



The Shepherd's Voice

May 2020

Beloved of God,

I want to tell you that Good Shepherd has been providing leadership within the larger church during this time of global pandemic. One way we've done this is through our COVID19 phased response plan developed by our task force. That plan was adopted and/or adapted by a number of congregations throughout our synod and our region. Our decision to end in-person worship when we did helped other congregations to make that decision as well.

Another way we're providing leadership is through my role as Dean of the Upper Iowa River Conference of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Our synod is comprised of ten conferences. The Dean of Rostered Persons serves as liaison between rostered ministers of the conference and the Office of the Bishop. As the dean, I am leading our conference rostered ministers in Zoom meetings every week during this time. **The deans and the chaplains of our synod are also working on a statement encouraging the congregations of our synod to persist in offering online worship, rather than gathering in person, for the sake of the common good.** A version of this statement is found on the next page of this newsletter. (Note, this is my early draft of the letter. It may change somewhat as others contribute.)

We also continue to provide leadership within Decorah through the Decorah Area Faith Coalition. The coalition is meeting weekly in this time to care for our community. One update is that we have determined that we cannot safely or effectively run Kids Lunch Club this summer. I am working with a smaller group of the coalition now on other ways to address the food insecurity faced by families during the summer.

Thank you, Good Shepherd, for sharing in this leadership we are offering. Thank you for your powerful witness to the Gospel in these times. **The Good Shepherd Congregation Council decided at the April 21 meeting that we will continue worship online and the building will remain closed through May. We will consider changes to this on a month by month basis.** We are being guided by the federal document "Opening Up America Again." This document indicates that a phased reopening can begin once these criteria have been met: 1) 14-days of declining symptoms 2) 14-days of declining cases 3) Hospitals able to treat all patients without crisis care 4) Robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing. As our area does not yet meet that criteria, we are not moving into reopening at this time. See the next page for more theological reflection on continuing with online worship at this time.

Peace, Pastor Amy

People of God in the Northeastern Iowa Synod,

We write to you today as the deans and chaplains of the conferences of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA. We are rostered ministers who have been appointed or elected to care for the other rostered ministers and congregations throughout the synod.

We are writing to thank you for your Christian witness during this difficult time. We see this public witness in the ways you are proclaiming the Gospel creatively through online worship and through the sacrifices you are making for the sake of the neighbor and for sake of the common good.

Together our communities are proclaiming the Gospel powerfully in various online spaces in this time. The Good News of Jesus is getting out beyond the church walls. It is reaching people throughout our communities who need a word of hope in this difficult time. Thank you for all the ways you are making this happen. So many people contribute to this movement of the Gospel through online offerings, prayer, encouragement, generosity, and support of the whole congregation.

We are all making important sacrifices for the sake of the neighbor and the common good. We want to gather with our communities in this difficult time. We want to gather in the place where we hear the Word of God and receive the Sacraments. Yet we are staying home in order to protect those most vulnerable in our community. We are staying home in order to do our part to flatten the curve of the virus, so that our healthcare system is not overwhelmed. We are making sacrifices out of concern for others. We are choosing the path of love even though it is hard. This is a powerful Christian witness.

21st Century Americans are not often asked to sacrifice. We prize individual liberty but are rarely asked to consider the good of the other. Often, more emphasis is placed on rights and less on the responsibilities we each have for our democracy to function well. Christians are called to live differently. We are called to be salt and light in the world. We can lead by modeling and encouraging the way of sacrifice, responsibility and service to the other.

In this time, we are growing in endurance, character, and hope. We are growing in our public witness to the Gospel. As Romans chapter 5 proclaims,

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

We are writing to encourage you to hold fast to your Christian witness. Even when we are allowed to worship together, we must ask if this is the best decision for the sake of the neighbor and the common good? Can we ensure the safety of those dear to us in our community if we gather? We encourage the congregations of our synod to continue the powerful public witness we are offering by staying home and worshipping together through online worship until such time as public health officials and science assure us that it is safe for all.

In Christ,

The Deans and Chaplains of the Northeastern Iowa Synod

STAYING CONNECTED WHILE WE ARE APART

WORSHIP

Go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Good Shepherd Decorah. If you subscribe to the channel it will be easier for you to see new content. If we get 100 subscribers, more features for YouTube are available to us so please subscribe.

We are now "premiering" the services Sundays at 9:30am and Wednesdays at 7pm to help us worship together. This means the link for the service is available earlier but is first able to view at the worship start time. The live chat is available 30 minutes before those start times and during that premiering time. Joining the live chat is a way to be in community as we worship together. You can also view the services after those premiere times.

Listen to [Pr Amy's Sermon](#) online or contact the church office if you would like a copy mailed to you.

STUDY & DEVOTIONALS

Zoom Bible Study Thursdays 10 a.m. (Email Pastor to get the Zoom invite)

Sign up for daily devotions that can be sent to your email. To sign up go to:

d365.org or <https://go.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-email-subscription>

GIVING

- Send your check or offering envelope through the mail - 701 Iowa Ave. Decorah IA 52101.
- Give online through your own bank or continue your auto withdrawal through the church.
- Give online at our website under the Giving tab through tithe.ly.
- Text to give: # 833-751-0260
- In addition to giving to the work of the congregation, please consider gifts to the local Mutual Aid Network fund to help those impacted financially in this time. You can give to Good Shepherd and designate for this fund.
- The ELCA has also started a COVID19 response fund. Your donation will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need. You can give to this fund through the GS website [GIVE](#) button or at [ELCA.org](https://www.elca.org)



May Scriptures

Sunday, May 3 Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42-47 The believers' common life	Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.	1 Peter 2:19-25 Follow the shepherd, even in suffering	John 10:1-10 Christ the shepherd
Sunday, May 10 Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 7:55-60 The martyrdom of Stephen	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.	1 Peter 2:2-10 God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts	John 14:1-14 Christ the way, truth, and life
Sunday, May 17 Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 17:22-31 Paul's message to the Athenians	Psalm 66:8-20 Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.	1 Peter 3:13-22 The days of Noah, a sign of baptism	John 14:15-21 Christ our advocate
Sunday, May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:6-14 Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds.	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 God will sustain and restore those who suffer	John 17:1-11 Christ's prayer for his disciples
Sunday, May 31 Day of Pentecost	Numbers 11:24-30 The Spirit comes upon the elders of Israel	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.	Acts 2:1-21 Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds	John 20:19-23 The Spirit poured out

YAGM Central Europe Country

Greetings Siblings in Christ!

We are praying that this email finds you and yours in good health. As a result of the global pandemic, our ministry has changed quite a bit in the past few weeks. [Here](#) is an update with regard to those changes.

April 8th is International Roma Day. This day honors the first major international meeting of Romani leaders from around the world in 1971, and is meant to highlight the diversity of Romani people and culture throughout the world. It's also a time to raise awareness of social issues effecting Romani people as well. [Here](#) is an article that highlights the importance of human rights for Romani people—especially during a pandemic.

A wonderful colleague of mine shared in a bible study this week that “these are unprecedented times for us, but they are not unprecedented times for God.” I pray we can all find what we need in these times from a God who grieves with us, as well as offers us unprecedented hope.

In Christ, Zach Courter - ELCA Missionary – YAGM Central Europe Country Coordinator

Note: the links are also found on the Good Shepherd website www.goodshepherddecorah.org

Good Shepherd Announcements

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Donna Bahr: new address

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MAY 21

TENTATIVE EVENT DATES:

INTERGENERATIONAL CAMPING EVENT: June 26-28

GS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: July 20-22

MAY BABYSITTING NIGHT HAS BEEN CANCELLED

ST. GRUBBYS DAY HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2020

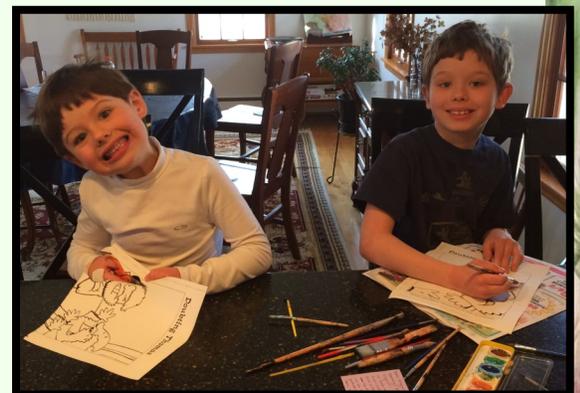
Sunday School and Youth Forum Update

During this unusual time of doing church remotely, we have found creative ways to do Sunday School and connect the Youth of our congregation. Sunday School kids and their families are participating in "Family Sunday School" which is a curriculum put out by SparkHouse. This is the publisher of the curriculum we would use on typical Sundays if we were meeting in person. Families can watch a 12 minute interactive Sunday School lesson together, and then they can complete supplementary materials and activities to go with the lesson (like the coloring page pictured with two of our young members in the photo). The lessons follow our lectionary text, so families are able to study the Gospel in the Sunday School lesson as well as hear that lesson in our virtual church services.

Youth Forum is meeting via Zoom every Sunday at our typical time, 10:45 a.m. We share our highs and lows of the week, and we dive into the Gospel text for that Sunday. We are in such a routine that we don't have to remind students to "bring" their Bibles to the meeting anymore (yay)! We spend time reading the text, asking hard questions, and relating the reading to whatever they are experiencing in this unusual time. At the end, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. There have been a few Sundays where it is easy to tell our Youth Forum students have already participated in church, as they pray for our Good Shepherd members who are mentioned in the church prayers. This is beautiful and uplifting to hear. These sessions continue to connect our young members together as well as remind them that God is present with them during pain and uncertainty.

I would like to thank all the parents of Good Shepherd for all they are doing for their children during this time. Parents are taking on so much right now with balancing childcare, homeschooling kids, connecting kids to their loved ones in creative ways, and offering safe, nurturing environments during a time of much anxiety and fear. You are doing this in all the best ways you can, and I am inspired by you! May you feel the peace and love of the entire Good Shepherd congregation as we hold you in community and prayer.

Kathryn Thompson, Director of Children, Youth and Families



Celebrating our 2020 Graduates



Ava Holland plans to attend Luther College and major in Global Health.



Keaton Solberg will be attending Marshalltown Community College in the fall and obtain his degree in gas line technology. He will then finish his undergraduate career from UNI in management.



Kalle Solberg is graduating from Drake University with majors in Psychology and Spanish, with a minor in Sociology. She was recently named the Drake University Psychology Student of the Year. Kalle is planning to work in Des Moines for a year before entering a graduate institution for school counseling.

**We wish we could be celebrating these graduates during in-person worship!
Please keep them in your prayers and send them your love.**



You are invited to join Lutheran women across the church every *Tuesday at noon* in prayer. Use the simple approach offered here, reflecting on God's word, offering prayers and reflecting on your self-care and the care of others.

We will be having a zoom circle meeting using the Gather magazine bible study on May 26 at 7pm. Please contact Pastor Amy or Bev Sheridan if you would like to attend. All are welcome.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the SWO gathering in Waverly has been postponed. The board will be meeting in May to discuss a new date. Please keep the SWO Board in your prayers.

The May Friendship Day has also been postponed. We are hoping that maybe we can have it in the fall.

A call to prayer in the time of a pandemic

This is a call to prayer, to be practiced *every Tuesday at noon*, in your time zone. (Use it daily, if you wish.)

Read: Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pray: follow each petition by naming specific individuals or needs; add additional petitions as needed

For those who are ill

For those with little access to healthcare

For healthcare workers

For those who feel isolated

For those who are in unsafe places

For those who are anxious or worried

For leaders facing difficult decisions

For those who continue to work in challenging settings

For those driven by greed or careless disregard

Reflect: Reflect on these questions. You may even be inspired to journal daily with these questions. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves (*Matthew 22:39*).

How are you loving yourself today? What is your self-care strategy?

How are you loving your neighbor today?



Update from the Treasurer

1st Quarter Treasurer's Report

Income versus Expense

Our total income for the first three months was \$71,645.69 (last year it was \$69,926.71). Our total expenses were \$73,346.95. There are two adjustments to these figures one needs to remember. First, Kathryn's salary and social security come from a separate fund and therefore should not be included in comparing income and expense. Second, our total benevolence and cemetery budget for the year is \$57,825.00. One-fourth of that total is \$14,456.25; we paid only one-fifth of our benevolence obligations (\$11,250.00). Adjusting for Kathryn's salary and benevolence payments, our deficit for the first quarter was approximately \$2,900.00. It is much too early to look for patterns but I want folks to be aware of where we stand after three months.

Offerings: intended versus actual

At the end of our 2020 stewardship campaign the statements of intent totaled approximately \$300,000. That means each quarter we should expect the offering total to be \$75,000. During the first three months of 2020, our offering total was \$67,781.07. That means at this point our giving is less than anticipated.

Lenten Offerings

As of April 15, we had received \$3,625.02 in Lenten/Easter offerings. We have sent that amount to the Decorah Mutual Aid Network.

Our Sunday School offering totaled \$2,721.25. We have sent that amount to Augusta Victoria Hospital.

SBA Paycheck Protection Program

Good Shepherd is participating in the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, which is part of the COVID19 relief package passed by Congress. Decorah Bank and Trust has loaned us \$31,750.00 (our monthly payroll x 2.5) to help us pay salaries and utilities over an eight-week period. If our payroll does not decline during that time, we expect the SBA to forgive the amount dedicated to payroll and utilities (about 85% of the total loan).

We applied for this loan because we were concerned the current economic crisis might result in some members of the congregation not being able to fulfill their statements of intent. Were that to happen we worried we would not be able to meet all of our financial obligations, including the \$54,000.00 we have committed to benevolence. The executive committee, with the support of the council, has decided that if the SBA support results in freeing up funds normally used for payroll and utilities we will use those funds to support Good Shepherd members who have economic needs related to the pandemic. Any member in that situation should contact Pastor Amy who, using the established system for allocating Mission Assistance funds, will provide what help we can.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee offers this invitation to give our stimulus checks to others.
Submitted by Good Shepherd Member Jerry Bruce.

Most Americans will receive from the U.S. government a stimulus payment to assist the economy and people who are suffering financially due to COVID-19.

At a recent Zoom meeting of Good Shepherd "Shepherds", the question of how to spend the stimulus money arose, specifically how those fortunate enough to not be suffering financially could use the money to assist those in need.

The Wall Street Journal of March 27th features an article entitled "What's the Best Way to Spend Your Stimulus Money?" addressing that very question. What follows is a synopsis of the information and suggestions contained in the WSJ story.

The stimulus is intended to assist with offsetting the financial woes of the pandemic in two ways. First, to relieve some of the financial burdens of individuals and families due to lockdowns and social distancing, and secondly, to jumpstart the U.S. economy.

The first recommendation in the WSJ is to spend the stimulus money. "In a recession people tend to cut consumption and try to maintain a buffer." Obviously those who have the most need and who are suffering the greatest are going to spend it, basically for necessities. That assists individuals and families as well as the economy, as intended. Spending the stimulus by those most in need will no doubt begin the week the payments arrive.

For those not experiencing hardship who wonder about spending the stimulus funds to help people in need versus assisting the economy, the WSJ suggests that the needs of people take precedence. "I would put my stimulus dollars not toward an abstract 'economy' but towards people who are watching their earnings evaporate before their eyes."

People employed in service positions are particularly vulnerable. The WSJ recommends supporting "retail workers, waiters, hotel housekeepers, after-school program staffers, hairdressers, just to name a few. Not because it makes us economically stronger, though it probably will, but because as a society we should care for one another." One might consider making direct gifts to individuals in the service industries, or giving gift cards to persons or families. "Chances are you know someone, or know someone who knows someone, who is facing a dire financial situation, that they couldn't have imagined one month ago." Area pastors can assist in identifying those in need.

Contributions to agencies and/or non-profit organizations attempting to serve those out of work are another way stimulus fund donations can help both the people and the economy. Lists of local agencies working to assist those in crisis are available.

Small local businesses are currently facing the same crisis as individuals and families. Your use of the stimulus money could help them also. The WSJ suggests, "Think of a couple of businesses and doing big purchases, or spreading it out and spending it as you go about your week."

The March 19th issue of Decorah Newspaper's Driftless Journal features the teamwork of Winneshiek County Development and Tourism and Decorah Now, and how they are working to help keep community members healthy, businesses solvent and economies stable.

If you choose to direct your stimulus payment toward charitable use, opportunities abound in the Decorah area. The Stewardship Committee suggests giving directly to the Decorah Mutual Aid Network by mailing a check to First Lutheran Church or give through Good Shepherd and designate it for the network.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 - 7:30 pm

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

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

Devotions and Initial Actions: Ann Naslund 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.

Approve March 2020 council minutes.

The Consent Agenda was approved by consent of the council.

Discussion Agenda:

Kinderhaus Rent Waiver: Pr. Amy informed the council that Kinderhaus would likely not be meeting in May and asked if council wanted to consider waiving their May rent, as we had in April. Council was favorable to this. Connie moved and Ann seconded that Kinderhaus rent be waived for May 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of Giving and SBA Loan: John Moeller shared that Good Shepherd finances are okay. It is too early in the year to determine if the COVID-19 pandemic will significantly impact giving patterns throughout the year. Based on this year's giving intents, we are anticipating \$75,000 per quarter, and we fell a bit short this quarter. The budget is certainly tight, due to our loan payments and benevolences, but John is not concerned. Good Shepherd successfully received an SBA loan of \$31,750. This funding can be used for covering payroll expenses and utilities. Any PPP funds used to pay salaries and utilities (assuming there is no drop in the payroll) will be forgiven. In the event that giving does drop, this loan will ensure that we have funding for payroll and utilities. If giving remains stable, we may free up previously allotted funds for additional charitable giving. In the event that we can free up funding, Executive Committee expressed a preference for assisting congregation members who are financially struggling using the Mission Assistance Fund, particularly those who own small businesses or are self-employed. Council was pleased to hear about the funding and discussed methods of reaching out to those who may need financial support, and providing ways for those who are able to and interested in donating to the Mission Assistance Fund or Mutual Aid.

COVID-19 Relief Fund: Pr. Amy shared that the ELCA has created a COVID-19 Relief Fund, which directs money to congregational ministries serving people in areas most affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. This was created after the Winneshiek County Mutual Aid Network was established. Pr. Amy asked if council felt that we should actively promote the Relief Fund to the congregation and if we wanted to add it to our Tithe-ly giving options, possibly substituting it for the Lutheran Disaster Response. In general, council was supportive of the initiative, but did not want to prioritize it over local giving. Council agreed that we were comfortable adding it as a giving option on Tithe-ly, but did not want to significantly promote it over the local giving options. Ann moved that we add the COVID-19 Relief Fund as an option on Tithe-ly and keep Lutheran Disaster Response as an option. Jonathon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Timeline for Reopening Good Shepherd: Pr. Amy reminded Council that May 17 had been our expected reopening date; however, given the current situation, she was beginning to doubt that Iowa would fit the criteria laid out in the first phase of the White House's reopening plan by that date. She suggested that council review potential opening dates on a month by month basis, acknowledging the fact that council meets late in the month as a challenge. Discussion included whether or not we could call a special council meeting to discuss the issue (yes) and, in the event we didn't think it required a lot of discussion, whether it could be voted on by email (yes). Council also discussed concerns of our ability to effectively socially distance in our church spaces. Bob Fitton moved that council evaluate reopening church on a month by month basis. Kerry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

June 2nd Primary: Pr. Amy shared that Ben Steines had asked if Good Shepherd would serve as the one polling place for the primary election. Council was generally not in favor of this. Concerns about the extra cleaning that would be required were brought up. Bob Fitton moved that we encourage them to find a government building to serve as a polling place and that Good Shepherd not act without consulting building manager Reg Laursen. Kerry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Virtual Communion: Pr. Amy shared that ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton had advised churches consider this period as a time of fasting from communion and discouraged engaging in "virtual communion." Virtual communion has not been forbidden – in the event that a church believes this practice is important for its worship, it should only be engaged in after deliberate discernment by church council. At the beginning, there was little time to deliberate, but now that it appears we will be socially distancing for some time now, we have the ability and time to think about if this is something we want to explore. Some congregants had expressed an interest in the possibility of communion, but not specifically in virtual communion. Pr. Amy shared that she wanted to emphasize that Christ is fully present as the Word is proclaimed, regardless or not if we are able to partake in communion. She asked if council wanted to spend time discerning or if we wanted to continue to fast for now while leaving the option open to revisit in a few months. Council generally agreed that this was not a particularly pressing issue, that getting services online was a priority, while recognizing that this period might be a good time to reflect on the meaning and our understanding of communion. Connie moved that Good Shepherd follow the Bishop's guidance on fasting for now and revisit the issue again in a month. Bob Fitton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The Committee Reports were received and accepted as submitted.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

Pastor Amy shared background on the virtual communion discussion as written above, including some reading for council, including *The Use of the Means of Grace*, *Christ is Really Present Virtually: A Proposal for Virtual Communion* from St. Olaf College's Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community, written by Director Dr. Deanna A. Thompson, and *Mesa Sagrada: The Sacred Table in the Virtual World* written by Rev. Hazel Salazar-Davidson, Campus Pastor at California Lutheran University. She also shared concerns about ensuring clergy and worship leaders have appropriate breaks from preaching as the quarantine continues. She emphasized that for right now she is not in need of a break, but may in the future. Options include sermons provided by our missionary in Hungary, and a synod-wide service.

Education Committee: Ann Naslund

Kathryn is sending out weekly Sunday School lessons to families and recording and posting a children's sermon. Kathryn and Sara are hosting Youth Forum weekly, live through Zoom. It has been very popular and we are very grateful for Kathryn's dedication to keeping our youth connected during this difficult time.

We will arrange for every Sunday School family to have a Spark Story Bible at home while they cannot be in SS class. Going forward we will gift each child their own Spark Story Bible to keep at home when they are old enough for Sunday School.

Property and Management Committee: Robert Fitton

Sidewalk replacement/repair planning is in progress and now that Reg is the Facilities manager, he will be brought into the planning process. Once an estimate has been generated then P&M will bring a proposal to the Council for approval to spend the money.

P&M committee members are very supportive of Reg being named Facilities Manager and look forward to the planning and budgeting for a part-time custodian position sometime in the future.

The disaster response plan continues to evolve and will result in planning and training for various scenarios.

Mowing schedule has been sent out to the GSC mowing crew and work will begin the week of 13-April.

A new AED battery was purchased and installed.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Income and Expense: Our total income for the first three months was \$71,645.69 (last year it was \$69,926.71). Our total expenses were \$73,346.95. There are two adjustments to these figures one needs to remember. First, Kathryn's salary, including social security (\$2,017.98) comes from a separate fund and therefore should not be included in figuring income versus expense. Second, our total benevolence and cemetery budget for the year is \$57,825.00. After the first quarter we should have paid \$14,456.25 toward these two items but in fact paid out only \$11,250.00. If we had paid 1/4 of our benevolence, our deficit for the first quarter would be approximately \$2,900.00.

Intended and Actual Offerings: At the end of our stewardship campaign for this year the intended giving totaled approximately \$300,000. That means each quarter we should receive approximately \$75,000 in offerings. During the first three months of 2020, our offering total was \$67,781.07. In other words, at this point we are running behind what our statements of intent would have predicted.

Lenten Offerings: As of April 15, we had received \$3,625.02 in Lenten/Easter offerings. We have sent that amount to the Decorah Mutual Aid Network. Our Sunday School offering was \$2,611.00.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: April 23, 2020

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be May 19, 2020, 7:30 PM via Zoom

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM. Pr. Amy Larson led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting. ---Submitted by Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

MAY 2020

The Shepherd's Voice

Contents:

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

