

The Shepherd's Voice

February 2019

Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

The story of Jesus changing water into wine has captured my imagination in this season after the Epiphany. I've often overlooked this story. It just doesn't seem that important in comparison to Jesus' acts of healing and mercy for those who are in dire need. Yet, in Jesus' day, wine at a wedding was a really important way of experiencing joy and abundance- joy his community desperately needed, joy that we desperately need. Joy says to suffering, oppression, sorrow, and grief, you do not have the last word, you cannot keep us down. Life and hope will prevail for us, for our world. Joy is a form of resistance.

Yet, often it can feel like the wine of gladness and joy has run out - the jar emptied, the blessing depleted. Thankfully, it is not up to us to manufacture joy on our own, to make sure we always have a ready supply of what brings gladness. We have a savior who uses ordinary things to give us the gift of joy - bread, wine, water, words and community. Jesus uses these gifts to assure us of God's abundance, to shower us with God's blessings, to nurture our joy always.

The joy Jesus gives is not dependent upon our circumstances, not dependent upon our ability to feel happy or glad. We see it arise in the hospital room, at the funeral, after the natural disaster, in the prison cell. The joy Jesus gives isn't an individual gift either; it is given to the whole community. This means that even when joy seems out of reach for us personally, others can hold out hope for joy on our behalf - the way Mary did when she expected Jesus to do something about the empty wine jars. We can do this for others, as well, when they are enduring depleting circumstances like depression, grief, oppression or violence. We can ask for joy for them and trust in the hope of joy for them.

I see all this happening through the Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative in our community to support immigrant neighbors. This initiative hasn't just raised funds, it hasn't just addressed problems. It has nurtured joy with a Fat Tuesday Feast, an Immigration Fiesta at Pulpit Rock Brewery, and the Epiphany Fiesta earlier this month. God has worked through these events and through the gifts of tamales, beer, soup, bread and community. God has used these ordinary gifts to remind us of God's abundance, to assure us that there is joy and blessing enough for all. We need not jealously guard our resources, we need not be afraid. I see this joy happening in the Decorah Community Meals, as well. Those meals nourish gladness and laughter. People in need are fed, but the meals aren't just about addressing problems. They build up the community so that together we can have joy, together we can resist the forces that lead to hunger and the poverty of both body and spirit.

Our reading from Nehemiah on January 27 reminded us "the joy of the Lord is your strength." May God give you joy today. May you know that you all bring joy to me.

Peace to you, Pastor Amy Larson

Adult Forums

February 3 - Annual Meeting - 11 a.m. Fellowship Hall - No Adult Forum

Feb. 10 - Stability and Change in Vietnam - Come and learn about the experiences of John Moeller, and Steve and Ava Holland as they traveled in Vietnam during the month of January. John and Steve led a group of Luther students (plus Ava) on this trip to learn about the life and culture of Vietnam.

Feb. 17 - The Principles of Deep Ecology - Presented by Jon Jensen, Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies and Director of the Center for Sustainable Communities at Luther College.

Feb. 24 - To Be Announced.

ADULT HELP NEEDED

Would you like to get to know our wonderful Confirmation Students: Maggie Norris, Mason Cote and Brenna Parker? Would you like to get more familiar with the simple Faith5 practice we use for conversation and prayer? Would you like to be a Confirmation Mentor during Lent? This involves meeting with our Confirmation Students during the soup suppers after Lenten worship, from about 6-6:45pm, on five Wednesdays, March 13-April 10. Contact Pr. Amy amyzlarrison@gmail.com if you are interested.

February Scriptures

Sunday, February 3 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4-10 I appointed you a prophet to the nations	Psalms 71:1-6 From my mother's womb you have been my strength.	1 Corinthians 13:1-13 If I speak without love, I am a noisy gong	Luke 4:21-30 Jesus says a prophet is not accepted in his hometown
Sunday, February 10 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] Isaiah says, Here am I; send me	Psalms 138 I will bow down toward your holy temple.	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 I am the least of the apostles	Luke 5:1-11 Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people
Sunday, February 17 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Blessed are those who trust the Lord, they are like trees by water	Psalms 1 They are like trees planted by streams of water.	1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died	Luke 6:17-26 Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full
Sunday, February 24 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Joseph forgives his brothers	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 The mystery of the resurrection of the body	Luke 6:27-38 Love your enemies

February 2019 Ministry Teams

DATE	LITURGY	USHER * Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only
Sunday, February 3 LIVE Broadcast Annual Meeting	Asst. Minister: Megan Buckingham Reader: Pam Torresdal Communion Server: Pam Torresdal	1.*Dan Bellrichard 2. Brent Parker Greeter: Bridget Parker Acolyte: Bristol & Brenna Parker	1.*Carolyn Solberg 2. Diane Kruse 3. Linda Wolfs 4. Kathy Buzza 5. Kate Ailabouni (F)
Sunday, February 10 11am Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Pam Torresdal Reader: Megan Buckingham Communion Server: Angie Sadler Cantor: Megan Buckingham	1.*David Judisch 2. Lindsay Erdman Greeter: Gail Judisch Acolyte:	1. *Karla Erdman 2. Megan Buckingham 3. Kate Narveson 4. Rae Jean Rathke
Sunday, February 17 11am Broadcast Jazz Service	Asst. Minister: Chris Hick Reader: Kate Narveson Communion Server: Linda Wolfs Cantor: Dennis Barnaal	1.*Jim Fritz 2. Greeter: Don Berg Acolyte:	1. *Carol Hasvold 2. Diane Kruse 3. Ingrid Callaghan 4. Elizabeth Fritz
Sunday, February 24 11am Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Chris Hick Reader: Harland Nelson Communion Server: Linda Wolfs Cantor: Kate Narveson	1.* 2. Rae Jean Rathke Greeter: Anna Norris Acolyte: Maggie Norris	1.*Carol Hasvold 2. Germano Streese 3. Gail Judisch 4. Sara Hanssen (F)
Special Event Saturday, February 16 Eastern Star Coffee Party 2-3 p.m.		Cookies/treats for 50 1. 2.	Volunteers at event 1.* 2. Program: 30 min at 2 p.m. 1. Ben Hippen - piano

February Altar Guild: Janeen Christy, Jon Christy, Jane Kemp

Stewardship

EmPower Good Shepherd: The People and The Place

Final Report

We received 97 Statements of Intent, our goal was 90. Thank you, Good Shepherd!

Our financial goal was an increase of \$14,000 over last year's giving goal (which was about \$280,000), so that dollar amount we were hoping for was \$294,000. The total of intents for regular and one-time gifts in 2019 totaled \$279,154. \$846 below last year's amount.

Although we did not reach the financial goal, we feel really good about this response. Last year our goal was an increase of \$85,000 over 2017 giving. That was about a 30% increase. We did that! We did that with a number of intents for one-time gifts for 2018, \$34,500 total.

This year we have fewer intents for one-time gifts for 2019, but still received a number of them, \$17,650 total. We have seen an increase in regular, sustained giving: \$12,884 more in intents for regular giving for 2019 than we had in intents for 2018.

Our main goal with our stewardship work is to encourage and grow together in generosity. That is happening. It is wonderful to see!

An exciting aspect of the EmPower Good Shepherd campaign is that all five of our seminarians made statements of intent for giving in 2019. It is marvelous that we are supporting five seminarians and that all five of them are supporting the mission of the congregation with their financial giving. Thank you Good Shepherd and thanks be to God!

Heart Felt Thanks

To Good Shepherd Congregation, it warmed my heart to have so many kind words and gentle hugs provided as expressions of your concern and thoughtfulness for the passing of my mother, Irma. The prayer afghan will be that gentle reminder of not only my connection with Mom and our Lord, but with all of Good Shepherd. Thank you. *Karla Erdman*

I want to say "thank you" to Pastor Amy and the Good Shepherd family for your prayers and words of encouragement during my stem cell transplant in Rochester and since my return home. I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by such a caring and supportive congregation. *Russ Freerking*



Worship and Music

Lenten Soup Supper Mission Statement

Since last spring, a continuing item of discussion for the Worship and Music Committee has been the history as well as the current practice of the Lenten soup suppers. The soup suppers have been part of GS's Lenten history for quite some time. Though called a soup supper the food available once comprised an almost full table of offerings, from casseroles to desserts, soups to breads, fruit to assorted vegetables. Over the years such offerings have been trimmed, though the organization, preparation, serving, and clean-up continue to rest on the good-will and enthusiasm of volunteers.

Understanding that these meals are meaningful to our community at Good Shepherd, the committee has sought to deepen the Lenten experience by highlighting the explicit connection between Lenten worship and the meal that is shared following the service. Because Lent is a season of reflection and preparation in which many Christians engage in the liturgical practice of fasting (in observance of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness), we are drawn to the idea of greater simplicity in our Lenten soup suppers to the extent that a humble meal, shared together, deepens and extends the themes of Lent expressed in worship.

With this in mind, the committee is proposing the following as a trial for the 2019 Lenten season:

1. Continue utilization of compostable bowls.
2. Continue the practice of soliciting soups of all kinds. At any one time there will be four soup options available on the serving line (including at least one vegan and one gluten free soup) with additional soups available in reserve to replenish as needed.
3. Make crackers and water pitchers available on each table.
4. Continue to use soup spoons from the GS kitchen.
5. The committee will call upon a volunteer to serve as the organizer for the supper. This volunteer may be different from week to week. This would allow us to move away from the current procedure in which we ask standing committees to rotate responsibility for each supper.
6. Use Sign Up Genius and paper sign up for soup and kitchen volunteers.

Choir directors who offer musical gifts in Lenten worship will be notified in advance about this new intention of simplicity in our soup suppers and invited to share in it with us.

In other words, the simple soup supper consists of soup, crackers, and water.



Good Shepherd Announcements

DEAR GOOD SHEPHERD,

Just to let you know, my mother, *Annie Weilgart*, has moved back to the states and is living with us in Washington State now (as of 2 weeks). She is still in good health, except for eyes and ears!

We go walking on the beach and swimming.

Thank you, *Andrea*

We are happily settled in Malta and have begun a blog, which I hope to update twice per week:

<https://brookejoyce.com/category/blogs/malta-2019/> With love from the Mediterranean,

Brooke/Jennifer/Keegan/Kyle

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE is very pleased to learn that Dr. Lisa Zittergruen has recently been informed by Homeland Security, Immigration Services, that she is a Designated Civil Surgeon. She can begin doing the required physical examinations for immigrants seeking residency or citizenship. The application and approval process took a year to complete and Dr. Zittergruen is bilingual and welcomes Spanish-speaking patients at the Winneshiek Medical Center.

COMMUNITY EPIPHANY FIESTA FUNDRAISER RESULTS - The Fiesta, sponsored by the Decorah Area Faith Coalition, raised \$2,476.50 for the *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* fund and served about 200 people. Donations are still needed however. To donate, go <http://decorahucc.org/neighbors/> *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* provides vital assistance to people following an immigration-related crisis.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: There are many spots still open on the Wednesday Evening Service Schedule for Lent. Please consider signing up at your next visit to church, or on SIGNUPGENIUS.

Watch for LENTEN SOUP SUPPER signups coming to your email soon!

EWALU SUMMER CAMPS - Explore God's creation, make new friends, try new things and learn about God's love. Kids finishing 2nd-12th grade can go to Camp Ewalu. Pick up your registration form on the Narthex table today following worship or register online at Ewalu.org. Register before February 28 to receive an early registration discount. Thanks to the generosity of Good Shepherd during the "Place to Connect" Stewardship Appeal, camperships are available for all Good Shepherd kids who wish to attend Ewalu. Bring a copy of your registration confirmation to the church office by April 15 to be eligible for a campership.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

- We are preparing a new black and white *print* version of the Good Shepherd Family Directory for our members who do not have internet access. We ask **everyone** to review their entry for needed updates - names, address, phone, cell phone, email addresses, birth dates, photos. Please send your updates and photo request to Jenny by email at decorahgoodshepherd@gmail.com or phone (382-3963). **Deadline for submitting information is Friday, February 15.** Members with internet access who wish to have a print version should contact Jenny. A free-will donation will be welcome.

A new video from the Mashiah Foundation can be found on the Good Shepherd website under the MINISTRIES tab at the top of the homepage. Click on the "Missions Abroad" link at the bottom of the pull-down menu to find it.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
February 21



MID-WINTER BRUNCH : The women of Good Shepherd will hold their annual meeting on February 16th, 9 a.m. Our business meeting will include voting on the disbursement of our funds. The program will be interactive. Barbara Berg will share her recorded story “The Bed Quilt”, a favorite on MPR. Each attendee is asked to bring a favorite quilt and tell its story. These can be hand or machine quilted, pieced or tied-each one has a story to tell. Good Shepherd used to have a quilt show during Nordic Fest. We encourage all women of the GSLC to come and feel free to bring a friend. CLA will host the brunch.

“Come-Everything is Ready” This invitation from Jesus also serves as the foundation for the 2019 World Day of Prayer (WDP) on Friday March 1, “a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year.” This year, the World Day of Prayer will be facilitated by the WDP Slovenia Committee and will focus on the parable of the great banquet (Luke 14: 15-24). St Benedicts parish will be our host for this event this year.

Study the Bible in 2019 with “Gather” magazine

(from Seeds for the Parish)

“The Gospel of John: Meetings with Jesus,” written by the Rev Julie A Kanarr.

Kanarr helps us understand Jesus’ message through his interactions with the people we meet in John’s Gospel. Together, we’ll explore the way Jesus engages people in honest, sometimes difficult conversations that lead to faith, renewal and transformation.

Session 2. By night and day: Coming to faith in Jesus (John 3:6)

In this session, we meet Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, two people seeking healing and a hungry crowd. We will reflect on how Jesus meets us in our spiritual hunger and thirst.

Gather magazine can be found in the information file by the fellowship hall door or in the WELCA box by the sanctuary.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 16: (note date change) Mid-winter brunch, CLA circle hostess, fellowship hall

March 1: World Day of Prayer, St Benedicts

February Circle Schedule

2/5 - Mary Circle - 4:00 p.m. - Marilyn Larson hosts

2/12 - Anna Circle - 9:30 a.m. - Jane Borelli hosts

2/13- Miriam Circle - 2:00 p.m. - Carol Hasvold hosts

2/26 - CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Gail Judisch hosts



∞ The Music Page ∞

Called to Sing!

According to Holy Scripture, singing is a primary vocation of the people of God, and something all creation – animate and inanimate alike, is called to participate in. Not all expressions of the Christian faith have recognized this important aspect of our calling, but many have, and Lutherans have done so with great enthusiasm. Martin Luther said: Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man (sic) that he should proclaim the Word of God through music. Enthusiastic singing is one of the things I love about being a Lutheran, and about living in the Midwest, where corporate singing is still alive and well. Just look at all the choirs – professional, collegiate, school, community, and church that exist in our region – or even just in Decorah! (I count at least 21!)

Did you know that the words Sing, Song, Singer, and Singing occur more than 400 times in the Bible? And if you add the word Praise to that list (because our praises are usually sung) the number of biblical references jumps to more than 800? It isn't a stretch to say that singing praise to God is one of the major themes of Holy Scripture. Indeed, the longest book in the bible is a hymnal - the Book of Psalms. Contained within those 150 separate hymns are songs of praise, songs of thanksgiving, songs of lament, songs of confession, songs for pilgrims, and songs recounting Israel's history. Many of the psalms specifically exhort people to sing: Ps. 96:1-2 *Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.* Ps. 47:6 *Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!* In just those three verses we are commanded to sing seven times!

Throughout the Psalms it's not only humans who are called upon to praise God, but all of God's creatures: Ps. 148 *Praise the Lord sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.....Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;.....wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.* We know that whales and birds have their songs, but what a wondrous mystery to contemplate the entire cosmos singing praise to God.

Finally, it appears that even God has a song: Psalm 42:8 *The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; in the night season God's song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.* God comforts the psalmist with in their dark night by singing to her- maybe a lullaby – just as a mother would comfort a fretful child. And God rejoices over us with a song. Zephaniah 3:17 *The Lord, your God, is in your midst.....he will exult over you with loud singing.* We've long been taught that our songs of praise here on earth are united with the songs of the saints gathered around God's throne. What a joy to know that God is singing right along with us!

--Pastor Marion Pruitt-Jefferson

Music Schedule, Winter/Spring 2019

1/13	Choir	Offertory: The Three Kings (Cornelius)
1/20	Band	Prelude: Intrade (Pezel) Offertory: Sarabande 1 (Pezel) Postlude: Bal (Pezel)
1/27	Special Music	Offertory: TBA
2/3	Choir	Offertory: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (J. S. Bach)
2/10	Band	Prelude: Sarabande 2 (Pezel) Offertory: Alleluia (Saint-Saens) Postlude: Courente (Pezel)
2/17	Jazz Service	--
2/24	Special Music	Offertory: TBA
3/3	Band	Prelude: Gloria Deo (Dufay) Offertory: Surely, He Hath (Lotti - Low Brass) Postlude: Canzon 1 (Peuerl)
3/10	Choir	Offertory: Wondrous Love (arr. Pooler)
3/17	Jazz Service	--
3/24	Band	Prelude: Ave Maria (des Prez) Offertory: Come, Holy Ghost (Tye) Postlude: Virgo Serena (des Prez)
3/31	Choir	Offertory: Lord Jesus, Think on Me
4/7	Choir	Offertory: Behold the Lamb of God (Willan)
4/14	Choir	Offertory: Lamb of God (Christiansen)
4/19 (G. Friday)	Choir	Offertory: Darkness was Over All (Victoria)
4/21 (Easter)	Band	Prelude: Christ Lag in Todesbanden (Praetorius) Offertory: Alleluia (Mozart - Low Brass) Postlude: Hallelujah (Handel)
4/28	Jazz Service	Offertory: TBA
5/5	Choir	Offertory: Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing (Young)
5/12	Choir	Offertory: Praise the Lord (Mozart)
5/19	Jazz Service	--
5/26	Band	Prelude: Easter Anthem (Billings) Offertory: Renaissance Quartet (Arcadelt - Low Brass) Postlude: And the Glory of the Lord (Handel)

Choir rehearses weekly, Wednesdays 7-8 pm (beginning January 2);
on Sundays when choir sings, warm-up at 8:45

Band rehearses weekly, Wednesdays 8-9 pm (beginning January 2);
on Sundays when band plays, warm-up at 8:45

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

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

Devotions and Initial Actions: Jonathon Struve shared devotions. A motion was made by Marty Steele and seconded by Jon Christy to approve the minutes of the December meeting, motion passed. A motion was made by Jon Christy and seconded by Janeen Christy to approve the meeting agenda. Passed.

New Business:

Motion to designate memorial funds in honor of Judy Mikkelsen to the Prayer Shawl Ministry: Marty Steele presented a motion on behalf of the budget committee to transfer the remaining undesignated memorials totaling \$2,889.07 to the Judy Mikkelsen memorial fund (originally \$2,785.00) to support the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The council voted earlier to use undesignated memorial funds to support the facilities projects at the church. Most of these funds were used to pay for projects in the sanctuary. However, because the Prayer Shawl Ministry reflects the character and memory of Judy Mikkelsen, the budget committee recommends using these remaining memorial funds to support the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Currently, the Prayer Shawl Ministry receives some financial support from WELCA, but those participating in the ministry often purchase and donate their own materials. This memorial fund will give long-term support to the Prayer Shawl Ministry and be a fitting memorial for Judy. The motion was seconded by Janeen Christy, motion passed.

Designate Lent and Easter Offering: Janeen Christy moved that we split our Lent and Easter Offerings between the Decorah Community Food Pantry and ELCA World Hunger. Germano Streese seconded the motion. Motion passed. The children and youth project will raise money for Water to Thrive, which brings clean and safe water to rural Africa, and the council noted that it seemed fitting to pair raising funds for missions that support food and water security.

Old Business: (NONE)

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

Youth Representative: No Report

Education Committee: Bob Felde

An intergenerational (7th grade and older) urban immersion trip is scheduled for March 29-31 in Minneapolis. The cost is \$200 per person for food and lodging. The committee plans to contribute \$75-\$100 per person from the education budget to offset the cost. There will be a youth retreat at EWALU in the spring for 3rd-6th graders.

The Sunday School and Youth will host fellowship on Sunday, March 24.

Evangelism Committee: Janeen Christy

A Good Shepherd information session will be held on Sunday, February 10, with a new member Sunday scheduled for February 24.

Property and Management Committee: Marty Steele

The front windows of the sanctuary will be evaluated to see if any repairs are needed before UV film is installed on these windows. There was some discussion of the 2019 proposed budget regarding the assistant minister. Personnel changes with the addition of Kathryn Thompson and the resignation of Pastor Marion Pruitt-Jefferson required an evaluation of our needs by Pastor Amy Larson and the executive committee. The recommendation of Pastor Amy and the executive committee is to seek a visitation pastor on a part-time basis (approximately 5 hours per week) that would assist with ministering to shut-ins, help with worship at care centers, perform hospital visits, serve in an emergency capacity for members in need, and potentially fill in for Pastor Amy when she is away. This position would not require as many hours as the previous assistant minister position, and therefore needs less funding. A challenge in finding a visitation pastor is that it is helpful to find someone whose schedule is flexible enough to respond to immediate needs. There has been some difficulty finding a visitation pastor up to this point.

(Continued on page 11)

Stewardship Committee: Germano Streese

The committee evaluated the campaign for 2018, finding that it was largely successful. The 97 pledges received exceeded the goal of 90 total pledges. The increase in regular sustained giving pledged for 2019 is also encouraging.

The committee is meeting with community members and organizations who use the church facility on a regular basis to talk about the renovation projects in the church and to see if there is some interest in contributing to the improvement of the facility.

There will continue to be a stewardship article in the newsletter highlighting the ways in which Good Shepherd is using its financial resources to further our congregation's mission.

Worship and Music Committee: Jon Christy

Music Director Brooke Joyce will be away from February through the end of May. Jon Ailabouni will serve as music coordinator, ensuring that all musical needs are covered week to week. He will provide music leadership in worship one Sunday per month. Jonathon Struve will direct the choir and play approximately one service per month. Aaron Burmeister will direct the band and play for mid-week Lenten services. Kathy Reed will play approximately one service per month.

The committee is looking to designate a few head ushers/usher trainers who will oversee ushering. Because ushering is such an involved position, with specific tasks before, during, and after worship, it is hoped that having some experienced individuals leading and training others will help more people feel comfortable volunteering in this capacity and also ensure that services run smoothly.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy Larson

One individual was approached to serve as a Visitation Pastor for five hours per week, but he indicated that he was not able to serve in this capacity. There are very few retired pastors available to serve in this way. Other options are being explored.

The executive committee is considering ways we might experiment with our governance structure to allow more opportunities for people to use their gifts in our life together. There is a need to develop a more flexible governance structure that can allow for a greater variety of ways for members to participate with varying degrees and durations of service. Pr. Amy Larson will share more at the annual meeting.

Upcoming Baptisms:

Rosalind Vrtis, January 20

Quinn Anderson, sometime in February

Pastor Amy thanked the 2018 council for their work this year and the gifts they have provided their committees and the congregation as a whole.

President's Report: Megan Buckingham

No Report

Secretary's Report: Jonathon Struve

No Report

Treasurer's Report: Megan Buckingham (prepared by John Moeller)

Total income year to date: \$312,546.77

Total expense year to date: (\$289,109.15)

Net income year to date: \$23,437.62

Janeen Christy moved and Marty Steele seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: January 17, 2019

Next Council Meeting: February 19, 2019, 7:00 PM

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Janeen Christy moved, Germano Streese seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Motion passed. Pr. Amy Larson led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting. ---Submitted by Jonathon Struve, Congregational Secretary

February 2019

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 10:50 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Adult Forum 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy Day Off 10:30 AM M Anderson Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM M Anderson Tutoring 7:00 PM CLA Circle 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Opportunity Homes CANCELLED 12:00 PM CNA graduation cancelled 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00 PM Pleasant Valley Home School
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Meeting of the Congregation Baptism of Quinn Anderson 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:50 AM Youth Forum 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Annual Meeting 3:00 PM Pew to Pulpit 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy Day Off 10:30 AM M Anderson Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM M Anderson Tutoring 1:30 PM Worship and Music Committee 4:00 PM Mary Circle 5:00 PM Path to Citizenship 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 12:00 PM Centering Prayer 5:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Welca annual meeting and Brunch
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council and Leaders' Installation 8:45 AM Band Warmup 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:50 AM Youth Forum 10:50 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Adult Forum 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy Day Off 10:30 AM M Anderson Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM M Anderson Tutoring 9:30 AM Anna Circle 4:45 PM Education Committee 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Aase Haugen Communion 1:00 PM Wellington Pl. Communion 2:00 PM Miriam Circle 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 12:00 PM Stewardship Committee 1:00 PM Travel Club 5:00 PM Worship and Music Committee 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Welca annual meeting and Brunch
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:45 AM Social Justice Committee 10:50 AM Youth Forum 10:50 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Adult Forum 3:00 PM Pew to Pulpit 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy Day Off 10:30 AM M Anderson Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM M Anderson Tutoring 10:00 AM Quilts of Valor 6:00 PM New Council Potluck 7:00 PM Council Meeting 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Opportunity Homes 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting 5:00 PM Decorah Community Meal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Erik Sessions recital rehearsal
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Hour 10:50 AM Youth Forum 10:50 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Adult Forum 3:45 PM Outreach and Hospitality Committee 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Amy Day Off 10:30 AM M Anderson Tutoring 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 6:00 PM AL/ANON 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM M Anderson Tutoring 7:00 PM CLA Circle 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM Band Rehearsal 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evalu Retreat 3rd-6th graders World Day of Prayer 1:00 PM Friends of Recovery 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Erik Sessions recital rehearsal

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

701 Iowa Avenue

Decorah IA 52101

FEBRUARY 2019

The Shepherd's Voice

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

