



The Shepherd's Voice

March 2017

Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

We have been having important and difficult conversations about how we as a congregation live out the biblical mandate to welcome the stranger considering executive orders and policies about refugees and immigrants. At Adult Forum on Sunday, February 19, we discussed some possible responses proposed by the Social Justice Subcommittee. There was a wide range of perspectives and concerns voiced. I'm grateful that we had such open, honest, respectful conversation. Thank you to all who participated in that discussion and in the one we had at Bible study later that week. The Social Justice Subcommittee heard the concerns shared at the forum and they are now working to offer other responses. There will be more opportunities to discuss our response and to consider Lutheran teachings and ELCA statements that offer perspectives and guidance about engaging as a congregation in the public sphere.

Another issue discussed at that forum and in a forum in December was the possibility of Good Shepherd participating in the ELCA AMMPARO Welcoming Congregations Network. AMMPARO (an acronym based on the Spanish word *amparo* which means refuge) is the ELCA strategy for **A**ccompanying **M**igrant **M**inors with **P**rotection, **A**dvocacy, **R**epresentation, and **O**pportunities. There was strong support at both forums for Good Shepherd to participate in the Welcoming Congregations Network. At the February Congregation Council meeting, the Council voted that we do this.

Here is a portion of the letter inviting ELCA congregations to join the Welcoming Congregations Network. "Welcoming Congregations make a commitment to:

- welcome and minister to migrant guests and identify a contact person in the congregation who speaks enough Spanish for basic communication; (*please let me know if you can help with this*)
- attend occasional meetings of the Welcoming Congregations Network in your synod for mutual support, fellowship and training; (*this network is not yet established in our synod but we are exploring how to help create it.*)
- participate in conference calls to be updated on the current situation of migration of children and families and receive policy updates; and
- advocate for public policy that will positively impact the current immigration crisis – including working in partnership with the ELCA Washington Office and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service on immigration reform."

"Becoming a Welcoming Congregation does not require a commitment by the whole congregation but rather a commitment by the pastor and a small team of members. Welcoming Congregations are not offering shelter or employment but merely are willing to be a church home for migrant children and families in the same way that congregations of several generations ago welcomed Lutheran migrants from Europe and helped them navigate life in their new home. Joining the Welcoming Congregations Network provides congregations with a concrete and feasible strategy for connecting local and global mission while increasing their witness and capacity for ministry to the immigrant community. It is also a powerful way to respond to God's call in Matthew 25 – to welcome our Lord Jesus as he comes to us in the stranger." See more on AMMPARO at elca.org/ammparo.

This congregation has such a rich history of offering welcome to the stranger. The commitment to welcome immigrants and refugees was affirmed by all the speakers at the recent forum and Bible study even as we struggled with how best to live out this commitment as a congregation. We need to listen to scripture, tradition, our history, the larger church, and one another. Please watch for more opportunities to learn, discuss and take action together.

Peace to you in Christ, Pastor Amy

Council President's Message

Greetings to all!

I find myself, once again, back in this familiar role. I am so pleased with the challenges we are tackling today versus those we struggled with a couple years ago. It's a much happier position to be in, I assure you! Thanks to you all for your continued support.

Thanks to all members of the congregation who volunteer for the various committees and duty responsibilities that are required to do the daily business of the church. I would encourage all members to strongly consider participating in this portion of our church lives together. We all have a voice, we all have different strengths and gifts to offer and I think it imperative (for a healthy congregation) that we all take our turn to offer these gifts. While it's still nearly a year away before the Nominations Committee begins it's work for the 2018 year, I hope you will prayerfully consider offering your time and talents to Good Shepherd when asked.

Thanks also to all for your generosity in your giving to the church. Your level of financial commitments has made the job of the Council so much easier as we have the flexibility to work on many worthy projects without constantly worrying about money.

We will be undertaking an ambitious Capital Campaign to address needs throughout our church facilities. We know that the roof over the newer addition hallways and office spaces will need to be fixed this year due to a design flaw in the original construction. Other projects that are being considered include repainting the Sanctuary, new carpet in the Sanctuary and adjoining hallways/offices/etc., upgrading the kitchen, renovating the Annex for use by the Sunday School, and exterior upgrades. We have made significant progress in this area already but these remaining projects will require a Capital Campaign due to the overall costs being far beyond our normal budgets. It is hoped that this "one time" effort will meet the needs of the congregation for many years into the future. Several committees are already working on this project. Additionally, we will be meeting with an ELCA Church Building Consultant who will guide us through this process. This Consultant will assist us in assessing priorities as well as helping in creating appropriate budgets for each phase of the effort. Watch this space for future updates!

We welcome Pr. Marion Pruitt-Jefferson as our newest Shepherd for the Good Shepherd flock! When we assessed our needs several years ago, the congregation spoke in unison about needing increased visitation with our shut-ins and members in care facilities. Pr. Marion will help provide additional coverage in this vital outreach. In addition, she will serve as liaison to several committees, preach when Pr. Amy is away, and occasionally lead Adult Forum and Confirmation. While this is a one year contract, made possible by a generous, private donor in the congregation, the position will be reviewed for potential continuation in future years. We welcome Pr. Marion to this new role in our congregation!

Good Shepherd has a long and storied history of helping immigrants and those in need. Our congregation has done this during difficult times in the past. There is much need for our Christian support for those in need at this time. It will be challenging, it might be difficult. But it is the right thing to do. Would we recognize Jesus today if he walked among us? Could he be amongst those in need? Hard things to consider, but consider we must.

I look forward to our work in the year ahead.

Peace, Jim Fritz, Good Shepherd Congregational President

Lent - Easter Good Shepherd



SIMPLE SOUP SUPPERS
will follow the midweek
services.



What Does This Mean? Insights from Martin Luther for Our Faith Today

Martin Luther questioned the assumptions of his day and offered new interpretations about the life of faith. This Lent, as we commemorate the Reformation, we'll look at his teachings on central aspects of faith and re-interpret them for our day. These hymn-based services will be followed by simple soup suppers. Sue Blair will offer a puppet ministry for the children as their parents are waiting in line for soup.

Wednesday Noon Organ Concerts

March 8, Gregory Peterson
March 29, Brooke Joyce and Friends
April 5, Luther College Organ Studio

Evening Services

March 1: Ash Wednesday (with Communion), 7:00 pm
March 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5: 5:30 pm

Special Guests: Collegium Musicum, March 8; Cantorei, March 15

April 13: Maundy Thursday (with Communion), 7:00 pm
April 14: Good Friday, 7:00 pm

Easter Services

April 15: Community Easter Vigil (with Communion), 7:00 pm
April 16: Easter Sunday (with Communion), 9:30 am

2017 GOOD SHEPHERD LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

Music Director, Brooke Joyce, announces what has become an annual series of three noontime organ recitals during Lent. The performances are scheduled from 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. on the Wednesdays listed below. Attendees are welcome to bring a 'brown bag' lunch.

MARCH 8 - Gregory Peterson - Program will include Chorale Preludes for Lent from *Das Orgelbüchlein* by J. S. Bach and *79 Chorales* by Marcel Dupré. Greg is professor of music, college organist, and head of the Music Department. During his years as a Luther College student, Greg served as Good Shepherd's organist.

MARCH 29 - Brooke Joyce and Friends

APRIL 5 - Luther College Organ Studio - Caleb Bendull, Kristen Carlson, Emily Riley, Christine Skogen, and Andrew Sorenson. Their program will include music by Dieterich Buxtehude, Michel Corrette, César Franck, Jacques Lemmens.

March Adult Forums

MARCH 5TH Christian Advocacy and Community Organizing: Sometimes issues in national, statewide and local politics can seem far beyond our ability to influence or engage in a meaningful way. But as Christians, we are called to be actively, critically engaged in the world God has entrusted to us. If you're feeling at a loss for how to respond to issues of concern, we invite you to participate in a conversation about advocacy, community organizing, and effective ways to let your representatives know your opinions on legislative issues. Megan Buckingham and Kate Narveson will be facilitating this conversation. Megan has a wealth of experience in community and grass roots organizing, and Kate has been an active member of our Social Justice committee and has experience reaching out to our state and national representatives.

MARCH 12TH Medieval Liturgical Drama for Easter Sunday: As we make our way through Lent towards Easter, it is always interesting to learn more about the ways that Christians from earlier times observed this sacred time. On March 12th, please join Luther College Prof. of Music History, Melanie Batoff whose topic will be: "Medieval Liturgical Drama for Easter Sunday." On Easter Sunday, medieval Christians gathered to commemorate Christ's Resurrection by performing the Visit of the Sepulcher, a liturgical drama of the three Marys' visit to Christ's abandoned tomb. The way that this biblical account was brought to life through singing and reenactment will be discussed.

MARCH 19TH Continuing the Conversation – Good Shepherd's Response to the Immigration and Refugee Crisis: We will have another opportunity to discuss possible Good Shepherd responses to recent changes in national policies regarding refugees and immigrants, including the recent expansion of deportation actions. This will be a continuation of the conversation that was held on Feb. 19th, and will include more background information on the ELCA's social statement on immigration and refugees.

MARCH 26TH Introduction to J.S. Bach's Mass in B Minor: Come join Jonathon Struve as he introduces us to J.S. Bach's Mass in B Minor. This monumental work will be presented by the Luther College Nordic Choir and Symphony Orchestra on Sat., March 1st. Because of its size and scope, the Mass is not presented often, so this is an unusual opportunity to hear it performed live right here in Decorah. Jonathon's presentation will help us all to appreciate and enjoy this beautiful work even more.

March 2017 Ministry Team Schedule

DATE	LITURGY/WORSHIP	USHER *Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator, (F) only food
Wednesday March 1 7:00 pm	Asst. Minister: Megan Buckingham Communion Server: Jane Jakoubek Cantor: Reg Laursen	1. Jeri Laursen 2. Reg Laursen	
Sunday, March 5	Asst. Minister: Kate Narveson Communion Server: Jerrine Jacobsen Cantor: Daniel Raney	1.*Karl Jacobsen 2. Lindsay Erdman Greeter: Jeri Laursen Acolyte: Karla Erdman	1.*Karla Erdman 2. Lindsay Erdman 3. Marion Pruitt Jefferson 4. John Jefferson 5. Clara Knudson
Wednesday March 8, 5:30 pm	Asst. Minister: Reg Laursen	1. Jeri Laursen 2. Reg Laursen	Soup Supper
Sunday, March 12 Girl Scout Sunday	Asst. Minister: Marv Slind Communion Server: Megan Buckingham Cantor: Kate Narveson	1.*John Moeller 2. Chris Hick Greeter: Abby Larson Acolyte: Lulu & Poppy Bellrichard	1.*Doris Barnaal 2. Clara Knudson 3. Marion Pruitt Jefferson 4. John Jefferson 5. Micky Slind
Wednesday March 15, 5:30 pm	Asst. Minister: Megan Buckingham	1. Jonathon Struve 2. Don Berg	Soup Supper
Sunday, March 19 <u>BROADCAST</u> <u>9:30 am Live</u>	Asst. Minister: Richard Ylvisaker Communion Server: Jim Buzza Cantor: Jason Rausch	1. *Lindsay Erdman 2. Karla Erdman Greeter: Joyce Epperly Acolyte: Karla Erdman	1.*Jim Fritz 2. Liz Fritz 3. Lindsay Erdman 4. Diane Kruse 5. Kathy Buzza
Wednesday March 22, 5:30 pm	Asst. Minister: Bob Larson	1. Ed Epperly 2. Jonathon Struve	Soup Supper
Sunday, March 26	Asst. Minister: Marv Slind Communion Server: Nathan Larson Cantor: Dennis Barnaal	1.*Lindy Moeller 2. Chris Hick Greeter: Rae Jean Rathje Acolyte: Jayda Winkelman	1.*Marilyn Rue 2. Dan Bellrichard 3. Micky Slind 4. Rae Jean Rathje 5. Jennifer Self (F)
Wednesday March 29, 5:30 pm	Asst. Minister: Jonathon Struve	1. Ed Epperly 2. Joyce Epperly	Soup Supper

March Altar Guild: Bob Larson (convener), Chris Hick, Elizabeth Kaschins, Linda Wolfs

March Scriptures

March 1 Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 <i>Return to the LORD, your God</i>	Psalm 51:1-17 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)	2 Corinthians 5:20b-- 6:10 <i>Now is the day of salvation</i>	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 <i>The practice of faith</i>
Sunday, March 5 Lent 1	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 <i>Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil</i>	Psalm 32 Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)	Romans 5:12-19 <i>Death came through one; life comes through one</i>	Matthew 4:1-11 <i>The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days</i>
Sunday, March 12 Lent 2	Genesis 12:1-4a <i>The blessing of God upon Abram</i>	Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 <i>The promise to those who share Abraham's faith</i>	John 3:1-17 <i>The mission of Christ: to save the world</i>
Sunday, March 19 Lent 3	Exodus 17:1-7 <i>Water from the rock in the wilderness</i>	Psalm 95 Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)	Romans 5:1-11 <i>Reconciled to God by Christ's death</i>	John 4:5-42 <i>Baptismal image: the woman at the well</i>
Sunday, March 26 Lent 4	1 Samuel 16:1-13 <i>David is chosen and anointed</i>	Psalm 23 You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)	Ephesians 5:8-14 <i>Awake from sleep, live as children of light</i>	John 9:1-41 <i>Baptismal image: the man born blind</i>



Lent Begins March 1st

LENTEN AND EASTER OFFERINGS will be given to the Campaign for the ELCA and the NE IA Path to Citizenship. The Campaign for the ELCA is our opportunity to invest in the future of this church, deepen relationships and expand ministry opportunities that serve our neighbors and communities in the United States and around the world. PATH TO CITIZENSHIP is a northeast Iowa organization whose mission is to aid people who need help navigating the complicated path to legal status. Please write **Lent** on your check to support these causes.

Each year during Lent, the children at Good Shepherd seek to raise awareness and provide an opportunity to give towards special mission projects. This year's projects focus on environmental stewardship and caring for God's creation; to be divided among the Good Shepherd Reformation Grove and Lutheran World Relief for a Sustainable Response to the East African Drought. Donations will be received beginning next Sunday, March 5th and will continue through the Lenten Season. Place these donations under the tree in the Sanctuary during the offering. Please write **Sunday School Project** on your check. Thank you for your support of these projects!

Good Shepherd Announcements

LENT BEGINS MARCH 1 - Ash Wednesday worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be March 1, 7p.m. Lenten midweek worship services will be on Wednesdays at 5:30pm, March 8-April 5. Simple Soup Suppers will follow worship. Our theme for Lent is "*What Does This Mean? Insights from Martin Luther for Our Faith Today*".

Worship leaders and soup supper servers are needed for Lenten evening worship services.
Please sign up in the hallway to help with worship and on the Narthex table to help with soup suppers.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE: *Free Indeed*, a Lenten devotional with daily readings from Luther's Small Catechism, is available on the Narthex table. This devotional will help us enter our Lenten theme: *What Does This Mean? Insights from Martin Luther for Our Faith Today.*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be held March 3, 9 a.m., at Good Shepherd. This is an ecumenical service shared by six congregations in Decorah. The Bible study and worship service, written by the WDP Committee of the Philippines, invites us to explore concepts of economic justice both in the Philippines' context and around the world, and our response in light of God's generosity. (Matthew 20:1-16).

FROM THE ALTAR GUILD ... A CHANGE IN

LITURGICAL SEASONS: The Time After Epiphany ended last Sunday, the Transfiguration of our Lord. The penitential forty-day season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 1. The liturgical color for this season of the church year is purple - the color of penitence and in remembrance of the royalty of Christ who reigns from the cross. In our sanctuary, it is the primary color of the pieces hung in the gates of our weavings, the altar and pulpit paraments, and pastor's stole. A purple cloth is draped on our Shepherd's Cross during this season. Purple ribbons are wound on the grapevine wreaths hanging on our entrance doors. The tone of this season is restraint, even austerity; flowers

will not be present until the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

THANK YOU FROM DONNA BAHR - Dear Friends at Good Shepherd, Our family was overwhelmed with the caring support shown us at this time. Brooke, the Choir, Liz Fritz, Kitchen Servers (sorry to keep you so long!). Thanks to the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team for their gift to the 'four kids'. Above all, we have appreciated Pastor Amy and Pastor Marion for their counsel and guidance. Thank you! Donna Bahr, Steve, Jan, Michelle and Jackie.

THE NEW GRAPHIC on the main entry wall was designed, created, and installed by congregation member, Erik Berg. Erik first studied lettering and design at the Northwest Technical College in Detroit Lakes, MN and later attended the Waukesha County Technical College in Pewaukee, WI where he completed his degree in graphic design. Although he works full time as a courier at Luther College, he maintains a part-time business creating signs and graphic designs through his business, Erik Berg Design. The graphic in the entry is made from cut vinyl. The hand-drawn Good Shepherd logo image was put into a graphic program and traced with a tool so it could be cut. The project was paid for from a grant received from the Depot in fall 2016.

LAUNCH OF WEEKLY UPDATE: The weekly update, "The Shepherd's Voice: Weekly News and Events" was launched on Wednesday, February 8, and will be sent via email midweek to all recipients who already receive the monthly newsletter. Several people with Gmail addresses have reported they have not received it. However, they have discovered the weekly update in their "Promotions" inboxes. Here is advice on how to permanently move an email. Left-click and hold on the email and drag it from the Promotions tab over to the Primary tab. Releasing the mouse will drop the email into the Primary tab. After it is dropped, Gmail will ask if you wish to make the change permanent.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: will meet March 15 at 1 p.m. at the home of Jane Kemp. All are welcome.

NEW MEMBERS: Good Shepherd welcomes new members *Mike Bollinger, Katie Prochaska, Oliver and Adeline Bollinger; Sarah Olson, and Rebecca Boehm Shaffer and David Shaffer.* Please consult the Online Directory or call the church office for their contact information.

CONCERT - Hans Peterson LC '90 and his son Nelson Morlock, will offer a concert in Mart ⁷ Thursday, March 2, 7-9 PM. The concert is open to the community with no charge for admission. Hans and Nelson will offer original music with a rich blend of voice, piano, guitar and violin. Hans and Nelson will collaborate with Cantorei for some of their songs Thursday night and in Chapel, Friday, March 3, 10:30 a.m. in the CFL. You can learn more about Hans' music at: <https://hanspetersonmusic.com/> Sponsored by College Ministries.

AASE HAUGEN SENIOR SERVICES ANNUAL MEETING is planned for 2pm on Sunday, March 5th at Vennehjem. Please share with your churches delegates any comments or questions you may have. All church members are invited to attend this annual meeting. From their website: "Over the years, Aase Haugen has evolved and changed with the needs of the community, always bringing its best and most innovative solutions to the table. Our operations are still guided by a group of local congregations, and we still enjoy the family atmosphere with those who stay with us. Our services have grown, our facility has changed, but our dedication to those who need us has not."

AREA SENIORS DINNER – A free meatball dinner is being held for all area Seniors sponsored by Gemini Inc., March 11, 11:30 a.m. at Nob Hill , 2955 HWY 52, Decorah. Please RSVP to Cindy Bechtel, 382-

4235 by March 3rd. This invitation comes from Kim Kavan.

FUTURE OF THE FOOD PANTRY – First Lutheran will be hosting a meeting on Monday, March 13, 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to discuss the future location of the Food Pantry. This faith based ministry has been in operation for over 20 years and has served thousands of clients in NE Iowa, serving 11 counties. The demand for our small pantry has increased to a point that we need more space for display, storage and refrigeration. It is our hope that we will be able to find a new location in Decorah that will allow us to better serve our communities. We will be discussing our future plans for the pantry and how our Social Concerns Committee is preparing for this important transition. All congregations are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

LUTHER COLLEGE TO COMMEMORATE 'THE REFORMATION OF EVERYTHING' As part of our commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Luther College is excited to announce the upcoming conference: "Liberating Grace: The Power of the Reformation in the World Today," March 31-April 1. The conference will feature keynote addresses by Lutheran pastor and author Nadia Bolz Weber on Friday evening and a Saturday morning lecture on the ELCA's global and ecumenical work with refugees and immigrants by Ralston Deffenbaugh of Lutheran World Federation. Bach's Mass in B Minor will be offered Sat. night in the CFL. A schedule of the conference is posted online at: <https://www.luther.edu/reformation-2017/conference/schedule/> Register for the conference online at tickets.luther.edu or via the Luther Ticket Office, (563) 387-1357 or boxoffice@luther.edu.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MARCH 23



Thank you to everyone who helped with the funerals we have had in the past few months at Good Shepherd. It is a joy to have so many people volunteer in this service to our church family. As many of you know, this is a whole church project (not just WELCA) men and women both participate. Thanks again!

2017 WELCA booklets are available in the WELCA cubicle by the church office. All are welcome to participate in the WELCA activities.

World Day of Prayer will be held Friday, March 3 at Good Shepherd beginning at 9:00 am. This is an ecumenical service shared by six congregations in Decorah. The Bible study and worship service, written by the WDP Committee of the Philippines, invite us to explore concepts of economic justice both in the Philippines' context and around the world, and our response in light of God's generosity. (Matthew 20:1-16). Good Shepherd will be providing refreshments.

During Lent we will again be collecting items for LWR Personal Care Kits to reach out to families in need around the world. For families coping with war, poverty and disaster, these items mean the opportunity to stay healthy and build better futures. We will collect items on the following Sundays.

March 5 – lightweight bath-size towel (dark color recommended)
March 12 - bath-sized soap (4-5 oz)
March 19 - adult-size toothbrush in original packaging
March 26 - sturdy combs
April 2 - metal nail clippers

We will be asking the children to help assemble the kits in April and prepare them for shipping on May 6.

Women of the ELCA's Tenth Triennial Gathering will be held July 13-16, 2017 in Minneapolis. We'll gather under the theme "All Anew", inviting every women to explore personal and communal transformation. Registration is \$350. Register at welcatg.org or send an email to women.elca@elca.org for a registration packet (or contact Bev Sheridan).

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.

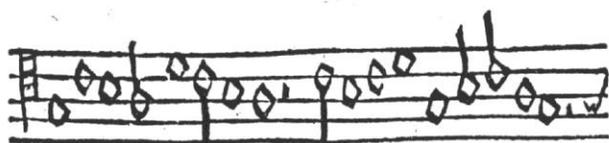
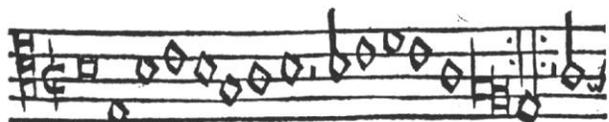
March Circle Schedule

3/7 - Mary Circle - 4:00 p.m. - Lynn Sootheran hosts at the church
3/8 - Miriam Circle - 2:00 p.m. - Carol Hasvold hosts
3/14 - Anna Circle - 9:30 a.m. - Agnes Hjelle hosts
3/28 - CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Judy Schoel hosts

The Music Page

The Hymns of Martin Luther, part II

Der. cxxix. Psalm De profundis.



Aus tieffer not schrey ich zu dir/herr Gott erhöz
mein ruffen. Dein gnedig oren ker zu mir vnd mey
ner bit sye offen. Den so du wilt das sehen an/ wie
manche sund ich hab gethan.
Wer kan herr fur dir bleiben

Luther's hymn as published in 1524

During the season of Lent, we will hear several settings of Martin Luther's hymn "Aus Tiefer Not" (Out of the Depths I cry to you), for which Luther provided both the words and music. On 3/5 and 3/19, the choir will sing new settings of stanzas one and two of the hymn, and on 3/12, the band will play a chorale version of the tune. Below is the text from stanzas 1 and 2, which can also be found in the ELW, #600:

- 1 Out of the depths you lifted me.
I praise you from on high;
for when I called on you for help,
O God, you heard my cry.
- 2 You caught me as I spiraled down
into the deepest pit.
You carried me where I can see
your works from where I sit

Lenten Organ Series

Good Shepherd's noontime Lenten Organ Recital Series returns on Wednesdays, March 8, 29, and April 5 in the sanctuary. The performances will start at 12:15 and finish by 12:45.

MARCH 8 - Gregory Peterson - Program will include Chorale Preludes for Lent from Das Orgelbüchlein by J. S. Bach and 79 Chorales by Marcel Dupré. Greg Peterson is professor of music, college organist, and head of the Music Department. During his years as a Luther College student, Peterson served as Good Shepherd's organist.

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APRIL 5 - Luther College Organ Studio - Caleb Bendull, Kristen Carlson, Emily Riley, Christine Skogen, and Andrew Sorenson. Their program will include music by Dieterich Buxtehude, Michel Corrette, César Franck, Jacques Lemmens.

March Music Schedule

3/5 Choir (Out of the Depths, st. 1)

3/12 Band

3/19 Choir (Out of the Depths, st. 2)

3/26 Handbells

Choir and Band rehearse each Wednesday at 7 and 8 pm. Handbells rehearse 3/26 at 8:45 am prior to the service.

Summary of 59 responses

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY PROJECT



Congregation Participant Short Survey

This short survey is designed to help congregational leaders understand participant perceptions of key missional areas. Please mark inside the box that best represents your perception of the congregation. Please do not mark between boxes. (e.g. Marking 1,2,3,4, or 5 is okay. Marking between 3 and 4 or 3.5 is not okay)

	Poorly		Some-what		Great	
How well do these phrases describe your congregation?	1	2	3	4	5	
<i>Example</i>			X			
Worship nurtures people's faith				18	41	(4.69)
Deepens people's relationship with God				22	34	3 skips (4.61)
A clear sense mission			1	14	44	(4.73)
Excitement about the congregation's future			2	8	49	(4.80)
Always ready to try something new	1		9	20	29	(4.29)
A positive force in the community		1	4	21	33	(4.46)
Works for social justice/advocacy			3	13	43	(4.68)
How well does your congregation...	Hardly at all		Well		Very Well	
Incorporate new members into congregational life			10	19	29	1 skip (4.33)
Seek out and use the gifts of members of all ages		1	8	18	32	(4.37)
Build strong, healthy relationships among members	1	2	8	22	26	(4.19)
Manage disagreements in a healthy respectful manner		1	8	28	20	2 skips (4.18)
Address social concerns (helping those in need)		1	3	18	37	(4.54)
Equip members to share their faith with others		4	16	15	24	(4.00)
Interact with the local community		1	11	20	27	(4.24)
Help members live out their faith in daily lives		1	10	22	26	(4.24)

Demographic Information: Tell us about yourself.

Your role in the congregation: Active participant ⁵⁸ Lay leader Rostered leader called here Visitor ¹

Your age: under 18 ⁵ 18-24 ² 25-34 ⁴ 35-44 ¹² 45-54 ¹⁶ 55-64 ²⁰ 65-74 75+

Your ethnicity: White/Caucasian African American African National Amer. Indian/Alaska Native Asian Latino/Hispanic Arab/Middle Eastern Multiracial Other

After collecting the completed surveys, the congregation's survey administrator can then enter the information at www.congregationalvitalitysurvey.com. Results of this survey will be presented as a PDF report which may be used to complete the new congregational life items on the Annual (parochial) report.

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Congregation Survey Comments January 2017

What is one thing you value about this congregation?

Ages 25-34: (5 responses)

- That there is space enough and welcome enough for people of all beliefs.
- Conversations, people, relationships, consistency.
- The kids and youth! And the intergenerational connections.
- When we joined as members we were very warmly welcomed into the congregation. We have always appreciated the hospitality of Good Shepherd!
- Evangelism and social justice are not only interwoven together, but strongly reflected in the mission of the church.

Ages 35-44: (2 responses)

- Welcoming new members with open arms and genuine regard for their participation.
- How friendly, humble and caring it is.

Ages 45-54: (4 responses)

- We go out on a limb with respect to social justice. And our worship is fantastic.
- The engagement of the congregation with the community and the need of humanity at large.
- Friendliness of our members.
- The strong sense of community. We share a common purpose/vision; multi-generational.

Ages 55-64: (12 responses)

- The welcoming attitude. The love and caring found here. The way the congregation reaches out to each other, the community and the world.
- The strong social fellowship and relationships show signs of a healthy congregation. That health translates to a more effective congregation.
- The members of the congregation.
- How well they show love, acceptance, hospitality and the love of Christ to everyone.
- Made to feel very welcomed and asked to take part in different areas of the church.
- People strengthening each other in faith through direct personal indications of love.
- Music
- Music/worship
- The congregants are (for the most part) engaged in the work of the church.
- Welcome/Inclusive
- Our commitment to social justice.
- Excellent preaching; excellent music; the possibility of shared leadership, stewardship, faith development.

What is one thing you value about this congregation? (continued)

Ages 65-74: (16 responses)

- Togetherness.
- Welcoming atmosphere.
- Worship, music.
- Strong emphasis on social justice.
- Active in numerous social justice activity.
- Many people committed to social justice by the congregation.
- The feeling of family support members provide for each other.
- There are so many things! The ways GS is an inclusive community.
- Always the music, including Brooke, choir, band, bells, cantors.
- Love and Joy in our worship.
- One thing! That's a tall order. Social justice initiative, living out Christ's mission is #1.
- Relationships/support.
- Very inclusive congregation.
- Caring community with growing living membership and beautiful music.
- Pastor Amy.

Ages 75+ (20 responses)

- Sense of congregational community
- Pastoral leadership
- Fellowship...any many others!
- Very friendly, concerned for all. We are not highly educated or financially on a level with many but this congregation is so accepting and genuine. Living out the Christian life in sharing and caring.
- I enjoy getting to know the new people.
- The general feeling of caring and support I feel here.
- How our new pastor has brought us together to continue to be a wonderful place to worship ad care for everyone near and far!
- Welcoming, caring.
- Friendly.
- Continuing sensitivity to social justice issues.
- The ability to see the broad picture in our whole church.
- Theological position; small size
- High commitment to social justice.
- Good working relationship.
- Participation.
- The new spirit and willingness in our community and the wider church and world.
- Strong worship life.
- Being friendly.
- Our resiliency.
- Good working relationship.

What is one wish you have for this congregation?

Ages 25-34:

- More opportunities/draw for youth and young adults.
- Be more active in the community in a conversational way (i.e. “my church” that Pr. Amy started); recognize this is a church that fosters and grows emerging leaders!
- I would like to see this congregation deepen and broaden leadership – in formal ways (committees, ministry), in Ministry Teams and informally in the life of the congregation.
- Continue to be a voice for those oppressed. Good Shepherd does a great job of this already – keep it up!
- Continue to be a voice and to lift the voices of those who work in social justice!

Ages 35-44:

- Active civic engagement and in regard to unacceptable government decrees.
- Be creative in offering services to generate revenue for the congregation.

Ages 45-54:

- I wish that we could devote more resources (personal, time, space) to individual spiritual formation. We are very active and social justice oriented but this is not given much attention. I think our physical space could be adapted to better conform to this need. There aren't quiet/private spaces for this kind of ministry to occur. In general, I think we need to look at alternative multi-functional uses of our space to better support ministry.
- A group endeavor to write a new liturgy (or more than one liturgy) that is specific to the history and image of the congregation, i.e. strong focus on sheep.
- More community activism.

Ages 55-64:

- More members, better use of facilities, help for other groups using our facilities.
- Stay strong. Maintain a healthy variety in mission and activities to engage all in the congregation.
- To continue to show the love of Christ to everyone and to stay involved in our community and the world as a force for good, justice and peace.
- To continue to grow as a welcoming church but also where it allows the Pastor to have personal family visits.
- Build on social action through hands-on collective effort.
- Continued growth.
- The need to expand the sanctuary due to the many in attendance.
- That there be more opportunity for forward-thinking (e.g. we are spending money to repair the existing roof; should be rather be spending money on a roof addition that meets future needs.)
- Continued growth and vitality.
- Continue to work on opportunities for our youth.
- More connections between members, more intergenerational connections, more combined energy. Church as a place we get energy to do things together, more shared leadership, more social justice to heal the world NOW.

Ages 65-74:

- To grow.
- Congregation be more intentional about inviting members to share their gifts (whether perceived to be small or large)
- Active incorporation of immigrants into our community, on level of Iowa's and Good Shepherd's work with Vietnamese and Hmong refugees in 70s and 80s.
- Continued strong emphasis on social justice.
- Sunday church attendance becomes "over flowing".
- Increase our younger families numbers.
- Sponsor a Syrian refugee family (or families). If that ever becomes a reality under the current administration OR if that's not possible, support a refugee family from another country that has had refugees fleeing it's borders.
- To continue to grow in terms of younger members, single, married, those with children.
- That we continue to bring in new families.
- Bring more young families into the congregation.
- Continue growing in every way, perhaps resulting in major physical plant enhancements. Momentum has been strong so there is a foundation on which to live. It's time for action, led by our extraordinary pastor.
- Continued growth.
- Take a serious objective view of emotional political issues before declaring Christ's view of political discussions. Personal biases are overwhelming without solid statistical supportive evidence supporting. Very emotional political views. Measure fear and understand what is really driving it.
- Contribute more to higher education costs to members.

Ages 75+:

- More active contribution to the Christian responsibility for societal and national problems.
- Continued growth with young families and children!
- It will be great to have consistent janitorial service (sorry to be so practical!)
- To grow.
- Continuation!
- Exploring alternative worship structures for Sunday services.
- All is well!
- Need more time for this.
- That we could reach and involve more people who have disconnected with the church.
- Children- Annex modification
- To review our physical structure while never neglecting all of our mission. We need to plan for spending \$\$\$ to renew for our own sakes as well as for what we present to guests and prospective members.
- Continued friendly fellowship.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES, February 21, 2017, 7 P.M.

Potluck, Council orientation, SOAR Process

Megan Buckingham gave devotions.

As we ate dinner together each table conversed about the strengths and opportunities of our congregation.

Notes from that discussion about opportunities:

Group 1:

- 1) Expand what we are offering to youth and children; energy, support while recognizing all ages.
- 2) Be attentive to and support Pr. Marion; usefulness to Pr. Amy and the church and to evaluate this new addition to our church life.
- 3) Recognize differing opinions on Social Justice; realize what it means to be a community of faith.

Group 2:

- 1) Identify the theme or focus of our "outwardness" as an umbrella for our actions such as social justice.
- 2) GS has lots of leaders, need more followers/participants, utilize their talents.
- 3) Establish great personal connections between members of our congregation (ex: small groups, GS+). Create more intentional interactions.

The council will continue to look at the Aspirations (what we want to focus on to live into God's preferred future for us) as we continue throughout the year.

Congregational Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

R. Laursen moved, Kildegaard 2nd to approve the minutes from the January 2017 meeting; passed.

R. Laursen moved, J. Laursen 2nd to adopt the agenda; passed.

New Business:

Marion Pruitt-Jefferson thanked the Council and congregation for the opportunity to serve. She is grateful to the donor and to Pr. Amy. She went over some of what she has been doing the past 3 weeks.

Lyle Otte, as a representative of the Social Justice Sub-Committee, attended the meeting to speak on the AMMPARO request. The committee recommends that Good Shepherd become part of the AMMPARO network. AMMPARO is the strategy adopted by the ELCA at the churchwide assembly in 2016 to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. This is an ELCA initiative that works well with our Path to Citizenship efforts. After discussion Snow moved to accept the request of the Social Justice Committee that GS become an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation. Kildegaard seconded; motion passed. The Social Justice Sub-Committee will continue discussion of this project and lay out plans for consideration. The Social Justice Sub-Committee led a forum on Feb. 19 on Good Shepherd's response to the Executive Order on Refugees and Immigrants. The sub-committee heard the concerns raised at the forum and will be offering other opportunities for discussion and action.

Lent/Easter Offering designation: The council decided to designate donations to 1) The Campaign for the ELCA and 2) Path to Citizenship. J. Laursen moved, Snow seconded; passed.

Depot Outlet designation request from the Tree Committee: The Tree Committee requested that GS apply to the Depot for a \$2000 grant to be used by their committee. J. Laursen moved to table this request until we have further information about the use of the money and have a mock-up of what their plans are. Kildegaard seconded; passed.

Facilities Review Committee: On March 13 an ELCA Building Consultant will come to Good Shepherd and meet with a small group of representatives from the Executive Committee, the Sanctuary Refurbishment Committee and the Property and Management Committee to talk about GS's building needs, including demographics, budget, and a capital campaign. Jim Fritz, Jeri Laursen, Megan Buckingham, Reg Laursen, Bob Naslund, Marty Steele and Jane Kemp were put forward to be these representatives. Moeller moved to have these 7 and Pr. Amy meet with the ELCA consultant; Cote seconded; passed.

New Members: Sunday, February 26 is New Member Sunday. Cote moved to receive the following new members to our roster: Mike Bollinger and Katie Prochaska, Oliver and Adeline Bollinger; Sarah Olson; and David and Rebecca Shaffer. Snow seconded; passed.

Old Business:

Roof repair update: On hold until funding is addressed

Audit Report: A written Audit report was distributed. Highlighted was the fact that two non-related members should count the offering on Sunday mornings.

Recurring Work of the Body – Committee, Pastor, and Officer Reports:

(Committee reports are sent out to council members prior to the council meetings each month for review.)

Education Report: Heather Cote

The theme for the Sunday School Lenten Project is trees/the environment. The Sunday School special offering for Lent will be split between “The Good Shepherd Reformation Grove” (tree planting) and the Lutherans Restoring Creation project. The Education Committee will be in charge of the March 15 soup supper and the children are excited to participate. Jennifer Self, Sarah Hanssen and Allie Grainger will be helping with Sunday School this spring. Also, the committee is seeking more people to meet on March 5, April 12 and May 7 for “Faith 5” discussions with the children.

Evangelism Report: Lise Kildegaard

There is some concern that the Ministry Team Greeter slots are often going unfilled. It was suggested that the committee make a list of persons who would be comfortable in that position and contact them to encourage them to sign up. If members have ideas for GS+ they should pass them along to the committee. New pew cards for Lent will be inserted in the attendance pads.

Stewardship Report: No report

Property and Management Report: R. Laursen

St. Grubby’s Day will be April 23. Steve McCarger has been hired as our custodian. Reg Laursen will be the liaison between Steve McCarger and the GS congregation. Reg will be substitute custodian when Steve is unavailable. Any concerns should be directed to Reg or a member of the P/M committee, not Steve. Thank you to Erik Berg who has created a wonderful stencil on the wall of the main entry. It is not very visible on dark days. Hence the committee plans to install a regular switch for the light in the entry way rather than the current automatic switch which is activated by night darkness. A push button lock has been installed on the door to the Church office.

Worship Report: Snow

We will have soup suppers on Wednesday evenings following the Lenten services. Sign-up sheets are now ready.

Pastor’s Report:

Pr. Amy expressed joy in having Pr. Marion as a partner in ministry. Pr. Amy has a new practice of bringing Fair Trade chocolates to the homes of first time guests in worship with a note “such a treat to worship with you, here is a treat for you and from our fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate project.” She feels this has been very fruitful and allows for good conversations with guests. Next year Confirmation will be held on Wednesday nights, that is beginning already this spring. Pr. Amy is serving on the elections committee and the nominating committee for this year’s synod assembly.

President’s Report: In the absence of Jim Fritz the Synod Assembly voting member action was tabled.

There were no reports from the Vice President or Secretary.

Treasurer’s Report: Moeller

For January: Total income was \$17,652.14 yielding Net Income of \$4,873.68 after expenses.

R. Laursen moved to approve the Treasurer’s report, Snow seconded; passed

Announcements:

March Newsletter Deadline is February 23, 2017.

Next Council meeting is Tuesday, March 21, 2017

R. Laursen moved to adjourn, J. Laursen seconded; passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by Jeri Laursen, Congregational Council Secretary

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>BROADCAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Member Sunday 9:10 AM choir warmup 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Adult Forum - Davis Project for Peace 10:45 AM Sunday School / 11:45 AM Sunday School 1:00 PM Erik Sessions 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ANON 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM CLA Circle 7:00 PM White Privilege Conversation 	<p>28</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>1</p> <p>Recycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM No Adult Bible Study during Lent 1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting 5:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>3</p> <p>World Day of Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM World Day of Prayer 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Kinderhaus Open House
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinderhaus Open House 8:45 AM Choir Warm Up 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Adult Forum 2:00 PM Aase Hagen Annual Meeting 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ANON 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30 PM UIA River Conference Gathering 4:00 PM Mary Circle 7:00 PM White Privilege Conversation 	<p>7</p> <p>Morgan comes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Pr. Amy @ Aase Hagen 12:15 PM LENTEN ORGAN 2:00 PM Miriam Circle 5:30 PM Lenten Midweek 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>8</p> <p>Jenny arrives 8:15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Travel Club 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Girl Scout Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Band Practice 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Adult Forum 10:45 AM Sunday School 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ANON 7:00 PM ELCA Building Consultant Visit 	<p>13</p> <p>Jenny out of the office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:15 AM Opportunity Homes 9:30 AM Anna Circle 7:00 PM White Privilege Conversation 	<p>14</p> <p>Jenny out of the office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00 PM Sunday School making Soup Supper 5:30 PM Lenten Midweek 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>15</p> <p>Jenny out of the office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 5:00 PM DecoraH Communitiy Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:30 PM Worship and Music 	<p>16</p> <p>Jenny out of the office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>BROADCAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Choir Warm Up 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Adult Forum 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ANON 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Council Meeting 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM Opportunity Homes 11:00 AM Communion at Eastern Star 5:30 PM Lenten Midweek Worship 6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM White Privilege Concluding Dialogue and Desserts 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Handbells Practice 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour / Coffee Sale 10:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Adult Forum 12:15 PM Sandy Good Recital 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM AL/ANON 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM CLA Circle 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 12:15 PM LENTEN ORCAN RECTAL 5:30 PM Lenten Midweek Worship 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>29</p> <p>Recycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>31</p>

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



March 2017 Newsletter

The Shepherd's Voice

In this Issue

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

