

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 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.

BELOVED OF GOD,

I am writing this article on my last day in the office before my sabbatical. I am so incredibly grateful. I'm grateful for a powerful Holy Week and Easter and for all who led, contributed, and participated in the services. I'm grateful for all of you and the gift of being your pastor. And I'm so grateful to get to have this time apart for rest and renewal. I believe this sabbatical is important for me and for the congregation. It is good to be reminded of the gifts of the members of the congregation who will lead the ministry during this time. I want to share three last things with you before I go: 1) Notes about sabbatical, 2) My endorsement of the Mission Green, LLC proposal to help Good Shepherd go carbon neutral, 3) A request that you consider a change to our Governance and Ministry structure. We will consider this at a congregational meeting in the fall.

1- Sabbatical: When talking about the sabbatical recently, I've had several questions so I thought it would be helpful to explain a few more things about the sabbatical.

- I will be away from Decorah quite a lot but in town a lot as well. I won't be worshipping at Good Shepherd. I'll often worship with my sister in Cedar Falls and with my grandma in St. Paul. I'll get to worship with Matt when he preaches in southeastern Minnesota as well.
- I won't be doing funerals or other pastoral acts. The Northeastern Iowa Synod stipulated this clear boundary when they approved my Decorah-based sabbatical. This is important for my rest and for congregational health. It is important for a congregation to experience God's presence and care through other members and other pastors.
- If you see me in town, I will be glad to talk with you! I will simply seek to be intentional about not providing pastoral care as we talk.
- I will not be responding to texts or emails. If you need pastoral care, you can be in touch with Erica in the office. She will connect you with the on-call pastor.
- Rev. Rolf Svanoë is serving in a very part time role during May and June. He will preach, lead worship, lead Bible studies in May; lead nursing home services; lead funerals; and provide emergency pastoral care. He will not be attending committee or council meetings. In July, Rev. Karla Wildberger will preach, lead worship, lead funerals, and provide emergency pastoral care.
- Lots of good ministry will still be happening thanks to the work of members, committees, Council, Brooke, Kelli, and Erica!

2 - Mission Green: While I am away, the congregation will be considering whether to enter a business partnership with Mission Green, LLC, a company members Jim and Liz Fritz established to help Good Shepherd become carbon neutral. Mission Green is proposing we enter a Power Purchase Agreement. This is a common way that people help nonprofits to install solar panels. People form LLCs so that they can get the tax credits on solar panels that are available for businesses and pass them on to nonprofits. (Luther College and the City of Cresco have benefited from PPAs). Mission Green would also purchase heat pumps that we could lease to own. The solar panels would be installed on a wooden pergola over paver stones. This would provide us with an outdoor shelter protected from sun and rain which we could use for outdoor worship and fellowship. This investment in carbon neutral technology would help us to live out our commitment to God's creation and would allow us to provide an important witness in the world. It would also free up funds for mission and ministry in the future.

I hope you will give this proposal serious consideration. This investment in carbon neutral technology would be good for God's creation. I believe this is also a good financial investment for Good Shepherd for these reasons:

- With Mission Green, we would be able to plan for our energy costs for the next eight years rather than being at the mercy of increases from Alliant and Black Hills.
- After eight years, we would be generating all our own electricity and heat and would not have electric and heating bills.
- The 34 year-old furnaces on the west end of the building will need to be replaced soon. The one heating the northwest side of the building has failed 3 times in the past 2 years. If we replace the furnaces, for approximately \$50,000, we will still have heating bills each month.
- Mission Green is making it possible for us to do these important upgrades at 60% of the total cost.
- We would be entering into a business agreement with Mission Green. This means that we would have a contract with fixed costs to Good Shepherd. Any liabilities or contingencies in the project would be assumed by Mission Green.

I know some of you feel we should not do any more work on the building right now as we've made lots of investments recently. I understand that. We've also learned from Mission Green that this proposal only works out financially if they can get the 26% tax incentive on solar panels. That incentive drops to 22% in 2023 and goes away in 2024. If we wait, we miss this opportunity from Mission Green. We also risk having to replace our furnaces without time to plan. Recent reports on climate change indicate it is well past time for us all to act. I believe that Mission Green is providing us a way to do that which also benefits the larger mission of Good Shepherd.

You can learn more by going to Mission Green's website missiongreen.llc. You can also learn more during Fellowship Hours on May 8 and May 15. On June 5, this proposal will be considered at a congregational meeting following worship. Please prayerfully consider this proposal.

3 - Governance and Ministry

Proposal: Please see the proposal on pages 11-12 of this newsletter that was endorsed by the Congregation Council at its April 19 meeting. We will have a congregational vote on this proposal in the fall.

Peace to you,
Pastor Amy
April 22, 2022



PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

Offered by Jane Jakoubek

Creator God, thank you for this earth, for the fields, orchards, gardens, plants and animals that provide food for your children. Help us to care for your creation. Bless all those who raise food for us. Keep them safe from harm. Be with all those whose labor brings food from the earth to our tables. Help us share so that all your children are fed.

Sabbath-giving God, thank you for creating rest as part of the cycle of life. Help us to find ways to let our bodies, minds, hearts, and spirits rest. Help us discover how worshiping and praising you lightens our burdens and shines joy into our lives. Help us to ensure that all your children have life-giving Sabbath.

God of Abundance, thank you for giving us far more than we deserve and far better than anything we can imagine. Thank you for making us part of the Body of Christ so we can join with you in bringing life, healing, nourishment, shelter and blessing to all your children. Thank you for the joy we find in serving others. Amen.

REVELATION SERIES SCRIPTURE

	Revelation Reading		Gospel
May 1 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	Revelation 5:1-14	"Worthy is Christ, The Lamb Who Was Slain"	John 21:1-19
May 8 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	Revelation 7:9-17	"Therefore with Angels and Archangels and All the Host of Heaven"	John 10:22-30
May 15 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	Revelation 19:6-9; 21:1-6	"When God Comes Down"	John 13:31-35
May 22 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	Revelation 21:10-12, 21-22:7	"Back to the Future"	John 14:23-29

THE BOOK OF REVELATION: HOPE FOR OUR TIME

While Pastor Amy is gone on her sabbatical, Rev. Rolf Svanoe will be providing pulpit supply through the end of June and again on the last Sunday of the sabbatical, July 24. During the five weeks after Easter the lectionary gives us readings from the book of Revelation. Exploring the message of hope in Revelation will be the focus during the Easter season. This strange book offers such wisdom and help in our present difficult times.

Revelation is not an end-time calendar. It was written to encourage Christians to remain hopeful in difficult times, to resist the idolatrous claims of empire, and to remain faithful to the vision of a just future that God is bringing to our world.

Rev. Svanoe has recently published a book on preaching through Revelation. He will share insights into this confusing and often frightening book of the Bible during Thursday morning Bible Study during the Season of Easter. Each week we will explore one of the major characters in the book and try to understand its meaning for today. All are welcome to attend these Bible Study sessions. They are held at 10:00 a.m. in the Good Shepherd Library.

- April 21 – Revelation 1—One Like the Son of Man
- April 28 – Revelation 4 – The One Seated on the Throne
- May 5- Revelation 5 – The Lamb Who was Slain
- May 12 – Revelation 6 – The Four Horse Riders
- May 19 – Revelation 13 – The Beast
- May 26 - Revelation 17 – The Seducer of Babylon

UPCOMING ADULT FORUMS:

May 1st: Mission Endowment Fund Forum

- The Mission Endowment Fund Committee will hold its annual Adult Forum, which will include a powerpoint presentation on the future of the Good Shepherd EPIC (Education Partners in Covenant) ministry of providing matching grants, followed by open discussion and questions.

May 8th: Mission Green

- Discussion and open forum with Jim & Liz Fritz around the Mission Green Carbon Neutral Initiative at Good Shepherd during Fellowship Hour

May 15th: Mission Green

- Discussion and open forum with Jim & Liz Fritz around the Mission Green Carbon Neutral Initiative at Good Shepherd during Fellowship Hour

EASTER FLORAL CONTRIBUTION HONORS

In memory of Maynard and Mimi Aaker and Vernon, Lola, and Edith Naslund
In memory of Brendan Numadahl

- Given by Bob & Ann Naslund and family, Michael, Laura Ready & Jennifer Sime

In memory of their parents: Floyd & Alberta Friedrich and Victor & Doris Buresh

- Given by Connie and Tom Buresh

Altar Flowers In memory of Ed Kaschins

- Given by Elizabeth Kaschins

Paschal Candle Wreath: In memory of our grandmothers:

Wilma, Charlotte, Donna, and Katie

- From Katie Prochaska, Mike Bollinger, Oliver, & Adeline

In memory of Grandpa Jerry

- Given by the Holland Family

In gratitude for the people of Good Shepherd

- Given by Pastor Amy

In memory of Pastor Paul Hasvold

- Given by the Hasvold Family

In memory of Joe Callaghan

- Given by Ingrid Callaghan



YOUTH LENT PROJECT: THANK YOU!



On the behalf of the youth, thank you Good Shepherd family for your generous support of this year's Lenten project. I have heard a lot of stories of past Lenten projects. From the giving vessel to the temple talks, the annual Lenten project is a beautiful reminder of God's love and abundance for all.

- **\$5000 was raised for Lutheran Services in Iowa**, specifically with their work in resettlement of Afghan guests in our state.
- Then over \$3000 was raised for Lutheran Disaster Relief. LDR funds will provide water, food, shelter, medical supplies, and other essentials needed in the Eastern European crisis. Prior to LDR becoming the focus of our Lenten Project, \$4,000 was raised. **This means Good Shepherd donated an exact total of: \$7,354.79 to LDR!**

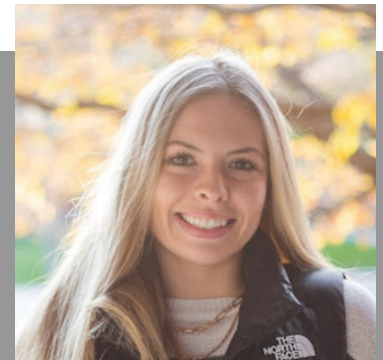
Thank you again for your generosity and prayer.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Celebration of graduates is on Sunday, May 15th during Sunday worship - we hope to see you there! A special cake will be served at Fellowship Hour that day.

Decorah High School Graduates:

- Nate Larson
- Mara Holland
- Kristi Kjome-Johnson



Luther College Graduates:

- Jessi Labenski
- Erin Keller
- Maya Mukamuri

REMAINING YOUTH FORUMS:

All middle school and high school youth are invited to join the Youth Forum on Sunday's at 10:40-11:30. Here are the remaining themes for this school year! Hope to see you there!

May 1st-The start of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Our time together will be spent learning more about these cultures and making some origami.

May 8th-Mother's Day. We still study Naomi and her motherly characteristics from the bible along with making cards for mother-like figures in our lives.

May 15th-Last day of Youth Forum! Minute to Win-It games along with a Whippy Dip walk to celebrate!



SAVE THE DATE: YOUTH EVENTS

Youth Night May 7th: On Saturday, May 7th., from 5pm-9pm GS middle school and high school students are invited to a Youth Night hosted by Luther College Outreach! Students are encouraged to bring a friend! A pizza dinner will be provided. The Outreach team will lead the students in worship (reflecting on John 16:20-33), whole group games, and small group reflection time. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by emailing Kelli Gapinski by May 4th so she can plan for pizza orders accordingly.

Good Shepherd VBS will be August 2nd-4th, from 5:00-7:30, ages 4 through 6th grade. A simple supper will be provided. Cost is \$10 per child. More information and registration coming soon!



CARBON NEUTRAL INITIATIVE: MISSION GREEN

Mission Green, LLC is presenting a proposal that allows the congregation to create a business relationship for energy and equipment. The proposal by Mission Green, LLC provides a carbon-neutral solution encouraging the congregation to eliminate fossil fuel use and create their own renewable energy.

Jim and Liz Fritz are 30-year members of Good Shepherd. They're both retired band directors, having taught in Decorah for 30 years, and live just two blocks from Good Shepherd. They have owned and operated a sole proprietorship business for over 25 years involving rental units and upgrading properties in their neighborhood. They have formed Mission Green, LLC specifically for the Carbon Neutral Initiative that is being proposed.

The business relationship would be established through a PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) and a lease between Good Shepherd Church and Mission Green, LLC. These financial contracts will provide a conduit to an affordable solution allowing for payments over time. The expenses to the church will be predetermined throughout the life of the contracts. Mission Green is responsible for all liabilities and contingencies.

Benefits of this Project:

- Good Shepherd becomes Carbon Neutral
- Proactive replacement of aging 34 year-old furnaces and eliminates reactive, expensive replacement
- Upgrades at reduced rate (approx. 60% value) to Good Shepherd, spread out over 8 years
- At the end of the lease and Power Purchase Agreement, Good Shepherd will own all heat pumps with an advanced air purification system for the Sanctuary and upgraded electrical equipment, create all of their own energy using solar and have a covered waterproof courtyard.

At their April meeting the church Council voted to allow the congregation to vote on the Initiative on June 5. The vote was not an endorsement at this time, simply providing an opportunity for the congregation to have a voice in this decision.

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CARBON NEUTRAL INITIATIVE: MISSION GREEN

Mission Green's proposal is a comprehensive plan utilizing the latest/best technologies available. It will provide Good Shepherd with a long horizon of Carbon Neutrality. More importantly, it also includes the ability to guarantee energy costs (versus the volatile situation we are currently in) and the opportunity to redirect future energy costs towards more vital church missions.

Mission Green, LLC will provide opportunities for the congregation to learn more at coffee hour on May 8 and May 15. They'll give a broad overview of the project proposal and take any questions you may have.

They hope you'll take the time to visit their website: www.missiongreen.llc The site has many pictures and resources to inform the congregation about the solutions that are planned for this Initiative.

Any questions may be directed to Jim and Liz at: missiongreen@icloud.com



GOVERNANCE AND MINISTRY PROPOSAL: APRIL 2022

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This proposal was endorsed by the Congregation Council on April 19, 2022. The proposal, and the constitutional changes it would necessitate, will be brought to the congregation for a vote at a congregation meeting in the fall.

Rationale for proposed changes

In our current structure, five of the council members are representatives of committees who serve for just one year. This structure makes it hard for the council to have continuity, address bigger picture issues, and set priorities together.

With this proposed new structure, council members would serve for a longer term and would be able to focus on governance and the mission of the whole congregation.

Committees would focus on the work of their area of ministry without the additional work of providing a council representative. Additional changes would help the council to carry out the work of governance and mission as they tend to personnel and budget matters.

The Congregation Council would include

- The 5 members of the Executive Committee:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Pastor
- **A change:** 5 at large members who are not representatives of the standing committees (rather than 5 committee representatives as it is now)

Terms of service:

- President- 1 year term
- Vice President- 2 year term: first year as VP, second as president
- **A change:** All other council members: 3 year terms, 2 term limit
- **A change:** Terms would be staggered to allow for continuity on the Congregation Council

Committees

- 3 members
- 3 year terms, 2 term limit
- The chair would normally be the longest serving member, would serve as chair for one year
- **A change:** Committees would still send a report to the Council each month but would not need to provide a member of the council. A committee representative could attend a Council meeting to speak to an issue the committee would like the Council to address.

GOVERNANCE AND MINISTRY PROPOSAL, APRIL 2022

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Other changes:

The Organizational Support Committee (OSC) would not continue. The trial OSC had been charged with budgeting, audit, position description, insurance and facilities use. The central work of budgeting is the responsibility of the council. The central work of writing position descriptions is the responsibility of those charged with personnel. The OSC has been a committee on the periphery, they are not a standing committee and not connected to the council. They don't have enough awareness of the priorities of the council and congregation to be charged with budgeting and personnel matters. Insurance and facilities use issues can be addressed by the Facilities and Grounds committee especially now that there is a Facilities Caretaker on staff.

A Personnel Committee would be established

One of the responsibilities of a congregation council is personnel. The council can delegate that responsibility to a personnel committee that is directly under the authority of the council. The Executive Committee has been doing personnel work but it has many other responsibilities. We need designated people to focus on staffing issues.

- The Personnel Committee and Pastor would do the reviews of lay staff.
- The Executive Committee would do the review of the pastor.
- The Personnel Committee would be made up of 3 people with staggered terms.
- The VP would meet with the personnel committee to connect the committee with the Council.

Budget Process

Another responsibility of a congregation council is establishing and overseeing the budget, the ministry priorities of the congregation. The Property and Management Committee used to do this but it is better for a group charged with tending to the overall mission to work on budget. The whole Council needs to be involved in this process. Here are the steps that would be used:

- Each year the Council would review the whole ministry and identify priorities.
- This review would enable the Stewardship Committee to develop a campaign to fund those priorities.
- Committees, groups, and staff would be asked to identify funding needs for their specific area, as part of the larger priorities determined by the Congregation Council.
- The Treasurer would receive these funding needs.
- The Treasurer and Pastor would work on a budget proposal and identify all the issues that need to be discussed by the Council.
- December each year would be dedicated to a budget meeting with the Council.

Facilities and Grounds (formerly Property and Grounds Committee)

Facilities and Grounds would take back facilities use and insurance issues. (These had been assigned to the trial OSC. The heavy load of the former Property and Management Committee was lessened by letting go of budgeting issues and by hiring a Facilities Caretaker.

MAKING A SPLASH:

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF OUR GOOD SHEPHERD GARDENING MINISTRY

How are we living out our personal lives in our congregational life, and in the world as a whole? At Good Shepherd we're focusing on the promises of baptism. The first letters of each promise, with an Alleluia in the middle, can spell SPLASH:

SERVE all people, following the example of Jesus.

PROCLAIM the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

LIVE among God's faithful people.

ALLELUIA !

STRIVE for justice and peace in all the earth.

HEAR the word of God and share in the Lord's supper.

This year the Stewardship Committee is working to help our congregation recognize and appreciate the good efforts of members and friends living out these promises in diverse ways, as we show each other support and give thanks to God. In May we are spotlighting the Good Shepherd Gardening Ministry and the work of those involved in it.

This has been a long-term ministry. Over the years it has evolved, but has always remained a benefit ministry. It is currently under the tender loving care of our treasurer, John Moeller. However, it was initiated approximately 20 years ago by then-Youth Director Bob Felde as a youth project. The youth put produce out for donations that went to the First Lutheran Church Food Pantry. Today Moeller puts produce and flowers out each Sunday to be taken by the congregation during Fellowship Hour, with the contributions going to the Decorah Food Pantry. Produce not used by the congregation is also donated to the pantry.

Between Felde and Moeller, Ed Hover was the keeper of the garden, assisted by his wife Charilyn. There have been many members and friends of the congregation involved in the Gardening Ministry over the years, far too many to mention here. Those having made a major impact in recent years are Lindy and Catherine Moeller, Al Anderson, Mike Bollinger, Katie Prochaska, Elizabeth Kaschins, Linda Donoghue and Bill deGraaf.

Each year starter produce and flower plants are donated by members of the congregation, and bouquets often grace our worship space. **The Stewardship Committee appreciates and salutes the SPLASH that our gardeners make with this project, and thank them for their initiative and ministry. For this, let's all say ALLELUIA!**

Thank you, Good Shepherd, for supporting the gardeners and the Decorah Food Pantry.

- *The Stewardship Committee: Chris Johnson, Luther Snow, Jerry Bruce*



MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND: ADULT FORUM - MAY 1

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee will hold its annual Adult Forum on Sunday, May 1st at 11:00 a.m. in the Good Shepherd Gathering Space. The forum will feature a PowerPoint presentation focused on the future of the Good Shepherd EPIC (Educational Partners in Covenant) scholarship program, followed by open discussion and questions.

For the past 18 months the MEF committee has gathered data related to the number of children and youth in the congregation, in various age categories. In addition, the committee has studied the growth of the three investment accounts making up the Mission Endowment Fund, as well as the regularity of gifts and memorials being committed to the fund. As a result of these efforts, the committee has established predictions regarding the future needs of this ministry.

To more clearly understand the correlation of the data available, the committee has elected to make the analyses in 5-year segments; this year's Adult Forum will focus on the next five years. However, the committee will be prepared to field questions regarding any of the future 5-year segments.

Just as the number of children and youth in our congregation has grown, so has congregational interest in this ministry. To date, Good Shepherd has been able to provide \$1000 EPIC scholarships annually to any member of the congregation who submits a qualifying application.

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee encourages all members of the congregation to attend this Adult Forum. The future looks bright, but only with congregational knowledge and support. Parents of children and youth of any age are especially encouraged to become knowledgeable about this Good Shepherd ministry.

- Jerry Bruce for the Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Committee

CARING FOR CREATION

Food Waste

Worldwide, about a third of the food we produce goes uneaten, which generates up to 10 percent of all global greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, if food waste were its own country, it would rank third in greenhouse gas emissions, behind only China and the US. Households come in first, at 37 percent of the food wasted. Try a food waste audit and figure out what goes uneaten in your home. (annemariebonneau.substack.com) A useful guide for doing a family project to see how much of your food is wasted: <https://endsandstems.com/conduct-a-food-waste-audit/>

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Easter brunch. It was so fun to be together and share a meal and fellowship. We are hoping to do it again next year.

May Friendship Day will be held May 6 at the UCC Congregational center with coffee being served at 9:30. All are welcome to this event.

May Friendship Day began in 1933 when two women's groups, meeting at separate luncheons, focused on children's health and the children of migrant families. In 1939, the groups merged to become the National Council of Church Women. The organization soon held its first annual observance of the day "to strengthen a growing sense of unity, the joy of Christian fellowship, and the power of Christianity in the day of need." This year's May Friendship Day centers around working together despite our differences to address poverty in our communities. (Church Women United)

The annual **SWO Gathering** will be on Saturday, June 18 @ St John Lutheran in Nashua, 8 am – 1 pm and a luncheon is included. The theme is One Body in Christ and the theme verse is I Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it." The focus will be on how each of us has a very important part in the function of the Body as a whole. You can attend in person or virtually, please see Bev Sheridan for registration forms.

Gather Bible Study

For summer 2022, participants will enjoy a three-session Bible study that uses the concept of quilting to explore rest, renewal and Christian community. We'll discuss Old and New Testament readings as we consider the patterns we follow and how the pieces of our lives and communities are bound together in Christ. While no actual sewing experience is required to complete the study, participants can opt to create a quilting project as a lasting reminder of their time together. (from Gather website)

May 2022, Session 1: "A summer of rest and renewal," focuses on choosing patterns and re-assessing the shape of our lives. We find life-giving patterns in worship, sabbath and service.

Calendar of events

- **May 6:** May Friendship Day, Congregational UCC, 9:30
- **May 7:** LWR pickup, Olson Explosive, 7:30-10:30
- **May 24:** Gather Bible study, GS Gathering space, 7 pm, Connie Buresh Bible study, Kathy Buzza refreshments
- **June 18:** NEIA SWO Annual Gathering, St John Lutheran, Nashua, Iowa, 8 am
- **July 28-30:** Nordic Fest Activities

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: All are welcome to come together to knit or crochet, share skills and conversation! Yarn and patterns are available. The May meeting is Wednesday, May 18, 1:00-3:00 in the Good Shepherd Gathering Space. Meetings will pause over the summer months and resume in September.

GRADUATION PARTY: Pastor Amy wants all Good Shepherd members and friends to know you are most welcome to come celebrate with her family as Nate graduates from high school. His graduation party will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sat. May 21 from 4-7pm. Everyone is welcome!

Youth Brunch Fundraiser Thank you Note: On the behalf of the youth, a big thank you goes out to all who came to support a successful and joyous Easter Brunch. Thank you to WELCA for helping organize and co-host this event with us. Over \$500 was raised from this Easter Brunch, and funds will be designated to all children and youth programming and future events! With Gratitude, Kelli Gapinski

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS: We are in need of more support for Sunday services, lawn mowing, and youth programming. We are also looking for more volunteers to help with the **new audio/recording on Sundays** ~once a month/every other month. We have the system here, please help us be able to use it to reach the community outside the church building. Contact the church office to get involved.

1ST QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT

Income for the first three months was \$79,098 (2021 income at this point was \$79,451) and expenses were \$79,334 (2021 expenses were \$79,923). That means during the first quarter income and expenses were comparable (and about the same as last year). We have paid more than one-fourth of our benevolence for the year, so we are keeping up with those payments.

Recall that our statements of intent totaled \$320,000. At the end of the first quarter our envelope giving, designated offerings, automatic payments, and one-fourth of annual payments made at the beginning of the year totaled \$74,544. The difference between the expected at this point (\$80,000) and actual, therefore, is \$5,500. In sum, we are running a little behind in our expected giving but the difference is not large and some people pay in lump sums throughout the year rather than monthly.

Recall, too, that funds for the piano renovation and sound/audio system are being paid from special gifts and are not included in the budget. At this point we have not received the final bill for the sound/audio system.

WAYS TO SERVE AT GOOD SHEPHERD

All sign-ups can be found on the website under "Sign-Ups" tab and in the Gathering Space.

LAWN MOWING SCHEDULE: Spring is in the air! Volunteer to help mow the Good Shepherd lawn this growing season.

YOUTH FORUM & SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT SUPPORT: There are 3 weeks of Youth Programming left in the year: May 1st, 8th, and 15th. We ask for adult volunteers to be a welcoming supportive presence to the leaders.

MINISTRY SUPPORT:

Assisting Minister: Read prayers and serves communion during service. Meet with Pastor 20 minutes before service to review.

Reader: read first and second scripture. Meet with Pastor 20 minutes before service to review.

Usher: Arrive @ 9:10 to greet worshippers. Pass and present offering plate. Guide flow to communion. Count offering & drop at bank deposit box following service.

Fellowship Hour: Provide simple offering of treats and make coffee for Fellowship Hour following Worship. Responsible for setting up and cleaning up. 1.5 hour commitment.

TRAVEL TESTIMONY: You are invited to share a brief reflection about how travel has impacted your faith during a summer Sunday service.

Sunday - May 1: Band in Worship					
Assisting Minister		Usher		Fellowship	Gail Judisch
Reader	Richard Ylvisaker	Usher		Fellowship	Bonnie Johnson
				Fellowship	Ingrid Callaghan
Sunday - May 8: Norskcor in Worship					
Assisting Minister	Harland Nelson	Usher	Christy Tomlinson	Fellowship	
Reader	Donna Bahr	Usher		Fellowship	
				Fellowship	
Sunday - May 15: Celebration of Graduates, Choir in Worship					
Assisting Minister	Cindy Bellrichard	Usher		Fellowship	Ingrid Callaghan
Reader	Brian Caton	Usher		Fellowship	
				Fellowship	
Sunday - May 22					
Assisting Minister	Harland Nelson	Usher		Fellowship	
Reader	Richard Ylvisaker	Usher		Fellowship	
				Fellowship	
Sunday - May 29					
Assisting Minister	Jane Jakoubek	Usher	Dave Peterson	Fellowship	
Reader	Kris Peterson	Usher		Fellowship	
				Fellowship	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>8:45am - Band Rehearsal</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:30am - Endowment Fund</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School & 10:45am - MEF Adult Forum</div> <div>7pm - Youth Summer Trip mtg.</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>Eastern Star Bingo Prize Drop- 10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4:45pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 7pm - Social Justice</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 7pm - Choir rehearsals 8pm - Band rehearsal</div>	<div>Recycle</div> <div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Facilities & Grounds</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 2:30pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 4:30pm - Education Committee</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div>	<div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4pm - Free Immigration Legal</div>	<div>9am - Kinderhaus Play Event @ 5pm - Youth Night with Luther</div>
<div>8:45am - Handbell Rehearsal</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & 9:30am - Norskor Singing In</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School & 11am - Adult Forum: Mission</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4:45pm - Erik Sessions lessons @</div>	<div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 10:30am - Aase Haugen</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 7pm - Choir rehearsals 8pm - Band rehearsal</div>	<div>10am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Travel Club @ Good</div> <div>2:30pm - Erik Sessions lessons @ 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div>	<div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Council Agenda Planning @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 3:30pm - Regina Downing Recital</div>	<div>2pm - Regina Downing Recital @</div>
<div>Graduate Celebration & 8:45am - Choir Rehearsal</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:30am - Adult Forum: Mission</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School &</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 5:30pm - CARE @ Gathering</div> <div>6:30pm - Sons of Norway @ 7pm - Cong. Council Mtg. @ 7pm - Sons of Norway Recital @</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Arlin Falck Communion</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 10:45am - MEF Committee</div> <div>11am - Eastern Star Communion</div> <div>1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 7pm - Choir rehearsals 8pm - Band rehearsal</div>	<div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>Recycle</div> <div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 3pm - Endowment Fund</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Stewardship</div>	<div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @</div>	<div>2pm - Memorial Concert Rain</div> <div>2pm - Set up for party</div> <div>4pm - Nathan Larson Graduation</div>
<div>Luther Graduation</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4:30pm - Outreach and 7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather</div>	<div>9:30am - Worship and Music</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @</div>	<div>10am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div>	<div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @</div>	
<div>9:30am - In-person Worship & 11am - Adult Forum: Jim Fritz (?)</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @</div>	<div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @</div>	<div>Recycle</div> <div>8:30am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1:30pm - Facilities & Grounds</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @ 4:30pm - Education Committee</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div>	<div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Kinderhaus Snack @ 1pm - Friends of Recovery @ GS</div> <div>1:30pm - Kinderhaus Clean-Up @</div>	<div>Car Wash Fundraiser for Youth</div>

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

19

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 - 7:00pm

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

Present: Pr. Amy Zalk Larson, Cynthia Ernst, Ann Naslund, Tim Lecander, Chris Johnson, John Moeller, Bonnie Johnson (filling in for Ingrid Callaghan), Jim Fritz (filling in for Bob Naslund), and Hayley Jackson were present. Tom Buresch was absent.

Devotions and Initial Actions: Cynthia 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 feels a discussion is warranted.

1. Approval of the March 2022 Council meeting minutes.
2. Reception of committee reports as submitted.

The Consent Agenda was approved by the consent of the Council.

Discussion Agenda:

Congregational Meeting Re: Mission Green PPA: Liz and Jim Fritz presented their proposal on a solar unit and heat pumps to Council. Their proposal includes creating a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between Mission Green and Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd would lease the equipment for a predetermined period of time at predetermined costs, and after the lease is over, the congregation would own the equipment outright through a buyout. Discussion included the benefits of the project (movement towards carbon neutral status, allow for proactive replacement of fossil-fueled furnaces, reduced prices), sources of funding, including donations and applicable grants, who would provide maintenance on the equipment, equipment lifespan, effects on insurance, and handling the fuel tank at the church. Bonnie Johnson made a motion to have a congregational meeting on the proposal on June 5, 2022. Tim Lecander seconded. Motion carried.

Governance and Ministry Proposal: Pr. Amy shared that she brought her governance and ministry proposal to congregation committees and everyone appeared to be in favor of the changes. Council representatives of various committees shared they also received favorable feedback on the proposal. Pr. Amy hoped to have Council endorse the proposal so it could be put in the newsletter for the congregation to read. Once she returns from sabbatical, discussions about necessary constitutional amendments can begin so a congregational meeting to approve those changes can be held before the Nominating Committee begins its work in the fall. Ann Naslund moved that Council endorse the governance and ministry proposal. Tim seconded. Motion carried.

Dishwasher and Kitchen Upgrade: Jim shared updates on the new dishwasher and kitchen upgrade project. They have a bid for a commercial grade dishwasher from Rockweiler's for \$4,862. This would have 2-minute sanitation heat cycles and Rockweiler's would provide support for maintaining the unit. They also have a bid from Reed Fitton (cabinetmaker) to construct three cabinets on the east wall above the ovens for extra storage. This comes in at \$2,450. The renovation will also replace the three sink setup with two sinks and a drainboard, with a commercial grade sprayer and garbage disposal. There is no bid for the electrical and plumbing work, but Jim estimates it will cost around \$1,000, bringing the total to about \$9,700. WELCA was very in favor of these changes, and donated an additional \$750 to the project. Jim shared that they have secured a donation to cover the costs not covered by WELCA and the \$5,000 Depot grant. Council was enthusiastic about the plan. (continued..)

Conversation was primarily about any feedback from WELCA and the kitchen committee (both of whom were in favor) and an estimated timeline. Jim does not want to begin demolition before all the material has arrived, but they are hopeful to have it finished for the August potluck, if not Nordic Fest. Ann moved to accept the kitchen proposal as presented, Chris Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Racial Justice Statement: Pr. Amy shared that the Racial Justice Task Force recently met and began planning for next steps. They would like to print the statement, along with the Reconciling in Christ statement and AAMPARO statement, have them framed, and hung in the library where they can be seen by the various committees. Since the statement is too long for the bulletin, they are considering printing portions of it each week with a QR code that leads to the fuller statement. The task force have asked that the congregation and Council keep the statement in mind as they make decisions and take votes.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller reviewed the Treasurer's report. Hayley moved to accept the report, Jim seconded. Motion carried.

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

The Committee Reports were received and accepted as submitted.

Education: Ann Naslund

Sunday School will resume for April 24-May 15. The Lenten project raised funds for Afghan arrivals to the US and donations for Ukraine needs. They plan to Invite Lutheran Services in Iowa representatives to receive checks. They did additional planning for Holy Week and Easter.

Facilities and Grounds: Jim Fritz

Currently reviewing and finalizing mowing schedules, as well as planning for custodial and care needs while Pr. Amy is on Sabbatical. Gary and Reg Laursen will handle the transition until her return. St. Grubby's Day planned for April 30. Jim Fritz provided updates on kitchen upgrades and proposed solar panels.

Outreach and Hospitality: Bonnie Johnson

On Sunday, April 10th we welcomed two new members: Rebecca Hanna and Randy Kittleson. Tom Buresh and Bonnie Johnson welcomed them and gave them welcome bags.

At our meeting on the 29th we began sorting out plans for the neighborhood welcome picnic on September 11.

Stewardship: Chris Johnson

The Stewardship Committee has begun planning the calendar for their work. Lately, they have been writing articles for the newsletter highlighting various ministries, using the SPLASH model. An example is Luther Snow's March article on the work of Sunday School students raising funds for Afghan refugees and Chris Johnson's April article on the work of WELCA. They hope these articles help communicate what is being done with the congregation, thank those doing the work, and highlight the need for continued support.

Worship and Music: Tom Buresch

Royalties for Spirituals: At the April meeting, Bobby Vrtis will present a proposal to the committee for a pilot project for Good Shepherd that would be presented to the Council and then to the congregation. Traveling with the Spirit—A Summer Travelogue through the Book of Acts: Because only one person has signed up so far, the committee decided that each committee member would invite two people to participate. In addition, committee members will give a brief invitation (like a Temple Talk) during worship services in May. Governance and Ministry Proposal: The Worship and Music committee supports the Governance and Ministry Proposal. Involving more people in the worship services: In addition to personal invitations to participate by committee members, a return to more organized monthly/quarterly ministry teams was encouraged.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

Holy Week and Easter went so well. Thank you to everyone who led, worked and participated. There is a learning curve with the new sound and video system. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work with this technology! Sabbatical boundaries: I will not be responding to texts or emails. I will not be doing any funerals or pastoral acts. This is important both for my own rest and renewal and to help the congregation to experience God's presence through other leaders. Rev. Svanoe is available for funerals and pastoral care. If you see me in town, I will be glad to talk with you. Please respect the boundaries of the sabbatical and avoid seeking pastoral care during the conversation. The Antiracism Task Force has a number of new members. The task force members are: Jon Ailabouni , Jennifer Self, Jane Jakoubek , Kelli Gapinski , Bob Larson, Sandhya Caton, Gabe Hiner. Days Out Vacation Days- Letter of Call stipulates 4 weeks and 4 Sundays. January 1-2, 2 days including 1 Sunday February 7-10, 4 days.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Total income for this year as of March 31 was \$75,098.09 and expenses were \$79,334.42, leaving us with a deficit of \$4,236.33. Current planned giving is currently at \$74,544, which is about \$5,500 behind expected giving based on Statements of Intent, resulting in a small deficit. We have paid over ¼ of our benevolences for the year

Next Council Meeting: May 17, 2022, 7:00 PM in person

---Submitted by Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary



Spring bird carving centerpieces made by Harley & Norma Refsal. A note from Norma: *Harley carves the birds and I do the painting. While he is out walking our dog, he gathers sticks that he thinks will work for perches and then carves the bark off so the color appears fresh. The birds are painted in a color palette that one associates with spring, more fanciful than realistic.*