

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH February 2022

Pastor Amy Zalk Larson

Music Director: Brooke Joyce

Director of Children Youth & Family Ministry: Kelli Gapinski

Ministry Support Coordinator : Erica Yaneff

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

I know so many of you are weary and discouraged right now. As I've been praying for you all right now, I have been praying this prayer from Ephesians for you:

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Ephesians 3:14-21

I invite you to join me in praying this prayer for yourself using a light visualization meditation practice. I offered this meditation during two sermons at the beginning of the pandemic. Recently a few people have asked about it again. I want to share the language of this prayer practice with you here to equip you for doing this on your own anytime. This practice can help us to live with hope and courage in these hard times.

The meditation technique involves visualizing sunlight above your head washing over you and filling up your body from your toes all the way up your head. You can visualize the sunlight above your head as the love and power of God. You can imagine it washing over you and filling you with all the fullness of God, strengthening you in your inner being. That power and love of God is always there- above our heads, within us, all around us- this practice helps us to notice it and receive it and experience it.

To do this prayer practice, close your eyes and take a few deep breaths. Then let your breathing return to its normal rhythm. As you breathe in and out, remember the sunlight of God's love and power above your head. Imagine it washing over you, filling you with warmth and peace and light. Imagine it filling you up, starting with your toes, moving all the way up your body to the top of your head. Then simply let your mind rest in this awareness that you are filled with the love, the power, the fullness of God.

As you move through your day, when all you feel is a grey cloud over your head, you can take a moment to flash this image quickly. Just take a breath and remember the sunlight of God's love and power filling you. Know that God's power is at work in you, that you are filled with all the fullness of God.

Peace to you,
Pastor Amy

PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

offered by Jane Jakoubek

This month's prayer is based on Pr. Amy's sermons on Anne Lamott's book

"Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers."

Merciful God, we pray for help this month. Help us continue navigate life amidst COVID. Help us bring all our worries and fears to you. Help us have the patience and strength to face what each day brings. Help us hold on to hope when the darkness seems overwhelming. Help us be kind even when its hard. Help us with all the burdens we carry in our hearts.

Help us, help us, help us!

Gracious God, we give thanks this month. Thank you for life. Thank you for the earth. Thank you for family, friends, and community that sustain us. Thank you for food and shelter. Thank you for education, work, and health care. Thank you for essential workers who help us keep going amidst COVID. Thank you for helping each of us do our part in this challenging time.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Creator God, we sing your praises this month. We praise you for creation. We praise you for wonder and beauty. We praise you for your glory and majesty. We praise you for your compassion and forgiveness. We praise you for coming to dwell among us and rescuing us from sin. We praise you for streams of unending mercy and love.

Allelujah, allelujah, allelujah! Amen.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

YEAR C - 2022	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
February 6 5th Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalms 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
February 13 6th Sunday after Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalms 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
February 20 7th Sunday after Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
February 27 Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalms 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36

ANNUAL MEETING

Access the 2021 Annual Report **HERE**

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place in-person and via Zoom on **Sunday, February 6, at 10:45 a.m.** You can join in-person in the Fellowship Hall, call in via a phone, or join via the internet. Please refer to the special procedures outlined in an email, and available on the website under "News".

Here is some helpful information about joining via phone & zoom:

Plan to call in or connect to Zoom between 10:40-10:45am Sunday, February 6.

- Join Zoom video meeting by clicking here: Good Shepherd Meetings You will be admitted from a Waiting Room.
- Or call in by phone using one of these numbers (if you get a busy signal, try a different one):

301 715 8592 - 312 626 6799 - 46 558 8656 - 53 215 8782 - 46 248 7799 - 69 00 9128

Phone participants will be prompted to enter the meeting ID, followed by #. The meeting ID for our meeting is 813 9754 7701

You may be prompted to enter a unique participant ID. This does not apply to our meeting. Press # to skip.

You may be prompted to enter the meeting passcode, followed by #. The passcode for our meeting is 068414

FEBRUARY SUPPORT

Assigned ministry "teams" are no longer in practice due to COVID. Rather, we request you serve as able. There are many volunteers needed to make Sundays happen - please sign up online or in the Gathering Space to help out.

Sunday - February 6

Assisting Minister	Connie Buresh	Usher	Megan Buckingham	Fellowship	
Reader	Tom Buresh	Usher		Fellowship	
Cantor	Jonathon Struve			Fellowship	

Sunday - February 13

Assisting Minister		Usher		Fellowship	
Reader	Jane Jakoubek	Usher		Fellowship	
Cantor				Fellowship	

Sunday - February 20

Assisting Minister	Harland Nelson	Usher		Fellowship	
Reader	Donna Bahr	Usher		Fellowship	
Cantor				Fellowship	

Sunday - February 27

Assisting Minister		Usher		Fellowship	
Reader	Matt & Samuel Bills	Usher		Fellowship	
Cantor	Melissa Bills			Fellowship	

Feb. 11-12th EASTERN STAR COFFEE PARTY TREAT DROP-OFF

No visitors allowed at this time, only treats made/brought. 60 total treats needed. Can be dropped off Friday or Saturday.			

REVITALIZING CREATION CARE IN THE NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

A resolution passed at the 2021 Synod Assembly has renewed interest in reactivating the Care for Creation Network in the Synod. One of the statements in the resolution rededicates the Synod to care for creation, including reactivating the synod's dormant Care for Creation Network to further education about care for creation and climate solutions in our synod. The resolution built on principles expressed in the ELCA's social policy statements, "Caring for Creation" (1993) and "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood" (1999), and ELCA Advocacy's "Carbon Pricing Basics" (2019).

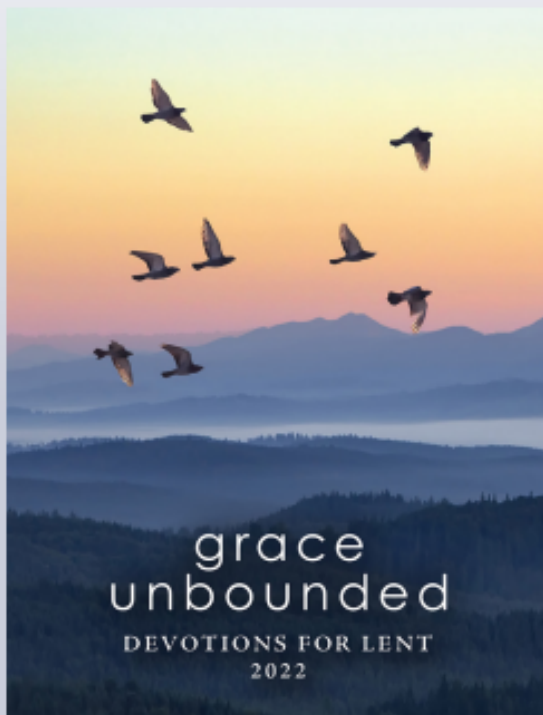
In the past, the Care for Creation network provided information and ideas to congregations and members through the Synod newsletter, Synod Assembly workshops and resolutions. Water quality, biodiversity, native landscapes, climate change and sustainable agriculture were among the topics covered.

Names of interested individuals are now being gathered to work together on the Synod's Care for Creation Network. For more information, contact Donna Rasmussen, rdrasmussen@outlook.com or 563-735-5602. A Zoom meeting to brainstorm ideas for the Synod network, which may also be useful for local Creation Care groups, will be held the end of February.

There are also Creation Care training webinars that can help in starting activities locally. In order to advance creation care in your congregation, it is highly beneficial to form a team/ network/ working group in your own congregation or in partnership with other congregations (e.g. a Green Team, Care for Creation Network, Creation Care Working Group, etc.). The February Zoom meeting may help to connect people interested in forming more local networks and provide information about upcoming training webinars.

LENT DEVOTIONAL SIGN UP

grace unbounded DEVOTIONS FOR LENT 2022



ISBN: 978-1-5064-8198-2

to those experiencing poverty, oppression, or captivity. Despite the tensions at the time between Jewish people and Samaritans, he tells a story about a Samaritan who shows what it means to be a neighbor. Jesus also responds to those who want healing, welcomes time with children, shows great regard for women, shares meals with “unsavory” characters, and seeks out people who have lost their way. No limits, no restrictions, no boundaries—not even death—can stop his love and grace for all people.

Sign up today to receive your copy!

Grace Unbounded provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Vigil of Easter (traditionally known as Holy Saturday). Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of Luke (the gospel focus for 2022, year C in the Revised Common Lectionary). The writers then bring their unique voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus reaches out to all kinds of people. He proclaims good news—in particular,

This Lent we will be using these devotionals from Augsburg Fortress to help guide worship.

**Signup by
THURSDAY,
FEB. 3rd
in the Gathering
Space or by
emailing the
Church Office if
you would like a
devotional
booklet.**

These are quick to sell out, so we want to make sure to get them ordered soon.

Thank you for getting back to us quickly!

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME & UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

As many stay home amidst the surge of COVID in our community, there are two resources available to help nourish faith while at home. These are especially helpful for families as Sunday School & Youth Forum are happening at home instead of in community at Good Shepherd. Get creative as you practice **SPLASH or Faith5** over zoom, around a meal together, before bed-time, whatever works for you!

SPLASH

SPLASH: Through the month of February (the time after Epiphany) we reflect on what it means to live as the people of God and to affirm our baptisms using the 5 promises made in the affirmation of baptism service:

S—Serve all people, following the example of Jesus (Jan 23)

P—Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed (an easier to understand phrase might be: Point people to Christ's love with our words and bodies!) (Jan 30)

L—Live among God's faithful people (Feb. 6)

A—Alleluia!

S—Strive for justice and peace in all the earth (Feb. 13)

H—Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper (Feb. 20)

Each week, talk together about the promises. Here are possible guiding questions:

- Who do you think about when you hear this promise? Who is a good example of someone living out this promise?
- How can living out these promises help us to feel connected to God and other people?
- Does this promise remind you of any good or hard times in your life?
- How do we live out this promise together as a family? together as the people of Good Shepherd?
- Draw pictures and/or collect photos of people doing these things and make a collage.

Faith5 is a set of five simple practices that allows us to connect with each other, connect with scripture and connect with God. This type of faith conversation can be done each night at home around the dinner table, at bedtime or on the phone or Zoom with others. The practices are:

- **SHARE** your highs and lows.
- **READ** a Bible verse or story (*suggested readings below*)
- **TALK** about the story. What do you notice, do you see any connections with your highs and lows?
- **PRAY** for one another's highs and lows. Go around the circle, each person prays for the person next to them. The prayer can be as simple as "Dear God thank you for the (insert high) and help with (insert low), in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
- **BLESS** one another. Go around the circle again, each person offers a simple blessing for the person next to them. Ideas: "remember God loves you", "you are God's beloved child."

Suggestions for weekly readings: Below are the scriptures that will be the focus for worship. They can also be found in the Spark Children's Bible.

February 6: Luke 5:1-11, **Spark:** "The Disciples", page 258

February 13: Luke 6:17-26, **Spark:** "The Beatitudes", page 264

February 20: Luke 6:27-38, **Spark:** "Love Your Enemies", page 274

February 27: Luke 9:28-38, **Spark:** "Transfiguration", page 358

February 6th - Annual Meeting-There will be outdoor winter games (if the weather is above 25 degrees) provided for our children while the annual meeting is happening.

February 12th - Family Winter Fun Day, outdoor winter activities. Details to come.

February 26th-WELCA Brunch, new scheduled date, youth gathering fundraiser (Kelli will email families for details)

EWALU SUMMER FUN!

Summer programming at Ewalu is focused on exploring God's creation, making new friends, being challenged by new activities, and learning about God's love for all of us. Camp EWALU has overnight and day programming for **families, grandparents, and youth finishing 1st-12th grade.**

- Register online at Ewalu.org or pick up a brochure from the Gathering Space.
- Register before **February 28** to receive an early registration discount.

Good Shepherd campers that attend this summer will receive a **\$100 campership!** Notify the Church Office (office@goodshepherddecorah.org) when you register and be sure to write in on your EWALU registration form that Good Shepherd is providing a \$100 campership, you are responsible for the funds for the remainder of the camp program. Please contact the Church Office with any questions.

WELCA - NEWSLETTER

We will try once again to have our WELCA mid-winter brunch and annual meeting. We will wait until the end of the month-**February 26** -and hopefully Covid numbers will be down. Our program will be given by the youth from our congregation who will be attending the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis this summer. Please come and support these young people. We will also be dispersing funds from 2021 and reviewing our circle/Gather bible study options. Currently we have one group that meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the church in the evening. Are there others that would like to meet on the 2nd Tuesday/Wednesday of the month in the morning at church. Please let Bev Sheridan know if there is anyone interested or if you have any funding requests. All are welcome.

Gather Bible Study

The kingdom of God: What does it mean for God to be in charge?

by the Rev. Mark Allan Powell

New Testament scholar Mark Allan Powell looks at a widely used biblical image and invites us into a discussion of what it might mean for Lutheran women today. The phrase "kingdom of God" and similar expressions turn up repeatedly in sayings of Jesus, so understanding what that expression means helps us to make sense of numerous parables and popular Bible passages (including the Lord's Prayer). There may be some surprises: the phrase refers to an activity, not a location—and it has nothing to do with God being a "king," at least so far as that image suggests a (usually male) tyrant who gives orders and the "kingdom" as a banquet where honored guests include misfits and outcasts. And *then* we will discover (or recall) who we should regard as the greatest in the kingdom and the most important members ofdominates the lives of his subjects. Powell is author of the world's best-selling New Testament textbook and editor of the *Harper-Collins Bible Dictionary*.

Mysteries of the kingdom: Parables, banquets and children – This month we will consider "kingdom parables" and ask how the kingdom of God is like a net or a treasure or a pearl or whatever. We will also look at an "acted parable" in which Jesus dramatizes any church. (from Gather website)

Upcoming events

February 22: Gather Bible study, GS Gathering space, 7 pm, Lindy Moeller Bible study, Gail Judisch refreshments

February 26: mid-winter brunch, GS Fellowship Hall, 9:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: All are welcome on the third Wednesday of each month to come together to knit or crochet, share skills and conversation! Yarn and patterns are available. The February meeting will be Wednesday, February 16, 1:00-3:00 with Joyce Epperly hosting.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION: Every 3 weeks, there will be a short communion service in the Sanctuary from 11:15-11:45 AM. Thursday, Feb. 3rd and 24th are the upcoming services.

SEASON OF LENT: Ash Wednesday service is March 2nd at 7:00PM. Lenten midweek worship will be Wednesdays at 6:15 PM, March 9th -April 6th. There is a potential of adding Soup Suppers at 5:30 before worship, this will be determined closer to the date.

2022 HEARTS OF GERMANY TOUR: Participation in the two-week tour is open to all, and organized/led by Russell Bladner and his wife Cathryn in collaboration with UNI Alumni Tours. Hearts of Germany is limited to 25 registrants, and is offered on a first come, first served basis. Dates of the tour are September 8–21, 2022, including departure and return flight travel days to and from Germany. Check out their [brochure](#), and [registration information](#) online to learn more.

FREE/LOW COST LED BULBS: Opportunity to get free/reduced LED lighting delivered to your home. The Bright Box program serves households in Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, and Clayton counties, and if you are 65+, disabled, a veteran, or have a low-moderate income, you likely qualify for free services. If not, and you live in Winneshiek County, the cost is only \$50. Visit the Winneshiek Energy District website for more information and to sign up or call at (563) 382-4207 ext. 2#.

SPINET PIANO TO GIVE: Good Shepherd member Jane Jakoubek has a spinet piano to give away. Contact Jane if you're interested (contact information is in the directory).

LSI WELCOME KITS: 11 Welcome Kits were made in partnership with LSI for families from across the globe who are resettling in the Sioux City & Des Moines area. We are so grateful for the generosity of the Good Shepherd congregation! Special thanks to Marty Steele and Bob Felde for delivering them to Des Moines.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am - In-person Worship @ 10:45am - Sunday School - 4yr- 10:45am - Youth Forum grade 7- 11:30am - Online Worship @ GS	Office hours week 1 schedule 8:30am - Office hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12pm - Learning Group: Me & 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @	8:30am - Office hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Melanie Holm Practice 2:45pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4:15pm - Outreach and 8pm - Jon A practice	10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12pm - Learning Group: Me & 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1:30pm - ESL 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 7pm - Choir rehearsal 7pm - Confirmation Class	10am - Bible Study @ Library 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 11:15am - Service of Holy 12pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Melanie Holm Practice 1:30pm - Property and 3pm - Erik Sessions lessons @	Fr. Amy day off 8am - Office Hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 10:30am - Aase Haugen 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 2pm - Office Hours 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @	1pm - Installation of Fr. Mike
Annual Meeting 9:30am - In-person Worship @ 10:45am - Sunday School - 4yr- 10:45am - Youth Forum grade 7- 11:30am - Online Worship @ GS 7pm - ELCA Youth Gathering	Fr. Amy OUT Office hours week 2 schedule 8:30am - Office hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 6pm - Democrat Precinct Caucus	10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Melanie Holm Practice 2:45pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4:30pm - Stewardship 8pm - Jon A practice	8:30am - Office hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1:30pm - ESL 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 7pm - Choir rehearsal 7pm - Confirmation Class with	Recycle 8:30am - Office Hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Melanie Holm Practice 1:30pm - Travel Club @ Good 3pm - Erik Sessions lessons @	Fr. Amy day off 8am - Office Hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 10:30am - Aase Haugen 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 2pm - Office Hours 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @	Barnett Eastern Star Home
Installation of Council Leaders 9:30am - In-person Worship @ 10:45am - Sunday School - 4yr- 10:45am - Youth Forum grade 7- 11:30am - Online Worship @ GS 2pm - Upper IA River Conference	Office hours week 1 schedule 8:30am - Office hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12pm - Learning Group: Me & 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS	8:30am - Office hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Melanie Holm Practice 2:45pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4:30pm - Education Committee 5:30pm - CARE @ Gathering 7pm - Cong. Council Mtg. @	10am - Arlin Falck Communion 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 10:45am - MEJ Committee 11am - Eastern Star Communion 12pm - Learning Group: Me & 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30pm - ESL 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice	Newsletter Deadline 10am - Bible Study @ Library 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Melanie Holm Practice 3pm - Endowment Fund 3pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @	Fr. Amy day off 8am - Office Hours 12:15pm - Learning Group: Me & 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice	8:30am - WELCA Brunch @
9:30am - In-person Worship @ 10:45am - Sunday School - 4yr- 10:45am - Youth Forum grade 7- 11:30am - Online Worship @ GS	Office hours week 2 schedule 8:30am - Office hours 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS	10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Melanie Holm Practice 2:45pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather 8pm - Jon A practice	8:30am - Office hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1:30pm - ESL 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 7pm - Choir rehearsal	Recycle 8:30am - Office Hours 10am - Bible Study @ Library 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 10am - Service of Holy 11:15am - Service of Holy 12pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @	Fr. Amy day off 8am - Office Hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 2pm - Office Hours	8:30am - WELCA Brunch @
9:30am - In-person Worship @ 10:45am - Sunday School - 4yr- 10:45am - Youth Forum grade 7- 11:30am - Online Worship @ GS	Office hours week 1 schedule 8:30am - Office hours 12pm - Learning Group: Me & 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS	8:30am - Office hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Melanie Holm Practice 2:45pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 8pm - Jon A practice	ASH WEDNESDAY 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12pm - Learning Group: Me & 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1:30pm - ESL 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice 3:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @	10am - Bible Study @ Library 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 12pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Melanie Holm Practice 1:30pm - Property and 3pm - Erik Sessions lessons @	Fr. Amy day off 8am - Office Hours 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 10:45pm - Learning Group: Me & 12:15pm - Learning Group: Me & 12:30pm - Kinderhaus Lunch @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS 2pm - Melanie Holm Practice	5

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 - 7:30 pm

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

Present: Pr. Amy Zalk Larson, Jonathon Struve, Marie Freerking, Martha Monson Lowe, John Moeller, Hayley Jackson, Robert Fitton, Ann Naslund and Cynthia Ernst. Brent Parker was absent.

Devotions and Initial Actions: Jonathon led devotions.

Consent Agenda:

Items in the Consent Agenda are designed to be approved by consent of the council without discussion or formal vote. The items in the consent agenda are considered approved when the meeting agenda is approved. Before approving the meeting agenda, the chair asks if any member wishes to move an item from the consent agenda to the discussion agenda if the member feel a discussion is warranted.

Approve December Council minutes.

Reception of committee reports as submitted.

Discussion Agenda:

Approval of 2022 Budget (John Moeller): John walked Council through the proposed 2022 budget, offering comments on some of the proposed changes. Most involved new obligations, such as taking on the Youth Director salary, and increased utilities (electricity, water) usage. He shared that given the increase in projected giving since December, it might be possible for the church to increase loan payments. Council discussed the benefits of putting future budget surplus towards debt repayment at the end of this year to help pay it off more quickly. Robert moved that Council reevaluate expenditures in November 2022 and reallocate any surplus towards debt service. Marie seconded. Motion carried. Council then discussed the possibility of putting some of the 2020 budget year surplus, accumulated through our PPP loan, towards debt repayment, Robert moved that Council allocate \$10,000 of the 2020 budget year surplus towards debt service. Hayley seconded. Motion carried. Council then discussed potential changes to future income. John moved to approve the projected 2022 budget as presented. Cynthia seconded. Motion carried. Pr. Amy shared that an Adult Forum on the budget will be presented after the service on January 23.

Update on COVID Policy at Good Shepherd (Jonathon and Pr. Amy): Pr. Amy shared some potential changes to the Good Shepherd Covid policy to simplify protocols after the experience of Luther going into Stage 4 in January. Some of the protocol changes in Stage 4 proved less applicable to a congregation than a residential college, as many congregation members are making their own decisions on what is good for their health in terms of worship attendance and participation. It seemed cumbersome, for example, to stop congregational singing when those who are particularly concerned for their health are likely self-selecting out of in-person worship right now, which is different from students ...*continued on next page*

continued...Update on Covid Policy at Good Shepherd (Jonathon and Pr. Amy):

...living, eating, and studying together as they do at Luther. This proposal includes the following updated protocols for when Luther and Good Shepherd are at Alert Levels 2-4: individual pre-packaged communion servings are used; Fellowship Hour is suspended; masks are required in the building; food may be served in the building at level 2 for some groups and for funerals; at levels 3-4, no food is served in the building other than Kinderhaus preschool; education offerings will continue masks; groups can meet in person or with hybrid options. At this time, at all levels, masks are always required in worship. Council discussed how confident we are that these protocols will remain in place for a time (we aren't - things are frequently changing, we have to be flexible and that this makes sense for us right now). Ann moved that we adopt the protocols as described above for now. Marie seconded. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting (Jonathon Struve and Pr. Amy): Jonathon and Pr. Amy shared that due to COVID concerns and lower church attendance, it might be necessary to offer a hybrid or virtual Annual Meeting in order to reach the quorum (was 84, is now 82). They wanted input on how to accommodate these options. There were concerns about a hybrid meeting as there were difficulties with the November hybrid meeting where Zoom participants could not hear the speaker. Robert suggested that if the meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall, a laptop could be plugged into the sound system, making it easier for online participants to hear. Any hybrid options will require Jonathon and Hayley to do test runs, and may require a third person to help monitor Zoom while Hayley takes minutes. Other benefits to a hybrid meeting in the Fellowship Hall include the ability to move seating around to encourage social distancing. Hayley and Jonathon will discuss logistics. Cynthia moved that Good Shepherd hold a hybrid Annual Meeting. Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Designate Lent and Easter Offerings (Jonathon Struve): Jonathon shared a proposal that this year, instead of having two separate Lent/Easter offerings, we just have one, led by the Sunday School. This year, the Sunday School will be raising funds to support Afghans in the US through Lutheran Services in Iowa. Ann moved that we have the offerings be designated for Afghan resettlement in the US through Lutheran Services in Iowa. Robert seconded. Motion carried.

GS Anti-Racism Task Force (Jonathon Struve and Pr. Amy): After gathering feedback, the Task Force requested that the Council endorse the Racial Justice Statement before it goes up for approval during the Annual Meeting. The Task Force also requested Council endorse further work of the Task Force, including actionable goals the congregation can do to enable Good Shepherd to live in the commitments made in the statement. Pr. Amy shared that responses to feedback were published in the newsletter. The major feedback received was about including actionable items for the congregation, which the Task Force hopes to address in their ongoing work. There will be some shifting of Task Force membership in the new year. Cynthia moved to endorse the final draft of the Racial Justice Statement. Marie seconded.

Motion carried. Martha moved to endorse further work of the Antiracism Task Force, focusing on actionable goals the congregation can do to enable Good Shepherd to live into the commitments made in the statement. Robert seconded. Motion carried.

Kinderhaus Rent (Pr. Amy): The Kinderhaus rent agreement, set three years ago, is set to expire at the end of the 2021/2022 school year and the new Council will need to consider any potential rent increases and the rationale for doing this. This would include gathering data to compare trends in utilities usage, rising costs, and cover expanded use of facilities. Some changes (such as use of the Fellowship Hall) will not continue after this school year, but others (such as increased prices in utilities), may continue. The rent is currently \$600, increased from \$550 three years ago. Council discussed how to evaluate changes in expenses, the value of Kinderhaus to the community and the mission of Good Shepherd, and what an appropriate increase might look like (it is not anticipated to be a significant increase).

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller reviewed the Treasurer's report. Robert moved to approve the report. Martha seconded, motion carried.

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

The Committee Reports were received and accepted as submitted.

Facilities and Grounds Committee: Robert Fitton

A service call was initiated to fix a failed rooftop HVAC unit that serves the library and rooms to the west. A new programmable thermostat was installed that serves the repaired unit. The thermostat is located in the Nursery and controls temperatures in all of the rooms on the northwest hallway exclusive of the Sanctuary. Verified that MERV 13 filters were installed that serve the offices, all northwest rooms, corridors and the Sanctuary. Carbon monoxide and smoke detectors were installed in the Annex. Sand buckets were placed at all entrances for use when icy conditions exist.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

I did baptisms for both the grandson and great-grandson of our custodian and facilities caretaker, Dave and Sharyl Haugen, on Saturday, January 15: Blayn Charles Severson and Anthony Paul Haugen. Good Shepherd member Haldis Kaasa has died. She requested that there not be a memorial. There will be a graveside service this spring. The Me and White Supremacy Learning Groups kickoff went very well. January involves lots of prep for the annual meeting and the formation of the new council.

President's Report: Jonathon Struve

As we move towards the annual meeting, I am supportive of having a hybrid live and zoom annual meeting. There are many members who would like to limit exposure during this surge of COVID, and we have a need to have 84 voting members in attendance. The goal will be to do some testing of possibilities for a hybrid meeting so that it will be more successful for those attending virtually than the November meeting. Having the meeting in the fellowship hall may help alleviate some concerns as we will not be meeting in the same space where

singing has taken place within a few minutes of the meeting and the fellowship hall has a very good air exchange rate. It has been a pleasure serving as the Council President this year, in part because we have a council who has been so thoughtful in our conversations and so careful in discussing the decisions we have made this year. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Total income for the year was \$313,577.84, total expenses were \$322,881.14. We avoided a deficit because a) we had outside funds totaling \$8,018.48, which paid for the Youth Director salary and b) we used \$1,284.82 of our 2020 surplus. This evened our income and expenses. The Statements of Intent for 2021 totaled \$296,000 and we received \$296,184.80, which meant we received about what we expected. About 44% of giving was done through automatic withdrawals this year. Our total expenses were about \$6,450 less than we budgeted. We spent less than anticipated on a visiting pastor and on EWALU camperships (they applied last year's funds to this year). Electricity and water costs went up (water was a one time event for planting new trees) as well as office supplies and computer-related expenses. We are ending the year in good financial shape with most of our 2020 surplus intact.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: January 20, 2022

Annual Meeting Reports Should be Submitted As Soon as Possible

Annual Meeting - Sunday, February 6, 2022, 11:00 AM

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be February 15, 2022, 7:00 PM in person

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. Pr. Amy Larson led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.

---Submitted by Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary

