

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
701 Iowa Avenue
Decorah IA 52101



The Shepherd's Voice

June/July

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION





The Shepherd's Voice

June/July 2017

Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

What a joy it was to celebrate a baptism and welcome seventeen new members on Sunday, May 7! Something beautiful is happening here at Good Shepherd. Together, we are experiencing the hospitality Jesus shows us and offering it to one another.

We often think about hospitality in relation to hosting a family gathering, having friends over for supper, making the house or the Fellowship Hall look nice for guests. Those are important ways we practice hospitality. Yet at the core, hospitality is about making space for others.

Jesus opens space for us in the very presence of God. The presence of God is everywhere in all of creation but our sin blinds us to this and prevents us from entering God's presence. Jesus says you are beloved, you are forgiven, you are accepted just as you are. The welcome that Jesus give us opens space for us in God's presence. It also opens space within us - space that lets us receive others, be present to them, and freely share of ourselves.

At Good Shepherd we are experiencing and sharing this spacious hospitality in so many ways. I also see other opportunities for us to expand the welcome we offer each other and guests.

Making space in worship and the building: We're setting up chairs in the Narthex ahead of time when we anticipate more worshippers. People are moving up to the front to leave room for guests, latecomers and less mobile folks in the back. Please keep moving forward! Consider moving to the center of your pew to make space for latecomers and sitting in the choir pews when the choir isn't singing. The Space Exploration Task Force is also considering how our space helps us practice hospitality. They will be in contact with committees and affinity groups soon for exploratory conversations.

Welcoming guests: We now have greeters whose job is to welcome everyone, watch for guests and help guests feel comfortable in the space. Many people introduce themselves to those they don't know and invite guests down to coffee. It can feel awkward to reach out to someone you don't know, especially if you wonder if you "should" know the person. Try saying "We may have met lots of time but I'm so bad with names." Watch for people who look uncertain as they enter the building or the fellowship hour and greet them. Try sitting down at a fellowship table with people you don't know. Remember, we meet Jesus in the stranger!

Welcoming the gifts people offer: Committees are receiving the creative ideas that newcomers share. An idea for the kids to use the *Soup for Syria* cookbook started a new tradition of the kids making soup for the congregation during Lenten suppers. The congregation has been willing to try the new Ministry Team structure proposed by the Stewardship Committee and the tweaks they've proposed. Let's say yes to what people offer as much as possible: yes to new ideas, yes to new ways of doing things, yes to different offerings in the kitchen.

(Continued on page 3)

Words from Pastor Larson

Welcoming “No”: Last year’s Nominating Committee affirmed those who discerned they needed to say no to an invitation to serve. New members have been invited to share their gifts and told they are free to say no. Hospitality involves tending a space where it is safe to say no to invitations and no to good things that aren’t right for an individual or the community at a particular time.

Together we practice living out the hospitality Jesus has first shown us. Together we practice making space for others as Jesus has opened space for us in the very presence of God. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Pastor Amy

Education

COME. CREATE. CELEBRATE! Learn and explore the four parts of worship (gather, word, feed, and bless) at this year's Vacation Bible School. We will be hosting Vacation Bible School on August 8 - August 10 from 5 pm to 7:30 pm. All children ages 4-12 are welcome. A hearty snack will be served from 5-5:20 pm each day. Following the snack, we will have activity stations, including music, crafts, games and storytelling. On Thursday, August 10, at 6:45 pm family & friends are invited to attend a youth led experiential worship service followed by an ice cream social in the Fellowship Hall. Registration information can be found on our web site, <http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org/2017-vbs-registration/>.

The Education Committee is seeking teachers and helpers for the 2017/2018 Sunday School year. This is an amazing and rewarding opportunity to engage with our youth and help them to grow their faith. Classes for 2017/2018 will be divided into two groups, PreK-4th and 5th-8th graders. Curriculum is prepared in advance, and guides are available. Volunteer commitment can be as little as one Sunday every 4-6 weeks from 10:45 - 11:30 am. If you are interested or have questions, please feel free to contact Heather Cote, cotecheck@gmail.com.

June Scriptures

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Sunday, June 4 Day of Pentecost | Acts 2:1-21 Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds | Psalms 104:24-34, 35b Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30) | 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit | John 20:19-23 The Spirit poured out |
| Sunday, June 11 The Holy Trinity | Genesis 1:1-2:4a The creation of the heavens and the earth | Psalms 8 How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1) | 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth | Matthew 28:16-20 Living in the community of the Trinity |
| Sunday, June 18 2nd Sunday after Pentecost | Exodus 19:2-8a The covenant with Israel at Sinai | Psalms 100 We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. (Ps. 100:3) | Romans 5:1-8 While we were sinners, Christ died for us | Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23] The sending of the Twelve |
| Sunday, June 25 3rd Sunday after Pentecost | Jeremiah 20:7-13 The prophet must speak despite opposition | Psalms 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind. (Ps. 69:16) | Romans 6:1b-11 Buried and raised with Christ by baptism | Matthew 10:24-39 The cost of discipleship |

July Scriptures

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Sunday, July 2 4th Sunday after Pentecost | Jeremiah 28:5-9 The test of a true prophet | Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18 Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1) | Romans 6:12-23 No longer under law but under grace | Matthew 10:40-42 Welcome Christ in those he sends |
| Sunday, July 9 5th Sunday after Pentecost | Zachariah 9:9-12 The king will come in humility and peace | Psalms 145:8-14 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8) | Romans 7:15-25a The struggle within the self | Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 The yoke of discipleship |
| Sunday, July 16 6th Sunday after Pentecost | Isaiah 55:10-13 The growth of the word to accomplish God's purpose | Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13 Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11) | Romans 8:1-11 Live according to the Spirit | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 The parable of the sower and the seed |
| Sunday, July 23 7th Sunday after Pentecost | Isaiah 44:6-8 There is no other God than the Lord | Psalms 86:11-17 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11) | Romans 8:12-25 The revealing of the children of God | Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 The parable of the weeds |
| Sunday, July 30 8th Sunday after Pentecost | 1 Kings 3:5-12 Solomon's prayer for wisdom | Psalms 119:129-136 When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130) | Romans 8:26-39 Nothing can separate us from God's love | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Parables of the reign of heaven |

June 2017 Ministry Team Schedule

| DATE | LITURGY | USHER * Head Usher | FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only |
|---|--|---|---|
| Sunday, June 4 Broadcast Live 9:30 a.m. | Asst. Minister: Jon Christy Communion Server: Jerrine Jacobsen Cantor: Daniel Raney | 1.* Jeri Laursen 2. Bob Felde Greeter: Reg Laursen Acolyte: Maggie and Jack Norris | 1.* Judy Schoel 2. Jane Kemp 3. Allie Grainger 4. Marty Steele |
| Sunday, June 11 Broadcast Live 9:30 a.m. | Asst. Minister: Bob Larson Communion Server: Jerrine Jacobsen Cantor: Jason Rausch | 1.*Tim Schoel 2. Judy Schoel Greeter: Amalia Vagts Acolyte: Lulu & Poppy Bellrichard | 1.*Doris Barnaal 2. Bev Nelson 3. Sue Blair 4. Marilyn Anderson |
| Sunday, June 18 Broadcast Live 9:30 a.m. | Asst. Minister: Megan Buckingham Communion Server: David Lester Cantor: Dennis Barnaal | 1.* Joanne Ylvisaker 2. Richard Ylvisaker Greeter: Jonathon Struve Acolyte: Lulu & Poppy Bellrichard | 1.*Joyce Epperly 2. Naomi Craft 3. Glenda Wuest 4. Marilyn Anderson |
| Sunday, June 25 Broadcast Live 9:30 a.m. | Asst. Minister: Reg Laursen Communion Server: David Lester Cantor: Dennis Barnaal | 1.* Joanne Ylvisaker 2. Richard Ylvisaker Greeter: Reg Laursen Acolyte: Abby Larson | 1.* Jeri Laursen 2. Jutta Anderson(F) 3. Diane Kruse 4. Glenda Wuest |
| June Altar Guild: Marie Freerking (convener) Elizabeth Kaschins, Bob Larson | | | |

Good Shepherd Announcements

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Here are two opportunities that we have to offer God's loving care to one another. Please contact Pr. Marion if you can help out with either of these.

COULD YOU HELP BRING PEOPLE TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS?

We have 2 members who very much want to come to worship but they need transportation. Volunteers won't be asked to make a commitment for every week, but would be creating a pool of drivers - "Church Chauffeurs" - who would take turns bringing these folks to worship.

BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR KIDS: The Evangelism Committee is looking for someone who would enjoy sending birthday cards to the kids of Good Shepherd Congregation throughout the year. This is a fun and simple task that will bring a little added love and joy to our youngest members. We are happy to supply the cards and the postage. All we need is you!

ROOM FOR STUDENT? Charles Mugwagwa, a Luther student from Zimbabwe is desperately looking for a place to live off campus for next school year in an effort to save money. He has an internship away from Decorah this summer, so is looking for something to start sometime in August. If you can help him, please contact Pr. Amy. He writes: "I'm looking for a room with an access to a kitchen because I will be cooking my own food. I don't know what some people may need help with, but I'm open to helping out with stuff when it does not affect my studies. I'm willing to pay rent, and I hope that I get a good deal so I can save a little. I don't mind staying in the basement. I have a car, so I'm not going to have any problems buying groceries and doing other things that may need transportation. Even though I have a car, I would rather stay closer to campus so I can minimize my driving, especially during summer. I'm willing to share some exotic (like the staple food we eat back home) foods from time to time. I'm also good with the grill. I'm pretty sure that the people I'll be staying with will learn more about my culture because they will be in contact with me. As for my personality, I'm generally quiet and tidy."

REFORMATION GROVE UPDATE: The "Tree Taskforce," chaired by Ed Epperly with members Jim Fritz and Jane Kemp, has submitted two grant proposals to offset expenses for the Reformation Grove. A third proposal will be submitted later in the year. To date \$1,500 has been raised by the congregation. Individual donations to the project can be sent to the church office with the designation "trees" on the memo line. Periodic updates on the fundraising progress will be made by the taskforce.

The goal is to plant the 64 trees and shrubs in fall 2017 in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The Good Shepherd Reformation Grove aerial view and project description have been posted on the Sunday School bulletin board in the corridor leading to the Fellowship Hall.

GARDENING UPDATE AT GOOD SHEPHERD – This spring the Winneshiek County Conservation staff reached out to Good Shepherd to explore the idea of planting pollinator plants. Such plants improve the environment by attracting insects such as bees and butterflies that facilitate the reproduction in 90% of the world's flowering plants. The Landscape Subcommittee agreed to polli-scape two garden beds, the "sign garden" in front of the building and "Lynette's Garden" viewed through the sanctuary windows. The Conservation staff helped the Committee purchase Butterflyweed, Bergamot, Great Blue Lobelia, Rough Blazingstar, Yellow Coneflowers, and Lanceleaf Coreopsis which are being planted in these beds. This polli-scape has become part of the environmental stewardship policy of the congregation which includes using no herbicides or pesticides on the church lawn and landscape beds. In addition, the outdoor pots have been planted with a variety of annuals including orange Impatiens, Cannas, King Tut plant, Coleus, and Creeping Jenny. They are maintained and watered by the Landscape Subcommittee with occasional assistance from others.

JULY SUPPLEMENT NEWS DEADLINE JUNE 22

Good Shepherd Announcements

NEW BROADCAST SCHEDULE FOR GOOD SHEPHERD ON KWLC!!

Beginning June 4th, KWLC -1240AM will broadcast the Good Shepherd services **every Sunday morning!** In the summer and during college breaks, the broadcast will be LIVE at 9:30 a.m. While the College is in session, the broadcast will be aired on a delayed schedule at 11:00 a.m. Please pass the word to our home bound congregational members!

FLOOD BUCKETS - Each congregation in the Northeast Iowa Synod has been asked to bring flood relief buckets to the Synod Assembly to be held at Luther College, June 7-9. Good Shepherd has a goal to bring 10 buckets. The cost per bucket to be purchased is \$60. Donations of money can be made out to Good Shepherd with buckets in the byline. Karl and Jerrine Jacobsen will purchase items to complete the buckets and host a bucket filling party in their basement, 2520 Kylie Ann Road on Sunday, June 4, 3:00 p.m. These buckets are life savers!

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES: We are making a couple of adjustments to Ministry Teams that we hope will make it easier to be involved. All members will still be asked to serve two times during two quarters of the year (for a total of four times per year). Instead of signing up for a specific area, like "liturgy," you will just sign up for a quarter. During your quarter, you are invited to serve in any area you would like. If you have any questions, please talk with any member of Stewardship. Amalia Vagts, Daniel Grainger, and Germano Streese.

FIRST LUTHERAN TRAVELERS AND FRIENDS invite you to the SPRING GREEN ART FAIR, Saturday, June 24; \$33.00 Per Person. Hop aboard the motor coach for a day in Spring Green, Wi. for their annual art fair. This is a juried show featuring more than 200 NATIONAL ARTISTS WITH ALL ORIGINAL ART WORK. Exhibits are 10 categories including graphics, painting, hand-wrought jewelry, sculpture, crafts, pottery, textiles, photography, glass and woodworking with refreshments and entertainment available. Fliers are available on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Payment is due at First Lutheran by June 15.

GOOD SHEPHERD INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN RAMADAN MEALS First United Methodist Church invites Good Shepherd members and friends to participate in Ramadan meals offered for Luther College Muslim students. Dinners will be held on May 30 and June 6, 13, 20 at the Methodist Church. Participants gather around 8:45 p.m. and begin eating after sundown. People can come once or multiple times. Attendees usually bring a dish of some kind to share (no pork products). Interested parties should contact Bob Shedinger (shedinro@luther.edu) or Linda Watson (linda.watson@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up to bring food.



Nordic Fest (and RAGBRAI) are coming to Decorah the last weekend in July. This will be a challenging time for us as we prepare for our Krumkake demonstration and sale. All Good Shepherd members will be needed as we prepare for this week. We will again be baking the two weeks before the Fest at the church. Sign-up sheets will be out June 25. This day will also be our Krumkake tasting and baking demonstration Sunday, a good day to taste and learn. Volunteers are also needed to work the booth and for demonstration purposes. Thank you to Sharon Rendack, Don Berg and Bob Naslund for volunteering to work the early Friday morning RAGBRAI shift. All ages are welcome-there is a place for you at Nordic Fest. We are also in need of the large popcorn tins to store the Krumkake; if you have some that we could borrow for the week let us know. Be sure to label them if you want them back.

The Northeast Iowa Synodical Women's Organization's annual convention will be held June 17 at Wartburg College in Waverly. The theme and verse for this year's convention is "Hungering for Renewal" Ps 34:8 "Taste and see that the Lord is Good." Interest sessions will include Bible Journaling, YAGM, NE IA Food Bank, LSI, CV Friends of the Family, Prayer Journaling and a Bible Study by Pastor Melissa Bills. Convention registration forms are available from Bev Sheridan.

Women of the ELCA's Tenth Triennial Gathering will be held July 13-16, 2017 in Minneapolis. Because the Tenth Triennial Gathering falls during the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the theme resonates with reformation and transformation. Participants will explore ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us, acknowledging that *reformation* and *transformation* have happened and continue to happen with the faith-filled community of women known as Women of the ELCA. Beverly Nelson and Beverly Sheridan are planning on attending the gathering. Thank you to everyone for supporting these women in their faith journey.

Ten Good Reasons to attend the Tenth Triennial Gathering

10. **Hear the Gathering choir raise the roof** with our All Anew theme hymn, "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading."
9. **Worship together** with thousands of Lutheran women.
8. **Bring home a tote bag** full of fresh new ideas for ministry and action.
7. **You'll be refreshed and renewed** by gathering with thousands of other women who share our faith.
6. **You'll meet so many of your favorite authors** all in one place.
5. **Learn so many great new ways to promote healing** and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.
4. **You'll make a real difference in people's lives** with your generous offering at Closing Worship, which will be divided among the PV for Phebe project, Cherish All Children, and ongoing ministries of the women of the ELCA.
3. **Make friends with thousands of bold women** from around the country and around the world.
2. **You'll enliven your heart**, excite your mind, enrich your spirit, and exercise your body.
1. **You'll be made All Anew** at the Tenth Triennial Gathering of the ELCA.

June Circle Schedule 6/27- CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Marie Freerking hosts
No Other Circle meetings scheduled in June or July.



Good Shepherd's Krumkake Demonstration/Sale at Nordic Fest

In just 8 weeks Decorah will be celebrating its Norwegian heritage with the 51th annual Nordic Fest. Did you know that Good Shepherd has been participating in this event all 51 years?

Our first project in 1966, and for several years thereafter, was a quilt display here at Good Shepherd along with a *Konditori* (coffee shop) that served sweet soup, a variety of Norwegian cookies and coffee. The quilt display later moved to the high school. Our second project was selling Norwegian cookies at a Fest booth in front of what is now Viking Bank. Then we were given a booth in front of the Bank of the West and began making and selling *krumkaker* using a favorite recipe from one of our charter members (Doris Klocke). As you know, we make great quantities at church in advance and also go into production during the Fest with a live demonstration in the lobby of the bank. Gluten-free krumkake was offered last year due to the efforts of Pastor Amy, Sara Hanssen and Kathryn Thompson. These were much appreciated by NF visitors.

And here we are in 2017 still making krumkake! You might well call it "krumkake season." We have made and sold thousands of those tasty, crumbly Norwegian treats through the years. Last year we produced 3,604 krumkake and yielded a profit of \$2,405. Our proceeds are distributed to many causes in our community and the world; a portion always stays here at Good Shepherd for needed improvements. In the past few years we have given \$500 each to the GS roof loan fund, LED lighting project and the purchase of new paraments along with monies for the Good Shepherd kitchen fund. We have also given money for a CNA scholarship and a Seminary Scholarship along with monies to the Aase Haugen Homes general fund, the Decorah Free Clinic/Food Pantry at First Lutheran, Pastor's mission assistance fund, Pathway to Citizenship, EWALU, LSI, LWR, Mashiah Foundation, Helping Services of Northeast Iowa and our WELCA churchwide organization

Planned by WELCA, this is an **all-congregation event**. Although this project is a fundraising event we've found that it is a wonderful fellowship opportunity for all (families, men, women and children) working together baking, demonstrating and selling those little cone-shaped cookies. Last year 63 individuals worked a total 350 hours on various aspects of this project shared in making this a successful project (some of these folks worked 2-3 shifts!). All ages are invited to participate and no experience is necessary. This year we will also have our Krumkake available for RAGBRAI coming through town on Friday. We are anticipating a large turnout so will be needing more participation from our members.



GOOD SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

PREPARING KRUMKAKE BATTER AT HOME

Recipe & plastic container furnished. Containers and recipes will be on the table in Narthex on June 25.

BAKING

9 sessions are planned at **church**, or you may want to bake at **home** or with a friend in your home. Come when you can and work only as long as you want. Bakers and rollers can sit down while working. If you are new to the krumkake experience, we will teach you (very easy to learn).

SELLING AT THE BOOTH

(3 hour shifts, stools available for sitting down)

DEMONSTRATING DURING FEST

(2 ½ hour shifts in lobby)

Look for sign-up sheets for these tasks on the table in the Narthex beginning June 25 and also on-line with the Sign-up Genius.

If you have questions, contact Doris Barnaal, Ann Naslund, Bev Sheridan or Carrie Solberg.

P.S. Through the years we have worn out some of Good Shepherd's krumkake irons and are now interested in purchasing a used iron in good condition.

BAKING DATES

Monday, July 17: 8:30am & 1:30pm

Tuesday, July 18: 8:30am & 6:00pm

Wednesday, July 20: 8:30am & 1:30pm

Thursday, July 21; 6:00pm

Monday, July 24: 8:30am & 1:30pm

BOOTH SHIFTS

Thurs. eve, Friday all day & eve, Saturday all day & eve

DEMONSTRATING – all day Friday & Saturday

- If you cannot work an entire shift, indicate what times you would be available. * * *

Welcome New Members !



Connie and Tom Buresh

Tom was born in Charles City, Iowa and Connie in Osage, Iowa. They both lived in the Saratoga, Iowa area and graduated from Riceville High School (though not the same year!). They've lived in Decorah for 1 1/2 years, moving from the Waukon area, where they lived for 10 years. Prior to that, they spent 29 years in West Union, Iowa and raised their 3 children there.

Tom taught junior high math and coached for 33 years, retiring from teaching in West Union. He became pastor as a second career and served the Zalmona & Rossville

Presbyterian Churches near Waukon. Connie was a child care provider in West Union for 29 years and then a para-professional in the Allamakee Community School for 9 years. They're both retired now and "full time busy!"

Tom likes to hunt, fish, and golf. Connie likes to garden, knit, and read, and both enjoy traveling and spending time with their family, especially their 10 grandchildren. Tom is a member of the Luren Singing Society and Connie is a member of the Northern Lights Women's Chorus.

"The people are what drew us to Good Shepherd. We enjoyed Pastor Amy and felt very welcome when we visited early on. So many people greeted us and always invited us to join in the fabulous coffee fellowship after church!"

Lisa, Steven, Soren and Vera Zittergruen

Steven spent his childhood in Monona, Iowa. Lisa spent hers in Williamsville, Illinois. They met in college and - after schooling and a five-year stint in Milwaukee - relocated to Decorah in January. Lisa is a Mayo family physician with Winneshiek Medical Center, and Steven is trained as a Lutheran pastor but spends his time right now as a stay-at-home dad. They both enjoy travel, good literature, and time with their children. Lisa is an avid runner. Steven loves to cook and to play golf.



Soren (4) is in pre-school at Kinderhaus at Good Shepherd. His passions are outside play, time with friends, consuming books, and building things. He is a great big brother to Vera (1), who stumbles fearlessly from hug to hug, quickly shakes off falls, loves eating and sharing meals, and is just starting to learn words! Both children were born in Milwaukee.

Welcome New Members !



Hayley Jackson

Hayley was born and grew up in St. Charles, Illinois, one of the western Chicago suburbs. She's lived in Decorah 1 1/2 years and is currently the Archivist at Luther College. She has a deep interest in music and has played viola for many years, and currently plays with the Oneota Valley Community Orchestra. She also played handbells in her church choir while growing up. Hayley's an animal lover and enjoys volunteering at the Humane Society of Northeast Iowa. She's very interested in history and enjoys reading, visiting museums, and traveling. She likes to bake, watch British mysteries, and do crossword

puzzles.

"I was drawn by the welcoming and inviting community at Good Shepherd--I've experienced nothing but kindness and open arms from church members since I began visiting. Even though I wasn't a member, I always felt welcome to join and participate. I'm also drawn to the many ways Good Shepherd serves our community and look forward to contributing. I feel the love and fellowship of Christ in this community and am grateful for it."

Lois and Mark Finanger

Mark was born in El Paso, Texas and grew up in Decorah. Lois was born in Waterloo, Iowa and grew up in Denver, Iowa. Mark considered Decorah his hometown since age 2. Lois considered Decorah her permanent home from 1973, when she started Luther College. Both are retired after teaching in Norway (4 years) and Saudi Arabia (30 years). They now spend time engaged in a variety of physical, mental and social activities. Most importantly, though, they follow their children and grandchildren and pursue "lifelong learning and a wholesome, active lifestyle as a family."



Mark and Lois enjoy running, scuba diving and sailing. They're avid readers and sports enthusiasts, and love to travel near and far. Over the years, they've been involved in scouting, youth baseball, soccer and swimming associations, as well as book clubs. They love camping and hiking with their two golden retrievers, Finn and Nora.

They have 3 children, Lars (37), who's in sports marketing in The Woodlands, Texas; Hans (33), who's a certified Rolfer™ in Decorah; and Andrew (27), who's a solar energy sales consultant in Boulder, Colorado. They also have 3 grandchildren, Kaia (6), Elin (3), and Libby (1).

Welcome New Members !



KJ Rebarcak

KJ was born and grew up in west central Illinois, and moved to the Quad-Cities area when she was 19. She's had a small apartment by herself in Decorah since September, and is now renting a house as of May 15. She and her husband Dan are looking forward to selling their house in DeWitt, Iowa and once again sharing a household!

Their beloved cats Sammy and Jiri will be moving to Decorah as well. In January, KJ began a warehouse job with Viking Mountain Tool Works in Decorah. The business mostly sells woodworking tools, but a few other things too. Before that, she did a lot of work with greenhouses, gardens, native prairies, etc.

KJ enjoys canoeing, hiking, tent camping, gardening, weightlifting, walking, reading, and being in nature. She also loves to cross-stitch, but finds it hard to make time for it. "I was already a member of an ELCA church in Davenport, so that was what I looked for in this area. The decision to join Good Shepherd was extremely easy. Pastor Amy and the congregation were warm and welcoming from the very first time I attended a service. I felt at ease immediately. I look forward to participating more fully in church activities once life is more settled for me and my family."

Bonnie, Chris, Erik, and Hallie Johnson

Bonnie was born in Clarinda, Iowa, and Chris was born in New Hampton, Iowa. They've lived in Decorah for 2 years as of this summer. Chris is currently the director of Vesterheim and Bonnie teaches history for Bismarck State College. History, museums, reading, playing board games, spending time with friends and family, being outside, traveling, theatre, art, and music are passions for the whole family. Their children, Erik and Hallie, were both born in Dickinson, North Dakota. Erik will be a senior and Hallie will be a junior this fall. They both enjoy theatre, music, reading, being outside, playing games, traveling, and playing with the family's puppy Macbeth (Mac).



When asked "What drew you to Good Shepherd?", the Johnsons responded, "Lots of friendly faces!"

Welcome New Members !



Christy, Bobby, and Viola Vrtis

Christy was born and grew up in Faribault, Minnesota, and spent her summers on Star Lake in northwestern Minnesota. Bobby was born in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. His family moved around a lot, eventually settling in Richmond, Virginia. They've lived in Decorah for almost 4 years, moving from Eugene, Oregon in August, 2013.

Bobby is an assistant professor of theatre at Luther College, and Christy is the Executive Director of the Oneota Film Festival and a freelance videographer/video editor and writer. Their daughter, Viola, is 4 ½ years old.

Bobby likes to read, kayak, hike, and do art projects with Vi. Christy likes to read, watch movies, hike, kayak, and sing and dance with Vi.

Vi is currently in pre-school at Kinderhaus, and her favorite things at school are play and snack. She likes to explore nature, make art, play, and snack!

"We were drawn to Good Shepherd's spirit of outreach and social justice for all people. We appreciate Good Shepherd's values of equality (and value) for all people. We were also impressed by the warm and welcoming community spirit of like-minded people that we felt on our first (and each subsequent) visit."



Kids Lunch Club is a returning community summer program serving up grab and go lunches for Decorah area kids. **Starting Monday June 5**, Kids Lunch Club is open weekdays through the summer.

Kids can swing on by Monday-Friday at John Cline Elementary from 12:00-12:30 pm and at the Freeport Park from 12:45-1:00 pm and pick up a sack lunch packed with freshly prepared foods, fruits, and veggies.

It is estimated that up to 150 kids – just in Decorah – go without adequate access to meals during the summer months. During the school year, students have access to lunch at school, but during the break, many kids and families struggle. So as a community, we've mobilized volunteers to pack and serve lunches to make sure that kids in our community have meal opportunities during the summer. Please help us by telling others about Kids Lunch Club, by volunteering, or by making a donation to the program.

Good Shepherd will host and supervise the lunch packing each Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Go to kidslunchclub.org and scroll down the page a bit to sign up to volunteer or to donate to the program.

A Letter from Kinderhaus

Dear Good Shepherd,

Every Spring the earliest Dandelions in Decorah show up on the south side of Good Shepherd near the Sanctuary. They are like a magnet for the children at Kinderhaus, drawing them close with their simple beauty and the promise of yellow pollen blush on their cheeks. We make bouquets and crowns and



necklaces. They are stirred into pretend soups, mixed with the creeping Charlie and taken home as presents for Moms and Dads. None of this would be possible if the church followed Luther College's lead by spraying poisons on the lawn to kill these plants that bring such joy to children. All of us at Kinderhaus - children and adults alike – have profound gratitude for the forbearance you show every year. We know not everyone in the congregation smiles on this choice, but you continue to place the church on the side of public health instead of a cosmetic statement by creating a “perfect” lawn. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I have included a picture taken last week and several drawings made by the kids to show their love of Dandelions. Please share this letter with your congregation and know that it is appreciated by all of us. Your leadership on this issue will be celebrated throughout the community.

Bless you, Steve McCargar for Kinderhaus Families

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES, May 16, 2017, 7 P.M.

Present: Pr Amy Larson, Jim Fritz, Megan Buckingham, John Moeller, Heather Cote, Lise Kildegaard, Luther Snow, Amalia Vagts, Reg Laursen and Jeri Laursen.

Preparing our Hearts and Minds to Serve

Devotions were given by Jeri Laursen.

Approval of Minutes of March Council meeting: Vagts moved, Buckingham seconded to approve the minutes as printed in the April newsletter; passed.

Adoption of the Council meeting Agenda: Background check item was moved from the Education Committee report to New Business as it required a motion. August devotions will be given by Amalia Vagts and November devotions by Luther Snow. R. Laursen moved, Vagts seconded to adopt the agenda as amended; passed.

No Old Business

New Business:

J. Laursen moved to joyfully receive Chris, Bonnie, Erik and Hallie Johnson as new members and April and Judd Larson as Associate Members. Cote seconded. Passed.

Kinderhaus Extended Hours: R. Laursen read the following motion from the P/M: As long as Kinderhaus has space at Good Shepherd they may extend their hours to 3 p.m. beginning in the fall. No second required. Passed. Rent will be adjusted. Kinderhaus asked if they could have a week long camp this summer and the dates they brought forth did not conflict with any activities at Good Shepherd so P/M approved.

David Judisch asked if Good Shepherd could be in charge of the Thursday, October 19 Community Meal at First Lutheran. R. Laursen moved, Buckingham seconded that this request be approved. Passed.

Background Checks: Pr. Amy has checked with Church Mutual regarding rates to do background checks. Vagts moved to take the necessary funds from the Contingency Fund line item 491 for background checks this year. R. Laursen seconded. Passed. Church Mutual has different packages for the background checks. Those working with children will do the Volunteer Package and Volunteer Driving Package. Pr. Amy, Pr. Marion, Brooke Joyce, Jenny Werner, Don Berg, Joyce Epperly, John Moeller and Jeri Laursen will be the Employee Standard Package. Pr. Amy will further investigate the frequency of administering the checks and report back to council. The goal is to do these checks before VBS in August.

Recurring Work of the Body – Committees, Pastor and Other Officers

Education Committee: Heather Cote

Youth will offer their thanks to the congregation and teachers/helpers by sharing a short bible verse, giving thanks, and singing during the worship service on May 21. Celebration will follow with cake during Fellowship.

Evangelism Committee: Lise Kildegaard

David Lester has agreed to coordinate the Welcome Friends and Neighbors Picnic on September 10. The committee is exploring ideas to make the nursery more welcoming (spare diapers, wipes, redo the activity bags, etc.)

Property and Management Committee: Reg Laursen

Sidewalk grinding has been done and two solar lamps have been installed by the walkway to the main entrance of the church.

The committee has been exploring Solar Panel Insurance. Church Mutual cannot be used. Kate Narveson, owner of the panels, will have the obligation to insure.

Stewardship Committee: Amalia Vagts

The committee recommended the following adjustment to Ministry Teams: Assign each able member to two quarters, no specific team. Each person is expected to do at least two roles per quarter and serve at least two quarters (i.e. four times per year, total). They will also recruit a contact person for each month who will help fill in empty slots.

Amalia will continue as the Stewardship Committee representative to Council for this year. Daniel Grainger will need to be replaced (as of July).

Worship and Music Committee: Luther Snow

The committee is exploring summer worship needs and will again offer a Scandinavian Service on Nordic Fest weekend.

Pastor Amy's Report:

Diane Kvamme died on May 12. Her memorial service will be May 26 at 1:00. Pr. Marion will officiate as Pr. Amy will be gone for continuing education.

Kid's Lunch Club will have packing nights at Good Shepherd each Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. June 6 to August 15 (except for VBS week). 2-3 Good Shepherd members are needed as supervisors to oversee the packing in our kitchen will be needed for those packing nights.

Jerry and Kris Frank have transferred to Glenwood Lutheran Church in Decorah. There are two weddings coming up this summer.

Amalia Vagts thanked Pr. Amy for her leadership the past couple years.

President: Jim Fritz

Fritz asked committees to do their Continuing Resolutions with their committees so we can vote on any changes at the June meeting. A 2/3 vote of the whole council is required to change a resolution.

Vice President: Megan Buckingham

SET has met and are moving forward with exploration conversations with Committees and Sub-Committees and Affinity Groups within the church. Paper copy questionnaires will probably be used for groups who frequently use the church facility.

Secretary: Jeri Laursen – no report

Treasurer: John Moeller

Total income year to date: \$71,956.73

Total expenses year to date: \$67,380.67

Net income year to date: \$ 4,576.06

Buckingham moved to approve, R. Laursen seconded; passed.

Announcements: June Newsletter Deadline is May 18, 2017

Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, June 20, 2017, 7 p.m.

Adjournment at 8:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Submitted by Jeri Laursen, Congregation Secretary

June 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship-Radio Broadcast 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour | <p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Closed 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ANON | <p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30 AM Education committee 4:00 PM Mary Circle 5:00 PM Kids Lunch Club packing | <p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 1:30 PM Property and Management Committee 6:30 PM Space Exploration Task Force | <p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 5:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:30 PM Worship and Music Committee | <p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 PM Stewardship Committee 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery | <p>3</p> |
| <p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship-Radio Broadcast 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 3:00 PM Flood Bucket Filling Party | <p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON | <p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30 AM Education committee 4:00 PM Mary Circle 5:00 PM Kids Lunch Club packing | <p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Aase Haugen Communion 1:00 PM Wellington Pl. Communion | <p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 5:00 PM Decorah Community Meal 6:30 PM Space Exploration Task Force 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | <p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Maxine Swigurn Memorial Service 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery | <p>10</p> |
| <p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NE IA Synod Assembly 9:30 AM Worship-Radio Broadcast 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour | <p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON | <p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Kids Lunch Club packing 7:30 PM Indivisible NE Iowa | <p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 5:00 PM Decorah Community Meal 6:30 PM Space Exploration Task Force 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | <p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 5:00 PM Bible Study with Pastor 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | <p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery | <p>17</p> |
| <p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship-Radio Broadcast 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour | <p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON | <p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Kids Lunch Club packing 7:00 PM Council Meeting | <p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry | <p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | <p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery | <p>24</p> |
| <p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship-Radio Broadcast 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour | <p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON | <p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Kids Lunch Club packing 7:00 PM CIA Circle | <p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | <p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | <p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery | <p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wedding - W...K. Anderson |