



The Shepherd's Voice

December 2019

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' ⁴⁶And Mary [sang], 'My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty...'

Beloved of God,

In Mary's great song, memory, hope and courage intertwine. She sings of what God has already done, even as she eagerly awaits what God will do through Jesus. And, it seems, singing gives her the courage to participate in God's work of turning the world around.

Singing is such a powerful act of hope and resilience. Singing counters intimidation and evokes courage. We see this throughout history: in the early church, the Civil Rights Movement, the singing that helped bring down the Berlin Wall, to name just a few. I also see this at Wellington Place during the worship services led by Brooke and Pr. Marion or me.

There's a beautiful resident there who always tells us how blessed she is by the chance to hear Brooke's music and join in song. This dear woman has known deep suffering. Yet when she joins in song with us, she gets to remember and proclaim God's faithfulness. Her hope is renewed. She is given the courage to persevere in the face of sorrow and struggle, to defy the suffering that would keep her down. This dear woman is Mary as she proclaims God's faithfulness and sings her hope. She is also Elizabeth for she offers blessing, welcome and encouragement to Brooke, Pr. Marion and me as we bear Christ in the worship services.

Like this radiant woman, all of us are given hope as we raise our voices in song. We join with the church throughout time, with Mother Mary, Martin Luther King, Jr., and this saint at Wellington Place; and together we defy the power of suffering and evil to keep us down. We stand against everything that would intimidate us and overpower us to say, "You do not have the last word." God is faithful. God keeps promises. We sing and we are lifted up. We find the courage to join God's work.

Yet sometimes we don't even have the strength or courage to enter the song. Sometimes the song within us cannot be unleashed until another person welcomes and blesses us, the way Elizabeth did for Mary. Sometimes we need to do that for others. This is what we do together as the body of Christ when we gather for worship each week. We receive welcome and blessing, and our very presence offers welcome and blessing to others. Together we find the courage to enter the song. Together our songs are unleashed. We need one another. We need to join our voices together in order to remember God's faithfulness, nurture our hope and find the courage we need.

The hymns of Advent especially help us to express both joy and longing for God's promised future. **Our Midweek Advent worship (Dec. 4, 11, 18 from 5:30-6:00pm) "My Heart Shall Sing" will help us to enter deeply into those hymns with scripture, spoken word, dance, instrumentation and singing.** Let us sing!

Blessed Advent, Pr. Amy



*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*

2019 Advent Worship

Advent Worship with Holy Communion

Sundays at 9:30 am, December 1, 8, 15, and 22

Midweek Advent Worship

MY HEART SHALL SING - THE HYMNS OF ADVENT

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 from 5:30-6:00 pm.

The poetic hymns of Advent are full of both joy and longing. During worship we will enter into them deeply through scripture, spoken word, dance, instrumental music and singing.

"Rejoice, rejoice, believers and let your lights appear!"

Join other worshippers for a meal out at Pizza Ranch or Culvers following worship.

2019 Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

December 24 at 4:30 pm

Christmas Day Worship at Aase Haugen Home

December 25 at 4:00 pm

Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 29 at 9:30 am

Youth Ministry



Sunday, December 1, 10:30 a.m. during Fellowship Hour – Hope for the Holidays – There will be no Sunday School or Youth Forum programming this day but we hope your family will join us for an intergenerational event and create simple Christmas greetings to send to children and families in detention on our southern border. “Hope for the Holidays” is the 2019 Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service campaign, and our cards will be mailed to LIRS for distribution. Additional details are on our website and at LIRS site: <https://www.lirs.org/take-action/hope-for-the-holidays/>.

We will also be putting together gift bags for our friends who live at Mosaic Homes.

Friday evening, December 13th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm – Need an evening out?

Chance to get some last minute shopping done? Wrap Christmas gifts? Binge watch your favorite TV show? Our older Good Shepherd kids will be offering **BABYSITTING** as a service project to our Good Shepherd families! Please bring your child to the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall at 5:00 pm and sign them in. We will provide entertainment and snacks for the next 3 hours free of charge! (let us know if your child has a food allergy) Please pick you child up at 8:00 in the Fellowship Hall and sign them out. Adults will be on hand to help supervise.



Sunday, November 24th, December 8th, and December 15th during Sunday School/Youth Forum time – We will be practicing our songs and parts for the Christmas program. If your child can attend each of these practices it will help us greatly to be prepared for the BIG performance! If your child will not be able to be a part of the Christmas program on the 15th, please let us know. We will still have them join in the fun of practicing but will then be able to make sure we have the critical parts assigned as needed.



Sunday, December 15th after Sunday School - Christmas tree decorating!

If your child is able, we invite them to help decorate the Good Shepherd Christmas Tree after the program practice.

Sunday December 15th at 5:00 pm – Annual Christmas Program!

Please join us to see the culmination of all our hard work! All are invited to attend!

The performance will be followed by a light dinner in the Fellowship Hall. We are asking each family to provide 1 dozen cookies/bars for our dessert that evening and also are looking for people to help set up for dinner, help during dinner, and clean up after dinner. Please contact Bridget Parker if you can help.

December Adult Forums

December 1 - No forum

December 8 - Part II of “Dickens *Christmas Carol: A Secular Scripture?*”

December 15 - A Carol Sing in the Fellowship Hall.

December 22 or 29 - No forums

December 2019 Ministry Team

DATE	LITURGY/WORSHIP	USHER *Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) only bring food
Sunday, December 1	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek Reader: Marv Slind Communion Server: Cynthia Ernst Cantor: Jonathon Struve	1. *Kirk Johnson 2. Christy Tomlinson Greeter: Kerry Johnson Acolyte:	1. *Marion Pruitt-Jefferson 2. Joyce Epperly 3. Linda Donoghue 4. Kerry Johnson
Wednesday December 4, 5:30 pm	Asst. Minister: Kris Peterson Cantor: Jason Rausch	1. Dave Peterson	
Sunday, December 8	Asst. Minister: Bob Felde Reader: Richard Yvlisaker Communion Server: Marty Steele Cantor: Marion Pruitt-Jefferson	1. *Jerry Aulwes 2. Jonathon Struve Greeter: Bill DeGraaf Acolyte:	1. *Marilyn Rue 2. Marie Freerking 3. Kris & Dave Peterson 4. Kathy Buzza
Wednesday December 11, 5:30 pm	Asst. Minister: Bob Felde Cantor: Megan Buckingham	1. Joyce Epperly	
Sunday, December 15	Asst. Min: Harland Nelson Reader: Marv Slind Communion Server: Kris Peterson Cantor: Dennis Barnaal	1. *Bonnie Johnson 2. Chris Johnson Greeter: Bill DeGraaf Acolytes: Bristol & Brenna Parker	1. *Kathy Buzza 2. Marilyn Rue 3. Linda Donoghue 4. Kris Peterson
Wednesday December 18, 5:30 pm	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek Cantor: Tom Buresh	1. Joyce Epperly	
Sunday, December 22	Asst. Min: Harland Nelson Reader & Communion Server: Jane Jakoubek Cantor: Reg Laursen	1. *Brent Parker 2. Jonathon Struve Greeter: Jeri Laursen Acolytes: Bristol & Brenna Parker	Doris Barnaal Coordinator Donuts and Coffee only
Tuesday, December 24 4:30 p.m.	Asst. Minister: Angela Sadler Reader & Communion Server: Jane Jakoubek	1. *Kirk Johnson 2. Kerry Johnson 3. Greeter: Acolyte:	No Fellowship Hour
Christmas Day December 25 4:00 p.m. Aase Haugen Worship of Lessons & Carols	Readers: 1. Angela Sadler 2. Jane Jakoubek 3.		
Sunday, December 29	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek Reader: Kris Peterson Communion Server: Marv Slind	1. *Jeri Laursen 2. Reg Laursen Greeter: Dave Peterson Acolyte:	1. *Joyce Epperly 2. Kris Peterson 3. Marilyn Rue 4. Ingrid Callaghan

Welcome New Members



Christy
Tomlinson



Stephanie
Hoff



Cindy
Bellrichard

December Scriptures

Sunday, December 1 First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5 Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace	Psalm 122 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."	Romans 13:11-14 Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep	Matthew 24:36-44 The sudden coming of the Son of Man
Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10 From David's line, a ruler bringing justice and peace	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace.	Romans 15:4-13 Live in harmony, welcoming one another	Matthew 3:1-12 A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord
Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10 The desert blooms as God's people return from exile	Psalm 146:5-10 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.	James 5:7-10 Patience until the coming of the Lord	Matthew 11:2-11 The forerunner of Christ
Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7:10-16 The sign of Immanuel	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.	Romans 1:1-7 Paul's greeting to the church at Rome	Matthew 1:18-25 A God near at hand
Tuesday, December 24 Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Light shines: a child is born for us	Psalm 96 Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.	Titus 2:11-14 The grace of God has appeared	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] God with us
Sunday, December 29 First Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 63:7-9 Israel saved by God's own presence	Psalm 148 The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.	Hebrews 2:10-18 Christ shares flesh and blood to free humankind	Matthew 2:13-23 The slaughter of innocent children

Good Shepherd Announcements

OUR LIBRARY is now stocked with some great reading. Please feel free to look over the selections and borrow a book. Just sign it out on the clipboard on the counter.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY - Altar Guild has arranged with Decorah Greenhouses for a convenient and economical way to provide poinsettias for the Christmas season. Orders, with payment (**cost is \$12.00/plant**) are to be placed through the Church Office. Checks accompanying your order should be made payable to *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church* with *Poinsettia* in the memo line. Plants may be given in honor or as memorials by including names with the order. Red poinsettias wrapped in gold foil will be delivered on December 23. They will be placed in the altar area for services beginning Tuesday, December 24, through January 5. Last year, a glorious display graced our sanctuary. Altar Guild appreciates and welcomes your contributions to our Poinsettia Project!

THE LUREN SINGERS will present their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 15, 3:00 PM, at Decorah Lutheran Church. Admission is free, and a free will offering will support the Decorah Community Food Pantry, the Decorah Community Free Clinic, and the Nordic Fest New Sound System. The title of the concert is *A Star is Shining Tonight* (En stjerne skinner I natt). Special guests are Erik Sessions, violin, and John Goodin, mandolin.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS are designated to be given to Lutheran World Relief to aid Syrian refugees and to the "Giving Project of Helping Services for Youth and Families" which provides perishable groceries and gas cards to families.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

December 19

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD :

Bev Sheridan, Chris Hick, Linda Wolfs

GREETINGS FROM YAGM CENTRAL EUROPE: Thank you for your continued prayers and support! We are delighted to share with you our latest update from our ministry here in Central Europe. Advent is on its way, and we are excited for the season! This coming weekend we will have a bilingual congregational retreat with City Park Lutheran and Fazor Lutheran Church. The first week of December, we will bring the Young Adults in Global Mission together for their Advent Retreat. Applications for the 2020-2021 YAGM year are now open! If you know someone in your congregations who could be interested in serving in Young Adults in Global Mission please refer them to the YAGM page on the ELCA website for more information and how to apply!

God's peace to you all! Pr. Rachel, Pr. Zach & Dorothy(YAGM Central Europe November 2019 newsletter is posted on the GS website and outside church office)

From the DECORAH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY:

After the consumerism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, ***Giving Tuesday*** was established to give an opportunity for Americans to share their blessings with those in need. The Decorah Community Food Pantry has joined this effort. For every \$20 you donate, we can purchase about \$200 worth of food from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Please donate on December 3rd by going to our website-decorahpantry.org and using Paypal or you can do it through givingtuesday.org or you **can send a check to Decorah Community Food Pantry, Box 26, Decorah.**

DECEMBER'S "ITEMS OF THE MONTH" are Potatoes and toothpaste/toothbrushes and oil (quart size), GS has designated the last Sunday in each month as our donation day.

FAREWELL TO THE BLAIRS: On December 8, we will offer prayers Farewell and Godspeed to Mike & Sue Blair as they leave for a new call in Waverly.



Gather Bible Study - Watch, Wait, Create

This December, visual artist Vonda Drees invites us to contemplate the prophecies of Isaiah through artistic practices. Through meditation, prayer and creative journaling geared toward all ability levels, we will learn to see art as meditation, intercession, devotion and inspiration. Everyone can do this!

Vonda Drees, a creative contemplative, served as the artist-in-residence for Women of the ELCA's Tenth Triennial Gathering. She and her husband, Jim, are the executive directors of the Grünewald Guild in the Cascade Mountains of Washington. The Guild is a sanctuary for the exploration of art, faith and community. Vonda uses her artistic gifts and passion in the Guild's retreats, workshops and classes.

Gather magazine is a monthly publication of the Women of the ELCA. It features a monthly bible study and a variety of articles that relate to the bible study. If you do not have a subscription, several women share their magazine at church in the WELCA box by the sanctuary or in the new church library.

January 25, 2020 will be our **WELCA Annual Meeting and Mid-winter Brunch**. Anna Circle will be our hostess. We will also be dispersing funds from 2019, please contact Bev Sheridan if you have any funding requests.

2020 is fast approaching and we need to get our circle hostesses ready for the new year. Please get them to Jenny by December 16.

Registration is open for the Eleventh Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, Arizona July 16-19, 2020. Renew your spirit with thousands of faithful women just like you who are eager to grow, learn, pray and party-together! Join us in Phoenix, and live your faith in love that leads to justice. Register online at welcatg.org. Early bird price is \$325 through January 6, 2020.

Upcoming events

January 25: Mid-winter brunch, Anna Circle hostess, Fellowship Hall

March 6: World Day of Prayer,
Congregational UCC

December Circle Schedule

12/10 - Anna Circle - 9:30 a.m. - Jane Borelli hosts

12/11 - Miriam Circle - 10:00 a.m. - Donna Bahr hosts

CLA Circle - does not meet

Stewardship 2020

OPENING OUR DOORS, OPENING OUR HEARTS

THANK YOU---THANK YOU

What a year it has been at Good Shepherd! On behalf of the Stewardship Committee I want to thank every member of the congregation for being a part of this spiritual family. Your presence, activities and generosity are almost mind-boggling. The energy evident among us is definitely contagious. Thank you for your generosity in assisting with God's work and ministries at Good Shepherd.

There is so much to share with you that I hardly know where to begin, so I'll initiate this with your decision earlier this year to proceed with the HVAC/Remodel project. Months later we are all enjoying the results of the efforts of the Facilities Improvement Committee. What great leadership; thank you to the members of that committee.

This fall it became evident that the overall project costs would exceed original projections. As a result, a Special Appeal was made to the congregation to raise \$35,000 to complete the work. Contributions totaled just over \$75,000! Again, thank you.

In September the Stewardship Committee mailed to each household a Time and Talent Survey and followed up with a special Time and Talent Sunday. The response to that Survey was tremendous and as a result, the Nominating Committee is able to better identify individuals interested in serving the various ministries of Good Shepherd. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer and serve.

The 2020 Stewardship Fall Appeal established two goals: 94 household Intents and a \$10,000 increase in regular giving. As of this writing, five days after Intent Sunday, there are 82 submitted Intents totaling \$255,000 to support our 2020 ministries at Good Shepherd. There appears to be little question that the two goals will be met and, probably, exceeded. I'm not certain that there is an adequate way to thank you for your generosity, other than to just say THANK YOU.

Most of us are aware that some of the increased costs for the remodel were as a result of State and Fire Marshall specifications required by our Kinderhaus ministry. To assist with those costs, Kinderhaus has successfully applied for Arlin Falck Foundation and Depot Outlet grants in the amount of \$6,000, and has agreed to a rent increase for the use of Good Shepherd facilities. The Good Shepherd--Kinderhaus relationship is a decade-old partnership and a significant part of our Good Shepherd community outreach. Again, on behalf of the Good Shepherd Stewardship Committee, thank you for being a part of God's ministries at Good Shepherd and thank you for your generosity in making those ministries work.

The Music Page

An Advent Prayer

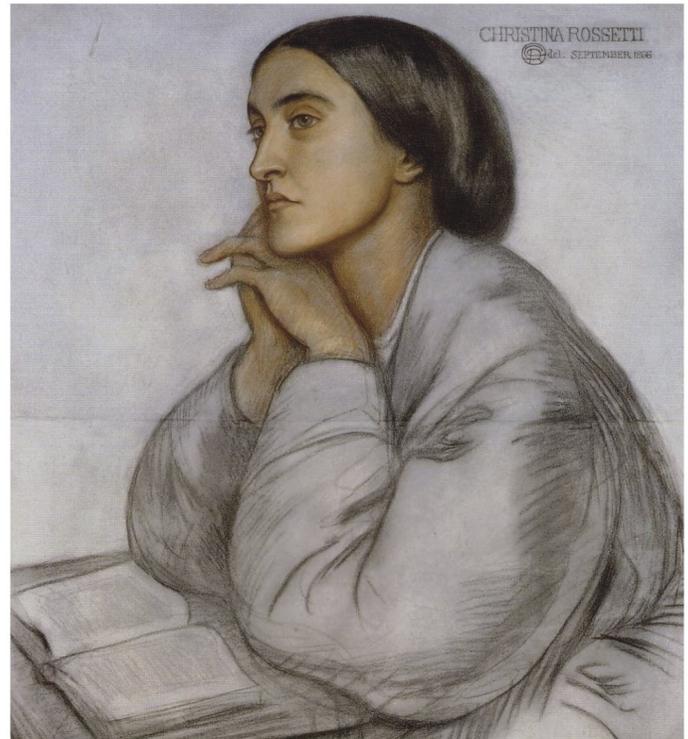
Here is a lovely poem by Christina Rossetti, Victorian-era poet perhaps best known to churchgoers as the author of "In the Bleak Midwinter."

'Judge not according to the appearance'

Lord, purge our eyes to see
 Within the seed a tree,
 Within the glowing egg a bird,
 Within the shroud a butterfly:

Till taught by such, we see
 Beyond all creatures Thee,
 And hearken for Thy tender word,
 And hear it, 'Fear not: it is I.'

Portrait of Christina Rossetti, drawn by her brother, Dante Gabriel Rossetti



December Music Schedule

12/1	Choir	Offertory: Kallman, "Now We Await/Veni Emmanuel" (rehearse at 8:45)
12/4	Rehearsals	Choir at 7:15, Band at 8 pm
12/8	Handbells	Offertory: Away in a Manger (rehearse at 8:45)
12/11	Rehearsals	Choir at 7:15, Band at 8 pm
12/15	Choir Band Band	Offertory: Joyce, "Advent Prayer" (rehearse at 8:45) Rehearse with SS players after service Play with SS players for 5 pm Christmas Pageant
12/18	Rehearsals	Choir at 7:15, Band at 8 pm
12/22	Band	Gathering: Tchaikovsky, "Waltz of the Flowers" (rehearse at 8:45) Offertory: Tchaikovsky, "Arabian Dance" Postlude: Tchaikovsky, "Trepak"
12/24	Choir/Band	Band plays "Nutcracker" for prelude music and some carols for service, choir sings Gramann, "A Winter Carol" (rehearse at 3:30)
12/25	All	4 pm service at Aase Haugen (no rehearsals today!)
12/29	Choir	Traditional, "Good King Wenceslas" (rehearse at 8:45)

Social Justice Ministry

Working to promote God's Justice in our Community, our Country and the World

Faith and Politics

Reflections by Sister Joan Chittister

It is the strength of the link between religion and politics that will determine both the quality of our politics and the authenticity of our religion.

In the end, politics is nothing more than an instrument of social good and human development. The democratic system, as originally conceived, upholds a vision that links "care for widows and children" with a commitment to provide food stamps and a living wage for families under stress.

It embodies the soul of a nation that considers the right to breathe clean air and drink clean water, to save wetlands and reduce fossil fuels, to be a responsibility of America's own Environmental Protection Agency.

It includes the love for all of God's creation that links Jesus' cure of Jairus' daughter (Mtt. 9:18-25) and the man born blind (John 9) with the moral obligation to provide healthcare and social services to all of us, not simply to some.

It embraces the courage of the Samaritan to reach out to the foreigner (Luke 10:25-37) that made this country open arms toward an immigrant world.

If you want to read more, see Joan Chittister, *The Time Is Now: A Call To Uncommon Courage* (Convergent Books, 2019)

Alternative Gift Ideas for Christmas

Are you interested in changing up your gift giving practices this year? Many people choose to give to charitable causes in honor of the someone, rather than purchasing conventional gifts. If you'd like to give that a try, here are some recommended organizations.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS – offers a wide variety of options for giving, from goats to a motorbike for a rural pastor. Check out ELCA.org/goodgifts or call 800-638-3522.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services – HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS – along with the offering of cards which our congregation is participating in, you can also give a donation that will assist LIRS in purchasing gifts for children in detention. Go to LIRS.org/take-action/hope-for-the-holidays/

Heifer International has a wonderful gift catalog where you can select anything from chickens, rabbits, water buffalo, to an entire Ark of animals to help sustain people around the globe deal with poverty and hunger. Go to Heifer.org/gift-catalog/ to see the wide array of options.

Local organizations that serve our community would be happy to receive holiday donations in honor of people on your gift list. The Decorah Community Food Pantry, decorahpantry.org; Neighbors Helping Neighbors, decorahucc.org/neighbors; and the Decorah Community Free Clinic, decorahfreeclinic.com are some great options.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 - 7:00 pm

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

Present: Pr. Amy Zalk Larson, Steve Holland, Kerry Johnson, Bob Larson, Jerry Bruce, Bob Felde, John Moeller, Linda Donoghue, Jonathon Struve, and Bob Naslund.

Devotions and Initial Actions: Steve Holland called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Jerry Bruce led devotions. Bob Felde moved and Linda Donoghue seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda:

Items in the Consent Agenda are designed to be approved by consent of the council without discussion or formal vote. The chair asks for objections to the items in the consent agenda. If there are no objections, these agenda items are then considered passed by consent. The council may choose to move an item from the consent agenda to the discussion agenda if council members feel a discussion is warranted.

1. Approval of the October 2019 Congregational Council meeting minutes.
2. Approve appointment of Ed Epperly as a member of the audit committee.

Discussion Agenda:

Update on Stewardship appeal: The congregation has responded generously in planned gifts for 2020. So far, there have been 87 pledges, with a goal of 94. Of the total pledges, 61 have either increased giving or are new pledges. As of the council meeting, the projected funding for 2020 totals around \$302,000. Jerry Bruce expressed gratitude to those who made the campaign a success, noting that it has worked to adapt the strategies of Stewardship for All seasons ourselves.

A donor has provided a gift to cover the salary for the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry through June of 2021.

Update on special appeal for the building renovation: Members have also responded generously to the special appeal. The goal was \$35,000, and as of the council meeting, the appeal has raised approximately \$73,000. Funds will be applied to remaining expenses and to paying down building loans. The budget committee will discuss options for paying off building loans as they plan the budget.

Pr. Amy noted that Kinderhaus has been successful in applying for two grants totaling \$6,000 that will be applied to building improvements. Their board has also agreed to increase their rent by \$25 per month.

Discussion on whether spouses of staff members should be eligible to serve on the Congregation Council: The council discussed whether spouses of staff members should be allowed to serve on council. There were some concerns about the potential conflicts of interest that could arise. However, because the budget is crafted by Property and Management and staff members are overseen and reviewed by the Executive Committee, the council felt comfortable that these conflicts could be avoided. Since the likelihood of a problem is remote and the ability to have these individuals serve would be a benefit, the council agreed that spouses of staff members could be eligible to serve on the council, but not as members of the executive committee. This discussion does not represent a change in the rule as it exists in our constitution, but is rather a matter of interpretation.

Follow-up to armed intruder training: The council discussed how to respond to the armed intruder training led by Assistant Police Chief Brent Parker. The adult forum was attended by over 50 people. So far, there have been reminders to ushers and greeters to keep their cell phones available and on during worship. The council tasked the property and management committee with developing an emergency management plan that would be based on strategies outlined in the training.

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: Bob Felde

The Christmas program is December 15th at 5:00 pm.

There is a babysitting service project scheduled for Friday evening, December 13, from 5-8pm at Good Shepherd.

There is a need for two new committee members.

Outreach and Hospitality Committee:

New members Cindy Bellrichard, Stephanie Hoff, and Christy Tomlinson were welcomed on Sunday, November 3, and members Megan Buckingham, the Dan Bellrichard and Liza Hicken family, and Ed and Joyce Epperly served as shepherds. New members received welcome bags and a prayer shawl, and they gathered with their shepherds for a luncheon.

The committee will be meeting to put together Christmas cheer packages to send to our four seminarians and Angie.

Property and Management Committee: Bob Naslund

St. Dusty's Day was a great success.

Stewardship Committee: Jerry Bruce -See discussion agenda above.

Worship and Music Committee: Bob Larson

Discussed Christ the King Sunday on November 24. Pastor Amy suggested that the paraments for that Sunday should reflect the whole church year and Pastor will work with the altar guild regarding the set up.

The Christmas tree will be delivered on Saturday, December 7. Jonathon Struve will coordinate the decorating of the tree.

Discussed focusing on certain hymns during the Wednesday Advent services on Dec. 4, 11, and 18th. Pizza Ranch will be contacted about reserving the back room on Dec. 4 and 18 so members can eat together there following worship on those evenings.

Pastor's Report:

The staff reviews have been completed by the Pastor and the Executive Committee. The consensus is that we have an excellent staff who are organized, flexible, and good team players.

There continue to be issues with the fire alarm monitoring system and the radio broadcast.

There will be a remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the Haiti Earthquake on Sunday, January 12. The occasion will be marked with a special litany. April and Judd Larson and their daughters will be at Good Shepherd, and the Luther College Student Congregation will join Good Shepherd that Sunday and throughout the month of January. There will be a Haiti memorial concert on Saturday, Jan. 11 offered by Lutheran musician Peter Mayer.

The family of Betty Rose requested that her memorial funds be used for our visitation ministry and funeral luncheon ministry.

President's Report: Steve Holland - No Report

Secretary's Report: Jonathon Struve - No Report

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Total income year to date:	\$249,290.66
Total expense year to date:	(\$631,504.45)
	-\$6,617.62 (Youth Director Salary - this position is already funded - 416/416A)
	-\$1,210.00 (paid from non-offering gift)
	-\$135,083.36 (HVAC expenses - 498B)
	-\$28,507.43 (2018 surplus used for renovations - 498A)
	<u>-\$257,767.31</u> (Facility Renovation expenses - 498)
Operating Expenses:	\$429,185.72

Ordinary income (\$249,290.66) - Operating Expenses (\$202,318.73) = \$46,971.93 (income applied to the building project)

Building Expenses through October 8, 2019

Building expenses :	\$421,358.10
Building income:	\$125,000.00 (HVAC loan)
	\$125,000.00 (Renovation low interest bank loan)
	\$25,000.00 (Renovation loan II)
	\$30,860.24 (118: 2018 surplus plus some building contributions)
	\$46,971.93 (Ordinary Income Applied to building projects)
	\$3,100.00 (designated contribution to HVAC project)
	\$4,500.00 (2019 funds not transferred to general fund)
	<u>\$68,748.01</u> (Building Fund Gifts, including 2 weeks of our special appeal)
	\$445,989.78

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: November 21, 2019

Next Council Meeting: December 17, 2019, 7:00 PM

Devotions for November: Bob Felde

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:45am - Choir</p> <p>9:30am - Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>11am - Hope for the</p>	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off</p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn</p> <p>1pm - Friends of</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>11am - Marilyn</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>5:30pm - Advent</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p> <p>7:45pm - Band</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>12pm - Centering</p> <p>1:30pm - Property</p> <p>5pm - Community</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>1pm - Friends of</p>	<p>12pm - Luren</p>
<p>8:45am - handbell</p> <p>9:30am - Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:50am - Sunday</p> <p>11am - Adult Forum</p> <p>12pm - Berg Family</p>	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off</p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn</p> <p>1pm - Friends of</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>9:30am - Anna Circle</p> <p>11am - Marilyn</p> <p>4pm - Council</p> <p>4:45pm - Education</p> <p>5:30pm - Democrats</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>9:30am - Opportunit</p> <p>10am - Miriam Circle</p> <p>10:30am - Aase</p> <p>1pm - Wellington Pl.</p> <p>5:30pm - Advent</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>12pm - Centering</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>11am - Stewardship</p> <p>1pm - Friends of</p> <p>4pm - Regina music</p> <p>5pm - GS Youth</p>	<p>3pm - Regina Music</p>
<p>8:45am - Choir</p> <p>9:30am - Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:50am - Sunday</p> <p>11am - Christmas</p> <p>11:30am - Christmas</p> <p>12pm - Krumkake</p>	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off</p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn</p> <p>1pm - Friends of</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>11am - Marilyn</p> <p>12pm - Sons of</p> <p>7pm - Council</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>12pm - Prayer Shawl</p> <p>5:30pm - Advent</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p> <p>7:45pm - Band</p>	<p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>12pm - Centering</p> <p>5pm - Decorah</p>	<p>9am - Pr.'s office</p> <p>1pm - Friends of</p>	<p>2pm - Jevne-Meyer</p> <p>4:30pm - Jevne-</p>
<p>8:45am - Band</p> <p>9:30am - Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>2pm - Krumkake</p>	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off</p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn</p> <p>1pm - Friends of</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>4:30pm - Christmas</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>4pm - Christmas Day</p>	<p>No Bible Study</p> <p>12pm - Centering</p>	<p>1pm - Friends of</p> <p>5pm - Jevne-Meyer</p>	<p>2pm - Jevne-Meyer</p> <p>4:30pm - Jevne-</p>
<p>8:45am - Choir</p> <p>9:30am - Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p>	<p>Pr. Amy Day Off</p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn</p> <p>1pm - Friends of</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>No Bible Study</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>12pm - Centering</p> <p>1:30pm - Property</p> <p>5pm - Community</p>	<p>1pm - Friends of</p>	

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

DECEMBER 2019

The Shepherd's Voice

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

