

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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



January 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: (note change)

**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

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2*

*"All who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say, 'I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.'" Rule of St. Benedict*

Beloved of God,

I've been using this letter to invite our reflection on each sentence of the Good Shepherd Mission Statement. This month let's consider our commitment to: **"Welcome all, offering trust and respect while sharing God's unconditional love."**

One of the most central themes in scripture is the charge to welcome the stranger. We hear this over and over throughout both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Scripture shows us a God who longs to welcome and be reconciled with God's people. God is always extending a welcome to us and calling us into the ministry of reconciliation.

At Good Shepherd, guests and new members report feeling very welcome. Members work hard to notice and greet guests and invite them to coffee. People sit in different spots during coffee so guests don't feel like they're trying to break into a clique. The Reconciling in Christ statement in our bulletins and the gender-free bathrooms are important messages of welcome. We've designed bulletins to be user-friendly. We work to explain church terms like narthex, fellowship hall, ministry teams and WELCA and to make our opportunities accessible to all.

Of course we know there are many people in our community who wouldn't consider coming to worship. Some feel they'll be judged. Some have been wounded by the church. Many see the church as irrelevant. Yet God longs for these people to know that they too are beloved of God and accepted just as they are. Our lives of service and compassion in the community are essential ways that we bear witness to our welcoming, loving God.

Our welcome must also extend beyond those who already live here. At this time, we are also being asked to consider resettling Syrian refugees in Decorah. Bishop Ullestad, our bishop in the NE IA Synod, is encouraging congregations to extend this welcome and feels that Good Shepherd could be a leader in this work. We certainly have a wonderful history of refugee resettlement.

As we reflect on this possibility, we should remember another central theme of scripture "do not be afraid." This is the most commonly repeated phrase in scripture. In a time when so many people are encouraging us to be afraid of Muslims and refugees, we need to remember these two key themes in scripture: welcome the stranger and do not be afraid. The social justice sub-committee and the council will be considering this invitation to resettle Syrian refugees. We will be talking with the synod office, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Lutheran Services in Iowa (the organization that would coordinate resettlement work in Iowa.) If you have insights from the earlier resettlement work or if you have questions or concerns, please come talk with me.

Please also join me in welcoming Luther College student Makayla Marinack who will be doing a January term internship with us at Good Shepherd. Luther College Ministries is providing funding to make this internship a possibility. Good Shepherd's Congregation Council has extended the invitation to her. Makayla is a pre-seminary student studying religion and social welfare. She is active in Decorah's Pathway to Citizenship program. She will join me in meetings, visits, worship planning, community service work, pastors' meetings and text studies, Bible study, and Youth Sunday/Confirmation. Makayla will also preach on Sunday, January 17.

May the God who welcomes us give us the grace and strength to welcome and to not be afraid.

In Christ, Pastor Amy

## A Blessing Called Sanctuary

You hardly knew  
how hungry you were  
to be gathered in,  
to receive the welcome  
that invited you to enter  
entirely—  
nothing of you  
found foreign or strange,  
nothing of your life  
that you were asked  
to leave behind  
or to carry in silence  
or in shame.

Tentative steps  
became settling in,  
leaning into the blessing  
that enfolded you,  
taking your place  
in the circle  
that stunned you  
with its unimagined grace.

You began to breathe again,  
to move without fear,  
to speak with abandon  
the words you carried  
in your bones,  
that echoed in your being.

You learned to sing. But the deal with this  
blessing  
is that it will not leave you alone,  
will not let you linger  
in safety,  
in stasis.

The time will come  
when this blessing  
will ask you to leave,  
not because it has tired of you  
but because it desires for you  
to become the sanctuary  
that you have found—  
to speak your word  
into the world,  
to tell what you have heard  
with your own ears,  
seen with your own eyes,  
known in your own heart:

that you are beloved,  
precious child of God,  
beautiful to behold,  
and you are welcome  
and more than welcome  
here.

—Jan Richardson

*Cicle of Grace, SS*

# CONGREGATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Job 17:9** "The righteous keep moving forward, and those with clean hands become stronger and stronger."

As we pass through the Christmas season, bring 2015 to a close and welcome 2016 we should stop and take stock of what the year has brought and what is to come. As I've tried to apprise you each month of the steps and measures we have taken along the way I won't list it all again....but it has been an impressive year filled with many gifts from individuals and groups to the greater good of Good Shepherd. Thanks for all each of you have done to make such positive change possible!

As we look forward to 2017 I'd like to challenge the congregation to think "out of the box" about what is possible. There are so many talented individuals who give so freely of their time and treasures that I think we can afford to "think big".

First: membership. I encourage you to invite neighbors, friends, new acquaintances, new people to Decorah and anyone looking for a church home to consider Good Shepherd. Invite them to a service and coffee. If they don't come the first time, ask them again! BUT, I further challenge each of us to "Move UP". I've noticed that most visitors are far more comfortable sitting at the rear of the church in order to observe what goes on. Unfortunately, we're as bad as any church about always sitting in the last pew (I'm guilty!). Recently, I witnessed two families of guests who couldn't find a space in a rear pew and didn't want to trudge to the front so they sat in folding chairs in the Narthex. That does not provide the full richness of the Good Shepherd worship experience. Not only are they disconnected physically but also acoustically. The music, singing, and worship is not as powerful from that location. So, let's all "Move UP" one pew from where we normally sit to provide more space in the rear of the church for visitors. We're seeing a large influx of new faces and it would be great if they could find a space in the Sanctuary to fully experience what we all love about Good Shepherd.

Second: settlement. The Mung settlement of the 1970s was a significant part of the history of Good Shepherd and really was a focus for the congregation. There is another wave of immigrants that will soon need our help. There will be thousands of Syrian refugees in desperate need of our assistance. While our Governor and others are fearful, I am confident that this is something Good Shepherd is good at, wants to do, would do so without fear and could once again be a leader.

Third: stewardship. There are lots of types of stewardship: for others in our community/country/world, for the earth, and for Good Shepherd itself. We are increasing our giving to the synod and its mission (fact is Good Shepherd is a dominant force of Benevolence donations in the NE Iowa Synod....Bravo!), we have sponsored missionaries, daughters of our congregation to help in Mexico (Cathryn Moeller), and seminary students (Nathan Wicks). I would encourage the congregation to fully support the local efforts by members of our own congregation (Kate Narveson, Dave Judisch and others) through the Pathway to Citizenship initiatives in Decorah. This effort is now starting to gain regional attention for its outreach and effectiveness. I'm sure they could use more support and could help more people. I also hope we can become a leader in Mission Assistance for those locals in need of food, shelter, clothing, etc. We can and should show the community how it should be done!

Following the Paris Climate talks I would encourage Good Shepherd to decide what we can do to make a positive difference in climate change. I think our LED initiative and the other efforts at energy conservation have been a good start. But we should do more. First, we should cover our Fellowship Hall and Sunday School classroom roofs with solar panels. We now have a good roof on which to do it. Several of our congregation members also have solar panels and know the positive benefits. We could completely provide for our electrical needs with solar and eliminate tons of carbon in our atmosphere every year. We can and should do this sooner rather than later. I would also encourage us to plant trees....lots of them. Our planet needs them and our congregation needs them. Our backyard is large and beautiful. However, it isn't private. Our neighbors look directly into our backyard and we into theirs. I

would encourage the congregation to plant two rows of trees across the south and east sides of our backyard. One row should be a tree that is large in stature at maturity and another should be a shorter, ornamental variety to stand between the larger trees and the backyard. I would recommend Sycamores and Crab Apples/Service Berries. This “two-tiered” planting would provide a great privacy block, beautiful spring blossoms, and would take CO2 from the atmosphere and return it to the soil. Choosing the right type of Crab Apples would provide food for birds and wildlife (and there are varieties that don’t drop the apples and make a huge mess!) as well as a beautiful backdrop to Sunday morning services. They’re also low and heavily leafed which would provide lots of privacy to our backyard. Sycamores are beautiful, large trees well suited for urban environments (my favorite recollection of them is in Paris where they line the streets for blocks and blocks). They would provide a substantial backdrop to the Crab Apples. Wouldn’t it be a great intergenerational event to plant 30-40 of these trees? Wouldn’t it leave an amazing legacy for future generations of Good Shepherd members!?!?

We must also continue to take care of our church facilities. We’ve made huge strides in the past 2 years and I think the positive results find favor with everyone in the congregation. However, we’re not done. We’ve got too many old, inefficient furnaces. One of these cold winter mornings we’re going to find ourselves without heat. We should move, proactively, to replace them and not wait until its an emergency. However, we need to plan, budget, and donate to make this happen. When that time comes, I hope we buy the most efficient mechanicals possible. Its just good Stewardship!

Fourth: support our youth. I hope that each of us makes an effort to embrace the youth of Good Shepherd. As someone who worked with pre-teens and teenagers throughout his entire career, I can tell you that it is a rewarding effort for both parties. I hope we continue to support their efforts in worship, music, and spiritual growth. My deepest thanks to all members who teach our youth each Sunday. But, it should be something we all undertake. Our youth are our future; both at Good Shepherd and in the world. I’d like us to help them be adequately prepared for the challenges they will all face.

Fifth: stay for the music. Good Shepherd has an unbelievably rich culture of music in our worship. With so many talented musicians offering their gifts we enjoy each week what few congregations could ever hope for. We’ll be adding handbells along with our vocalists, instrumentalists and our fine Musical Director. While the music each Sunday is meant to be a part of the worship service and not a concert, I would encourage you to experience the powerful spiritual message that only music can convey. Stay til the end, drink it all in.....it’ll be worth it!!

Last: support our Pastor. Pastor Amy has been such a welcomed addition to our congregation! We are so blessed to have her and her family in our midst. However, honeymoons eventually end and the reality of living with each other brings greater challenges. I encourage all of us to support Pastor Amy in her initiatives for our congregational life. However, if something bothers you, talk to her. She is an open, caring individual who wants only the best for Good Shepherd. She’ll need our support when things aren’t all “new and shiny” anymore. Together we can grow into a congregational family that shares a rich spiritual life together.

I would like to take this final opportunity to thank all of the wonderful individuals with whom I’ve worked during the past two years on the council: Pr. Mau, Pr. April, Pr. Amy, Jane Kemp, Kate Narveson, all of the Good Shepherd staff, both councils and each of the committee members. It has been a great experience to see the growth and positive change during this time. We have much to be proud of and much to look forward to. I send well wishes to the 2016-17 Council, its President Kate Narveson and the gifts they will all bring to us at Good Shepherd. By continuing to work towards our congregational mission we will become stronger and stronger and grow in grace.

James L. Fritz, President  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

# CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2015, 6:00 p.m. (time change due to Christmas school concert)

**Present:** Pastor Amy, Jim Fritz, Kate Narveson, Clara Knudson, John Jefferson, Drew Duffy, Jonathon Struve, Jeri Laursen.

Clara Knudson gave devotions.

Duffy moved, Struve seconded to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Approved.

Jefferson moved, Laursen seconded to approve the agenda. Approved.

**Education:** Pr. Amy

December 20 is the Sunday School program. There will be a simple supper following the program. Members with last names A-M are asked to bring cookies; N-Z to bring sandwiches.

Music will begin the Sunday School time and that will be followed with acting out a bible story (with the help of Kate Blair and Bob Larson).

**Evangelism:** No report

**Property and Management:** Drew Duffy

Duffy presented, from the Budget Committee, a proposed budget totaling \$215,244 for 2016. Currently there are 83 pledges totaling \$188,465. The Budget Committee has made an educated estimate of the amount of non-pledged income for 2016 based on prior history. They project the total income for 2016 will be approximately \$215,000. Duffy went over the changes in the new proposed budget. There will be two Adult Forums January 10 and 17 to present this to the congregation. Narveson moved, Laursen seconded to endorse the budget as presented. (The congregation will actually do approval at the annual meeting.)

**Stewardship:** John Jefferson

The Stewardship committee reported on the results of the pledge drive indicating that we exceeded our goal and received 83 pledges totally over \$189 thousand dollars (see separate report in this newsletter for more details). Jefferson also gave an update on the proposal for changes to the Ministry Teams for next year and this was followed by a discussion with questions from the Council. The Council indicated their support for the Committee to continue working on this proposal and suggested that the Committee present the new model to the congregation for their input at the the Adult Forums on Jan 10th and 17th.

**Worship:** Jonathon Struve

Struve moved to approve the change of title for Brooke Joyce to Music Director with a salary of \$14,000 plus Social Security and Medicare taxes. Duffy seconded. Approved.

The schedule for the Christmas Season is: Sunday, December 20, 5:00 p.m.: Sunday School Program; Thursday, December 24, 4:30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion; Friday, December 25, 9:30 a.m.:

Christmas Day service with Holy Communion; Sunday, December 27, 9:30 a.m.: Lessons and Carols. There will be no Wednesday service on December 23 and December 30.

Pastor Simon Hanson will be guest preacher on Sunday, January 3 while Pr. Amy is on vacation.

There will be an Epiphany Service at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6 followed by a potluck. Wednesday services will be suspended beginning January 13 until Ash Wednesday, February 10. We will be taking communion at the rail through Lent.

We are taking advantage of an opportunity to purchase a set of 3 octave handbells at a steep discount so we have our own set available for the youth handbell choir.

Makayla Marinack will begin her Internship with our congregation in January.

**Pastor's Report:** Pr. Amy

Islamaphobia- Pr. Amy recommended that we post Bishop Eaton's Letter to the American Muslim Community on our website and facebook page. Refugee resettlement- Bishop Ullestad has asked if Good Shepherd would be able to help resettle Syrian refugees. Pr. Amy is talking with Bishop's Assistant Pr. Mark Anderson and the social justice sub-committee about this possibility. We are just in the information gathering, prayer and discernment stage. Pr. Amy proposed to disband the current Ministerial Support Committee and replace it with the Executive Council (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary). Jefferson moved, Struve seconded to remove the Ministerial Support Committee from the constitution. Approved. Duffy moved, Narveson seconded to replace that committee with the Executive Council (to meet quarterly with Pr. Amy). Approved.

**Vice President:** Kate Narveson

The Path to Citizenship committee is deeply grateful to have a line item in our new budget. Narveson went over the council roster for 2016 and emailed it to the council for corrections and additions. She will include it in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Clara Knudson

Benevolence and payroll still needs to be paid in December but we should be in the black to complete the year. Narveson moved, Jefferson seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Approved.

**Announcements:**

Annual reports are due in the church office by Tuesday, January 12

Adult Forum for budget and mission team proposal will be January 10 and January 17

Council meeting is Tuesday, January 19

Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 24

President Fritz led us in prayer to close the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeri Laursen, Secretary

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## TREASURER'S REPORT – GENERAL FUND

12/16/2015

Total Income from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 to Nov. 30th, 2015: \$185,784.02

Total Operating Expenses from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 to Nov. 30th, 2015: \$173,965.58

Total income was higher than total expenses by: \$11,818.44

Total 2015 Budget was set at: \$203,972.00

1) Please note that the cost of the new roof in the amount of \$25,422.00 is not included in the operating expenses of \$173,965.58.

2) Total November Contributions and other income were \$21, 731.00

3) Benevolences to the Synod and other organizations in the amount of \$9125.00 were paid at the beginning of December. This amount is not included in the total operating expense above. It will be shown in the December Financial Statements.

Respectfully submitted,

Clara Knudson

## MISSION ASSISTANCE FUND

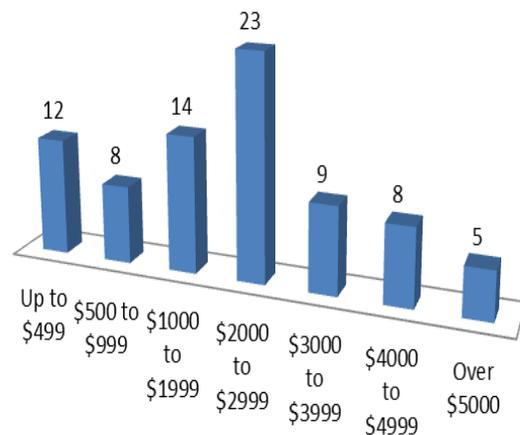
12/14/2015

11/24/2015	Account Balance:	\$1136.12
	Donations:	\$79.00
	Deposit fund from Good Shepherd:	\$300.00
	Disbursement for assistance:	<u>(\$85.00)</u>
12/14/2015	Account Balance:	\$1430.12

# STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee is happy to report that we exceeded our goal and received 83 pledges totally over \$189 thousand dollars. This excellent response demonstrates our financial commitment to the ministries of Good Shepherd. Talking about money and asking for pledges are not easy things to do, but because of your generous response, our Budget Committee can move ahead with confidence and make plans to increase our benevolence and improve our church facilities. The graph shows that the pledges spanned a broad range of values which reflects the diversity of our congregation and validates our partnership in the goals of our church.

### Number of Pledges for 2016



# Ministry Schedule

## Ministry Team Schedule

### January 2016

Convener - John Jefferson  
**Team G (Partner Team I)**  
 Berg, Don (2)  
 Jensen, Julie (1)  
 Judisch, David (2)  
 Mikkelsen, Judy (1)  
 Reutlinger, David (2)  
 Sheridan, Bev (1)  
 Ylvisaker, Richard (2)

### 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)

### January Altar Guild

**Jeri Laursen, Bob Larson**

## Cantor Schedule

**Sundays** (no Wednesday services after 1/6)

1/3 Dennis Barnaal  
 1/10 Daniel Raney  
 1/17 Kate Narveson  
 1/24 Jonathon Struve  
 1/31 Jason Rausch

### **Radio Broadcast: January 10 and 31**

**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 Congregation service.

## January Scriptures

2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	1st SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	2nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	3rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	4th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Jeremiah 31:7-14	Isaiah 43:1-7	Isaiah 62:1-5	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalms 147:12-20	Psalms 29	Psalms 36:5-10	Psalms 19	Psalms 71:1-6
Ephesians 1:3-14	Acts 8:14-17	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
John 1:[1-9] 10-18	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	John 2:1-11	Luke 4:14-21	Luke 4:21-30

## WORSHIP NOTES

Everyone is invited to a special **Epiphany Day service on Wednesday, January 6 at 5:30pm**. Pastor Amy will preach and we will share in Holy Communion.

After worship we will have a **Warm the Winter potluck**.

There will be no other Wednesday evening worship services in January.

Wednesday worship will begin again on **Ash Wednesday, February 10 at 5:30pm**. We will share in Holy Communion and imposition of ashes. Other Wednesdays in Lent we will share in Holden Evening Prayer at 5:30pm followed by soup supper.

Sundays during the seasons of Epiphany and Lent (January-March) Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail.

Brooke Joyce will be teaching a class abroad during Luther's January term. Art Cohrs will be our organist on January 10, 17 and 24.

## EDUCATION

### CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION MENTORS- We are 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.

JANUARY CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE- We will have class on January 17 and January 31.

### ADULT FORUMS

JANUARY 3- Meeting of February Ministry Team to sign up for duties. You will also have the opportunity to share what you appreciate about Good Shepherd and your hopes and dreams for Good Shepherd.

JANUARY 10 and 17- Pre-annual meeting information sessions about the proposed budget and proposed changes to the ministry team structure.

JANUARY 24- Annual Meeting immediately following worship.

JANUARY 31- Stories from the Certified Nurse Aide Course held at Good Shepherd in January

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Aase Haugen Senior Services Auxiliary will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 12 at 2:00 pm in the chapel at the home. There will be a short business meeting and an update on the current fund raisers for Aase. All women in supporting churches are members of the auxiliary and are encouraged to attend the annual meeting. This is also a great time to visit someone you know who is a resident in the home. Coffee will be served following the meeting.

### W/ELCA Upcoming events:

January 12 – Aase Haugen Senior Services Auxiliary annual meeting – 2:00 pm

January 23 - W/ELCA Winter Brunch – CLA circle hostess – 9:00 am

March 5 – World Day of Prayer

April 23 – W/ELCA Cluster D Spring Gathering

June 18 – NEIA Women's Synodical Convention, Wartburg College

# GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FEBRUARY MINISTRY TEAM MEETING

The February Ministry Team will meet on January 3rd in the narthex conference room during the Fellowship Hour.

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

Tuesday, January 12 -Annual reports are due in the church office

Sunday, January 10 and January 17 - Adult Forum for budget and mission team proposal

Tuesday, January 19 - Council Meeting

Sunday, January 24 - Annual Meeting

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

A new year of Good Shepherd Prayer Shawl Ministry begins January 20th from 1-3:00 at the home of Ruth Bruce. New members are always welcome!

## WINNESHIEK ENERGY DISTRICT TABLE

There will be a representative from the Winneshiek Energy District available to talk to GS members during the Fellowship Hour on January 31st at 10:30 a.m. about having an Energy Audit done in their home.

Green Iowa AmeriCorps is a non-profit service organization located in Decorah, providing home performance auditing and weatherization services for residents in Decorah and the surrounding area. We offer these services free to populations in need to help lower utility costs and make your home more energy efficient. Those that qualify for free services include: low to moderate income, ages 65+, veterans, & disabled persons. For those who don't qualify for our free services, Green Iowa will weatherize your home for the low cost of materials—labor is always provided at no cost. Anyone living outside Winneshiek County can also have their homes audited/weatherized, however, there is a \$25 transportation fee. You contact us at [563-382-4207](tel:563-382-4207) or [kristin@energydistrict.org](mailto:kristin@energydistrict.org).

## WELCOME LUTHER COLLEGE MINISTRIES INTERN

Greetings Good Shepherd!

My name is Makayla Marinack and I am a senior at Luther College. I study Religion, social work, and ancient Greek. Next fall I will be attending an ELCA seminary and pursuing ordination to become a pastor. I grew up in Plainfield, WI, a small agricultural community. I enjoyed spending my summers working on my neighbors farm and playing sports in high school. At Luther I enjoy researching, singing in choir, and spending time outdoors. I love to go running by the river. The past three summers I have worked at Lutheran camps and I have really appreciated becoming a part of different worship communities and engaging in interfaith opportunities. I am excited to be an intern at Good Shepherd for this January. Thank you for the opportunity to become a part of your community.

Soli Deo Gloria

Makayla Marinack

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS KATHY AND MARTIN

The Dean's Office and the Center for Global Learning at Luther College are pleased to announce the appointment of Kathy Reed and Martin Klammer as the 2017-18 Nottingham co-directors.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

**Nick and Rya McCann**—205 Loree Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823-1924

**Janet Gall**— Eastern Star, 911 Ridgewood Drive, Apt. B16, Decorah, IA 52101 (563) 382-8787

## ~~NEWSLETTER DEADLINE~~

Thursday, January 21

# The Music Page

## Epiphany, 2016

Epiphany is a season of light. Here is a beautiful hymn about the star that guided the magi to the Christ child. This is notated using shape notes, but you can read them as if they were printed using traditional noteheads. The tune is in the soprano part.

346 **STAR IN THE EAST.** Arr. by William Walker

Reginald Heber Arr. by William Walker




*The Adoration of the Magi (Jan van Scorel)*

### January Music Schedule

- ☞ No choir or handbell rehearsals in January. Choir rehearsals resume February 3
- ☞ Band rehearsals resume 1/6 at 7 pm
- ☞ Special music opportunities on 1/10, 1/17, 1/24 - e-mail Brooke if you're interested
- ☞ Band will play on 1/31

ALTAR GUILD: Jeri Laurson, Bob Larson		Ministry Team 2016			MONTH of JANUARY Convener: John Jefferson		
WEDNESDAY 5:30 P.M. SERVICE	WEDNESDAY January 6	WEDNESDAY January 13 No Service	WEDNESDAY January 20 No Service	WEDNESDAY January 27 No Service			
ACOLYTE							
READER/COMM. ASST.	Jane Jatkoubek						
USHERS/GREETERS	Beverly Sheridan						
COMMUNION	COMMUNION						
SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. SERVICE	SUNDAY January 3	SUNDAY January 10	SUNDAY January 17	SUNDAY January 24	SUNDAY January 31		
ACOLYTE		Jack Norris	Abbey Larson	Maggie Norris			
READER/COMM. ASST. SECOND COMM. ASST.	Jon Christy (R) John Jefferson	Jon Christy (R) Makayla Marnack	Kate Blair (R) Jane Jatkoubek	Richard Yvisaker Reg Laurson	Richard Yvisaker Pam Torrsedal		
USHERS/GREETERS (2-3)	Beverly Sheridan	John Jefferson Dave Judith	John Jefferson Ed Epperly	John Jefferson Joanne Yvisaker	Joanne Yvisaker Dave Judith		
NURSERY		Beverly Sheridan	Beverly Sheridan	Ava Holland	Nathan Larson		
COFFEE SERVERS (2-3) *In Charge	Barbara Berg Diane Kruse John Jefferson	Gail Judith Dennis & Doris Barnaal	Barbara Berg Diane Kruse Jutta Anderson (food only)	Beverly Sheridan John and Marion Jefferson	Beverly Sheridan Gail Judith Ed & Joyce Epperly (alt)		
COMMUNION	COMMUNION	COMMUNION	COMMUNION	COMMUNION	COMMUNION		
SUNDAYS							
BROADCAST- Ushers reminded to broadcast on Jan. 10 and 31 (broadcasting 11 am)		Broadcast			Broadcast		
<b>SPECIAL EVENT: Wellington Place - January 19, BINGO 12:30 set up; Game - 1- 1:30pm. Prizes and cookies/bars for 45 residents</b>							
Volunteers: Beverly Sheridan Barbara Berg, Judy Mikkelsen	More help is needed! Please contact Bev Sheridan 563-608-3272						

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## **Certified Nurse Aide Training Course**

There are ten students in the course that will be held at Good Shepherd in January. They will be in the building six times,

Monday, January 4; Wednesday, January 6; Thursday, January 7; Tuesday, January 12; Wednesday, January 13; and Monday, January 18.

We will hold a graduation ceremony for the students on Monday, January 25 at 12:30pm. One student is in need of a scholarship and half of our Christmas offering will be used to provide this scholarship.

Watch for opportunities to support these students with prayers, food and encouragement.

## **Giving Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill**

Families living in poverty. Iowa children who go hungry. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 17. Visit [www.LSIowa.org/advocacy](http://www.LSIowa.org/advocacy) beginning January 6 for event details, online registration and an online toolkit for your congregation, including how to participate in this year's congregational letter-writing campaign.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators.

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

## **Lisa's Gifts of Generosity and Advocacy**

Lisa has the gift of generosity. And that makes her mom proud.

"She is quite a giver with her time," said her mom Carolyn. "I love that she is generous, and people say she knows half the county."

Lisa is an adult living in Ames, and she partners with Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) daily supported community living services for people with disabilities. Because of that support, Lisa can participate in her community, and she loves giving back to others!

She volunteers at Reiman Gardens, she participates in ACE (Advocacy, Connections, Empowerment) through Mainstream Living and she is the President of the Cyclone County Aktion Club, a service organization created by the Kiwanis for persons with special needs. She's helped with fundraisers for neonatal maternal health and food drives for local pantries.

When Lisa was in middle school and high school, LSI helped her work on goals such as cooking, taking care of herself and becoming active in the community. Today, she lives with roommates in her own apartment, supported by LSI.

She is also an advocate, attending LSI's Lutheran Day on the Hill to speak with legislators.

"I'm proud to be out in the community and show them I can do this," Lisa said. "I can be an advocate so that no one puts down anyone with special needs. I appreciate that I can be independent."

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
*A Reconciling In Christ Congregation*  
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**January 2016**

**Newsletter**