

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

August 2022

GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 miss you! I am so grateful to have had this time to reflect, pray, and renew. I'm so grateful for all the time I've had to read! But I miss you and long to be back with you! I will return from sabbatical in time to accompany some of our Good Shepherd youth on the Youth Gathering trip to Minneapolis on the afternoon of July 24. My first Sunday back in worship with you will be July 31.

I am still integrating what I've been reading and learning. I wanted to share a few insights with you here in this article as well as share my reading list. I know that what I'm learning from this time will continue to impact my ministry, my preaching, and my life for years to come. Thank you for the gift of this time. I look forward to being with you soon!

Here are a few key insights from my sabbatical exploration on bodies, trauma, and racialized trauma.

We don't just have bodies; we are our bodies. We are each a trinity of body, mind and spirit made in the image of the Triune God. It is important to tend, honor, listen to and speak kindly to our whole triune being, especially our bodies. This is important for our own well-being, our relationships with others, and our connection to all of creation. (Wonderful resources for doing that are found in *The Wisdom of Your Body: Finding Healing, Wholeness and Connection through Embodied Living*, by Hillary L. McBride and in *Honoring the Body: Meditations on a Christian Practice*, by Stephanie Paulsell.)

The most helpful definition of trauma I have found is that it is "the suffering that does not go away, the suffering that remains." (*Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining*, by Shelly Rambo.) After the event, after the storm, generations later, trauma lingers. Trauma continues to impact our bodies, telling us that we are not safe - that we must fight, flee, or freeze. Before our thinking brains have a chance to respond, our bodies react. Trauma that past generations experienced also gets transmitted to our bodies through our DNA. Trauma shapes our imaginations, preventing us from envisioning and living into a more hopeful future.

Resmaa Menakem, in his book *My Grandmother's Hands*, makes the case that all of us in the United States have been impacted by racialized trauma. He shows how racialized trauma impacts white bodies, bodies of color, and police bodies. He calls us to learn how to both settle and activate our bodies in order to heal from trauma and in order to dismantle the white body supremacy that is within and around us all.
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CONTINUED BELOVED OF GOD,

There are many helpful practices for settling and activating our bodies in his book *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*. There are also good practices in *Fierce Self-Compassion: How Women Can Harness Kindness to Speak Up, Claim Their Power, and Thrive*, by Kristin Neff; *Healing Trauma: A Pioneering Program for Restoring the Wisdom of Your Body*, by Peter A. Levine; *Anchored: How to Befriend Your Nervous System Using Polyvagal Theory*, by Deborah Dana; and *Restorative Yoga for Ethnic and Race-Based Stress and Trauma*, by Gail Parker. The good news is that we don't have to do this work or face the suffering that remains alone. God's Spirit bears witness to the divine love that remains beyond the suffering on the cross, the divine love that remains even as suffering lingers. (Rambo, *Spirit and Trauma*). Our suffering is witnessed by the Spirit and the Spirit witnesses to us of God's persistent love.

To heal from trauma, we need at least three key things: 1) We need to feel safe, 2) have a witness to our suffering, and 3) be able to imagine a new future because trauma can distort our imaginations. We can get stuck in a trauma loop, unable to imagine anything beyond the suffering. Theologian Serene Jones works with the Psalms and John Calvin's commentary on the Psalms to show how God provides us with these three things in the Psalms. 1) Many aspects of the Psalms help to establish a sense of safety. They proclaim that we have an active God who cares about justice, who works to bring order and well-being to creation. 2) The Psalms also allow us to lament, to bring our suffering before God who is a witness to it. Finally, 3) The Psalms of praise help us to imagine a new future with hope. (This is from Serene Jones' book *Trauma + Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World*.)

The whole Bible is the story of traumatized people. It is a witness to how God interrupts the trauma of the world with love. It helps to reshape our imaginations about the future. "The church is called, as it exists in this space of trauma, to engage in the crucial task of reordering the collective imagination of people." (Jones, *Trauma + Grace*.) Serene Jones offers beautiful resources for reshaping our imagination in her wonderful new book *Call it Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World*. I look forward to sharing in this work with you, dear people of God!

Peace to you,
Pastor Amy

PASTOR AMY'S SABBATICAL READING LIST

These books are highly recommended by Pastor Amy post Sabbatical.

Books that are accessible to a general audience:

- *The Wisdom of Your Body: Finding Healing, Wholeness and Connection through Embodied Living*, by Hillary L. McBride
- *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*, by Resmaa Menakem
- *Call it Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World*, by Serene Jones
- *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us*, by Cole Arthur Riley
- *Honoring the Body: Meditations on a Christian Practice*, by Stephanie Paulsell
- *Emotional Inheritance: A Therapist, Her Patients, and the Legacy of Trauma*, by Galit Atlas
- *Anchored: How to Befriend Your Nervous System Using Polyvagal Theory*, by Deborah Dana
- *Healing Trauma: A Pioneering Program for Restoring the Wisdom of Your Body*, by Peter A. Levine
- *Fierce Self-Compassion: How Women Can Harness Kindness to Speak Up, Claim Their Power, and Thrive*, by Kristin Neff
- *A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance: A Love Story of Grief, Trauma, Healing and Faith*, by Jennifer Ohman-Rodriguez

Books that are geared more to theologians and trauma therapists:

- *Trauma + Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World*, by Serene Jones
- *Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining*, by Shelly Rambo
- *Resurrecting Wounds: Living in the Aftermath of Trauma*, by Shelly Rambo
- *Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma and Ministry*, by Deanna A. Thompson
- *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma*, by Bessel van der Kolk

AUGUST MUSIC SCHEDULE

8/7 - VBS Choir

8/14 - Solo/Chamber*

8/21 - Pick-Up Choir

8/28 - Solo/Chamber*

If you are interested in offering special music (a solo, duet, or something else?), please contact Good Shepherd Music Director, Brooke Joyce: wbjoyce3@gmail.com

*Denotes that Brooke is not available to accompany on these Sundays

"Pick-Up" music Sundays: come at 8:45 on Sunday morning to learn a short piece of music. No need to RSVP, just show up.

PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

Offered by Jane Jakoubek

Merciful God, day after day we pour out our prayers to you asking you to heal, restore, renew, and fix our world, our situation, other people. Now instead, we pour out our prayers to you to heal **us**, to restore **us**, to renew the places in **us** that have grown dull because of timidity or lack of trust in you.

Grant us the courage we need for this time.

Grant us the humility to listen to you in the voices of those around us and the ways you speak to us in scripture and in nature.

Grant us the willingness to change.

Grant us a desire to be open to your call.

Grant us the grace to go to places where we are uncomfortable so you can help us change, grow, and serve your beloved world.

Merciful God, today we pray that you heal, restore, and renew other people and this world through healing, restoring, and renewing us. Thank you for helping us to be open to your work in our hearts and our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE TRAVEL SERIES

	Psalm	St. Paul's Travel Tip	Gospel
August 7	Psalm 129	1 Corinthians 9:19-23	Acts 16:6-15 "Travel to New Places"
August 14	Psalm 124	2 Corinthians 6:2b-10	Acts 16:16-34 "Unexpected Roadblocks"
August 21	Psalm 134	Colossians 1:24-29	Acts 17:16-34 "In Him We Live and Move and Have Our Being"
August 28	Psalm 133	Romans 16:1-16	Acts 18:1-4, 18, 24-28 "Appreciating Our Travel Partners"
September 4	Psalm 128	Philippians 3:12-14; 4:8-13	Acts 20:17-38 "Ventures of Which We Cannot See the Ending"

Q&A WITH ERIK JOHNSON: MEF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Erik Johnson, a member of Good Shepherd and a recipient of the congregation's EPIC scholarship while a student at Luther, has been accepted into Drake University Law School in Des Moines. Erik will begin his studies in September and has shared some of the experiences he feels prepared him for law school. He credits his opportunity to have these experiences to the Good Shepherd EPIC Scholarship Program, and the Mission Endowment Fund Committee is passing his gratitude on to the congregation.

Question: *How has Good Shepherd's EPIC scholarship helped you do things you otherwise might not have done at Luther College?*

Answer: The EPIC scholarship I received from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has helped to facilitate my desire to participate in areas outside of just usual classwork during my time at Luther College. With the assistance of this scholarship and several others, I was able to graduate from Luther in two years without taking out any student loans. I am very grateful for this generous scholarship, and I hope that it will be offered to many other members of the congregation planning on attending college. The increased ability to participate in these activities, which this scholarship helped to support financially, helped to shape my experiences at Luther, and opened up opportunities for me that I might not have otherwise considered. The foremost example of this would be my time in Washington, DC with the Lutheran Colleges Washington Semester in the spring of 2020. During that time, I worked as an intern with the United States Capitol Historical Society, helping facilitate a fundraising event held in late January of that year, attending a congressional briefing on flood insurance, and conducting research on events from the year 1822 to compile into a calendar for the year 2022, including reading and taking notes on original sources found at the Library of Congress. I also was able to see monuments like the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, tour the Capitol, the Pentagon, and the White House, and visit many museums, including the Museum of African American History, the Holocaust Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, and several others.

Additionally, I wouldn't have been able to participate in extracurriculars like Mock Trial if I'd had to put in more work study hours to finance my Luther education. I was on the Luther Mock Trial team between 2018 and 2021, and participated in several competitions with other colleges across the country.

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CONTINUED: INTERVIEW WITH ERIK JOHNSON: MEF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

During a competition at St. Olaf College in the fall of 2019, my team ranked seventh out of around thirty total teams that competed, and for the following season (2020-21) I was appointed to be a co-captain of one of the three Luther Mock Trial teams. Theater and music were also some key areas that I participated in. I sang with the Norsemen choir from 2018 to 2019, and then with Collegiate chorale between 2019 and 2020. I also took voice lessons from Dr. Ed Andereck and participated in the 2019 Opera Scenes J-Term. In regards to more modern theater, I performed in Matchgirl, a musical written by Luther students that showed at the One Act Luther theater festival in 2019.

Music, theater, and legal studies are all areas that I am very passionate about, and these activities helped to affirm my plans to attend law school this fall at Drake University. All of these experiences helped to round out my college experience and supplement my coursework. Without the generous funding from Good Shepherd's EPIC scholarship and Luther's match, I might not have otherwise been able to afford to have all of these experiences. It is my hope that many future college students also receive this scholarship, so that their college experiences may be similarly enriched.

MID-YEAR TREASURER'S REPORT

Half way through the year our income has been \$161,685.12, compared to \$151,638.81 last year. Our expenses through June were \$160,212.95, compared to \$162,927.15. That means this year we currently have a surplus of \$1,472.17. In other words, our expenses this year are about the same as last year but our income is up significantly.

Our statements of intent would predict offering income of \$160,000. Our actual offering income has been \$153,468.00. That means we are running a little behind what we expected. The good news, though, is that our expenses and income are nearly the same (and we are fully caught up on our benevolence giving).

YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS

August 2-4th- Vacation Bible School! 5:00pm-7:30pm. Dinner will be provided. \$10 per child. All students entering K-6th grade are invited to join Compassion Camp! Contact Kelli with questions.

August 21st- Blessing of the Backpacks! Calling all students (elementary, middle, secondary, and college), teachers, professors, and school personal for Good Shepherd's annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 21st. During worship, students and educators will receive a special prayer as a new school year approaches.

September 11th-Rally Sunday! Fun games for all children celebrating another year of children and youth ministry!

YOUTH TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

More information to come later - in the meantime, here are 4 of Pr. Amy's highlights. Ask a youth about theirs!



Decorah Youth & Leaders before the trip



Service project at a church doing Prairie Restoration work



Guided pilgrimage through the George Floyd Global Memorial. The photo above is of the "Say Their Names" Cemetery



Gabe Hiner & Decorah Youth leading worship

Thank you to all who helped to make our Krumkake Demo and Sale a success. We all worked many hours-buying ingredients, labeling baggies and making signs, retrieving popcorn tins from the annex, mixing batter, baking and packaging krumkake, transporting everything downtown, demonstrating and selling at the Fest and then cleaning up and bringing everything back to the church-wow! It certainly takes a village (Good Shepherd) to have an amazing Krumkake booth.

We applied for a Thrivent Action card and a Walmart grant and along with monetary donations were able to purchase paper products and baggies, water for our volunteers and extra baking ingredients.

We will report next month on our sales but it looks like it is going to be a great Fest!
Thank you again for all your help.

This fall we will be collecting items for LWR school kits. School supplies are on sale right now

so it is a good time to start stocking up. Items needed are:

- 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper
- 30 cm ruler
- pencil sharpener
- blunt scissors
- #2 unsharpened pencils,
- black or blue ballpoint pens
- box of 16 or 24 count crayons
- 2 1/2 " eraser

A Thrivent Action card has been used to purchase drawstring backpacks. A donation box will be set up in the church entry.

LWR in gathering will be held Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 7:30 am to 10:30 am at Olson's Explosives 1837 Trout Run Rd, Decorah, IA 52101

Gather Bible Study

August 2022, Session 3: "Ties that bind," examines how God invites us to commit to a new way of life with God and with each other.

August 23: Gather Bible study, GS Gathering space, 7 pm

- Sharon Drew Bible study, Connie Buresh refreshments
All are welcome!

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

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

LAWN MOWING SCHEDULE: There are 3 weeks that still need 1 volunteer to help mow and maintain the lawn: August 8th, September 19th, and September 26th

Each Sunday in August we are in need of assistance in many spots - check your availability and please sign up for one of the following things:

- **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.

AUDIO/RECORDING WORSHIP SERVICES: Arrive ~9:15 and record 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.

August 7

Assisting Minister		Usher		Fellowship	
Reader	Jane Kemp	Usher		Fellowship	
Travel Testimony	Sandhya & Brian Caton			Fellowship	

August 14

Assisting Minister		Usher	Reg Laursen	Fellowship	
Reader	Donna Bahr	Usher	Jeri Laursen	Fellowship	
Travel Testimony	Harland Nelson			Fellowship	

August 21

Assisting Minister		Usher	Dave Peterson	Fellowship	
Reader	Kris Peterson	Usher		Fellowship	
Travel Testimony	John Moeller			Fellowship	

August 28

Assisting Minister	Jane Jakoubek	Usher		Fellowship	Hayley Jackson
Reader	Brian Caton	Usher		Fellowship	
Travel Testimony	Marv Slind			Fellowship	

CANCELED: All church potluck on August 17th - in order to best prepare for the Welcome Friends and Neighbors picnic, this event is canceled. Join in the potluck spirit at Fellowship Hour on Sundays, and at the Welcome Friends and Neighbors Picnic on Sep. 11th. We welcome Pr. Amy back from Sabbatical and extend gratitude to those that cared for our congregation in her absence.

Good Shepherd Welcome Friends & Neighbors Picnic:

Invite your friends, neighborhood, and family for delicious food and fellowship at our annual (that hasn't been annual!) Neighborhood picnic. 5:00-6:30 on Sunday, September 11th. Save the date and plan on joining us! More information available as the summer progresses.



RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT FEEDBACK: For several years, the original Anti-Racism Task Force of Good Shepherd led the congregation through a thoughtful and prayerful journey of shaping a congregational Racial Justice Statement which was unanimously adopted in February 2022. This summer during worship, we have been reading that statement in whole or in part. The current Anti-Racism Task Force is interested in feedback about how hearing and speaking the statement is resonating with you and our life together as a congregation. You are welcome to email or initiate a conversation with any member of the committee: Sandhya Caton, Kelli Gapinski, Gabe Hiner, Jane Jakoubek, Bob Larson, Jennifer Self (see church directory for email addresses). Thank you for your commitment to racial justice and for being open to how the Spirit is inviting you to participate.

Dear Good Shepherd Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you so much for your warm hospitality during my three Sundays with you. It was a true joy to serve with you as we worshipped together. And, thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl...what a surprise!!! Prayers for you all as you continue your ministry with each other and with your neighbors.

In peace,
Pastor Karla Wildberger



AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am - Youth Led Worship: 8:30am - Office Hours 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	1 8:30am - Office Hours 5pm - VBS 7pm - Social Justice	2 VBS 8:30am - Office Hours 5pm - VBS	3 1:30pm - ESL 5pm - VBS	4 1:30pm - Facilities & Grounds 4:30pm - Education 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 5pm - VBS	5 8am - Office Hours	6 Memorial Prep in Kitchen &
ELCA Churchwide assembly Pt. Amy attending	7 7:19am - Flight to Columbus	8 9am - Kinderhaus Camp	9 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10:30am - Aase Haugen 1pm - Wellington Place 1:30pm - ESL	10 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10am - Blairs & Caterer Prep 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours	11 8am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 1pm - Council Agenda 3:25pm - Flight to	12 9am - Memorial Prep in 4pm - Ben Blair memorial
9:30am - In-person Worship 8:30am - Office Hours 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	13 7:19am - Flight to Columbus 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	14 9am - Kinderhaus Camp	15 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10:30am - Aase Haugen 1pm - Wellington Place 1:30pm - ESL	16 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10am - Blairs & Caterer Prep 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours	17 8am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 1pm - Council Agenda 3:25pm - Flight to	18 9am - Memorial Prep in 4pm - Ben Blair memorial
9:30am - In-person Worship 8:30am - Office Hours 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	19 7:19am - Flight to Columbus 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	20 9am - Kinderhaus Camp	21 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10:30am - Aase Haugen 1pm - Wellington Place 1:30pm - ESL	22 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10am - Blairs & Caterer Prep 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours	23 8am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 1pm - Council Agenda 3:25pm - Flight to	24 9am - Memorial Prep in 4pm - Ben Blair memorial
Blessing of the Backpacks 9:30am - In-person Worship 8:30am - Office Hours 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	25 7:19am - Flight to Columbus 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	26 9am - Kinderhaus Camp	27 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10:30am - Aase Haugen 1pm - Wellington Place 1:30pm - ESL	28 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10am - Blairs & Caterer Prep 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours	29 8am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 1pm - Council Agenda 3:25pm - Flight to	30 9am - Memorial Prep in 4pm - Ben Blair memorial
9:30am - In-person Worship 8:30am - Office Hours 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	31 7:19am - Flight to Columbus 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 4pm - Trumpet Lesson @ 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	32 9am - Kinderhaus Camp	33 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10:30am - Aase Haugen 1pm - Wellington Place 1:30pm - ESL	34 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 10am - Blairs & Caterer Prep 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours	35 8am - Office Hours 9am - Kinderhaus Camp 1pm - Council Agenda 3:25pm - Flight to	36 9am - Memorial Prep in 4pm - Ben Blair memorial

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

13

Tuesday, June 21 - 7:00 pm

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

Present: Cynthia Ernst, Ann Naslund, Bob Naslund, Tim Lecander, John Moeller, Ingrid Callaghan, Jim Fritz, Tom Buresh, and Hayley Jackson were present. Jim Fritz and Elizabeth Kaschins were present as guests. Pr. Amy is on Sabbatical.

Devotions and Initial Actions: Bob Naslund 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 May 2022 Council meeting minutes.
2. Reception of committee reports as submitted.

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

Discussion Agenda:

Reconciling in Christ Statement Update: Elizabeth Kaschins, on behalf of the Communications sub-committee, shared that the Anti-Racism task force had requested copies of all of Good Shepherd's welcome statements for printing and display. These are the Reconciling in Christ statement, the AMMPARO statement, and the Racial Justice statement. In preparing these statements, Elizabeth and the sub-committee noticed that the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) organization had updated the language it recommended congregations use in their statements. The sub-committee created an updated draft of Good Shepherd's statement based on these recommendations, and Elizabeth presented this draft to Council. These changes included replacing "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer-identifying persons" with "all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions" and adding "a commitment to anti-racism work" to the list of affirmations in the statement. Council discussed the changes, reviewed the history of the statement, and appreciated that the new language encompassed many identities. Hayley Jackson moved to accept the updated language of the Reconciling in Christ statement. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Mission Green Proposal: Council reviewed the draft Mission Green contracts and continued discussions of the proposal with Mary Fritz. Discussion included legal review of the documents, if the contract discusses the when the buyout will occur (yes, this is mentioned in the Purchase Power Agreement portion), the removal of roof air conditioners (yes, they will be removed early in the process), when the oil drum would need removed (after the transformer is removed), who is authorized to sign the contracts and the status of loans. Council decided to have all members read the contracts and share any concerns by the following Thursday. Council would then vote over email that Thursday. Bob Naslund moved to ask Steve Holland to review the contract. Ingrid Callaghan seconded. Motion carried. On Thursday, June 23, Cynthia emailed Council members requesting a vote on the contracts. Tim Lecander moved to approve the Mission Green contracts. Ann Naslund seconded. Motion carried.

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Anti-Racism Task Force Proposal: Cynthia shared a report from the Anti-Racism task force, providing updates on their current activities. These updates included the plan to read the Racial Justice Statement during worship services this summer, working with the Communications sub-committee to have the welcome statements framed and hung in the Good Shepherd library, and reviewing ways to ensure the commitment to racial justice is integrated into welcome statements printed in the worship bulletin. The task force also shared language which they proposed be read at Good Shepherd meetings before making major decisions. The proposed language is "As we deliberate, let us affirm our congregation's commitment to pursue racial justice, advocate for migrant families, and support the LGBTQIA community." The Council will need to determine the logistics of incorporating this language into decision-making processes. Tom Buresh moved that Council accept the task force's recommendation. Bob Naslund seconded. Motion carried.

Stewardship Committee Proposal - Renew the Flocks: Chris Johnson shared a drafted proposal from the Stewardship committee to renew the Good Shepherd Flocks. This proposal is in early stages and includes reviving the congregation flocks used during the pandemic and mission teams. Reviving the flocks has many benefits, including allowing for personal outreach and support, helping build relationships between members, and providing diverse ways for members to serve and contribute to Good Shepherd. The proposal also suggests surveying members to get a better sense of where and how members are interested in contributing to Good Shepherd instead of using the Time and Talent Forms. As the proposal is very rough, the committee requested Council offer their initial impressions and indicate if a more formal proposal would be worth pursuing. Council was favorable to the idea, discussing the history of mission teams at Good Shepherd, ways the flock system could benefit the congregation, and community building opportunities. Council encouraged the committee to continue working on this proposal and exploring their options.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller reviewed his report. Chris moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Ann Naslund seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Amy's Return: Council briefly discussed writing a reflection when Pr. Amy returns from Sabbatical, particularly thanking Brooke and Erica for their work during this time.

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

The Committee Reports were received and accepted as submitted.

Education: Ann Naslund There are a number of summer events for families this year, including a movie night on June 26, trail bike ride on July 17, and the youth gathering July 24-27. VBS will be August 2-4. LSI reps will visit Good Shepherd to acknowledge youth work in Lenten project funds for Afghan arrivals on Rally Day, September 11.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller Total income for this year as of May 30 was \$139,242.27 and expenses were \$133,959.12 leaving us with a surplus of just over \$4,700. Our statements of intent estimated that we would have received \$133,333 in offerings and we have received \$132,115. We are in good shape financially.

Announcements:

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be August 18, 2022 7:00 PM in person

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM. Cynthia led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting. ---Submitted by Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary