

# *The Shepherd's Voice*

December 2017

## Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

In this season of giving thanks, I am so grateful for so many aspects of our life together at Good Shepherd. At this time, I particularly give thanks for:

The work of the Space Exploration Task Force (SET). The committee members spent countless hours listening to the congregation and thoughtfully considering what they had heard. They then came to consensus around recommendations for our space. In its November meeting, the Congregation Council endorsed those recommendations. You will find the SET recommendations in this newsletter. The next step is the formation of a Building Committee to carry out renovations. The Building Committee will interview and hire a designer or architect. It is being formed now.

The Reformation Tree Grove. Thank you to Ed Epperly, Jane Kemp and Jim Fritz for their vision and leadership in a project that enhances our beautiful outdoor space and honors the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Thank you to everyone who donated funds and helped plant trees.

The Place to Connect stewardship appeal. What a joy it was to hear people share their testimonies about how Good Shepherd helps them to connect with God, others and the world. The full report about Statements of Intent is forthcoming, but I can report that we have certainly met our goal of increasing generosity. We all need encouragement and support to live generous lives and we're offering that to each other in our work with stewardship.

The welcome people continue to receive at Good Shepherd. What a joy it is to welcome guests and new members together.

The children of Good Shepherd. It was wonderful to get to accompany six of them to the Youth Blast at Good Earth Village. It is a delight to see so many of them worshipping, playing handbells, and singing in worship. Thank you to the teachers and helpers. Please consider helping or teaching. You will be blessed by our wonderful youth.

Pastor Marion. Her presence and ministry have so enhanced our congregation and the ministry we do together.

Our worship life and the way we care for one another with funeral and memorial services. I look forward to Advent and Christmas as we claim the promise that God is with us in Christ Jesus.

Most of all, I give thanks for each of you. Together, we make up the body of Christ in this place. You are an important part of this Place to Connect.

Peace to you,

Pastor Amy



# Advent-Christmas

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



### Advent

**Sunday Services,**

**9:30 am**

**December 3, 10, 17, 24**

**Wednesday Services,**

**5:30 pm (Holden Evening Prayer)**

**December 6, 13, 20**

### Christmas Services

**Sunday School Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 17, 5:00 pm**

**Christmas Eve Worship**

**with Holy Communion and Candle Lighting**

**Sunday, December 24, 4:30 pm**

**Christmas Day Hymn Sing, Aase Haugen**

**Monday, December 25, 4:00 pm**



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

701 Iowa Avenue

Decorah, IA 52101

[goodshepherddecorah.org](http://goodshepherddecorah.org)

563-382-3963

## December Adult Forums

### **Sunday, December 3 - *The Art of Sister Mary Thomas, PCPA***

Brooke Joyce will show and tell about his cousin, Sister Mary Thomas, who has been a cloistered nun in Cleveland for more than 50 years. She is also a trained artist, having created large-scale murals for churches around the country. Her most recent work, "Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and the Communion of Saints," is a 16' x 30' mural, soon to be installed at the Vatican.

### **Sunday, December 10 – *Vesterheim's Role in the National Discussion on Immigration***

As Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum makes plans for the future, Chris Johnson, congregation member and Vesterheim President/CEO, is seeking our perspectives as he leads what he hopes will be a back-and-forth discussion on these questions: *What role should Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum play in our national discussion about immigration?* and *How can Vesterheim do a better job of telling the Norwegian immigration story making it more relevant to those who are not of Norwegian ancestry?* Vesterheim's mission is to celebrate the living heritage of Norwegian immigrants to America and to share this cultural legacy for the inspiration and enrichment of people of all backgrounds.

### **Sunday, December 17 - *Bethlehem Today***

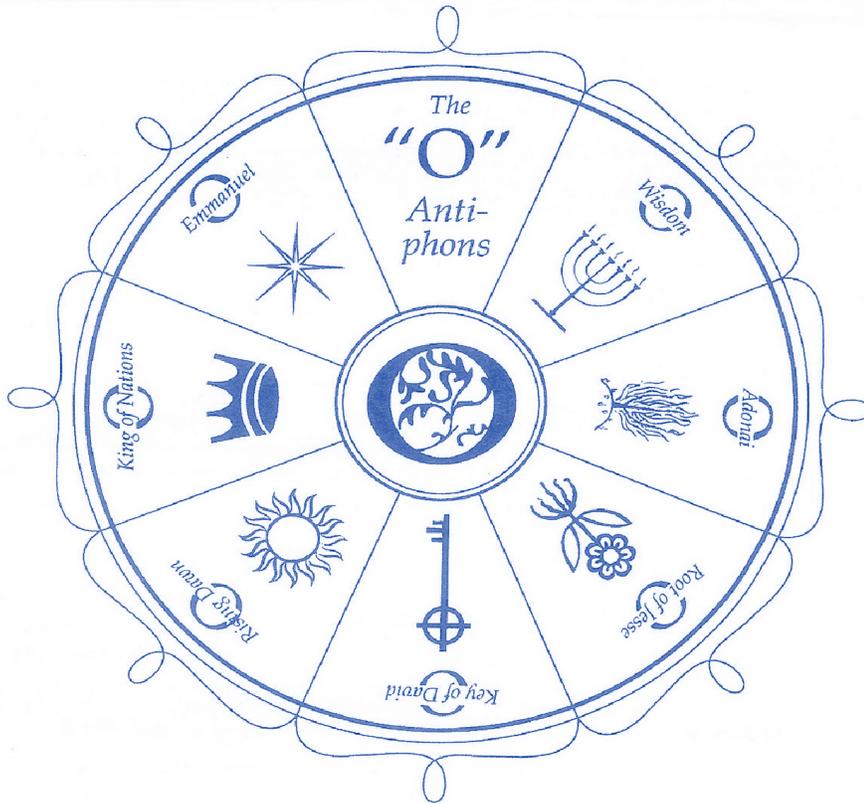
All of us have an image of the "Little Town of Bethlehem" where Jesus was born. George Lowe and Martha Monson Lowe will share their experiences of Bethlehem today, having recently lived and worked there. We will focus on the lives of the Palestinian Christians, and discuss some of the issues they face.

## December Scriptures

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9 Prayer that God would come with power and compassion	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.	1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end	Mark 13:24-37 The sudden coming of the Son of Man
Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11 Good news of God's coming to a people in exile	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.	2 Peter 3:8-15a Waiting for and hastening the day of God	Mark 1:1-8 John appears from the wilderness
Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden	Psalms 126 The Lord has done great things for us.	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Kept in faith until the coming of Christ	John 1:6-8, 19-28 A witness to the light
Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 The Lord's promise to David	Luke 1:46b-55 You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly.	Romans 16:25-27 The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ	Luke 1:26-38 The angel appears to Mary
Sunday, December 31 First Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 61:10--62:3 Clothed in garments of salvation	Psalms 148 The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.	Galatians 4:4-7 Children and heirs of God	Luke 2:22-40 The presentation of the child

# The Music Page

## The Advent "O Antiphons"



From Pastor Marion: The season of Advent is strikingly counter cultural. As the world around us moves into overdrive, our Advent worship invites us to slow down, to quiet our hearts and minds, and to be attentive to the mystery of God's presence among us. As the demands of the season press upon us, we pray that in our Sunday morning gathering and Wednesday services of Evening Prayer, you will find a place of rest, renewal, and joy.

On Wed. Dec. 6, 13 and 20, you are invited to gather for a contemplative worship service using Holden Evening Prayer. Our reflections each week be focused on the Great O Antiphons. These antiphons – which are short phrases comprised of texts or images from scripture – have been chanted as part of Advent Evening Prayer since the 8th century. Each of the seven antiphons draws on passages from the Hebrew Scriptures that Israel's hope for God's promised Messiah. They are called the "O Antiphons" because each one begins with the word "O." You will be familiar with these texts because they form the basis of the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

On Dec. 6 we will use the antiphons "O Wisdom" and "O Lord."

On Dec. 13 we will hear "O Root of Jesse" and "O Key of David."

On Dec. 20 we will concluded with "O Dayspring," "O King of Nations" and "O Emmanuel."

May the light of God's presence illumine our paths as together we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

### December Music Schedule

- 12/3, 9:30 Choir (Joyce, "Hear Us")
- 12/10, 9:30 Handbells (TBA)
- 12/17, 9:30 Choir (Wagner, "Advent Canticle")  
Band (Handel, "For Unto Us")
- 12/17, 5 pm Sunday School Christmas Program  
solos/duos/trios/intergenerational  
band
- 12/24, 4:30 Band plays *Messiah* selections prior  
to service; choir sings "Little Lord"  
for service
- 12/25, 4:00 Carol Sing at Aase Haugen
- 12/31, 9:30 Handbells (TBA)

# December Ministry Team Schedule

DATE	LITURGY/WORSHIP	USHER *Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) only bring food
Sunday December 3 11:00 Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Bob Larson Communion Server: Martha Steele Cantor: Jonathon Struve	1.*David Faldet 2. Jonathon Struve Greeter: Reg Laursen Acolyte: Lulu & Poppy Bellrichard	1.*Jeri Laursen 2. John Jefferson 3. Marion Pruitt-Jefferson (F) 4. Ann Naslund 5. Barbara Berg
Wednesday Dec 6, 5:30 pm	Cantor: David Judisch	1. Steve Zittergruen	
Sunday December 10 11:00 Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Lisa Zittergruen Communion Server: Jane Jakoubek Cantor: Megan Buckingham	1.*Reg Laursen 2. Jim Fritz Greeter: Doris Barnaal Acolyte: Mason & Weston Cote	1.*Liz Fritz 2. Lois Finanger 3. Jim Fritz 4. Diane Kruse
Wednesday Dec 13, 5:30 pm	Cantor: Jonathon Struve	1. Steve Zittergruen	
Sunday December 17 Live Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Marv Slind Communion Server: Midge Kjome Cantor: Jason Rausch	1.*Dan Bellrichard 2. Mike Bollinger Greeter: Jeri Laursen Acolyte:	1.*Liza Hicken 2. Marv Slind 3. Ingrid Callaghan 4. Doris Barnaal 5. Marilyn Rue
Wednesday Dec 20, 5:30 pm	Cantor: Jason Rausch	1. Jane Jakoubek	
Sunday December 24 9:30 a.m. Live Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek Cantor: Reg Laursen	1.*Jeri Laursen 2. Greeter: Reg Laursen Acolyte: Abby Larson	No Fellowship Hour
Sunday December 24 4:30 p.m. Live Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Chris Hick Communion Server: Linda Wolfs	1.*Amalia Vagts 2. David Lester Greeter: Amalia Vagts Acolyte: Lulu & Poppy Bellrichard	No Fellowship Hour
Sunday December 31 Live Broadcast	Asst. Minister: John Jefferson Communion Server: Midge Kjome Cantor: Daniel Raney	1.* 2. Erik Berg Greeter: John Jefferson Acolyte: Keegan Joyce	1.*Doris Barnaal Simple Coffee Hour

December Altar Guild: Jeri Laursen, Chris Hick, Linda Wolfs

# Good Shepherd Announcements

## **CALENDAR CHANGES ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**

**Visitation for Paul Solberg is scheduled to begin that day at 9 a.m. with the service following at 11 a.m.**

**The Luren Singing Society Event has been moved to Decorah Lutheran Church.**

**POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY** - Altar Guild has again arranged for a convenient and economical way to provide poinsettias for the Christmas season. Orders, with payment, are to be placed through the Church Office no later

than Monday morning, December 18; cost is \$12.00/

plant. . Checks should be made payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with Poinsettia in the

memo line. Plants may be given to honor or as memorials by including names with the order. Decorah Greenhouses will deliver the red poinsettias wrapped in gold foil on December 22. They will be placed in the altar area for services beginning Sunday, December 24, through January 7. Plants can be picked up after the 7th or earlier, if desired. Last year, 18 plants graced our sanctuary.

Altar Guild appreciates and welcomes your contributions to our Poinsettia Projects!

**CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING** - All are welcome to come decorate the Sanctuary on December 10th at 11:30 a.m., following Sunday School.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS** collected at the Christmas Eve Service and all 3 Wednesday Evening Advent Services will go toward Luther Disaster Relief and CNA Scholarships for local students.

## **DIRECTORY UPDATES:**

Haldis Kaasa - new address

Mary Fritz - new address

Please refer to the online directory for these updates or call the church office.

## **STEWARDSHIP APPEAL, "A PLACE TO CONNECT: WITH GOD, OTHERS, AND THE WORLD":**

As of Friday, 86 households have completed a Statement of Intent! We have passed our goal of 85 households - this means two generous members will each give an additional \$5,000 toward our mission but we're not done yet! We encourage those who have not yet sent in their intent to join others so we can see our goals become a reality. Good Shepherd households have offered intents of over \$64,000 more than last year in regular giving and one time gifts. If you have yet to fill out your Statement of Intent, there is still time for you to participate. Please fill out a form today so the budget committee can plan for next year.

**EPIPHANY PRAYER JOURNEY** - Do you want to begin 2018 listening for God's call to you for this time in your life? Good Shepherd offers you the opportunity to listen for God's invitation to you through scripture passages and private reflection. If you're interested, set aside 20 minutes on January 9, 16, and 23, either at 12:15-12:35 pm or 5:15-5:35 pm. Watch for more details in January.

**FAITH5 PRACTICES** : Are you interested in sharing conversations about the connections between your faith and daily life with other members of Good Shepherd? Would you like the chance to meet in someone's home with a small group to share supper and the Faith5 practices (sharing highs and lows, reading a scripture passage, discussing how the passage might relate to the highs and lows, praying for each other, blessing one another)? This fall, six Good Shepherd members met together three times to share the Faith5 practices over a simple supper. We found it deeply meaningful and are ready to host **Faith5 Suppers** for others. Watch for times and signups in early January.

# Good Shepherd Announcements

**THE LUREN SINGING SOCIETY** will present its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 10th, at Decorah Lutheran Church, at 3:00 PM. Admission is free and a free will offering will be taken for Disaster Relief and the Decorah Area Food Pantry. This year, the Good Shepherd Band, directed by Brooke Joyce, will be featured during part of the concert. Several Good Shepherd members participate in Luren Singers and their director is Dave Judisch. Come support GS members making music during this special season.

**NORDIC CHOIR CAROLERS** - Are you hoping to have the best holiday party or event in town? Look no further! A small group of members from Luther College's Nordic Choir formed a group of Nordic Choir Carolers, and we would love to sing for your next event! We will sing all of your favorite Christmas carols in an effort to fundraise for our upcoming trip to Germany and Prague. Please contact Kirsten Elstad at [elstki01@luther.edu](mailto:elstki01@luther.edu) as soon as possible for more information!

**CLC WELCA HOLIDAY GATHERING** - The Calmar Lutheran Church Women would like to invite you to join our Annual Holiday Gathering on Wednesday, December 13 at 10:00 am. Our program will be given by Elaine Eadie about children who arrived in Iowa on the Orphan Trains. We hope you can join us for an interesting program, great fellowship and lunch.

**CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST WITH BURR OAK WELCA** : "We hope you, your friends, family and neighbors will accept this invitation for fellowship, music, good food, and a chance to get into the right spirit for the true meaning of Christmas". Join our WELCA for a joyous, upbeat musical program and brunch, Saturday, December 2, 9:30 a.m., at Burr Oak Lutheran Church.

**DECORAH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY COUPONS** - For a third year, clients of the First Lutheran Church Food Pantry enjoyed coupons to Winneshiek Farmers Market in 2017. Market vendors have willingly redeemed them for meat, eggs, honey, fresh fruits and vegetables. The Decorah Community Food Pantry, which is expanding to have representatives from many churches (including First Lutheran), wishes to continue the coupon program next year. It is entirely funded by donations. If you would like to help, please make your check out to Decorah Community Food Pantry – with “Farmers Market Coupons” on the memo line – and mail to Decorah Community Food Pantry, PO Box 26, Decorah. Thank you!

**LIVING ROOM PSALM SINGING:** Join musician Richard Bruxvoort Colligan for a special evening of singing his original versions of the ancient psalms, Friday, December 8, 7:30 p.m. This will be done as group singing in a circle, led by Richard. Richard has been delving deeply into the psalms for the last few years. Hosted by Amalia Vagts and David Lester in our home. Limited Tickets - \$10-\$15 (sliding scale), all proceeds go to Richard. For more info or to confirm your spot, contact Amalia: [vagtsama@gmail.com](mailto:vagtsama@gmail.com) or [563-419-7238](tel:563-419-7238). Please note - our home is accessible only by stairs.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:  
DECEMBER 25, AND 26 AND JANUARY 1**

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
DECEMBER 15**

**SPRUCE TOPS** have been planted in the outdoor pots to replace the fall arrangements of pumpkins and gourds. During Advent and Christmas, grapevine wreaths are hung; decorated with blue ribbons for Advent or white ribbons for Christmas.



**Thank you to all** who have helped to provide the wonderful luncheon and fellowship following the funeral/memorial services that we have had at Good Shepherd. If you provided food, worked in the kitchen, set up the fellowship hall or attended the service, it is all so much appreciated by the family and shows the love that we all have for our Good Shepherd family. Many times we have left over hot food and someone in the kitchen will say “let’s take it over to the Mission in Cresco”. “Mission in Cresco, what is that?” you ask. The following is information taken from their brochure. **The Midwest Mission Bible Training Center** is located at 422 West Second Street in Cresco. The Center is a Christ-centered, non-denominational organization dedicated to helping people with life controlling problems. They provide a free residential, discipleship training program for adult men and women who are willing to seek God as the answer to their problems. The center is an extension of Mission Teens, Inc, a Christian non-profit corporation. Their goal is to direct the people to the Lord Jesus Christ, to find love and a purpose for their lives and to make disciples of them as the Bible directs. The discipleship training program is divided into 4 phases, each lasting 2 -4 months. Each person in the program is required to follow the daily schedule, which includes attending Bible classes, devotional meetings, receiving counsel, and participating in recreational activities and work chores. To be admitted into the center, a person must be willing to seek God as the answer to their problems and submit to authority. The Center is a faith ministry and does not receive any governmental or denominational funding. Since 1969, over 21,000 people have come into the various Mission Teens centers. Many of the graduates have gone on to other ministries and some stay on in the centers. I will put the brochure on the bulletin board by the fellowship hall, if you would like more information.

Submitted by Bev Sheridan

**January 27, 2018 WELCA ANNUAL MEETING AND MID-WINTER BRUNCH.** Miriam Circle will be our hosts. Beverly Nelson and Bev Sheridan will give a report on the WELCA triennial gathering they attended in July. We will also be dispersing funds from 2017, please contact Bev Sheridan if you have any funding requests.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

January 27: Mid-winter Brunch, Fellowship Hall

March 2: World Day of Prayer, St Benedicts

#### **December Circle Schedule**

12/5 -Mary Circle - Marilyn Larson hosts

12/13 - Miriam Circle - Donna Bahr hosts

CLA and Anna Circle not meeting in December



# SPACE EXPLORATION TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

October 2017

Based on intentional conversations with members, and congregational feedback on the themes that emerged from those conversations, the Space Exploration Taskforce submits the following recommendations to the Congregational Council. The order of the recommendations reflects what the taskforce heard most strongly and clearly from the congregation, not the order in which projects should occur. In fact, a number projects are already underway to address recommendations listed below. Projects in progress are noted with an asterisk.\*

**Care for the sanctuary we deeply value as a congregation by updating and refreshing it.** Consult the sanctuary taskforce. Give the sanctuary a fresh coat of paint and repair the drywall. Replace the carpet with new environment- and health-friendly material so it is safe, clean and more attractive. Refinish pews. Upgrade the sound system so that microphones can be used more effectively and safely around the sanctuary, and so that members, radio listeners and guests can hear clearly. Consider the accessibility of the altar for people with limited mobility.

**Create a more open, fluid and dynamic set of spaces for fellowship, youth and adult education, and congregational and community life, between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.** *Within this remodel & possible expansion, aim to:*

1. Create a space that is open, light, welcoming, and conducive to fellowship.
2. Remodel classrooms/meeting spaces for flexible use. Ensure we have spaces that will serve the needs of Sunday School, Kinderhaus, and adult meetings (including adult forum, and possibly including music).
3. Maintain the use of the narthex as an overflow for the sanctuary and as a welcoming space. Seek to make it an even more hospitable space. Be attentive to the need for closets/coat storage.
4. Attend to the nursery with updates and improvements. Include it in plans for updating the spaces that connect the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Whether in the nursery or in a connected space, make sure there is a safe, private and comfortable space available for breastfeeding.

**Reconfigure offices for hospitality and safety.**

Move the main church office/administrative assistant to the first office space (currently music office). It will then be the first office people encounter when they enter the building. Ensure there is adequate counter and cabinet space in the main church office.

Install windows for all the church offices (in doors, or wherever is most appropriate)--including the music office and pastor's office. These alterations should help make the main office more accessible and visible, and help ensure the safety of members, guests and staff when they're in the offices.

**Explore ways to use our outdoor spaces more fully for worship, education, and fellowship.\*** Consider using the "council ring" concept as inspiration for an outdoor space designed for worship and education. Consider how to make outdoor spaces more accessible to members and guests with limited mobility.

**Make the outdoor spaces through which people walk to enter the church building safer and more accessible.** Upgrade the sidewalk and curb cuts and add lighting in front of the church so that the front area is safer and more accessible.

**Make entering the building easier, safer, and more inviting.** Replace the doors near the fellowship hall so that all major doors can be unlocked when the church is open. As far as possible, ensure that all entrances to the main building are handicap accessible. Entrances should also facilitate a fluid connection between the indoors and outdoors and, in keeping with the congregation's commitment to environmental stewardship, should aid energy conservation.

**Update and refresh the kitchen by increasing storage space with hanging cabinets, and updating the wiring/electricity/outlets for safety and fullest use.** At this time, there is no clear need, nor consistent desire for a commercial kitchen or dishwasher across the membership--not even among many who are active in kitchen ministry.

**Consider storage needs in implementing any/all of these recommendations.**

**Invest in better and more consistent signage both inside and outside the building(s).**\* Signage should be developed to help orient and direct members and visitors--whether it is to the offices, classrooms, sanctuary, fellowship hall, etc.

**Explore flexible parking solutions.\***

At this time, there is not strong interest across the membership in expanding the parking lot. We recommend prioritizing creative parking solutions, such as expanding the number of handicapped spaces available in the parking lot on Sunday mornings only, and reserving street spaces closer to the building for visitors and people with limited mobility.

**Finally, we submit to the council a question that emerged from our process:**

*Is there a major unmet need in our community or world that Good Shepherd could help meet?*

## WORDS OF THANKS

I appreciate all the kind words and cards we received when my twin sister, Phyllis Quass, died. And, the prayer shawl is wonderful. It was hard to see her suffer (COPD and a stroke) but now she is at peace.

Barbara Berg

To all the Amazing people of Good Shepherd Church: Thank you so very much for making it more possible to continue my education and obtain my Can by giving your offerings and funds so generously. God is so good! Thank you for following him! "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you: the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

I will strive to serve others. I pray that God will guide me and work through me to help the sick, the vulnerable, the suffering, those that need loving care and quality care. Always.

With Love and with Gratitude, Carrie Christensen

## A MESSAGE SHARED FROM ANNIE WEILGART

Dear Carol and Ruth,

Thanks for your message from München with our last picture In front of the garage. Hope you have arrived safely at your family farm and later on back home in good old Decorah. As for my part I can only say that I enjoyed every minute of your visit and felt quite a bit homesick. (I only feel bad about all the extra money you spent because of me.) It was so much fun to speak English again after a long time. Also, to hear of good friends still living and all the events going on at the college, at Good Shepherd and the community. It was almost like a short trip 'back home'. I am so thankful that same kind of "guardian angel" had sent us - of all places - exactly to Decorah where I felt welcome and accepted from the very first minute to the last. How remarkable! (I guess, it could only happen in the US.)

Thank you, Luther, Thank you, Good Shepherd, Thank you, Decorah and Thank you, dear friends.

All my love, good wishes and blessings to you,

Annie

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL

November 14, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pr. Amy, Jim Fritz, Megan Buckingham, John Moeller, Reg Laursen, Sharon Rendak, Jon Christy, Heather Cote and Jeri Laursen.

Devotions: Pr. Amy read a passage called “God of the Living” from *The Cure for Sorrow* by Jan Richardson as she reflects on all of our Saints.

R. Laursen moved to approve the October 2017 minutes, seconded by Buckingham, approved.

Buckingham moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by R. Laursen, passed.

### **New Business:**

Christmas Offering: Lutheran Disaster Response through the ELCA and CNA were suggested as recipients for the Christmas offering. It was also suggested that the three Wednesday evening Advent Service offerings be included. J. Laursen moved, R. Laursen seconded to split the offering from the four Sundays of Advent and the Wednesday Advent services between these two causes. Motion passed.

Reformation Grove payment: Buckingham moved that funds from line item 108 be used to pay the remainder of the balance for the Reformation Tree Grove. J. Laursen seconded. Motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

SET Recommendations: Megan Buckingham, Jim Fritz, Reg Laursen, Jane Kemp, Bob Naslund, Amalia Vagts and Pr. Amy (ad hoc) were the members of SET. J. Laursen thanked the committee for all their hard detailed work and to Megan Buckingham for taking the leadership for the committee. The recommendations outlined came directly from input of congregation members. Pr. Amy said she was impressed with the intentional process. The next step is to create a Building Committee. A Chair will be needed. Jim Fritz and Reg Laursen have indicated that they would like to be on the committee. This will be an on-going committee with (most likely) 2 year terms. J. Laursen moved, Cote seconded to endorse the recommendations from the SET committee. Approved. Jon Christy asked for clarification on the final comment: “Is there a major unmet need in our community or world that Good Shepherd could help meet?” Buckingham and Fritz said that we don’t want to duplicate what other churches are doing and we don’t want to do something just to do it. It is a question we can address later.

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

Education: H. Cote

The committee will meet on Friday, November 17 so had no report at this time.

Evangelism: S. Rendack

We welcomed four family units on November 12 and there are perhaps more after the New Year. She said the committee puts together a “welcome bag” for the members and may need a bump in their line item to accommodate this. The committee is tweaking New Member Sessions. They have acquired two new prints for the nursery walls.

Property and Management: R. Laursen

The committee recommends two one-sided signs directing members and guests to the Fellowship area and to the church offices and sanctuary. They will be put up in the Spring. They are looking into getting rid of the

bulky, heavy tables in the back of the Fellowship Hall and replacing them with lighter weight, smaller folding tables. Jane Jakoubek is making a 9" stool, which will slide into the bottom of the lectern, for children to use when speaking at the microphone.

Fellowship pad holders are being made and will be mounted on the back of the pews. This will allow for more sitting space on the pews. The Budget Committee will meet on December 5. Committees were alerted to get requests into the committee by that time.

Stewardship: Pr. Amy (for Vagts)

The appeal is going well. The Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 22 went well. Statements of Intent are coming in and members of the Task Force are calling members this week to remind them to bring their Statement to church on Sunday, November 19. December 3 will be a celebration of the campaign. Fritz said he was very impressed with the print media done by Amalia Vagts, Pr. Amy and Pete Reuss.

Worship: Christy

Upcoming events include the Community Thanksgiving Service at First Lutheran, Advent Sunday services (December 3, 10, 17, and 24) and Advent Wednesday evening Services (Dec 6, 13 ,20) using Holden Evening Prayer liturgy, Christmas Program December 17, Christmas Worship December 24 at 9:30 and 4:30. (There will be also be a regular Sunday morning service on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 9:30am. We will mark the 4 th Sunday of Advent and look to Christmas Eve that night.) There will be no Christmas Day service on December 25. We will offer a hymn sing at Aase Haugen home, all members are invited to join Brooke and Pr. Amy there. Pr. Amy proposed, beginning in January, we use the Calendar of the Saints as a resource for connecting saints, and the corresponding theme/event/festival, to Good Shepherd worship service planning and hymn selection. The committee decided, earlier in the year, to split reader and assisting minister worship service duties. This change will officially begin in January.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

Action item: Robert and Karen Fitton decided to become members after our last council meeting. J. Laursen moved to officially receive them, Rendack seconded; approved. The Youth Blast was a great event. 6 of our young people attended with Pr. Amy. Pr. Amy has been doing a number of stewardship visits with members. Pr. Marion submitted a written report.

President Fritz, Updates related to stewardship process.

Vice President and Secretary: no report

Treasurer's Report: Moeller

We are on schedule with our benevolences.

Total income year to date: \$190,846.88

Total expenses year to date: (\$181,600.87)

Net income year to date: \$ 9,246.01

R. Laursen moved, Buckingham seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Treasurer's Report approved.

The December Council meeting will be moved up one week to December 19, 7:00 p.m. Luther Snow will have devotions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jeri Laursen, Congregational Council Secretary

# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM Band Warmup</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>9:30 AM Live Radio Broadcast</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>7:00 PM Holland Music group</li> <li>7:00 PM CLA Circle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>9:30 AM Brooke practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Brooke practice</li> <li>6:00 PM Confirmation Class</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Brooke practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:00 AM Luren Singers</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15 AM Choir Warmup</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:45 AM Sunday School/Youth Forum</li> <li>10:50 AM Adult Forum</li> <li>11:00 AM Radio Broadcast</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>4:00 PM Mary Circle</li> <li>4:30 PM Budget Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>9:30 AM Brooke practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Brooke practice</li> <li>5:30 PM Advent Worship</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting</li> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>5:00 PM Community Meal</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>11:30 AM Education Committee</li> <li>1:00 PM Brooke practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM Handbell Practice</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:45 AM Sunday School/Youth Forum</li> <li>11:00 AM Adult Broadcast</li> <li>11:30 AM Tree Decorating</li> <li>2:00 PM Pleasant Valley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>9:30 AM Opportunity</li> <li>9:30 AM Brooke practice</li> <li>10:30 AM Aase Haugen</li> <li>1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry</li> <li>1:00 PM Brooke practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Wellington Pl. and 4 more...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM CNA Orientation</li> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Brooke practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15 AM Choir/Band Warmup</li> <li>9:30 AM Live Broadcast</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:45 AM Sunday School/Youth Forum</li> <li>10:50 AM Adult Forum</li> <li>5:00 PM Sunday School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>4:00 PM Sons of Norway</li> <li>7:00 PM Council Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>5:30 PM Advent Worship</li> <li>4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>7:00 PM Decorah Community Meal</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM Live Broadcast</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>4:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>4:00 PM Good Shepherd Carol Sing at Aase Haugen</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2:00 PM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Ben Hippen practice</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15 AM Handbell Practice</li> <li>9:30 AM Live Broadcast</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:45 AM Sunday School/Youth Forum</li> <li>10:50 AM Adult Forum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>9:30 AM CNA Class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting</li> <li>5:00 PM Community Meal</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	

## **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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

# *The Shepherd's Voice*

December 2017

**Pastor Amy Larson**

**Assistant Pastor: Marion Pruitt-Jefferson**

Music Director: Brooke Joyce

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Werner

Email: [decorahgoodshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:decorahgoodshepherd@gmail.com)

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Office Hours: M-F; 8 a.m.- 12 Noon

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**GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION**

