



# *The Shepherd's Voice*

January 2018

## Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

“That's how we're gonna win. Not fighting what we hate, saving what we love.” This line from the most recent Episode of Star Wars has a powerful message for us. As we begin a new year together, I invite you to reflect on what you love. What is it that you help to save through your love and care: our earth, your family, this congregation, immigrant neighbors, civil discourse? Thank you for all that you help to save through your love.

This is how God works as well. God could choose to fight all that is wrong in our world. And there are times that we would prefer a god who would come with power and might to crush everything that is wrong- forgetting that all of that lives within each of us as well.

Instead, God comes as a vulnerable baby in a manger so that hope can be born among us, so that love can grow. God comes as one of us, to live among us, so that we might know that God is present in every aspect of our lives, in all of what it means to be human. God is present in this world of taxes and egos, global threats and the daily toils. God comes among us in Jesus who chooses always to love, who cannot be stopped from loving even when we fight that love, even when we would crucify that love. This love without end frees us from despair and frees us to join God's work of loving and saving this beautiful world.

This is how God wins. This is how love wins, how hope prevails. This is how God saves us and all that God loves.

Blessings to you as we begin a new year.

In Christ,

Pastor Amy



# Education

Our Sunday School and Youth Forum are off to a great start this school year. We had a busy fall, full of activities around our Bible stories, Abraham and Sara, Joseph and His Brothers and Baby Moses. As we move into 2018, we are once again requesting your help in our classrooms. The teachers do all the prep and leadership. We are in need of other adults to be a second, supportive presence in each of the rooms. Sunday School (ages 4 - grade 4) meets in the classroom inside the church, and Youth Forum (middle and high school) meets in the freshly painted Annex classroom. This requires just 40 minutes of your time a few times a year and a very brief background check for new volunteers. Please sign up today using the SignUpGenius form. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4da5a72fa13-201718>

**THANK YOU** to our church family for attending our Christmas program on December 17th. With 25 children and youth participating, we had quite a crowd at the manger! Several of our youth also shared their musical talents this year, which resulted in a duet, a string trio, a piano trio, and an inter generational band being part of our performance. Many thanks to our education committee, Megan Buckingham and Brooke Joyce for working with our children to provide all of us with an evening full of joy.

**MOVIE AND PIZZA NIGHT** - The Education Committee is excited to invite children and youth ages 4 through high school for a movie and pizza night on Saturday, January 6th. Please join us at church from 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm for food, fellowship and fun! Parents, you are welcome to stay or drop off. See you on the 6th!

## January Scriptures

<b>Sunday, January 7</b> <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b>	<b>Genesis 1:1-5</b> God creates light	<b>Psalm 29</b> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.	<b>Acts 19:1-7</b> Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus	<b>Mark 1:4-11</b> Revelation of Christ as God's servant
<b>Sunday, January 14</b> <b>Second Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]</b> The calling of Samuel	<b>Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</b> You have searched me out and known me.	<b>1 Corinthians 6:12-20</b> Glorify God in your body	<b>John 1:43-51</b> The calling of the first disciples
<b>Sunday, January 21</b> <b>Third Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>Jonah 3:1-5, 10</b> Repentance at Nineveh	<b>Psalm 62:5-12</b> God alone is my rock and my salvation.	<b>1 Corinthians 7:29-31</b> Living in the end times	<b>Mark 1:14-20</b> The calling of the disciples at the sea
<b>Sunday, January 28</b> <b>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 18:15-20</b> The prophet speaks with God's authority	<b>Psalm 111</b> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.	<b>1 Corinthians 8:1-13</b> Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols	<b>Mark 1:21-28</b> The healing of one with an unclean spirit

# Adult Forums

**JAN. 7<sup>TH</sup> – SPACE EXPLORATION TASK FORCE (SET)** led by Megan Buckingham - How do our buildings & spaces help us to serve God and others? How can our buildings & spaces help us serve God and others in new ways? The Space Exploration Taskforce (SET) has been asking the congregation these questions, and considering how the answers can help Good Shepherd set priorities for building & property updates and improvements. In October, SET finalized its recommendations and submitted them to the Congregation and Council. The recommendations were published in the December newsletter. Join members of SET for the adult forum on January 7th to learn more about the recommendations ask questions, share thoughts, and talk about next steps.

**JAN 14<sup>TH</sup> – YOUTH IN GLOBAL MISSION (YAGM)** Kurt Hellman, a former YAGM volunteer who now serves as “Campaign Interpreter/ Global Church Sponsorship” director for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be with us to talk about the YAGM program and the opportunities it offers our young adults for service. He will be joined by Kelly Harris, a Luther student who spent 2016-17 serving in Rwanda.

## **FORUMS PREPARING FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING**

We will have two forums in advance of the meeting to consider some of the big items on the agenda.

**JAN. 21<sup>ST</sup>- 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET DISCUSSION - 11AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**- the Budget Committee will give a presentation regarding the proposed budget for 2018 followed by question and answer. A projection of income for 2018 will be included. We will also preview the proposed Child Abuse Prevention Policy that will be considered at the annual meeting.

**JAN. 28<sup>TH</sup> – MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND** – Steve Holland and members of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee have spent the last year reexamining the Fund's goals and processes and will present proposed changes to the Fund for the congregation's approval at the annual meeting. Come hear a brief description of the proposed changes and join us in a discussion about the Fund's role in the future of Good Shepherd. Parents of college students, summer camp students, church wide youth assembly attendees, etc. are encouraged to learn about potential financial support and application deadlines. There will also be time for any further questions regarding the 2018 proposed budget and Child Abuse Prevention Policy at the end of the forum time.

# Music Schedule, Winter/Spring 2018

1/7	Pick-up Choir	Offertory
1/14	Choir	Offertory
1/21	Band	Prelude/Offertory/Postlude 2:30 pm at Aase Haugen
1/28	Handbells	Offertory
2/4	Special music	Offertory: Verne Koenig recording
2/11	Choir	Offertory
2/18	Band	Prelude/Offertory/Postlude
2/25	Handbells	Offertory
3/4	Choir	Offertory
3/11	Handbells	Offertory
3/18	Band	Prelude/Offertory/Postlude
3/25	Special Music	TBA
3/30 (G. Friday)	Choir	TBA
4/1 (Easter)	Band/Choir	Band plays Prelude/Postlude, Choir sings Offertory
4/8	Choir	Offertory
4/15	Choir	Offertory
4/22	Band	Prelude/Offertory/Postlude
4/29	Handbells	Offertory
5/6	Choir	Offertory
5/13	Handbells	Offertory
5/20	Band	Prelude/Offertory/Postlude

Choir rehearses weekly, Wednesdays 7-8 pm (beginning January 10);  
on Sundays when choir sings, warm-up at 8:45

Band rehearses weekly, Wednesdays 8-9 pm (beginning January 10);  
on Sundays when band plays, warm-up at 8:45

Handbell Choir rehearses at 8:45 on the morning we play,  
plus previous Wednesday at 5:45 pm (or later during Lent)

All members/friends/guests at Good Shepherd are welcome to join any of these groups. For more information, please contact our music director, Brooke Joyce: 382-4552, or [wbjoyce3@gmail.com](mailto:wbjoyce3@gmail.com).

# Epiphany Prayer Journey

Do you want to begin 2018 listening for God's call to you for this time in your life? Do you want to make decisions based on what God is inviting you to be and do instead of patterns and habits from the past? The **Epiphany Prayer Journey** at Good Shepherd offers you an opportunity to listen to God's invitation to you through scripture and reflection.

What is involved? There will be three gatherings during Epiphany: **January 9, January 16, and January 23**. Each one will be about 20 minutes. You can come to a midday gathering from 12:15-12:35 pm, or you can come to an early evening gathering from 5:15-5:35 pm. You are welcome to come on all three dates; we will use different scripture passages each time and often our sense of God's call to us deepens and becomes clearer when we listen over time. You are also welcome to come on one or two dates if that works best for you; the power of scripture to speak to us is open to us each time we stop and listen. The gatherings will be led by Jane Jakoubek.

What will we do at each Epiphany prayer gathering? The group will gather in the sanctuary and begin with short silence. A scripture passage will be read slowly and deliberately. Each person is invited to pay attention to words or phrases that especially catch their attention. The scripture passage is read again, and this time each person is invited to listen for any invitation God seems to be offering them. We will end with a time of silent reflection and prayer about what we have received in this time.

The Epiphany Prayer Journey is open to anyone. Invite a family member, friend, or coworker to come with you. Everyone is welcome to come hear God's Epiphany message to them.

## Social Justice

### Making a Difference – The Social Justice Committee

*.... I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me..... Matt. 25:35-36*

If you're looking for a way to more actively engage in responding to the needs in our community, our country and the world, then please consider the following opportunities brought to you by the Social Justice Committee. The committee is looking for a few people who would be interested in joining with them in the work they do. The Social Justice committee responds to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Advocacy Alerts by hosting post card writing opportunities, and raising awareness about impending legislative issues which could adversely affect vulnerable populations. We are also active locally by supporting the ELCA AMMPARO initiative (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) of which our congregation is a member, Path to Citizenship, Justice for our Neighbors, the Decorah Community Food Pantry and the Community Free Meal. The Social Justice Committee meets once a month and is eager to include you in the work they do. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 5:00 – 6:00 pm at Good Shepherd. Feel free to simply attend the meeting, or contact Pr. Marion ([mp Pruitt.jefferson58@gmail.com](mailto:mp Pruitt.jefferson58@gmail.com)) or Lyle Otte ([lyleotte@gmail.com](mailto:lyleotte@gmail.com)) if you'd like more information. Together, we do make a difference.

## FIRST QUARTER MINISTRY TEAM 2018

<b>Jerry Aulwes</b>	<b>Sara Hanssen</b>	<b>Daniel Raney</b>
<b>JoAnn Aulwes</b>	<b>Carol Hasvold</b>	<b>Rae Jean Rathje</b>
<b>Barbara Berg</b>	<b>Chris Hick</b>	<b>Jason Rausch</b>
<b>Donald Berg</b>	<b>Liza Hicken</b>	<b>KJ Rebarcak</b>
<b>Dan Bellrichard</b>	<b>Catherine Hildebrandt</b>	<b>Harley Refsal</b>
<b>Ruth Bruce</b>	<b>Gary Hildebrandt</b>	<b>Norma Refsal</b>
<b>Jerry Bruce</b>	<b>Rob Hudson</b>	<b>Loyal Rue</b>
<b>Mike Bollinger</b>	<b>Irma Hudson</b>	<b>Marilyn Rue</b>
<b>Megan Buckingham</b>	<b>Hayley Jackson</b>	<b>Cheryl Ruiz</b>
<b>Kathy Buzza</b>	<b>Karl Jacobsen</b>	<b>Jennifer Self</b>
<b>Jim Buzza</b>	<b>Jerrine Jacobsen</b>	<b>Marv Slind</b>
<b>Ingrid Callaghan</b>	<b>John Jefferson</b>	<b>Carolyn Solberg</b>
<b>Jennifer Cantine</b>	<b>David Judisch</b>	<b>Marty Steele</b>
<b>Wanda Deifelt</b>	<b>Gail Judisch</b>	<b>Germano Streese</b>
<b>Sharon Drew</b>	<b>Elizabeth Kaschins</b>	<b>Kristin Swanson</b>
<b>Ed Epperly</b>	<b>Mildred Kjome</b>	<b>Denise Tapscott</b>
<b>Joyce Epperly</b>	<b>Clara Knudson</b>	<b>Matt Tapscott</b>
<b>Karla Erdman</b>	<b>Karl Knudson</b>	<b>Kathryn Thompson</b>
<b>Lindsay Erdman</b>	<b>Diane Kruse</b>	<b>Pam Torresdal</b>
<b>Bob Felde</b>	<b>John Moeller</b>	<b>Raymond Torresdal</b>
<b>Robert Fitton</b>	<b>Lindy Moeller</b>	<b>Linda Wolfs</b>
<b>Karen Fitton</b>	<b>Kate Narveson</b>	<b>Joanne Ylvisaker</b>
<b>Liz Fritz</b>	<b>Harland Nelson</b>	<b>Richard Ylvisaker</b>
<b>Jim Fritz</b>	<b>Anna Norris</b>	<b>Lisa Zittergruen</b>
<b>Brad Hanson</b>	<b>Katie Prohaska</b>	<b>Steven Zittergruen</b>
<b>Marion Hanson</b>	<b>Marion Pruitt-Jefferson</b>	

# January Ministry Team Schedule

DATE	LITURGY	USHER * Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only
<b>Sunday, January 7</b>	<b>Asst. Minister:</b> Chris Hick <b>Reader:</b> Harland Nelson <b>Communion Server:</b> Linda Wolfs <b>Cantor:</b> Reg Laursen	<b>1.*</b> Joanne Ylvisaker <b>2.</b> Richard Ylvisaker <b>Greeter:</b> Sharon Rendack <b>Acolyte:</b>	<b>1.*</b> <b>2.</b> Gail Judisch <b>3.</b> Jennifer Self (F) <b>4.</b> Ruth & Jerry Bruce
<b>Sunday, January 14</b>	<b>Asst. Minister:</b> Pam Torresdal <b>Reader:</b> Raymond Torresdal <b>Communion Server:</b> Marty Steele <b>Cantor:</b> Dennis Barnaal	<b>1.*</b> <b>2.</b> Bob Felde <b>Greeter:</b> <b>Acolyte:</b> Maggie Norris	<b>1. *</b> <b>2.</b> Ruth & Jerry Bruce <b>3.</b> Christy Vrtis <b>4.</b>
<b>Sunday, January 21</b>	<b>Asst. Minister:</b> Chris Hick <b>Reader:</b> Lindy Moeller <b>Communion Server:</b> Linda Wolfs <b>Cantor:</b> Megan Buckingham	<b>1.*</b> Jerry Aulwes <b>2.</b> Ed Epperly <b>Greeter:</b> Anna Norris <b>Acolyte:</b> Jack Norris	<b>1. * Joyce Epperly</b> <b>2.</b> Jennifer Self (F) <b>3.</b> Ingrid Callaghan <b>4.</b> Jerry & Joanne Aulwes
<b>Sunday, January 28</b>	<b>Asst. Minister:</b> Pam Torresdal <b>Reader:</b> Harland Nelson <b>Communion Server:</b>  <b>Cantor:</b> Kate Narveson	<b>1.*</b> Ray Torresdal <b>2.</b> <b>Greeter:</b> <b>Acolyte:</b> Lulu & Poppy Bellrichard	<b>1.*</b> <b>2.</b> Kate Narveson <b>3.</b> Liza & Dan Bellrichard <b>4.</b>
<b>Special Event</b> <b>Tuesday, January 16</b> <b>Wellington Place Bingo Party</b> <b>Arrive 12:30 p.m. Game 1-1:30 p.m.</b>		<b>40-45 prizes</b> <b>Cookies/treats for 45</b> <b>1.</b>  <b>2.</b>	<b>Volunteers at event</b> <b>1.*</b> <b>2.</b> <b>3.</b>

January Altar Guild - Jerrine and Karl Jacobsen and Jane Kemp

# Good Shepherd Announcements

**FAITH5 GATHERINGS** - We are exploring something new at Good Shepherd. A small group gets together 3 times for a simple supper in someone's home to share the Faith5 practices (sharing our highs and lows, reading a few scripture verses, talking about how this scripture might relate to the highs and lows, praying for each other, and blessing each other). The congregation members who host the suppers provide a simple meal and lead the group through Faith5. All you have to do is sign up and come. Several congregation members are hosting Faith5 Suppers during Epiphany. If you want to participate, see the signups on the table in the narthex. Space is limited because these are small gatherings, but we plan to do more after Easter if there is interest.

**REPURPOSE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE** - Good Shepherd will host the Community Easter Vigil this year and needs Christmas trees for the "new fire" bonfire which begins the service. Please place old Christmas trees between the annex and mower shed.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.** There are a number of important proposals and items on the agenda: the 2018 budget, the Child Abuse Prevention Policy, changes to the Mission Endowment Fund, and ratification of a constitutional change approved at the 2017 meeting. The constitutional change is to remove the Ministerial Support Committee as its functions are now carried out by the Executive Committee. This change must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the 2018 annual meeting. Forums to prepare for the Annual Meeting will be held on January 21 and 28. **Please plan to participate in this important work of our life together as a congregation.**

**READER ADDED:** Beginning in January, the position of READER has been added to the Liturgy Schedule. The Reader will do only the Scripture Readings. The Assisting Minister will do the prayers and serve communion.

**February Newsletter Deadline**  
**January 18**

## **REMINDER ABOUT HOW TO GET THE MONTHLY and WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS**

*The Shepherd's Voice* and *The Shepherd's Voice: Weekly News and Events* can be accessed in several ways:

1. For those with email addresses, the monthly newsletter will arrive in your email on the first day of every month. You will receive a message to "Click Here" which will take you to the *The Shepherd's Voice*. The weekly update, *The Shepherd's Voice: Weekly News and Events*, will arrive on Thursday mornings. It will be visible when you open the email.

NOTE: Gmail users may need to look in their "Promotions" inboxes if they don't see the newsletters. 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 want to make the change permanent.

2. For those wishing copies of the *The Shepherd's Voice* to be sent to them in the mail; request Jenny to put your name on the mailing list.

3. Pick up a hard copy of the monthly newsletter from the mailboxes in the hall above the usher's cabinet.

4. From the Good Shepherd website homepage, Click on the "News" tab and then on the "Monthly Newsletter" link to see *The Shepherd's Voice*. Click on the "News" tab and then on the "Weekly News and Events" to see *The Shepherd's Voice: Weekly News and Events*." You may print out your own copies from these files.

5. Read *The Shepherd's Voice: Weekly News and Events*" on the Good Shepherd Facebook page.

Questions can be directed to Jane Kemp, Elizabeth Kaschins, Kathy Buzza, Anna Norris, or Pastor Amy.

**THANK YOU** - Altar Guild thanks all who provided poinsettias for our sanctuary this Christmastime. Their presence created a wonderful expression and remembrance of the season and loved ones. A gentle reminder: *Your plants can be picked up after the January 7 worship service or earlier, if you desire.*

# Stewardship

## Stewardship Update: Thanks be to God!

Thank you to everyone for your investment in the growing ministry at Good Shepherd and your wonderful response to our Stewardship Campaign, "A Place to Connect." Our central purpose was to increase generosity at Good Shepherd. We did this using the following approaches a) identifying clear ministry goals, b) setting concrete goals for dollar amounts and number of households participating, and c) sharing personal stories. We shared how ministry is changing and can grow at Good Shepherd through personal stories in worship, in small groups, in one-one-one conversations, and in through the newsletter, mailings, bulletin board, website, and bulletin inserts. We used charts to give people an idea of overall generosity and sent personalized letters to members asking them to consider specific invitations for giving.

## Results

We decided on two ways to measure progress toward our goal of increasing generosity: One goal was to have at least 85 returned intent statements by the end of 2017. The second goal was to increase giving by \$85,000 during the coming year through increases in offerings and special one-time gifts. We anticipated two phases for this - a fall stewardship drive and a spring appeal. As of December 19, 2017, we have received 96 statements of intent and the combined commitment for offering and special giving is currently \$ 83,769! The offering increase is higher than we had projected and we will take that into consideration as we plan our Stewardship for All Seasons work in 2018.

Snapshot of response:

96 turned in a Statement of Intent form (one "will give, no pledge").

17 made their first ever pledge - or returned to pledging after not doing so last year.

61 of the 96 increased their pledge from last year. Of the 61, 49 increased their pledge by 10% more.

Of the 49, 14 doubled their pledge from last year!

7 kept their pledge the same (some of these also made significant one-time gifts).

3 needed to decrease their pledge.

12 who pledged last year have not yet pledged (includes deceased members or members who have moved).

These numbers show a generous and committed congregation that is invested and investing in our ministry growth together. It is wonderful to have such a broad-based, diverse response to stewardship at this time of great possibility at Good Shepherd! If you have yet to turn in a Statement of Intent for your offering to Good Shepherd in 2018, there is still time - wouldn't it be wonderful to reach 100!?!?!?



**January 27, 2018** will be our WELCA annual meeting and mid-winter brunch beginning at 9 am. Miriam Circle will be our hostess. 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. In the past, we have given monies to Aase Haugen Homes, GS kitchen fund, CNA/

Seminary Scholarship, WELCA churchwide, GS mission assistance fund, Pathway to Citizenship, Mashiah Foundation, Decorah Free Clinic, Decorah Community Food pantry, EWALU, Helping Services, LWR and LSI. Contact Bev Sheridan if you have any additional funding requests.

The minutes of last year's meeting for your approval:

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2017 WELCA MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Bev Sheridan. Pastor Amy Larson expressed her appreciation for all that WELCA continues to do for Good Shepherd.

Carol Hasvold made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2016 meeting. Gail Judisch seconded. The motion passed.

Barbara Berg made a motion to approve the financial report. Donna Bahr seconded. The motion passed. The proposed disbursement of funds for 2017 was discussed. The \$500 no longer needed to pay off the roof loan was added to the kitchen fund, as we need to purchase a new vacuum and at least eight coffee servers. Doris Barnaal moved that we equally divide the \$500 designated for the CNA/Seminary Scholarship fund. Carol Hasvold seconded. The motion passed. Carol then made a motion to approve the disbursement of funds. Barbara Berg seconded. The motion passed.

Doris Barnaal gave a report on our Nordic Fest Krumkake baking and sales. 3,604 krumkake were sold for a total of \$2,400.25. A new mini-fridge was purchased for use during the Fest, as well as material for aprons and other miscellaneous items with funds from a \$250 Thrivent action card. More krumkake irons and popcorn tins are needed.

We had a brief discussion about the fall country store and soup luncheon. Gail Judisch suggested we consider designating the funds raised for something specific, as this might spark more interest if advertised as such. No further action was taken on this.

Bev also announced the dates of other upcoming events: the Spring Gathering at Lime Springs on April 29, the WELCA Synodical Convention at Wartburg on June 17, and the Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis on July 27-29.

The meeting concluded with a reminder that we could use more members on the funeral committee. Following the business meeting, Jane Kemp and Marilyn Anderson gave a very informative presentation from their recent trip to Israel. Respectfully submitted, Judy Schoel

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 27: Mid-winter brunch, Fellowship Hall, 9 am

March 2: World Day of Prayer, St Benedicts Catholic Church

**January Circle Schedule**

1/2 - Mary Circle - 4:00 p.m. - Naomi Craft hosts

1/9 - Anna Circle - 9:30 a.m. - will not meet in January

1/10 - Miriam Circle - will not meet in January

1/23 - CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Sharon Drew hosts

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL

November 19, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

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

Devotions: Luther Snow gave devotions based on a Sufi tradition “You only learn what you already know”.

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

“New members” was added to the agenda under New Business. J. Laursen moved, R. Laursen seconded, to adopt the agenda as amended, passed.

### **New Business:**

#### **2018 Proposed Budget:**

The Budget Committee increased the normal operating budget by \$24,000 and eliminated \$4,000 from line item 496A (Special Building Repair). The Assistant Pastor’s salary was raised to 25% of Pr. Amy’s salary. Pr. Marion and Pr. Amy have the same 18 years of service. There were other + and – items noted resulting in an increase from 2017 to 2018 of \$19,781.41. \$65,000 for special facilities projects was added in a new line item 498. The total proposed budget for 2018 is \$303,392.41.

There was discussion regarding the Assistant Pastor salary. Moeller said at this time the congregation has greater needs than Pr. Amy can handle herself and the Assistant Pastor position is to assist with this. This will be a year-to-year contract and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee when other personnel reviews are done. R. Laursen stated for this year the Stewardship Campaign was a success so the salary for the Assistant Pastor was added to the budget for 2018.

Vagts asked about whether the budget included the cost of GSB Stewardship Consultants. The increase to the Stewardship line item to \$600 is mainly for printing costs, not the GSB fee. It will be covered by Memorials and specific contributions from members.

Kildegaard asked how committee members will be informed of the increases or decreases to their committee line items. R. Laursen said the committee chairs should inform their committee members and any sub-committee members.

R. Laursen, on behalf of the Budget Committee, moved to approve the 2018 Proposed Budget, Kildegaard seconded, passed.

R. Laursen moved, J. Laursen seconded, to apply any 2017 surplus for repayment of the roof loan at the bank and to pay the remainder in January. Passed.

New Members: Kildegaard moved, Cote seconded, to receive Kirk and Kerry Johnson to Good Shepherd. Passed. They will be officially welcomed on New Member Sunday, March 4, 2018.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Child Abuse Prevention Policy:**

The Education Committee has been working on this policy for the past year. Cote stated that the intent of the policy is to be protective of our young members so they can enjoy our environment at Good Shepherd. The new “sign in-sign out” policy for Preschool-Fourth grades is working well. The older ones sign themselves in and out. Kildegaard noted that she is very happy to see this policy implemented. Karl Knudson has reviewed this policy. Background checks will be done every 2 years for those involved. The council was asked to approve the Child Abuse Prevention Policy as submitted by the Education Committee, no 2<sup>nd</sup> needed. Passed. The next step is to bring this to the annual meeting in February.

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

*(Continued on page 12)*

### Education Committee – Cote

We just had a wonderful children's Christmas program and Cote said she is very proud of all the children. There will be movie night on January 6, a Valentine Service Project (children will make and deliver Valentines to the retirement homes), and they are working on a theme for their Lenten Project.

### Evangelism – Kildegaard

The committee has developed "10 tips for Greeters" which will be sent to those serving in that capacity. February 11 is a New Member Information Session and March 4 is our next New Member Sunday.

### Property and Management – R. Laursen

A big set of storage cabinets has been made for the left annex classroom. Holders for the red fellowship pads have been made and will be installed by Christmas. A solar light has been installed by the main sidewalk as you approach the church.

### Stewardship – Vagts

There will be a feedback session on January 25 regarding the Stewardship Campaign. Vagts thanked the Committee, Jenny Werner and Pr. Amy for all their work. As of December 19, 2017 we have received 96 statements of intent. The combined commitment for offering and special giving currently shows an increase of \$82,269 (Offering commitment increase is \$48,269 and one-time giving is \$34,000). These numbers show a generous and committed congregation that is invested and investing in our ministry growth together.

### Worship and Music – Snow

Review of the Christmas Services times: Christmas Eve, 4:30 on December 24; no morning service on December 25; Christmas Day Service of Lessons and Carols at Aase Haugen Home, 4:00. All are welcome.

There will be a Global Service on January 14. Ash Wednesday is February 14, Maundy Thursday is March 29, Good Friday is March 30, Easter Vigil is March 31 and Easter is April 1. There will be five Lenten Services followed by a soup supper. Each standing committee will be in charge of one of these suppers. (February 21: Education; February 28: Evangelism; March 7: Property and Management; March 14: Stewardship; March 21: Worship and Music)

### Pastor Amy's Report

We have been notified that the missionaries in Nigeria that we have supported, Mary Beth and Bayo Oyebade, are no longer being sponsored by the ELCA. In January, the council will consider a recommendation to the congregation about how to proceed in supporting the work of global missions.

Harland Nelson would like to set up an endowed fund for landscaping in Corinne's memory. This will be addressed at the January meeting.

### President's Report – Fritz

Fritz mentioned that the council will consider opening a Good Shepherd Brokerage account at its January meeting.

### Vice President – Buckingham

The Nominating Committee is nearly done. We are still in need of someone to serve on the Evangelism Committee. Ava Holland agreed to be the Youth Representative to the Council.

### Treasurer's Report – Moeller

Total income year to date:	\$214,084.30
Total expenses year to date:	(\$201,223.02)
Net income year to date:	\$ 12,825.28

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

January Newsletter deadline: December 21, 2017 Next Council meeting: January 16, 2018

Pr. Amy offered a blessing as the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Submitted by Jeri Laursen, Congregational Council Secretary

## POINSETTIA CONTRIBUTIONS CHRISTMAS 2017

Ingrid Callaghan	In Memory of Dr. Joe Callaghan
Donna Bahr	In Memory of Bud Bahr
Russ and Marie Freerking	In Memory of Donald Wedeking and Lee Freerking
Elizabeth Kaschins	In Memory of Ed Kaschins
Elizabeth Kaschins	In Memory of Paul Solberg
Jane Kemp, Anna, Russell, Maggie & Jack Norris	In Memory of Don Kemp
Justine Lionberger	In Honor of Martha Steele and Bob Felde
Karla and Lindsay Erdman	In Memory of Audrey Erdman
Bev Sheridan	In Memory of Heyo and Anna Kampman
Brooke Joyce & Jennifer Self	In Memory of Mary Joyce
Tom and Connie Buresh	In Memory of our fathers, Floyd Friedrich and Victor Buresh
Ann and Bob Naslund	In Memory of Vernon, Lola & Edith Naslund
Ann and Bob Naslund	In Memory of Mimi & Maynard Aaker
Kim and Cheuang Kavan	In Memory of Pr. Joan Mau
Kim and Cheuang Kavan	In Memory of Clark and Judy Mikkelsen
Michelle Ruen & Family	In Memory of Bud Bahr
Pastors Amy & Matt Larson	In Gratitude for the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Mark and Lois Finanger	In Memory of Lucia Finanger
Jerry and Ruth Bruce	In Honor of Bev Sheridan
Brian and Sandhya Caton	In Memory of Sarah Caton
Brian and Sandhya Caton	



# January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<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> </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>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>9:30 AM CNA Class</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>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>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>9:00 AM CNA Class</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Opportunity Homes</li> <li>9:00 AM CNA Class</li> <li>12:00 PM Epiphany Prayer</li> <li>5:00 PM Epiphany Prayer</li> <li>5:00 PM Epiphany Prayer</li> <li>5:15 PM Evangelism Committee</li> <li>7:30 PM Indivisible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>10:30 AM Aase Haugen Communion</li> <li>6:00 PM Confirmation Class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM CNA Class</li> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> <li>7:30 PM Worship and Music Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>1:30 PM Education Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:00 AM Shirley Casabere Memorial Service</li> <li>4:00 PM GS Youth Movie Night</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM Choir 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>10:50 AM Adult Forum</li> <li>5:00 PM Kinderhaus Festival of Lights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM CNA Class</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Opportunity Homes</li> <li>12:00 PM Epiphany Prayer</li> <li>5:00 PM Epiphany Prayer</li> <li>7:00 PM Council Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>9:00 AM CNA Class</li> <li>1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry</li> <li>6:00 PM Confirmation Class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>5:00 PM Decorch 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>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 Kinderhaus Festival of Lights Backup Date</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00 PM Epiphany Prayer</li> <li>5:00 PM Epiphany Prayer</li> <li>7:00 PM CLA Circle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>11:00 AM Communion at Eastern Star</li> <li>1:30 PM CNA Graduation</li> <li>6:00 PM Confirmation Class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>6:30 PM Stewardship for All Seasons Mtg w/ GSB</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Winter WELCA Brunch</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</li> <li>6:00 PM Confirmation 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

January 2018

# *The Shepherd's Voice*

**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

*Words from Pastor Larson 1*

*Education 2*

*January Scriptures 2*

*January Adult Forums 3*

*Music Page 4*

*Epiphany Prayer Journey 5*

*Social Justice 5*

*January Ministry Team 6-7*

*GS Announcements 8*

*Stewardship 9*

*WELCA News 10*

*Council Minutes 11-12*

*Poinsettia Contributions 13*

*January Calendar 14*

GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

