

The Shepherd's Voice

January 2021

Beloved of God,

During the worship service on December 27, you got to see some of the “behind the scenes” pictures of our youth creating a Zoom Christmas Program as a gift for you all. I want to tell you more of the “behind the scenes” stories that went into making Advent and Christmas 2020 such a memorable time.

In November, Vicar Kathryn worked to update our Christmas program script to work for Zoom. It is a beautiful script that she wrote for Good Shepherd a few years ago. I am so grateful for Kathryn’s theological reflection and wise teaching of our kids through this year of pandemic. The Education Committee then delivered costumes to homes along with supplies for kids to make simple Advent wreaths at home. The youth practiced on Zoom twice before the recording. Families also recorded music at home. It was such a gift to see our youth share good news. It was such a blessing to see families making music together. I was also deeply blessed to see pictures of one family praying with the Advent wreath in front of a laptop. I also loved seeing families come into the sanctuary to light the Advent wreath.

In November, Brooke worked to prepare music for choir and band members so that they could record themselves at home. Members rehearsed the music on their own and then submitted the recordings to Brooke to mix together for Advent and Christmas Eve worship services. This was such a labor of love for all involved. The technology for recording at home is daunting, so Brooke also made the sanctuary available for individual recording sessions. At one point in December he wrote to all the musicians to say, “There is nothing more inspiring than sitting in my office at GS and hearing our dear Dick Ylvisaker record himself singing ‘O Come All Ye Faithful’ in the sanctuary. He sounds great!” That email brought me to tears of gratitude and joy.

Our Administrative Assistant, Jenny, continued to work hard on the beautiful worship pictures with text and lyrics we use for worship. Most of the pictures Jenny uses for the videos are submitted by members. Thank you all for those! We use PowerPoint for working with the pictures and texts and the week before Christmas our PowerPoint program stopped syncing between our computers. This meant that the Christmas Eve service you saw was version 4! I am so grateful for Jenny’s patient and steady work on video production this year.

Brooke edited six worship services between December 20-27: two Sunday services, one Advent midweek worship, Christmas Eve, the audio only service of readings and music, and the Christmas program. He was aided by others but almost all the work fell to Brooke. I am so deeply grateful for all his work on the worship videos for the past ten months. We are trying different ways of getting him support for this video editing work.

The Worship and Music Committee was also hard at work during December. We offered three outdoor Holy Communion services in the parking lot as well as a service of Holy Communion on Zoom. We also prepared a luminary display outside the church on the longest night of the year. The luminaries were also a gift for members to bring home and light on Christmas Eve. I delivered luminaries to a number of members who couldn’t get out to church on that week before Christmas.

(Continued on page 2)

During December our Shepherds continued to reach out to their flocks. Our homebound visitation folks continued to check in on members. Many members brought cookies and treats to those in care facilities. The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) gathered baby care kit supplies for Lutheran World Relief. We wrote letters of support and encouragement to immigrants in detention centers. We continued to ring the bell and pray for COVID victims and for racial justice every Monday at 11am. Our Outreach and Hospitality Committee sent holiday care packages to our seminarians and deaconess candidate. Our Landscape Subcommittee made the outside of the building look festive. The Altar Guild made the worship videos beautiful with flowers. Readers and Assisting Ministers continued to record on Zoom and for Christmas services they came into the sanctuary to read and pray while wearing masks. Our Prayer Shawl ministry continued to “meet” via email and continued to share prayer shawls with those in need. Our Communications Subcommittee continued to work hard to keep us connected. Our Bible study continued to meet to study God’s word and pray. Our Stewardship Committee celebrated a fruitful stewardship campaign. Our Property and Management Committee continued all their hard work. Our Congregation Council addressed governance and constitutional issues. Our Racial Justice Task Force met twice. Our Nominating Committee started its work. (If you are invited to share in leadership next year, please prayerfully consider the invitation. This is a wonderful time to be part of leadership at Good Shepherd!)

We shared the message of Christmas, the good news of great joy, in so many ways! We will continue to share this good news that God is with us in Jesus as we enter 2021. I give thanks for you and all the ways you support this ministry with your prayers, encouragement, financial support and participation. For all that we did together in 2020 I say, thanks be to God!

Peace, Pr. Amy

Youth Education

Sunday School and Youth Forum are ready to resume in 2021!

ALL SS/YF activities/Family Worship will take place at 10:45am on Sundays on Zoom.

Reminders and links will be sent each week to families.

Children's Sermons will also be posted to the Good Shepherd YouTube channel twice each month.

Family Worship; once a month during the Sunday School time at 10:45am, families with children are invited to worship together with Vicar Kathryn and Pastor Amy via Zoom. We will sing and pray and share in worship activities designed to connect with children. This will be offered in addition to the 9:30am service on YouTube.

Sunday School / Family Worship [link here](#). Youth Forum [link here](#).

Here is the calendar for both January and February:

Jan 10 - Sunday School

Jan 17 - Youth Forum

Jan 24 - Family Worship (Sunday School participants and families)

Jan 31 - Youth Forum

Feb 7 - Sunday School

Feb 14 - NO PROGRAMMING

Feb 21 - Family Worship (Sunday School participants and families)

Feb 28 - Youth Forum

Organizational Support Committee Proposal

Approved by the Congregation Council December 15, 2020

Proposal: Remove budget, insurance, and management responsibilities from the Property and Management Committee and form a new Organizational Support Committee (OSC) that is responsible for annual budget formulation, insurance reviews, church audits, and staffing support. The proposal was brought by the Property and Management Committee chair, Robert Fitton, and Congregational President, Linda Donoghue.

Rationale: Most congregations do not combine the work of caring for property and the work of overseeing the organization. Having two committees would reduce the workload for the Property Committee and allow for more attention to important organizational issues.

Responsibilities of the Organizational Support Committee:

1. Construct a proposed annual congregation budget in consultation with the pastor, congregational treasurer and vice president. Present the proposed budget first to the Congregation Council for review and approval and then to the Congregation for approval during its annual meeting.
2. Annually review insurance policies and coverage with policy representatives to ensure that existing coverage and church operating procedures related to insurance coverage are appropriate. Recommend proposed changes in insurance coverage to the Congregation Council.
3. Annually provide for an independent audit evaluating financial records and internal controls of the congregation to provide an opinion on the reasonableness of the congregation's financial statements and recommend improvements in internal controls.
4. Maintain and update the Employee Handbook (currently in draft form). Assist the pastor and council in preparing staff position descriptions and recruiting candidates.

Periodically review facilities use policies and fee structure for rentals

Membership and Operation:

The Organizational Support Committee will consist of three members serving 3-year terms that will be staggered to ensure continuity and ability to share expertise with incoming new committee members.

Committee members will support and help one another throughout the year due to the intermittent needs and requirements of the work which will dictate the meeting schedule. Members may also ask for assistance in conducting their work if needed.

The committee will be connected to the Congregation Council through the treasurer. A committee member will not be asked to serve on the council.

Implementation: The OSC will be established beginning in February 2021, and will serve in a "trial" capacity through October 2022. At that time, it will be evaluated to determine how well it is working and if additional changes are needed. The congregation can then decide whether or not to make this an established committee and amend the constitution accordingly.

At the December 2020 meeting, the Congregation Council voted to suspend amending the constitution relating to the audit for the trial period of the Organizational Support Committee, which includes the audit for 2021. (The audit for 2020 will proceed with an Audit Committee.)

Additionally, the Congregation Council voted to rename the Property and Management Committee to become the Facilities and Grounds Committee. The Congregation Council approved changes to this committee's Continuing Resolution to reflect a change of responsibilities for the committee now that an Organizational Support Committee has been established. That new Continuing Resolution will be shared in advance of the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting

Dear Good Shepherd Members,

We are beginning to prepare for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation which will be held on **Sunday, February 7, 2021, at 11:00 am via Zoom.** You will receive more information and the Annual Report later in January. For now, we need to inform you of two proposals that need to be shared 30 days in advance as they relate to our bylaws and our constitution.

1) Our Lutheran Cemetery Association Representative, Richard Wuest, requested in writing to change our bylaws to allow for two members to be representatives to the Lutheran Cemetery Association. Our bylaws say we will have one voting member but the Cemetery Association would like Good Shepherd to provide two representatives. Currently our bylaws state, "**C14.01.02. The Lutheran Cemetery Representative** shall be a voting member of the congregation and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a three-year term." Here is how the bylaws can be changed:

***C17.02.** Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum by a **two-thirds** vote of those voting members present and voting.

***C17.02.** Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

On December 15, 2020, the Congregation Council voted to recommend that the congregation amend bylaw C14.01.02 to state: There shall be two Lutheran Cemetery Association Representatives. These representatives shall be voting members of the congregation and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for staggered three-year terms.

2) Our Governing Documents Committee has worked to incorporate the changes to our constitution that are **required** by changes to the Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA, changes that were made by the churchwide assemblies meeting in 2016 and 2019. Here is how constitutional amendments can be made.

***C16.04.** "This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption ... such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

The Congregation Council recommends that the congregation amend our constitution to bring it into compliance with required changes to the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations that were adopted by the 2016 and 2019 Churchwide Assemblies.

Members wishing to see the changes to the constitution required by the ELCA model constitution can request a copy.

Thank you,

Linda Donoghue
Congregation President

Pastor Amy Zalk Larson

STAY CONNECTED WHILE WE ARE APART

WORSHIP

Online Worship click [here](#).

Sundays at 9:30am

Online worship premieres at 9:30 am with live chat.

Participate then or watch anytime later.

[Zoom Coffee Hour](#) – every week except January 17

Brief **Parking Lot Communion Services - 11am:** Sunday January 10 & 31; Monday January 25, following the Bell ringing; weather pending. Watch for notices.

Zoom Service of Holy Communion on January 17 - [link here](#)

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

Decorah Public Access Channel Our online worship services from the previous Sunday will be available each Friday at 6:30 p.m. on Mediacom Public Access Channels 15 and 79-2.

STUDY & DEVOTIONALS

- **Zoom Bible Study Thursdays 10 a.m.** Join in by clicking here: [Zoom Bible Study](#)
- **Podcasts** of worship, music and sermons 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.

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 January Prayer

Loving God, thank you for teaching us this Epiphany about all the ways you guided the Magi: human study and learning, a star, a long journey in the company of faithful seekers, an earthly ruler, dreams, and more. Thank you for teaching us now how to listen to your guidance through the ordinary and extraordinary parts of our own lives. Thank you for teaching us to know deep in our hearts that finding Jesus--God among us--is more important than anything else.

Merciful God, thank you for pouring out your Spirit on Good Shepherd in this time of exile and wilderness journey. Thank you for all the ways this congregation is bringing your Word and love to a hungry and hurting world. Thank you for our pastor, staff, and congregational leaders who lead us in this work as people of God. Thank you for drawing us each into your work of loving, healing, feeding, and rejoicing with your beloved people, especially those who are most vulnerable, pushed aside, or ignored. Compassionate God, thank you for drawing the people of Good Shepherd into deeper prayer. Thank you for showing us that prayer is simply conversation with you, in words, through thoughts, in our hearts. Thank you for strengthening all of our ministries through prayer; thank you for inspiring individuals to pray in preparation for and as they engage in these ministries; thank you for helping groups develop meaningful, simple ways to pray together for their ministry. Thank you for healing, renewing, guiding, and filling each of us through our own daily times of prayer. Amen.

January Scriptures

Sunday, January 3 Second Sunday of Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock	Psalms 147:12-20 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.	Ephesians 1:3-14 The will of God made known in Christ	John 1:[1-9] 10-18 God with us: the incarnation of the Word
Sunday, January 10 Baptism of Our Lord	Genesis 1:1-5 God creates light God creates light	Psalms 29 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.	Acts 19:1-7 Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus	Mark 1:4-11 Revelation of Christ as God's servant
Sunday, January 17 Second Sunday after Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] The calling of Samuel	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 You have searched me out and known me.	1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Glorify God in your body	John 1:43-51 The calling of the first disciples
Sunday, January 24 Third Sunday after Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Repentance at Nineveh	Psalms 62:5-12 God alone is my rock and my salvation.	1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Living in the end times	Mark 1:14-20 The calling of the disciples at the sea
Sunday, January 31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 The prophet speaks with God's authority	Psalms 111 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.	1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols	Mark 1:21-28 The healing of one with an unclean spirit

Good Shepherd Announcements



PLEASE SIGN UP TO BE A BELL RINGER ON MONDAYS

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c48abaf2ea2f49-monday>

Ringers are needed each Monday at 11 am

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2021 are available for pick-up. Please call the church office (382-3963) to arrange a pickup. There are 25 envelope packets waiting to be claimed.

UPCOMING HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR:

Sunday, January 10, 11am in the Parking Lot

Sunday, January 17, 11am via Zoom

Monday, January 25 11am (after bell ringing) in the Parking Lot

Sunday, January 31 11am in the Parking Lot

*If the temperatures are below zero, Parking Lot services will be postponed

**We will have Zoom Coffee Hour every week at 10:30am except for Sunday, January 17.

Dear "Friends at Good Shepherd,"

A week or so before Christmas an aide here at Aase Assisted Living knocked at my door to deliver a bag loaded with chocolate, one big bag with Dove squares and another one with Ghirardelli Mint squares. The attached note read "From your Friends at Good Shepherd." Someone must have known that if I can't have German chocolate, I love those two brands. Who do I address for a THANK YOU note? I had some hunches as to who might be behind that welcomed chocolate "assault," but whenever I called the "alleged suspect," it turned out that I was wrong. Now I can't sleep because my detective skills are not working any more and my brain is busy at night trying to figure out who these particular friends at Good Shepherd are. I am sure you want this 81 year old with major health issues to have a good night's sleep. So **please** identify yourselves. In the meantime, many, many thanks for thinking of me and feeding my cravings for good chocolate. I am realizing over and over again what a caring congregational family I have. It is such a gift to be part of that family. Jutta F. Anderson

STANDING COMMITTEE 2020 ANNUAL REPORTS are requested to be submitted to the church office by January 14th.

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE CONGREGATION VIA ZOOM
FEBRUARY 7, 11:00 A.M.



As we continue to celebrate the 75th anniversary of LWR at Good Shepherd we are asking our congregation to help restock our depleted resources following our 2020 fall contributions. We are very thankful for the baby care kit contributions received during Advent. We will continue to accept donations for the baby care kits until January 6. Then in January we will focus on contributions for personal care kits, while we think about personal care for the New Year. The kits can help refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. Items may also contribute to a new start for those who can return home. In February, we will ask for school kit items remembering our love for children and the needs of education in this country and abroad.

Below is a list of **LWR personal care kit** items for the January donations. There will be a plastic tote at the **front of the church** in January for contributions.

In the February church newsletters we will list the LWR items for school kits.

Thank you for your donations!

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kit Items

Each personal care kit includes:

- one light-weight bath-size towel (maximum 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- one adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- one sturdy comb, remove packaging
- one metal nail clippers, remove packaging

Our winter brunch will be held Saturday, January 23 via zoom beginning at 10 am. We ask that you enjoy your brunch while social distancing at home and then join us with your coffee, and maybe a muffin, on your computer or phone. Our program will be on the "*joy of angels*". We ask that you bring a favorite angel and share how it has brought you joy. We will also have a short business meeting.

Gather circle meeting will be held on Tuesday January 26 at 7 pm via zoom. In January and February our bible study will focus on "Journeys with angels". The first session introduces us to some initial glimpses of angels in the Old and New Testaments and the meaning of various words used in the Bible to describe angels.

January Circle Schedule

WELCA Zoom Circle Mtg. Gather Study 1/26 - 7 p.m.

Zoom information will be send out prior to the meeting. ***All are welcome.***

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 - 7:30 pm

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

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

Devotions and Initial Actions: Jon Ailabouni 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 November 17 council minutes.

Approve reports as submitted.

The Consent Agenda was approved by consent of the council.

Discussion Agenda:

Receive New Members: Pr. Amy asked that Council vote to receive Pete and Kari Espinosa as new members of Good Shepherd. Ann moved to receive the Espinosas as new members, Connie seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Organizational Support Committee Proposal: Linda and Robert shared their proposal to create an Organizational Support Committee (OSC) to run for a trial period. This committee, composed of 3 members with 3-year staggered terms, would take over management responsibilities from Property and Management (P&M) committee, including creating and proposing the annual budget, review insurance policies, provide an annual audit, maintain the employee handbook and job descriptions, and review facilities rental policies and rental fee structures. Discussion included concerns of meeting frequency (many duties are annual and may not require monthly meetings), recruiting members (people may be more willing to serve on one-off events rather than fledged committee, but there are some active members who may be willing), P&M opinion (removing management responsibilities may encourage participation from people who truly enjoy more of the grounds aspect of committee service), if this committee would require a council representative (likely not, could liaise through Pr. Amy and the Treasurer), what would happen if the trial did not work well (duties would revert to current structure), and how long it would need to operate before an evaluation (at least a year). Connie moved that OSC be established in 2021 and serve in a trial capacity, to be evaluated in October 2022. Jonathon seconded, motion carried. There was further discussion about the need to suspend the Audit Committee during the OSC trial period, which would require a suspension of Constitution Amendment C13.03: "**C13.03. An Audit Committee** of three voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office shall be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for re-election." Connie moved that Congregational Council recommends Amendment C13.03 in the constitution be suspended for the trial period of the organizational support committee, including the audit of 2021. Anne seconded, motion passed.

Property and Management Proposal: Linda and Robert shared their proposal to restructure the P&M committee, including a name change to Facilities committee, changing membership structure to three members, removing ex officio members and facilities manager position, allowing for volunteer service, and amending the continuing resolution to remove management responsibilities, provided Council voted to support the OSC proposal. Discussion included the history of the facilities management position (started as volunteer role to evaluate if we wanted to budget next year for a paid position – restructuring of committee makes the paid position redundant and many of those duties could be shifted into a revised custodial position description), and if "Facilities" captures the grounds-aspect of the work (we could add "Grounds" to the name). Ann made the following motion: that Property and Management Committee be renamed Facilities and Grounds Committee, and that their draft Continuing Resolution reflect the proposed changes in a trial capacity, to be evaluated in 2022. Kerry seconded, motion passed.

2021 Budget Proposal: Robert and John shared the proposed budget for 2021. Thanks to the PPP loan, Good Shepherd is expected to end comfortably in the black. We were able to provide 3% increases for pastor and staff salaries and current Statements of Intents are \$6,000 higher than those last year. Other changes include lowering our debt repayment from \$4,000 to \$3,500 per month, budgeting for a video editor to support Brooke for worship videos, and budgeting for cantor services (payment will cease once in-person worship services resume) and jazz musicians for jazz services. Hayley moved to accept the proposed budget, Ann seconded, motion passed.

Mission Endowment Fund: Linda shared proposed language changes to the continuing resolution for the Mission Endowment Fund committee. These changes reflect that the funding should be used to support students attending ELCA Lutheran institutions and independent Valparaiso University. Discussion included a clarification about seminarian support, which has traditionally not come from this fund, and is currently part of the congregational budget. Robert moved to approve the language change, Jon A. seconded, motion passed.

(Continued on page 10)

Constitution Revisions: Pr. Amy shared proposed revisions to the Good Shepherd constitution. The Governing Documents committee made the first motion: The Congregation Council recommends that the congregation amend our constitution to bring it into compliance with changes to the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations that were adopted by the 2016 and 2019 Churchwide Assembly. Robert seconded, motion passed. The Governing Documents' second motion was that the Congregation Council recommends that the congregation amend bylaw C14.01.02 to state: There shall be two **Lutheran Cemetery Association Representatives**. These representatives shall be voting members of the congregation and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for staggered three-year terms. Hayley seconded, motion carried.

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 is doing window visits at nursing homes and phone calls and cards for pastoral care, but is not doing indoor visits due to her exposure with her kids in school, she doesn't want to spread the virus. 21 people participated in the Zoom Holy Communion Service, and Communion will be offered after bell ringing for two Mondays in December. Again in January, she may offer short parking lot communion services after Sunday worship depending on weather. Christmas plans include an outdoor luminary display on Dec. 21, beginning at 5pm. People can pick up luminaries until noon on Dec. 24, and the church ones will be relit that day. GS also will participate in the Walking Lessons and Carols with other congregations in downtown Decorah. Christmas Eve worship will premiere at 5pm with live chat at Good Shepherd Decorah On Christmas Day share in an audio experience of music and readings on the YouTube channel and the Good Shepherd Podcast. The Good Shepherd Youth Christmas program will premiere at 4pm with a link sent via email. Pr. Amy continues to work with the Sunday School Christmas program to give Vicar Kathryn time away with baby Greta. GS worship videos are now aired on the local public access channel Fridays at 6:30 pm. We have currently received 96 Statements of Intent. The total dollar amount in intended giving for 2021 is \$293,406 which is just over \$6000 more than last year.

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, Christ + Christmas +COVID , online 3 hours, and Holy Imagination + Race, online 3 hours. (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. She plans to take some time after Christmas, but needs to work out exact dates. (20 weekdays & 4 Sundays allowed in letter of call).

Anti-Racism Task Force: Jon Ailabouni

The Task Force has begun looking at steps to address their charge of drafting a racial justice statement and anti-racist policy, advocacy, and action recommendations. They plan to model this work on the process used to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Current goals include researching how to be a more anti-racist congregation, ensuring that this work extends to all ethnic and racial minorities in our area, and focus the work locally to make our congregation more welcoming.

Outreach and Hospitality: Kerry Johnson

Christmas Cheer care packages have been sent to seminarians Amalia Vagts, Daniel Grainger, Menzi Nkambule, Joseph Tiegan, Kathryn Thompson) and Angela Sadler.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Income: Total offering this year is currently \$268, 669.223, which is higher than this year's Statement of Intents would have predicted for November at this time (about \$264,000.00).

Income versus Expense: YTD Income is currently \$279,287.91, YTD Expense is currently \$304,017.39. This does not include funding from the PPP loan or the Youth Director's salary, as those are outside sources of funding and the goal is to compare against last year's figures. We currently have a net income of \$14,520.52. If the Adult Forum Curtain fund is included, the net income is \$22,520.52. All benevolences, including Kids Lunch Club, have been paid.

Worship and Music Committee: Jon Ailabouni

The committee discussed Advent and Christmas plans. Services for Advent are at 7pm on Wednesday evenings using Holden's Evening Prayer and Advent Devotional resources from Living Every Day as Disciples (LEAD). Christmas will not include an outdoor gathering on Christmas Eve, but there will be lighted decorations and GS will participate with other area churches in Decorah Community Walking Lessons and Carols from 10-11:30am on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve service will be offered online. The committee continues to discuss communion options.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: December 17, 2020

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be January 19, 2021, 7:30 PM via Zoom

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 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
<p>27</p> <p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Zoom Coffee</p> <p>10:45am - Sunday school</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours -</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Bell ringing</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>4:45pm - Education</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>7:30pm - Anti-Racism</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study via</p> <p>1:30pm - Property and</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>4:30pm - Recording for</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Zoom Coffee</p> <p>10:45am - Zoom Sunday</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Bell ringing</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>4:45pm - Education</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Annual reports due In</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study via</p> <p>10am - Synod secretaries</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>3:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:45am - Zoom Youth</p> <p>11am - Zoom Communion</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Bell ringing</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>1:30pm - Depot Annual</p> <p>7:30pm - Cong. Council</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Ministry via</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study via</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>3:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10am - WELCA Annual Mtg</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Zoom Coffee</p> <p>10:45am - Zoom Family</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>11am - Bell ringing</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>7pm - WELCA Zoom Circle</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>10am - Bible Study via</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30am - Office Hours-</p> <p>9am - Pastor's Home Office</p> <p>3:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:30am - Online Worship @</p> <p>10:30am - Zoom Coffee</p> <p>10:45am - Zoom Youth</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

701 Iowa Avenue

JANUARY 2021

The Shepherd's Voice

Pastor Amy Larson

Music Director: Brooke Joyce

Vicar of Children Youth & Family Ministry: Kathryn Thompson

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.-12:30pm

IN THIS ISSUE

Words from Pastor Larson 1-2

Youth Education 2

Organizational Support 3

Annual Meeting Amendments 4

Stay Connected 5

January Prayer 6

January Scriptures 6

GS Announcements 7

WELCA News 8

Council Minutes 9-10

January Calendar 11

GOOD SHEPHERD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

