

# The Shepherd's Voice

May 2016



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*Pastor Amy Larson*

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

**...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.



### In This Issue

- ◆ Words From Pr. Amy 2
- ◆ President's Message 3
- ◆ Worship Notes 4
- ◆ May Scriptures 4
- ◆ May Ministry Team 5
- ◆ Letter from Amalia 6
- ◆ Education 7
- ◆ GS Announcements 8-9
- ◆ Community Announce 9
- ◆ W/ELCA News 10
- ◆ Music Page 11
- ◆ Council Minutes 12-13
- ◆ GS May Calendar 14

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Check out our website!

<http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org>



# WORDS FROM PASTOR LARSON

Beloved of God,

This month we'll consider the third question I have for us this year: How will we nurture faith in our children and youth and how will the whole congregation share in this work?

We all have the responsibility to pass on faith to the next generation and relationships are a key way that we do this. Research indicates that a key part of faith formation is for kids to have relationships with other adults who practice faith, in addition to their parents. My own children love being at Good Shepherd and I believe a major factor in this is that they have key relationships with adults. Jutta Anderson and Jane Jakoubek sit with them in worship and pay close attention to who they are. Many other adults have reached out to connect with them. Thank you Good Shepherd!

One of the blessings of a congregation our size is that we can get to know our kids. Many of you already have strong relationships with our kids. I encourage you to make forming or strengthening these relationships a priority. Here are some suggestions for that:

- Pay attention to them. Get to know what interests them. Find simple, unthreatening ways to let them know you appreciate them being here. Send them a card in the mail. Remember their birthdays.
- Serve as a Confirmation Mentor. Our confirmands got to connect with adults who care for them this Lent when Bob Felde, Jane Jakoubek, Reg Laursen and Judy Schoel served as Confirmation Mentors. These mentors and the confirmands read scripture, talked about the questions it raised for them, shared their highs and lows, prayed for each other and blessed each other. This may sound intimidating but they followed the simple steps of what is called Faith5. Anyone can do this practice. It was a powerful experience for the youth and the adults. Next fall we will have mentors meet with the confirmands once a month during coffee hour and during the Lenten suppers. If you are interested in doing this, please let me know.
- Participate in Wednesday worship this summer when we'll be sharing in the Faith5 practices: read, talk, share, pray and bless together. We break into groups of two and this is a neat way to connect with kids.
- Pray for our kids by name using our directory.
- Help with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School this summer (August 15-17 from 5-7:30pm). The Education Committee is doing a wonderful job of preparing good lessons and content for Sunday School and VBS. Other adults can help with being a kind, calming presence with the kids.

Church is one of the few places left in our society where people of all ages gather together in the same space. However, after worship we separate the kids from the adults and send the kids to Sunday School. It is important to have age appropriate things for kids and to allow them to form relationships with peers at church. We also need times when kids can benefit from the wisdom of the elders and elders can experience the wonder of the child. The Education Committee is considering ways to bring kids and adults together for faith formation at certain times. The Education Committee is also exploring a variety of models for the times that are focused only on the children.

Please join me in prayer for all our children and youth and for the work of faith formation.

In Christ,

Pastor Amy

# CONGREGATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Velkommen! Welcome, the theme of this month's council meeting, was one of the first (and only) words of Norwegian I learned from my grandfather, but it's a powerful one. It still captures for me the excitement of arriving at my grandparent's house, the hugs and hubbub. In our opening devotions, we talked about welcoming people to worship, to fellowship, and to participation. Love bids us welcome. How might we be sure to broadcast "Velkommen!" as excitement and embrace, to guests, to each other, and to all in need of that word? Last Sunday's use of our statement of welcome as a litany reminded us of the power of spoken affirmation; we need to be sure to speak individually as well, inviting others to take part in choir, in circles, in Bible study or book group, in whatever we love and want to share.

One thing we are going to try out in coming months is a new approach to inviting wider participation in carrying out some of the activities that our committees oversee. Some context: each main committee has only three members, making a significant three-year commitment. Many subcommittees have five or more members, joining as they are able and for as long as they wish, and they carry out some of our most exciting initiatives. Why not, we thought, help the main committees by recruiting people to join short-term groups for particular, finite projects – a project management model? That way, three people don't bear the full work load for all of their committee's projects. When the Evangelism Committee decides it would be good to have a "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday brunch, we put out a call for a "flash task force" to do the planning and make sure there are willing hands at work the day of the event. Or when Property and Management contemplates spring garden cleanup, they invite one of our garden gurus to draw up a plan and gather a team for an afternoon of playing in the dirt together. With Vacation Bible School in the works, we will invite people to take the lead on variety of well-defined tasks.

Another way the church has been exploring the idea of welcome is through the social justice subcommittee. The Path to Citizenship group continues to work with other congregations to offer free legal clinics and micro-loans for expenses related to gaining citizenship; Dave Judisch and I represent Good Shepherd, and others are welcome to join our work, fund-raising, getting the word out, volunteering at clinics with hospitality. Dave is also the person who almost single-handedly represents us in another interfaith collaboration, the bi-monthly Community Meal. While Good Shepherd supplies food and staffs the kitchen once a year (this coming October), members can come to the meals anytime, and we hope you will! Many who attend come because they don't make much money; the poor are among us. Yet, the vision the inspired these meals is of a place where people of all backgrounds join to share food and each other's company, and it is a way we can be welcoming in our wider community. It would be lovely if more Good Shepherd members attended. Sit with someone new to you and help them feel welcome in Decorah.

A final note on welcome. The social justice task force has, with much help from Pastor Amy, been exploring how we might serve refugees coming to Iowa. We already help unaccompanied minors fleeing the horrific violence in places like Guatemala and Honduras through Path to Citizenship, but we wondered whether there was anything we could do within our congregation. Ruth Palmer joined our most recent meeting to discuss some options. Ruth has been active in refugee resettlement in this area for years, mainly through Catholic Charities. We agreed that a program called "Families Strengthening Families Mentoring Program" would be a good place to start. Further information will follow.

Kate Narveson

# WORSHIP NOTES

**May 1 - Bring Friends to Worship Sunday:** In conjunction with the Evangelism Committee, a special worship service is planned on May 1. We will have special music by the band and by children. This service will be followed by a brunch. See GS announcements for more details.

**May 8 - New Member Sunday:** New members will be received in worship and welcomed during the fellowship hour. If you know of people who might like to join Good Shepherd, please contact Pr. Amy.

**May 15 - Day of Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation Sunday:** As we celebrate Pentecost we will also remember Pastor Mau as she died on Pentecost Sunday, 2015. We will ring our bell for 3 minutes at the beginning of worship in remembrance of her. We will also rejoice as Anthony Ruiz and Natalie Tapscott confirm their faith and affirm the promises made to them in baptism.

**May 22 - Baccalaureate Sunday:** We will rejoice with Kalle Solberg on the day of her high school graduation.

We will continue to use the "Behold, I Make All Things New Liturgy" through the month of May.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP** will begin again on June 1. We will do a simple hymn based service and share in Holy Communion and Faith5 practices.

**APR-JUNE MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS:** Please continue to sign up for Ministry Team openings that are posted in the board in the hall by the library. There are still many needs for June. Including Acolytes \*\*\* Thank you!

**MAY ALTAR GUILD TEAM -**  
 Marie Freerking (convener),  
 Carol Hasvold, Ann Naslund

## MAY SCRIPTURES

<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter May 1, 2016</b>	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29
<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter May 8, 2016</b>	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
<b>Day of Pentecost May 15, 2016</b>	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-27
<b>Trinity Sunday, May 22, 2016</b>	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
<b>Second Sunday after Pentecost May 29, 2016</b>	1 Kings 18:20-21, 41-43	Psalm 96:1-9	Galatians 1:1-12	Luke 7:1-10

# May 2016 Ministry Schedule

DATE	LITURGY/WORSHIP	USHER *Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) only bring food
<b>Sunday, May 1</b> Bring Friends To Worship	<b>Asst. Minister:</b> Jon Christy <b>Communion Asst.:</b> Janeen Christy <b>Cantor:</b> Reg Laursen	<b>1.</b> *Russ Freerking <b>2.</b> Tim Schoel <b>Greeter/Nursery:</b> Judy Schoel <b>Acolyte:</b> Lulu and Poppy	<b>1.</b> *Gail Judisch <b>2.</b> Marion Jefferson (F) <b>3.</b> John Jefferson <b>4.</b> Marie Freerking <b>5.</b> Jeri Laursen (F)
<b>Sunday, May 8</b> New Members	<b>Asst. Minister:</b> Bob Larson <b>Communion Asst.:</b> Jane Kemp <b>Cantor:</b> Kate Narveson	<b>1.</b> *Drew Duffy <b>2.</b> Jonathon Struve <b>Greeter/Nursery:</b> Nathan Larson <b>Acolyte:</b> Eli Gertz	<b>1.</b> *Jeri Laursen <b>2.</b> Norma Refsal <b>3.</b> Harley Refsal <b>4.</b> Ann Naslund <b>5.</b>
<b>Sunday, May 15</b> Confirmation Day of Pentecost	<b>Asst. Minister:</b> Megan Buckingham <b>Communion Asst.:</b> Jane Jakoubek <b>Cantor:</b> Jonathon Struve	<b>1.</b> *Jerry Frank <b>2.</b> Rae Jean Rathje <b>Greeter/Nursery:</b> Bev Sheridan <b>Acolyte:</b> Maggie Norris	<b>1.</b> *Jeri Laursen <b>2.</b> Judy Schoel <b>3.</b> Albert Anderson <b>4.</b> Marilyn Anderson <b>5.</b>
<b>Sunday, May 22</b> Baccalaureate	<b>Asst. Minister:</b> Amalia Vagts <b>Communion Asst.:</b> Megan Buckingham <b>Cantor:</b> Dan Raney	<b>1.</b> *David Lester <b>2.</b> Tim Schoel <b>Greeter/Nursery:</b> Bev Sheridan <b>Acolyte:</b>	<b>1.</b> Judy Schoel <b>2.</b> Jutta Anderson (F) <b>3.</b> Ed & Joyce Epperly <b>4.</b> Marion Hanson <b>5.</b> Brad Hanson
<b>Sunday, May 29</b>	<b>Asst. Minister:</b> Brad Hanson <b>Communion Asst.:</b> Jane Jakoubek <b>Cantor:</b> Megan Buckingham	<b>1.</b> *Richard Ylvisaker <b>2.</b> Richard Wuest <b>Greeter/Nursery:</b> Bob Nasland <b>Acolyte:</b>	<b>1.</b> Glendalu Wuest <b>2.</b> Jutta Anderson (F) <b>3.</b> Ed Epperly <b>4.</b> Joyce Epperly <b>5.</b> Beverly Nelson
<b>SPECIAL EVENT:</b> Bingo Party at Eastern Star Home Tuesday, May 10  <b>Volunteers from any team are welcome!</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furnish 80 prizes (quarters, fruit, candy)</li> <li>• Set up at 1:30</li> <li>• Game at 2:00</li> <li>• 2-3 volunteers to help residents play</li> </ul>	<b>Volunteers</b> <b>1.</b> Ann Naslund <b>2.</b> Jeri Laursen <b>3.</b> Helen Schweizer <b>4.</b> Glendalu Wuest

## **Welcoming Words** from Amalia Vagts

Thank you again to Pastor Amy and the Worship and Music Committee for the opportunity to preach for Reconciling in Christ Sunday. As we live into expanding our welcome to all, and especially those who have been made to feel unwelcome in church because of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, I wanted to add a few thoughts about words and definition.

On Sunday, you heard me use the words “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer-identifying” or “LGBTQ.” Some in our community feel confined by words like “lesbian” or “gay.” They seek more expansive terms like “queer.” The word “queer” was once used as a slur against gay people – or those perceived to be gay, or different than the expected behavior of someone based on their gender. Now, many embrace and choose the word queer to describe a self-understanding out of the norm and beyond the gender binary. This can be difficult for those from older generations who experienced “queer” as a word of hate. Nowadays, things are getting more layered, more fluid, more “queer.” We’re meeting transgender people who delightfully confound ideas about gender. We’re learning about being “cisgender” – meaning that our sense of gender expression matches the sex we were assigned at birth. The simple categories are becoming less simple. As part of our commitment to being a place of welcome and belonging, we can work to listen to those from the LGBTQ community about their experience.

ReconcilingWorks shares these words in their helpful resource, [Lutheran Introduction to our LGBTQ Neighbors](#): “Sex, gender identity, and gender expression can be experienced on a continuum, creating a nearly infinite combination of identities. The binary gender system says that there are only two genders... gender is truly far more complex than this binary system.”

Here are some additional definitions adapted from the ReconcilingWorks resource:

**QUEER** can be an umbrella term for the LGBTQ community and can also refer to an individual’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Some people choose this term because they feel like they do not fit into the roles other labels imply. For some it can also mean they do not fit into societal norms and want an identity term to reflect who they really are. Some people do not like or use the word queer –it’s important to not use this word for those who haven’t used it for themselves.

**TRANSGENDER** is an identity many people use whose self-experienced gender does not match the sex they were assigned at birth.

**TRANS\*** (with the asterisk) is an umbrella term used to refer to transgender, genderqueer, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people.

**GENDER NON-CONFORMING** people who hold gender identities that are the same as their birth- assigned sex, but do not express their gender identity in ways that conform to societal and/or cultural expectations.

**GENDERQUEER** can describe a person who does not subscribe to conventional gender distinctions but identifies with neither, both, or a combination of male and female genders.

**CISGENDER** describes a person whose birth-assigned sex and gender identity are the same. (For example, a person whose assigned sex is female and who identifies as a woman)

If you have ANY questions, I’m always happy to talk about this!

Source: [Lutheran Introduction to our LGBTQ Neighbors](#) from ReconcilingWorks.

Learn more at : [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://www.reconcilingworks.org) and [www.elm.org](http://www.elm.org).

# EDUCATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

**Sunday School** will meet three Sundays in May. We will not meet on May 8<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day) or on May 29<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day weekend). Our themes from Desmond Tutu's Children of God storybook are:

May 1<sup>st</sup> – We will meet for 15 minutes as part of our Invite a Friend Sunday activities.

May 15<sup>th</sup> – The Loving Father and the Son Who Came Home, Luke 15

May 22<sup>nd</sup> – The Coming of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2

**Vacation Bible School!** We are hosting Vacation Bible School at our church on August 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 -7:30 pm each day. A hearty snack will be served from 5-5:30pm. Our theme this year is Jonah and the Big Fish! Children ages 5-12 from our church and from our community are invited to participate. We will be asking for volunteers to assist with our activity stations and our evening snack. If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact Megan Buckingham, [meganjbuckingham@gmail.com](mailto:meganjbuckingham@gmail.com).

**Lenten Project:** Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$2,231.80 to split between Lutheran Disaster Response, which supports assistance for Syrian refugees, and the Community Food Pantry at First Lutheran Church. We greatly appreciate the congregation's support of our project!

## ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

MAY 2016

**May 1 : Bring Friends to Worship Day** 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 : Project for Peace Presentation** by Mustafa Muhammadi and Ali Yazdani, two Afghan students at Luther College. Come learn about these students project and how we can support them. The title of their project is Education for Peace, which aims to provide a better educational environment by supplying benches for Paymori school, which is located in a rural area of central Afghanistan.

**May 22: 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 5 -7, 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. You may download the series at: <http://www.lssmn.org/refugeeservices/study/>; <http://lirs.org/myneighborismuslim/>

**RESOURCES** that Jon Ailabouni recommended at his adult forum on 49 Years of Military Occupation in the Holy Land- **Books:** A Wall in Jerusalem by Mark Braverman, The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan, **Websites:** [jewishvoiceforpeace.org](http://jewishvoiceforpeace.org), [endtheoccupation.org](http://endtheoccupation.org), [IfAmericansknew.org](http://IfAmericansknew.org)

# GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **BRING FRIENDS TO WORSHIP SUNDAY**

Sunday, May 1st, please 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?

## **JOIN "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. Please consider stepping into one or more of these roles so we can get a team assembled this Spring. Contact Pastor Amy or Lise Kildegaard .

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** - Please join us for our final gathering before summer break. We'll meet at the home of Sylvia Clisham from 1-3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18th. Call Ruth Bruce at 419-7567 for more information. No meetings June-August.

**THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION** To enhance awareness about Good Shepherd, *The Shepherd's Voice*, Good Shepherd's monthly newsletter, will start to be available online by subscription on May 1. All members of the congregation with email addresses have automatically been subscribed to *The Shepherd's Voice*. An email message will appear in your in-box on the first of each month to let you know that the newsletter for that month is available for viewing. The online May newsletter will be the first one sent to members. Paper copies of *The Shepherd's Voice* will continue to be mailed to members. Anyone can unsubscribe by clicking on the "Unsubscribe" link in the email message they will receive alerting them that the Newsletter for that month is ready to be viewed. After you unsubscribe, you will no longer receive Newsletters via your email. Anyone can subscribe who visits the Good Shepherd website homepage at <http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org> Subscription sign-up boxes are located at the bottom of the homepage. After providing a name and email address, a person is subscribed to the newsletter. Questions can be sent to: Jane Kemp, [kempjane@mchsi.com](mailto:kempjane@mchsi.com).

**THANK YOU GRUBBY WORKERS:** On one of the most productive St Grubby's Day in memory, 45 members completed 15 tasks. Thank you each and everyone who worked or contributed.  
Prop/Mgmt Committee

**GS MEMBERS HONORED:** John Jefferson, Martin Klammer and Brian Solberg on are being recognized for 25 years of service to Luther College at the Faculty Recognition Dinner in May.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MAY 19**

## GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Friends,

After a humbling and discerning spring semester, I have decided to take a leave of absence from the Diaconal Ministry program at Wartburg Seminary. I have really enjoyed the classes and the opportunity to be involved with the campus community as a student, but the rigor of two master's programs proved to be more consuming than I am able to give at this time, especially when paired with the other commitments in our family and community life. I very much appreciate the support and prayers you have offered to our whole family during our time away at seminary. We think of you often as students share stories about their home congregations, and time and time again feel so grateful to be a part of the Good Shepherd family and to feel supported and encouraged by you all.

The academic year concludes on May 13 and Nathan will depart for his Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) internship on June 6. He will be participating in the CPE program at Advocate-BroMenn hospital in Normal, IL for 12 weeks learning pastoral care in a clinical setting. This is a requirement for all seminary students after their first year and before their endorsement interview with the synod. He will live there during the week and travel home on the weekends. It will be another change and challenge for our family, so again, we ask for your continued prayers.

We think of you often and love hearing how the congregation is growing its edges and moving boundaries in the community. Blessings to you all as you continue this good work!

Sarah, Nathan, and Karl Wicks

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PROJECT CARE** is in full swing! Project Care is a local effort that uplifts the youth in our region who are not only graduating from high school, but who are also "aging-out" of Iowa's foster care system. PC strives to help equip these deserving young people with many of the basic essentials needed for this next phase in their life, whether for dorm or apartment life. We also have a graduation celebration for the students. This year, we have only one graduate named Genesis. She very much wanted a community graduation Party. Please join us in wishing this young lady all the best on Tuesday May 10 at 4:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall at First Lutheran Church in Decorah. If you would like to help purchase items that Genesis needs, a list is available at the First Lutheran Church Office. She is also very much in need of gift cards for gas and groceries. For further information, please contact Kirsten Heine at 563-735- 5358. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Project Care!

# WOMEN OF THE ELCA

The Church Women United celebration called “**May Friendship Day**” will be held Friday, May 6, 2016 at the First United Methodist Church, 302 West Broadway Street, Decorah, Iowa, at 9:00 a.m. Women and Men from all faith congregations and other interested individuals are cordially invited to attend. This year’s theme, “Finding Grace at the Table”, will be led by women from Congregational UCC, Decorah Lutheran, Good Shepard Lutheran, St. Benedict’s Catholic and United Methodist Churches, using text from Psalm 23. The Fellowship of the Least Coin Offering will be received. Each person who participates prays for peace daily and sets aside the least coin of their country. Our offering this year will go to the Food Pantry, Farmers Market Coupon program. These coupons provide fresh fruit and vegetables to people in need. A second offering for May Friendship Day is shared with the local and state units of Church Women United. Church Women United is an ecumenical movement involving Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women in the United States. They celebrate unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. They are celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

The **WELCA Northeast Iowa Synod Board** has been busy planning their annual gathering for June 18 at Wartburg College in Waverly. The theme verse is 1 Timothy 4:12 “Let no one despise your age, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith and in purity”. What a wonderful reminder of what it means to live as a disciple of Christ, no matter what your age or ability! We will have representatives from Wings of Refuge, Retrieving Freedom, LSI and WELCA Church wide . Laura Gentry will be doing our Bible study and teaching us about Laughing Yoga. We will also have sessions on chair aerobics and computer communications. It is

going to be a fun and spirit-filled day for all ages and abilities. Contact Bev Sheridan or the church office for applications. We also need a voting delegate as Bev is now on the Synod board and cannot be a delgate. First time attendee scholarships are also available.

**Looking ahead: Nordic Fest** is coming in July and we will be asking for people to help with our Krumkake sales and demonstration by preparing batter, baking Krumkake and helping with sales and demonstrating downtown. We will be baking a couple of weeks before the Fest in preparation and also during the Fest. Funds raised from sales are typically used both within our Good Shepherd community and throughout the community. We have given monies to GS roof repair, furnace repair, LED lighting project, discretionary fund, Decorah Free Clinic and Food Pantry, Aase Haugen, LSI, Bremwood and many more. This is a fun Good Shepherd community event for all-men, women, children, families. Look for sign up sheets in June.

The Education Committee is preparing for **Vacation Bible School** this summer and has asked if WELCA could help with coordinating the food. They are planning for kids ages 5-12 attending August 15-17 (Mon-Weds) from 5:00-7:30pm. Supper would be offered at 5:00 and then the program would start at 5:30. WELCA would be responsible for coordinating the meals similar to our Lenten soup suppers and all members of the congregation would be asked to donate food. There is also a possibility for a coffee/dessert event on the final evening for all congregational members. Please contact Bev Sheridan if you are able to help with this event.

## May Circle Schedule

May 3 — Mary Circle, 4:00 p.m. Sharon Drew hosts

May 10 - Anna Circle, 9:30 a.m. Carol Hasvold hosts

May 11 —Miriam/Ruth Circle, 2:00 p.m. Carol Hasvold hosts

May 24 —CLA Circle, 7 :00 p.m. Barbara Berg, hosts

# ∞ The Music Page ∞

## Come and Try Handbells This Summer!

During the months of June and July, we will bring back mid-week worship services at 5:30 on Wednesdays. At 5 pm, come and learn how to play our beautiful set of handbells!

Modeled on workshops that are often offered in conjunction with music festivals, these “come and try” sessions are designed for anyone and everyone, all ages. You don’t have to read music, or have ever touched a bell, in order to make music with these lovely instruments.

We will start each session with a quick tutorial on how to hold the bells and make them sound great when you ring them. Then, we’ll try some simple ringing patterns to practice listening and playing in a steady beat. Finally, we’ll move on to trying some tune playing.

You can come to as many or as few sessions as you like. When we feel we have enough people who are ready to play for a service, we’ll try a simple hymn tune as an offertory.

### Handbell Playing Primer

- 1) Begin by putting on gloves (worn by most choirs to avoid smudging or tarnishing the handbells) and picking up two bells and holding them in front of your chest, either angling towards you or facing straight up, depending on the way your choir has chosen to stand with the bells up.
- 2) To ring one bell, move it forward by extending it away from your body in a circular motion, with the handle moving slightly ahead of the bell.
- 3) Damp the bell by touching it lightly to your chest when you complete the circle.
- 4) Repeat until you are comfortable with this motion, and then try with the other bell in your other hand.
- 5) Understand that the length of time you spend ringing (and thus, the size of your circle) varies according to the length of the note you are playing.



### May Music Schedule

- 5/1: Choir/Band/Handbells
- 5/8: Choir
- 5/15: Choir/Handbells
- 5/22: Band
- 5/29: Special Music

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

# CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES, April 19, 2016

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

President Kate Narveson called the meeting to order.

Devotions involved council members reflecting on Matthew 25:31-40 using the Faith5 modified for leaders.

Reg Laursen moved, Lise Kildegaard seconded to approve the March 2016 minutes; passed.

Megan Buckingham moved, Jeri Laursen seconded to approve the agenda for the meeting; passed.

### **Old Business:**

The Welcome Neighbor picnic was discussed. Pr. Amy, Narveson and others will personally invite individuals to serve on a task force to carry out the picnic. Kildegaard will give another temple talk on Sunday.

Since the main committees have only three members each, there was further discussion on ways the committees can involve more members of the congregation in some of their tasks through short-term commitments using a project-management model.

### **New Business:**

Vagts moved, Buckingham seconded to approve Natalie Noel Tapscott and Anthony Alan Ruiz for Confirmation on May 15 and Chris Hick and Linda Wolfs as new members on May 8.

R. Laursen moved on behalf of the Property & Management committee to take \$200 of the \$500 for Sarah Wicks's program (no longer needed) to bring the total amount for Continuing Education for Pr. Amy to \$900 as this is synod guidelines and what was agreed to in the call package. Motion passed.

The special offering for the NE Iowa Synod Assembly meeting will be discussed at the May meeting.

The July council meeting date will be July 26. The August council meeting will begin at 8:00 due to VBS.

### **Recurring Work of the Body:**

Education Committee: Megan Buckingham

The special offering for Lent sponsored by the Sunday School totaled \$2231.80.

"Jonah and the Big Fish" will be the theme of the August Vacation Bible School for ages 5-12. The dates are August 15, 16 and 17 from 5:00-7:30. A supper for the kids will begin at 5:00 with the program starting at 5:30. The committee will ask older youth and other members to help with particular tasks.

The Property and Management committee will be cleaning out the large room in the Annex so the Sunday School can have their own space when they meet on Sundays.

Evangelism: Lise Kildegaard

The council has asked the committee to empower a special task force to do the Welcome Neighbors Picnic.

May 1 is Bring Friends to Worship. There will be a brunch following the service.

New member Sunday is May 8. Confirmation is May 15.

The committee is working on a new pew card with information about Good Shepherd.

*(Continued on page 13)*

(Continued from page 12)

Property and Management: Reg Laursen

The current software used in the office to track membership and financial matters is inadequate. The committee has identified the program "Shepherd's Staff" and has voted to purchase that program for use in the church office. This purchase will come from the Equipment and Repair line item.

Laursen is looking into having the air duct work cleaned in the office wing. A thorough cleaning of Pr. Amy's office will be started on St. Grubby's Day.

The committee is continuing work on the rental policy of the church.

Stewardship: Amalia Vagts

The committee is monitoring the Ministry Team process and it seems to be going well. They would like to begin conversations on "Giving" and they are working on guidelines for Fellowship.

Worship: Jonathon Struve

Brooke Joyce and the committee have been busy planning special music for the many different special Sundays in May: May 1: Bring Friends to Church; May 8: New Member Sunday; May 15: Pentecost/Confirmation.

They have also been discussing format and special music for the summer services. Wednesday evening services will be held in June and July.

The Art Committee is looking into getting a processional cross for Good Shepherd.

President's Report: Kate Narveson

Narveson told the council about a congregation in Baltimore, "Amazing Grace", and talked about the possibility of doing a sister parish exchange.

The Social Justice Committee has been discussing the possibility of Good Shepherd members working with refugee families in Postville through the Catholic Charities, Families Strengthening Families Mentoring Program. They will be asking if two sets of two people are interested in taking this on.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy Larson

The movie night involved eight children. They mostly played and ran around and had a good time. They are looking into doing this again but with help from a Luther student. Pr. Amy suggests we consider hiring a Luther student to work with children's ministry. Brad Hanson is working with Pr. Amy on communion visitors for shut-ins.

Pr. Amy will be calling the Membership Rolls Task Force (Don Berg, Sharon Rendack and Jeri Laursen) together soon to begin the process of updating our membership rolls.

The Confirmation classes this year have gone well.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

The council focused mainly on the cash account summary of the distributed report. New Ordinary Income for the month was -\$971.77. To date \$3550 has been contributed for the repayment of the \$8000 roof loan. The council will determine next month how much of the loan to repay by June 1 when interest will begin to accrue.

Lenten offerings: Sunday School (Lutheran Disaster Response/Local Food Pantry) was \$2231.80 and the general Lenten offering (EWALU and ELCA World Hunger) was \$2062.

Struve moved, R. Laursen seconded to approve the Treasurer's report; motion passed.

Announcements: May newsletter deadline is April 21, 2016 and the next Council meeting is Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

Reg Laursen will have devotions.

Buckingham moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Jeri Laursen, Secretary

# May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bring Friends to Worship Day 8:40 AM Choir practice 8:55 AM Handbells practice 9:20 AM Band warmup 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Brunch 11:15 AM Sunday School 5:00 PM Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of NE Iowa	2 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ALON	3 4:00 PM Mary Circle	4 7:30 AM No Men's Breakfast 6:00 PM My Neighbor is Muslim 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal	5 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting 5:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	6 WELCA May Friendship Day 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery	7 Lutheran World Relief Pickup
8 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Adult Forum 10:45 AM No Sunday School or Confirmation on Mothers Day 1:00 PM Jubilius performance	9 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ALON	10 9:30 AM Anna Circle 1:30 PM Town and Country Garden Club 2:00 PM Pr. Amy @ Wellington Place 5:15 PM Evangelism Committee 8:00 PM Worship & Music Committee	11 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 2:00 PM Miriam / Ruth Circles 3:30 PM Education Committee 6:00 PM My Neighbor is Muslim 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal	12 Recycle 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM Travel Club 5:00 PM Garden Club set up 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	13 8:30 AM Town and Country Garden Club 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery	14
15 Broadcast Confirmation...tecost Sunday Pr. Mau Remembrance 8:45 AM Choir and Hand- 9:00 AM Confirmation Photo 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Adult Forum 10:45 AM Sunday School	16 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ALON	17 9:00 AM Opportunity Homes 1:00 PM Jane jakoubek 7:00 PM Jane jakoubek 7:00 PM Council Meeting	18 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM My Neighbor is Muslim 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal	19 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 5:00 PM Decorah Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	20 W/ELCA Bible Study Seminar 11:00 AM Stewardship Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery	21 W/ELCA Bible Study Seminar
22 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Adult Forum	23 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 3:00 PM Student recital rehearsals 6:30 PM AL/ALON 7:00 PM Dreaming Student Recital	24 9:00 AM Nisse Preschool graduation practice 5:30 PM Nisse Preschool Graduation ceremony 7:00 PM CLA Circle	25 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 2:00 PM Pr. Amy @ Aase Haugen 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal	26 Recycle 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	27 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery	28
29 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour	30 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ALON	31	1 5:00 PM Come and Try Handbells 5:30 PM Worship 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal	2 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting 5:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	3 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery	4 11:00 AM Janet Lambert Memorial Service

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
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*A Reconciling In Christ Congregation*  
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**May 2016**  
**Newsletter**

