done. Motion passed.

Makayla Marinack reported on her month shadowing Pr. Amy. She has attended committee meetings, worked with the CNA students, taught Confirmation, given the children’s message, gave a sermon, helped plan Lent with Pr. Amy, attended Bible Study and followed Pr. Amy in her duties. Her last day will be Wednesday, January 27.

President’s Report: Jim Fritz

The Audit Committee has met and Jon Christy will give a report at the annual meeting.

Fritz said he had two things he wanted to accomplish before his term ends this week. 1) move one of the routers to the furnace room so the whole church will have WiFi and 2)that the original wooden cross that was found in the annex be hung in the Fellowship Hall. Jane Kemp has had the cross refinished. Jim thanked the council for their efforts in 2015. Laursen in turn thanked Fritz for all he accomplished this past year.

Vice President: Kate Narveson

The nominating committee report was passed around for any corrections. This will be voted on at the annual meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Clara Knudson

Knudson in looking over the budget noticed that Don Berg was underpaid throughout 2015. He is still owed \$108 so a check will be written to him. Barbara Berg has submitted her bill for the new Advent Parament for \$2101.48. \$774 of the payment will come from WELCA (2013: \$75, 2014: \$200, 2015: 500) and Pr. Hasvold memorial money (\$1,296.78) which leaves a balance of \$30.70. Knudson asked for a motion that this remaining balance be paid from undesignated memorial funds. Narveson moved, Buckingham seconded. Motion passed. All benevolences have been paid for 2015. The new copier charge will be \$6,794.75. Duffy will contact the company to order the copier. Knudson reported that only \$217.75 was paid from the budget for the LED lighting project. The remainder was paid from member contributions, Alliant rebates totaling \$2282.00 and from Pastor Hasvold Memorial Fund donations. Duffy moved, Narveson seconded to approve the treasurer’s report. Motion passed.

Old Business: none

New Business: Fritz reported that Dave Judisch will be awarded the St. Olav’s Medal in a ceremony on February 4 at Luther. Harley Refsal received this same award a number of years ago. It is very unusual that two members of the same congregation are so honored.

Annual Meeting, January 24; February newsletter deadline: January 22; next Council meeting: February 16.

Pr. Amy closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeri Laursen, Secretary.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mission Assistance Fund

Dec. 31, 2015

1/1/2015 Account Balance:	\$	1,624.30
Deposits	\$	1,684.25
Payments for assistance	\$	(1,660.00)
Deposit booklets cost	\$	(55.43)
Purchase of 8 grocery gift cards	\$	(200.00)
Purchase of 8 gasoline gift cards	\$	(200.00)
12/31/2015 Account Balance:	\$	1,493.12

During the year of 2015, Good Shepherd offered help to three families on five occasions.

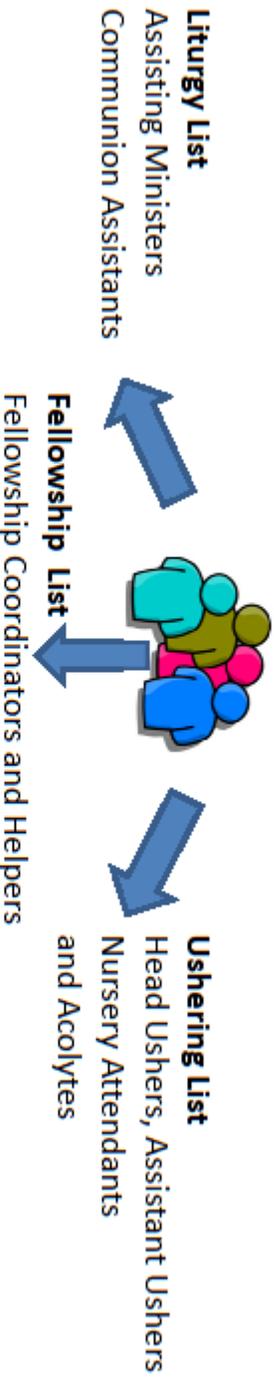
Respectfully submitted,

Clara Knudson

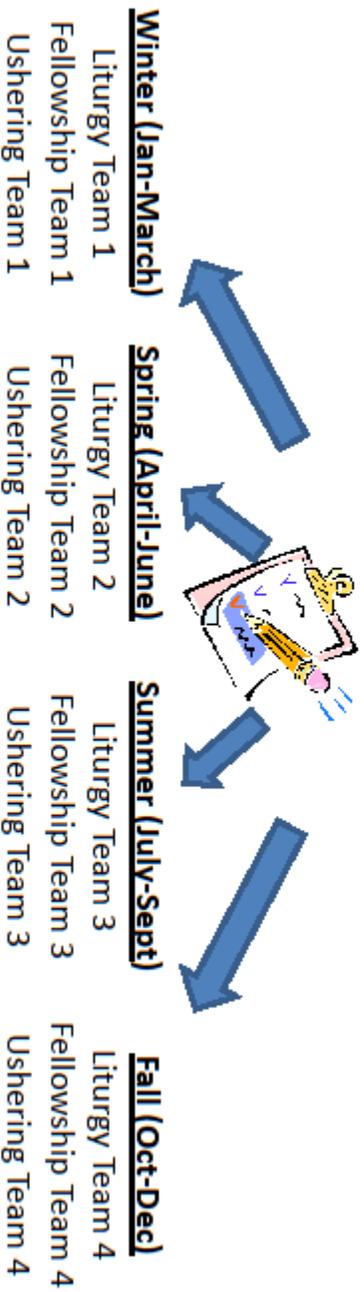
STEWARDSHIP

STEP ONE: Each member of the congregation will be asked to complete a Ministry Team sign-up form in which they will choose among three categories of ministry (Liturgy, Fellowship or Ushering) and indicate which seasons of the year they would like to participate. Each member will be asked to serve a total of **four shifts per year**.

STEP TWO: The Stewardship Committee will set up three Ministry Lists.



STEP THREE: The Stewardship Committee will set up twelve Ministry Teams, three for each season. Each team will have a convener who will organize the people on their team to sign up for specific Sundays or Wednesdays.



If you haven't already submitted this form, please do so by February 15th. All members will be assigned to a list. This is your chance to tell us which list(s) you prefer.

Ministry Team Sign-up Sheet (2016)

Name - _____ Date _____

Proposal: One of the ways we serve our church is to be on a Ministry Team. The Stewardship Committee, in consultation with Pastor Amy, would like to propose a reorganization of the Ministry teams to make the experience more enjoyable and to encourage more people to participate. This new proposal would organize the teams according to duties rather than months and include a team rotation based on a seasonal rather than a monthly schedule.

Please consider which of the following ministries interest you

- A) **Liturgy:** Assisting Ministers and Communion Assistants work during the worship service on Sunday (teams of 2) or during Wednesday evening service (1 person). The Assisting Minister reads prayers and scripture and distributes communion. The Communion Assistants also help distribute communion. Note that youths are encouraged to serve as readers with the assistants.
- B) **Fellowship:** Coordinators and Helpers work in teams during the fellowship coffee hour on Sundays (5 per team) or after the service on Wednesdays. Duties include bringing food, setting-up, and cleaning-up the fellowship hall. Coordinators are responsible for making coffee and organizing the Helpers. Fellowship team members also help at special care facility events.
- C) **Ushering:** Head Ushers, Assistants, Nursery Supervisors, and Acolytes work in teams under the direction of the Head Usher during the services on Sundays (3 per team) or Wednesdays (1 person). Duties include handing out bulletins, ringing the bell, lighting the candles, ushering during communion and taking the collection. The Nursery attendants are on duty only if needed. Acolyte duties will be arranged informally with Sunday school students. Head ushers are responsible for organizing the group, counting and depositing the collection, and taking care of "broadcast Sundays".

Mark ONE (or more) Boxes

Liturgy	Fellowship	Ushering
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Then, consider which seasons of the Year you would like to serve. The Stewardship Committee will generate teams for each season and you will be asked to serve twice in each season that you choose.

Mark TWO (or more) Boxes.

Jan-March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments concerning availability and preferences:

WORSHIP NOTES

LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

“Coming to our Senses: Opening Ourselves to God”

Pastor and author Frederick Buechner wrote, “To repent is to come to your senses.” This Lent we’ll explore the call to come to our senses and open our whole lives to God. We’ll reflect on how our physical senses can help us to pray, repent and experience the God who comes to us in the flesh.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP- FEBRUARY 10, 7pm. We will share in Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP- WEDNESDAYS, 5:30 PM, FEBRUARY 17-MARCH 16. We will share in Holden Evening Prayer.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS- Worship will be followed by

simple soup suppers. Please sign up to bring soup, serve, and clean up on the poster found in the narthex and fellowship hall.

LENTEN PUPPET MINISTRY- After Wednesday Night Lent Worship, Sue Blair, (member of Good Shepherd and long time 1st grade teacher who worked with puppets at St. Benedict School), will, with her inquisitive, energetic puppets, offer children 1 to 10 years old, a quick mini Lenten message and song just after our half hour worship is over.

We invite children into the classroom by the sanctuary immediately following worship (about 6 pm.) to join Sue and her puppets for about 10 -12 minutes. The kids will interact with the puppet and song and mini Lenten lesson while the congregation is in line for our Lenten Soup Supper.

When our Puppet lesson is over, Sue will bring the kids down to the lobby by the kitchen where you can have your family connect up for the Soup Supper.

EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This winter and spring, Good Shepherd Sunday School is trying a new curriculum and structure. Each week, we're reading a story in a children's Bible by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and are working with the kids to act out the story and do an activity based on the story.

In addition to using Tutu's children's Bible as the basis for our lesson each week, we're also structuring the Sunday School time a bit differently. Instead of the Sunday School/Kinderhaus room, we meet in the Sanctuary. We're starting and ending each session with a song--right now we're working on "This Little Light of Mine" and "As You Go On Your Way May Christ Go With You."

We want to welcome all the kids to participate, even and especially the young ones! The Education Committee (Kate Blair, Heather Cote and Megan Buckingham) are working to make sure there are at least two of us adults with the kids each week.

This Lent the Sunday School will raise funds for the Decorah Community Food Pantry and Lutheran Disaster Response aid for Syrian Refugees.

If you're interested in helping with Sunday School please

talk with Kate, Heather or Megan. So far we've been rotating through the three of us teaching and assisting, but we'd love a couple more volunteers to help teach (or assist) occasionally when one or more of us need to be out of town. The structure and curriculum really help to simplify things for teachers. And we'd love to find folks--especially piano or guitar players--to help with music!

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION MENTORS- We are still in need of just one more confirmation mentor. You will be paired with one youth and asked to meet with that youth during Lenten Soup Suppers. You'll also be asked to let this youth know you care by reaching out after worship, during coffee hour and by showing an interest in this youth's life. **FEBRUARY CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE-** We will have class on February 7 and 21.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Good Shepherd will offer Vacation Bible School Monday-Wednesday, August 15-17 in late afternoon or early evening. The focus will be learning and acting out a Bible story. More details to come.

CAMP EWALU

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 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 FORUMS

FEBRUARY 7- TBA

FEBRUARY 14- MEETING OF MARCH MINISTRY TEAM with conveners Reg and Jeri and Laursen and Pr. Amy in the Narthex.

FEBRUARY 21- TECHNOLOGY AT GOOD SHEPHERD: CONNECTING AND REACHING OUT

Good Shepherd is richly blessed by a great website, Facebook page and online directory. How can you access these resources to connect to your congregation? How are you using these resources and what else would be helpful to you? What ideas do you have for using technology to reach out? This workshop is for beginners to veterans alike to talk together about how we can best use the gifts of technology to strengthen our congregational life and outreach.

FEBRUARY 28- REFLECTIONS ON TRAVELS IN THE HOLY LAND- Marilyn Anderson and Jane Kemp will share their reflections about their January trip to the Holy Land.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LAURA INGALLS WILDER MUSEUM in Burr Oak, IA will be hosting its annual Spaghetti Supper Friday, February 12, 2016 from 5:30-7:30 pm. The event will take place at the North Winn School on 3495 N. Winn Rd., Rural Decorah. Meal includes spaghetti (meatless available), garlic toast, salad, beverages, ice cream & toppings. There will also be a Country Store and a raffle for a 43" LG LED HD-TV. Proceeds will benefit the Laura Ingalls Wilder Park & Museum. Please call [563-735-5916](tel:563-735-5916) with questions or for more information.

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP—Decorah Lutheran Church is going to Guatemala this spring for a 8 day mission trip. This mission trip will be building houses and schools. Decorah Lutheran Church would like to invite members of the community to join in the 8 days of building. Please contact Decorah Lutheran at 382-3601 or Ward [563-379-0365](tel:563-379-0365) for more information.

CALMAR LUTHERAN YOUTH is hosting a Valentine's Dinner Sunday, February 14, 2016 serving from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Calmar Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Please join us for Italian Iowa Chops, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Buns, Cole Slaw and Dessert. Tickets are only available in advance until February 4th at a cost of \$15 each. Please contact a member of the Calmar Lutheran Youth or the Church Office @ [563-562-3633](tel:563-562-3633).

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER—Ridgeway Lutheran Parish is hosting a pancake supper on Tuesday, February 9, 4:30 –7:00 p.m. at the Ridgeway Community Center. The Madison, Orleans and Peace Lutheran Churches are hosting this ALL YOU CAN EAT supper made by the Decorah Lion's Club. Pancakes, sausages, applesauce and beverages will be provided. Adults - \$6, Children 12 and under - \$3, Preschool - free.

GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD SHEPHERD MEMBER DAVID JUDISCH TO BE AWARDED ST. OLAV'S MEDAL

The Royal Norwegian Medal of St. Olav will be conferred on David E. Judisch, Luther College professor emeritus on Thursday, February 4.

The St. Olav Medal is awarded in recognition of outstanding services rendered in connection with the spreading of information about Norway abroad and for strengthening the bonds between expatriate Norwegians and their home country.

According to the Royal Norwegian Embassy Judisch is a most fitting recipient of the St. Olav Medal for his extraordinary leadership of the Norwegian-American male choral movement for more than 30 years. No single individual has done more to strengthen ties between the Norwegian-American male choral movement and modern Norway.

THANK YOU TO GOOD SHEPHERD SERVANTS

We say congratulations and thank you to Jane Kemp who will serve on the Vesterheim Board and Dan Bellrichard who is serving on the City Council.

Please let us know if you are aware of the service, public offerings and accomplishments of members so we can share them in the newsletter.

FEBRUARY PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY —February is the month of love and we love Good Shepherd Prayer Shawl Ministry! Join us Wednesday, February 17th from 1-3:00 p.m. at the home of Carrie Solberg to create shawls to share with others. Contact Ruth Bruce at 419-7567 for additional information. All are welcome!

FROM THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE - Good Shepherd's Constitution Updated A new version of our constitution, based on ELCA's *Model Constitution for Congregations*, has been prepared. The amendments passed at ELCA's Churchwide Assembly, August 2013, and approved at our January 2015 annual meeting have been integrated. It is a 14 page document. Copies are available in the office - contact our Administrative Assistant Jenny; or, you may receive it as an email attachment from Elizabeth Kaschins - kascheli@luther.edu

CHANGING LITURGICAL SEASONS AND COLORS – On Sunday, February 7, the Transfiguration of Our Lord, the Time After Epiphany comes to an end. The liturgical color for this day is white as it was for January 10, the First Sunday After Epiphany - the Baptism of Our Lord. White is the color used for festivals of Christ; it represents light, gladness, and joy in Christ. The three Sundays between January 10 and February 7 were 'green Sundays'. The gates, paraments, and Pastor Amy's stole were green, the color of growth – growth in the Christian way of life and thought.

The 40-day season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday, February 10.** The liturgical color is purple in remembrance of the royalty of Christ who reigns from the cross. The gates, altar and pulpit paraments, and pastor's stole will change to purple; a purple cloth is draped on our shepherd's cross during this season.

GREETING FROM THE WICKS FAMILY—

I am sending a little update from our family for the congregation. How are things at Good Shepherd? I wish we could have come back to worship with you and hear "the good news," but it just hasn't happened yet. We are thinking of you and the congregation and pretty excited for the good things that we know are happening there and we hope to see you in the near future!

Peace,
Nathan

AASE HAUGEN SENIOR SERVICES ANNUAL MEETING - Aase Haugen Senior Services will hold their annual Meeting of the corporation, of which you are a member, on Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 2 pm. The meeting will be held at Vennehjem, 1102 Nordic Drive, Decorah, in the Great Room. Good Shepherd delegates to this meeting are Ann Naslund, Midge Kjome and Bev Nelson.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 18

SOCIAL JUSTICE

CNA CLASS SUPPORT - This January Good Shepherd hosted a Certified Nursing Assistance certification course for local and surrounding community members. Nine students completed the course and received their certificate at a graduation ceremony held in the sanctuary with a celebratory lunch in the fellowship hall on Monday January 25, 2016. This class is a collaborative project with Northeast Iowa Community College, Aase Haugen Senior Services, and Good Shepherd. One of the students received a scholarship for the cost of the course. This program was a success and the Social Justice Subcommittee hopes that Good Shepherd can host another class and support even more students through scholarships. Thank you to all those who provided treats, prayers, and other support to the class.

I also wanted to thank the Good Shepherd congregation for their encouragement and support through my internship. It has been a joy to learn more about ministry and serve your congregation. May the Holy Spirit continue to work through this welcoming and active community. Submitted by Makayla Marinack.

THANK YOU FROM STUDENT- Thank you for the scholarship. I am beyond words for everything you have done for the class and myself. It's great to come to a church for the class, so much fun. Thank you again, Jackie.

NORTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND – has funding available to assist homeowner's with help having rehabilitation work done on their home through low interest loans or grants depending on the applicant's income. Funding is available up to \$10,000 per project for projects such as roofs, siding, windows, electrical work, plumbing, energy efficiency, etc. Contact Mary Huinker at [563-864-7551](tel:563-864-7551) ext.111.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM— Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) Family Service Offices are still taking applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). If your household applied for LIHEAP in the 2014-2015 LIHEAP program year, your application can also be done online at:<http://www.neicac.org/energy.html> .

NEW this year – the household income eligibility has been raised from 150% of federal poverty level to 175%.

LUTHERAN DAY ON THE HILL - Do you ever hear about big problems in this world and feel helpless? Like you can't make an impact? Human welfare, environmental and political issues that seem so massive and far away? Issues like:

- Refugee quality of life
- Water quality
- Human trafficking
- Racial disparity in the criminal justice system

Families in crisis

You can make a difference. Add your voice to those of your fellow concerned Lutherans at the Iowa State Capitol for Lutheran Day on the Hill 2016. Wednesday, February 17 9:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. The day will include a training session at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church and advocacy with legislators at the Iowa State Capital. To register go to Iowa.org and search for Lutheran Day on the Hill.

FREE ELECTRONIC INCOME TAX FILING - Northeast Iowa RSVP Volunteers will be providing free electronic income tax filing for low to middle income taxpayers (any age) and those over age 60. The tax preparation services are offered at the Decorah & Postville Libraries; call [563-419-3703](tel:563-419-3703) to schedule an appointment. In Howard County, the services will be provided at the Cresco Public Library on Wednesday and Thursday during the tax season. To schedule an appointment, call [563-203-7681](tel:563-203-7681). Services are not available for those who are required to file a Schedule "C" or "F" for their business. There is no cost for the service.

Ministry Schedule

MINISTRY TEAM SCHEDULE

February 2016

Convener - Ruth Bruce

TEAM I

Bruce, Jerry (2)
Craft, Naomi (1)
Erdman, Lindsay (2)
Gertz, Tanya (1)
Nelson, Harland (2)
Narveson, Kate (1)
Ramsey, LaVerne (1)
Schweizer, Helen (1)
Slind, Marv (1)
Torresdal, Ray (2)

March 2016

Conveners-- Reg & Jeri Laursen

TEAM B (Partner Team E)

Bellrichard/Hickens
Hasvold, Carol (1)
Heidke, Bunice (1)
Jones, Beth (1)
Kaschins, Ed (2)
Kilarski, Laurie (1,3)
Knudson, Karl (2)
Larson, Robert (2)
Moeller, John (2)
Trout, Jason (2,2)

CANTOR SCHEDULE

2/7	Dennis Barnaal	2/10	Kate Narveson
2/14	Daniel Raney	2/17	Megan Buckingham
2/21	Jonathon Struve	2/24	Reg Laursen
3/1	Dennis Barnaal		

Radio Broadcast: February 21

Please note: The broadcast of our services will be tape- delayed and will begin at approx. 11:00 am, after the broadcast of the Luther College Congregation service.

FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

Jane Kemp, convener

Carolyn Solberg, Bev Sheridan

ALTAR GUILD: Jane Kemp, Bev Sheridan	Ministry Team 2016			MONTH of February Convenor: Ruth Bruce	
	WEDNESDAY February 3	WEDNESDAY February 10	WEDNESDAY February 17	WEDNESDAY February 24	
WEDNESDAY 5:30 P.M. SERVICE	No Service	Kate Narveson	Nathan Larson	Abby Larson	
ACOLYTE					
ASST MINISTER. (1)	No Service	Asst. Minister-Pam Torresdal	No Communion Asst. Minister-Pam Torresdal	No Communion Asst. Minister- Harland Nelson	
SECOND COMM. ASST. (1)	No Service	Comm. Asst.-Tanya Gertz			
USHERS/CREETERS	No Service	Jerry & Ruth Bruce	Jerry & Ruth Bruce	Helen Schweizer	
SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. SERVICE	SUNDAY February 7	SUNDAY February 14	SUNDAY February 21	SUNDAY February 28	
ACOLYTE	Karla Erdman	Kate Narveson	Ray Torresdal	Eli Gertz	
ASST MINISTER. (1)	Asst. Minister-Pam Torresdal	Asst. Minister-Harland Nelson	Asst. Minister-Marv Slind	Asst. Minister-Kate Narveson	
SECOND COMM. ASST. (1)	Comm. Asst.-Ruth Bruce	Comm. Asst.- Ruth Bruce	Comm. Asst.-Harland Nelson	Comm. Asst.-Tanya Gertz	
USHERS/CREETERS (2-3)	Lindsay & Karla Erdman	Jerry & Ruth Bruce	Reg & Jeri Laurson	Lindsay & Karla Erdman	
NURSERY	Ava & Mara Holland	Nathan Larson	Ava & Mara Holland	Nathan Larson	
COFFEE SERVERS (2-3) *In Charge	Lindsay & Karla Erdman Jerry & Ruth Bruce Harland & Corinne Nelson Tanya Gertz (food only)	Helen Schweizer Kate Narveson Naomi Craft LaVerne Ramsey (food only)	Marv Slind Harland & Corinne Nelson Ray & Pam Torresdal LaVerne Ramsey (food only)	Lindsay & Karla Erdman Naomi Craft Kate Narveson Tanya Gertz (food only)	
BROADCAST- Ushers reminded to tape on February 21 (broadcasting 11 am)			Broadcast		
SPECIAL EVENT: No special events					
Volunteers:					

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America
A Reconciling In Christ Congregation
701 Iowa Ave.

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February 2016

Newsletter