



# *The Shepherd's Voice*

March 2019

## Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

This month we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on March 6. Lent is a journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. The people of God reflect on the meaning of our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. Throughout Lent, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

This Lent we will be reflecting on water and thirst. Our children and youth will be raising funds for Water to Thrive, an organization that brings safe, clean water to those who need it in rural Africa. During our Midweek worship, our theme will be "Thirst: Reflections with Scripture and Poetry". The worship services will be a conversation between scripture, hymns and the poetry of Mary Oliver. The poetry will be offered in a variety of ways, including dance. Bob Larson is providing the artistic leadership for these services.

Why poetry in Lent? In his book *The Word in the Wilderness*, poet Malcolm Guite writes, "Lent is a time set aside to reorient ourselves, to clarify our minds, to slow down, recover from distraction, to focus on the values of God's kingdom, on the values [God] has set on us and on our neighbors. There are a number of distinctive ways poetry can help us to do that ... Poetry asks to be savored, it requires us to slow down, it carries echoes, hints at music, summons energies that we will miss if we are simply scanning ... We should also come to poetry both for that inner nourishment and ... for waters drawn up from a well, to be poured out fruitfully later in our prayers." (Guite, ix-xi)

Why Mary Oliver in Lent?

Mary Oliver, a beloved American poet, died on January 17, 2019. Her poetry invites us to pay attention and to ponder mysteries - both central tasks during Lent. The Christian way of death and resurrection is a mystery beyond comprehension. We don't claim to have the answers. Instead, we say "Look!" and bow our heads in astonishment. I look forward to sharing this journey with you this Lent.

Peace,  
Pastor Amy

### **"Mysteries, Yes" by Mary Oliver**

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous  
to be understood.

How grass can be nourishing in the  
mouths of the lambs.

How rivers and stones are forever  
in allegiance with gravity  
while we ourselves dream of rising.

How two hands touch and the bonds  
will never be broken.

How people come, from delight or the  
scars of damage,  
to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance, always, from those  
who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company always with those who say  
"Look!" and laugh in astonishment,  
and bow their heads.

## THE SEASON OF LENT AT GOOD SHEPHERD

The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6. The liturgical color for this season is purple, the color of penitence. It will be visible in our altar and pulpit paraments, gates in the weavings, Lenten veil on our Shepherd's Cross, and on the small crosses on our Fellowship Hall tables. Sanctuary flowers normally will not be present.

The theme for our Lenten worship is **"Thirst: Reflections with Scripture and Poetry"**. Please refer to Pastor Amy's letter on the first page of this newsletter for additional information.

### **LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES and SIMPLE SOUP SUPPERS SCHEDULE**

#### **Ash Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. - Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes**

The following Wednesday evening Lenten services begin at **5:30 p.m.** The Simple Soup Suppers will follow at approximately 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, March 13** - Guest choir, **Aurora** - Jennaya Robison, Conductor

Soup Supper Coordinators - Jon Christy and Elizabeth Kaschins

**Wednesday, March 20** - Guest choir, **Collegium Musicum** - Kathryn Reed, Director

Soup Supper Coordinators - Jeri Laursen and Elizabeth Kaschins

**Wednesday, March 27**

Soup Supper Coordinator - Carrie Solberg

**Wednesday, April 3** - Guest choir, **Norsemen Ensemble** - Mark Potvin, Conductor

Soup Supper Coordinators - Bev Sheridan and Jon Christy

**Wednesday, April 10**

Soup Supper Coordinator - Joyce Epperly

### **2019 Simple Soup Suppers Mission Statement**

**From the Worship & Music Committee:** *Because Lent is a season of reflection, preparation, and liturgical fasting, we are drawn to the idea of greater simplicity in our Lenten Soup Suppers. A humble meal, shared together, deepens and extends the themes of Lent expressed in our worship services. This year, our **SIMPLE SOUP SUPPERS will offer soup, crackers, milk, and water.***

**More about the Simple Soup Suppers:** Volunteers are needed to provide soups, including vegan and gluten-free offerings, and to serve/clean up. Sign-up posters are on the Narthex Table and charts are posted on our website's SignUpGenius link [www.goodshepherddecorah.org/sign-ups/](http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org/sign-ups/) Serving will be simplified - biodegradable bowls will be used; napkins, spoons, crackers, water and glasses will be on the tables; milk will be on a serving cart. The Coordinators will provide additional details and are happy to answer questions. A freewill offering will be received to support the Decorah Community Food Pantry and ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

## Adult Forums

**March 3** – *Faith and Stories* series returns with Dr. Paula Carlson again leading the discussions. The reading to be considered is Sue Miller’s “While I Was Gone”.

**March 10** - *Faith and Stories* series continues with the reading to be considered; James Baldwin’s “Notes of a Native Son”. Led by Dr. Paula Carlson

**March 17** - *Tolerating Intolerance: Responses to Religious Pluralism in post-Reformation Europe*- Victoria Christman

**March 24** - No Forum (Luther College Spring Break)

**March 31** - *Jazz and Worship*: Join Jon Ailabouni for a presentation on jazz, faith, and worship. From the music of Duke Ellington and Mary Lou Williams to John Coltrane and Albert Ayler, jazz music has a long history of being explicitly tied to worship and spirituality. The Forum will explore how jazz carries meaning through sound and how the music offers a fresh perspective in worship and our faith lives. We had a wonderful jazz worship led by Jon last week. Three more jazz services are scheduled on March 17, April 28, and May 19, 2019.

## March Scriptures

<b>Sunday, March 3</b> <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>	Exodus 34:29-35 Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shone	Psalms 99 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill.	2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2 With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed	Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a] Jesus is transfigured on the mountain
<b>Sunday, March 10</b> <b>First Sunday in Lent</b>	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16 God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.	Romans 10:8b-13 If you confess that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved	Luke 4:1-13 The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days
<b>Sunday, March 17</b> <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 The covenant with Abram and his descendants	Psalms 27 In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter.	Philippians 3:17--4:1 Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior	Luke 13:31-35 I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood
<b>Sunday, March 24</b> <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b>	Isaiah 55:1-9 Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the Lord	Psalms 63:1-8 O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.	1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians	Luke 13:1-9 Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree
<b>Sunday, March 31</b> <b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>	Joshua 5:9-12 Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land	Psalms 32 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord.	2 Corinthians 5:16-21 The mystery and ministry of reconciliation	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son

# March 2019 Ministry Team

DATE	LITURGY	USHER * Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only
Sunday, March 3 11:00 a.m. Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Marion Pruitt-Jefferson  Reader: Harland Nelson  Communion Server: Midge Kjome  Cantor: Daniel Raney	1.*Jerry Aulwes 2. John Moeller  Greeter: Gloria Hove  Acolyte: Brenna Parker	1.*Ingrid Callaghan 2. Carol Hasvold 3. Kate Ailabouni (F) 4. JoAnn Aulwes
Ash Wednesday March 6 7 p.m.	Asst. Minister: Harland Nelson  Reader: Jane Jakoubek  Communion Server: Jane Jakoubek  Cantor: Dennis Barnaal	1.*Kirk Johnson 2. John Jefferson  Greeter: Kerry Johnson  Acolyte:	No Fellowship
Sunday, March 10 11:00 a.m. Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Ruth Bruce  Reader: Kate Narveson  Communion Server: Angie Sadler  Cantor: Jonathon Struve	1.*Jim Fritz 2. Lindsay Erdman  Greeter: Gloria Hove  Acolyte: Pranav Caton	1.*Carol Hasvold 2. Karla Erdman 3. Liz Fritz 4. John Jefferson & Marion Pruitt-Jefferson 5. Sandhya Caton (F)
Wednesday March 13 Lenten Service 5:30 p.m.	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek  Aurora Choir sing	1. Kirk Johnson Greeter: Kerry Johnson	Soup Supper Coordinators - Jon Christy & Elizabeth Kaschins
Sunday, March 17 11:00 a.m. Broadcast Jazz Service	Asst. Minister: Angie Sadler  Reader: Marv Slind  Communion Server: Midge Kjome  Cantor: Jon Ailabouni	1.*Jim Fritz 2. Ray Torresdal  Greeter: Bridget Parker  Acolyte: Brenna & Bristol Parker	1.*John Jefferson 2. Kate Narveson 3. Kate Ailabouni (F) 4. Liz Fritz 5. Marion Pruitt-Jefferson
Wednesday March 20 Lenten Service 5:30 p.m.	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek  Collegium Choir sings	1. Jonathon Struve Greeter: Maggie Norris	Soup Supper Coordinators - Jeri Laursen and Elizabeth Kaschins

# March 2019 Ministry Team cont.

<p>Sunday, March 24 LIVE Broadcast</p>	<p>Asst. Minister: Jim Buzza Reader: Marv Slind Communion Server: Marv Slind Cantor: Tom Buresh</p>	<p>1.*Reg Laursen 2. Jerry Bruce  Greeter: Anna Norris  Acolyte: Jack Norris</p>	<p>Sunday School and Youth Forum hosts</p>
<p>Wednesday March 27 Lenten Service 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Asst. Minister: Harland Nelson</p>	<p>1. Kirk Johnson Greeter: Kerry Johnson</p>	<p>Soup Supper Coordinator - Carrie Solberg</p>
<p>Sunday, March 31 LIVE Broadcast</p>	<p>Asst. Minister: Bridget Parker Reader: Marv Slind Communion Server: Angie Sadler Cantor: Reg Laursen</p>	<p>1.*Ray Torresdal 2. Ed Epperly  Greeter: Bill deGraaf  Acolyte: Bristol Parker</p>	<p>1.*Joyce Epperly 2. Marv Slind 3. Marilyn Rue 4. Karen Fitton</p>

March Altar Guild: Jeri Laursen (Convener), Bev Sheridan, Carrie Solberg

## Welcome to New Members



Karen McLean



Wes & Erin Anderson, Ani & Quinn

# Good Shepherd Announcements

**LENT AND EASTER OFFERINGS** this year will be divided between the Decorah Community Food Pantry and ELCA World Hunger. These offerings will be collected at the Wednesday Evening Lenten Services, Holy Week Services and on Easter Sunday. Also during Lent, the children and youth will be raising funds for Water to Thrive, an organization that works to bring clean, safe drinking water to those who need it in rural Africa. Funds for Water to Thrive can be placed in a bucket up front on Sunday mornings during Lent.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN PROJECT:** Each year during Lent, the children of Good Shepherd invite the congregation to raise funds for a special mission project. We have chosen Water to Thrive (<https://www.watertothrive.org/>) as this year's recipient. Our project will be part of a larger water campaign effort with Decorah Middle School, Waverly Middle School, Luther College and Wartburg College. We will be sharing more about this community opportunity each Sunday morning in Lent and on our bulletin board in the hallway. Donations will be received beginning on the first Sunday of Lent and will continue through the Lenten Season. Please write Sunday School Project on your check. Thank you for your support of this project!

**DRIVERS NEEDED:** There is an ongoing need for volunteers willing to assist our immigrant neighbors by providing transportation to critically important appointments in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and occasionally Omaha and Chicago. If you are able to add your name to a growing list of people willing to serve as drivers, please let Dave Judisch know. [judiscda@luther.edu](mailto:judiscda@luther.edu).

**DIRECTORY UPDATES:**

Ingrid Callaghan - new email address  
Wes & Erin Anderson - New Members  
Linda Donoghue - new email address  
Karen McLean - New Member  
Kate Ailabouni - new cell phone number

**If you're interested in an opportunity for spiritual renewal and transformation**, the Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation may interest you. The 2-year program is organized around quarterly retreats held at the Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque, IA. It serves individuals and congregational groups, laypersons, deacons, and clergy. It is centered on contemplative practices, building trust and spiritual companionship in small groups and learning through an action/reflection model. The Grace Institute has long and deep ties to Good Shepherd; Brad Hanson was one of the founders and for many years it's director and key presenter. He and Marion were foundational in setting the tone and direction for the Grace Institute. The current staff now includes Mike and Sue Blair and Jane Jakoubek, and Pr. Amy Larson is the lead presenter for the opening retreat in August 2019. Naomi Craft and Marilyn Larson attended Grace Institute in its early years. To learn more about the program, dates, topics, key presenters and worship leaders, and cost, see <https://luther.edu/grace-institute/>.

**APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**March 21**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**GS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 22-24**

**DECORAH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY:** How long has it been since you felt real hunger? For every meal I do eat, I put a dollar in a jar to go to our Food Pantry. You may want to try something similar. All donations are appreciated: Decorah Community Food Pantry, P.O. Box 26, Decorah, IA 52101. To volunteer, contact Jud Barclay at 563-387-3826.

**TAX FILING HELP** - Northeast Iowa RSVP Volunteers is providing electronic income tax filing for low to middle income taxpayers (any age) and those over age 60. RSVP volunteers serve with the AARP & VITA tax programs. Services will be provided at the Decorah Public Library on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday during the tax season. All locations are by appointment only. Call 563-277-5186 to schedule.



### **World Day of Prayer 2019 is Friday, March 1st**

World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. St Benedicts Parish will be our host with coffee being served at 1 pm and a program to follow.

**“Come-Everything is Ready”** This invitation from Jesus also serves as the foundation for the 2019 World Day of Prayer (WDP). 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). Ann Naslund and Bev Sheridan will be helping with the program. All are welcome to attend.

**During Lent we will join LWR in A Season of Hope.** As we walk through the season of Lent together, announce to the world that the hope of Christ makes a new season possible. Each week we will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits for families in need around the world. Simple items can offer hope for families coping with war, poverty and disaster. Collection baskets will be available in the narthex.

March 10: ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20” x 40” and 52” x 27”), dark color recommended

March 17: TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

March 24: ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

March 31: ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

April 7: ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

### **Easter Dinner at Good Shepherd, Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Again this year, WELCA would like to invite you to a potluck dinner on Easter Sunday at noon in the fellowship hall of Good Shepherd. This was very well attended and appreciated last year. Meat and potatoes will be provided, please bring a dish to pass. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Good Shepherd Mission Assistance Fund. Join your church family and friends for a good meal and fellowship. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ann Naslund 563-380-3486 or Bev Sheridan at 382-9025 ([sherida701@gmail.com](mailto:sherida701@gmail.com)) to make reservations. We will also be needing a few people to help with setup and cleanup.

### **Cluster D Spring Gathering, April 27<sup>th</sup> at Good Shepherd**

Pastor Elaine Siemsen from Immanuel Lutheran in Cresco will present her program on Prayer Labyrinths. Join other Lutheran women in the Cluster for a morning of coffee, fellowship and an informational program. More information next month.

### **Study the Bible in 2019 with “Gather” magazine (from Seeds for the Parish)**

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

In this session, we meet Nicodemus and 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.

**2019 WELCA booklets** are available in the hall cubbies outside the church office. Please pick one up and also take a few extra to give out at a circle meeting. All are welcome to participate in the WELCA activities.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**March 1:** World Day of Prayer,  
St Benedict’s Parish, 1 pm

**April 21:** Easter Dinner

**April 27:** Cluster D Spring Gathering,  
Good Shepherd Lutheran, 9 am

### **March Circle Schedule**

**3/5 - Mary Circle - 4:00 p.m.**

**3/12 - Anna Circle - 9:30 a.m. - Aase Haugen all contribute**

**3/13 - Miriam Circle - 2:00 p.m. - LaVerne Ramsey hosts**

**3/26 - CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Connie Buresh hosts**

# Staying Connected

iPad

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<https://www.goodshepherddecorah.org/>

## GOOD SHEPHERD'S WEBSITE IS ALIVE AND WELL!

### SOME FAST FACTS:

Did you know that over 200 households now receive the monthly newsletter *The Shepherd's Voice* and the weekly update, *The Shepherd's Voice: Weekly News and Events* by email? Our reach is even wider with Google. Google statistics show that 2,369 people found Good Shepherd's website using Google during the month of January 2019.

But wait there's more! During the first part of February, Google Analytics showed that 92% of our users were in the US (152) while 3 were in Canada, 2 in the UK, and 2 in Malaysia. Other individuals searched us out in Germany, Italy, India, the Philippines, South Africa, and Sweden. 79% of our users accessed us using desktop/laptops while 15% used mobile devices and 6% used tablets. Pages most frequently searched were *Ministries*, *Liturgical Seasons and Colors*, *Ministry Team Sign-ups*, and *Sermons*.

### WEBSITE 'Tip of the Month'

If you would like to read and/or listen to Pastor Amy's **sermons**, here are some options available from our website's homepage. Texts and audio recordings usually are posted by Sunday evening.

### FOR SERMON TEXT AND AUDIO:

**Good Shepherd's FACEBOOK page** - This is the direct link: <https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherddecorah> The Facebook icon is found at the upper right corner of our website's homepage. (You do not have to be a member of Facebook to access our FB page.)

**CONNECT Tab in the green bar across the top of the homepage** - This is the direct link for sermons from its drop-down menu: <https://www.goodshepherddecorah.org/sermons/>

### SERMON TEXT:

**NEWS Tab in the green bar across the top of the homepage** - Sermon texts are posted at the Blog link in the drop-down menu: <https://www.goodshepherddecorah.org/news-and-events/>

### SEVERE WEATHER ALERTS

If severe weather causes the cancellation of a worship service (as the blizzard did on Sunday, February 24), notification will be sent via a congregational email alert, with a public notice posted on the Good Shepherd website and Facebook account, as well as on KWWL television and KVIK and KDEC radio stations. The safety of our members and visitors is of utmost importance in making the decision to cancel worship or other events at Good Shepherd.

# Stewardship

## EmPowering Good Shepherd: Your Gifts at Work

Good Shepherd is a very generous congregation. Of course, as a new member, I realize that I am not telling you something you don't already know. I was so humbled and honored when I found out that my new congregation would not only support my process to be consecrated as a Deaconess through prayer and spiritual support, but through monetary support.

My journey to consecration will be a gratifying one, albeit a long one...3 years. A Deaconess may be called to serve in many ways...in short, we are called to serve. Some serve in a church setting, through teaching, nursing...there are a myriad of ways in which they may be of service. It is my hope to serve in a hospice setting, as a Chaplin or to work with geriatrics. I love the elder population, so many need companionship.

How fortunate our congregation is to have 5 seminarians in various stages of their journey to ordination. Their quest to lead while following a faith-based life, is made easier with your faith in them as well as your financial support. Menzi Nkambule, Joseph Tiegen Jr., Amalia Vagts, Nathan Wicks and Daniel Robert Grainger all celebrate your generosity and thank you.

In remembering your generosity and joining the mission we share at Good Shepherd, all of us who are preparing to serve have offered a Statement of Intent for financial giving to Good Shepherd. On behalf of all of us, thank you for your faith in us.

Blessings,

Angie Sadler, Diaconal Student



Our five seminarians (and a spouse and child) at a NE IA Synod Candidacy retreat (left to right)

**Daniel Grainger, Menzi Nkambule, Amalia Vagts, Joseph Tiegen Jr., Sarah and Philip Wicks, Nathan Wicks**

**Angie Sadler, diaconal student, was blessed during worship**



# The Music Page

## Praying with hymns

"O Christ, create new hearts in us, that beat in time with yours,  
that, joined by faith with your great heart, become love's open doors"  
(ELW #722 O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate)

Recently, this beautiful hymn stanza has become a kind of daily prayer for me. As Lent approaches, and we turn again to the spiritual disciplines of prayer, self-examination and forgiveness, I find great hope and comfort as I pray using these words. They are both an acknowledgment of my need for a new heart, and an assurance that God will act to bring about the transformation for which I long.

The author of this hymn is Rev. Dr. Herman G. Stuempfle, (1923-2007) a leader in the Lutheran Church who served as Chaplain, Dean and President at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg. Stuempfle was a beloved professor of preaching and author of a several books on preaching and theology. He was also a gifted writer, and during his lifetime he penned an estimated 550 hymn texts. Our present day ELW contains \*eight of his hymns, making him a major contributor to our current worship book. His hymns are noteworthy for their beauty, theological power and accessibility.

I would commend to you the practice of praying with a beloved hymn. Just start with a short phrase that grabs your attention or captures your imagination, and return to it throughout the day. Hymn texts are easy to remember because they are joined to familiar tunes which make them readily available to us. Along with "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate," I would also highly recommend ELW # 636 "How Small Our Span of Life." Its stark honesty about our mortality, combined with its strong proclamation of the hope of eternal life, make this a very powerful hymn. It echoes the Ash Wednesday pronouncement to "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," while beautifully reminding us of our resurrection hope.

O Christ, you left eternity to plunge in time's swift stream,  
to share the shortness of our span, our mortal lives redeem.

You filled your cross-closed years with love; you loved us to the end  
and touch us with your risen life that ours may time transcend. (ELW# 636)

\*A complete list of Stuempfle hymns contained in our worship book can be found on page 1193 of the ELW.

--Pastor Marion Pruitt-Jefferson

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

## 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, Steve Holland, Kerry Johnson, Linda Donoghue, Bob Larson, Nathan Larson, John Moeller, Bob Naslund, and Jonathon Struve.

Devotions and Initial Actions: The council met at 6:00 pm for a potluck dinner and conversation. The council discussed the responses to the questions posed to the congregation at the annual meeting: What excites you? What challenges do you see? What resources do you see that we could draw upon more fully? Steve Holland officially called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Pr. Amy Larson led devotions. The minutes of the January Congregation Council Meeting were accepted as submitted. A motion was made by Bob Larson and seconded by Bob Naslund to approve the meeting agenda. Passed.

### **New Business:**

Review of Mission Statement and Duties of the Council: Steve Holland led the council through the expectations and the role of the church council and its officers. In particular, Holland emphasized section 12.04a in the constitution, which states that council members are “to lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.”

Members of the council serving as chairs of the six standing committees are also to be guided by the continuing resolutions for each committee, and committee chairs were asked to review the continuing resolutions of their respective committees and bring any needed revisions or changes to the council for approval.

Discussion of Meeting Organization: Steve Holland outlined a plan to restructure the council meeting organization, identifying three priorities: 1. Accomplish the work of the church and the council. 2. Maximize the time the council spends on big picture ideas and long-range planning. 3. Maximize the efficiency of the meeting to respect the time and commitments of those on the council.

The structure of the meeting will consist of a consent agenda and a discussion agenda. The consent agenda will include action items from committees and all reports and regular business (i.e. the minutes of the previous meeting) that need council approval, but do not require discussion. Items in the consent agenda can then be approved at once without discussion. If the council feels that an item in the consent agenda does require discussion, that item can be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the discussion agenda.

The discussion agenda will consist of topics and action items that require discussion. The goal is to keep the discussion agenda to one to three items. This will maximize the amount of time that the council can use to discuss important matters and free up time for the council to spend on long-range planning.

The second change is that committees will continue to submit written reports and minutes of their meetings, but committees will not give an oral report at each council meeting. Instead, the committee chairs serving on the council can place items that require discussion in the discussion agenda. The written committee reports can be accepted as submitted by the council.

Pr. Amy Larson noted that it will be important with these changes to ensure that all members of the council are given an opportunity to contribute to the discussion, and meetings will include an opportunity for all council members to participate and engage in conversation. Jonathon Struve noted that the council meeting minutes will continue to include reports from each committee to pass to the congregation, and he asked that council representatives indicate if there are items that should be included in the minutes that may not be specifically discussed at the meeting.

Formation of a “Governance Advance Team”: It may be time for the congregation to evaluate our governance model and its service to our mission of nurturing and supporting Christ’s flock, welcoming all, and reaching out to the broader community. The goal of the Governance Advance Team will be to develop and implement a plan for engaging the congregation and its leaders to respond to questions concerning the desire to change our governance structure and to explore possible changes in our structure. The team will develop a plan to get feedback from members, with the goal of concluding this exploratory study by May 2019. Members of the team include Pr. Amy Larson, Amalia Vagts, John Moeller, and Linda Donoghue. Bob Naslund seconded this motion from the executive committee to charge the Governance Advance Team with the task of evaluating our governance structure and engaging the congregation in the discernment process. Passed.

Designate Additional Officers to Access Good Shepherd Bank Account: A motion was made by Bob Naslund and seconded by

Nathan Larson to designate the Congregational Council President, Steve Holland, and Vice President, Linda Donoghue, as authorized officers on the accounts of Good Shepherd pending passage of a background check. Motion passed.

Receive New Members: Those wishing to join the congregation are Karen McLean and Wesley, Erin, Annelies, and Qunn Anderson. Linda Donoghue moved and Bob Naslund seconded a motion to receive these new members into the congregation. Motion Passed. They will be received on Sunday, February 24.

Old Business: (NONE)

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

The Committee Reports were received and accepted as submitted.

Youth Representative: No Report

Education Committee: Submitted by Bob Felde

The Sunday School Lenten project will support the Water to Thrive program that the middle school, Luther, Wartburg, and Waverly middle school are promoting this spring. The goal is to raise \$2000.

Six youth and three adults will be attending the Intergenerational Urban Immersion Trip in Minneapolis from March 29-31.

Four 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are signed up to attend the Ewalu Retreat on March 2-3.

The first high school youth gathering will be held on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Evangelism Committee: Kerry Johnson

New members will be received on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Two households will be joining.

Property and Management Committee: Bob Naslund

The committee is discussing the possibility of adding members.

Some items that will be addressed include the front sanctuary windows, the possibility of covering/screening the roof furnaces, and painting the kitchen and the annex hallway.

Thanks to Marty Steele for her hard work on the committee in 2018.

Stewardship Committee: submitted by Jerry Bruce

The committee provided an overview of the Stewardship for All Seasons concept which will be used in the coming year and reviewed the calendar of activities developed over the past two years.

There will be monthly newsletter articles and bulletin information beginning this month.

Worship and Music Committee: Bob Larson

The revised simple soup supper is ready to be implemented for Lent.

Organization is moving forward for the Maundy Thursday Dinner/Service on April 18, which will include a catered meal.

The Lenten Series will use the theme "Water of Life."

Jon Ailabouni is coordinating the music and musicians during Brooke's absence this spring.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy Larson

Work is beginning on discerning how we organize our work as a congregation so that we can most fully live out our mission and carry out ministry and provide opportunities for people to lead and participate that allow them to share their gifts and passions in flexible ways for the sake of our mission. The Governance Advance Team is the first step in this process of discernment.

President's Report: Steve Holland

The council discussed how we can share and use the feedback we received from the congregation in response to the questions posed at the annual meeting. Holland will begin by organizing the responses by subject/theme and compile a report.

Secretary's Report: Jonathon Struve - No Report

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Total income year to date: \$24,777.03

Total expense year to date: (\$13,975.07)

Net income year to date: \$10,801.96

The treasurer's report was received and accepted.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: February 21, 2019

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

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. Pr. Amy Larson led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting. ---Submitted by Jonathon Struve, Congregation Secretary

# March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New member Sunday</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:50 AM Youth Forum</li> <li>10:50 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Adult Forum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>10:30 AM Music rehearsal</li> <li>10:30 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>7:00 PM CIA Circle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM Opportunity Homes</li> <li>5:30 PM Confirmation Class</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir rehearsal</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> <li>3:30 PM Governance Advancement Team</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Day of Prayer</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>3:45 PM Outreach and Hospitality Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evalu Retreat 3rd-6th graders</li> <li>8:00 AM Erik Sessions recital rehearsal</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evalu Retreat 3rd-6th graders</li> <li>Amalia Vagts preaching</li> <li>8:45 AM Band Warmup</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:50 AM Youth Forum</li> <li>10:50 AM Sunday School</li> <li>and 3 more...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>10:30 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>4:00 PM Mary circle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ash Wednesday</li> <li>6:00 PM Choir rehearsal</li> <li>7:00 PM Ash Wednesday service</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> <li>1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting</li> <li>5:00 PM Community Meal</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:00 AM Stewardship Committee</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Kinderhaus Open house</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM Choir Warmup</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:50 AM Youth Forum</li> <li>10:50 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Adult Forum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>10:30 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>10:00 AM Quilts of Valor</li> <li>7:00 PM Council Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM Opportunity Homes</li> <li>10:30 AM Aase Haugen Communion</li> <li>2:00 PM Miriam Circle</li> <li>5:30 PM Lenten worship service</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir rehearsal</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>11:00 AM Stewardship Committee</li> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> <li>1:00 PM Travel Club</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:00 PM Fellowship Setup - youth</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:45 AM Social Justice Committee</li> <li>10:50 AM Youth Forum</li> <li>10:50 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Adult Forum</li> <li>3:00 PM Pew to Pulpit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>10:30 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>1:00 PM Monday Club</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>10:00 AM Quilts of Valor</li> <li>7:00 PM Council Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry</li> <li>5:30 PM Lenten worship service</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir rehearsal</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter Deadline</li> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> <li>5:00 PM Decoran Community Meal</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:00 PM Fellowship Setup - youth</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth offer- Fellowship Hour</li> <li>8:45 AM Band warmup</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:50 AM Youth Forum</li> <li>10:50 AM Sunday School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>10:30 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>7:00 PM CIA Circle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Lenten worship service</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir rehearsal</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Immersion Service Retreat</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Immersion Service Retreat</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Immersion Service Retreat</li> <li>8:45 AM Choir warmup</li> <li>8:45 AM choir warmup</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:50 AM Youth Forum</li> <li>10:50 AM Sunday School</li> <li>12:30 PM Sandy Goode</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>10:30 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM M Anderson Tu-toring</li> <li>4:00 PM Mary circle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Lenten worship service</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir rehearsal</li> <li>8:00 PM Band Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor</li> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> <li>1:30 PM Property and Management Committee Meeting</li> <li>5:00 PM Community Meal</li> <li>7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Friends of Recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Immersion Service Retreat</li> </ul>

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

701 Iowa Avenue

Decorah IA 52101

MARCH 2019

# *The Shepherd's Voice*

### **Pastor Amy Larson**

Music Director: Brooke Joyce

Children Youth and Family Director: Kathryn Thompson

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Werner

Email: [decorahgoodshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:decorahgoodshepherd@gmail.com)

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

Church Office: 563-382-3963

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

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

