



The Shepherd's Voice

November 2020

Beloved of God,

As we enter into a difficult month for our country with many conspiracy theories and actual conspiracies, let's focus on God's beautiful conspiracy and on how we can conspire with God for the renewal and healing of creation. (Parts of this message are from the sermon on October 25, parts are new.)

First, God has begun a conspiracy! Our triune God conspires to free all of creation from bondage to sin. Conspire comes from the Latin word *conspirare* which means to breathe together. *Con* means with/together and *spirare* means breath. To conspire means to join together so closely that you are breathing together towards a common goal. It doesn't have to be a nefarious goal, though that's the connotation the word has taken on in modern times. It is about breathing together towards a shared purpose. This is what our triune God does within God's self and with us. God is, within God's self, relationship and community among the three persons of the Trinity. The three are joined so closely together that one way to describe God is a beautiful conspiracy, a beautiful breathing together, toward the goal of freeing creation from bondage to sin. God does not have a nefarious goal, but God is disruptive. God intends to break through all that traps and enslaves in order to free, renew and recreate. When you feel anxious as you hear about conspiracies this month, remember God's beautiful conspiracy.

Remember, too, that God draws us into this conspiracy, into breathing together with our triune God. God has come in Jesus to breathe with us, to join with us in being human, to be bound up in all of it with us. Now, nothing can separate us from God. God also pours out upon us the power of the Holy Spirit, the very breath of God. The Spirit dwells and breathes in us. By the power of the Spirit, we are drawn into *conspirare* - into breathing together with God. Together with the whole church, we are part of God's conspiracy. We are co-conspirators with God.

How do we conspire with God? We breathe and pray. We breathe in God's peace and breathe out peace and love for the sake of the world. We pray with the fear we have, asking God to transform it so that we don't breathe out more fear and anxiety. We look to God's word for guidance about how to co-conspire with God. In God's word we are instructed to love our neighbors and our enemies, to love all people. We pray for God to help us to do that in this difficult time. We pray for help in being people who work for justice and invite others to join in that work. We take a lot of deep breaths. We ask God for help often. And, we trust that God's conspiracy cannot be defeated. We breathe and pray and then act with love and work for justice.

Peace to you, Pastor Amy

Stewardship

You Are Not Alone

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is with You

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign is rolling full speed ahead now. The “You Are Not Alone” signs have been delivered. Some are still available for pick up at the church as well. These are not political signs, but a visual reminder that even though we are not gathering in our church building as of yet, we are a church, serving each other and active in our community. Our hope is for you to have your sign in a place where you can see it, to remind you of your belonging and your importance in our congregation. We’ve also heard wonderful testimonies in worship from members about the impact of our ministry during the pandemic. If you missed any of these videos you can view them [here](#).

Please be watching for a mailing that will help you prepare for **Stewardship Sunday on November 15**. This will include stories by those who shared the videos for us that have been shown during the on-line worship services, and a letter from Pastor Amy with the details of the appeal. **A Statement of Intent** will also be included. During online worship on November 15 you will be invited to declare your intent using the secure form on the website [here](#) or the enclosed paper form. You are welcome to submit an intent at any time. **We hope to have all Statements of Intent received by November 18 so we can begin budgeting for 2021.** Our committee will be calling members the week prior to November 15 to remind them to return their intents, either via the dropbox at church, or US Mail or on-line. The following week we will be making follow-up calls to check on those we have missed hearing from. We look forward to visiting with you, another way to stay in touch!

Even though we are not gathering in the church for worship services at this point, there is so much happening in Good Shepherd’s ministries, that we hope your responses will reflect our support for all that is happening to further the mission of Good Shepherd.

Good Shepherd Stewardship Committee: *Connie Buresh, Angie Sadler, Brent Parker*



Indoor Prayer and Communion Services

Starting in November (pending COVID status on global pandemic tracker)

On November 22 and Sundays during the Advent Season (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20)

An invitation to signup online will be sent in November

If fewer than 20 people sign up by the Wednesday before the service, we will not hold the service.

We will closely monitor case counts in our county using this global tracking metric <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/> and will suspend indoor communion services whenever our county is in the red zone.

Guidelines for these services.

Many experts in a variety of fields have helped institutions establish guidelines for mitigating the spread of the coronavirus when gathering indoors. These experts generally describe 4 pillars:

- 1) Time
- 2) Masking
- 3) Physical Distancing
- 4) Air exchange

All are important, with the goal of maximizing the effectiveness of each pillar. In general, the recommendations are:

- 1) Time: less time indoors is better. The “clouds” of aerosols and droplets that might circulate in a room become more concentrated after 30 minutes (this seems to be the benchmark for just about any size room, depending on the number of people in the room).
- 2) Masking: everyone is masked at all times.
- 3) Physical Distancing: 6 feet or more between people (or households).
- 4) Air exchange: this is the number of times that the air in the room is exchanged for outside air. There are benchmarks and ranges for different types of buildings and situations—private homes may have 1-3 exchanges per hour, while hospitals may have as many as 12. There are no hard and fast rules for churches, but the target recommendation seems to be 6 or more. Furthermore, it is recommended that HVAC units have filters with high “MERV” ratings, which measure the effectiveness of the filter in catching miniscule particles.

For indoor communion services we will follow these guidelines

- 1) Time: Services will be no more than 30 minutes from the time of entering the building to the time of departure. Congregants will need to sign-up in advance and sign in at the door.
- 2) Masking: All congregants will be masked, all ages.
- 3) Physical Distancing: 6 or more feet between individuals/households. Our pews can either accommodate a family in one pew or only a maximum of 2 individuals from different households. The total capacity, therefore, is not a hard and fast number, but rather, it depends on how many individuals and households might sign up.
- 4) Air exchange: The sanctuary uses two HVAC units. With both of those units running continuously, the air exchange rate is approximately 5.8 times per hour, just short of the benchmark. Both of our units will be outfitted with MERV-13 filters. Furthermore, Good Shepherd owns a high-tech air purifier that further aids the filtration of air in the building.

These services will feature no singing and minimal congregational speaking. We are working on a way to easily and quickly serve communion that keeps congregants distanced from one another. We will also develop protocols for entering and exiting the building and sanctuary quickly and safely.

Prepared by the Worship and Music Committee. Reviewed and modified by the COVID-19 Task Force. Approved by the Congregation Council on Oct. 20, 2020.

STAY CONNECTED WHILE WE ARE APART

SUNDAYS AT GOOD SHEPHERD – NOVEMBER 2020

All the info you need can be found here:

<https://www.goodshepherddecorah.org/sundays-at-good-shepherd-fall-2020/>

Online Worship on YouTube – [Online Worship Link](#) online worship premieres at 9:30am with live chat. Participate then or anytime later.

Outdoor Prayer and Communion Service - All Saints Day, November 1, 5 p.m.

Indoor Communion Service - November 22 & 29 -11a.m. (An invitation to signup online will be sent later)

Zoom Coffee Hour – [Zoom Coffee Hour](#)- every week 10:30 a.m.

Zoom Youth Forum (2nd and 4th Sundays-10:30 am) <https://luther.zoom.us/j/99618986129>

Zoom Sunday School – (1st and 3rd Sundays) <https://luther.zoom.us/j/99137551020> also see the Sunday School video on [YouTube.com](#)

Luther College KWLC will broadcast our Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.

STUDY & DEVOTIONALS

- **Zoom Bible Study Thursdays 10 a.m.** Join in by clicking here: [Zoom Bible Study](#)
- **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.
- **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.

A Prayer for the Good Shepherd Congregation

offered by Jane Jakoubek

Loving God, thank you for creating the people of Good Shepherd in your image with hearts yearning for justice and peace--within our world, within our nation and communities, within our homes, within our hearts, Thank you for creating us with a desire to use the gifts you have given us to serve your world.

Thank you for shepherding us in this time of COVID. Thank you for all those who are at work to find solutions, those on the front lines caring for others, and all who are employed providing essential goods and services. Thank you for encouraging us as we work to protect each other, care for those who are ill, grieve those we have lost, and live amidst the challenges that the pandemic has brought us all.

Merciful God, thank you for supporting us during and through the election. Thank you for giving the candidates, those elected, and all of us the wisdom, courage, and humility to work together on behalf of the common good. Thank you for helping each of us find our place to serve, to reach out to those whose views differ from ours, and to recognize that your justice rises above partisanship because of your infinite compassion, unfailing mercy, and continual call to live together in your love.

God of abundance, thank you for the month of November, with its invitation to recognize that changes and seasons are part of life; that letting go and allowing for a fallow time is a step toward resurrection and new birth; and that being grateful is the most life-giving way to live in the world. Thank you for being with us as we find new ways to celebrate safely in this time. Thank you for giving us shelter and food; thank you for helping us care for those who struggle to find safe shelter and to feed their families. Thank you for being present this Thanksgiving in our hearts, at our table, among all those with whom we gather and those we hold in our hearts. Amen.

November Scriptures

Sunday, November 1 All Saints Sunday	Revelation 7:9-17 The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb	Psalm 34:1-10, 22 Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord; for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.	1 John 3:1-3 We are God's children	Matthew 5:1-12 Blessed are the poor in spirit
Sunday, November 8 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24 Let justice roll down like waters	Psalm 70 You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 The promise of the resurrection	Matthew 25:1-13 The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids
Sunday, November 15 24th Sunday after Pentecost	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 The day of the Lord	Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Be alert for the day of the Lord	Matthew 25:14-30 The story of the slaves entrusted with talents
Sunday, November 22 Christ the King	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 God will shepherd Israel	Psalm 95:1-7a We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.	Ephesians 1:15-23 The reign of Christ	Matthew 25:31-46 The coming of the Son of Man; the separation of sheep and goats
Sunday, November 29 First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9 Prayer that God would come with power and compassion	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.	1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end	Mark 13:24-37 The sudden coming of the Son of Man

2020 Christmas Sunday School Program

Our Education Committee and leaders have been working diligently to figure out a way to have our wonderful annual Good Shepherd Christmas program while keeping everyone safe and healthy. We are planning a virtual program this year that will hopefully bring some joy and a bit of normalcy to all of us!

Our 2 mornings for *practice via Zoom* are going to be December 6th and 20th during our regular Sunday School time. On the evening of the 20th, we will have our LIVE Zoom performance and will record the performance. Once we record the performance, our wonderful Brooke Joyce will edit the video to include instrumentals (more on that later) and we will send the entire video out to the GS congregation to enjoy during the holidays. The video will only be available through the link provided to the Good Shepherd congregation members for the privacy of our families.

We know it is early but at this time we are asking families to commit to participating in the performance in order to allow Vicar Kathryn to assign parts as soon as possible. If your family is available on December 6th and 20th and would like to participate in the annual program, please reply and let me know so I can add your name to the list. We also recognize that making a commitment so far in advance can be difficult, especially for families with small children. While we would like our older youth (who will have a speaking part) to commit asap, if you are a family with little ones, please know that we ALWAYS have room for more sheep and angels in the program. If you decide later that your family would like to join in the program, we WILL find a part for your little one. Just contact Bridget or Vicar Kathryn! Once parts are assigned, our committee will arrange to deliver the costumes and scripts to your family in a Covid-safe way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bridget Parker. Thank you, as always, for sharing your children with the Good Shepherd Congregation. They bring so much joy to all of us!

Regards, the GS Education Committee -
Bridget Parker, Ann Naslund, Kris Peterson

Good Shepherd Announcements

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2021 are available for pick-up. Please call the church office (382-3963) to arrange a pickup on whatever day is convenient for you.

THANK YOU FROM THE SUMMER PHOTO TEAM!

Thank you to the Good Shepherd congregation for helping us get photos of the smiles we are missing now. Thanks to Pr. Amy for encouraging us to get photos for the Sunday videos. Thanks to Jenny Warner for filing the photos and using them so creatively in the worship videos. Thanks to all those who arranged times for getting photos, those who sent in photos, and those who gave permission for using Facebook photos. Altogether, we have approximately 140 new or newly submitted photos to use. Our directory and website have a fresh, new look now. Photos have been posted as website homepage sliders; they are also posted on flickr and gathered together in an album called "Congregation Members During Covid". *The Summer 2020 photography team: Jane Jakoubek, Jane Kemp and Jeri Laursen*

USE OF CHURCH DROP BOX: Please mark envelopes and packages that you drop off with a **recipients name** so we know if we should leave it in the box for a pickup or bring it inside for the church office. Thank you!

The **DECORAH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY** Volunteers and Board members extend their gratitude to the many congregations and members who have donated financially to the Food Pantry. Such generosity allows us to keep serving those in need. In September there were 356 client visits with 1024 family members. Currently we are in need of *small bottles of cooking oil and dish soap* and we stress small. Please bring your items directly to the Food Pantry any day between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm- 110 Railroad St. Donations can be sent to PO Box 26, Decorah.

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED: November 3 to allow for voting and November 26 & 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

MUSICIANS NEEDED FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

Music Director Brooke Joyce invites students, singers, and instrumentalists of all ages to be part of Choir, Band, and Handbell Choir this fall. The Band and Choir exist virtually, with members recording themselves individually and Brooke mixing the recordings to create musical offerings for online worship.

The next Handbell rehearsal/recording session will be physically distanced, in-person in the Good Shepherd Sanctuary on November 18. If you would like to join any of these musical groups but haven't participated before, email Brooke at wbjoyce3@gmail.com.

Northeast Iowa Community College will induct three Winneshiek County residents into its **Hall of Fame**. Mary Sender, Kristina Wiltgen, and **Marilyn Anderson** will be recognized in ceremonies on November 12th. Marilyn Anderson has worked as an English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor, immigrant resettlement advocate, volunteer and devoted instructor for decades and helped local communities see how international and multicultural northeast Iowa truly is. Please note that **Marilyn has a new email address** in the online directory.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE November 19



Greetings to all. This is the time that we would normally be revising our WELCA booklets for the next year. Since this has not been a normal year and many have not met for circle, I will leave the hostesses the same for next year and just change the dates in the booklet. *Please contact Bev if you would like to make a change.* Hopefully we will be able to meet in person sometime next year.

We will meet via Zoom on November 17 at 7 pm for our circle meeting. This is a week earlier because of the Thanksgiving holiday (originally planned when we thought everyone would be busy getting ready for a family dinner or traveling). Angie Sadler will lead the discussion. Please contact Bev Sheridan or Pastor Amy for information to join the meeting or if you need a copy of the Bible study. All are welcome.

Gather Bible Study

In this three-session Bible study, the Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni invites us to remember the past, recognize the present and reimagine the future.

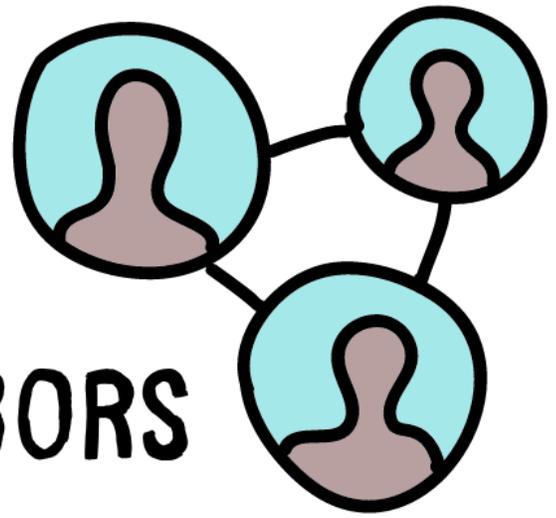
Session 3: Holy future-reimagining the time to come

During this fall Bible study series on the theme of “holy time” we’ve pondered how God is present with us in all the times of our lives-past, present and future. This month we turn toward the times to come and God’s promise to be with us always, leading us into the holy future. (from the Gather Magazine)

November Circle Schedule

11/17 - WELCA Zoom Circle Mtg. Gather Study - 7 pm

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



We are a community of support for immigration-involved folks in Northeast Iowa. We draw on long-term relationships—and build new ones!—to empower our neighbors to meet their needs in crisis and navigate the immigration system with dignity and accompaniment.

WANT TO BE IN SOLIDARITY? TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER:



OFFER A RIDE

Accompany a local individual or family to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) check-in, lawyer appointment, or court date

You need: A driver's license, a registered and insured vehicle, a complete background check on file, 5+ hours (roundtrip),

Destinations vary; Cedar Rapids and Iowa City are most common. Some Spanish skills are helpful but not required. Drivers must be 18+ years old.

We can provide: Gas and food money (reimbursed), temporary plastic sheeting for inside your car (if desired) and guidance on other COVID-19 precautions



HELP HAUL FURNITURE

Work with another volunteer to gather, store, and deliver furniture to families who need it

You need: About 2 hours and the ability to lift heavy items as part of a team

We can provide: A van or truck and an experienced volunteer

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, October 20, 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: Hayley 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 September 20 council minutes.

Approve reports as submitted.

The Consent Agenda was approved by consent of the council.

Discussion Agenda:

Mission Endowment Fund Options/Brochure: To engage Council in a discussion about the future of the Mission Endowment Fund, Pr. Amy and Linda, proposed Council members consider 1) the level of commitment they have towards growing the fund, 2) if Good Shepherd should reconsider its methods of developing new leaders and how we might support additional initiatives towards that, and 3) four proposed options for managing the MEF. These options included 1) spending down the principal and interest, perhaps allowing the congregation to provide more generous scholarships for a time, 2) maintain the current status quo, using 4% market value interest to provide scholarships, 3) intentionally grow the principal using *Stewardship for All Seasons* guidelines, and 4) intentionally grow the principal using a variety of strategies, including using *Stewardship for All Seasons* guidelines and moving low-yielding investments to higher-yielding investments. Questions and discussion from Council included clarifying the mission and goals of the MEF, clarifying current scholarship application procedures, potential benefits and drawbacks to a competitive approach to scholarships, and designating responsibility for managing the portfolio and portfolio management protocols. After discussion, Council ruled out spending down the principle as an option, settling on option 3, supporting the MEF committee in working to increase the principal using *Stewardship for All Seasons* guidelines. Council then revisited the request from the MEF committee posed during the September meeting for funds to print brochures about the fund. Connie moved to approve the printing of proposed Mission Endowment Fund brochure. Robert Fitton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Worship and Music Committee Proposal: Pr. Amy shared the Worship and Music committee's proposed guidelines and rationale for future indoor communion services. These services would be similar to our outdoor communion services, featuring minimal congregational speaking and no singing. Their guidelines are based on the 4 pillars of mitigating spread: time (less spent indoors is better), masking (everyone masked at all times), physical distance (maintaining 6 ft of distance), and air exchange (inside air being exchanged for outside air on a regular basis – different environments have different benchmarks, with 6 exchanges or more being recommended for churches. HVAC units with filters having a high MERV rating are recommended). Based on these, the committee proposed that indoor communion services follow the following recommendations: 1) Services last no longer than 30 minutes, requiring advance sign-up and signing in at the door (as we do now for outdoor services). 2) All congregants will be masked, all ages. 3) 6 or more feet between individuals/households. Our pews can either accommodate a family in one pew or only a maximum of 2 individuals from different households. The total capacity, therefore, is not a hard and fast number, but rather, it depends on how many individuals and households might sign up. 4) The sanctuary uses two HVAC units. With both of those units running continuously, the air exchange rate is approximately 5.8 times per hour, just short of the benchmark. Both of our units can be outfitted with MERV-13 filters. Furthermore, Good Shepherd owns a high-tech air purifier that further aids the filtration of air in the building. The committee recommended that we follow Harvard's tracking metrics, suggesting that indoor services only be offered when Winneshiek County was considered orange or below (currently we are in the red). The motion from the Worship and Music committee was to go forward with indoor worship services as outlined in the WM guidelines and recommendations once we are no longer in the "red zone." Motion seconded by Kerry Johnson, passed unanimously.

Sidewalk Funding Proposal: Pr. Amy shared that a Good Shepherd member has offered an alternate proposal to fund the sidewalk. This member had given \$20,000 for the movable wall to be purchased for the west wall of the Adult SS/Narthex expansion area. It now appears that the movable door will cost less than \$12,000. This member has proposed that we use \$8,000 of that money

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originally given for the wall to pay for the sidewalk instead. That \$8,000 and the undesignated memorial funds that the Council designated for the sidewalk should get us very close to the cost of the sidewalk. The following motion was made: Move \$8,000 out of moveable wall fund to pay for the sidewalk. Motion seconded by Robert Fitton. Motion passed unanimously. In an email on October 22, Pr. Amy shared that the current sidewalk total was currently \$9,244.75 and asked Council to consider using general funds to pay the remaining balance. John Moeller moved that we use general funds to pay for the difference between the \$8,000.00 already allocated for the cost of the sidewalk and the final cost of the sidewalk. Kerry seconded over email, and the motion passed unanimously over email.

Options for Using PPP Funds: Pr. Amy shared a proposal from Reg Laursen that the surplus funds (estimated \$10,000) from Good Shepherd's Payment Protection Program (PPP) loan be used to aid known individuals or entities such as the Mutual Aid Network to ensure that we can assist those who are impacted by the pandemic. Council members were supportive of the idea, but wanted assurance that the loan would be forgiven. John indicated there was no reason to believe it would not be forgiven, as it was used for payroll and utilities as specified, but agreed that decisions should not be finalized until we had documentation regarding forgiveness. Pr. Amy clarified for Council how the Mutual Aid Network distributed funds through the Northeast Iowa Action Corporation Action Fund, which both directs people to other aid options and provides relief for those who have exhausted other options. The motion was made to give \$10,000 of the PPP funds to the Mutual Aid Network if and as soon as the loan is forgiven. Keep the rest, \$21,000, in the general fund for now until we determine the impact of the pandemic on our finances. Motion seconded by Kerry, passed unanimously. On October 26, John and Pr. Amy received confirmation of the loan's forgiveness, and alerted Council by email that they would begin the transfer of approved funds to the Mutual Aid Network.

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

The Committee Reports were received and accepted as submitted.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

Pr. Amy noted that memorial funds given to honor Suzanne Kittelson will be used for the new benches in the front of the church. She has spent significant time on the collaborative partnership with Luther College, as Anne Edison-Albright has been elected bishop of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin and is currently working on revising the job description for Luther's expectations of the collaborative learning student. Outdoor visits to share communion were popular during warmer months, and some have asked for indoor visits. She has navigated those on a case-by-case basis, keeping them short and masked. She shared her gratitude for the congregation shepherds assisting her in providing pastoral care, as it is difficult for her to check in with everyone regularly, and is grateful for those who provide her updates by phone or email.

Continuing Education: 3 weekdays for Festival of Homiletics- May 18, 20, 22 & 1 Sunday, May 24, continuing education class via Zoom in May and June, 1.5 hours per week for six weeks. (10 weekdays & 2 Sundays allowed in letter of call)

Vacation: 3 weekdays January 1-3, 1 weekday- May 21; 3 weekdays- June 3-5, 5 weekdays- July 27-31 and 1 Sunday, 1 weekday and 1 Sunday- September 4-6 (20 weekdays & 4 Sundays allowed in letter of call).

Education Committee: Ann Naslund

This year's Christmas Program will be performed virtually via Zoom and the edited recording will be sent out to all of the GS congregation to enjoy for the holidays.

2) Sunday School and Youth Forum are going well. The children are enjoying being able to connect with their friends in-person and via Zoom

3) We anticipate Kathryn taking some time off once the baby arrives. Committee members and parents will be asked to fill in as needed until she returns to her duties.

Stewardship Committee: Connie Buresh

The stewardship ordered 100 "You Are Not Alone" yard signs and has extras. Anyone is welcome to a sign, even if you did not originally request one. Signs should be kept up through stewardship season.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Income: Total offering this year is currently \$213,690.73, which is lower than the anticipated \$225,000.00 predicted based on statements of intent. Expected giving is behind \$11,309.27. Additionally, we are behind on non-budget income.

Income versus Expense: YTD Income is currently \$222,127.64, YTD Expense is currently \$226,966.78. Currently running a deficit of about \$4839.14. As the Youth Director's salary (\$6,071.64) comes from a different source, we have a surplus of \$1,232.50, excluding the PPP loan.

SBA Loan: John submitted paperwork to the Small Business Administration for forgiveness for the PPP loan. We were able to apply for forgiveness for the entire \$31,750.00. As of October 26, John has confirmation that the loan has been forgiven.

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Additional Information: Initial issues in the geothermal system have been corrected, so the gas and electric bills have been low, indicating that despite high electricity bills earlier in the year, we are likely to come in under budget for gas and electricity. We are in good shape paying our benevolences.

Announcements:

Devotion Leaders for Council needed November – January.

Newsletter Deadline: October 22, 2020

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be November 17, 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

Augsburg Fortress, the Publishing House of the ELCA which operates under 1517 Media, has issued the following statement about a composer of some of the hymns in our ELW hymnal. "we [have] learned through media channels about multiple accusations of sexual misconduct against David Haas, a prominent composer of liturgical music used in various denominations. 1517 Media stands unequivocally against sexual violence, especially when it is carried out by leaders who take advantage of their positions, claiming authority and using it in manipulative ways. Internally, we have a strong commitment to non-discrimination and non-harassment, and we conduct ongoing training on sexual harassment as well as in other areas of professional and intercultural competency. In our publishing programs for books and congregational resources, we apply standards and procedures for due diligence when vetting creative contributors. Although 1517 Media does not have a publishing relationship with Mr. Haas, hymnals published by Augsburg Fortress through 2006 have included several of his works licensed from GIA Publications, which recently suspended its sponsorship and publishing relationship with him. We have no plans to license his works for future publications. We stand with survivors of sexual assault and those affected by abuse in any form, and we renew our commitment to maintain a healthy workplace and to publish with integrity that extends also to our creative partners, to the best of our ability." Our Northeastern Iowa Synod S.A.F.E. Ministry Team has issued the following statement: "Given these allegations, many congregations are choosing not to use the hymns of David Haas in worship. That is especially true in this time of pandemic when printing hymns in bulletins, projecting them on screens, and including them as a part of online live streams and recordings would lead to Mr. Haas receiving royalties through licensing agreements. The hymns published in the ELW are: #500 Now We Remain, #581 You Are Mine, #720 We Are Called, and #728 Blest Are They. As always, we condemn any and all forms of sexual misconduct and sexual harassment in our congregations, synod, denomination, the Church universal, and in society. And we stand with and support all victims of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct."

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>All Saints Day</p> <p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Zoom Coffee</p> <p>10:45am - Sunday school</p> <p>5pm - Short Prayer &</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Bell ringing</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>VOTER POLLING LOCATION</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study via</p> <p>1:30pm - Properly and</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>4:30pm - Recording for</p>	
<p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:08am - Youth Forum @</p> <p>10:30am - Zoom Coffee</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Bell ringing</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>4:45pm - Education</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study via</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Stewardship</p> <p>4:30pm - Recording for</p>	
<p>Jazz Worship Online</p> <p>Stewardship Intent Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Zoom Coffee</p> <p>10:45am - Sunday School</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Bell ringing</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>7:30pm - Cong. Council</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p>	<p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study via</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>4:30pm - Recording for</p>	
<p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:08am - Youth Forum @</p> <p>10:30am - Zoom Coffee</p> <p>11am - Communion Service</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Bell ringing</p> <p>1pm - Worship and Music</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>7pm - WELCA Zoom Circle</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>4:30pm - Recording for</p>	
<p>1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Zoom Coffee</p> <p>11am - Advent Communion</p>	<p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Bell ringing</p>					

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

701 Iowa Avenue

Decorah IA 52101

NOVEMBER 2020

The Shepherd's Voice

Pastor Amy Larson

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

