



The Shepherd's Voice

August 2019

"Radical Generosity and Radical Hospitality"

These are the words of Rev. Mark Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop of our Northeastern Iowa Synod, which he shared with us on Sunday, July 21st during his sermon on Luke's story of Martha and Mary. If you were there, you might have been feeling a bit uncomfortable with the lavish praise that Pr. Anderson heaped upon our congregation. After all, Jesus says, "When you give, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." (Matt. 6:3) But Pr. Anderson was determined to tell us all about what our right hand is doing.

Towards the beginning of his message he declared that Good Shepherd is "outrageously generous." Then he went on to name our support of the wider church, Young Adults in Global Mission, Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, and Lutheran Disaster Response. But he didn't stop there. He continued, saying, "Even more important is that this congregation – more than any other I can think of – invests in people." He mentioned the five seminarians and one diaconal candidate that we support; he reminded us that we were one of only a few synod congregations participating in Reconciling in Christ - assuring welcome and hospitality to people who identify as LGBTQ; he named our work as an AMMPARO congregation, telling us that we are "leading the synod in responding to the immigration crisis" by offering support to families and youth, and advocating for just and compassionate immigration reform.

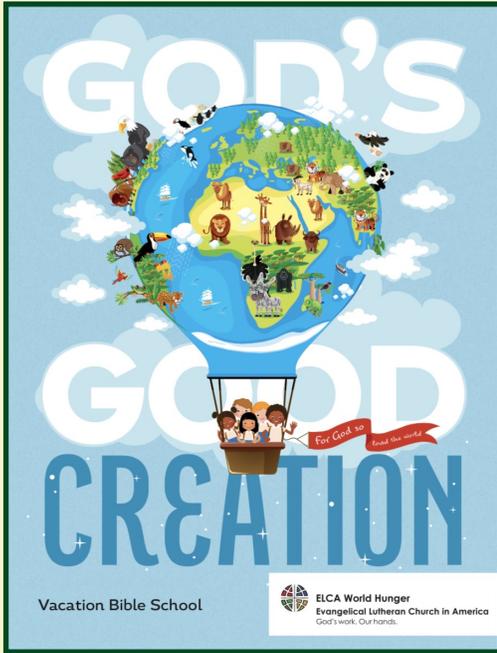
And after all of that, he still didn't stop. He continued, saying, "This congregation is showing radical generosity while committing radical hospitality. For you are the better part of both Mary and Martha, hearers of the word, deep in faith, and doers of the word, deep in energy ...which I believe could only be possible if you had a deep faith which comes from sitting at the feet of Jesus like Mary."

Pr. Anderson's praise and thanks for Pr. Amy's leadership and the ministry of our congregation were true and heartfelt. The *Outrageous Generosity* and *Radical Hospitality* of which he spoke, are outward signs of the *Overflowing Love of God* which Pr. Amy faithfully proclaims to us week after week, and which we receive in the gracious gifts of Christ's body and blood in Holy Communion.

I believe that Good Shepherd is everything that Pr. Anderson described, and even more. Over the past 2 and a half weeks I have witnessed how you have responded to Nathan's accident and hospitalization. You have shown such tender love and care towards Nathan, Pr. Amy, Pr. Matt, and Abby. Like Mary, you have sat at the feet of Jesus and prayed fervently for healing, strength and patience for Nathan and the entire family. Like Martha, you have stepped in to act with compassion and generosity, giving financial gifts, sending cards and offering words of encouragement on CaringBridge and Facebook, and making yourselves available to do whatever is helpful. And I know that the love and generosity you have already shown will continue to manifest itself in countless ways over the coming weeks and months. Together, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are connected to one another and to the One Source of endless love and generosity.

Thanks be to God! Pr. Marion

As you may have heard, I will be filling in as Visitation Pastor for awhile as Nathan continues to recover. I will also be providing emergency pastoral care. Please contact me at 563-379-6197, or mpruitt.jefferson58@gmail.com with any needs or concerns.



**2019
Vacation
Bible
School
at UCC**



August 2019 Ministry Team

DATE	LITURGY	USHER * Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only
Sunday, August 4 LIVE broadcast	Asst. Minister: Reg Laursen Reader: Karl Jacobsen Communion Server: Jerrine Jacobsen Cantor: Megan Buckingham	1.*Lyle Otte 2. Dick Wuest Greeter: Karl Jacobsen Acolyte:	1.*Marilyn Rue 2. Glendalu Wuest 3. Marie Freerking 4. Charilyn Hover
Sunday, August 11 LIVE broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek Reader: Harland Nelson Communion Server: Angie Sadler Cantor: Reg Laursen	1.*Tom Buresh 2. Reg Laursen Greeter: Connie Buresh Acolyte:	1.*Jeri Laursen 2. Carol Hasvold 3. Carolyn Solberg 4. Naomi Craft
Sunday, August 18 LIVE broadcast	Asst. Minister: Chris Hick Reader: Harland Nelson Communion Server: Linda Wolfs Cantor: Jonathon Struve	1.*Lindsay Erdman 2. Erik Berg Greeter: Laverne Ramsey Acolyte: Karla Erdman	1.*Karla Erdman 2. Bev Nelson 3. Carol Hasvold 4. Barbara Berg
Sunday, August 25 LIVE broadcast	Asst. Minister: Angie Sadler Reader: Donna Bahr Communion Server: Jane Jakoubek Cantor: Reg Laursen	1.*Lindsay Erdman 2. Mark Finanger Greeter: Lois Finanger Acolyte: Karla Erdman	1.*Karla Erdman 2. Joyce Epperly 3. Ed Epperly 4. Lois Finanger

August Altar Guild: Carrie Solberg, Marilyn Anderson, Glendalu Wuest

MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Halfway through the year, our member giving (including money given in 2018 intended for 2019) totals \$138,677.00. If giving stays the same, our total member giving for the year will be \$277,354. Our projected member giving for 2019, based on the statements of intent during the stewardship campaign, was \$278,504. As you can see, members of the congregation are following through on their statements of intended giving.
2. Our total income through June 30 was \$141,959.71. Our operating expenses, not including the renovation costs and the youth director salary (we collected the money for that position last year), were \$113,871.04. In other words, when we focus solely on the operating costs, we are running a healthy \$28,088.67 surplus.
3. As of June 30, we have spent \$96,045.58 on the HVAC and renovation projects. \$3,081.04 was for sanctuary projects that were not completed last year, which means we have spent \$92,964.54 on the current projects. We have paid for the work thus far as follows: (a) \$35,000.00 from a no-interest HVAC loan; (b) \$28,507.43 from last year's surplus; (c) \$32,538.00 from this year's income. Recall that in addition to the HVAC loan we have a \$125,000 line of credit for the construction work; we began drawing on that loan in July. *John Moeller, Treasurer*

Facilities Improvement Update

From Lindsay Erdman, Facilities Improvement Committee Chair ...July was a roller coaster month. A great deal has been done, but with numerous challenges. I have to applaud my FIC committee of Reg Laursen, Jim Fritz and Lindy Moeller as they have put in a tremendous amount of work. There have been and continue to be some significant challenges. As each of these is (or will need to be) resolved we move to the next one.

Through this there has been much progress as our contractors have been working hard to meet our schedule. We will now also move into the Fellowship Hall and other parts of the church as we work into HVAC, Fire Alarm System, and finishing work. **Access remains limited.**

We hope some have had the chance to do our mini-tour. We are working toward completing dry wall work so that painting can begin. We'll be looking for painters soon. Our electrical work will be inspected and we'll be wrapping up fire alarm work as well. Sidewalk work in the back will hopefully start next week.

At this point we have selected carpet but are delayed in delivery so will need to work that out as well.

Again, we appreciate everyone's patience and assistance. More will be needed before this is done.

Thank you on behalf of the committee for your support.

***Construction updates and photos are available in the emailed *The Shepherd's Voice Weekly News and Events* and on our website's Flickr site: www.flickr.com/photos/goodshepherddecorah/



Geothermal in kitchen closet



New Hallway



New Classroom



The Good Shepherd Mission Endowment committee has approved the following applicants to receive Endowment financial support for 2019:

Erik Johnson, EPIC Scholarship assistance at Luther College; fall semester 2019

Hallie Johnson, EPIC Scholarship assistance at Luther College; fall semester 2019

Menzi Nkambule, who continues seeking a Master of Divinity at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, (ordination track)

Angie Sadler, Student of the Luther Diaconal Assn through Valparaiso University

George and Martha Lowe, Continuing Education in Palestine.

August Scriptures

Sunday, August 4 8th Sunday after Pentecost	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Search out wisdom, for all is vanity	Psalm 49:1-12 My mouth shall speak of wisdom.	Colossians 3:1-11 Clothed in Christ, your life is hidden with him in God	Luke 12:13-21 Jesus says: Be on guard against greed; be rich toward God, your treasure
Sunday, August 11 9th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 15:1-6 God's promise of a child for Abram and Sarai	Psalm 33:12-22 Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you.	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 A model for us: Abraham's faith in a new home given by God	Luke 12:32-40 God will give you the treasure of the kingdom; sell all that you have
Sunday, August 18 10th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 23:23-29 God's word is like fire, like a hammer that breaks rocks	Psalm 82 Arise, O God, and rule the earth.	Hebrews 11:29--12:2 The faith of the Hebrew people, a great cloud of witnesses	Luke 12:49-56 Jesus brings fire on earth and has a baptism with which to be baptized
Sunday, August 25 11th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Do not trample the sabbath, but feed the hungry	Psalm 103:1-8 The Lord crowns you with mercy and steadfast love.	Hebrews 12:18-29 You have come to the city of the living God and to Jesus	Luke 13:10-17 Jesus heals a crippled woman on the sabbath and is condemned

Good Shepherd Announcements



UPDATE ON NATHAN LARSON
A CaringBridge site has been set up as an ongoing source of information and way for readers to send prayers and messages of love and support:

www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanlarson. Visitors are discouraged for now. Cards for Nathan are welcome. They should be sent to their home address, 904 Fifth Avenue, Decorah, IA 52101, and will be brought to Rochester when possible. With Pastor Amy's permission, a fund has been set up for those who would like to give a financial gift. Submit checks to the church office and make them payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with Larson Family in the memo line.

SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSION

Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion by Sara Miles

August 13, Noon, location TBD.

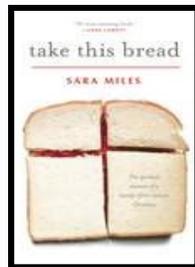
Bring a sack lunch if you like.

Coffee will be provided.

August 15, 7p.m. Pulpit Rock Brewery

You are welcome to participate even if you haven't read the book.

Keep watch online and in the church bulletin for updates on location and discussion leaders.



**CONGRATULATIONS to 2019 Nordic Fest
Grand Marshals Ed and Joyce Epperly.**

**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
August 15**

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Ailabouni - new address

Bellrichard - new address

KIDS LUNCH CLUB UPDATE - After seven weeks of Kids Lunch Club, nearly 1200 lunches have been served for an average of nearly 35 lunches per day. We have served over 260 more lunches than last year at this time, when we were averaging 26 lunches per day. It's hard to believe that there is only one week left of programming; the summer has flown by! Our last day is August 9th. Donations continue to be requested, and there are only a few volunteers spots left to fill.

Find more information at:

www.kidslunchclub.org.



PRAYER VIGIL - In Support of Immigrants, Refugees, and Children Being Held in Detention

11:45 Carl Selland Wayside Park – process to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

On Aug. 7th at 11:45 AM, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Church, will host a procession and prayer vigil in response to the ongoing immigration emergency on our southern border. We will gather at Carl Selland Wayside Park, directly across from Pulpit Rock Brewing, for a procession to Good Shepherd. At the church, we will listen to scripture, sing hymns, and pray for immigrants, those who care for them, and our elected leaders. All people of faith are welcome to participate. Those not wishing to process may gather at the church at noon.

This event will be held in conjunction with the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, which will be taking place in Milwaukee, WI, Aug. 5th through 10th. On Aug. 7th participants at the Churchwide Assembly will be gathering to process to the ICE office where they will hold a prayer vigil. The Decorah event is an opportunity to share in the vigil taking place in Milwaukee. The prayer vigil is being sponsored by the ELCA AMMPARO Network (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Resources and Opportunity) of which both First Lutheran and Good Shepherd are members. For questions, contact Pr. Marion @ mpruitt.jefferson58@gmail.com

Thank you to all who helped to make our Krumkake Demo and Sale a success!

We had to overcome a few obstacles this year with the construction project. We baked in the evenings and on Saturday and Sunday. The Sunday baking times seemed to really work out well with many volunteers showing up. We applied for a Thrivent Action card and a Walmart grant and were able to purchase paper products and baggies, extra ingredients and also another single krumkake iron. The whole congregation helped during coffee hour by applying Good Shepherd stickers to the baggies. It takes many hands for this project and we are so happy to have everyone's help. It was a fun couple of weeks baking and selling krumkake and getting to know and visit with members of the congregation. Updates of total sales will be available next month.



Again this year we will be collecting items for **LWR School Kits**. School supplies are on sale right now so it is a good time to stock up. Items needed: **70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, 30 cm ruler, pencil sharpener, blunt scissors, #2 unsharpened pencils, black or blue ballpoint pens, box of 16 or 24 count crayons, 2 ½ " eraser.** A donation box will be in the Sanctuary entry.

"Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life" Proverbs 4:13

Ordination of Nathan Wicks

June 24, 2019



Nathan and presiding Minister, Bishop Terry Brandt of the Eastern North Dakota Synod. Nathan has accepted a call to ministry at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Gackle, ND.



Ordained pastors participating in the Ordination service including Nathan's parents, Kathy and Alan Wicks (directly behind Nathan).



Lent stole given to Nathan from the Good Shepherd Congregation.

Created by Barbara Berg

Stewardship

Thank You



Thank you Good Shepherd, I loved Ewalu, I loved hiking, the pool, ga ga ball, and more. We will be going to our third year of Ewalu. I love hanging out with friends and meeting new friends. Thank you for your donations. It has been such a great experience. It has been such a great pleasure to go each year. Thanks so much for the support. Sincerely,
Lulu

Dear Good Shepherd,
Thank you for supporting us as Lulu and I go to camp. I love Ewalu! My favorite parts are meeting new friends, playing GaGa ball, swimming, hiking, making crafts and learning. Thanks again.

Your Friends, Poppy*

I Love Ewalu!

Thanks, Good Shepherd!



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# Stewardship

Dear Good Shepherd,

It is with deepest gratitude that I extend my appreciation for the creation of the Director of Children, Youth and Family position. I am so blessed to have served in this role for a year now with our incredible congregation. Each day, week, and month that has passed has brought new adventures and even more affection for the congregation that I call home. I am continually impressed with all that our members and families do to make our church a welcoming, educational, and supportive experience.

In the first year of this position, Good Shepherd youth and families have experienced quite a bit! From Sunday School to Youth Forum, our young ones had weekly support in learning about God and the stories of our faith while correlating these learning experiences with the worship service for that given Sunday. This created a rich, in-depth learning environment each week.

Last fall, we took two retreats to Ewalu - one for our younger kiddos and one for our middle-aged kiddos. In the winter, we held our yearly Christmas pageant where kids acted out the narrative of the story. We also returned to Ewalu with a group of our younger kiddos again, who proved they are adventure-worthy by trudging through snow to do a scavenger hunt. Finally, the Urban Immersion trip took our middle and high school students to the Twin Cities for learning activities centered around poverty while also completing service projects.

The year concluded two wonderful summer events. In June, we held our first-ever Intergenerational Campout. Four families camped at Pulpit Rock Campground and numerous other members of Good Shepherd joined for one of our many activities which included: s'mores, hiking, biking, and a potluck. The weekend was so well received that we are excited to plan another one for next year. We'll get you the dates early so you can reserve the weekend! In July, we held our three-day Vacation Bible School centered around "God's Good Creation." Kids learned all about how God created this world to have everything we need while also giving us so much to enjoy. Two of our middle school students taught us about how important it is to take care of creation by talking about the care of keeping bees and chickens. We were also able to host 6 guests at our VBS this year which was a great hospitality and outreach opportunity for us!

As I reflect on all that this year has brought, my heart is filled with much love and gratitude: for our youth and families, for our congregation, for our staff, and most of all for God. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to use my gifts in this way, and I look forward to continuing along this journey together in the next year!

Peace, Kathryn Thompson



# AMMPARO UPDATE

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the AMMPARO work in our community and more widely.

Marty Steele from Good Shepherd and Paul Edison-Swift from First Lutheran were busy at the Synod Assembly in June, giving several presentations about what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation and telling other churches about the work happening here in our community. We presented similar information at the WELCA Convention in Waverly the following weekend. The result was several individuals committing to participate in our AMMPARO network and another church committing to be a Welcoming Congregation (First Lutheran in Clarion). We are in dialog with other churches and hope to have more congregations take this important step. In every workshop I bragged that Good Shepherd was the first Welcoming Congregation in the synod. THANK YOU!!!

We were also able to pass a resolution at the Synod Assembly that reaffirms the synod's commitment to accompanying and advocating for immigrants.

Here at home, we have worked with the Peace and Justice Center and Helping Services to start a mentoring program for school aged immigrant children. After lengthy preliminaries, we have 5 matches and all the mentors feel pretty excited about how things are going. This took a lot of ecumenical work with St. Ben's and the UCC and I am very proud that we got this off the ground. Ask Marty Steele for details!!!

We have distributed an unbelievable amount of furniture from generous Good Shepherd donors, and the recipients are thrilled. One young woman had nothing and now her apartment is furnished; thank you for your generosity! This is another ecumenical effort.

Good Shepherd continues to participate in the ministry of driving immigrants to medical, legal, ICE, Court, and other appointments. If you are willing to be on the call list for drivers, talk to Marty Steele.

Good Shepherd hosted our first Justice For Our Neighbors legal clinic in early May. The clinic was full and the attorney said he had never seen such a welcoming group of volunteers. We are scheduled to have another clinic on August 30 but that may change.

Good Shepherd members participated in the Lights for Liberty vigil on July 12, to protest the detention of asylum seekers and the abysmal conditions in which they are detained.

Finally, from our NEI Synod AMMPARO Coordinator Paul Edison-Swift:

Here are two responses to people who have been asking, "What can we do?"

"Responding to our sorrow with action" is a blog post from the ELCA Advocacy Office on how to respond by using our public voice, reaching out, going further by becoming an AMMPARO welcoming congregation, and holding in prayer the many migrants imperiled and struggling.

"How to Help Our Neighbor" is a short video clip from Jennifer DeLeon, director for justice for Women of the ELCA, explaining how you can help migrants at the border.

Thank you for your prayers and the many ways you have worked to affirm, accompany and advocate for our immigrant neighbors.

Marty Steele



# August 2019

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                               | Monday                                                                                     | Tuesday                                                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                 | Friday                                                                                                     | Saturday                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM VBS Choir</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Beer and Hymns at Pulpit Rock Brewery</li> </ul>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Band rehearsal</li> </ul>                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</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> </ul> |                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:00 PM Denise Duffy host baby shower</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> </ul>                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00 PM AMMPARO Worship Service</li> </ul>                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> </ul>                                                                                                             |                                                                                                            |                                                                                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM pick up Handbells</li> <li>8:45 AM Choir Warmup</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00 PM Book Discussion Group</li> <li>4:00 PM Council Agenda planning</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30 AM Aase Haugen Communion</li> <li>1:00 PM Wellington Pl. Communion</li> <li>4:00 PM Worship and Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>Newsletter Deadline</li> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> <li>7:00 PM Book Discussion Group</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:00 AM Stewardship Committee</li> </ul>                           |                                                                                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baptism of Theo Falder</li> <li>8:45 AM Pick up Choir</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:45 PM Education Committee</li> <li>7:00 PM Council Meeting</li> </ul>            |                                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> </ul>                                                                                                             |                                                                                                            |                                                                                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45 AM Pickup Band</li> <li>9:30 AM Worship</li> <li>10:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Amy Day Off</li> <li>6:00 PM AL/ANON</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM CIA Circle</li> </ul>                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:00 AM Communion at Eastern Star</li> </ul>                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>12:00 PM Centering Prayers</li> </ul>                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jenny Out</li> <li>3:00 PM Immigration Legal Clinic 4 pm</li> </ul> |                                                                                         |

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
701 Iowa Avenue  
Decorah IA 52101

AUGUST 2019

# *The Shepherd's Voice*

## *Contents:*

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

