



The Shepherd's Voice

June 2018

Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

My letter this month includes portions of the sermon for May 27 and reflections on the conference about Christianity, preaching and politics that I attended in Washington, DC. Read the full sermon here.

goodshepherddecorah.org/sermons/

“Woe is me,” says the prophet Isaiah. “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips.” In Isaiah’s time, the people have forgotten and forsaken God, they engage in futile worship, their leaders are corrupt, and greed has led to injustice. Sound familiar? The vehemence, the vitriol, the hatred spewed out all around us, all the time, by our own lips, by people and leaders who profess to be Christian while advancing their own agenda - it is all really just too much. Woe is me. Woe is our world.

Yet Isaiah’s story doesn’t end with woe is me. It ends with him saying, “Send me”. How do we move from woe is me to send me? That was the question I was asked to consider again and again last week at a preaching conference right in the heart of our nation’s capital. Preacher after preacher convicted and uplifted us about the need for a Christian witness to the all-encompassing love of Jesus in such a time as this.

Then Thursday night we got to be with some of the most respected elders of the Christian faith as they lead a prayer vigil called Reclaiming Jesus. Elders like Michael Curry (of royal wedding fame), Catholic contemplative Richard Rohr, Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann, and Evangelical leaders Tony Campolo and Jim Wallis are among a diverse group of Christian leaders seeking to Reclaim Jesus. These leaders gathered for a prayer retreat this past Ash Wednesday amid their concerns about the soul of our nation and the integrity of the Christian faith. They issued a powerful statement that I encourage you to read on page 2 or on the website ReclaimingJesus.org.

These elders also called for Christians to gather this week for a prayer service and a silent prayer vigil at the White House. Many of the 1700 preachers gathered for the conference showed up. Many, many other people from a wide range of Christian denominations and political perspectives did as well. Republicans, Democrats, progressives and conservatives came together. We prayed and sang and then walked silently together through the streets of DC, seeking to reclaim the name of Jesus for the sake of our nation and our Christian witness. It was one of the most powerful experiences of the body of Christ that I have ever experienced. It moved me from woe is me to send me.

God has given us what we need to say, with the prophet Isaiah, “here I am, send me.” Together we can have hope. Together we can be a voice of hope in our world. Together we can be part of God’s work of bringing life out of death, even in such a time as this. Here we are; send us.

Peace to you,

Pastor Amy

Reclaiming Jesus

A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis

We are living through perilous and polarizing times as a nation, with a dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government and in our churches. We believe the soul of the nation and the integrity of faith are now at stake.

It is time to be followers of Jesus before anything else—nationality, political party, race, ethnicity, gender, geography. Our identity in Christ precedes every other identity.

When politics undermines our theology, we must examine that politics. The church's role is to change the world through the life and love of Jesus Christ. The government's role is to serve the common good by protecting justice and peace. When that role is undermined by political leadership, faith leaders must stand up and speak out. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state."

It is often the duty of Christian leaders, espe-

cially elders, to speak the truth in love to our churches and to name and warn against temptations, racial and cultural captivities, false doctrines, and political idolatries—and even our complicity in them. We do so here with humility, prayer, and a deep dependency on the grace

and Holy Spirit of God.

Jesus is Lord. That is our foundational confession. If Jesus is Lord, then Caesar was not—nor any other political ruler since. We pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Our faith is personal but never private, meant not only for heaven but for this earth.

Applying what "Jesus is Lord" means today is the message we commend as elders to our churches. We pray that we, as followers of Jesus, will find the depth of faith to match the danger of our political crisis.

The present crisis calls us to go deeper—deeper into our relationship to God; into our relationships with each other, especially across racial, eth-

nic, and national lines; and into our relationships with the most vulnerable, who are at greatest risk.

We need to recover the power of confessing our faith. Lament, repent, and then repair. If Jesus is Lord, there is always space for grace. We believe it is time to speak and to act in faith and conscience, not because of politics, but because we are disciples of Jesus Christ—to whom be all authority, honor, and glory. He is the light in our darkness. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Signed: *Bishop Carroll A. Baltimore, Rev. Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Dr. Amos Brown, Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann, Dr. Tony Campolo, Dr. Iva Caruthers, Bishop Michael Curry, Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, Dr. Cynthia Hale, Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm, Rev. Dr. Joel Hunter, Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, Bishop Vashti McKenzie, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Dr. John Perkins, Bishop Lawrence Reddick, Fr. Richard Rohr, Dr. Ron Sider, Rev. Jim Wallis, Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Bishop Will Willimon*

I. WE BELIEVE each human being is made in God's image and likeness. Racial bigotry is a brutal denial of the image of God in some of the children of God.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the resurgence of white nationalism and racism in our nation on many fronts, including the highest levels of political leadership. We reject white supremacy and commit ourselves to help dismantle the systems and structures that perpetuate white preference and advantage. Any doctrines or political strategies that use racist resentments, fears, or language must be named as public sin.

III. WE BELIEVE how we treat the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner is how we treat Christ himself.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the language and policies of political leaders who would debase and abandon the most vulnerable children of God. We strongly deplore the growing attacks on immigrants and refugees; we won't accept the neglect of the well-being of low-income families and children.

V. WE BELIEVE that Christ's way of leadership is servanthood, not domination. We support democracy, not because we believe in human perfection, but because we do not.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT any moves toward autocratic political leadership and authoritarian rule. We believe authoritarian political leadership is a theological danger threatening democracy and the common good—and we will resist it.

II. WE BELIEVE we are one body. In Christ, there is to be no oppression based on race, gender, identity, or class.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT misogyny, the mistreatment, violent abuse, sexual harassment, and assault of women being further revealed in our culture and politics, including in our churches, and the oppression of any other child of God.

IV. WE BELIEVE that truth is morally central to our personal and public lives. Jesus promises, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

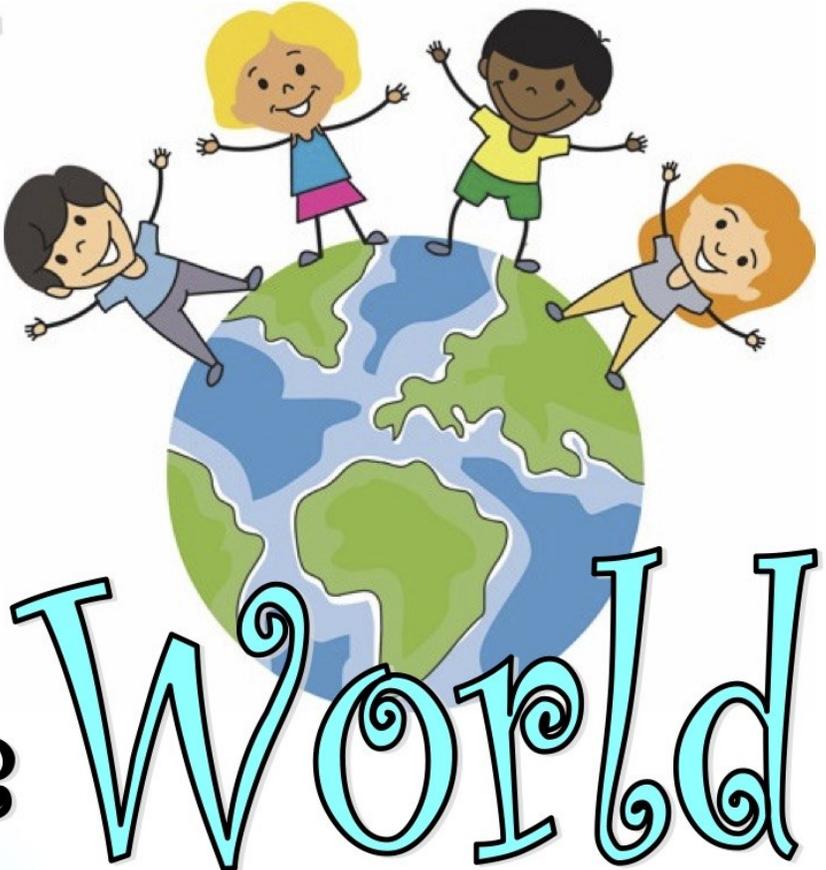
THEREFORE, WE REJECT the practice and pattern of lying that is invading our political and civil life. The normalization of lying presents a profound moral danger to the fabric of society.

VI. WE BELIEVE Jesus when he tells us to go into all nations making disciples. Our churches and our nations are part of an international community whose interests always surpass national boundaries. We in turn should love and serve the world and all its inhabitants rather than to seek first narrow nationalistic prerogatives.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT "America first" as a theological heresy for followers of Christ. While we share a patriotic love for our country, we reject xenophobic or ethnic nationalism that places one nation over others as a political goal.

Full statement and resources available at ReclaimingJesus.org.

God so Loves the World



Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 23 — Wednesday, July 25 from 5:00-7:30 pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
701 Iowa Avenue ~ Decorah, IA ~ 563-382-3963

- ♥ Explore the world, understand that God is present in all places, and learn from the faith of our neighbors around the world at this year's Vacation Bible School. All children and youth over age 4 are welcome.
- ♥ A light supper will be served from 5:00-5:20 pm each day.
- ♥ Following the supper, we will have activity stations, including music, crafts, games and storytelling.
- ♥ On Wednesday, July 25th at 6:45 pm family & friends are invited to attend a global themed worship service, followed by an ice cream social in the Fellowship hall.

Stewardship

Thank you for your gifts to the Place to Connect appeal!

Here is an example of how we are connecting the generations at Good Shepherd

It has been my pleasure to take Communion to Merlin and Beverly Tangen since last summer. I do this on a three-month cycle, which means I visit them once a month for two months, then one of our pastors does the third month. There is a lot of flexibility as to what day I go, and I always call the day before to make sure it works for them.

We start each visit by catching up on church or family news. Bev and I sometimes reminisce about the years we served on Mission Team together and all the wonderful baking she did. Our conversations can go any direction. Yesterday we talked about our favorite hymns and which ones we knew by heart and why they were important to us.

I was given a printed guide that is very helpful to use when it comes time to administer Communion. I especially like sharing this sentence with them: "Now we bring to you this word of life, and this bread and cup of blessing, so that you may share in these same gifts and be strengthened in communion with all the people of God."

After the Prayer of Preparation, I do a Bible reading. Although there are selections in the guide that can be used, I prefer to choose my own readings. Bev and Merlin enjoy the Psalms, so I alternate between reading a Psalm one month, then do a reading from the New Testament the next. As I read my Bible at home, I am always on the lookout for passages that will be especially meaningful to them.

We share the peace and say the Lord's Prayer together before I give them the bread and wine. At different times, two of the Tangens' daughters have joined us. What a blessing for Merlin and Bev to be able to share Communion with their family!

We conclude with a post-Communion prayer and blessing. Bev and Merlin are always so appreciative of my visits, but really, it is a meaningful experience for all of us. I have been honored to see how they support each other. Despite health concerns, they still retain their smiles, their commitment to each other, and their faith. That is an inspiration to me! I continue to remind them that we, their congregation, will keep them in our prayers. I know it means a lot to them to feel that connection to their congregation.

Judy Schoel

Spring Appeal Thank You!!

On behalf of the Good Shepherd Stewardship and Education Committees, I want to convey a heartfelt thank you for the way you, as a congregation, responded on May 20th to our appeal for funds to engage a Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

Many of us have known for years that when Good Shepherd has a need of any kind, the congregation responds positively. However, this time the response was truly special because the need has to do with our children. It was special because God has blessed us with 36 unique individuals who do, and will continue to, deserve our nurturing of their spiritual care throughout their formative years. It was special because our future at Good Shepherd looks favorable for supporting even more than 36 young people.

Again, I say **“thank you” for over \$15,000 in gifts** to hire Kathryn Thompson as our Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

Sincerely,
Jerry Bruce, Stewardship Committee



Sunday, June 3 is our Reconciling in Christ Welcoming Sunday

Reconciling in Christ congregations are encouraged to have a yearly Welcoming Sunday as it provides an opportunity for us to publicly reaffirm our commitment to fully welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. You are encouraged to wear rainbow colors.

June Scriptures

Sunday, June 3 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 5:12-15 The commandment regarding the sabbath	Psalms 81:1-10 Raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.	2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Treasure in clay jars	Mark 2:23--3:6 Doing the work of God on the sabbath
Sunday, June 10 3rd Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 3:8-15 God confronts Adam and Eve in the garden	Psalms 130 Wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love.	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Renewed in the inner nature	Mark 3:20-35 Doing the work of God as brothers and sisters of Christ
Sunday, June 17 4th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekiel 17:22-24 The sign of the cedar, planted on the mountain of Israel	Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15 The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.	2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17 In Christ, a new creation	Mark 4:26-34 The parable of the mustard seed
Sunday, June 24 5th Sunday after Pentecost	Job 38:1-11 The creator of earth and sea	Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32 You stilled the storm and silenced the waves of the sea.	2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Paul's defense of his ministry	Mark 4:35-41 Christ calming the sea

June 2018

Ministry Team Schedule

DATE	LITURGY	USHER * Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only
Sunday, June 3 Live Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jonathon Struve Reader: Jane Borelli Communion Server: Martha Steele Cantor: Dennis Barnaal	1.*Amalia Vagts 2. David Lester Greeter: Kathryn Thompson Acolyte:	1.*Norma Refsal 2. Donna Bahr 3. Ingrid Callahan 4. Jutta Anderson (F)
Sunday, June 10 Live Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jon Christy Reader: Jane Borelli Communion Server: Martha Steele Cantor: Dan Raney	1.*John Jefferson 2. Kim Kavan Greeter: Kathryn Thompson Acolyte:	1.*Joyce Epperly 2. Kim Kavan 3. Naomi Craft(F) 4. Sara Hanssen(F)
Sunday, June 17 Live Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jane Kemp Reader: Harland Nelson Communion Server: Bob Larson Cantor: Jason Rausch	1.*Richard Wuest 2. Chris Johnson Greeter: Bonnie Johnson Acolyte:	1.*Glenda Wuest 2. Marilyn & Al Anderson 3. John Jefferson & Marian Pruitt-Jefferson 4.
Sunday, June 24 Live Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Tom Buresh Reader: Harland Nelson Communion Server: Jane Kemp Cantor: Dennis Barnaal	1.*Dennis Barnaal 2. Tim Schoel Greeter: Connie Buresh Acolyte:	1.*Doris Barnaal 2. Judy Schoel 3. Charilyn Hover 4. Jane Suntken(F)

June Altar Guild: Marie Freerking (convener), Chris Hick, Linda Wolfs

2018 3rd Quarter Ministry Team

Jerry Aulwes	Mark Finanger	Beverly Nelson
JoAnn Aulwes	Marie Freerking	Harland Nelson
Donna Bahr	Russ Freerking	Anna Norris
Dennis Barnaal	Nate Furler	Lyle Otte
Doris Barnaal	Tabita Green	Trudy Peterson
Barb Berg	Carol Hasvold	LaVerne Ramsey
Don Berg	Claude Hayes	Loyal Rue
Erik Berg	Harriet Hayes	Marilyn Rue
Tom Buresh	Chris Hick	Judy Schoel
Connie Buresh	Catherine Hildebrandt	Tim Schoel
Jennifer Cantine	Gary Hildebrandt	Hannah Schroeher
Janeen Christy	Charilyn Hover	John Schroeher
Jon Christy	Ed Hover	David Shaffer
Heather Cote	Jerrine Jacobsen	Rebecca Shaffer
Dustin Cote	Karl Jacobsen	Carolyn Solberg
Naomi Craft	Jane Jakoubek	Jane Suntken
Wanda Deifelt	Dave Judisch	Kristin Swanson
Sharon Drew	Gail Judisch	Matt Tapscott
Karla Erdman	Jane Kemp	Amalia Vagts
Lindsay Erdman	Wendy Kjome	Linda Wolfs
David Faldet	Diane Kruse	Glendalu Wuest
Rachel Faldet	David Lester	Richard Wuest
Lois Finanger	Jon Lund	

Watch for online signups in your inbox during the second week in June

Good Shepherd Announcements



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 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.



FAITH5 FELLOWSHIP: Do you enjoy getting to know others who worship at Good Shepherd? Would you like to explore how your faith connects with your daily experiences? Does a simple potluck supper sound fun? Then

here's something for you:

Faith5 Potluck Picnic Suppers at Good Shepherd

*Over our potluck meal, we'll gather in small groups to share the Faith5 practices (talking about our highs and lows, reading a scripture verse, talking about how the verse might apply to our highs and lows, praying for each other, and blessing each other).

*Bring a dish to share, beverages, plates and utensils will be provided.

When & Where: 3 Tuesdays in June, the 5th, 19th, and 26th, from 5:30-6:45 or so. You're welcome to come to any or all suppers. In our wonderful backyard if the weather is good or in the GS Fellowship Hall.

Who: You, and everyone else who wants to come, including Good Shepherd folks and their guests. All ages are welcome.

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

June 21

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

Betty Rose & Sharon Rendack



KIDS LUNCH CLUB is looking for community support for its third summer. KLC is a community-powered organization that provides free lunch for any kid that needs one every week day in the summer.

This summer, fresh grab-n-go options will be served from John Cline from 12-12:30pm and Freeport Park from 12:45-1pm. No registration is taken. ALL kids under the age of 18 are welcome!

You can donate by writing a check to "Kids Lunch Club" and sending it to Decorah UCC or you can use the PayPal link on our website. We are most in need of volunteers at this time. Consider helping to pack or distribute lunches while building our sense of community.

This year, Good Shepherd will host their packing on Wednesday nights at the UCC Center's kitchen (this is a change from last year).

Sign up to volunteer, donate electronically, or learn more about the program at kidslunchclub.org. Like us on Facebook to get constant updates, photos, and facts for the summer! You can also sign up to volunteer or donate in person at the Winneshiek Farmer's Market on June 2nd. We hope to see you there!

SANGERFEST: Twenty eight members of Good Shepherd Lutheran are participating in the event called Sangerfest in one fashion or another. Come support their efforts by attending an event at Sangerfest. The Grand Concert on Saturday, June 2nd, at 7 PM at the CFL will feature 240 men accompanied by orchestra. Tickets are available at the Luther Box Office (563-387-1357), the Oneota Food Coop, Decorah Bank & Trust, Vesterheim, and West Music. Ticket cost is \$15. Please come to enjoy this great choral concert!

MASHIAH FOUNDATION CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Donations should now be mailed to:

Rick and Sandi Wallestad
974 Rolling Greens Lane NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350



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", and "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.

Nordic Fest is fast approaching (July 26-28). All Good Shepherd members will be needed as we prepare for our Krumkake demonstration and sale. We will again be baking the two weeks before the Fest at the church. Sign-up sheets will be coming out soon. Volunteers are also needed to work the booth and for demonstration purposes. Look for further details in the weekly news.

The Northeast Iowa Synod Women are planning a trip to Minneapolis July 30-31 to tour the Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries warehouses and Mary's Place, along with a stop at the Hmong Village for some shopping. An optional Twins game is also available. Cost is \$125 per person, which includes transportation and one night's hotel stay (3-4 per room). Add \$25 to attend the Twins game. Pickup sites will be available in Decorah and Mason City.

Registration is due by Wednesday, June 20.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 16: NEI Synod Women's Organization Annual Gathering, 8:15-4:30

July 26-28: Nordic Fest activities

July 30-31: NE IA Synod Women bus trip to Minneapolis

June Circle Schedule

Mary Circle - Anna Circle - Miriam Circle - will not meet in June

6/26 - CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Marie Freerking hosts

Social Justice

POSTVILLE – 10TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

A number of members of Good Shepherd attended “The Summons” an interfaith prayer service and rally in observance of the 10th anniversary of the 2008 Postville immigration raid. While the cold, rainy weather prevented us from marching, the inspiring speeches and heart felt prayers were a rousing call to all of us to continue to work for just and compassionate immigration policies.

The event concluded with all of us standing and pledging our commitment to just, compassionate and humane immigration reform. The pledge is printed below.



WHEREAS People of diverse faiths, cultures, races, ethnic backgrounds, and languages are gathering nationwide to mark the tenth anniversary of the May 12, 2008, immigration raid at Agriprocessors in Postville, Iowa.

WHEREAS Far too little has changed since 2008, when 389 workers were arrested and many were imprisoned and threatened with mass deportation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), leaving family members terrorized and even abandoned.

WHEREAS Local and national leaders, policy makers, and citizens' groups are recognizing this “defining moment” as a *Summons* to challenge harsh, anti-immigrant rhetoric and behaviors and to unite in demanding just, humane, and comprehensive immigration reform.

WHEREAS These anniversary observances call us to demonstrate bold resolve by championing the rights of immigrants, respecting and defending their inherent dignity, and welcoming them and their many contributions to our society.

In response to this *Summons*, I resolve:

- To listen to victims of our failed immigration policy
- To recognize our obligation to welcome and protect immigrants and refugees seeking an opportunity to build a better life
- To elect leaders with the legislative will to work across political divides to fashion comprehensive immigration reform for the common good
- To celebrate the richness of our diversity and its untapped potential both for our nation and for those seeking citizenship and asylum within our borders
- To share this *Summons* with church and civic leaders, family members, co-workers, and neighbors as a sign of our common quest for justice and compassion

Social Justice

MOUNT PLEASANT IMMIGRATION RAID

On May 9th, 32 men were arrested and detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) while working at their jobs at a local concrete plant in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. The men, originally from Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, and Honduras, leave behind families, including wives and 24 children. In many cases, the father was the sole wage earner, leaving families with no source of income. This has had a significant impact in the small town of Mount Pleasant, where the men live, and their children attend school. Our faith calls us to respond.

The Statewide Lutheran Disaster Response Team is mobilizing in support of the families affected by the raid and needs your help. The tearing apart of peaceful, working families is unacceptable. Children facing hunger in our community as a result of dehumanizing raids is unacceptable. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) stand together in support of our neighbors and friends. Donations to assist families with food and financial support can be made at Lutheran Services in Iowa: lsiowa.org/disasterrelief/

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE AND THE CRISIS IN GAZA

Through partnership with Lutheran World Federation and Augusta Victoria Hospital, Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting efforts to provide medical assistance to the most vulnerable in the Gaza strip. You can support their relief work by making a contribution to Lutheran Disaster Response.

On May 16 2018, Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) sent a medical team of doctors and nurses to the Gaza Strip to support the medical teams in the current situation. In addition to sending the team of specialists, medicine and medical supplies which are in short supply in Gaza were also sent. At least 60 people were killed and more than 3000 people have been injured, many seriously. Gaza, which has been under blockade for more than 10 years, has already been facing a crisis of medical personnel, medicine, and supplies. Mr. Walid Nammour, AVH Chief Executive Officer, praised the role of the Palestinian humanitarian team in its work to provide medical assistance to patients and said, "We do not merely sympathize with the people in Gaza, we feel their pain and stand with them." He stated that it is the duty of AVH to help and support those who are suffering in Gaza.

Augusta Victoria Hospital is a program of the Lutheran World Federated Department for World Service in Jerusalem. It started in partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as a major medical facility in Jerusalem after the 1948 war to care for Palestinian refugees. Today, most of the patients served by AVH continue to be in social need and seeking life-saving specialized care.

IMMIGRATION FAIR – JUNE 21ST 5-7 PM AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

The Decorah Area Faith Coalition will be hosting an Immigration Fair on Thursday, June 21st, from 5-7 pm at the United Methodist Church. This will be the first event in a series of gatherings celebrating immigrants and learning about immigration advocacy. At the Immigration Fair, there will be food and beverages, opportunities for fellowship and conversation, and a variety of displays describing the various immigration advocacy organizations active in the Decorah Area. The Immigration Fair is free, however donations to the "Neighbor Helping Neighbors" fund will be gratefully accepted. Look for the next celebrating immigration event in early August. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" is a fund established to help support our immigrant neighbors who are facing hardships related to immigration enforcement action.

Music Schedule, Summer 2018

June	
6/3	Special Music
6/10	Pick-up Choir
6/17	Pick-up Handbells
6/24	Special Music
July	
7/1	Special Music
7/8	Pick-up Choir
7/15	Pick-up Band
7/22	Pick-up Handbells
7/29	VBS Choir
August	
8/5	Special Music
8/12	Pick-up Handbells
8/19	Pick-up Choir
8/26	Pick-up Band

If you are interested in offering special music (a solo, duet, or something else?), please contact Good Shepherd Music Director Brooke Joyce: 382-4552, or wbjoyce3@gmail.com.

"Pick-up" music Sundays: come at 8:45 on Sunday morning to learn a short piece of music. No need to RSVP, just show up. For band Sundays, all string, wind and brass instrumentalists welcome!

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 PM

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

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

Devotions and Initial Actions: Germano Streese shared devotions. A motion was made by Jon Christy and seconded by Steele to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Approved.

Marty Steele brought a motion from the Social Justice Subcommittee regarding supporting our Muslim neighbors during Ramadan to add to New Business. Janeen Christy made a motion and Felde seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Passed.

New Business:

Job Description of the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry: The executive committee presented a draft of the job description for the proposed part-time staff position. After discussion, the council recommended specifying in the job description that the position would be a part-time position, approximately 10 hours per week, and that the position reports to the pastor. The council also suggested that some of the duties described in the job description be placed in the newsletter so the congregation understands the scope of the position for which we are fundraising. The job description was approved as amended.

The executive committee also reported that work is continuing on drafting an HR policy for church employees. Steve Holland, who has expertise in this area, is working on the draft.

Ramadan Sign: The Social Justice Subcommittee put forth a proposal that we place a small sign in our yard which reads "To Our Muslim Neighbors: Blessed Ramadan." This motion from the subcommittee was seconded by Janeen Christy. Passed. Pastor Amy Larson noted that the sign will need to be printed and acquired, which may take a few days.

The council also noted that we will be hosting the Ramadan meal on May 29th, and the council circulated the sign-up sheet for volunteering to serve and provide food for this meal.

Old Business: NONE

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

Youth Representative: Ava Holland

Mara Holland, Kristi Kjome-Johnson, and Nathan Larson were confirmed on April 29.

The youth participated in St. Grubby's day and helped with projects around the church.

Education Committee: Bob Felde

VBS will be held from 5-7:30 pm Monday, July 23rd through Wednesday, July 25th. There will be a short program open to the public on Wednesday, July 25th. The theme is "God so Loves the World," and the committee is in the process of recruiting volunteers and developing the program.

The end of the year Sunday School celebration will be Sunday, May 20. There will be a brief communion overview by Pr. Amy. The committee expressed excitement about the proposed position for the Director of Children, Youth, and Families, which will provide direction and consistency to the education program.

Evangelism Committee: Janeen Christy

David Lester will coordinate the Welcome Neighbors Picnic, which will be September 16th. He expressed a desire to have a co-coordinator to assist him.

The committee is exploring having sponsor families for new members, which will be implemented in the fall. The idea would be to have sponsor families introduce new members to the congregation on New Member Sundays and celebrate with them in some way on that day. The main focus of these sponsors would be on the day people join, but the hope would be that these sponsors would continue a connection with the new members in some way. However, the committee wanted to avoid setting particular expectations for what that continuing connection would look like.

(Continued on page 14)

Property and Management Committee: Marty Steele

Norma Refsal and Marty Steele will be arranging orientations to the use of the AED soon. Marty would like to orient staff and as much of the Congregational Council as possible. These orientations would be no more than a half hour in length. The outside of the church will be painted, and the committee will soon begin arranging volunteers to help with this task. The Sanctuary Taskforce is gathering bids for painting, refinishing the pews and furnishings, window replacement and sealing, and maybe carpet for our worship space.

Stewardship Committee: Germano Streese

The committee sent out letters for the Spring Appeal, which is a fundraiser for the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, with a goal of \$15,000. These letters also included time and talent sheets. The committee also organized temple talks at worship by Ed Epperly on May 6 and Ava Holland on May 13. The offerings for the spring appeal as well as the time and talent sheets will be received during worship on May 20. Janeen Christy suggested that the stewardship committee do something to follow through with the information they receive on the time and talent sheets in some tangible way.

Worship and Music Committee: Jon Christy

The committee is continuing to evaluate the Lenten Soup suppers in order to develop a plan for next year.

The committee is working on developing a wedding policy.

The new Alleluia banner is complete, paid for with memorial gifts given to Good Shepherd in honor of Ed Kaschins. It will be used for the first time on Pentecost Sunday, which is May 20th. The service will feature a procession with the youth and red ribbons. May 20 will also be a Baccalaureate Sunday where we will honor graduates. We will also thank Sunday School teacher and helpers.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy Larson

Allie Grainger is beginning candidacy to serve as a Minister of Word and Service (Deacon). Newly baptized members Menzi Nkambule and Joseph Tiegen are beginning candidacy to serve as Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors). These individuals have requested funds from the Mission Endowment fund for assistance with the cost of attending seminary.

Pastor Amy will be attending the Festival of Homiletics as part of her continuing education from May 20-26. She will be preside during worship on May 27, with Pr. Marion preaching. Pr. Amy will also be at Synod Assembly in Waverly on Sunday, June 10. Pr. Marion will preach and preside. Pr. Amy will be away June 17, Pr. Marion will preside and Amalia Vagts will preach.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Marion Pruitt Jefferson

The experience of lobbying on Capitol Hill with a faith-based message on immigration provided a boost of confidence and encouragement for the ongoing work of advocating for social justice.

Hosting the Ramadan meal on May 29th will be a good way to show our hospitality to our neighbors.

President's Report: Megan Buckingham

The executive committee met on May 3rd. In addition to working on the job description for the proposed Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry and beginning the work of developing an HR policy for the church, the committee is studying different models for church governance and committee structure. The hope is that the congregation may implement changes to our current structure that would allow for greater continuity for the congregational council and flexibility for our committees.

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:	\$89,998.25
Total expense year to date:	(\$77,366.48)
Net income year to date:	\$12,631.77

Janeen Christy moved and Steele seconded to approve the treasurer's report, Approved.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: May 17, 2018

Next Council Meeting: July 17, 2018, 7:00 PM (There is no June Congregational Council meeting)

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Steele moved, Janeen Christy seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Pr. Amy Larson led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting. ---Submitted by Jonathon Struve, Congregational Secretary

June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Closed Pr. Amy Day Off 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 2:00 PM Ben practice 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Ben practice 5:00 PM Kinderhaus FIC meeting 8:30 PM Ramadan Meal 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 3:00 PM Oter Dreaming practice/Recital/reception 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenny out of office 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 2:00 PM Ben practice 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day Kinderhaus 9:00 AM Sanctuary Task Force 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RIC Welcoming Sunday 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 3:00 PM Pew to Pulpit 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy Day Off 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 AM Election Day 5:30 PM Faith Five Potluck 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Kids Lunch Club UCC 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 12:00 PM Stewardship Committee 1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting 5:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NE IA Synod Assembly 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NE IA Synod Assembly 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy Day Off 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Opportunity Homes 5:00 PM Faith Coalition 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Aase Haugen Communion 1:00 PM Wellington Pl. Communion 5:00 PM Kids Lunch Club UCC 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenny out 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NBSynodicalWo...AnnaCathering
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 3:00 PM Pew to Pulpit 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy Day Off 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON 6:30 PM Sanger Fest committee meeting 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Opportunity Homes 5:30 PM Faith Five Potluck 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Kids Lunch Club UCC 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 5:00 PM Decarah Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ELCA Youth Gathering Houston, TX Pr. Amy Day Off 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith Five Potluck 7:00 PM CLA Circle 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Kids Lunch Club UCC 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>30</p>

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

701 Iowa Avenue

Decorah IA 52101

JUNE 2018

The Shepherd's Voice

Pastor Amy Larson

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Music Director: Brooke Joyce

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Werner

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

