

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

701 Iowa Avenue

Decorah IA 52101



May 2017

The Shepherd's Voice

Pastor Amy Larson

Assistant Pastor: Marion Priutt - Jefferson

Music Director: Brooke Joyce

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Werner

Email: decorahgoodshepherd@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org>

Church Office: 563-382-3963

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION





The Shepherd's Voice

May 2017

Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God, grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus.

We have seen an increase in worship attendance since January. A December, 2016 article in *The Atlantic* magazine indicated that progressives have been turning to church more often since the inauguration of Donald Trump. I suspect people of all political viewpoints are seeking community in an increasingly polarized country. A psychiatrist friend also recently mentioned a survey she'd heard indicating that the number of people who report they have one or fewer people with whom they can talk deeply has increased from 20% to 40%.

I sense that people are seeking genuine community across political differences. They are seeking a place where they can experience and practice reconciliation. At church, we learn that we are reconciled with God and we get to practice the ministry of reconciliation in our life together as a congregation - in fellowship hour and other fellowship opportunities, in the music and education ministries, in council meetings and committee work.

This means that what happens in our building in worship is so very connected to God's work of bringing peace and reconciliation to the whole creation. Our social justice ministry is not only what happens outside the doors of the congregation; it is central to what happens in this space. Here we experience and practice reconciliation and we are sent out to live it out in our daily lives.

Do our buildings (main and annex) help us in the work of deep hospitality and reconciliation? Do they tell people, "there is a place for you here, there is room for you here?" Do our buildings tell guests, children, those who didn't grow up in the church, LGBTQ people, immigrants, people with disabilities, and others that they are welcome, that there is space for them? Does our sanctuary tell people this is a place where we encounter the living God and are transformed?

These are questions we get to ask now in a process we're calling Space Exploration. This process is being led by the Space Exploration Task Force - Jim Fritz, Megan Buckingham, Reg Laursen, Bob Naslund, Amalia Vagts, Jane Kemp and me - with help from ELCA Building Consultant Anne Gerrietts. The name "Space Exploration Task Force" is a way the task force is having some fun with this process, evoking astronauts doing space exploration. I hope we can have fun with this process as a congregation. This is a time to explore, to dream, to look at the big picture and envision possibilities. We're not at the stage of proposing specific recommendations but at asking big questions. We do have to fix the roof, and soon - that will happen this year. The Congregation Council has decided that we will take a short-term loan to pay for the roof, if needed, and will repay the loan quickly or as part of any capital campaign we decide to do. We don't want to rush the process of discerning what is needed to help us carry out God's work of reconciliation within and beyond our congregation. Watch for more information about how to be in conversation with the task force.

Peace to you in Christ, Pastor Amy

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/12/trump-mainline-protestant-churches/510185/>

Council President's Message

Greetings to All!

As the days slowly warm and turn into spring I am eager to get outside and put my fingers in the soil. It's the farm boy in me! As I write this we are one day away from Earth Day and this next Sunday is St. Grubby's Day. It's a great time to be good stewards of this blue marble we all live on.

Good Shepherd will be helping the environment while celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his Theses to the church door. We will celebrate both of these events by establishing the "Good Shepherd Reformation Grove". The original idea for this Grove came about when we received a request to donate cash towards a grove that is being established in Germany. The price for a single tree was pretty expensive and our conversations centered around trying to do something on our own green spaces here at Good Shepherd. As we have lost several ash trees on the church grounds recently (along with the hundreds throughout Decorah that will die due to the Emerald Ash Borer) doing something to help reforest our community struck a resonant chord. Additionally, Good Shepherd is the only church in Decorah with a green space and ours is quite large.

A small "Tree Committee", made up of Ed Epperly, Jane Kemp, and myself began meeting to explore options. We later included the services of local Landscape Designer Scott Hervey and Arborist Drew Stevenson. What has come from that is a comprehensive landscaping design for our green spaces at Good Shepherd.

The Sunday School has become involved with their Lenten Offering project to assist in the Good Shepherd Grove and Lutheran World Relief. They raised \$2,000 for this effort. A significant achievement! The landscape design has been reviewed and approved by both the Property and Management Committee and the Church Council. Grant applications will be made to the Depot Outlet, Trees Forever, and the Winneshiek County Community Foundation. The goal is to raise \$8,000 to complete the plantings within the landscape design.

These plantings will include a wide range of plant diversity, flowering bushes and trees, and several larger "specimen" trees. The design preserves our open green space, provides more privacy to the sanctuary, develops outdoor meeting spaces, and will be a colorful visual element throughout the spring and summer seasons.

The Tree Committee also hopes to include provisions in our grant writing that will possibly offer trees to congregation members as well. This will depend on our success in the grant writing process but we hope to expand the efforts to member's homes and yards as well.

A large planting event will occur this fall when all of these trees and bushes will be installed. Commemoration of Martin Luther and his influences on the church will also be held at that time. Additionally, the church will be added to the list of churches throughout the world who have done similar commemoration events. We will be added to the website: <http://www.lutherbaum.de/> which catalogues all "Luther Trees" throughout the world.

A drawing of the landscape design will be posted in the church in the near future. This project will bring new beauty to our church property, will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, will help reforest our community, and will be a small effort to help save our planet. It seems like a wonderful effort to celebrate on this Earth Day/St. Grubby's Day weekend!

Peace, Jim Fritz, Good Shepherd Congregational President

Worship Notes

From the Altar Guild ...

Altar Guild thanks all who shared beautiful flowering plants that graced the altar area for our Easter celebrations: Jane Kemp and the Norris family in memory of Don Kemp; Ann and Bob Naslund in memory of their parents; Gail Judisch; Elizabeth and Ed Kaschins, Pastor Amy and Pastor Marion.

We are now in the fifty-day Season of Easter. It began with the celebration of the resurrection at the Saturday evening Vigil of Easter, the night before the festival worship of Easter Sunday. The Easter Season will conclude on June 4, the Day of Pentecost - the Eighth Sunday of Easter. The liturgical color for this season is white - the color of light, gladness, and joy in Christ - with gold as an alternate color. Our altar and pulpit paraments, pastor's stole, and the gates in the weavings incorporate both of these colors. Our Paschal Candle, the largest candle in the worship space, is moved into a place of prominence during this season. Symbolizing Christ's Easter triumph over sin and death, it was lighted first from the Vigil fire and now before each service begins; it is extinguished after worshipers leave the sanctuary. It will be extinguished for the last time on the Day of Pentecost, but is always lighted for baptisms and funerals. Our 39-inch tall candle, designed as The Good Shepherd Paschal Candle, has sculpted colored wax symbols applied by artisans - the Shepherd's crook, a cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, embossed squares of the four liturgical colors (purple, blue, green, red), and a small flock of sheep. Five wax nails with incense imbedded in the tips are inserted into the cross and the year 2017 is added at the bottom. New this year is a set of companion altar candles - note the sculpted sheep applied toward the base of each. These candles will be present throughout the Easter Season.

May Scriptures

Sunday, May 7 Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42-47 The believers' common life	Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)	1 Peter 2:19-25 Follow the shepherd, even in suffering	John 10:1-10 Christ the shepherd
Sunday, May 14 Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 7:55-60 The martyrdom of Stephen	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)	1 Peter 2:2-10 God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts	John 14:1-14 Christ the way, truth, and life
Sunday, May 21 Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 17:22-31 Paul's message to the Athenians	Psalm 66:8-20 Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)	1 Peter 3:13-22 The days of Noah, a sign of baptism	John 14:15-21 Christ our advocate
Sunday, May 28 Seventh Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:6-14 Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 God will sustain and restore those who suffer	John 17:1-11 Christ's prayer for his disciples

A New Processional Cross for Good Shepherd -

Submitted by David Faldet



The art committee at Good Shepherd asked me to propose a design using local materials, including a fossil, and connecting a new processional cross to our local environment. Once we were in conversation, the committee suggested some of the specific design elements you see in the finished cross. Several other elements were developed as Harley and I worked on the project.

Here are what some of the elements of our processional cross mean to me.

First, the cross is meant to be carried, as the original cross was. The staff for this particular cross is re-purposed: a very old garden rake handle and a repurposed iron bar extension. I wanted, in the staff, a look and feel of having been used before, though the metal has been gilded for its new, repurposed life.

Second, the gastropod fossil at the heart of the cross, picked up by Norma Refsal on the banks of the Upper Iowa, is over 400 million years old. It is a reminder, to me, of the opening of the Gospel of John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The beautiful symmetry of this ancient piece of rock is a reminder of the order at work in our world's beginning.

Third, the design is a cross on a cross. The slender cross is a visual reminder of the body on the original cross. This central cross is made of red cedar, an aromatic wood prized for its resistance to rot and insects. Local red cedars, growing on rock bluff edges, have been ring dated as the oldest trees in our area, some over 400 years old. Cedars were also part of Jesus' world: the kind of timber used in Solomon's temple in Jerusalem and in fishing boats for Lake Galilee. Our local cedar has core wood the color of flesh and blood. The little cedar cross of four members, broken in the center, is fixed with metal nails, recalling those used on the hands and feet of Jesus, and a wooden peg, recalling his crown of thorns. The small cross has arms that fall from the nails toward the center, as Jesus' arms would have done as they bore his weight.

Fourth, other imagery of the cross is meant to connect to baptism. The center design, carved in basswood by Harley and conceived by Jutta Anderson, is a pattern and color that represents water. The clay medallion on the back side of the cross echoes the fossil on the front, but replicates the shell that is part of the clay tile in our baptismal font. The cross was used as a tool of death by Roman authorities and the church of Jesus' day. To Christians, however, it is an instrument of salvation. The cross is therefore a reminder that one view of baptism is a drowning of an old and cursed self, to allow the birth of a washed-new redeemed one.

Fifth, the cross features materials that remind us of our daily surroundings: the river, the rocks, trees such as bur oak, basswood, cedar, and hickory, and the clay of our soil. We practice our life, as followers of Jesus, where we are, and we have to believe that God loves us for the variety and uniqueness of each and every one of us, planted here as we are on the west side of Decorah.

Finally, the elements of the cross are meant to echo the whole of our material life: light, clay, water, and living wood. The cross is meant to be a microcosm of the macrocosm, as in the original, where the human world hung in balance from a trio of nails.

Harley and I thank Good Shepherd for the opportunity to work and express ourselves through this, our gift to the congregation.

May 2017 Ministry Team Schedule

DATE	LITURGY	USHER * Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only
Sunday, May 7 New Member Sunday Broadcast (11a.m.)	Asst. Minister: Jane Kemp Communion Server: Krista Holland Cantor: Dennis Barnaal	1.* Jeri Laursen 2. Russ Freerking Greeter: Steve Holland Acolyte: Leah Holland	1.* 2. Marie Freerking 3. Norma Refsal 4. Charilyn Hover
Sunday, May 14	Asst. Minister: Jon Christy Communion Server: Jeri Laursen Cantor: Kate Narveson	1.* Janeen Christy 2. Rae Jean Rathje Greeter: Reg Laursen Acolyte: Maggie Norris	1. *Joyce Epperly 2. Cheryl Donlon 3. Bev Nelson 4. Bev Sheridan
Sunday, May 21	Asst. Minister: Communion Server: Megan Buckingham Cantor: Reg Laursen	1.* Jeri Laursen 2. Greeter: Janeen Christy Acolyte: Jack Norris	1. * 2. Beth Jones 3. Jutta Anderson(F) 4. Marie Freerking
Sunday, May 28 Broadcast Live 9:30 a.m.	Asst. Minister: Reg Laursen Communion Server: Jane Jakoubek Cantor: Jonathon Struve	1.* Jonathon Struve 2. Martha Steele Greeter: Reg Laursen Acolyte:	1.*Jeri Laursen 2. Beth Jones 3. Diane Kruse 4. Martha Steele
Special Event: Eastern Star Bingo Party Tuesday May 9, 2:00 – 3:00		80 prizes Quarters, fruit, chips, candy Arrive at 1:30 to set up	1. Ann Naslund 2. Sarah Olson 3. Joyce Epperly
ALTAR GUILD: Jerrine Jacobsen (convener), Karl Jacobsen, Ann Naslund			

***There are still a few openings left to fill in May.

Please sign up at church or online, www.signupgenius.com or through the Good Shepherd website, goodshepherddecorah.org.

Good Shepherd Announcements

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

On May 7th, we will welcome the following to our congregation:

Tom & Connie Buresh

Mark & Lois Finanger

Hayley Jackson

KJ Rebarcak

Bobby, Christy & Viola Vrtis

Steven, Lisa, Soren & Vera Zittergruen

Please consult the Online Directory for their contact information or call the church office.

BAPTISM ON MAY 7: Solveig Bellrichard will become our youngest new member that day! Join us to celebrate this new life in our church family.

1ST QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT FROM JOHN MOELLER

Our finances look okay for the first quarter. Our expenses have been about \$750 more than our income, and our income for this year is \$1,000 less than for the same time last year. I think the budget will be tighter than last year (recall, we had a \$10,000 surplus) so I encourage persons to keep up with their pledges.

The congregation was especially generous in supporting both the Sunday School and Lenten Projects. We met the goal of \$2,000.00 to be divided between the Reformation Grove and LWR. For the Lenten Project, we received \$3,525.75 to be divided between ELCA Campaign and Path to Citizenship.

LANDSCAPE UPDATE: The Landscape Subcommittee is making changes to the garden beds in the front of the church. Pinter's Gardens and Pumpkins will be pulling out the viburnum and assorted plants along the sidewalk leading into the Fellowship Hall and replacing them with columnar-shaped Medora Junipers. They will also refresh the Winona Rock in that bed. They will be planting three Lemony Lace Elderberry bushes in the bed to the west of the same

sidewalk to replace the Compact European Viburnum that have already been removed from that space. Finally, they will trim the two hydrangeas and three Ninebarks in the beds. Grasses and other perennials were cut back during St. Grubby's Day. The "Luther Serves" group from the Luther College Student Congregation spread mulch in the beds in front of the church and in Lynette's Garden. Special thanks to Fareway for delivering the mulch without charge.

GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

The final gathering of the season will be Wednesday, May 17 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the home of Joyce Epperly. All are welcome to join us.

ST.GRUBBY'S DAY : A very successful cleanup day had 40 adults and 15 children participate, performing 13 pretty significant tasks. A huge THANK YOU from the Property and Management Committee to all who worked and also those who helped fund the pizza fellowship that wrapped up the day.

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MAY 18.

THE LUREN SINGING SOCIETY AND LUTHER COLLEGE NORSEMAN will present their annual spring concert at Decorah Lutheran Church, Sunday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. Guest male singers from the Decorah Middle School and High School will also perform. A free will offering will be received for the benefit of Decorah's Food Pantries.

NEWS FROM THE DEPOT OUTLET: The Depot Outlet gladly accepts gently used clothing, books, furniture and other household items 24 hours a day/7 days a week! Check out the store. It is blooming with new Spring merchandise. Store hours are Monday -Friday, 9am-6pm and Saturday, 9am-6pm.

Good Shepherd Announcements

KRUMKAKE BOOTH AT NORDIC FEST: RAGBRAI will be 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 coming out soon. Volunteers are also needed to work the booth and for demonstration purposes. The RAGBRAI committee would like to have the stands open at 7 AM on Friday morning. If we have anyone who is an early riser and would like to see all the bikers in downtown Decorah up close and personal, working the Krumkake booth would be a good place to be. Please let Doris Barnaal or Ann Naslund know if this is your time of day! 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.

WCHFH TO DEDICATE HESPER HOME: Join Winneshiek County Habitat for Humanity in Hesper on Saturday, May 13, for two events—the dedication and open house for its 30th home and a game of vintage baseball. WCHFH will dedicate its latest home—a conversion of the Hesper Friends Church—at 1 p.m. at 1890 Co Rd A14 in Hesper. At 1:30 p.m., the Decorah Driftless Dodgers will take on WCHFH board members and friends in a vintage baseball game in an adjacent lot. Spectators should bring lawn chairs. Free will donations are welcomed.

SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT GROUP - Support for those who have lost a loved one to suicide beginning May 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm (1st Sunday monthly) Northeast Iowa Behavioral Health, 905 Montgomery Street, Decorah, IA.

Education

LENTEN THANKS - The Education Committee and our Sunday School children would like to thank the congregation for supporting our Lenten Projects. We met our goal of \$2,000 which will be divided between *Good Shepherd's Reformation Grove* and *LWR's Sustainable Response to the East African Drought*.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! Vacation Bible School will be held August 8 - 10 from 5:00 -7:30 pm each evening. The Education Committee is excited to announce that Kathryn Thompson will be coordinating our efforts this year with assistance from Megan Buckingham, Heather Cote and Anna Norris.

MAY 7 ADULT FORUM - RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Please join us on May 7th when Mariana Vega from Cedar Valley Friends of the Family will be with us to share important information about the issues of human trafficking in Iowa and specifically in our area. Mariana is originally from Postville and is a 2016 graduate of Luther College. She began her work in Decorah with Friends of the Family this past December. She has been meeting with a wide variety of community organizations in a 5 county area to discuss the problem of human trafficking and inform people about how we can all help to end this practice. We hope to see you there.



THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our LWR Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits. We were able to send 41 Personal Care Kits and 50 Baby Care Kits along with 5 blankets. The clean, fresh supplies in the Kits offer comfort and dignity to families in an otherwise challenging time. They will be shipped on to the warehouse on May 6.

Church Women United May Friendship Day will be held Friday May 5 at the Fellowship Room of Decorah UCC church with coffee at 9:00 and program at 9:30 Ruth Palmer will be the guest speaker.

The Northeast Iowa Synodical Women's Organization annual convention will be held June 17 at Wartburg College in Waverly. Convention registration forms and scholarship applications are available from Bev Sheridan. Education scholarship application forms are also available for women who are furthering their education. Scholarship deadlines are May 15, 2017.

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. Beverly Nelson and Beverly Sheridan are planning on attending the gathering. Please include them in your prayers. 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.
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.

May Circle Schedule

- 5/2 - Mary Circle - 4:00 p.m. - Marilyn Anderson hosts
- 5/9 - Anna Circle - 9:30 a.m. - Doris Barnaal hosts
- 5/10 - Miriam Circle - 2:00 p.m. - Carrie Solberg hosts
- 5/23 - CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Barbara Berg hosts

The Music Page

The Hymns of Martin Luther, part IV



Und da die tage ihrer reinigung/nach dem Gesetz Moses kamen/brachten sie in gen Jerusalem. Luce ij.

Mit fried vnd freud ich far dahin, in Gottes wille, Getrost ist mir mein hertz vnd sin, sanfft vnd stille, wie Gott mir verheissen hat, der tod ist mein schlaff worden.

Wgt fried vnd freud ich far dahin/ in Gottes wille/ Getrost ist mir mein hertz vnd sinn/ sanfft vnd stille/ Wie Gott mir verheissen hat der tod ist mein schlaff worden.

Our final exploration of Martin Luther's hymns for the spring season will be "Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin" (In peace and joy I now depart), for which Luther provided both the words and music. On 5/7, we'll hear a version played by the band, and on 5/14, the choir, band and handbells will play and sing the hymn together. Below is the text from stanza 1, which can also be found in the ELW, #440:

May Music Schedule

- 5/7 Band
- 5/14 Choir/Band/Handbells
- 5/17 Music Party!

Choir and Band rehearse Wednesday 5/3 and 5/10 at 7 and 8 pm. Handbells rehearse on 5/14 at 8:30 am.

In Peace and joy I now depart as God is willing,
and faith fills all my mind and heart, calming, stilling.
God the Lord has promised me that death is but a slumber.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES, April 18, 2017, 7 P.M.

Present: Pr Amy Larson, Jim Fritz, Megan Buckingham, John Moeller, Heather Cote, Lise Kildegaard, Luther Snow, Amalia Vagts, Bob Naslund and Jeri Laursen. Steve Holland attended as a guest.

Preparing our Hearts and Minds to Serve

Devotions were given by Lise Kildegaard. She played a beautiful song "Take Me to the Alley" by Gregory Porter.

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

Adoption of the Council meeting Agenda: Laursen moved, Cote seconded to adopt the agenda; passed.

Mission Endowment Fund update: Steve Holland

The Endowment Committee has been looking at the Guidelines and Continuing Resolutions of their committee to clarify the distribution of funds. Tim Schoel is the Financial Secretary of the committee. (Tim has been Financial Secretary for a number of years. The Continuing Resolutions allow for this- they state that the Financial Secretary can be an elected member of the committee or an ex officio member.) The Continuing Resolutions say that the distribution of funds can be done as follows: Up to 50% for the ELCA Church Wide Ministries, up to 30% for local area projects, up to 20% for grants to individuals, and up to 20% for Extraordinary Ministries. The committee would like to focus on Leadership and Education (EPIC, Seminary, Summer Camps, lay leadership assistance). Steve asked how the Council felt about this and said he would take thoughts back to the committee. The congregation would also be informed possibly through an Adult Forum. Vagts said we should have a focus but that it should be flexible. Snow moved to endorse the Endowment Committee's approach to focus on Leadership and Education Development. Kildegaard seconded; passed. Fritz suggested the committee make more of an attempt to bring the Endowment Fund up to the congregation and make them more aware of it.

SOAR: The Council has looked at **Opportunities** and **Aspirations** and now will look at **Results**. Vagts started conversation of the "yes and" comments printed under Aspirations. She felt that meant we should add to what other people say rather than an either/or. We need to be open to people saying "no" as well in order to say "yes" to something else. Balance, acceptance, stewardship, caretaking were words used.

Results: People should be free to participate in activities as they choose. Kildegaard said it is a bit like "Stone Soup" where everyone throws something in the pot. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. There should be freedom to follow and not always lead. Are we saying "no" to other people? How are we saying "yes"? Pr. Amy would like to see how our leadership develops for the future. Kildegaard said their committee is looking at spreading out smaller duties to more than committee members. Snow: 1) opening of communication for empowering others; 2) share stories of diverse participation.

Old Business:

Seminary Scholarship Allocation: We are currently supporting Nathan Wicks at \$3000/year and will do so for 2 more years. Amalia Vagts and Daniel Grainger will begin Seminary in the fall. A current student (River Needham) of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago also has a connection with Good Shepherd. We have budgeted \$8000 for Seminary Assistance. The proposal is to distribute this year's budgeted amount as follows: \$3000 for Nathan Wicks; \$1500 (fall semester) to Vagts and our other seminary candidate; \$300 to River Needham.

(Continued on page 12)

New Business:

Receiving New Members: New Member Sunday will be May 7. Vagts moved, Buckingham seconded to receive the following new members: Tom and Connie Buresh, Mark and Lois Finanger, Haley Jackson, Bobby, Christy and Viola Vrtis, and Steven, Lisa, Soren and Vera Zittergruen. Motion passed. KJ Rebarcak, who was received by the council at the March meeting, will also be welcomed on May 7.

Good Shepherd Reformation Grove:

The committee consists of Jim Fritz, Jane Kemp and Ed Epperly. Fritz showed the Council the plans drawn up by Scott Hervey. The approximate cost is \$8000. Snow moved to direct the committee to proceed with the project. Naslund seconded. Passed. The motion from committee to allow them to apply for grants from Trees Forever, The Depot Outlet and the Winneshiek County Community Foundation was approved.

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

Education Committee – Cote

The Sunday School's goal of \$2000 for the Lenten Offering (Reformation Grove and LWR) was met. The Council felt the tree with the growing number of leaves as the money was received was a great visual. In celebration of the end of the year, the Sunday School youth would like to say thank you on May 21 to all those who have been involved with their faith formation during the past year. They will offer a short thank you, prayer and song during worship as well as a cake to be served during Fellowship Hour. VBS will be August 8-10 with Kathryn Thompson coordinating.

Evangelism Committee – Kildegaard

May 7 is New Member Sunday. The Communications Sub Committee has been working hard on bookmarks and new visitor information sheet (placed in the Hospitality books). The idea of "deep hospitality" as discussed at the March Council meeting was embraced by the committee. There was a GS+ event over the Reformation weekend and there will be another possible GS+ event when the baseball field at Luther College is dedicated. It will honor Paul Solberg. The Evangelism Committee is interested in changing their name to the Welcoming Committee. We will discuss further how to do this.

Property and Management Committee – Naslund (for Reg Laursen)

St. Grubby's Day will be this coming Sunday, April 23. Moss Roofing has GS on their schedule for the reroofing project. Kinderhaus has proposed a sign and the committee approved it. It will be located on the parking lot side of the property with consideration to the tree planting plan. Naslund mentioned that two people fell outside on the sidewalk. P/M will be looking into smoothing the sidewalk and getting some lighting for safety.

Stewardship Committee – Vagts

The committee will meet on April 28.

Worship and Music Committee – Snow

The committee will meet on April 27.

Pastor's Report – Pr. Amy

Holy Week and Easter services were wonderful. Pr. Amy thanked Brooke Joyce, Pr. Marion, the altar guild, the band, the choir, ushers, cantors, Assisting Ministers, vigil readers, vigil fellowship servers, as well as Reg Laursen, Don Berg and Megan Buckingham for the miracle of an Easter Vigil bonfire and candle lighting in the rain!

(Continued on page 13)

Pr. Marion is assisting more with worship so that the congregation members can identify her as someone else who can provide them with pastoral care. Pr. Marion submitted a written report to the Council. We have had growth in worship attendance. Reconciliation happens here. There is a space for you.

We will welcome 6 households into the congregation on May 7. (names noted earlier)

President's Report – Fritz

Fritz asked committees to be sure to look over the Continuing Resolutions with their committees. Changes or revisions should be brought back to Council for approval.

Vice President Report – Buckingham

SET (Space Exploration Task Force) consists of Jim Fritz, Jane Kemp, Reg Laursen, Megan Buckingham, Amalia Vagts, Bob Naslund and Pr. Amy. They will be working with the congregation to explore what we want to do with our space – grow into, grow with us, what we envision. They will be talking to groups that use the space to change, add or alter. The committee is developing the questions they will ask, which will be along the lines of: “What do we want this space to do?” and “How do we do it?”

Treasurer's Report – Moeller

One-Fourth of Benevolences have been paid.

Lenten Offerings: ELCA Campaign and Path to Citizenship: \$3,525.75

Sunday School: Reformation Grove and LWR: \$2000.00

Total income year to date: \$51,884.81

Total expenses year to date: \$52,630.71

Net income year to date: (\$ 745.90)

Naslund moved to approve the report, Vagts seconded; approved

Announcements:

May Newsletter Deadline is April 21, 2017

Next Council meeting is Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Buckingham moved, Naslund seconded to adjourn, passed.

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Confirmation Sunday</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 Adult Forum 	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>6:30 PM AL/ANON</p>	<p>4:00 PM Mary Circle</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>6:00 PM Space Exploration Task Force</p>	<p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting</p> <p>5:00 PM Community Meal</p> <p>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p>	
<p>Baptism</p> <p>BROADCAST</p> <p>New Member Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Band Warm Up 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Adult Forum 12:00 PM Tau Delta Gam- 	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>6:30 PM AL/ANON</p>	<p>9:30 AM Anna Circle</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 AM Opportunity Homes</p> <p>10:30 AM Aase Haugen Communion</p> <p>2:00 PM Miriam Circle</p> <p>6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Travel Club 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>11:00 AM Education Committee</p> <p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>5:00 PM Rehearsal in Sanctuary</p>	<p>4:00 PM Scholl Recital</p>
<p>8:45 AM Choir/ Band/ Handbells Practice</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</p> <p>1:30 PM Luther College Jubilus Spring Concert</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>6:00 PM Mason Donnhue recital</p> <p>6:30 PM AL/ANON</p>	<p>9:15 AM Opportunity Homes</p> <p>7:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>Newsletter Articles Due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Decorah Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p>	
<p>Sun. School celebration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School Celebration 	<p>8:00 AM Pr. Amy away at Continuing Education</p> <p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p> <p>6:30 PM AL/ANON</p>	<p>Pr. Amy away at Continuing Education</p> <p>11:00 AM Nisse Preschool Practice</p> <p>7:00 PM CLA Circle</p>	<p>Pr. Amy away at Continuing Education</p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>11:00 AM Communion at Eastern Star</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy away at Continuing Education 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Nisse preschool 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>Pr. Amy away at Continuing Education</p> <p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p>	<p>Pr. Amy away at Continuing Education</p>
<p>BROADCAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy away at Continuing Education 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 	<p>Office Closed</p>		<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting</p> <p>5:00 PM Community Meal</p> <p>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>8:00 PM Band Practice</p>	<p>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p>	