



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

ELCA - A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

November Newsletter -- 2015

...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.



Contact Information

Church Office: 563-382-3963 Address: 701 Iowa Ave. Decorah, IA 52101
Email: decorahgoodshepherd@gmail.com Church Office Hours: 8-12 noon M-F
Pastor Amy Larson Cell: 563-379-5098 Email: amyzlaron@gmail.com Pastor
Amy's Office Hours: M/T/Th: 10am-12 noon, W: 10:45am-12:45pm

Worship Schedule

(Holy Communion with every worship) Wednesday: 5:30 p.m.; Supper 6:15 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship 10:30 a.m.

September-May:

Sunday School/Adult Forum: 10:45 a.m./10:50 a.m.



Check out our website!

<http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org>

From the Pastor

Beloved of God,

I continually give thanks for our life together in Christ as the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. God is doing wonderful things among and through us. We are indeed “a congregation empowered by the Good Shepherd.”

This month we are in the midst of our pledge drive when we are each asked to prayerfully consider where God is leading us as a congregation and how we can generously share our resources. We do this, in part, so that we can better plan for our ministry together as a congregation.

Yet the main reason we as Christians commit to sharing our resources is not because the congregation needs money to do ministry together. The main reason we commit to giving is because everything we have is a gift from God to be used for the care and nurture of God’s world. We are caretakers, not owners. Giving reminds of us of this.

Giving brings us joy. Who are the most joyful people you know? I suspect they are grateful, generous people. Practicing gratitude and generosity helps us to turn away from our culture’s joy killing approach to money. Our culture tells us that we are entitled to riches, that we deserve everything money can buy, and that money should be used to increase our security and pleasure. This approach to money leaves us feeling jealous, unhappy and anxious. Giving nurtures a different way of being within us. We are freed from our fearful, selfish grip on what has been given to us and empowered for lives of gratitude and joy.

Giving changes our hearts. Jesus said “where your treasure is, there your heart will be.” We’ve taken that to mean that where our treasure is reveals where our heart will be, that we can look at our bank statements to see where our heart is. Jesus statement is more radical, that where our treasure is determines where our heart is. Our hearts and lives change based on where we put our treasure. Giving a significant portion of our treasure away shapes our hearts to be grateful and generous.

It is for these reasons that we make pledges each year. Pledging provides us each with an opportunity to practice gratitude and generosity, no matter how much or little we have. As you do this, I encourage you not to focus on the dollar amount and how you think that might compare to other givers. I encourage you to look at what percentage of your income you currently give away and challenge yourself to increase that by 1%. Pledging also helps us to make giving a priority in our budget rather than waiting to see what we have left over. It provides a way to prayerful commit to where we want our hearts to be in the year ahead.

We are empowered by the Good Shepherd to give freely. Thanks be to God.

In Christ, Pastor Amy



Pastor Amy's Every Member Visits

I am hoping to have a visit with every member. I am currently prioritizing home bound members, new members, and members facing illnesses or other struggles. I am also having conversations with people on ministry teams the month before they serve. The every member visits will be happening slowly over a long period of time. If you would like a visit soon, please let me know.

Please feel free to contact me with prayer requests or to request pastoral care.
Cell: 563-379-5098 Email: amyzlarsen@gmail.com



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - October 20, 2015 –** 7:00 pm

President Jim Fritz called the meeting to order. Krista Holland offered devotions. Present: Pr. Amy, Jim Fritz, Kate Narveson, John Jefferson, Clara Knudson, Krista Holland, Drew Duffy, Matt Tapscott, Jonathon Struve and Jeri Laursen. Guest: Lyle Otte

Matt Tapscott moved, Drew Duffy seconded to approve the September minutes. Passed Matt Tapscott added an item (Welcome Friends and Neighbor Picnic) to the Evangelism report on the agenda. Kate moved to approve the agenda, John Jefferson seconded. Passed.

Jim Fritz asked that Lyle Otte give his report to the council first. Lyle, as a representative of the Social Justice Sub-Committee of the Stewardship Committee, attended to talk with the council about the Barnabus Uplift program. Their slogan is "This is not a hand out, it is a hand up." This program is for training low income people to get entry level jobs. NEICC has a CNA (Certified Nursing Aid) training program. Lyle recommend that Good Shepherd open its facility to a training class in January. This would involve six classes, M-Th, 9:00-2:45. Following discussion Matt Tapscott moved to approve this recommendation, Drew Duffy seconded. Approved. Drew Duffy then moved that we designate this year's Christmas Offering to this program, Kate Narveson seconded. Approved.

Lyle also thanked the congregation, from the Social Justice Committee, for the \$3098 support for Refugee Crisis.

Education: Krista Holland

Pr. Amy meets with the young people for confirmation every other Sunday morning following the worship service. Younger children meet separately. "Fruits of the Spirit" is the theme for this year. The intergenerational events will continue. The Christmas program is December 20.

Evangelism: Matt Tapscott

The Welcome Friends and Neighbor picnic was very successful once again. 200+ attended. There were many volunteers and many donations. More people are needed for clean-up following the picnic. New Member Sunday is October 25. Jeri Laursen moved, Jonathon Struve to approve the following new members: Kate Blair, Sara Hanssen, Claude and Harriet Hayes, Jane Jakoubek, Jim and Diane Kruse (associate), Pr. Matt (associate), Pr. Amy, Nathan and Abigail Larson, Sharon Rendack, Kristin Swanson, Kathryn Thompson, and Jaci

Wilkinson. Council approved. Matt asked that we have a line item in the 2016 budget for hard copy option of “The Lutheran”.

Property and Management: Drew Duffy

We received a landscaping donation of \$100 from John and Mary Klemish. The Landscaping Committee did a spruce up this week. The roof is done. Reg Laursen is researching the R-Value and will report to Drew. The water heaters are installed but are waiting on a thermostat. Drew checked the fire alarm system and it is working well.

Stewardship: John Jefferson

The pledge drive is underway. A new bulletin board was put up this past week. Presentations are scheduled for Sunday mornings. The Bishop will be here on November 15. A 5% increase of current pledge is being recommended and a goal of 80 pledges was set. The committee has set a November 22 deadline for returning pledges. This will allow the budget committee time to begin the 2016 budget discussion. Ministry Teams are under revision and rotation. E-Giving cards are being revised.

Worship: Jonathon Struve

The committee has approved the Advent paraments design. Barbara Berg has been commissioned to weave the paraments. Wednesday services are going well. They are looking for more volunteers to provide the supper following the service. We will use kneeling communion during Lent and Advent. The committee had a request for a recital on Sunday, November 1, 2:00. Rehearsal will be Thursday, Oct. 29. November 1 is All Saints Day Sunday and we will honor those who has been born and those who have passed away this past year.

Pastor’s Report: Pr. Amy

The Bishop will be at Good Shepherd on Sunday, November 15. The NE IA Synod assembly encourages congregations to have a special hunger appeal when the bishop or a synod staff member visits. Drew Duffy moved, John Jefferson seconded to have the appeal. Passed. Pr. Amy has been visiting shut-ins and residents in retirement homes. She has not begun the every member visit yet. Pr. Amy said we need a new wedding policy. There will be one wedding on July 16, 2016 conducted by an ELCA pastor. There was a second request for a wedding in June, 2016. After discussion Jeri Laursen moved, Drew Duffy seconded, that because we are in transition on our policy we are not in a position to offer our facility for this wedding.

President’s Report: Jim Fritz

Pr. Amy has asked for a credit card authorization for ordering on-line, continuing education registration, etc. Clara Knudson suggested a \$1500 limit and Pr. Amy will be the signing officer. Another person from the council will co-sign. John Jefferson moved, Matt Tapscott seconded to approve this request. Passed. Nominations for 2015: Kate Narveson will step in to the president’s role. A vice president will need to be found as well as treasurer. Clara Knudson is stepping down. Committees were asked to think about possible members for their particular committee. Bring nominations and budget needs to the November Council meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Clara Knudson

We will continue to use the health insurance policy for Pr. Amy as before. Gold Plus. Portico is \$1539/month (health insurance, benefits, etc.). Drew Duffy moved and John Jefferson seconded to approve the treasurer’s report. Passed. There was no old or new business.

The meeting was adjourned and Pr. Amy offered the closing prayer.

LANDSCAPE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE – FROM SUMMER TO WINTER

Summer – The over-flowing, colorful entryway pots and blooming plants and shrubs in the landscape beds succumbed to a mid-October frost. On Saturday morning, October 24, twelve Luther College Student Congregation Fall Fling students, joined by Landscape Subcommittee members (Elizabeth Kaschins, Jane Kemp, Norma Refsal), Jane Jakoubek and Jerry Frank, cleared the beds and Lynette's Garden of plant waste. Jerry Frank and Reg Laursen, Property & Management Committee members, supplied the trailer and pickup truck and disposed of the waste. As has been our practice in the past, the Subcommittee contributed \$150 to the Student Congregation's designated benevolence, this year the Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis fund through ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response.

Fall – The entryway pots have been filled with pumpkins, gourds, and dried hydrangeas as well as evidence that 'critters' like to dig in the pots and gnaw on the 'vegetables'.

Winter – In time for the beginning the Advent season at the end of November, the fall items in the entryway pots will be replaced with natural winter greens, birch and other colorful branches, and pine cones. The grapevine wreaths will reappear on the entryway doors, wound with blue ribbons, the liturgical color for Advent.

Thank you to John and Mary Klimesh for their generous donation of a \$100 gift certificate to Pinter's to be used by the Landscaping Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE NEWS

This fall, the Subcommittee has met with Pastor Amy, been in several conversations with other committees and congregation members, and reviewed the assessment and recommendations of the Communications Audit completed by Luther students last spring. As a result, guidelines for sharing the good news of what's happening at Good Shepherd as well as providing information to our members about items of interest from area churches and organizations have been created. The guidelines will no doubt be refined as we expand and evaluate the variety of sources through which we receive and provide information. A brief summary follows:

Good Shepherd Directory – The online Directory is continually updated – photos and contact information for our new members are available there. Changes in phone numbers, email addresses, and residences are entered as soon as they are received in the church office. A new version of the paper Directory that will include all additions and updates since the first version was produced, is in the process of being compiled and printed. Announcements about its availability will be forthcoming.

Good Shepherd Letterhead Stationery and Note Cards – Our letterhead has been redesigned and printed on stationery-quality paper. The letterhead and note cards, both imprinted with our logo in green ink on ivory papers, are available in the church office. Contact our Administrative Assistant, Erika, if you wish to use some of either.

Worship Bulletins and Announcement Sheets – Pastor Amy, the Worship & Music Committee, and Erika have been collaborating to design and create bulletins that are effective and readable guides to our worship services and practices. The Order of Worship, various page number designations, and some Biblical texts are clearly noted.

Good news! – The bulletins are now posted on our website under the CONNECT tab. Available there now are bulletins and announcement sheets for Wednesday and Sunday services from September 30 to the present. Jane Kemp is to be thanked for getting this long-awaited website project underway.

The separate announcement sheets are intended to provide information about events related to that worship evening or day, Good Shepherd events for the week ahead, and timely area church and organization announcements. Area organization programs and events announcements usually will be limited to those involving congregation members.

Good Shepherd's Website (www.goodshepherddecorah.org) – Several additions and upgrades have been made to our website in recent weeks. Added under the CONNECT tab are the texts of Pastor Amy's sermons, beginning with Sunday, October 18; bulletins and announcement sheets (described above); and newsletters, beginning with the October 2015 issue. The style and format of our newsletter is being reviewed, also.

Photos regularly accompany information added to our Facebook and G+ sites and most often accompany news items in our blog under the NEWS/EVENTS tab. Dustin Cote, our webmaster, recently added a Good Shepherd photo gallery using Flickr. The Facebook, G+, and Flickr logos appear on our website; our sites are linked there.

Communications Subcommittee members: Doris Barnaal, Elizabeth Kaschins, Jane Kemp, Jeri Laursen, and Pastor Amy.

**Announcements – December Newsletter Deadline is November 17, 2015.
Next Council meeting – Tuesday, November 17, 2015 7:00 pm**

CONGREGATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members of Good Shepherd,

Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

This Sunday is New Member Sunday, where we will welcome our newest members into our congregation. It is a day to celebrate. In all honesty, I can't recall a time in the past when this many people are joining with us to gather in his name! Thanks to the Evangelism Committee for all their hard work! Good Shepherd is one of the most welcoming places. We hear it often and I know that our new members have been struck by the generosity of spirit present within our congregation. I hope that all of you will strive to reach out to our new members as well as our guests. It is such a sign of a healthy congregation when so many people want to be a part of it!!

I'd encourage you to log onto the online church directory. It's a great way to

learn names and connect them with faces. The mobile app is extremely helpful. I've used it many times and can highly recommend it. You can access the online directory through our church website under the "Connect" link at the top of the page. If you have difficulties accessing it, please contact Jeri Laursen (jeri.laursen@gmail.com) and she'll help you with it. It's a great resource that I definitely prefer over the old hard-copy directory we've had for many years.

The Stewardship Committee has a new bulletin board posted across from the restrooms near the Fellowship Hall. It provides a great overview of how our past year's budget was utilized. As we prepare for the pledge drive and the budgeting process I hope you'll take a moment to appreciate the great work that we all do for the greater church and those in need. While it may have seemed like the past year was all about facilities, we have a remarkable track record of benevolences of which we should all be proud!

Speaking of facilities, the Property and Management Committee have been busy again! The Fellowship Hall and the Sunday School wing now both have additional roof insulation and a brand new membrane roof! This was a long overdue maintenance item that we were able to repair in the nick of time. Soon we would have been paying to fix leaks. However, now we can enjoy many years of confidence that we have practiced good Stewardship with our facilities. You may notice that the new roofing material is white rather than the traditional black material. This is an additional energy saving device as it has been determined that white roofs reflect heat and are more efficient than the absorbent black coatings. We hope to have the new water heaters for the kitchen fully functional within the month.

Pastor Amy has been working with our youth every other Sunday morning and the kids are really enjoying their time with her. The Education and Youth/Family committees are working together to provide rich opportunities for our youth. Hopefully you've witnessed some of them being more involved in the weekly service. The bell choir has been a wonderful addition that has provided a way for our youth to enrich the service. I'm sure you'll see more of this in the future.

A new parament design has been selected and Barbara Berg will finish the fourth and final parament for our altar and pulpit. What a blessing it is to have such an artisan within our midst! The new design will be a wonderful addition and an outstanding reminder of the many gifts given to us by Pastor Paul Hasvold, as Carol Hasvold has donated the funds for this paramount in Paul's memory. It is a fitting gift and memorial! Thanks to the Art Committee and the Worship and Music Committee for their guidance throughout the design process.

The Nominating Committee will soon undertake the task of finding new leadership for the various committees and executive appointments. There will be openings on each committee as well as Vice President and Treasurer. After many, many years of faithful service, our Congregational Treasurer - Clara Knudson, has decided to step down. We all owe her a huge debt of gratitude. She has been a guiding force for many years. We now face the challenge of finding her replacement. It is my hope that an individual with the appropriate knowledge and skills will rise to the occasion. If you are asked, I would encourage you all to consider a position with one of the church committees and or the council! It is an exciting time to be in one of these positions!!

As we gather together in worship, let us also rejoice in the service that so many have provided. I hope you'll take a moment to thank the members of the various committees for their dedication. This is what makes us strong as a church and

allows us to fulfill our congregational mission. For, wherever two or more gather in his name, God's guiding hand is present.

James L. Fritz, President Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

TREASURER'S REPORT: GENERAL FUND

10/22/2015

Total Income from January 1st to Sept. 30th, 2015: \$149,444.19

Total Expense from January 1st to Sept. 30th, 2015: \$146,339.93

Income is greater than expenses by: \$3104.26

(Note: Benevolences to the Synod and other organizations have been paid for the first three quarters of 2015.)

Respectfully submitted,

Clara Knudson

TREASURER'S REPORT: MISSION ASSISTANCE FUND

8/18/15 Account Balance: \$761.18

Donations: 211.94

10/22/15 Account Balance: \$973.12

Note: Good Shepherd General Fund set a budget of \$300.00 for the Mission Assistance Fund. As of 10/22/2015, none of the budgeted \$300.00 had been spent. *Submitted by Clara Knudson*

STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S GIFTS TO US; OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; Proverbs 3:9
God calls us to give generously to others. This fall, Good Shepherd families and individuals are invited to consider where God is leading us as a congregation and how we can generously share our resources with Good Shepherd. We make commitments of our time and financial giving in the fall so that we can begin to imagine the ministry we will build together in the coming year.

This year's Stewardship Series "First Fruits" continues in November with the following key events:

Sunday, Nov 1 - Adult Forum -

Stories of Giving

Sunday, Nov 8 - Giving Testimony

Sunday, Nov 15 - Bp. Steven

Ullestad, Adult Forum - Our Gifts to the ELCA

Sunday, Nov. 22 - Conclusion and Thanksgiving

We invite you into prayerful discernment about how your family can give to Good Shepherd in the coming year. Pledge cards have been mailed and can be returned to the church office. You can also pledge online by going to the serve/give tab on our website. Our goal is to have 80 pledges this year.
Stewardship Team Amalia Vagts,
John Jefferson (Chair), Ed Epperly

DIRECTORY UPDATES

For security reasons, full updates can only be found in the paper Newsletter and the online directory.

Kate Blair

Claude and Harriet Hayes

Jane Jakoubek

Jim Kruse

Diane Kruse

Change of address: Dustin and Heather Cote

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Thank you to all who have contributed to our Lutheran World Relief School Kits and Baby Care Kits. With the help of the youth, we assembled 26 School Kits on Sunday, October 24 and on the following Tuesday evening CLA circle assembled 55 Baby Care Kits. We have been very busy.

We will have our Soup Luncheon/Country Store on November 8. We will be serving a variety of soups along with breads and bars/cookies. Our Country Store will include baked goods (breads, cookies, bars, pies, Norwegian pastries, lefse, jellies & jams, snack items etc) and slightly used attic treasures. You never know what items you have that someone else might enjoy or need. This year we will also have a couple of silent auction items: a hand crafted necklace made by Norma Refsal and a Holiday table place setting for seven given by Gail Judisch. Please tell your friends-this looks to be a fun day. Funds raised will be given to local and global missions.

This month in our Gather magazine we are concluding our Bible Study with Liv Larson Andrews, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in the West Central neighborhood of Spokane, Washington, with "Tempo Gusto!"

In December – You will find an Advent devotional to use for your W/ELCA events. In the winter – We will explore the book of Philippians "Christian Citizenship 101". With this format a variety of new writers can be used and opportunities can be created for new women to join the study group. For those who do not get the magazine, we will have a section in the communication cubbies labeled "Gather Magazine" by the church office and current subscribers can add their magazines when they are finished and someone else will be able to enjoy the magazine. This is a good opportunity to read the good articles and Bible study that are always included. It is also a way to share your Gather magazine with others in the congregation and community. Reuse, recycle, renew.

Now is also the time to plan your hostesses and Bible study leaders for the new year. Please get your information into the church secretary by January 1.

Upcoming Events

November 7- Lutheran World Relief Pickup

November 8 - Soup Luncheon/Country Store/Attic Treasures/Silent Auction

WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP AND SUPPER

Something special is happening Wednesday nights at Good Shepherd. We are connecting with each other, with scripture and with God in new ways. We share highs and lows, pray for each other and bless each other. We sing, pray and share in Holy Communion. Afterward, we share a simple meal and talk about the Psalm for the upcoming Sunday.

Members are bringing meals for each other so that we can share in a simple supper and faith conversation. If you can bring a simple meal (soup, chili, tacos, pizza) contact Jonathon Struve struvejo@luther.edu. Even if you can't attend Wednesday night, please consider supporting this important ministry by bringing a meal.

HOLY COMMUNION AT THE ALTAR RAIL

During the seasons of Advent and Lent we will be sharing in Holy Communion at the offering rail each week. We will continue with the practice of intinction while at the rail.

INVITING FAMILIES TO LIGHT ADVENT WREATH

The worship committee invites families with children to light the Advent wreath at the beginning of each worship service during the four weeks of Advent. If your family would like to participate, contact Pr. Amy

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mark your calendars for the Good Shepherd Christmas program on Sunday, December 20 at 5:30pm.

FIRST LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

First Lutheran's Food Pantry continues to see increasing need for food, funds and volunteers. Canned goods, cereals, and personal care items are in great demand. You can make a check to Good Shepherd with memo line saying "First Lutheran Food Pantry" also. Most importantly, you can help stock shelves or assist the clients weekday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Carolyn Flaskerude, coordinator, can be reached at First Lutheran (382-2638).

Lyle Otte, Social Justice Committee member

COMMUNITY MEAL TWICE A MONTH

The **DECORAH COMMUNITY MEALS** bring people together from all walks of life to share a meal together. The meals are free to all and they occur on **the first & third Thursday evenings** each month from **5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church**. **Please join us the "First Thursday" on Oct. 1, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Good Shepherd will provide salads and desserts. Please sign up at the Narthex to volunteer for set up, serving, cleaning, and providing the salads/desserts.** The Norse Culinary Team at Luther College provides the main course for this meal.

On the **first** and **third** Thursday – Good Shepherd, along with First Lutheran, Northeast Iowa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Ryumonji Zen Monastery, the United Methodist Church, and St. Benedict's Catholic Church are the faith groups that organize and coordinate the event. McCaffrey's Dolce Vita has provided the main entrée on the third Thursday of the month. Other faith groups and community organizations have brought salads and desserts, and have volunteered. All members of Good Shepherd are welcome to come enjoy these free meals.

CLINIC COORDINATOR NEEDED

The Decorah Community Free Clinic seeks a part-time clinic coordinator, roughly ten hours weekly including free clinic hours, Thursdays 4:30-9 PM. This is a paid position, RN or LPN preferred, with commitment to the Free Clinic mission. Contact freeclinic52101@gmail.com for more info, with cover letter and resume for application.

CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE (CNA) TRAINING IN GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Northeast Iowa Community College will offer a Certified Nurse Aide class to help meet the training requirements to become employed as a nurse aide in nursing facilities. Starting in early January, a Good Shepherd meeting space will be used for six of the classes. There will also be three laboratory days at Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar, and students will then attend the clinical portion of the class at Aase Haugen long term care facility in Decorah. Good Shepherd is helping out as part of our social justice ministry. Nurse aide positions are in great demand and can lead to higher level positions in the health care field. Anyone interested in further information may contact Liza Hicken at NICC (5563.562.3263, ext 222 or [800.728.2256](tel:800.728.2256)) or hickene@nicc.edu before December 1, 2015.

EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is held 10:45am on Sunday mornings as part of the Youth Sunday School Class. This year the class includes youth grades 6th-9th grade. Pastor Amy will meet with the class every other week in her office. The Sundays she is not with them they will be doing another activity together including service, discussion, and the intergenerational storytelling that will happen once a month.

Those in 8th and 9th grade wishing to publicly confirm their faith are also expected to: complete 15 sermon notes each year, assist with worship, do service within and outside the church, attend Lenten mid-week worship and meet with an adult mentor periodically during coffee hour and Lenten Soup Suppers. This year's 8th and 9th graders are Natalie Tapscott, Anthony Ruiz, Ava Holland and Keaton Solberg. **If you would like to serve as an adult mentor who will meet with a confirmation student periodically during coffee hour and Lenten Soup Suppers, please contact Pr. Amy.**

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE FOR CONFIRMATION/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

11/1- meet in Sanctuary for intergenerational storytelling about generosity

11/8 - meet in Pastor Amy's Office from **11-11:45pm**

11/15 - meet in Sanctuary to hear from our Bishop, Steven Ullestad, about what it means that we're part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

11/22 - meet in sanctuary for an all ages class about communion.

12/2 - 6:30-8:00pm- 8th and 9th graders and Pr. Amy attend Confirmation Festival with area confirmation youth at Decorah Lutheran Church

LOST AND FOUND CONCERT AT LUTHER COLLEGE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 7PM, \$10

Kids, families and folks of all ages are invited to join Pr. Amy and family for a great concert at Luther. The band Lost and Found is a funky, eclectic band with a great message. All proceeds will benefit the ELCA Walk for Water Campaign. We'll meet in the front of the CFL at 6:45pm. Let Pr. Amy know if you are planning to come.

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE FOR ADULT FORUMS

11/1- Intergenerational storytelling about generosity

11/ 8- December ministry team meets in narthex at 10:40am with Pr. Amy to talk about what you appreciate about Good Shepherd and your hopes for Good Shepherd in the future.

11/15- Conversation with our Bishop, Steven Ullestad.

COMMUNION CLASS

All parents and children of all ages are invited to a class about Holy Communion with Pr. Amy on November 22 at 10:45am. Meet in the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mark your calendars for the Good Shepherd Christmas program on Sunday, December 20 at 5:00pm.

GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AASE HAUGEN BINGO

Every month, Aase Haugen hosts a bingo party for their residents and requests extra helping hands for the event to run smoothly. This month is Good Shepherd's turn to participate and get to know the residents, and we are in need of volunteers for the Tuesday Bingo Party. Helpers will arrive at **2:15pm on Tuesday, November 17** and hand out bingo cards, call Bingo, and distribute prizes. For sign up, call or send an email to the office at Good Shepherd ASAP. You can also contact Jeri Laursen for sign up and more information. Thank you!

VISITING OPPORTUNITIES

Here is a list of persons from our congregation who are residing in the Decorah care facilities. Keep in mind there may be occasional inaccuracies as people move in and out of care.

Wellington Place: Linda Lambert, Justine Lionberger, Jaerdis Nesheim, Carmen Sunde. Don Pilgrim is now living with his daughter, Mary, at 306 Day Street.

Aase Haugen: Richard & Millie Dinger, Flo Klosterboer, Diane Kvamme, Dorothy Magelssen, Paul Solberg, Maxine Swiggum.

Eastern Star Assisted Living: Naomi Craft #116, 911 Ridgewood Dr.

SOUP LUNCHEON & COUNTRY STORE

A Soup Luncheon and Country Store is planned at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for **Sunday, November 8**. W/ELCA is sponsoring the event which will be held from **10:30 am - 1:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The Country Store will have baked goods and attic treasures for sale. A silent auction for professional jewelry designed by Norma Refsal and a 7-piece holiday place setting donated by Gail Judisch will also be held. Volunteers for the event are encouraged to sign up in the Church lobby. Those wishing to donate Attic Treasures and baked goods can drop off marked items to Good Shepherd's Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, November 7** from **2 - 4 pm**. For information contact, Heather Cote or Bev Sheridan.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING

Good Shepherd Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet **Wednesday, November 18** at the home of Helen Schweizer. Please join us for fellowship as we knit/ crochet shawls for members of our congregation and the community.

COMMUNION BREAD

It has come the attention of Altar Guild that there may be some of our members who are allergic to eggs. Because of that we wanted to publish the ingredients of the bread: Eggs, olive oil, honey, molasses, water, salt, soda and Pamela's Gluten Free bread flour.

If you are allergic to any of these ingredients please let Elizabeth Kaschins or Pastor Amy know. We have wafers available upon request.

Thank you to the following bread bakers: Charilyn Hover, Marie Freerking, Helen Schweizer, Elizabeth Kaschins, Jane Kemp, Glenda Wuest, Bev Sheridan, Carol Hasvold, Amalia Vagts and Jeri Laursen. If you are interested in being a baker please contact Jeri Laursen.

THANK YOU "FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS"

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church hosted the Welcome Friends and Neighbors Picnic on Sunday Sept. 13. This incredible event could not happen without the combined effort of all! THANK YOU. As pleased as the Evangelism committee is with this years picnic we did identify opportunities for improvements - more kitchen help scheduled throughout the picnic, for example. Additional feedback IS appreciated. Blessings - Evangelism committee

"THE LUTHERAN" SUBSCRIPTION

The Evangelism committee has discussed over the past year whether we, as a congregation, should offer as an option the paper version of this "evangelism tool" to congregants (old and new!) Many are currently receiving it and accessing it on-line. We are wondering if there is interest to build into next year's budget the paper/mailed version for those who would prefer it. Please contact Matt Tapscott at:

TapscottDecorah@gmail.com or (563) 387-6069 or in person if you would like to weigh in. Thank you.

YAGM VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Hola de México! After a week of orientation in Chicago with the 73 other YAGM volunteers spread throughout the world, I arrived in

Mexico on August 26. It's hard to believe I've been here about two months already! The first three weeks in Mexico were spent traveling around Central Mexico visiting site placements with the 9 other volunteers here. After those few weeks getting to know Mexico a little better, I arrived at my host family's house on September 15, the day before Mexico's Independence Day. I am beginning to settle into life in Tepoztlán, Mexico. My host family is very welcoming and warm, and they serve me great food. I have two host nieces, age 9 and 2, and you can usually find me playing with them each day. My Spanish is slowly improving, poco a poco, thanks to very patient people who are willing to help me. Overall, it's been a great couple of months learning more about myself and Mexican culture. Thank you for your continued support during this journey!

You can follow Catherine's journey here:

<https://catherinegoestomexico.wordpress.com/>

OFFICE

POSTAGE STAMPS

Please save your canceled postage stamps for Verne Koenig, he has a project he uses them for. There is collection box in the church office by the copier to drop them into. Thank you.

FLICKR LAUNCHED ON THE GOOD SHEPHERD WEBSITE

Introducing Flickr, the online photo management and sharing application now posted on the right side of the Good Shepherd website homepage. The Flickr logo is located next to the logos for Facebook and Google+. Dustin Cote has uploaded all the photos from the website gallery and added

the most recent photos from the Welcome Friends and Neighbors picnic. Click on the Flickr logo to view the photos. Additional photos will be added when available.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY

PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

Path to Citizenship is a northeast Iowa organization comprised of a coalition of various Decorah area faith groups. Its mission is to aid those people who require assistance with immigration issues, whether it be for personal or legal need. The steering committee for this organization is made up of representatives (as of May 2014) from Decorah Congregational UCC Church, First Lutheran Church of Decorah, First United Methodist Church of Decorah, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Decorah, Northeast Iowa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and Saint Benedict Catholic Parish of Decorah. The Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center, Inc., is also represented on this steering committee.

As part of our mission we are supporting, through volunteerism and fund raising, a United Methodist Immigration Ministry known as Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) which brings an immigration lawyer to Decorah once per quarter, and offers those legal services to clients at no charge.

If you wish to contribute, please write your checks to Good Shepherd Lutheran and write "Path to Citizenship" on the memo line.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAVID OLSON CANCER BENEFIT

The benefit will be on November 14 at Waukon Banquet Center, beginning at 1:00 pm with music by

the Toetappers from 1-3, with dinner served by the Holland Construction crew where Dave is employed. Followed by a silent auction, and a live auction with many wonderful items donated by the community. Dave has been diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer. Donations may be sent to Virginia Hanson, or to the Waukon State Bank. Thank You.

CLINIC COORDINATOR NEEDED

The Decorah Community Free Clinic seeks a part-time clinic coordinator, roughly ten hours weekly including free clinic hours, Thursdays 4:30-9 PM. This is a paid position, RN or LPN preferred, with commitment to the Free Clinic mission. Contact freeclinic52101@gmail.com for more info, with cover letter and resume for application.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

FREE Youth Mental Health First Aid Course sponsored by County Social Services on Saturday, November 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location: Luther College, Dahl Centennial Union, Mott Room. To register or if you have any questions please contact Chelsea Carroll at ccarroll@countysocialservices.org or call [319-464-0642](tel:319-464-0642).

"CHRISTMAS MY WAY" PLAY

Thrivent invites you & your family to join us on a bus trip Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015 to the Plymouth Playhouse in Plymouth MN to see the play "Christmas My Way" a Sinatra Holiday Bash. Nothing is silent about this night where four singers serve up cool version; Fly me to the Moon, Love & Marriage, Silver Bells, I'll be home for Christmas, The Twelve Days of Christmas, and other Classic Christmas Crooners. The cost is \$35.00 per person which includes ticket & bus ride. You will

need to bring a sack lunch for your noon meal & we will stop in Rochester, MN on our way back for supper. We will board at 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot across from the Post Office in Decorah leaving @ 10:30 a.m. and returning around 8 p.m. Reservation & payment must be made by November 1, 2015. Mail payment to Tamie Onsager 702 Hillside Ct., Decorah, IA 52101 Phone 563-382-5888 or e-mail ronsager@mchsi.com.

members will be included in our bulletins and the "Good Shepherd Announcements" section. Announcements for area organizations and events not directly involved with the church will be published in the "Social Justice and Community Announcements" section of the newsletter if there is space.

LSI NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

November is National Adoption Month, and LSI is a proud partner of Iowa KidsNet, the statewide collaboration of agencies that helps Iowans become foster or adoptive parents for children in Iowa's foster care system. Nationally, there are over 101,000 youth waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. We know there are no unwanted children, only unfound families! For additional info, visit www.IowaKidsNet.com.

HLC Soup and Salad Lunch

Hesper Lutheran Church is hosting a luncheon on Sunday, November 8, from 11am-1pm. Join us for homemade Oyster Stew, Chicken Noodle, and Cheesy Vegetable soups! All proceeds support local food shelves and youth camperships to the Ewalu Bible Camp.

Have an announcement you'd like us to share?

Send it to the Good Shepherd office at least one week before the Newsletter deadline. Only announcements for Good Shepherd