



# *The Shepherd's Voice*

March 2020

## Words from Pastor Larson

Beloved of God,

Please read this letter carefully for some important information about a new partnership between Good Shepherd and Luther College to further the mission of the Gospel. I want to give you some background about why and how we are entering into this partnership. We will have an adult forum to discuss this further on Sunday, March 1. Luther Pastor Anne Edison-Albright and Pastor Steve Brackett from the NE IA Synod will join us for this forum.

***Luther College has decided to make some changes in worship offerings on campus, starting this fall, in order to serve the faith needs of students.*** They will be investing in college student focused worship offerings on Sunday evenings and during the week. For Sunday mornings, they will not offer Sunday worship but will instead focus on helping students to get connected to local congregations. This will serve the students who will be nurtured in faith by worshipping with caring adults, elders and children. ***This change will also serve area congregations.*** We will be enriched by the presence and energy of the students. The College Pastor will be available for supply preaching. The College Organist and his organ students will be able to lead music in congregations. Luther choirs, which now sing often at Sunday worship on campus, will be out in local congregations.

Luther is one of just a few ELCA schools that currently offer Sunday morning worship. Most offer worship at times that work better for college students' schedules. Most encourage their students to take part in local congregations. That was the pattern for much of Luther's history as the Lutheran denomination with which the college was affiliated did not allow for campus congregations. Here in Decorah, many students worshipped at First Lutheran.

Part of the impetus for the founding of Good Shepherd in 1958 was to provide a congregation on the west side of Decorah that would be closer for the students. In 1959, the denomination changed its policy to allow for campus congregations. That year, the Luther Student Congregation was formed, and Sunday morning worship on campus was established. This impacted Good Shepherd's ministry for and with students. ***The upcoming change at Luther allows us to return to a core reason this congregation was founded: to be a congregation that serves and is served by college students.***

We won't be receiving a large number of students. Many will worship on campus during the week and on Sunday nights. Many will worship at other area congregations as well. Yet Pastor Anne will be encouraging many to attend here because of the welcome students already receive here, and because we are Reconciling in Christ. ***Given this change at Luther, we are entering a partnership with the college that will help us to share in ministry that will enrich students and the congregation's mission.***

This fall, Pastor Anne approached me about ***the possibility of Good Shepherd and Luther College becoming a joint Collaborative Learning M. Div. site for a Wartburg Seminary student.*** Collaborative Learning M. Div. is a program through Wartburg Seminary in which a student is based in a ministry setting for 4 years, doing ministry part time and going to school full time.

*(Continued on page 2)*

Meanwhile, Kathryn Thompson approached me to say she feels it is time for her to answer God's call to pastoral ministry. She has been discerning this for quite a while, but finances have prevented it. The Collaborative Learning program at Wartburg Seminary provides a way for Kathryn to go to seminary as Collaborative Learning students are paid ½ of a first call pastor's salary. ***Kathryn's interest in this program provides a way for us to be in meaningful partnership with the college, as well as being a funding source for this partnership.*** The Luther College cabinet and the Good Shepherd Congregation Council have approved the following plan.

Starting this fall, Kathryn Thompson will enter the Collaborative Learning program at Wartburg Seminary, pending entrance into the candidacy for ordination process. She will be a full-time seminary student and a part-time (20-25 hours per week) student minister at Good Shepherd and at Luther College.

Kathryn will continue to work with Good Shepherd week overseeing our CYF ministry. She will lead CYF ministry with our leaders and teachers and will provide consistency for our kids. She will invite, equip and mentor students in working with CYF ministry. She will be reflecting on CYF ministry through the lens of preparation for Word and Sacrament ministry. Kathryn will also do some ministry based at Luther. There, one of her responsibilities will be to help students connect to Good Shepherd and other local congregations. Kathryn will be the main focal person connecting with the Luther students who worship at Good Shepherd as they will see her on campus and here on Sundays. She will help welcome them and integrate them into worship, fellowship, and CYF ministry. Kathryn's ministry with students will allow me to keep my focus on the whole congregation.

Collaborative Learning ministry students receive ½ of a first call pastor's salary and benefits. Luther will provide most of that but will need some funding from us as the partner site. We will contribute \$7500 towards this. That is the amount we already have budgeted for the Director of Children, Youth and Family ministry position.

This particular Collaborative Learning position with Kathryn will be for just 4 years while Kathryn is in seminary. However, the Synod and Wartburg Seminary are very excited about this joint learning site and can see it continuing on with other Collaborative Learning students. I feel confident that we will find another student to follow Kathryn. Here is more information about the Collaborative Learning Program at Wartburg Seminary taken from the program handbook.

***What is Collaborative Learning? Learn. Lead. Serve:*** *Unlike most theological education, Collaborative Learning (CL) students serve in a congregation or other ministry setting for the entire time that they are also taking courses online to complete their degree. Serving in ministry from the first day of seminary focuses learning which is integrated with course curriculum and content. This creates a dynamic action-reflection based learning experience. It is recommended that students in this program serve part-time in ministry and engage in full-time coursework.*

***Collaborative Learning Site Expectations:*** *CL ministry sites embrace their calling as contexts for teaching and learning. They recognize that this teaching and learning is mutual. The CL student will learn from the site, and the site will learn from the student. CL ministry sites provide a context for formation that is like a seedbed, good ground, fertile soil, a place where a student can be nurtured and grow so that the student can then be "transplanted" into the wider church for service. The CL site shares financial burden of leadership formation. The CL site offers flexibility so that the student can be a "student first" by participating in class (usually via technology) in "real time."*

You can also find more information here: <http://www.wartburgseminary.edu/collaborative-learning/>

Please join me in gratitude and prayer for this partnership. All are invited to the **Adult Forum on March 1** to discuss this further.

Peace to you, Pastor Amy



## **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 2020 Lenten Worship**

### **“The Tree of Life” Lent Services**

**Scripture & the Poetry of Wendall Berry**

**Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Simple Soup Suppers following each service - 6:00 p.m.**

### **Easter Week**

**Palm Sunday, April 5, 9:30 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Dinner Worship, April 9, 5:30 p.m.**

**Good Friday Service of Tenebrae, April 10, 7 p.m.**

**Easter Vigil with Bonfire and Celebration Reception, April 11, 7 p.m.**

### **Stewardship in Lent**

During the season of Lent, it has been a custom for some of us to make a sacrifice or to “give something up” during this church season. From the time when we were small, many of us gave up dessert, chocolate, a favorite television show....the choices were hard to make!

Lately, instead of giving up a pleasure during this Holy time, many Christians are turning instead to “giving something back.” By “doing “ instead of “withholding,” we express our love for Christ joyfully.

So too is Stewardship. Monetary gifts are a way of thanking the Church for all the blessings it brings into our lives. Good Shepherd’s Lenten theme is “TREE OF LIFE.” Just as a tree gives life in so many ways, our Lenten gifts will bring life to many. Lenten offerings will be designated for Lutheran World Relief to support tree planting projects in developing countries as we focus on our Lenten theme “Tree of Life.” Please write “Lent” on your check’s memo line to support this ministry.

Submitted by Angela Sadler

## **THE SEASON OF LENT AT GOOD SHEPHERD**

The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday. 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 "THE TREE OF LIFE" WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES AND SIMPLE SOUP SUPPERS**

**March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1 at 5:30 pm**

Scripture and the poetry of Wendell Berry will help us to reflect on the cross as the tree of life for the healing of the nations.

Our Simple Soup Suppers at 6:00 p.m. will offer soup, crackers, milk, and water. (Crackers and milk will be provided.) Volunteers are needed to provide soup and to setup and clean up. Soups will be served buffet style this year. Please *sign up in Fellowship Hall* or online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c48abaf2ea2f49-lenten1>

### **LENT AND EASTER OFFERINGS**

Lent offerings will be given to Lutheran World Relief to support tree planting projects in developing countries as we focus on our theme of the tree of the life. These offerings will be collected at the Wednesday Evening Lenten Services, Holy Week Services and on Easter Sunday. Please write Lent on memo line of your check for this offering.

### **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. Our Youth Lenten Project this year will be raising funds for the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. Lenten Sundays: March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 Youth will be sharing about the project during worship.

Sunday, March 8th Fellowship & Adult Forum - Congregation members George Lowe and Martha Monson Lowe will be sharing their experiences at the Augusta Victoria Hospital and our Good Shepherd kids will be coordinating Fellowship and cleanup.

**Wednesdays  
in Lent  
at  
Good  
Shepherd**

**Worship and Music during Lent  
@ Good Shepherd - 2020  
Meditations on the Cross as  
“The Tree of Life”**

*Scripture, Hymns, Poetry, Dance & Music*

- 2/26** Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes, 7:00 p.m.
- 3/1** *The Showing of Love*, a new music theater work by Brooke Joyce, based on and inspired by the writings of Julian of Norwich, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.
- 3/4** Wednesday Lenten Service, 5:30 p.m.  
Simple Soup Supper: Chili Night, 6:00 p.m.
- 3/11** Lenten Recital Series: Jazz, featuring Jon Ailabouni, trumpet, and Chris Olson, guitar, 12:15-12:45 p.m.  
Wednesday Lenten Service, with a Luther student Horn Quartet, 5:30 p.m.  
Simple Soup Supper: Cook's Choice, 6:00 p.m.
- 3/18** Lenten Recital Series: Art Songs, featuring Jonathon Struve, baritone, and Brooke Joyce, piano, 12:15-12:45 p.m.  
Wednesday Lenten Service, with an ensemble from Norskakor, a Luther first-year choir, 5:30 p.m.  
Simple Soup Supper: Cook's Choice, 6:00 p.m.
- 3/25** Wednesday Lenten Service, 5:30 p.m.  
Simple Soup Supper: International Flavors, 6:00 p.m.
- 4/1** Lenten Recital Series: *Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor, op. 40* by Dmitri Shostakovich, featuring Craig Hultgren, cello, and Brooke Joyce, piano, 12:15-12:45 p.m.  
Wednesday Lenten Service, 5:30 p.m.  
Simple Soup Supper: Cook's Choice, 6:00 p.m.

## Adult Forums

**March 1 - Collaborative Learning Site Partnership with Luther College:** At its February meeting, the Congregation Council voted to enter a partnership with Luther College to become a Collaborative Learning site for a Wartburg Seminary student who will serve both Good Shepherd and Luther College. Learn more about the partnership in the Words from Pastor section of this newsletter and at this adult forum.

**March 8 - Martha and George Lowe:** “The Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem Sunday School Project”

**March 15 - Brent Parker:** “Back Yard Bee Keeping.” Back by Popular Demand.

**March 22 - Brad Hanson:** “Increased Alienation from Religion in America.” Studies show that the percentage of Americans who identify as religious “nones” has grown substantially in recent years. What forces are driving this, and how might we respond?

**March 29 - Clara and Karl Knudson:** “Coming Home: Viet Nam 45 Years Later.”

## March Scriptures

Sunday, March 1 First Sunday in Lent	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil	Psalms 32 Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.	Romans 5:12-19 Death came through one; life comes through one	Matthew 4:1-11 The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days
Sunday, March 8 Second Sunday in Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a The blessing of God upon Abram	Psalms 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord.	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 The promise to those who share Abraham’s faith	John 3:1-17 The mission of Christ: to save the world
Sunday, March 15 Third Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7 Water from the rock in the wilderness	Psalms 95 Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.	Romans 5:1-11 Reconciled to God by Christ’s death	John 4:5-42 Baptismal image: the woman at the well
Sunday, March 22 Fourth Sunday in Lent	1 Samuel 16:1-13 David is chosen and anointed	Psalms 23 You anoint my head with oil.	Ephesians 5:8-14 Awake from sleep, live as children of light	John 9:1-41 Baptismal image: the man born blind
Sunday, March 29 Fifth Sunday in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14 The dry bones of Israel brought to life	Psalms 130 I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope.	Romans 8:6-11 Life in the Spirit	John 11:1-45 Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus

# March 2020 Ministry Teams

DATE	LITURGY	USHER *Head Usher	FELLOWSHIP *Coordinator (F) Food Only
Sunday, March 1 11 a.m. Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Pam Torresdal  Reader: Cindy Bellrichard  Communion Server: Wanda Deifelt  Cantor: Megan Buckingham	1.*Ray Torresdal 2. Don Berg  Greeter: Gloria Hove  Acolyte:	1.*Joyce Epperly  2. Marion & John Jefferson  3. Wanda & Germano  4. Barbara Berg
Wednesday March 4 Lenten Service 5:30 p.m.	Asst. Minister: Harland Nelson  Cantor: Reg Laursen	1.John Moeller 2.Linday Moeller  Greeter: Gail Judisch	Soup Supper
Sunday, March 8 11 a.m. Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jane Jakoubek  Reader: Marv Slind  Communion Server: Sharon Drew  Cantor: Tom Buresh	1.*Brent Parker 2. Doris Barnaal  Greeters: Youth TBA  Acolytes: Brenna & Bristol Parker	Sunday School hosts Fellowship Hour
Wednesday March 11 Lenten Service 5:30 p.m.	Asst. Minister: Megan Buckingham  Cantor: Marion Pruitt-Jefferson	1. Lindy Moeller 2. John Moeller  Greeter: Kerry Johnson	Soup Supper
Sunday, March 15 11 a.m. Broadcast	Asst. Minister: Jonathon Struve  Reader: Harland Nelson  Communion Server: Marty Steele  Cantor: Reg Laursen	1.*Bob Felde 2. Don Berg  Greeter: Rae Jean Rathje  Acolyte: Gautam Caton	1.*Doris Barnaal  2. Ingrid Callaghan  3. Carol Hasvold  4. Marilyn Rue  5. Sandhya Caton (Clean up only)
Wednesday March 18 Lenten Service 5:30 p.m.	Asst. Minister: Bob Larson  Cantor: Megan Buckingham	1.Joyce Epperly 2. Ed Epperly  Greeter: Megan Buckingham	Soup Supper

# March 2019 Ministry Team cont.

<b>Sunday, March 22 Live Broadcast</b>	<b>Asst. Minister: Marv Slind Reader: Marv Slind Communion Server: Wanda Deifelt Cantor: Jason Rausch</b>	<b>1.*Jim Fritz 2. Liz Fritz  Greeter: Gloria Hove  Acolyte:</b>	<b>1.*Norma Refsal 2. Marv Slind 3. Joyce Epperly 4. Marilyn Rue</b>
<b>Wednesday March 25 Lenten Service 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Asst. Minister: Harland Nelson Cantor: Tom Buresh</b>	<b>1. 2. Brian Caton  Greeter: Kathryn Thompson</b>	<b>Soup Supper</b>
<b>Sunday, March 29 Live Broadcast</b>	<b>Asst. Minister: Marv Slind Reader: Harland Nelson Communion Server: Wanda Deifelt Cantor: Dennis Barnaal</b>	<b>1.*Bob Naslund 2. Ed Epperly  Greeter: Joyce Epperly  Acolyte:</b>	<b>1.*Carol Hasvold 2. Barbara Berg 3. Carolyn Solberg 4. Wanda &amp; Germano</b>
<b>Wednesday April 1 Lenten Service 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Asst. Minister: Bob Larson Cantor: Maya Mukamuri</b>	<b>1. 2. Brian Caton  Greeter: Kathryn Thompson</b>	<b>Soup Supper</b>
<b>March Altar Guild: Linda Wolfs/Chris Hicks, Jane Kemp, Kim Kavan</b>			

\*\*\*An Usher is still needed for the last two Wednesday evening services. Ushers need only to hand out bulletins and count the offering afterward. This is a half hour service with no communion given.

Please call Jenny at the church office if you can usher 382-3963.

# Education

## Good Shepherd Youth and Families dates to REMEMBER!

### YOUTH LENTEN PROJECT

Lenten Sundays - March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Our Youth Lenten Project this year will be raising funds for the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. You can read about this initiative here <https://jerusalem.lutheranworld.org/content/augusta-victoria-hospital-91>

**Saturday, March 7th from 1:30-3:30 pm** – Youth will be prepping for serving Fellowship on Sunday.

**Sunday, March 8th** - Fellowship & Adult Forum - Congregation members George Lowe and Martha Monson Lowe will be sharing their experiences at the Augusta Victoria Hospital and our Good Shepherd kids will be coordinating Fellowship and cleanup.

This is wonderful opportunity for our kids to give back to the congregation!

**Pray for our 3rd - 6th grade kids** as they attend the SPRING “Teach us to Pray” RETREAT at EWALU - March 14-15

#### SAVE THE DATE:

**YOUTH BABYSITTING NIGHT:** Saturday **May 2**, 5:00- 8:00 p.m.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be held **July 20-22** from 5:00- 7:30 pm

**Second Annual Good Shepherd INTERGENERATIONAL CAMPING ADVENTURE** will be held **June 26-28**.



### SUMMER FUN AT CAMP EWALU!

Explore God’s creation, make new friends, try new things and learn about God’s love. Kids finishing 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade can go to Camp Ewalu. Pick up your registration form in the Fellowship Hall today or register online at [Ewalu.org](http://Ewalu.org). Sign your children up for Summer Camp and receive a DISCOUNT. **Sign up by Monday, March 2nd and receive \$40 off for weeklong programs, receive \$20 off for 3-day long programs. Second Early deadline: Sign up by Monday, April 20th and receive \$20 off for weeklong programs, receive \$10 off for 3-day long programs.** Thanks to the generosity of Good Shepherd during the “Open Hearts, Open Doors” Stewardship Appeal, camperships will be provided for all Good Shepherd kids who wish to attend Ewalu.

**CAMPERSHIPS- NOTE NEW PROCEDURE** All Good Shepherd children are eligible for a \$100 campership to Ewalu this year. When you register your child, please pay either just the deposit or the total amount minus \$100. Good Shepherd will then be billed \$100 for each child attending. (If you pay just the deposit when registering, you will need to pay the final amount minus the \$100 campership 3 weeks before the session.) Please don’t click on the option of having the church pay as you register. That won’t let you pay your own deposit and we need you to do that.

# Good Shepherd Announcements

**THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** will be celebrated by all on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am. at the Congregational United Church of Christ (209 West Broadway, Decorah) to pray with Christians around the world and celebrate using a service written by Christian women from all denominations in Zimbabwe. Coffee and treats will be served first as you enter, and the service will follow. You are invited to enter the Center by the lower entrance to the church. All are welcome.

**“The River and the Wall”** is a movie sponsored by Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center and the Luther College Center for Ethics and Public Engagement, and will be shown on Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. in Olin 102 on the Luther College Campus. This powerful and scenic movie addresses the human and environmental impact of a border wall in the Rio Grande valley, and is strongly endorsed by the ELCA AMMPARO initiative. A free will offering will be taken to support NEIPJC.

**UNDERSTANDING IMMIGRATION WORKSHOP**  
Sister Parish, Inc. and Decorah’s First United Methodist Church will be hosting a workshop entitled **“Understanding Immigration: An examination of push-pull factors leading Central Americans to migrate to the U.S.”** on March 21, 2020 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Lingonberry (218 W Water St, Decorah, IA). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will examine factors that result in people deciding to migrate or seek asylum in the U.S. and the resources that are available to immigrants [asylees, refugees] as they arrive in the U.S. The workshop will leave participants with an understanding of the primary causes of immigration from Central America to the U.S., an overview of the current U.S. border situation, its repercussions on the Central American countries themselves, and a synopsis of the many organizations working to support immigrants on the border and locally. For information or to RSVP, contact Barb Dale at 563-382-4693 or [nonrev909@neitel.net](mailto:nonrev909@neitel.net).

## **REMEMBERING BEN BLAIR WITH MUSIC AND STORIES**

Friday, April 24, 7:00 pm, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Join us for an evening of music and stories to remember Ben Blair. A freewill offering will benefit the Iowa Donor Network.

A viewing of Ben’s art will be held before the event, from 5-7 pm, in the Good Shepherd Gathering Space outside the sanctuary.

## **FAMILIES INTERESTED IN BECOMING A FOSTER/**

**ADOPTIVE FAMILY:** There is an upcoming TIPS class - Tuesdays in April, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Calmar Lutheran Church - 200 North East St. This class is required to be completed as part of the foster care/adoption licensing process and is not offered very often. Families who are interested need to inquiry now to get their Orientation and application packets completed and cleared. Contact: Bambi Schrader - FO Foster/Adoptive Family Connections Program, 515-291-4071 or [www.yss.org](http://www.yss.org).

**FOOD PANTRY NEWS:** At the Annual Meeting, President Jud Barclay announced that the Pantry had 5385 client visits during 2019 and these clients had 15,366 family members. Items needed for **March** are pancake mix, small bottles of syrup, and toilet paper. Good Shepherd Donation Sunday is March 29.

## **Save the Date for these UPCOMING INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS**

\*Babysitting Night **May 2**, 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

\*Vacation Bible School will be held **July 20-22** from 5:00 to 7:30 pm.

\*Our second Good Shepherd Intergenerational Camping adventure will be **June 26-28.**

## **APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**March 19**



**World Day of Prayer will be held Friday March 6 at the Congregational UCC Church.** World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year on the first Friday of March. The host country for WDP 2020 is Zimbabwe. The program is

based on Jesus' encounter with a person who, although positioned for healing, had not acted upon the opportunities given (John 5:2-9a). Jesus asked "Do you want to be made well?" with the theme "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk". You are faced with this life-changing question. What are you going to do? Use this opportunity to reflect with your community and ecumenical partners. Prayer and action are what link us together around the globe. All are invited to attend.

**During Lent we will join LWR in A Season of Hope.** This Lenten season, you are invited to reach out to our neighbors in the most fragile corners of the world and in the most challenging circumstances by collecting and assembling LWR Personal Care Kits. Assembled from common household items, Personal Care Kits help people in crisis to feel human. In 2019 alone, 137,760 Personal Care Kits reached struggling families in 18 countries. But the demand is still great. Lent may be a time of waiting and darkness, but it need not be one of inaction and hopelessness. Each week we will be collecting items for these kits. Collection baskets will be available in the **Fellowship Hall**.

March 1: ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

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

March 15: ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

March 22: ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

March 29: ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

#### **Easter Dinner at Good Shepherd, Sunday April 12th**

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. Meat and potatoes will be provided (by using a Thrivent Action card), please bring a dish to pass. A free-will offering will be taken. Join your church family and friends for a good meal and fellowship. Please contact Ann Naslund 563- 380-3486 or Bev Sheridan at 382-9025 ([sherida701@gmail.com](mailto:sherida701@gmail.com)) if you are interested in attending. We will also be needing a few people to help with setup and cleanup.

#### **Cluster D Spring Gathering, April 25<sup>th</sup> at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Cresco**

Pastor Marion Pruitt Jefferson will tell us about the Golden Rule 2020 Initiative. Join other Lutheran women in the Cluster for a morning of coffee, fellowship and an informational program.

**2020 WELCA booklets** have been mailed out. Extra copies are available in the secretaries office if you are new to Good Shepherd or have misplaced yours. All are welcome to participate in the WELCA activities.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

March 6: World Day of Prayer, Congregational UCC, 10 am

April 12: Easter Dinner, Good Shepherd, noon

April 25: Cluster D Spring Gathering, Immanuel Lutheran, Cresco, 9 am

#### **March Circle Schedule**

**3/10 - Anna Circle - 9:30 a.m. - Joanne Ylvisaker hosts at Aase Haugen**

**3/11 - Miriam Circle - 10:00 a.m. - Marilyn Anderson hosts**

**3/24 - CLA Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Marie Freerking hosts**

# Thank you for Ministry Support

February 21, 2020

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

David and I received with gratitude this week the mission support you all are sharing with us in support of my ministry formation. I am so grateful for the many ways that you are a part of this journey. It was a joy for me to have some of my internship time overlap with worship at Good Shepherd during the month of January. It is incredible to see the continued growth, joy, and sense of abundance at Good Shepherd. Grace, Mercy, and Love are present in your ministry.

In my own personal spiritual reflection, I've been finding myself increasingly drawn to Christian mystics and contemplative Christianity. I recently came across an interview with contemplative teacher James Finley who shared the questions that his teacher Thomas Merton presented him with each time they met: "How's it going?" - "How's it going in your surrender?" - and "How's it going in your discovering the depth of that surrender?" I will begin to explore these first two questions with you in this note.

*How's it going?* - This internship year has been one of great discovery, challenge, insight, and balance. I'm exploring pastoral leadership in three very different contexts. The first two are rural parishes in Clayton County (Bethany Lutheran in Elkader and Emanuel Lutheran in Strawberry Point). Bethany and Emanuel currently share a pastor (called to one and contracted with the other), but are not yet a formally connected parish. The third setting is College Ministries at Luther College. My time over the course of the 12-month internship is basically split evenly between the three settings, although that time has shifted over the course of the year (for example, I'll be in the rural congregations full-time in the summer, so for now, I'm a bit more at Luther). Generally, I'm at Luther on Mondays and Tuesdays and Wednesdays until noon. I head to Strawberry Point on Wednesday late afternoon and evening for education and worship and am in Elkader on Thursdays. I rotate between congregations on Sundays. Saturdays depend on the weekend. Fridays are my sacred day to myself to rest, enjoy, explore, and often restore my soul.

*How's it going in your surrender?* - I shared with my academic advisor earlier this year that internship is showing me that pastoral ministry was quite different than I'd expected it to be, that my response to the work was not what I had anticipated, and that even though those two realizations have been a challenge, it has also been increasingly clear to me that this is indeed my path. This idea of "surrender" is provocative and exhilarating for me. It is one thing to say that the Divine leads us to places we never expected. It is another to experience it!

As David's grandfather loved to say - we don't know where we're going - but we're making good time. You are each a part of this journey, wherever it ends up. May you feel the deep Love that is God.

Thank you for your love and support,  
Amalia Vagts

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 - 7:30 pm

### Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

Present: Pr. Amy Zalk Larson, Jonathon Struve, Kerry Johnson, Linda Donoghue, Bob Larson, Robert Fitton, Ann Naslund, Angie Sadler (representing Connie Buresh), John Moeller, and Hayley Jackson.

Devotions and Initial Actions: The council met for a potluck at 6:30pm. Linda Donoghue called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Pr. Amy and Linda provided a brief orientation to council meetings and procedures for new members. Jonathon Struve led devotions.

Motion to approve the agenda seconded and 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 January 2020 Congregational Council meeting minutes.
2. Approval of designated officers on the bank account (Linda Donoghue and Jonathon Struve).  
Approve Endowment Committee terms (Dick Wuest – 1 year, John Jefferson – 2 yrs, and Jerry Bruce – 3 yrs).

The Consent Agenda was approved by consent of the council.

### Discussion Agenda:

Collaborative Learning Partnership with Luther College: On Feb. 2 after the annual meeting, Pr. Amy shared with the council the proposal to partner with Luther College in a Collaborative Learning Partnership, a program run through Wartburg Seminary. Under this arrangement, a student attends seminary full-time while working in a ministry setting part-time for a four-year period. In this proposal, the seminarian would divide their time between Luther College and Good Shepherd. At Luther, the student would focus on connecting Luther students to Good Shepherd and other local congregations especially now that Luther College will not be offering Sunday worship. At Good Shepherd, the student would focus on welcoming and integrating Luther students into the congregation, along with children/youth ministry. A similar arrangement currently in place at Wartburg College and a Waverly congregation provides a model that Pr. Anne Edison-Albright and Pr. Amy believe could be implemented here. Kathryn Thompson's recent decision to attend seminary make her an ideal candidate to serve as our first participant in this program, especially as her current salary for directing Children, Youth, and Family ministry would cover Good Shepherd's financial contribution. Pr. Amy and Pr. Anne will give an Adult Forum on this on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

Council members discussed the financial contributions expected of Good Shepherd towards this program (\$7500, the rest to be covered by Luther), the expected hours the seminarian would be expected to spend at Good Shepherd (10 at GS, 10-15 at Luther), and methods to ensure Pr. Anne and Pr. Amy have open communication with each other and the student.

Council was presented with 3 motions:

Good Shepherd will become a Collaborative Learning Site in partnership with Luther College; we will contribute \$7500 per year to this partnership for four years. Motion seconded by Robert Fitton, motion passed.

In addition to duties at Luther College, the Collaborative Learning Student will be charged with overseeing Children, Youth, and Family ministry at Good Shepherd. Motion seconded by Kerry Johnson, motion passed.

Kathryn Thompson will serve as the first person in this position (pending seminary acceptance and synod candidacy). Motion seconded by Ann Naslund, motion passed.

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

The Committee Reports were received and accepted as submitted.

(Continued on page 14)

Education Committee: Ann Naslund

1. Ewalu retreat March 14-15 for grades 3-6

2. Reminder that the Adult Forum about the Augusta Victoria Hospital is Sunday, March 8th and the youth will be coordinating Fellowship that day

We have chosen Saturday, May 2nd from 5-8 pm to have another youth babysitting night

Outreach and Hospitality Committee: Kerry Johnson

Upcoming Events: Informational Sunday for new members (Feb. 23), committee meeting to plan for New Member Sunday (Feb. 28), New Member Sunday (Mar. 15), potluck for new members, Shepherd families, and committee members (Mar. 15).

Property and Management Committee: Robert Fitton

The committee is consulting with Lindsay Erdman for repairs to the sidewalk on Iowa Ave The committee is working on developing emergency planning. Replacing the sanctuary windows has been put on hold so additional research can be done on glass that will be suitable for our new HVAC system. The committee plans to create a list of future capital projects. St. Grubby's Day is scheduled for May 3, 2020.

Stewardship Committee: Angie Sadler (representing Connie Buresh)

No Report

Worship and Music Committee: Bob Larson

This Lent season will include noon recitals on Wednesdays at noon, featuring GS and guest musicians. The simple soup suppers will continue in the same format as last year. Further discussion regarding the Maundy Thursday service and meal will be discussed at the upcoming March 11 meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy Larson

Report on Collaborative Learning Partnership with Luther College.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Total income year to date:           \$20,310.47

Total expense year to date:         (\$20,916.45)

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: February 20, 2020

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be March 17, 2020, 7:30 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 Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary

## **A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER ON REPAYING OUR BUILDING LOANS**

Recall from the annual meeting that when our loan officer at Decorah Bank and Trust set up the repayment schedule for our two loans, he had us paying \$2,400 per month on the non-interest HVAC loan and \$1,600 per month on the 5% interest Renovation loan; he assumed we would save on total interest paid by lowering the HVAC loan before interest on it kicked in. Responding to a question raised at the annual meeting he explored different payment schedules and determined that, in fact, we would reduce our total interest payments if we paid less on the HVAC loan in 2020. Paying nothing on that loan is not an option because our agreement with the bank, as approved by the Church Council on March 19, 2019, requires us to begin making payments on the HVAC loan in its second year.

Therefore, in 2020 we will pay \$4,000 per month as approved at the annual meeting but will reduce our monthly payments for the HVAC loan to \$750. The balance of the \$4,000 budgeted amount will go toward the Renovation loan, divided between principal and interest. We estimate this revised payment structure will save the church \$1,000 over the course of the loan. In March 2021 we will begin paying 5% on both loans.

Submitted by John Moeller

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:45am - Handbell Practice</p> <p>9:30am - Worship @ GS</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:50am - Sunday School &amp; 11am - Adult Forum</p> <p>11am - Brooke set-up in 2pm - "The Showing of Love"</p> <p>3:30pm - Reception after</p>	<p><b>Pr. Amy Day Off</b></p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn Anderson</p> <p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>11am - Marilyn Anderson</p>	<p>5:30pm - Lenten Mid-week</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice @ GS</p> <p>8pm - Band Practice @ GS</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study led by 1:30pm - Property and 5pm - Community Meal @ 6:30pm - P.E.O. Meeting</p>	<p><b>World Day of Prayer @</b></p> <p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p>	<p>8am - eric sessions</p> <p>8am - JFON Legal Clinic @ 1:30pm - Lent Project prep</p>
<p>8:45am - Choir warmup</p> <p>9:30am - Worship @ GS</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship Hour:</p> <p>11am - Adult Forum - 2pm - Eric Sessions recital</p>	<p><b>Pr. Amy Day Off</b></p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn Anderson</p> <p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>9:30am - Anna Circle</p> <p>11am - Marilyn Anderson</p> <p>4:45pm - Education</p> <p>6pm - Matt Tapscott set up</p> <p>6:30pm - No Small Matter</p>	<p>10am - Miriam Circle</p> <p>10:30am - Aase Haugen</p> <p>11am - Worship and Music</p> <p>12pm - 12:15 Lent recital</p> <p>5:30pm - Lenten Mid-week</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice @ GS</p> <p>8pm - Band Practice @ GS</p>	<p><b>Recycle</b></p> <p>10am - Bible Study led by 1pm - Tavel Club @ GS 7pm - Council Agenda</p>	<p>11am - Stewardship</p> <p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p>	<p><b>9am -3-6th grade Ewalu</b></p>
<p><b>Baptism of Julia Blyven</b></p> <p><b>New Member Sunday</b></p> <p><b>3-6th grade Ewalu Retreat</b></p> <p>8:45am - Band Warmup</p> <p>9:30am - Worship @ GS</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:50am - Sunday School &amp; 11am - Adult Forum "Back</p>	<p><b>Pr. Amy Day Off</b></p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn Anderson</p> <p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>9:30am - Quilts of Valor @ 11am - Marilyn Anderson</p> <p>7:30pm - Congregation</p>	<p>9:30am - Opportunity</p> <p>12pm - 12:15 Lent recital</p> <p>1pm - Prayer Shawl</p> <p>5:30pm - Lenten Mid-week</p> <p>5:30pm - Norskor sings</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice @ GS</p> <p>8pm - Band Practice @ GS</p>	<p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p> <p>10am - Bible Study led by 5pm - Decorah Community</p>	<p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p>	
<p><b>Baptism of Matilda Pille</b></p> <p>9:30am - Worship @ GS</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:50am - Sunday School &amp; 11am - Adult Forum</p>	<p><b>Pr. Amy Day Off</b></p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn Anderson</p> <p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>11am - Marilyn Anderson</p> <p>7pm - CLA Circle</p>	<p>5:30pm - Lenten Mid-week</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice @ GS</p> <p>8pm - Band Practice @ GS</p>	<p><b>Recycle</b></p> <p>10am - Bible Study led by</p>	<p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p>	
<p>8:45am - Choir Warmup</p> <p>9:30am - Worship @ GS</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:50am - Sunday School &amp; 11am - Adult Forum "Coming</p> <p>12:30pm - Sandy Goode</p>	<p><b>Pr. Amy Day Off</b></p> <p>9:30am - Marilyn Anderson</p> <p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p> <p>5:45pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>11am - Marilyn Anderson</p>	<p>12pm - 12:15 Lent recital</p> <p>5:30pm - Lenten Mid-week</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice @ GS</p> <p>8pm - Band Practice @ GS</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study led by 1:30pm - Property and 5pm - Community Meal @</p>	<p>1pm - Friends of Recovery</p>	

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

MARCH 2020

# *The Shepherd's Voice*

**Pastor Amy Larson**

**Visitation Pastor: Marion Pruitt-Jefferson**

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>

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### IN THIS ISSUE:

*Words from Pastor Larson 1-2*

*Lent at Good Shepherd 3-5*

*Stewardship 3*

*March Adult Forums 6*

*March Scriptures 6*

*March Ministry Team 7-8*

*Education 9*

*GS Announcements 10*

*WELCA News 11*

*Letter from Amalia 12*

*Council Minutes 13-14*

*March Calendar 15*

GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

