



The Shepherd's Voice

May 2018

Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

It is such a joy to see what God is doing through this congregation. It's time for an update about where we are and where we are going from here. Our plan for 2018 is to strengthen the ways that Good Shepherd is a **Place to Connect**: with God, others and the world.

A Physical Place to Connect - Caring for Our Spaces

Guests in worship consistently say, "This is a great space!" They're right! We'll be taking care of it this summer with new paint, ceiling paint, refinishing pews, window fixes, etc. Carpet will be replaced when all facilities projects are finished.

We've retained an architect who is working on preliminary design plans for other areas of our main building so that they can better foster welcome and connection.

We'll do some of the smaller parts of the project yet this year. Work with classrooms, hallway and narthex spaces will begin next year.

Connecting the Generations - Strengthening Faith

Our members who are in nursing homes and or homebound just light up when they get a visitor from Good Shepherd, whether it is Pr. Marion, me or one of our communion visitors. We help them know they are a valued part of the Good Shepherd flock.

The Adult Forum ministry is thriving with the support of Pr. Marion.

We now have another opportunity to invest in our children, youth and families. **The Education and Stewardship committees are hard at work to create and fund a part-time position - Director for Children, Youth and Family Ministry using the gifts of our member Kathryn Thompson. Please consider how you can help make this opportunity a reality through your financial support and/or prayers.** See more information on page 3 of this newsletter. Watch for a letter coming to your house this week.

Faith into Action - Connecting with the Larger World

The national AMMPARO program director, Mary Campbell, says that Good Shepherd is a "shining star" in the AMMPARO program. Our work supporting migrant minors and advocating for them is so important and so faithful.

The Social Justice Subcommittee has been even more active with Pr. Marion's support. Some examples: We will be part of the Pride Parade on May 12, and we'll be hosting a Ramadan Meal at Good Shepherd on May 29.

Good Shepherd will again be a packing site for the Kids Lunch Club summer free lunch program.

Thanks be to God for all of this. Thank you, Good Shepherd for the ways you participate in what God is doing here through offering your financial gifts and your time and talents.

Peace, Pr. Amy

Worship Notes

May 6 St. Grubby's Day

Wear grubby clothes to worship and do clean-up projects in community after worship.

May 10 Service of Prayer for Healing, Thursday, May 10, 6:30pm

In this service, we open ourselves to the healing presence of God through silence, singing, scripture reading, and prayer. Individual anointing with oil, the laying on of hands, and personal prayer are also offered. The service helps us to experience God's goodness, care and concern while also expanding our understanding of healing. Healing can be different from curing. God is present and at work even in our pain and sorrow.

May 13 Mother's Day, Baptism of Menzi Nkambule and Joseph Tiegen

Good Shepherd will share in a joint worship service with the Luther College student congregation. We will celebrate the baptism of two Luther students: Menzi Nkambule and Joseph Tiegen. These Luther seniors have been helping with Confirmation class and are heading to seminary. Pastor Mike Blair, Pastor Anne Edison-Albright and Luther College Organist Gregory Peterson will participate in the service, the Norsemen Ensemble will offer special music. We will also celebrate mothers and mothering! This service will be held in the Good Shepherd Sanctuary.

May 20 Day of Pentecost, Baccalaureate Sunday

As we celebrate the Spirit poured out upon the church, we also celebrate the graduation of high school senior Erik Johnson, college senior Gabriella Deifelt Streese and Luther seniors who have worshipped with us regularly. We will also offer our gifts for the spring special gift appeal and our time and talents sheets.

May Scriptures

Sunday, May 6 Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 10:44-48 The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles	Psalm 98 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.	1 John 5:1-6 The victory of faith	John 15:9-17 Christ the friend and lover
Sunday, May 13 Seventh Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Matthias added to the apostles	Psalm 1 The Lord knows the way of the righteous.	1 John 5:9-13 Life in the Son of God	John 17:6-19 Christ's prayer for his disciples
Sunday, May 20 Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.	Romans 8:22-27 Praying with the Spirit	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 Christ sends the Spirit of truth
Sunday, May 27 The Holy Trinity	Isaiah 6:1-8 Isaiah's vision and call	Psalm 29 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.	Romans 8:12-17 Living by the Spirit	John 3:1-17 Entering the reign of God through water and the Spirit

Nurture Our Children, Youth and Families

Nurture a Hopeful Future



GOAL: 60 households offer one-time gifts totaling \$15,000 for a part-time, two-year position of Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

This position enables us to nurture the life of faith of our children and youth, not only for them to become active members of Good Shepherd but also so they impact the world that surrounds us and become citizens of the world.

– a Good Shepherd Parent

Sunday, May 20

Gifts and Time and Talent Sheets will be received in worship

Gift Chart	
Nurture a Hopeful Future	
Number of Gifts	Amount of Gift
One	\$1,500.00
Three	\$1,000.00
Six	\$500.00
Fourteen	\$250.00
Twenty	\$150.00
One	\$100.00
Fifteen	\$60.00
Sixty Total	\$15,000.00

Stewardship

Nurturing a Hopeful Future through a Children, Youth and Family Ministry Position

The Education and Stewardship Committees present congregation members and friends with an exciting opportunity to invest in Good Shepherd's future. We have the chance to strengthen our capacity to minister to our children, youth, and families, deepening their lives of faith and service. We can do this through hiring our own Kathryn Thompson, a Decorah High School English teacher, as a part-time Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

This fall we will celebrate Good Shepherd's 60th anniversary, looking to our next 60 years. Our goal for this spring's special gift appeal is to have 60 households offer one-time gifts totaling \$15,000, enough to cover two years of salary for this part-time position. **The Education and Stewardship committee invite you to consider being among the 60 households that will make this financial investment in Good Shepherd's future. On Sunday, May 20, one-time gifts for this special appeal will be received during worship.** Gifts of all sizes are welcome and needed. A letter with additional details will be mailed to all on May 2.

Dear Good Shepherd Members and Friends,

I want to tell you why I am excited about investing in our children, youth and families through a part-time Director for Children, Youth and Family ministry. I want to invite you to consider joining Ruth and me in financial giving to make this opportunity a reality.

Americans are obsessed with sports, athletes, athletic contests, and sports stories. At all levels - young children through professional athletes - our obsession grows each generation. It doesn't matter what sports children are interested in, pieces of athletic equipment can be found in most households.

The athletes who contribute to our obsession weren't born with the necessary skills; they had to be learned, practiced, and nurtured. Many began learning from parents, teachers, and mentors at a very early age. The instructors, coaches, managers, and money necessary to bring an individual to the point where she or he can entertain is staggering.

Imagine what can happen when a similar investment is made to provide faith-based education for youngsters! We have the opportunity at Good Shepherd to make an investment in providing strong Christian teachings and experiences by securing a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. The Education and Stewardship Committees are confident that the growing needs of our children and youth can be met by hiring Kathryn Thompson for this part-time position. Kathryn is a Decorah High School English teacher. She led Good Shepherd Vacation Bible School last year and has led the children's ministry at Decorah United Church of Christ for two years.

Good Shepherd has demonstrated that part-time ministries are successful. We have a part-time Director of Music Ministry. Wow, what an investment! We have a part-time Assistant Pastor. Wow, what an investment! We've grown to have a need for a part-time Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry. Let's invest in this ministry and keep moving forward, perhaps not at the level of the American obsession with sports, but certainly at a level of continued growth in the Good Shepherd Christian community.

Jerry Bruce, Stewardship Committee

A Letter from Hallie Johnson

Last weekend, I had the privilege of attending Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice (EAD) in Washington D.C. with scholarships from the ELCA and Good Shepherd Lutheran. Pastor Marion and Karen McLean from the church's social justice committee attended with me. The gathering's focus was on immigration issues, and the title of the event was "A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees, and Displaced People."

After arriving Friday, April 20th, we attended the opening event. After a welcome from the president of Church World Service and from the director of EAD a sermon was given by Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, who spoke passionately about her own experiences with immigrants and migrants, and was a sort of call-to-action for the whole weekend. Saturday and Sunday were filled with similar seminars, including a panel given by DACA recipients, a talk given by Congressman (and Pastor) Emmanuel Cleaver II about accepting immigrants, and Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, who talked about immigration policy and responding to migrants, refugees, and displaced people. I also attended the ELCA denominational gathering on Saturday night, where we ate and talked informally about AMMPARO and other issues.

At the Sunday morning worship service, an inspiring sermon was given by Bishop Ricardo Ramírez of the Diocese of Las Cruces in New Mexico. He spoke about his experiences working on both sides of the Mexican-American border. After worship was an informative panel discussing "Conflict, Corruption, Climate Change, and the World's Uprooted."

On Monday we went to Capitol Hill to visit the offices of Senator Joni Ernst and Representative Rod Blum to lobby for immigration reform, addressing the root cause of forced migration, and implementing fair and compassionate immigration policies. Unfortunately, neither were available, but we spoke with representatives from each office along with several other people from our area.

I am so grateful to the church for encouraging me and supporting me as I explore my passion for social justice and advocacy.

May 12th Pride Parade – Reconciling in Christ Congregations to Participate

Please join members of Good Shepherd, First Lutheran, and the Luther College Student Congregation as together we participate in the first ever Pride Parade in Decorah on Saturday, May 12th. We will gather at Good Shepherd at 12:30 to create signs, and then head to Mary Christopher Park at 1:30 to line up for the Pride Parade, which begins at 2:00 pm. Seminarian Amalia Vagts, a Good Shepherd member, is a Co-chair of the Pride weekend events. In 2007 Good Shepherd became a Reconciling in Christ congregation, and since that time we have worked to become a more welcoming congregation to people who identify as LGBTQ. Pride is beautiful opportunity for our congregation to give witness to our LGBTQ welcome at Good Shepherd and God's love for all people. It is also a wonderful chance and invitation to participate in the LGBTQ community and learn from and celebrate the diversity they bring.

May 2018 Ministry Teams

DATE	LITURGY	USHER * Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only
Sunday, May 6 St. Grubby's Day 11 a.m. Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Megan Buckingham Reader: Jane Kemp Communion Server: Pam Torresdal Cantor: Reg Laursen	1.* Ray Torresdal 2. Bob Naslund Greeter: Christy Vrtis Acolyte:	1.* Amalia Vagts 2. Davis Lester 3. Tim & Judy Schoel 4. Jon Christy
Sunday, May 13 Joint service with Luther College Live Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek Reader: Reg Laursen Communion Server: Reg Laursen Cantor: Jonathon Struve	1.*Jeri Laursen 2. Jonathon Struve Greeter: Reg Laursen Acolyte: Abby Larson	1.*Ann Naslund 2. Christy Vrtis 3. Kate Narveson 4. Bev Nelson
Sunday, May 20 Baccalaureate Sunday 11 a.m. Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jonathon Struve Reader: Reg Laursen Communion Server: Reg Laursen Cantor: Kate Narveson	1.* 2. Greeter: Reg Laursen Acolyte: Jack Norris	1.*Marie Freerking 2. Jutta Anderson 3. Cheryl Donlon 4. Jeri Laursen
Sunday, May 27 No Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek Reader: KJ Rebarcak Communion Server: Bev Sheridan Cantor: Megan Buckingham	1.* Richard Wuest 2. Ed Epperly Greeter: Megan Buckingham Acolyte:	1.*Joyce Epperly 2. Cheryl Donlon 3. Jeri Laursen 4. Glenda Wuest
Special Event: Eastern Star Bingo Party Tuesday May 8, 2:00 – 3:00		80 prizes Quarters, fruit, chips, candy Arrive at 1:30 to set up	CLA Circle will cover Ann Naslund (coordinator)

May Altar Guild: Bev Sheridan (convener), Ann Naslund, Glendalu Wuest

Education Ministry

Our end of year **Sunday School Celebration** will take place on Sunday, May 20th. Pr. Amy will be joining us to share some thoughts on communion with our children, and we will celebrate together with some special snacks and games.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be **Monday, July 23rd through Wednesday, July 25th**. Kathryn Thompson will be coordinating VBS again this year, and our theme will be "God So Loves the World". Note that we plan to have the VBS kids sing in worship on Sunday, July 29th. More details to come!

We have several youth attending Ewalu this summer. There is still time to register, and online registration is available here: <http://ewalu.org/registration>

First Lutheran will be hosting **Ewalu Day Camp, August 6th-10th**. Good Shepherd kids are invited to attend, and camperships are available. More details to come!

THANK YOU TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS for their efforts during Lent to raise money for the AMMPARO medical and dental fund here at Good Shepherd, and thank you to the congregation for your generosity. The effort exceeded its goal by raising **\$2,262.25**, which will aid immigrant youth to have desperately needed access to dentists, doctors, and mental health professionals.

Submitted by the Social Justice Committee



Good Shepherd Announcements

THANK YOU FROM SHARON RENDACK

Many thanks to members of the Good Shepherd Family for your prayers, cards, emails, gifts of food and offers of assistance. You have made a difficult time much easier for me and for my Mom.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP: A change to Spiritual Gifts workshops in May. There will be only one more workshop on Wednesday, May 16th, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please pick up a registration form on the counter outside the church office.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POSTVILLE

IMMIGRATION RAID: On May 12, 2008, 389 people were arrested in an immigration raid at the Agriprocessors kosher meat production plant. The "Summons of 2008" ended in numerous imprisonments and mass deportation. Organizers of the "Summons of 2018" event hope it will end in a change of heart and a change in our immigration laws. Lowans of diverse faiths, cultures, races and ethnic backgrounds will be gathering -- as will other concerned people at sites nation-wide -- to remember the Agriprocessors workers impacted by the infamous raid. Join with friends, neighbors and distinguished guests May 11, 2018, at St. Bridget Parish, 141 West Williams St., Postville, IA, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for the interfaith service and rally to hear the *SUMMONS* and to renew the resolve to work for comprehensive immigration reform. We encourage members of Good Shepherd who are able to make plans to attend. Meet at Good Shepherd Church at 9 am to carpool to Postville.

MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT: Please join the Luren Singers, the Luther Norsemen, Decorah High School male singers, and the Middle School Viking Voices for the annual Mother's Day Concert on Sunday, May 13th, at 7:00 PM, at Decorah Lutheran Church. This concert is now called Decorah Men Sing! (formerly the Luren-Norsemen concert) and will feature each group separately and then a massed chorus of all participants for a grand finale. Admission is free and a free will offering will be taken. The proceeds will be divided between the High School Music and Middle School Music programs. The Luren Singers

are celebrating their 150th year of continuous existence, and this concert will be the 36th joint concert of the Luren and Norsemen.

GOOD SHEPHERD HOSTS RAMADAN MEAL MAY 29TH

Good Shepherd has been invited to share hospitality and fellowship with Muslim students during Ramadan. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from food and liquid from sunrise until sunset. For several years, the United Methodist Church has served a meal to Muslim students once a week as they break their fast at sunset. This year, the meals will be served on Tuesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. The UMC has invited Good Shepherd to provide the meal and fellowship on May 29th. The Social Justice Subcommittee will be coordinating this event and we invite all members of Good Shepherd to participate. Look for more details and a sign-up sheet coming!

ANNOUNCING: PEW TO PULPIT!

Do you ever leave worship on Sunday morning with questions or want to talk more about the sermon or scripture reading? We're kicking off a new summer series - Pew to Pulpit! Jot down your questions or musings on Sundays during worship and bring them to Pulpit Rock Brewing Company that afternoon. Starting June 3, we will gather *every other Sunday from 3 - 4:30 pm*. Each week we will place our questions in a basket and collectively choose a few to discuss. Pulpit Rock has craft beers, nitro pressed iced coffee, and sodas. Hosted by Amalia Vagts, Seminarian and Good Shepherd Member.

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

MAY 17

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

John Bale - new room number, phone
Please see an update on John from his caregivers on the bulletin board outside the church office.

There are no Adult Forums scheduled in May.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our LWR kits. Our Sunday School students assembled 16 Personal Care Kits and the CLA Circle assembled 47 Baby Care Kits at their recent meeting. You may have seen our boxes in the fellowship hall along with a map of where our kits were sent in 2017. These will be taken to Olson Explosives to be loaded on the truck for distribution to the LWR warehouse along with contributions from other churches in Northeast Iowa. Gail Judisch will be delivering them to the truck and could use some help loading her van on Friday May 4. Please contact her if you can help.

Church Women United May Friendship Day will be held Friday May 4 at Decorah Lutheran Church. The overall theme for the 2018 celebration is “God’s Presence,” taken from Colossians 1:17—“And God is before all things, and in and through God the universe is a harmonious whole.” May Friendship Day focuses on our gratitude for God’s presence in all things and especially as we respond to human needs. The offering will go to help support the Senior Farmer’s Market coupon program sponsored by the Winneshiek Memorial Hospital. All are welcome to attend.

The Northeast Iowa Synodical Women’s Organization 31st annual gathering will be held June 16 at Wartburg College in Waverly. The theme this year is “Blessed are the Weary”. “Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart” Galatians 6:9, is the theme verse. Convention registration forms and scholarship applications are available from Bev Sheridan. Education scholarship application forms are also available for women who are furthering their education. Scholarship deadlines are May 15, 2018.

2018 WELCA booklets are available on the hall counter by the church office. All are welcome to participate in the WELCA activities.

Upcoming events:

May 4: May Friendship Day, Decorah Lutheran, 9 am

May 5: LWR pickup, Olson Explosives

June 16: NEI Synod Women’s Organization 31st annual gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly, 8:15-4:30

May Circle Schedule

5/1 - Mary Circle - 4:00 p.m. - Marilyn Anderson hosts

5/8 - Anna Circle - 9:30 a.m. - Carol Hasvold hosts

5/9 - Miriam Circle - 2:00 p.m. - Beverly Nelson hosts

5/22 - CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Barbara Berg hosts



Treasurer's Report

GOOD NEWS: our first quarter giving was strong! Income through March 31 was \$63,750.54 (that compares with \$51,884.81 at the same time last year). A number of persons made contributions for 2018 at the end of 2017, so if we add those funds already received and giving continues at the same pace as the first quarter, our income for the year will be \$309,869.30. Recall that we budgeted for expenses totaling \$304,772.82.

Continuing the positive news, our Sunday School and Lenten offerings were impressive, as well. We raised \$2,262.25 from the Sunday School appeal. That money will be available for needs related to AMMPARO. The Lenten/Easter offerings totaled \$3,012.50. Recall we divide that between Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Path to Citizenship (our goal always is to support one national or international organization and one local organization).

I speak for the Church Council in thanking Good Shepherd members for the generosity in supporting both our regular activities and our special appeals.

Submitted by John Moeller



ST. GRUBBY'S DAY

Mark your calendar!!! Wear grubby clothes to church on May 6 and stay after church to participate in fun and fellowship with others while sprucing up our grounds and buildings. Bring work gloves, dust rags, paint scrapers, or whatever your favorite deep cleaning tools might be. We will have a list of jobs and people to help you find the supplies needed, and will end with pizza. Inside and outside jobs will be available for all ages. This is a great tradition at Good Shepherd and a

🎵 The Music Page 🎵

Some musical memories!

Sunday, May 20 will be the unofficial end of our music season. We'll have the choir and band perform together (the final movement of the Vivaldi "Gloria") and have the Sunday School Choir sing as well. After that, the choir will be on hiatus until September, and the band will be on break until July, when they'll begin preparing to play for the Vintage Baseball game at Nordic Fest. Below are some pictures from musical activities this past season. Soli Deo Gloria!



Top Left: The Good Shepherd Band performs at our annual Welcome Neighbors picnic
Top Right: Youth perform prior to the annual Sunday School Christmas Program
Bottom: Sunday School students sing "Above you to watch over"

May Music Schedule

- 5/2 Choir rehearsal at 7 pm; no band rehearsal
- 5/6 Special Music TBA
- 5/9 Choir rehearsal at 7 pm, band rehearsal at 8 pm
- 5/13 Norsemen visit!
- 5/16 Choir rehearsal at 7 pm, band rehearsal at 8 pm
- 5/20 Band, Choir and SS choir all sing/play in worship
- 5/24 Band/Choir party at 7 pm, details forthcoming!

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 PM

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

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

Prior to the scheduled council meeting, on April 10 the council affirmed welcoming Hannah, John, Jack, and Daniel Schroeher as new members of the congregation. They were received as members on Sunday, April 15.

Devotions and Initial Actions: John Moeller shared devotions. A motion was made by Holland and seconded by Streese to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Approved.

Marty Steele brought a motion from the Social Justice Subcommittee regarding Decorah Pride to add to New Business. Jon Christy made a motion and Janeen Christy seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Passed.

New Business:

Renaming the Evangelism Committee: The Evangelism Committee brought forth a recommendation that the committee's name be changed to the "Hospitality Committee." Janeen Christy articulated that deep hospitality is an important part of what defines our congregation, and the primary charge of the Evangelism Committee has been to foster a sense of belonging among members, both welcoming new members and deepening connections among longtime members. It was also mentioned that the term "evangelism" sometimes carries negative connotations. Changing the name of the Evangelism Committee will require a change to our constitution because it is a standing committee. The change will require two congregational votes; first a majority must vote for the change at a congregational meeting and then a 2/3 majority must approve the change at the annual meeting. It was also clarified that the ELCA model constitution does not specify the names nor the structure of congregational committees; this is largely left to the discretion of individual congregations. Motion passed.

Continuing Contract with GSB: The Stewardship Committee proposed that we continue our contract with the consulting firm GSB, which assisted with the development and implementation of last fall's pledge campaign. The cost of the second year's contract would be \$4,475.00. The stewardship committee maintains that continuing the contract for a second year would be beneficial because of the work the consultant does in developing resources and strategies for undertaking campaigns and encouraging increased giving. Concerns were raised regarding the long-term value of our work with the consultants and the need to ensure that we continue to see a return on our investment beyond the time we contract directly with them. The council charged the Stewardship Committee to involve more individuals in the process of developing the campaign and training members in strategies for engaging in positive conversations around giving and fostering giving within the congregation. This would help ensure that we can continue using the strategies and recommendations recommended by our consultants and give us continuity after current members of the stewardship committee are no longer in charge of leading the pledge campaign. Motion passed.

Good Shepherd Participation in Decorah Pride: Marty Steele brought a motion from the Social Justice Subcommittee asking for the council's approval to invite members of the congregation to participate in the Decorah Pride parade, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 12. The participating members would carry signs identifying Good Shepherd as a Reconciling in Christ congregation where all are welcome, affirming our support of members of the LGBTQ+ community. This motion from the subcommittee was seconded by Janeen Christy. Approved.

Old Business:

Social Justice Subcommittee Gun Policy Proposal: The Social Justice Subcommittee brought forth a revised gun policy proposal that would ban firearms from our premises with the exception of law enforcement personnel. There would be no signs posted, but the congregation will be made aware of the policy by printing it in the monthly newsletter. This policy is in line with current Iowa law. Concerns were raised over the enforcement of the policy and how someone might be approached in the event that a firearm is brought into the church. However, the consensus was that this policy is largely intended to be an internal guideline and that it is enough to have the policy published and on record. The council asked the social justice subcommittee to work on procedures for educating the congregation and enforcing the policy. This motion from the subcommittee was seconded by Janeen Christy, approved.

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

Youth Representative: Ava Holland

Five youth will go on an Urban Immersion Retreat in Minneapolis April 20-22.

The confirmation youth are preparing to be confirmed by choosing their own Bible verses.

Stewardship Committee: Germano Streese

The Stewardship Committee and Education Committee are moving forward with a Spring Appeal with the goal of creating and funding a new Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry position. The goal of the appeal will be \$15,000, which will cover two years of salary for this part-time position. This will be a one-time appeal with this single objective. The gifts for the special appeal will be received on May 20.

Education Committee: Report submitted by Bob Felde, discussion led by Megan Buckingham

The committee is discussing the creation of a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry position contingent on funding from the spring stewardship campaign.

The youth met their \$2,000 Lenten offering goal, with \$2,262.25 raised for AMMPARO.

The theme for VBS 2018 will be “God So Loved the World.”

Evangelism Committee: Janeen Christy

The committee helped welcome the Parker and Schroeder families as new members on April 15.

The committee is continuing discussions about how to help new members continue to feel welcome and engaged at Good Shepherd.

Property and Management Committee: Marty Steele

St. Grubby’s Day is scheduled for May 6. It will be organized by Bob Naslund, Claude Hayes, Brooke Joyce, and Reg Laursen.

The committee asks that kitchen committee members and others be allowed to be reimbursed for kitchen and fellowship materials they purchase on a voluntary basis. Currently, several members buy such materials as a donation to the church; the goal is not to discourage people from making this type of donation, but also to have a more realistic idea of how much these supplies cost and where they are coming from.

Worship and Music Committee: Jon Christy

A design for an “Alleluia!” banner which, when completed, will be processed and displayed at select worship services, was reviewed and approved. Barbara Berg, who is the weaver for our paraments and stoles, is weaving the banner. Memorial gifts given in honor of Ed Kaschins will be used to pay for this banner.

Pentecost Sunday is May 20; there will be a procession planned to mark the occasion. This will also be Baccalaureate Sunday for our high school and college graduates. Luther Students who regularly worship with us will be invited to come and be recognized as well.

A service of healing is scheduled for Thursday, May 10 at 6:30 pm. The plan is to hold these services quarterly or perhaps every other month.

Pastor’s Report: Pr. Amy Larson

Pastor Amy and Pastor Marion will be away on April 22. Daniel Grainger will preach and Wanda Deifelt will preside.

Confirmation Sunday is April 29. Mara Holland, Kristi Kjome-Johnson, and Nathan Larson will affirm their baptisms.

Luther Students Menzi Nkambule and Joseph Tiegen will be baptized on May 13. The Luther Congregation will worship with us on that Sunday.

June 3rd will be Reconciling in Christ Sunday.

Pastor’s Report: Pr. Marion Pruitt Jefferson

The congregation will co-host a Ramadan meal with the Methodist Church at Good Shepherd on May 29th. More details on how to participate and volunteer for this event will be forthcoming.

There are plans to participate in the May 11 commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Postville raid in 2008.

President’s Report: Megan Buckingham

No report

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: \$63,750.54
Total expense year to date: (\$58,972.72)
Net income year to date: \$4,777.82

Sunday School Lenten Offering for AMMPARO: \$2,262.25

Lenten/Easter Offering for LIRS and Path to Citizenship: \$3,012.50

Streese moved and Struve seconded to approve the treasurer's report, Approved.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: April 19, 2018

Next Council Meeting: May 15, 2018, 7:00 PM

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Janeen Christy moved, Streese seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Pr. Amy Larson led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.

Submitted by Jonathon Struve, Congregational Secretary

Church Council Approves a "No Firearms" Policy at April Meeting

The Social Justice Sub-Committee recommends that the Good Shepherd Church Council vote to approve a "No Firearms" policy for church. This policy was approved at the Council's April 17 meeting.

Following the shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida on Feb. 14th, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton, wrote a letter to congress urging them to prevent easy access to assault style weapons and to strengthen the federal background check system. In her letter she said the following:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has long supported responsible management of gun purchases, such as background checks for all gun sales. In 1993, our Churchwide Assembly passed a social policy resolution that called the entire church "to work for the passage and strict enforcement of local, state, and national legislations as appropriate, that rigidly controls the manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, purchase, transfer, receipt, possession or transportation of handguns, assault weapons, and assault-like weapons and their parts, excluding rifles and shotguns used for hunting and sporting purposes, for use other than law enforcement and military purposes.

Affirming the ELCA's strong social policy statement on guns, and following Bishop Eaton's leadership, the Good Shepherd Social Justice Sub-Committee encourages the Church Council to approve a policy that bans firearms on our property using this or similar language.

"No firearms of any type will be allowed on Good Shepherd Lutheran Church property, with the exception of firearms being carried by law enforcement personnel. Should an individual bring a firearm onto the property, they will be asked to remove that firearm from the property."

Below you will find excerpts of a piece Pr. Matt Larson wrote concerning guns in church for his rural congregations.

We fear, love, and trust God above all things. We do not fear the forces of evil, we do not love ourselves more than those around us whom we might put at risk by carrying a weapon without adequate training, and we do not trust anyone's vigilance or preparation to protect us from every conceivable threat.

We leave you with this thought from Bishop Martin Wells:

This Lutheran church is a House of Prayer for all people. You are welcome here. In this place we worship Jesus Christ, God disarmed. Mercy awaits.

Please enter with heart and hand disarmed.

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Confirmation Sunday 29</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 - Ecumenical Advocacy 	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>5:30 AM Election Day 2:00 PM Ben practice 4:00 PM Mary circle</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 1:30 PM Kinderhaus re-serve 8:00 PM Band rehearsal</p>	<p>8:00 AM Kinderhaus reserv 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 2:00 PM Ben practice 5:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>Churchwomen... Friendship Day 9:00 AM Ben practice 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p>	<p>5:00 PM Democrats</p>
<p>St. Grubby's Day 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Handbell rehearsal 8:45 AM Choir Warmup 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 6:00 PM Mason Donnhue rehearsal, sanctuary 	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>9:30 AM Anna Circle 2:00 PM Ben practice</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM Opportunity Homes 10:30 AM Aase Haugen Communion 2:00 PM Miriam/Ruth Circle 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band rehearsal</p>	<p>Recycle 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 12:00 PM Stewardship 1:30 PM Travel Club 2:00 PM Ben practice 4:30 PM Evangelism Com-6:30 PM Healing Service 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 PM Worship and Music</p>	<p>ICE Raid Commemoration 9:00 AM Ben practice 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p>	<p>Decorah Pride Parade 12:00 PM Tau Delta Gamma Brunch 2:00 PM Pride Parade 4:00 PM Mason Donnhue Recital</p>
<p>Baptism- Luther Students 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School/ Youth Forum 	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>2:00 PM Ben practice 5:00 PM Social Justice Committee 5:30 PM Facilities Improvement Committee 7:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Prayer Shaw Ministry 6:30 PM Spiritual Gifts Workshop 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band rehearsal</p>	<p>Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting 2:00 PM Ben practice 5:00 PM Decorah Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>9:00 AM Ben practice 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM SYMRA dinner</p>	<p>4:00 PM Scholl music recital</p>
<p>Baccalaureate Sunday 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45 AM Band & Choir Warmup 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School/ Youth Forum 	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>2:00 PM Ben practice 7:00 PM CLA Circle</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>Recycle 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 2:00 PM Ben practice 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>9:00 AM Ben practice 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p>	
<p>9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>2:00 PM Ben practice 8:30 PM Ramadan Meal</p>	<p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>Jenny out of office 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 2:00 PM Ben practice 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>Last Day Kinderhaus 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</p>	

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

