

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Good Shepherd Is With You

Prayer Shawl Ministry was started at Good Shepherd by Marion Hanson in 2005. Since that time we have given around 650 shawls, scarves and prayer squares to family and friends near and far. During the pandemic we have found a way to keep in touch with our members through emails; sharing greetings and photos of our current shawl projects. Jeri Laursen delivers or sends our prayer shawls to those in need of comfort, healing and peace. You are not alone. - **Marie Freerking**



Seminarian Support - Good Shepherd has impacted Sara and I deeply during this ever-changing pandemic time. We have been refreshed by Good Shepherd members in many ways including: receiving flowers delivered to our house, emails and phone calls of support, and impromptu physical distanced chats when we run into fellow members on walks. Good Shepherd supports my entire family in who we are. By allowing Sara and I to be ourselves, we have a space to explore our gifts, personalities, our needs and wants, and our future - **Kathryn Thompson**

Good Shepherd Virtual Choir - One of my favorite things at Good Shepherd is participating in choir. Because of the pandemic, choral singing in person isn't possible. Now we're singing again, virtually! As scary as it is to sing all by myself and record it for our virtual choir, what a wonderful gift to be part of a musical group again. Thank you to Brooke and my fellow choir members for this opportunity. You are not alone! - **Kathy Buzza**



Good Shepherd Virtual Band - When the Good Shepherd Band gets together, we try to share faith and joy with everyone through our music. We hope that it works just as well now on YouTube as it does in the sanctuary. If people can look...and listen...past our technical flaws, we'll keep trying to share in that way. - **Jim Buzza**



Masks - I have made 3,116 masks and counting! I feel I have a purpose and something very important to contribute to the community and beyond. The demand for masks continues and I will just keep on sewing until this virus gets under control and masks are no longer needed. I am part of the *Seamstress Union of Winneshiek County* (30,000 masks made for this community). The contributions from the community for masks has allowed the SUWC to purchase fabric and elastic for the seamstresses. Be safe....wear your masks. For yourself and for others. You are not alone. - **Jeri Laursen**

Good Shepherd Children's Sermons - "We like to go up front for the children's sermon and listen to the stories with our friends. We like to dip the bread for communion and give people hugs." - **Ani (age 5) and Quinn (age 3) Anderson**



Homebound Visitation - Since early 2019, it has been my privilege to visit several homebound



Good Shepherd members who live in local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. During the pandemic I've kept in touch via regular phone calls and cards. It was a real joy to have an in-person visit with one of our elders this summer during a brief period of permitted outdoor visits! I look forward to the time when in-person visits will be possible again; until then, I continue with calls and cards. Our elders are not alone during this difficult time. And you are not alone. - **Pam Torresdal**

Outdoor Communion Services - We have a strong belief in Word AND Sacrament, thus the outdoor communion worship experience was greatly appreciated. We are hopeful that there will be more of these experiences. We believe our spiritual wellbeing is essential. Gathering together to worship God is also essential. **Mike & Laurie Tallman**



Landscape Committee - Good Shepherd is blessed with two acres of spacious lawn, perennial beds, and the Reformation Grove of many tree varieties. Outdoor planters provide seasonal reminders from Easter lilies to Christmas trees. The walnut tree canopy of our next-door neighbor supplies shade for our outdoor worship. These spaces enhance the church's message to welcome all. You are not alone! **Norma Refsal**

Virtual VBS - Our children really enjoyed VBS this year. After being physically distanced from friends from church and the community for months, it was wonderful for them to once again connect. The stories and lessons about compassion and standing up for oneself and others were especially appreciated. Thank you to the Education Committee, the Good Shepherd community, and Kathryn Thompson! - **Liza Hicken**



Online Worship - The on-line worship service has worked well for me. I look forward to it when I wake up in my Aase Haugen Assisted Living apartment. The online experience helps me to focus on the liturgy with its prayers and the sermon. I love the nature photos beneath the texts. They draw in the outside world to which I have limited access, the expression of the unique local beauty of creation, the abundance of color and the wideness of the sky that points me toward life beyond Decorah. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this technological feat. - **Jutta F. Anderson**

Shepherds - I have been blessed to be a Shepherd and have valued my contacts with members of our flock, most of whom minister to me as much or more than I ever could to them. I have appreciated the chance to find out more about people's daily lives and families, and to share concerns and ideas for coping with all the change we have been confronted with. I value the "prompt" the Shepherd's role has given me to pray regularly for not only members of the flock, but for our pastors, staff, and others in the congregation. - **Marty Steele**



Monday Bell Ringing - On May 21 I found out that two of my cousins had Covid 19 virus. I was very surprised – up until that point I had not known anyone with the disease and it was not a reality. The prayer bell was a way for me to pray and reflect with my Good Shepherd family while not being in the church itself. After my cousins passed away, within 10 days of each other, I needed a place to worship and the Monday morning prayer bell provided that. I was not able to attend the memorial service but the bell ringing has helped me with my grieving process. I am very appreciative of Pastor Amy, Jane and David Judisch for making this opportunity available in our beautiful backyard. And remember, at Good Shepherd, you are not alone. - **Bev Sheridan**



Path to Citizenship is a 501(c)3 organization that has been partnering with Iowa Justice for our Neighbors (JFON), a faith-driven ministry that has provided free, high-quality immigration legal services, education, and advocacy across the State of Iowa. We are now entering a new phase since JFON is joining another organization and is going to be renamed Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (Iowa MMJ). We continue to raise \$20,000 annually to support this important work. We now have seven Board of Directors that meet quarterly to coordinate fundraising and holding clinics, now mostly online meetings. - **Dave Judisch**



Youth Activities - Virtual participation in Vacation Bible School and Youth Forum have been unexpected but very welcome activities over the last few months. During Youth Forum over Zoom, Maggie is able to share highs and lows and chat about world events and daily life with her peers at Good Shepherd. Having an outlet to share different perspectives in a safe space is so important for teenagers, especially during this pandemic. **The Norris Family**



Women of the ELCA Circles - I have been active in Bible Study Circles most of my adult life and I really value the opportunity. There is much wisdom in the Bible which still enriches our lives today. I appreciate that the CLA Circles has opened its zoom meetings to all the women of Good Shepherd. The "Gather" magazine Bible Study encourages us to share examples from our own lives. When we listen and share and learn, we can feel that we are not alone. **Carol Hasvold**

Bible Study - This is a great way to help prepare for Sunday's worship. The ZOOM aspect is also helpful in connecting with the others and actually seeing their faces. **Joyce Epperly**

