



The Shepherd's Voice

March 2018

Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

This Lent, in both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship, we are listening to some of the great stories of our faith that are given to us in scripture. As we hear these stories, let them help you to pay attention to your own story and the stories of others.

Paying attention to your own story can increase your awareness of God's presence in your life. Author Frederick Buechner encourages, "listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace". (*Now and Then: A Memoir of Vocation*, p. 87.)

As you listen to the great stories of faith this Lent and Holy Week, pay attention to how they connect to your own story. What helps you to remember that God created you and calls you good? Are you feeling bound in some way? What would liberation feel like? What is your deepest longing these days? Where does God meet you in that? What feels dead? Where do you see signs of new life? Pay attention to all of this and you will notice God's presence in your life. As Buechner writes, "To cleave to the truth of our own lives, to live and look beneath our own stories, is to see glimmers at least of [Jesus's story], of his life struggling to come alive in our lives, his story whispering like a song through the babble and drone of ours." (*Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons*, p. 89.)

Pay attention, also, to the stories of others around you. Who is in bondage in our world today? Who are the Pharaohs these days? Who might feel like they are living in a valley of dry bones? We need to listen to others' stories. We especially need to listen to the stories of people we fear and distrust so that we can live out Jesus' call to love our enemies. As wisdom teacher Margaret Wheatley teaches, "You can't hate someone whose story you know."

Blessings to you as you listen and pay attention this Lent.

Peace,

Pastor Amy

Worship Notes

Lenten Midweek Services and Events

Worship services on the theme “*The Stories We Tell*” - We need to be mindful of the stories we're telling - about ourselves, other people and the world - and how these stories are impacting us. This Lent, we're spending time telling key stories from scripture. These stories help us to experience resurrection. They help us know that our own stories are part of God's larger story. We will hear these stories told in new ways and consider how they can help us to live with hope, honesty and love.

Simple Soup Suppers provided by members of the congregation are served in the Fellowship Hall following the Wednesday services.

Lenten Recital Series - Members and area musicians perform in our sanctuary at noontime on Wednesdays. Attendees are welcome to bring lunches. Coffee and light desserts will be served following the performances.

Wednesday, March 7

12:15 p.m. - RECITAL - Professional Cellist Craig Hultgren

5:30 p.m. - *THIRST NO MORE* - Isaiah calls us to be fed and nourished by God's word. Resurrection is like a free feast, baptism like water for the thirsty, God's grace like rain on the earth.

Guest Choir - Luther College Norsemen, Mark Potvin, Conductor

Wednesday, March 14

12:15 p.m. - RECITAL - Good Shepherd members Jonathon Struve, baritone, and Brooke Joyce, piano

5:30 p.m. - *DRY BONES* - When our hope feels brittle and fragile, resurrection comes like the spring; the waters of baptism bring new life.

Guest Choir - Luther College Cantorei, Jill Wilson, Conductor

Wednesday, March 21

12:15 p.m. - RECITAL - Composer Ben Hippen, Piano

5:30 p.m. - *IN THE FIRE* - For each of us there will be a time when we are engulfed by fire. Because of the resurrection of Christ, we can be confident that God is with us, no matter what or where the furnace.

Guest Choir - Luren Singing Society, David Judisch, Director

Note - Good Shepherd hosts and joins with other Decorah area churches for **THIS IS THE NIGHT: A COMMUNITY VIGIL OF EASTER - Saturday, March 31, 7:00 p.m. A Dessert Reception with champagne and great non-alcoholic beverages will follow worship.** This ancient service of watching and waiting carries us from the darkness of Good Friday to the radiant light of Easter. The Vigil is a time when we celebrate God's acts of salvation throughout history, leading to the celebration of God's ultimate saving act: the death and resurrection of Jesus. In this service, we will give thanks for light, listen to ancient stories of God's faithfulness, celebrate Christ's transformation from death to life, remember our baptisms, and celebrate the Eucharist together.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 9:30AM

Procession with Palms, Holy Communion,
Reflection on Christ's Passion

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 7PM

Personal Absolution with Laying on of Hands, Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 7PM

Tenebrae Service of Shadows and Darkness
Movements from Vivaldi's "Gloria" offered by Good Shepherd Choir

COMMUNITY EASTER VIGIL, MARCH 31, 7PM

A Service of Fire, Scripture, Water, & Holy Communion
This one hour service will be followed by a dessert reception.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 9:30 AM

Festival Worship with Good Shepherd Band and Choir,
Holy Communion

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 Iowa Avenue, Decorah, IA goodshepherddecorah.org



COMMUNITY
Easter Vigil

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

7:00 P.M.

Champagne reception to follow - non-alcoholic bubbles, too!

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
701 IOWA AVENUE

The Music Page

Vivaldi's "Gloria," part 2

Throughout the Lent and Easter seasons, the Good Shepherd Choir, Band, and baritone Jonathan Struve will present movements from Antonio Vivaldi's setting of the "Gloria" portion of the Latin mass. Over the next several newsletters, we'll learn a little more about the composer, his setting of this text, and the importance of these words to our worship service.

In September 1703, Vivaldi (1678-1741) became *maestro di violino* (master of violin) at an orphanage called the *Pio Ospedale della Pietà* (Devout Hospital of Mercy) in Venice. There were similar institutions in Venice whose purpose was to give shelter and education to children who were abandoned or orphaned, or whose families could not support them. The boys learned a trade and had to leave when they reached the age of fifteen. The girls received a musical education, and the most talented among them stayed and became members of the Ospedale's renowned orchestra and choir.

In March, the choir will sing three of the latter portions of the "Gloria," corresponding to the words "Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, Have mercy on us."

Noontime Lenten Recital Series

Good Shepherd's annual Lenten Recital series returns this month on Wednesdays, March 7, 14, and 21 in the sanctuary. The performances will start at 12:15 and finish by 12:45.

March 7: Craig Hultgren, cello

Craig Hultgren is a professional cellist who moved to the Decorah area in 2015. He is an advocate for newly created music. Close to 300 works have been written for him. He will perform the G Major Suite by Johann Sebastian Bach, "Quiet Music" by Andrew Rindfleisch, and one of his own improvisations to be accompanied on organ by Brooke Joyce.

March 14: Jonathon Struve, baritone & Brooke Joyce, piano

Jonathon Struve is instructor of voice and Paideia at Luther College. He holds a PhD with an emphasis in vocal literature from the University of Iowa. His recital will include "Gesänge des Harfners," by Franz Schubert with texts by Goethe, and "Three Divine Hymns," arrangements of Henry Purcell's music by Benjamin Britten.

March 14: Ben Hippen, piano

Composer Ben Hippen grew up in Decorah and returned recently to focus on writing and performing his original music. He will be performing a program of his solo piano music, including selections from his last two albums. His web site is www.benhippen.com, where you can find more of his music and music videos.

March Music Schedule

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---------------------------------|
| 3/4 | Choir: Vivaldi, "Qui tollis peccata mundi" | 3/25 | Special Music TBA |
| 3/11 | Handbells: TBA | 3/30 | Choir: Vivaldi, mvts. VIII-IX-X |
| 3/18 | Band: Bach Cantata no. 4, Vivaldi IV/V (Gratias/Propter) | | |

Choir and Band rehearse Wednesday night at 7 and 8 pm (no rehearsals on 3/28). Handbells rehearse 3/7 at 6:45 pm. All are welcome!

March 2018 Ministry Teams

DATE	LITURGY	USHER * Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only
Sunday, March 4 11am Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Ruth Bruce Reader: Harland Nelson Communion Server: Matt Tapscott Cantor: Megan Buckingham	1.*Megan Buckingham 2. Dave Judisch Greeter: Gail Judisch Acolytes: Oliver & Adeline Bollinger	1.*Kathy & Jim Buzza 2. Jerry Bruce 3. Marilyn Rue 4. Kate Narveson
Wednesday, March 7 Service 5:30 p.m. <i>Norsemen Performance</i>	Asst. Minister: Jonathon Struve Cantor: Reg Laursen	1.*Kathryn Thompson Greeter: Nathan Larson	Soup Supper
Sunday, March 11 11am Broadcast	Asst. Minister & Reader: Kate Narveson Communion Server: Don Berg Cantor: Dennis Barnaal	1.* Jim Fritz 2. Erik Berg Greeter: Anna Norris Acolyte: Maggie Norris	1.*Diane Kruse 2. Liz Fritz 3. Sharon Drew 4. Wanda Deifelt & Germano Streese
Wednesday, March 14 Service 5:30 p.m. <i>Cantorei Performance</i>	Asst. Minister: Amalia Vagts Cantor: Megan Buckingham	1.* Mara & Steve Holland Greeter: Ava & Krista Holland	Soup Supper
Sunday, March 18 11am Broadcast	Asst. Minister & Reader: Ruth Bruce Communion Server: Don Berg Cantor: Kate Narveson	1.* Jim Fritz 2. Jerry Auwles Greeter: Jo Ann Aulwes Acolyte:	1.*Ingrid Callaghan 2. Jerry Bruce 3. Liz Fritz 4. Norma Refsal
Wednesday, March 21 Service 5:30 p.m. <i>Luren Singing Society</i>	Asst. Minister: Midge Kjome Cantor: Jonathon Struve	1.* Marion Pruitt- Jefferson Greeter: Kathryn Thompson	Soup Supper
Sunday, March 25 Live Broadcast Palm Sunday	Asst. Minister: Marv Slind Reader: Harland Nelson Communion Server: Marty Steele Cantor: Dan Raney	1.*Tom Buresh 2. Connie Buresh Greeter: Marty Steele Acolyte: Abby Larson	1.* Wanda Deifelt & Germano Streese 2. Megan Buckingham 3. Marv Slind 4. Barb Berg, 5. Marion Pruitt-Jefferson (F)

March Altar Guild: Carrie Solberg (convener), Kim Kavan, Judy Schoel



HE IS RISEN.

Easter Week 2018 Ministry Teams

DATE	LITURGY	USHER * Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator
Thursday, March 29 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Asst. Minister: Megan Buckingham Reader: KJ Rebarcak Cantor: Jonathon Struve Communion Server: John Jefferson	1.* Joanne Ylvisaker 2. Richard Ylvisaker Greeter: Elizabeth Kaschins	No Fellowship Hour
Friday, March 30 Good Friday 7:00 p.m.	Asst. Minister: Reader: KJ Rebarcak Cantor: Reg Laursen	1.*Chris Hick 2. Linda Wolfs	No Fellowship Hour
Saturday, March 31 Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m. Community Service At Good Shepherd	Readers: Amalia Vagts Lisa Zittergruen Cantor:	1.* John Jefferson 2. Don Berg	1.*Amalia Vagts 2. Steven Zittergruen 3. Joyce & Ed Epperly 4. Elizabeth Kaschins
Sunday, April 1 Easter Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Asst. Minister: Chris Hick Reader: Harland Nelson Cantor: Reg Laursen Communion Server: Linda Wolfs	1.* Don Berg 2. Greeter: Hayley Jackson Acolyte: Keegan Joyce	No Fellowship Hour

A SPECIAL PRAYER

God's fast asks of you:
 Break chains of injustice, remove every yoke
 Free prisoners, feed the hungry,
 Welcome the homeless into your home.
 God's feast reminds you:
 You don't do any of this alone.
 Eat and drink together and
 As you are gathered
 See what God does in/through/with the plural
 you.

You—youse—y'all—ustedes—will be a
 watered garden.
 You will give life and joy and sustenance
 As you joyfully sustain each other.
 Blessings on your feast this day.
 Blessings on your fast.
 Amen.

Written by Pastor Anne Edison-Albright

March Scriptures

Sunday, March 4 Third Sunday in Lent	Exodus 20:1-17 The commandments are given at Sinai	Psalm 19 The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes.	1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Christ crucified, the wisdom of God	John 2:13-22 The cleansing of the temple
Sunday, March 11 Fourth Sunday in Lent	Numbers 21:4-9 The lifting up of the serpent	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 You deliver your people from their distress.	Ephesians 2:1-10 Saved by grace through faith for good works	John 3:14-21 The lifting up of the Son of Man
Sunday, March 18 Fifth Sunday in Lent	Jeremiah 31:31-34 A new covenant written on the heart	Psalm 51:1-12 Create in me a clean heart, O God.	Hebrews 5:5-10 Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation	John 12:20-33 The grain of wheat dying in the earth
Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a The servant of the Lord submits to suffering	Psalm 31:9-16 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.	Philippians 2:5-11 Humbled to the point of death on a cross	Mark 14:1--15:47 The passion of the Lord
Thursday, March 29 Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 The Passover of the Lord	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.	1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes	John 13:1-17, 31b-35 The service of Christ: foot washing and meal
Friday, March 30 Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13--53:12 The suffering servant	Psalm 22 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?	Hebrews 10:16-25 The way to God is opened by Jesus' death	John 18:1--19:42 The passion and death of Christ

March Adult Forums

MARCH 4 - "Immigration. Got Questions? We've Got Answers" - Melissa O'Rourke, an attorney who is part of the NEI Peace and Justice Center immigration working group, will present information on the legal aspects of the immigration process, such as who can apply, how long is the process, what is meant by "chain migration", what is DACA and what are its implications. Melissa, along with Lyle Otte and Marty Steele, will answer questions and provide information important to those who are advocates and allies for immigrants. Marty will provide brief information on AMMPARO activities.

MARCH 11 - Mid-West Encounters Middle East - Mark & Lois Finanger will reflect on their 28 years of living and working in Saudi Arabia. The Finangers will emphasize the unique challenges of navigating the Saudi culture, past and present. The Saudi Arabia chapter of the lives of Mark and Lois Finanger started in August 1982 and ended June 2015. Some would say that there was no doubt that a sense of adventure and fearlessness of the unknown burned brightly with those two. Two small town Iowans, fresh out of college, took a chance on setting up a life and career in a barren country halfway around the world. Not many would sign up for such an unknown. Mark and Lois carved out lives for themselves -- and their family -- that was unique to many and utterly unthinkable to countless others.

MARCH 17, The Historical Background of the Nicene Creed.- Marv Slind will explain why and how the creed was created, as well as some of its effects. His interest in the topic came from his experience teaching courses covering Roman and medieval history, both at Luther College and at Washington State University.

Marv grew up in Washington State. He received his B.A. in History from Pacific Lutheran University, in Tacoma, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in History from Washington State University, in Pullman. He also attended the University of Oslo International Summer School, and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Before he joined the Luther College faculty in 2000, he was at Washington State University from 1977 to 2000, where he served in the Office of International Education and taught in the Department of History.

MARCH 25 - In the Footsteps of Martin Luther - Carol Hasvold will present a program and share slides taken on a recent trip to Germany which focused on the places where Martin Luther was born, lived, worked and died. The 500th Anniversary Celebrations of the Reformation have focused on Luther's theology, but it is interesting also to learn more about the life of Martin Luther; the person.

Stewardship

“As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. The fever left her and she began to serve them.” Mark 1:29-31 (NRSV)

As we look at these three verses we can note that Jesus, with the authority of God, healed Simon’s mother-in-law and helped her rise from her bed. Looking further into Mark, we see that this was only one of many healings performed by Jesus, always with the authority of God.

With reference to stewardship, of interest to us here is the reaction of Simon’s mother-in-law to the healing performed by Jesus. Like others who received Jesus’ healing miracles, she chose to immediately serve him rather than go out to display her healing. She not only served Jesus, but other people around her as well. It isn’t clear **how** she served, whether it was preparing a meal or providing hospitality, but it is clear that she served her fellow mankind. The bigger question is: why? Was it out of gratitude, or a feeling of obligation, or to serve an inner emotional need, or some other reason?

What can we learn from Simon’s mother-in-law’s experience? First of all, the biblical concept of serving is closely related to stewardship. By acknowledging that concept, she teaches us that a positive response to blessings from Jesus could be serving or practicing stewardship for those around us. Who of us hasn’t received Jesus’ blessing? How have we responded?

Secondly, Simon’s mother-in-law’s experience teaches us that serving, or practicing stewardship, can be accomplished in many ways. Since Mark’s scripture doesn’t specifically identify how she served, we are left to imagine what she did. What kind of serving – or stewardship – can we imagine as a response to our blessings from Jesus?

In the January issue of *The Shepherd’s Voice* Germano Streese recognized Good Shepherd’s very successful response to our fall appeal for 2018. He also encouraged us to respond positively to the two Lenten mission initiatives that began on Ash Wednesday. Both the fall appeal and the Lenten mission initiatives are identified as serving Good Shepherd through the stewardship of money. Stewardship of money, as well as the stewardship of offering hospitality, has always been a strength of Good Shepherd. The success of our Stewardship for All Seasons “A Place to Connect” campaign is only the most recent example of that.

However, the purpose of Stewardship for All Seasons is to lead Good Shepherd into an effective stewardship ministry that is a holistic, year-round, systematic emphasis, not just a once-a-year fund drive. How can we respond to the blessings of Jesus, which come in all seasons, by serving—or practicing stewardship—on a non-monetary basis, in all seasons? Many members of our congregation are aware of the countless ways of practicing that kind of stewardship at Good Shepherd. There is also a multitude of ways we can serve others in our daily lives. Imagine responding to Jesus’ blessings by practicing stewardship for anything that helps the world God created.

Simon’s mother-in-law responded immediately to the blessings and healing of Jesus by serving. Isn’t this a lesson for us?

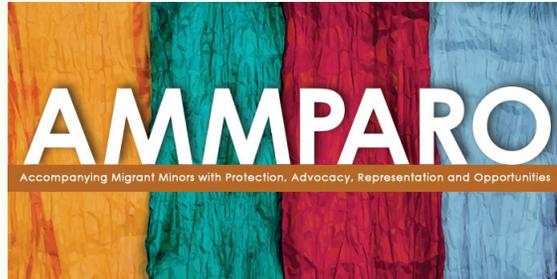
Jerry Bruce

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship

Stewardship Story: Your Generosity at Work

How We're Connecting Faith and Action through our Financial Stewardship



The AMMPARO Program

As we enter our second year as an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation it is important to honor the commitment of the entire congregation to this program. One of the many ways you have supported AMMPARO includes the financial support for the continuation of Pastor Marion's position. She is a partner in planning for AMMPARO activities and provides guidance and leadership for the broader work of the Social Concerns committee, such as facilitating email advocacy alerts. Your AMMPARO representatives, Pastor Marion and Marty Steele, along with Pastor Mike Blair, were present at the local jail last November to witness the ICE removal of a 20 year resident and with others in the congregation and community have subsequently worked to raise money for legal fees and family support of this neighbor.

In addition to our work to make AMMPARO known in the congregation, Pastor Marion and Marty connect regularly with the national AMMPARO group (at last count, 75 ELCA congregations), to learn what is happening in other congregations/synods. For example, synods near cities with immigration courts (such as Omaha) have developed Guardian Angel programs through AMMPARO, which train advocates to be present in such courts to help immigrants know their rights and access legal assistance.

Congregations nationally report a variety of advocacy actions, including a vigil at an ICE office (Milwaukee), providing housing for immigrants (SW Pennsylvania, New England), raising money for legal fees when pro bono resources are maxed out (SW California, NE Iowa), and seeking to make connections in Central America to improve the safety of those deported (Texas, Louisiana Gulf Coast).

At Good Shepherd, our Sunday School children will be seeking contributions during Lent for a fund to assist young immigrants with medical, dental, and mental health needs. The fund was begun with a \$5,000 grant our AMMPARO program received from the ELCA for 2018. We have already spent \$1,000 on one immigration physical and \$500 on emergency dental work for one person; the need is great.

Ways you can continue to support this program include prayer, singing songs in Spanish when invited even though it is uncomfortable (!), advocating at the state and national level for immigration Justice, and financial gifts to the Sunday School appeal as well as local immigrant advocacy groups such as Path to Citizenship. Thank you for your continued partnership in this important work!

Education

LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

The children of Good Shepherd have chosen AAMPARO as the focus of this year's Lenten mission project. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 to support AAMPARO's medical/dental/mental health fund for unaccompanied migrant children from Central America now living in Northeast Iowa. Place your donations in the medical bag in the Sanctuary during the offering through the Lenten season. Please write Sunday School Project on your check. Thank you for your support of this project!

PARENTS: Here are three summer opportunities for our youth to consider :

Vacation Bible School will be Monday, July 23rd through Wednesday, July 25th. Kathryn Thompson will be coordinating VBS again this year, and we are currently discussing themes and activities. Note that we plan to have the VBS kids sing in worship on Sunday, July 29th. More details to come!

Ewalu Camp brochures are on the Narthex Table; online registration is available here: <http://ewalu.org/registration>. Camperships are available to all Good Shepherd kids. Please contact the church office by April 15th if you would like a campership.

First Lutheran will be hosting Ewalu Day Camp August 6th-10th. Good Shepherd kids are invited to attend. We will provide details as they become available.

From the Altar Guild

During March we continue our journey through changes in liturgical seasons and colors. On Ash Wednesday we entered the season of Lent for which the liturgical color is purple in remembrance of the royalty of Christ, who reigns from the cross. It is seen in our altar and pulpit paraments, the pastors' stoles, the drape on our Shepherd's Cross, and the ribbons on our exterior door wreaths. The liturgical colors will change somewhat when Holy Week begins on Sunday of the Passion-Palm Sunday, March 25. The color for the days from then through Maundy Thursday is scarlet, the color of the crucifixion; purple is the alternate. Barbara Berg, who created and wove our paraments and pastor's stole, incorporated scarlet sections so that they could serve for Holy Week, as well. The gates in the weavings will change from purple to scarlet with black crosses woven in. At the end of the Maundy Thursday service, the altar is stripped and the paraments, gates, and drape are removed. The altar area remains bare through the Good Friday service. The altar will be re-dressed, flowers added, the Paschal Candle lighted, and our white and gold paraments, gates, and stoles will be in place for the Saturday evening Community Vigil of Easter and our Easter Sunday Festival Worship that mark the beginning of the Easter season. This fifty-day season will end with the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 20, for which the liturgical color changes to bright red.

Good Shepherd Announcements

EASTER FLOWERS - Altar Guild welcomes contributions of fresh flowers and flowering plants to grace our altar area for the Community Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening, March 31, and our Easter Sunday Festival Worship Service, April 1. Contributions can be designated in honor or memory of loved ones and friends. Because of allergies and sensitivities, please refrain from choosing heavily scented flowers and plants. Hydrangeas, azaleas, tulips, daffodils, iris, roses, and mixed bouquets are examples of good choices. Please have them delivered to the Narthex table *no later than Noon on Saturday, March 31.*

HAVE EASTER DINNER AT GOOD SHEPHERD!

Do you need a place to go to eat on Easter Sunday? WELCA would like to invite you to a potluck dinner on Easter Sunday, April 1st at noon in the Fellowship Hall of Good Shepherd. Meat and potatoes will be provided, bring a dish to pass. A free-will offering will be taken to support future seminarians in the congregation. Join your church family and friends for a good meal and fellowship. **Please RSVP** to Ann Naslund 563- 380 -3486 or Bev Sheridan at 382-9025 (sherida701@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending. We will also need a few people to help with setup and cleanup.

LENTEN AND EASTER SUNDAY OFFERINGS: The Congregational Council voted at their January meeting to designate the Wednesday Lenten Service and Easter morning service offerings be split between the *Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Northeast Iowa Path to Citizenship.*

ATTENTION PAST COUNCIL MEMBERS - We are trying to locate the second key to the Good Shepherd Safety Deposit Box. This key would be in a small red envelope labeled Decorah Bank and Trust with number 547. Please search your drawers at home to see if you might be in possession of this key and return it to the church office.

BROOKE JOYCE'S work for solo alto flute, "Rubha Hunish," was recently awarded First Prize in the Professional Division of the Robert Avalon International Competition for Composers. The piece was performed Oct. 28 in Houston by Colleen Matheu Johnson, principal piccolo of the Houston Ballet.

2018 LEADERSHIP LIST - A full list of Congregation Officers, Council Members, Committees, and other leaders at Good Shepherd for 2018 is posted under the "About" tab on the Good Shepherd website. It will be continually updated during the year.

WEBSITE NEWS: Since the start of the new year, the Good Shepherd website has been hacked repeatedly making it inaccessible and losing posts. To our rescue came Tabita Green and her new company which works directly to build websites and solve web-based problems. We are grateful to Tabita and her business partner, Nathan Dirks, for migrating the Good Shepherd website to a new hosting site with much improved security. Thanks to Tabita and Nathan for their expertise and patience as they worked to diagnose and solve our web problems.

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

March 22

 **Happy Easter** 

**NEW MEMBERS JOIN
GOOD SHEPHERD
February 25, 2018**



Max Eness



Kirk and Kerry Johnson



Briggette Morris-Kidd



**Brent, Bridget, Brenna and
Bristol Parker**



Dale and Wanda Rueber

**Photo of Bill DeGraaf and Linda Donoghue
(coming)**

**Contact information for new members can be
found online in the Courtyard directory
available on the Good Shepherd website
goodshepherddecorah.org**



World Day of Prayer 2018 is Friday, March 2nd

World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. First United Methodist Church will be our host with coffee being served at 9 am and the program to follow. The host country for WDP 2018 is Suriname. The focus is on Genesis 1, the story of Creation, with the theme “All God’s Creation Is Very Good!” Universal issues of climate change, natural disasters, pollution, and human abuse of the environment—all affecting God’s good Creation and God’s people—will be explored. Ann Naslund and Bev Sheridan will be helping with the program. All are welcome to attend.

Easter Dinner at Good Shepherd, Sunday April 1st

Do you need a place to go to eat on Easter Sunday? WELCA would like to invite you to a potluck dinner on Easter Sunday at noon in the Fellowship Hall of Good Shepherd. Meat and potatoes will be provided, bring a dish to pass. A free-will offering will be taken to support future seminarians in the congregation. Join your church family and friends for a good meal and fellowship. Please RSVP to Ann Naslund 563- 380-3486 or Bev Sheridan at 382-9025(sherida701@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending. We will also need a few people to help with setup and cleanup.

Cluster D Spring Gathering, April 28th at Big Canoe Lutheran

Carole Daughten will share her experiences at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Join other Lutheran women in the Cluster for a morning of coffee, fellowship and an informational program. We will carpool from Good Shepherd. More information next month.

2018 WELCA booklets are available on the hall counter by the church office. Please pick one up and also take a few extra to give out at a circle meeting. All are welcome to participate in the WELCA activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2: World Day of Prayer, First United Methodist Church, 9 am

April 28: Cluster D Spring Gathering, Big Canoe Lutheran, 9 am

March Circle Schedule

3/6 - Mary Circle - 4:00 p.m. - Marilyn Anderson hosts

3/13 - Anna Circle - 9:30 a.m. - Joanne Ylvisaker hosts at Aase Haugen

3/14 - Miriam Circle - 2:00 p.m. - Laverne Ramsey hosts

3/20 - CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Judy Schoel hosts



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

February 20, 2018, 7:00 PM

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

Present: Pr. Amy Zalk Larson, Megan Buckingham, Steve Holland, John Moeller, Bob Felde, Marty Steele, Janeen Christy, Germano Streese, Jon Christy, Ava Holland, and Jonathon Struve.

Devotions and Fellowship: The council met at 6:00pm for a potluck and fellowship. Megan Buckingham led us in devotions.

Bob Felde moved and Janeen Christy seconded, to approve the minutes of the January Council Meeting, approved.

A motion from the social justice committee that we consider adopting a ban on weapons on our property was added to the agenda under New Business. John Christy moved and Marty Steele seconded to adopt the agenda as amended, passed.

New Business:

Receive New Members: Those wishing to join the congregation are: Brigette Morris-Kidd; Linda Donoghue and Bill de Graaf; Dale and Wanda Rueber; Max Eness; Brent, Bridget, Brenna and Bristol Parker. Marty Steele moved and Germano Streese seconded to receive these new members into the congregation, passed. New members, including Kirk and Kerry Johnson, who were received by the council in December, will be welcomed on Sunday, February 25.

Audit Committee Appointment: Janeen Christy moved and Bob Felde seconded to approve the appointment of Mike Bollinger to the Audit Committee. This position is appointed by the council rather than elected by the congregation. Motion passed.

Facilities Improvement Committee: Members have been approached to serve on a building committee to take up the recommendations of the Space Exploration Task force and be charged with working with an architect to address the needs of the facility. The proposed members of the committee are Lindsay Erdman, Lindy Moeller, Kate Narveson, Jim Fritz, and Reg Laursen.

Concerns were expressed over calling the committee a "Building" committee, which might suggest that the recommendations of the committee would include a substantial building project. It was suggested that the name of the committee be changed to the "Facilities Improvement Committee" to better reflect the immediate goals of the committee.

Marty Steele moved and Germano Streese seconded to approve the appointment of the temporary committee called the "Facilities Improvement Committee," consisting of the individuals named above, who will serve two year terms and be charged with making recommendations for the improvement of our facilities. Motion passed.

Designate Additional Officers to Access Good Shepherd Bank Account: A motion was made by Janeen Christy and seconded by Germano Streese to designate the Congregational Council President, Megan Buckingham, and Vice President, Steve Holland, as authorized officers on the accounts of Good Shepherd pending passage of a background check. Motion passed.

Allocate Funds for Children's Area in the Fellowship Hall: The Property and Management committee brought forth a motion to allocate funds for the creation of a play space for young children to use during the fellowship hour. Marty Steele explained that space would be set aside in the northeast corner of the Fellowship Hall. This play space would be portable so that it can be moved and put away easily. This project was one of the recommendations put forward by the Space Exploration Task Force and approved by last year's council, and

Megan Buckingham noted that parents of small children have expressed that having a play space in the fellowship hall would make it easier for them to stay in fellowship rather than having to spend that time in the nursery. Marty Steele did note a concern the Eckhart piece on the north wall of the fellowship hall would potentially need some protection.

Property and management moved that up to \$1000 be designated towards the Fellowship Hall Children's Area, with money coming out of the \$65,000 budgeted for facilities improvement. Motion passed.

Social Justice Committee: Weapons Ban Policy: A motion from the social justice committee suggested that Good Shepherd adopt a resolution prohibiting guns from church property. This policy includes posting small signs at entrances indicating that guns are prohibited. Janeen Christy and Bob Felde asked how such a policy might impact on-duty law enforcement officers and suggested that an exception be made for these individuals. Pr. Amy Larson mentioned that churches that have enacted similar policies have had to use specific language in their policies and signs because of state law and insurance requirements. The council tabled this motion until further research is completed.

Old Business:

None.

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

Youth Representative: Ava Holland

Confirmation students are helping with the Lenten soup suppers in the kitchen. The group met with confirmation students from other local churches at Confest on Feb. 5th. The youth forum meets each week; the sessions relate the week's scripture readings to a real-world event.

Education Committee: Bob Felde

The Sunday School Kids will provide Lenten readings and offering assistance associated with our Lenten Offering project on Sundays from 2/18 to 3/18.

Kathryn Thompson has agreed to coordinate VBS again this year. The dates will be Monday, July 23 through Wednesday July 25. The students will sing at the global worship service on Sunday, July 29. VBS will stay out of the kitchen and not ask for help from WELCA due to Krumkake preparations.

More volunteers are always welcome and needed for Sunday school. This task does not require any preparation or special skills other than your presence. There will be a celebration at the end of the Sunday School session on May 20th.

Evangelism Committee: Janeen Christy

An information session for new members was held on February 18 with about 12 current, new, and potential members attending. We will be receiving six new family units and 11-12 new people in total on February 25.

Property and Management Committee: Marty Steele

St. Grubby's Day is scheduled for May 6; the committee will be asking for 3-4 people to help lead and coordinate tasks on that day.

A dedication to thank Harv Klevar for making the fellowship pad holders for the pews was held on February 18. Property and Management is moving forward with a plan for a dedicated play area for small children in the fellowship hall. A subcommittee of parents of young children has been formed to generate ideas this month, with the hope to have the space in place in the next few months.

Stewardship Committee: Germano Streese

The committee completed its evaluation of the fall campaign. Overall, the committee thought the campaign was a success.

Articles highlighting programs and initiatives emphasized in the fall campaign will be featured in the monthly newsletter. The idea is to retell the story so that members are aware of where their gifts are going and how they contribute to the life of the congregation and the mission of the church.

Worship and Music Committee: Jon Christy

“The Stories We Tell” is the theme of the Wednesday midweek Lenten services. The five services will feature the Evening prayer setting from the ELW and include a creative retelling of each week’s Bible story and a reflection. The committee discussed the possibility of including a healing component during the Sunday worship service. However, Pr. Amy Larson noted that the desire seems more for a separate healing service rather than a healing component within Sunday worship. The committee will explore further options.

Pastor’s Report: Pr. Amy Larson

Pr. Amy Larson charged the council with focusing this year on being good stewards of the growth and energy of the church. Exciting things are happening, and the question is how we keep sustaining this growth and feed it. The committees and leadership will be charged with keeping track of the work we do and who is doing it, so that we know how we tend to this work, particularly when a new person must fulfill a task in the church.

President’s Report: Megan Buckingham

Megan Buckingham, Pr. Amy Larson, and Steve Holland attended the Upper Iowa Conference Assembly at Decorah Lutheran on February 5th. The conference voted to split missionary support between YAGM and seminarians from our conference. Since Good Shepherd voted to split our missionary support between the Oyebades and YAGM at our annual meeting, Pr. Amy noted that we can designate the money we send to the conference specifically for YAGM.

Vice President’s Report: Steve Holland

No Report

Secretary’s Report: Jonathon Struve

No Report

Treasurer’s Report: John Moeller

Total income year to date: \$19,613.00

Total expense year to date: (\$12,941.00)

Net income year to date: \$6,671.36

Germano Streese moved and Bob Felde seconded to approve the treasurer’s report. Treasurer’s report approved.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: February 22, 2018

Next Council Meeting: March 20, 2018 7:00 pm

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Janine Christy moved, Germano Streese seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Pr. Amy Larson led the council in The Lord’s Prayer to close the meeting.

---Submitted by Jonathon Struve, Congregational Council Secretary

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New member Sunday 8:45 AM Handbell rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School/Youth Forum 10:50 AM Adult Forum 12:30 PM Eric Sessions Recital 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Ben practice 5:00 PM Faith Coalition 7:00 PM CLA Circle 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 5:30 PM Lenten Mid Week Service 6:30 PM Facilities Improvement Committee 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band rehearsal 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 2:00 PM Ben practice 5:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day of Prayer 9:00 AM Ben practice 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Choir Practice 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School/Youth Forum 10:50 AM Adult Forum "Immigration, Got Questions? We've Got Answers." 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Ben practice 4:00 PM Mary circle 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM GS Lenten Recital Series 5:30 PM Lenten Mid Week Service 6:45 PM Handbell rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band rehearsal 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 12:00 PM Stewardship Committee 1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting 1:30 PM Travel Club 2:00 PM Ben practice 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:30 PM Worship and Music 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Ben practice 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 1:30 PM Education Committee 	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Handbell rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School/Youth Forum 10:50 AM Adult Forum/ Mid-West Encounters Middle East 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Anna Circle 2:00 PM Ben practice 5:15 PM Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM SET & Facilities Improvement Committee 7:30 PM Indivisible 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Aase Haugen Communion 12:00 PM GS Lenten Recital Series 2:00 PM Miriam/Ruth Circle 5:30 PM Lenten Mid Week Service 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band rehearsal 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 2:00 PM Ben practice 5:00 PM Decorah Community Meal 6:30 PM Stewardship Committee with Pete Reuss 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenny out of office 9:00 AM Ben practice 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Band Warmup 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School/Youth Forum 10:50 AM Adult Forum/ Historical Background of the Nicene Creed 1:00 PM Sandy Good recital 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenny out of office 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenny out of office 2:00 PM Ben practice 5:00 PM Social Justice Committee 7:00 PM Council Meeting 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM GS Lenten Recital Series 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 PM Lenten Mid Week Service 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band rehearsal 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 2:00 PM Ben practice 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Ben practice 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School/NO Youth Forum 10:50 AM Adult Forum In the Footsteps of Martin Luther 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Ben practice 7:00 PM CLA Circle 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM Opportunity Homes 9:30 AM Opportunity Homes 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 8:00 PM Band rehearsal 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAUNDY THURSDAY Recycle 10:00 AM NO Bible Study with Pastor 2:00 PM Ben practice 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOOD FRIDAY No school 9:00 AM Ben practice 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:30 PM choir warmup 7:00 PM Good Friday Service 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Easter Vigil

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

701 Iowa Avenue

Decorah IA 52101



March 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

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

Church Office: 563-382-3963

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

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

