



The Shepherd's Voice

August 2020

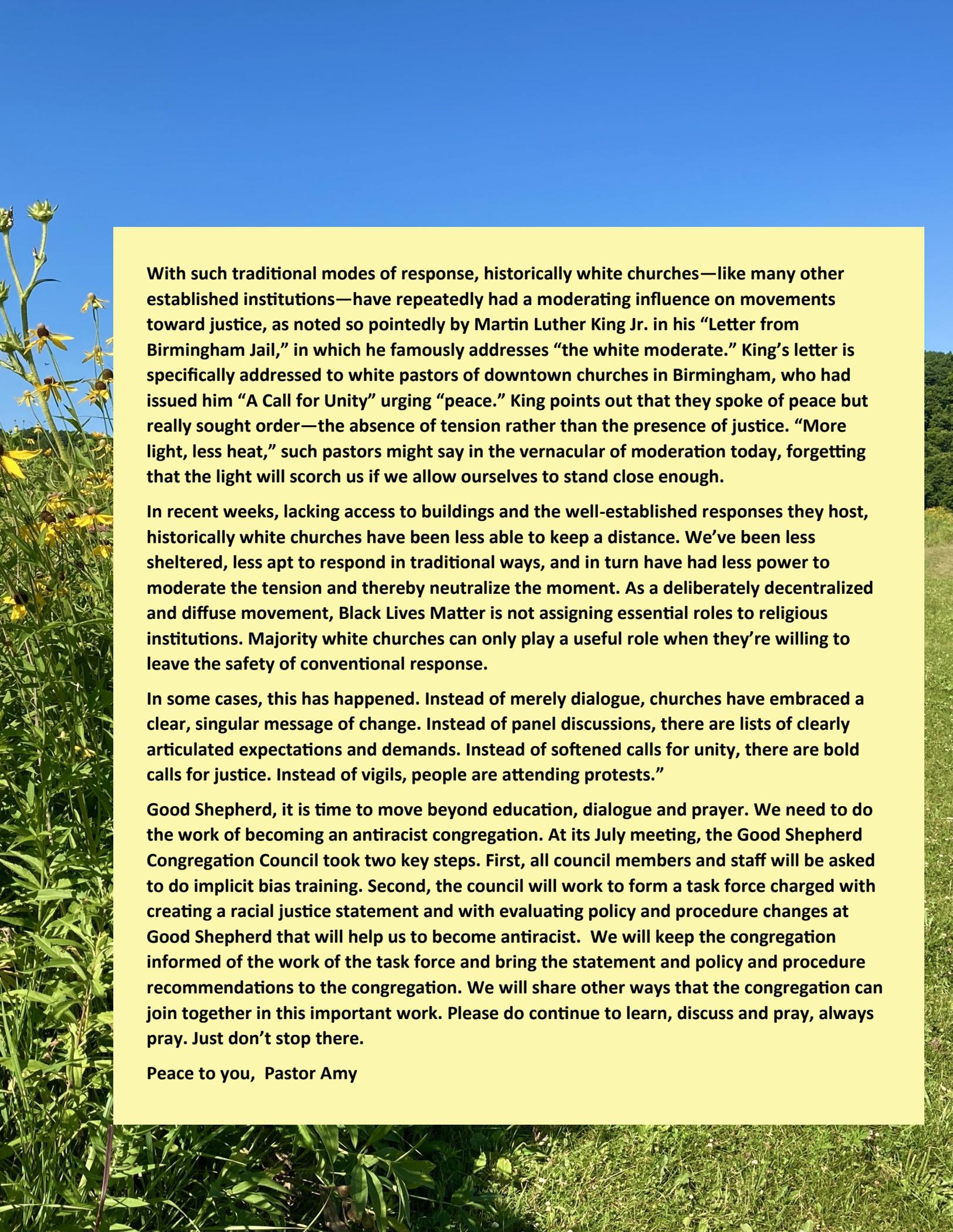
Beloved of God,

Right now, we are learning a lot about what it means to be the church in the world. During COVID-19, many are commenting that the church has left the building and that this isn't all bad. This pandemic time reminds us that we aren't called to get people into the pews of church buildings. We are called to be Christ's church at work in the world. Gathering in the church building, at the altar, equips us for that mission, but it can never take the place of that mission. On a related note, I recently read an article in the Christian Century by Rev. Alan Sherouse that asked if white Christians are now more involved in racial justice protests in part because we can't gather in our building. I want to share large portions of this article with you as I found it so helpful.

Sherouse writes, "I wonder if the acceleration of the movement among white people in this moment is in part because so many historically white churches have closed their buildings. This has left them unable to respond in ways they traditionally have—ways that historically have served to moderate tension. When faced with unrest over racial injustice, white churches have often turned to conventional modes of response that prove incomplete on their own. Education is one impulse, taking the form of our book clubs, reading groups, and self-studies. Dialogue is another: in cities where churches still hold convening power we might pull together a panel of experts, or engage city leaders, or—as my congregation has done at various points in its history—host a conversation with a partner church that is majority black. The most common institutional response is prayer. We pull out the candles, complete with their wax drippings from the last community prayer service. "Under normal circumstances," a clergy colleague said recently, "without quarantine, we'd all be at one of our churches for a vigil."

In response to racial injustice, white churches have often prioritized civility, neutralizing the more radical and costly message of justice. With an exclusive emphasis on education, for instance, we end up approaching racial injustice as though the primary problem is personal ignorance that can be solved through learning, rather than systemic injustice that must be solved through reform. By emphasizing dialogue, churches can implicitly advance the notion that our chief aim is friendship and reconciliation, rather than wholesale change. And by lighting a candle and praying with our words, it is easy to stop short of Frederick Douglass's charge to pray with our feet and our bodies, too.

(Continued on page 2)



With such traditional modes of response, historically white churches—like many other established institutions—have repeatedly had a moderating influence on movements toward justice, as noted so pointedly by Martin Luther King Jr. in his “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” in which he famously addresses “the white moderate.” King’s letter is specifically addressed to white pastors of downtown churches in Birmingham, who had issued him “A Call for Unity” urging “peace.” King points out that they spoke of peace but really sought order—the absence of tension rather than the presence of justice. “More light, less heat,” such pastors might say in the vernacular of moderation today, forgetting that the light will scorch us if we allow ourselves to stand close enough.

In recent weeks, lacking access to buildings and the well-established responses they host, historically white churches have been less able to keep a distance. We’ve been less sheltered, less apt to respond in traditional ways, and in turn have had less power to moderate the tension and thereby neutralize the moment. As a deliberately decentralized and diffuse movement, Black Lives Matter is not assigning essential roles to religious institutions. Majority white churches can only play a useful role when they’re willing to leave the safety of conventional response.

In some cases, this has happened. Instead of merely dialogue, churches have embraced a clear, singular message of change. Instead of panel discussions, there are lists of clearly articulated expectations and demands. Instead of softened calls for unity, there are bold calls for justice. Instead of vigils, people are attending protests.”

Good Shepherd, it is time to move beyond education, dialogue and prayer. We need to do the work of becoming an antiracist congregation. At its July meeting, the Good Shepherd Congregation Council took two key steps. First, all council members and staff will be asked to do implicit bias training. Second, the council will work to form a task force charged with creating a racial justice statement and with evaluating policy and procedure changes at Good Shepherd that will help us to become antiracist. We will keep the congregation informed of the work of the task force and bring the statement and policy and procedure recommendations to the congregation. We will share other ways that the congregation can join together in this important work. Please do continue to learn, discuss and pray, always pray. Just don’t stop there.

Peace to you, Pastor Amy

Sunday Outdoor Communion Services & Children's Sermons

August 9 and August 23 - 11 a.m.

Online worship will still premiere at 9:30 a.m.; these services will complement that worship. The services will be short and will include prayer and the communion liturgy. We will gather in the large, shady area of the walnut grove west of the Good Shepherd parking lot. Our neighbors, Craig and Jeanette Spilde, are graciously letting us use their land. In case of inclement weather, the service will be canceled.

Families with children are welcome to attend. The children's sermons in August will be offered at these services rather than online. Kids will be asked to stay with their families for the short time of worship but if children do interact with other children outdoors, that is a lower risk activity for transmission of the virus. Kids are very unlikely to come too close to an adult wearing a mask!

Musicians are welcome to offer acoustic music during the service. Sign up to do that on [SignUpGenius](#).

Because we care deeply about your safety and wellbeing, a number of measures are being taken to limit possible exposure to COVID-19:

- Each service will be limited to 100 people. You are asked to sign up using SignUpGenius or by calling the church office. [SUG LINK](#) This will allow us to physically distance and will allow for contact tracing should that be needed.
- There will be limited access to indoor restrooms (one household at a time in the building).
- You are asked to bring your own chairs. There will be folding chairs at the church for those who need them.
- Everyone over the age of 5 will be required to wear a mask. Masks will be available for those who do not bring them. (kids aged 2-5 encouraged to wear a mask).
- There will be no congregational singing. The congregation will share in spoken responses, quietly, while masked.
- Communion will be offered using a single-serve cup with a small piece of bread and wine (or gluten free bread and grape juice). Physical distancing will be practiced as households are ushered to the table. Communion will be distributed without physical contact.
- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms needs to stay home.
- Please be advised that the CDC recommends that those at high risk for a more severe COVID-19 illness (people over 65 and those with underlying conditions) avoid gatherings.

Thank you for helping us to gather in a way that is safe and inclusive for our community. All are welcome! If you cannot attend, we can extend the table of Holy Communion to you. Please be in touch with Pr. Amy about options that might work best for your situation.

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.
- **We continue to "premiere" the services Sundays at 9:30am 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 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 services after the premiere times.
- **Luther College KWLC will broadcast our Sunday service at 9:30am throughout the summer.**
- **Come to a short communion Service outside every other week at 11 a.m. starting on August 9.**
- **Podcasts of music, prayers and prayer practices are now available.** Click on the [buzzsprout icon](#), upper right on our website's homepage, for a **shortcut** to the **Good Shepherd** podcasts.
- Listen to [Pr Amy's Sermon](#) online through the GS website or contact the church office if you would like a copy mailed to you.
- Watch the Children's Sermons online on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

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

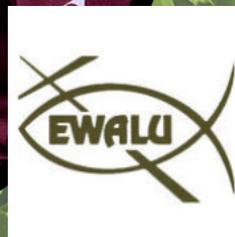
- Send your check or offering envelope through the mail - 701 Iowa Ave. Decorah IA 52101.
- Give online through your own bank or continue your auto withdrawal through the church.
- Give online at our website under the Giving tab through tithe.ly.
- Text to give: # **833-751-0260**
- In addition to giving 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.

August Scriptures

Sunday, August 2 9th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:1-5 Eat and drink that which truly satisfies	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21 You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing	Romans 9:1-5 The glory of God's people Israel	Matthew 14:13-21 Christ feeding five thousand
Sunday, August 9 10th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 19:9-18 The Lord speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb	Psalms 85:8-13 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying.	Romans 10:5-15 Hearing and confessing the word of faith	Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walking on the sea
Sunday, August 16 11th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 A house of prayer for all peoples	Psalms 67 Let all the peoples praise you, O God.	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile	Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28 The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter
Sunday, August 23 12th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 51:1-6 The enduring foundation of God's salvation	Psalms 138 O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever.	Romans 12:1-8 One body in Christ, with gifts that differ	Matthew 16:13-20 The profession of Peter's faith
Sunday, August 30 13th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 15:15-21 God fortifies the prophet against opposition	Psalms 26:1-8 Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.	Romans 12:9-21 Live in harmony	Matthew 16:21-28 The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter



**THANK YOU GOOD SHEPHERD
FOR CAMPERSHIPS TO EWALU !**



Virtual VBS 2020



Welcoming
one,
Your warm, wide arms
are ALWAYS open
drawing us into your Love.
Make our ARMS your own
helping us see & welcome
with COMPASSION all
those we meet.
Amen

illustratedministry.com





LWR ingathering will be held Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 7:30 am to 10:30 am at Olson's Explosives 1837 Trout Run Rd, Decorah, IA 52101. Safety precautions are being taken to keep social distancing and keep everyone healthy. This will be the only ingathering in Decorah in 2020. The goal being to return to May & November schedule in 2021.

We would like to contribute some Kits to the ingathering but with social distancing have come up with a new plan. Gail Judisch will be assembling Baby Care Kits and Bev Sheridan will be assembling Health Kits and School Kits in their homes. We have some supplies on hand but are still in need of the following: **cloth diapers, diaper pins, 4-5 oz bars of soap, light weight bath towels, hand towels, 70 sheet notebooks, rulers, pencil sharpeners, black/blue ball point pens, 2½ in erasers.** A drop-off box will be at Bev's house (701 Serenity Drive) if you would like to donate some supplies for the kits. You could also donate a complete kit if you wish, a list of kit materials can be found in your WELCA book.

We will again meet via Zoom on August 25 for our circle meeting. Kris Peterson will be our leader. Please contact Bev Sheridan or Pastor Amy for information to join the meeting. All are welcome.

Gather Bible Study

Just Love. In the Nation: Giving Birth to Justice

Session 3 challenges readers to examine what "just love" requires when injustice occurs at the highest levels of government. This session draws on understandings of formal and informal power and how we can use the power God has given us to effect change. What risks does just love require of us, and what do we do when our understanding of justice differs from the demands of those in power?

August Zoom Circle Meeting

8/25 - 7:00 p.m.

Absentee Voting During Covid Pandemic

Nobody knows what COVID-19 infection rates will be on election day, November 3. Because of this uncertainty, the Decorah Area Faith Coalition is suggesting that all Decorah churches and faith communities encourage their members to vote absentee.

It is easy and convenient to vote by mail, but first **registered** voters must request an absentee ballot. One of the easiest ways to do that (if you have internet access) is to go to the website: Vote.org.

On the first screen click on "Vote by Mail." On the second screen you will be asked to fill in your name, address, date of birth, phone number and email address. Once that information has been entered, click on the "Continue" link.

Within 30 seconds an absentee ballot request form will appear in your In Box. All the information you originally entered will be printed on the form. All you need do is add your Iowa Driver's License Number and click the "General Election" box.

You must sign and date the form and send it to the address provided (Winneshiek County Elections, 201 W. Main St., Decorah, IA 52101-1713) or you can drop off the form at a drop box in front of the Court House.

Vote.org also provides information on submission deadlines and you will get email reminders about completing and sending your absentee ballot request form.

You can also go to: winneshiekcounty.org/departments/auditor/voting-forms and download a form there. But Vote.org is an extremely user-friendly site and it is supported by Ben Steines, the

Benjamin D. Steines, Winneshiek County Auditor

201 W. Main Street, Decorah, IA 52101

July 1, 2020

RE: the use of Good Shepherd for the November Election

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is concerned both about the safety of our voting process and encouraging wide participation in our elections. In our recent primary election, an effort to encourage voting by mail was widely successful because of the efforts of our Secretary of State, who mailed ballot request forms to all registered voters in the state. Given the success of that campaign and the greater safety of voting by mail rather than in person while concerns about Covid-19 are heightened, we support continued efforts to make voting safe, secure, and accessible to all eligible people.

Good Shepherd has often served as a polling place for precincts in Winneshiek County, and we are happy to have our facility used for this purpose. However, the safety of our members as well as that of the wider public is paramount. At this time, we believe our county auditors should continue to encourage voting by mail and we support efforts to make it easy for citizens to do so by sending registered voters ballot request forms through the mail. We will continue to assess the situation, but if we feel that adequate precautions are not being taken to maintain a safe voting process both by encouraging absentee/mail-in voting and by taking measures to ensure the safety of in person voting, we will not agree to host precinct voting for the November election.

Good Shepherd 2020 Congregation Council: Linda Donoghue, Jonathon Struve, Hayley Jackson, John Moeller, Jon Ailabouni, Kerry Johnson, Ann Naslund, Connie Buresh, Robert Fitton, Amy Larson

Financial Report

MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

Half way through the year our financial situation is looking better. Our income to date is \$147,242.10 (compared to \$141,959.71 at this point in 2019) and our expenses to date are \$151,139.77. That indicates a deficit of \$3,897.67. Keep in mind, though, that the Youth Director salary and social security, which is \$3,988.16, comes from a separate fund. That means we have a surplus of about \$100.00 It also is worth mentioning that we have paid one-half of our budgeted benevolence giving so we are right on track there.

The Small Business PPP loan, which we have used for two months of salary and utilities, accounts for \$25,840.56 of our expenses. The bank has not yet provided details on asking forgiveness for that loan but I think that will be a simple matter once they figure it out; as an aside, we may be able to get the entire \$31,750.00 loan forgiven. Once that happens, we will have a significant surplus That means (a) we will have a comfortable cushion as we enter the second half of the year and (b) if income and expenses stay the same we will need to decide how we want to use the surplus resulting from the PPP loan.

As noted in the past, our statements of intent for this year predicted an offering income of \$25,000 per month, which would amount to \$150,000 at this point. The actual amount of offering to date is \$140,319.28. That means we are running behind our projected giving but considering the state of the economy and our current expenses I think we are in good shape.

As an aside, for those who are interested, slightly more than one-third of our offering comes from electronic transfers or automatic payments, as opposed to traditional envelope offering.

John Moeller, Treasurer

Mission Endowment Fund

INTRODUCTION

In the July issue of *The Shepherd's Voice* the Mission Endowment Fund Committee focused on the history of the fund. This month we are sharing information about its current functions and status.

PART II-THE PRESENT

The Continuing Resolution

In the early 2000s, the Good Shepherd Church Constitution was reviewed and brought in line with the ELCA model for church constitutions. That resulted in a new format for describing the purpose and functions of each church committee. Accordingly, the endowment fund document of 1993 was replaced by The Mission Endowment Fund Continuing Resolution. The Continuing Resolution was to be reviewed on a three year cycle and revisions were to be made to meet the changing needs of the congregation.

The current Continuing Resolution, approved by the Congregation Council in 2017, brought the purpose of the fund and the distribution of its earnings into a more realistic relationship with its current market value. The 2020 committee is committed to continuing that philosophy and direction.

The 2017 Continuing Resolution states, "The purpose of the Mission Endowment Fund is to provide financial support for the development of current and future leaders of the Church, the Congregation and the Community, beyond that provided by the congregation's operating budget. To fulfill that purpose the committee shall annually distribute up to 4% of the market value of the fund." This directs the earnings of the fund to be used primarily for educational purposes and limits any distribution over the 4% cap. The Continuing Resolution also calls for protection of the principal by requiring that a two-thirds majority vote of members of the congregation at an Annual Meeting is necessary to utilize any part of the principal. The Resolution directs the committee to work with the council and congregation to explore ways to educate members about the fund and actively encourage new gifts.

Prioritizing the distribution of earnings will continue to be a necessity. Financial support of Good Shepherd members attending ELCA colleges and universities will be at the top of the list. Members enrolled in ELCA seminaries will be the next to be considered. (Note: because of the limited earnings of the fund and the current high number of seminarians, the congregation has established a line item in the annual budget for this group.) The committee will focus most of its energy this year on working toward the development of a plan to encourage new gifts to this important mission of the church.

The Fund Accounts

The Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund is made up of three accounts: a Bank of the West Money Market Account, the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA Financial Ministry, and a Thrivent Mutual Fund. The ELCA and Thrivent accounts are fixed term investments and the Bank of the West Money Market Account is a liquid account with unlimited withdrawals, transfers and deposits. This account is used by the Endowment Committee to distribute annual scholarships and grants to eligible members of the congregation. Clara Knudson is the Financial Secretary for the committee and monitors the three accounts.

The Bank of the West Money Market Account had a balance of \$8565.70 on December 31, 2019. Activity in this account last year included the distribution of EPIC scholarships and seminary grants in the amount of \$3550. Due to the liquidity of this account it bears relatively low interest.

The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA Financial Ministry had a closing balance of \$17,759.43 in 2019. The annual interest rate of this account last year was only 1.39%, but the ministry of the ELCA fund fits well with the mission philosophy of Good Shepherd, that of serving others. Invested funds in this ELCA

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mission are utilized to assist ELCA congregations with church building and renovation loans. Good Shepherd has utilized this ELCA loan service in the past and may well use it again in the future.

The largest balance of our three accounts is in the Thrivent Mutual Funds. The 2019 closing balance was \$62,968.02. Our account with Thrivent was initiated in 2004 and has realized an average annual growth of 6.48% since its inception. The dividends are reinvested annually and the account performs on a one-year fixed investment basis. Thrivent was established in 2001 by the merger of Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood. Good Shepherd members have experienced the generosity of Thrivent for years by being the recipients of many of their congregational and individual grants.

The total of the three accounts at the end of last year was \$89,293.15, which is the current market value of the Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund. As per the Continuing Resolution, the Endowment Committee may distribute 4% of the market value, which equals \$3571.73 this year.

Next Month: PART III--THE FUTURE

The Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund Committee -
Brian Solberg, Jerry Bruce, John Jefferson, Dick Wuest

Bell Ringing and Prayers for the victims of COVID-19 and racial injustice.



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, July 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, Jon Ailabouni, and Hayley Jackson.

Devotions and Initial Actions: Connie Buresh 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. Approve June 2020 council minutes.

Accept committee reports.

The Consent Agenda was approved by consent of the council.

Discussion Agenda:

Antiracism Institutional Policies: Jon Ailabouni shared a list of potential antiracist actions Good Shepherd could implement in order to further our commitment to being a radically welcoming congregation. The three actions he focused on were congregational leaders engaging in annual antibias training, adopting a racial justice statement, and forming an antiracism task force to research and review current institutional policies and recommend any alterations. Council members were generally in support of these ideas and agreed that such actions would support our mission to be welcoming to all. Much of the discussion concerned the nature and charge of a potential task force, the appointment process for task force members, timelines for creating a racial justice statement, how to involve the congregation in the process, and any lessons learned from the process to becoming a Reconciling in Christ Congregation that would aid in this process. Connie and Ann moved to approve the formation of a task force with the goal of formulating a racial justice statement and developing recommendations on antiracist policies and practices. Kerry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jon A. motioned that congregation council and leaders undertake annual implicit bias training. Hayley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jon A. offered to be the point person for coordinating the implicit bias training and John Moeller agreed to work with Pr. Amy on developing the task force.

GS Outdoor Service Recommendation: Pr. Amy asked to revisit the 50-person limit for outdoor services as described in Phase 1 of Good Shepherd's Reopening Plan. She suggested we could increase the limit to 100 people, as she had felt safe conducting an outdoor service of that size with everyone masked, and that having one larger service would be less work for both her and Brooke. Her thought was that Sunday services would be simple Communion and sermons would still be given online. Connie made the motion to increase the capacity of outdoor worship to up to 100 people. Jonathon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kinderhaus Update: Kinderhaus shared their fall opening plans with the Council, COVID Task Force, and Property and Management. Property and Management approved Kinderhaus's use of the Fellowship Hall when necessary. The plan ensures that they will remain on the east side of the building to minimize contact with church staff, staggered drop-off and pick-up times, and closure plans in the event of a positive diagnoses. Pr. Amy expressed her comfort with the plan and Council had no concerns.

Collaborative Learning Update: Pr. Amy shared updates regarding Kathryn Thompson's collaborative learning experience with Wartburg Seminary. Kathryn will start her duties at Luther College on August 1. Her title at Good Shepherd will then shift to Vicar of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. A ritual service to mark her new role will be planned for a future outdoor worship service. Good Shepherd and Luther are forming a Ministry Site Committee, including 4 members from each institution. Krista Holland has agreed to serve as a congregational representative, and Jane Jakoubek also will serve on the committee.

Fall Stewardship Update: Connie shared that the stewardship committee decided to shift this year's theme to incorporate new material sent out by the synod. The new theme is "You Are Not Alone – Good Shepherd is with You." Instead of a brochure, the committee plan to create a series of videos showcasing current ministries and their current activities to demonstrate how Good Shepherd is supporting the community. A large swag with the theme will be placed on the church lawn, and smaller lawn signs will be available for members to place in their lawns. Pr. Amy also shared that this year's stewardship goal for 2021 is not to increase giving but to maintain it at current levels.

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

The Committee Reports were received and accepted as submitted.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

Three memorial services were held in June and July. A graveside service was held for Anvy Wicks on June 29, 2020, an outdoor memorial was held for Suzanne Kittelson on July 7, 2020, and an outdoor memorial was held for Tabita Green on July 13, 2020. Two outdoor communion services were held on July 8 and July 12, 2020. We were not able to do Confirmation Sunday for our 3 Confirmands: Maggie Norris, Mason Cote and Bridget Parker. Some congregations are doing confirmation outside but Maggie had moved to North Carolina and can't travel to Decorah right now. We will do Confirmation Sunday as soon as possible. Synod Assembly was cancelled due to the pandemic. We were scheduled to elect a new bishop. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will appoint an interim bishop and the election for a new bishop will be held in 2021. For discussion of Kathryn Thompson's learning collaboration and the Ministry Site Committee, please see discussion above. Time away included 3 weekdays and 1 Sunday for Festival of Homiletics (May 18, 20, 22, and 24), as well as a continuing education course in May and June which required 1.5 hours per week for 6 weeks. Time away also included 12 weekdays (January 1-3, May 21, June 3-5, July 27-31). Pr. Marion will preach August 2, but Pr. Amy will record the rest of the service ahead of time. Letter of call allows 10 weekdays and 2 Sundays for continuing education and 20 weekdays and 4 Sundays for vacation.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

YTD Expense and Expenses: Total income to date is \$147,242.10 (compared to \$141,959.71 at this point in 2019) and expenses to date are \$151,139.77. This indicates a deficit of \$3,897.67; however, that the Youth Director salary and social security come from a separate fund, so we are running a surplus of about \$100. We are up to date on our benevolences. The PPP loan, which covered 2 months of salary and utilities, accounts for \$25,840.56 of our expenses.

SBA Loan: John is still waiting to hear details from the bank regarding asking for loan forgiveness. In the event loan forgiveness is an option, we will run a surplus to cushion us into the second half of the year and decisions will have to be made regarding its expenditure.

Current Giving: Giving is at \$140,319.28, which is less than the predicted \$150,000, but given the current economy and expenses, John believes we are in good shape.

Worship and Music: Jon Ailabouni

The Worship and Music Committee's work this month has focused solely on developing a plan and procedures for the July 8 and 12 outdoor communion services. Their report shared safety measures for services.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: July 23, 2020

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be August 18, 2020, 7:30 PM via Zoom

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. Pr. Amy Larson led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting. ---Submitted by Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30am - Online Worship @ 2	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 3	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 4	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 5	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 10am - Bible Study via 1:30pm - Properly and 6	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 4:30pm - Recording for 7	8 8
9:30am - Online Worship @ 11am - Communion Service 9	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 10	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 4:45pm - Education 11	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 9:30am - Worship and 12	Recycle 8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 10am - Bible Study via 7pm - Agenda Planning for 13	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 11am - Stewardship 4:30pm - Recording for 14	15 15
9:30am - Online Worship @ 16	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 17	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 7:30pm - Cong. Council 18	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 19	Newsletter Deadline 8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 10am - Bible Study via 20	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 4:30pm - Recording for 21	22 22
9:30am - Online Worship @ 11am - Communion Service 23	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 24	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 7pm - WELCA Zoom Circle 25	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 26	Kinderhaus First Day of Recycle 8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 10am - Bible Study via 27	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 4:30pm - Recording for 28	29 29
9:30am - Online Worship @ 30	8:30am - Office Hours - 9am - Pastor's Home Office 31	1	2	3	4	5

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

AUGUST 2020

The Shepherd's Voice

Contents:

Pastor Amy Larson

Visitation Pastor: Marian Pruitt-Jefferson

**Vicar of Children Youth and Family Ministry:
Kathryn Thompson**

Music Director: Brooke Joyce

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Werner

Email: decorahgoodshepherd@gmail.com

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

Church Office: 563-382-3963

Office Hours: M-F; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

