



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 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,

What a joy it is to be back among you! I missed you during sabbatical! It has been a bit of a whirlwind since I returned on July 24. I want to share some highlights:

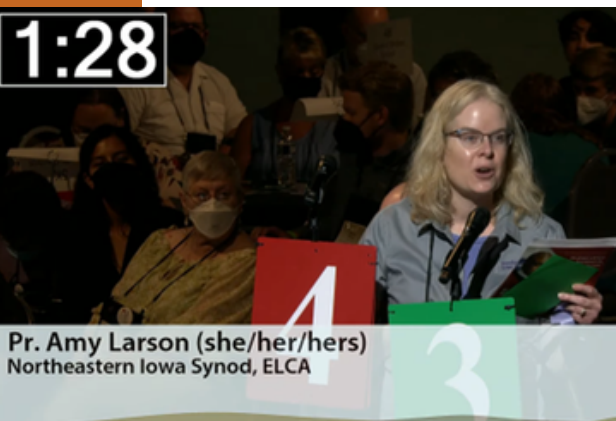
July 24-27, I accompanied six Good Shepherd youth (Mason Cote, Gabe Hiner, Mikayla Hiner, Leah Holland, Abby Larson, Aidan Nalean-Carlson) and Youth Director Kelli Gapinski on the **NE IA Synod Youth Trip to Minneapolis**. We had a wonderful experience. Read more about it in the sermon for July 31 found on the website under "Worship- Sermons".

We got back from the trip in time for Nordic Fest weekend and Krumkake galore! Good Shepherd raised over \$4500 through Krumkake sales. All of that will be given away to our mission beyond Good Shepherd! Thanks to the committee of Ann Naslund, Bev Sheridan, Carrie Solberg, and to all who donated time, money and ingredients to this great work.



August 2-4, we had Vacation Bible School. Fourteen kids had a wonderful time at Compassion Camp led by Kelli Gapinski, Brooke Joyce, Nate Larson, and me.

Thank you to Laurie Biedermann, Ann Naslund, Kris Peterson, Jennifer Self, Abby Larson and all the parents for making VBS such a wonderful time.



Pr. Amy Larson (she/her/hers)
Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA

August 8-13, I was a voting member at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. I got to speak on the assembly floor when we were considering setting specific carbon emission goals. I shared the story of our building becoming carbon neutral by 2023. The Assembly voted "to direct the ELCA Churchwide Organization to set the goal of reducing its net greenhouse gas pollution 50% by 2030 and to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050." Thanks be to God! Read more about the Churchwide Assembly on page 9 of his newsletter. Since the Assembly,

congregations have reached out to ask me what we're doing and how we're doing it. I am so grateful we can be a witness to the larger church!

I am now working to reconnect with committees and Council, catch up on preparations for the fall, visit elders and provide other pastoral care.

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BELOVED OF GOD, CONTINUED

In September, I have been invited to preach at the ordination of Good Shepherd member Menzi Nkambule on Sunday, September 18. Menzi has been called to serve St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Jersey City, New Jersey. I am grateful that I will get to bring the love of our congregation and represent you all at the ordination. Rev. Allie Scott will preach and preside at Good Shepherd that morning. Thank you all for the warm welcome back to Good Shepherd. I long to catch up with each of you. I know that will take time. I am grateful for your patience and understanding as I return to the rhythms of the program year.

Peace to you,
Pastor Amy

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

September 4 <i>"Ventures of Which We Cannot See the Ending"</i>		Psalm 128	Philippians 3:12-14; 4:8-13	Acts 20:17-38
Sept. 11	Exodus 32:7-14 <i>Moses begs the Lord to turn from anger against the Hebrews</i>	Psalm 51:1-10 <i>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)</i>	1 Timothy 1:12-17 <i>Christ Jesus came for sinners</i>	Luke 15:1-10 <i>Looking for the lost sheep, silver coin: Jesus eating with sinners</i>
Sept. 18	Amos 8:4-7 <i>Warnings to those who trample on the needy and poor</i>	Psalm 113 <i>The Lord lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)</i>	1 Timothy 2:1-7 <i>One God, one mediator—Christ Jesus—who gave himself for all people</i>	Luke 16:1-13 <i>A shrewd manager: faithful in little, faithful in much; serving God/wealth</i>
Sept. 25	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 <i>Warnings to those who are comfortable or wealthy</i>	Psalm 146 <i>The Lord gives justice to those who are oppressed. (Ps. 146:7)</i>	1 Timothy 6:6-19 <i>Eager to be rich or eager to pursue richness of God's justice?</i>	Luke 16:19-31 <i>Story of poor Lazarus and the wealthy man</i>

PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

Offered by Jane Jakoubek

Loving God, we give thanks for children; for the children we know and all children across the earth. Thank you for creating each of them in your image and likeness. Thank you for giving them to us to cherish, to care for, to teach, and to learn from. Bless them as they return to school this fall. Protect them and guide them. Bless teachers and all who makes schooling possible. Help us provide good schools for all children, especially where public schools aren't available, where there is inadequate support and encouragement for learning, and for children with special needs of any kind. Help us all do our part to care for all our children, to support opportunities for learning, and to learn from these beloved ones you give to us.

God of abundance, we give thanks for fall harvests, the bounty of gardens, fields, and orchards. Bless all those whose labor brings food to our tables: farmers and migrant workers, meat-packers and truck drivers, grocery clerks and cooks. Help us to give thanks for the food we have to eat. Help us to share what we have with those in need so that no one goes hungry.

God of mercy, you hear the cries of all those in need: those who are sick; those crying out for justice; those who are dying; those who are hungry or lack shelter; those crying out for work that meets their daily needs; those in danger from disasters or jobs that put them at risk; those whose needs are known to us and those whose needs are known only to you. Help us to listen with you to the needs of those around us and respond in every way we can, as individuals, as a society, as your church. Amen.

WELCOME FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY PICNIC

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will host its "Welcome Friends & Neighbors Community Picnic 2022" on Sunday, September 11, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. The picnic will be in the church's backyard and is free and open to all! A large tent will provide shelter from sun or showers, and in the event of heavy rain, the picnic will be held in the Fellowship Hall. This gathering is an opportunity for the congregation to thank and celebrate its friends, neighbors and the entire Decorah area community, including Luther College students, faculty, and staff! Come enjoy good food, good conversation, and meet new friends. The picnic features a bountiful potluck provided by members of the congregation, as well as sloppy joes, hot dogs, and many gluten free options. All beverages, paper products, and silverware will be provided. There will be live music by Slim Whimsy, an ensemble featuring Erik Sessions and Josh and Ezra Vorvick, as well as games for kids.

PICNIC ROLES EXPLAINED

There are many ways to get involved with the welcome friends and neighbors picnic. Check out the sign-up under "Sign-Ups" on the website and in the Gathering Space and find a way that fits you to get involved. Task descriptions are listed below in detail, and will be shared with you closer to the event as a reminder.

Please direct any questions to the Church Office.

All Food/Lemonade donations:

- When signing up add comments about what you are bringing in the "Comment" box as able
- Please bring to the Church kitchen by 4:30 on Sunday the 11th with a serving utensil
- Label all dishes and serving utensils so they make it back to you
- Please label any dietary notes (GF, V, Dairy free, etc.) as applicable

Pick-up and drop-off tables

- Luther College has allowed us to rent tables/chairs free of charge, we just need to provide all loading and transportation for them. There are 15 tables and ~100 chairs that need to be picked up and dropped off at Good Shepherd on Friday the 9th, then returned on Monday the 12th. Trucks and drivers to haul these are needed.

Saturday Yard Setup

- Put up tables under the tent and in the yard. Erica will provide a layout guide.

Sunday Yard Setup

- Put tablecloths and centerpieces on tables, put up chairs. Generally make sure the space looks inviting.

Greeter at Nametag Table

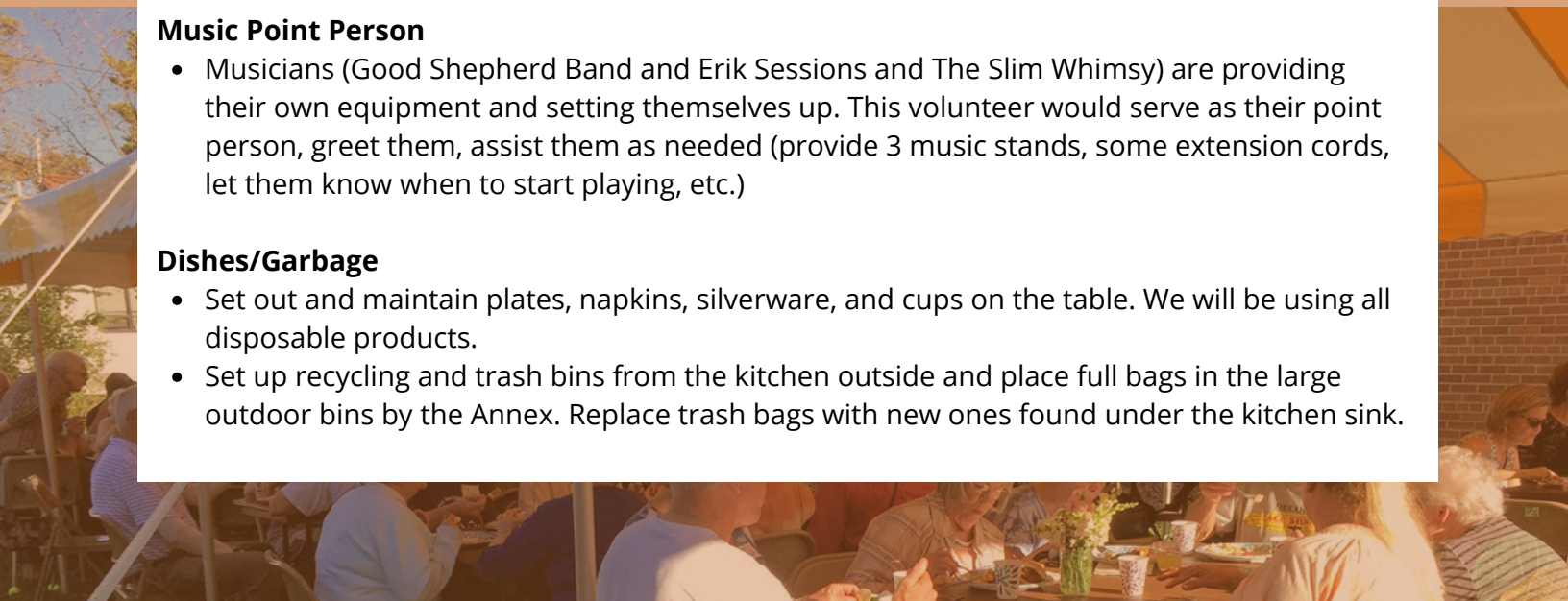
- Greet folks and invite them to put on a name tag
- Keep a tally of people that come (as able - it's ok if its a rough estimate)
- Most likely also help direct folks to the restroom as needed. :)
- Set up "Welcome to Good Shepherd" cards at the welcome table by the name tags

Music Point Person

- Musicians (Good Shepherd Band and Erik Sessions and The Slim Whimsy) are providing their own equipment and setting themselves up. This volunteer would serve as their point person, greet them, assist them as needed (provide 3 music stands, some extension cords, let them know when to start playing, etc.)

Dishes/Garbage

- Set out and maintain plates, napkins, silverware, and cups on the table. We will be using all disposable products.
- Set up recycling and trash bins from the kitchen outside and place full bags in the large outdoor bins by the Annex. Replace trash bags with new ones found under the kitchen sink.



PICNIC ROLES CONTINUED

Food Point Person

- Supervise the drop-off of food and help lead what food is set out right away and what is stored in the kitchen for later use.
- Make sure dishes/utensils are labeled with the person's name when they drop items off.
- Work with the food runners to organize the serving table and make sure food is labeled with any dietary specifications as needed.
- At the end of the night help organize food and dishes for people to take back home with them.

Food Runner

- Assist Food Point Person in organizing and maintaining food on the serving table so things are fully stocked and labeled as needed.

Kids Activities Coordinator- Kelli Gapinski will have this role

- Provide activities/opportunities for any kids there (bubbles, temporary tattoos, etc.)

Kids Activity Helpers

- Help participate/lead games!

Coffee maker & Drink point person

- In charge of making coffee and decaf coffee prior to the event and throughout as needed. Help monitor drinks.

Hot Dog Roaster

- Good Shepherd provides the hot dogs and buns, but we need a volunteer to cook the hot dogs in a roaster, and set the roaster out on the serving table.

Prepare Sloppy Joe Meat

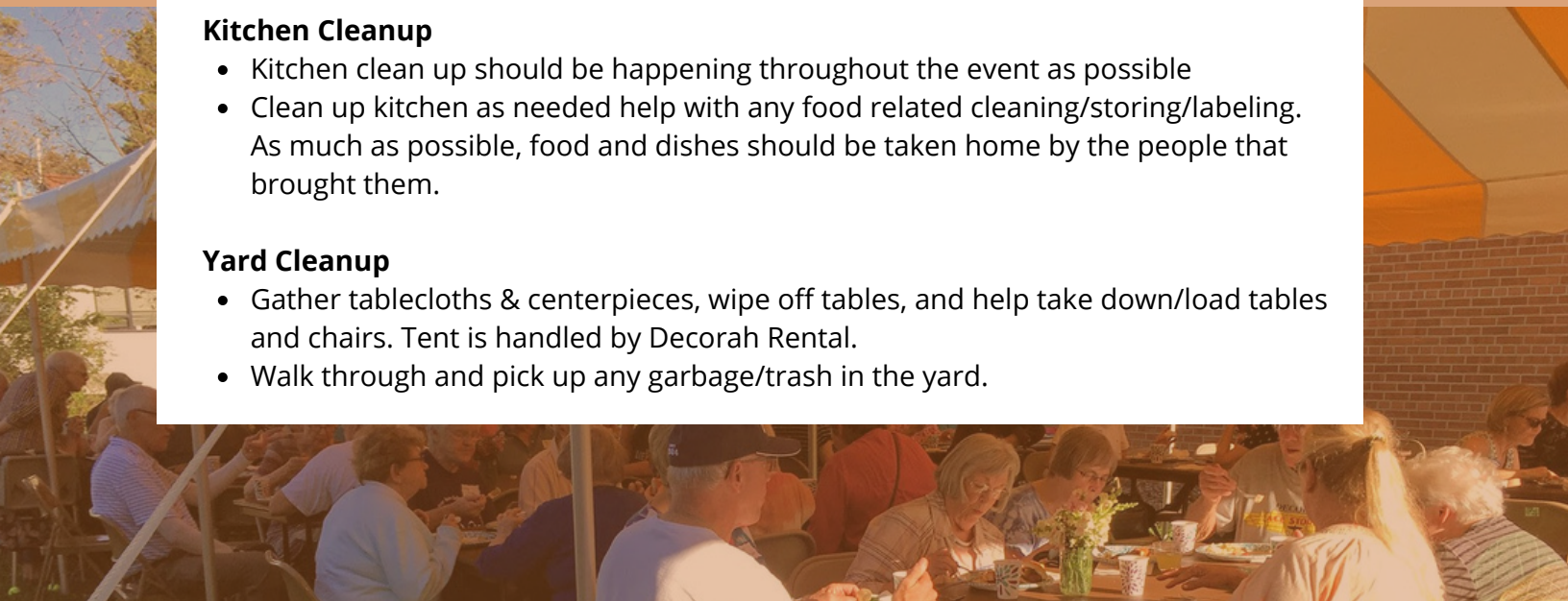
- VBS had 8 lbs of ground meat left over and 2 large cans of sloppy joe sauce. We are asking for a volunteer to cook/prepare the sloppy joe meat as a hot dish option.

Kitchen Cleanup

- Kitchen clean up should be happening throughout the event as possible
- Clean up kitchen as needed help with any food related cleaning/storing/labeling. As much as possible, food and dishes should be taken home by the people that brought them.

Yard Cleanup

- Gather tablecloths & centerpieces, wipe off tables, and help take down/load tables and chairs. Tent is handled by Decorah Rental.
- Walk through and pick up any garbage/trash in the yard.



MUSIC SCHEDULE: FALL 2022

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Choir rehearses weekly (beginning 8/31), Wednesdays 7-8 pm; on Sundays when choir sings, warm-up at 8:45 am Band rehearses weekly (beginning 8/31), Wednesdays 8-9 pm; on Sundays when band plays, warm-up at 8:45 am Handbell Choir rehearses at 8:45 am on the morning we play

All vaccinated members/friends/guests of Good Shepherd are welcome to join any of these groups. For more information, please contact our music director, Brooke Joyce: 419-9995, or wbjoyce3@gmail.com.

Wednesday, 8/31	Choir and Band rehearsals begin (7 pm and 8 pm)
Sunday, 9/4	Guest soloist
Sunday, 9/11	Rally Sunday: Handbells play prelude, Choir sings offertory, Band plays Postlude Band plays for picnic (?)
Sunday, 9/18	Choir sings offertory Band plays for concert at noon (?)
Sunday, 9/25	Jazz Service
Sunday, 10/2	Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude
Sunday, 10/9	Choir sings offertory
Sunday, 10/16	Handbells play offertory
Sunday, 10/23	Jazz Service
Sunday, 10/30	Reformation/Confirmation: Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude
Sunday, 11/6	All Saints: Guest ensemble
Sunday, 11/13	Choir sings offertory
Sunday, 11/20	Handbells play offertory
Sunday, 11/27	Advent 1: Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude
Sunday, 12/4	Advent 2: Choir sings offertory
Sunday, 12/11	Advent 3: Handbells play offertory
Sunday, 12/18	Advent 4: Solo or small ensemble opportunity! Christmas Pageant @ 5 pm: band plays alongside youth
Saturday, 12/24	Christmas Eve: Choir and Band will offer music during service
Sunday, 12/25	Solo or small ensemble opportunity!

MAKING A SPLASH: THE MINISTRY OF SHARING IN CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

How are we living out our faith in 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, making a 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 month your Stewardship Committee spotlights the beginning of the annual Stewardship Appeal. Traditionally the appeal has been divided into two parts: the stewardship of the blessings members can share in the daily life of the congregation, and the sharing of material gifts God has provided us. This year the format remains the same, and in this article we are focusing on sharing in our congregational life.

September 25th has been designated as the day we will reflect on how we are **Blessed Together** and will offer the gifts of our time and talents. The Stewardship Committee is inviting members to consider their intentions of participation in the congregational life at Good Shepherd in 2023. A form will be mailed to each household and we will place them in front of the altar on September 25th.

Webster defines stewardship as *"the conducting, supervising, or managing of something, especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care"*.

Some of us are old enough to remember when all airline attendants were female and were called "stewardesses". They were entrusted with the management and care of the passengers aboard their flight, made sure everyone was welcomed aboard, communicated and enforced safety protocols, and served snacks and drinks. If we go back far enough, they even served in-flight meals! In short, they were in charge of the comfort, safety, and care of the passengers on their flight.

We are the stewards and stewardesses on this great flight at Good Shepherd and have been entrusted with providing the comfort, safety, and care of our congregation. May God help us manage it carefully with our talents and time. God's gifts to us become our gifts to "humankind".

We are blessed, give thanks, and shout "ALLELUIA" to all the members of this congregation for sharing their gifts. The Good Shepherd flight is well managed.

Your Stewardship Committee

Chris Johnson, Jerry Bruce, Luther Snow, Pastor Amy

2022 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

Read this summary with click-able links at www.elca.org/churchwideassembly

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly convened in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 8-12, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Gathering under the theme, **Embody the Word**, voting members participated in plenaries and worship while acting on key legislative business and hearing reports on the work of the church. Imran Siddiqui was elected to a six-year term as Vice President, the highest position a lay person can hold in the ELCA. Bishop Eaton led the assembly in a public apology to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina, Stockton, Calif. The assembly also received a presentation on the “Declaration of the ELCA to American Indian and Alaska Native People” adopted by the ELCA Church Council last September. Voting members acted on memorials related to the restructure of the governance of the church, called for reconsideration of the social statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” and encouraged deeper engagement with Indigenous partners through the Land Back movement. You can find all the actions of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly in the Legislative Update.

Media Highlights from the Assembly Accessible Online:

- Read daily summaries of assembly actions from Living Lutheran.
- Religion News Service shares 5 things you need to know from the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- View photographs from the event.
- View the Churchwide Assembly YouTube playlist.

Also at the Churchwide Assembly, Good Shepherd member Luther Snow was elected to the Board of Trustees of 1517 Media, which is the publishing ministry of the ELCA and a broader media company. 1517 Media includes Augsburg Fortress Publishing, which produces the hymnals and other worship and congregational materials we use at Good Shepherd. Luther was recruited for the Trustees as a published author, as the developer of the Asset Mapping method of congregational discernment, and for his experience in nonprofit finance and development. His term is for 3 years, renewable.



Thank you to all who helped to make our Krumkake Demo and Sale a success. Our net income was \$4,134.49. This is after expenses and 10% to the Nordic Fest Board. We had approximately 90 workers who put in over 500 hours. This includes everything from moving cans, putting on labels, donating ingredients, making signs, making batter, baking, packaging, working the Fest and cleanup (and anything else that came up). Thank you to everyone who helped: church members, friends, visitors, and family members. It truly takes a wonderful community to make this project work. Thanks again!!!



This fall we will be collecting items for **LWR school kits and baby care kits**. Thank you to all have donated school supplies during the month of August. After doing an inventory of our supplies, we are still in need of these Items: **70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, pencil sharpeners, black or blue ballpoint pens, and 2 ½ " erasers. Items needed for baby care kits are cloth diapers, small hand towels, infant sleepers, and 4 ounce soap bars.**

If you have questions, you can contact Gail Judisch, 563 380 7276 (baby care kits) or Bev Sheridan, 563-382-9025 (school kits). Thanks so much for supporting our LWR project this fall. A donation box is in the gathering space.

LWR ingathering will be held Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 7:30 am to 10:30 am at Olson's Explosives, 1837 Trout Run Road.

Gather Bible Study - Jesus and nature: Teachers of Faith

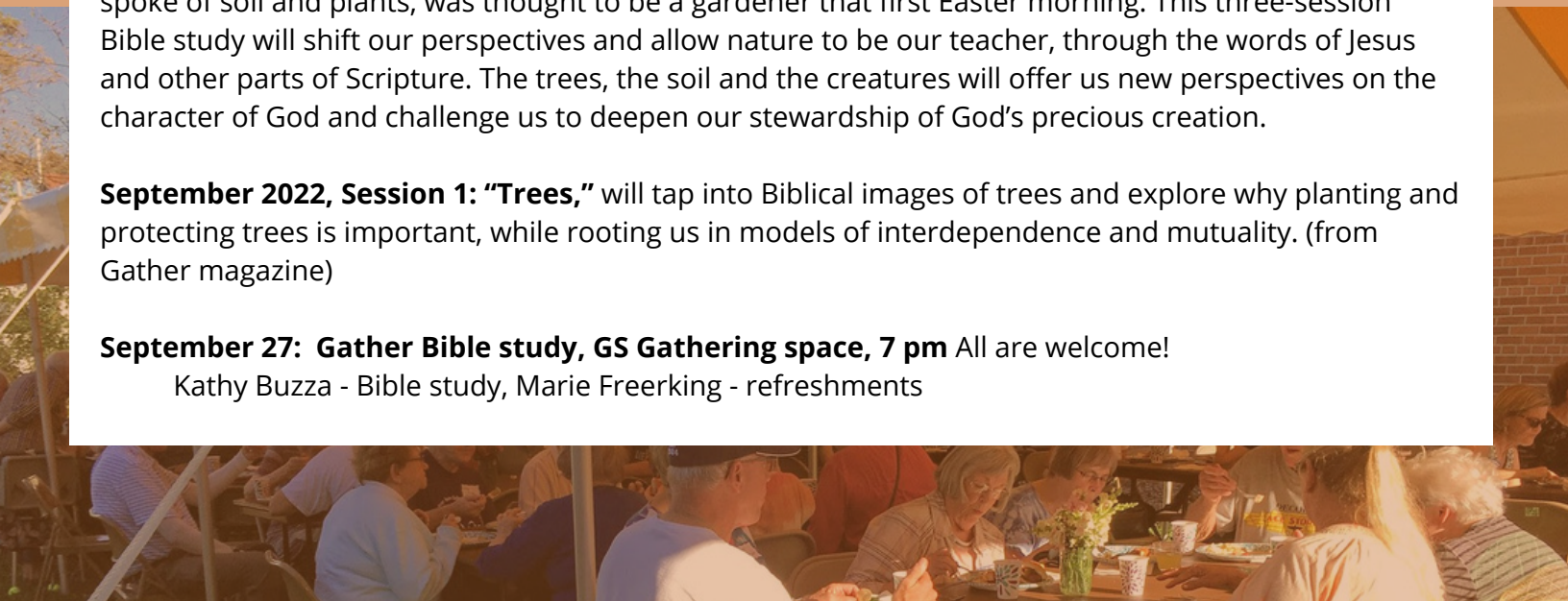
by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith

Jesus often turned to the natural world in teaching, opening our eyes to see creation not just as something to be cared for, but as our teacher and kindred. It is no mistake that Jesus, who lovingly spoke of soil and plants, was thought to be a gardener that first Easter morning. This three-session Bible study will shift our perspectives and allow nature to be our teacher, through the words of Jesus and other parts of Scripture. The trees, the soil and the creatures will offer us new perspectives on the character of God and challenge us to deepen our stewardship of God's precious creation.

September 2022, Session 1: "Trees," will tap into Biblical images of trees and explore why planting and protecting trees is important, while rooting us in models of interdependence and mutuality. (from Gather magazine)

September 27: Gather Bible study, GS Gathering space, 7 pm All are welcome!

Kathy Buzza - Bible study, Marie Freerking - refreshments



CONFIRMATION CLASSES AT GOOD SHEPHERD

These classes are a way for students to explore and grow in faith and then affirm their faith publicly. Classes also provide community, connection with caring adults, and the opportunity to affirm their baptismal identities as God's beloved children. Here is a general overview:

- Classes are taught by Pr. Amy. Youth Director, Kelli Gapinski, and other adults also help with Confirmation.
- Students explore the Bible, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments as well as Lutheran teachings about them.
- Class is held most Wednesday nights in the school year from 7-8pm except during Advent and Lent. During Advent and Lent, students are expected to attend midweek worship with their family. During Lent students meet with a mentor during Lenten Soup Suppers.
- Most students do regular Confirmation classes in 7th and 8th grade but students can start later as well.
- During the fall of 9th grade, students meet two additional times to prepare for Affirmation of Baptism. 9th graders are asked to write a brief faith statement.
- The Affirmation of Baptism service happens on the last Sunday in October on Reformation Sunday during the 9:30am worship service.

Here are specifics for this year

- Rally Sunday, September 11: 7th graders starting Confirmation will be blessed and will be given a Bible
- September 14 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall will be first Confirmation class this year for 7th and 8th graders
- There will be no class or midweek worship: Oct. 12, Nov. 23, Dec 28, April 12
- During Advent and Lent, Wednesday worship at 5:30 pm takes the place of class, students are expected to attend with families.
 - Advent: Wednesdays, Nov. 30-Dec. 21, 5:30pm
 - Lent: Wednesdays Mar. 1- Mar. 29, 5:30pm
- Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22), Maundy Thursday (April 6), Good Friday (April 7) worship services are at 7pm and take the place of class. Students are asked to attend with families.
- The last class of the year will be May 10.
- This year 9th graders will meet from 8-8:45pm on two Wednesdays: September 21 and October 12. 9th graders are asked to write a brief faith statement.
- This year the Affirmation of Baptism service for 9th graders will be Oct. 30, 2022 during 9:30am worship. Oliver Bollinger, Abby Larson, Mikayla Hiner, and Keaton Nalean-Carlson will affirm their baptisms.

YOUTH EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rally Sunday is on September 11th, from 10:45-11:30. This annual event is the kick-off to Sunday School and Youth Group! Please come for games, music, and popsicles. The Sunday School teachers and Education Committee are looking forward to a great year ahead! *(This is a throwback photo from Rally Sunday, 2016!)*



Welcome Friends & Neighbors Picnic:

Children's activities will be provided by Kelli Gapinski. All families are welcome! There will be yard games and temporary tattoos available.

Decorah Rocks Painting & Hiding:

- **Sunday, September 18th-** During Youth Group time from 10:45-11:30, time will be spent painting rocks for the Decorah Rocks project! All supplies will be provided. Come join the fun

THEN

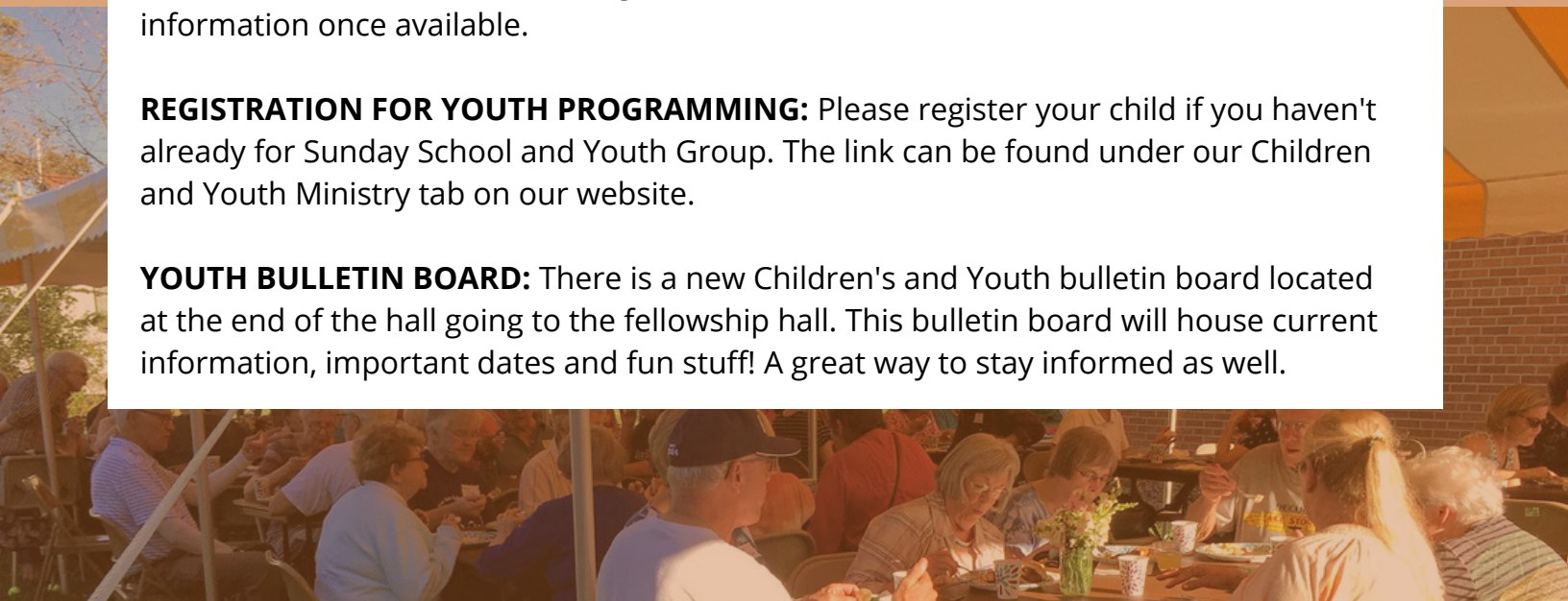
- **Sunday, September 25th-** During Youth Group time from 10:45-11:45, the youth will go on a hike in the prairie to hide the rocks. Afterwards, there will be a stop at the Whippy Dip! Please have your child bring some cash that day if they would like a treat at the Whippy Dip.

Middle School Youth Lock-in at UNI, Cedar Falls, IA! October 21 – October 22

Registration for the 2022 Middle School Lock-in will begin Sept. 1. The lock-in will take place at the UNI Wellness/Recreation Center in Cedar Falls. It will feature worship, music, activities such as swimming and a rock wall, and more. Kelli will send more information once available.

REGISTRATION FOR YOUTH PROGRAMMING: Please register your child if you haven't already for Sunday School and Youth Group. The link can be found under our Children and Youth Ministry tab on our website.

YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD: There is a new Children's and Youth bulletin board located at the end of the hall going to the fellowship hall. This bulletin board will house current information, important dates and fun stuff! A great way to stay informed as well.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMMING: Please sign up using the SUG link or on our Sign-Up page on our website. 1 additional support person is needed in each classroom (3 total needed) to support the teachers with activities and management.

Thanks to all those who sent in their "**Wandering Sheep**" this summer. Photos can be found on our Flickr website. It has been fun to see where our sheep have gone this summer!

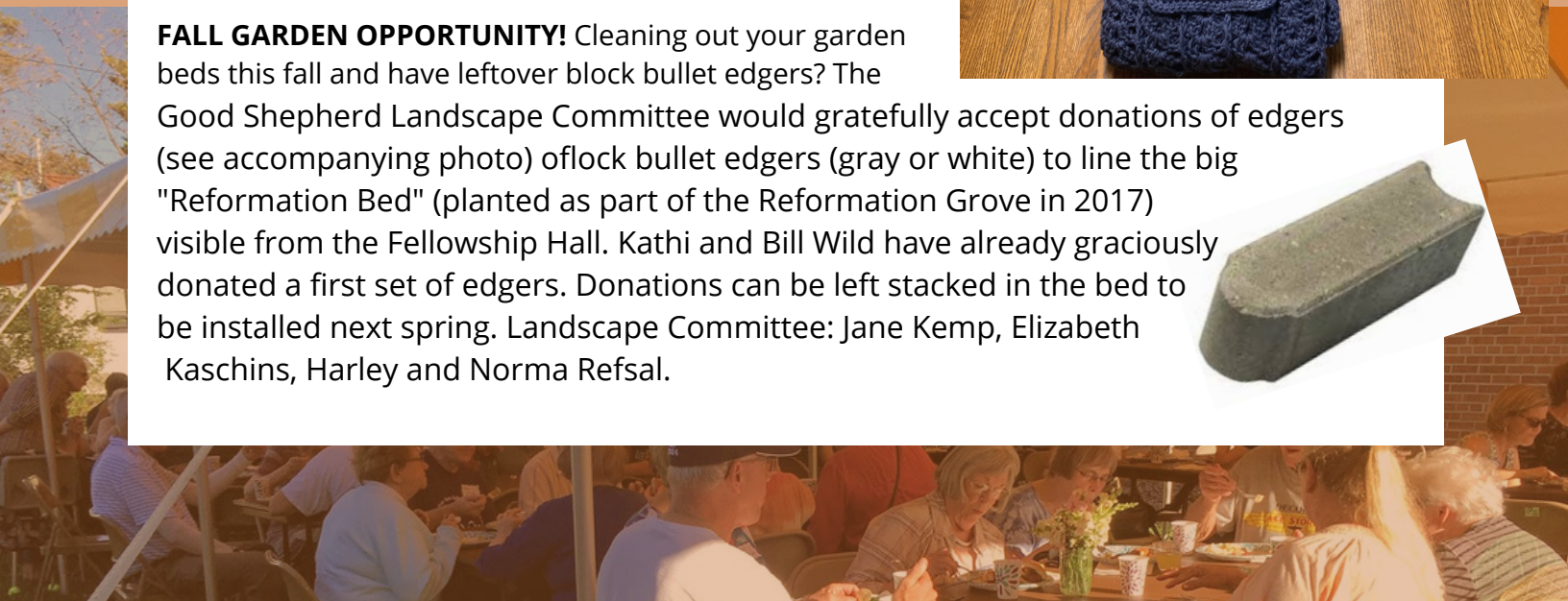
KELLI OFFICE HOURS: Kelli's official office hours have been moved to Mondays from 4:30-7:00. You can also reach her via email kelli@goodshepherddecorah.org

PRAYER SHAWL DONATION UPDATE: Recently Helping Services for Youth and Families, directed by Good Shepherd member Carson Eggland, received 12 prayer shawls. Eight prayer shawls were donated to the Hospice program at Winneshiek Medical Center. In addition, prayer shawls are regularly given to individuals or families.

Prayer Shawl Ministry dates and meeting places are printed in the monthly church newsletter, weekly bulletins, and church schedules appearing in Decorah newspapers and on the Good Shepherd website. The group currently meets from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, September through May. We welcome all interested knitters and crocheters to join in our ministry, and we welcome the names of those who would appreciate receiving a shawl. Contact: Jeri Laursen (jeri.laursen@gmail.com – (608) 498-8069) or Connie Buresh (cjburesh1952@gmail.com – (563) 568-1854)



FALL GARDEN OPPORTUNITY! Cleaning out your garden beds this fall and have leftover block bullet edgers? The Good Shepherd Landscape Committee would gratefully accept donations of edgers (see accompanying photo) of block bullet edgers (gray or white) to line the big "Reformation Bed" (planted as part of the Reformation Grove in 2017) visible from the Fellowship Hall. Kathi and Bill Wild have already graciously donated a first set of edgers. Donations can be left stacked in the bed to be installed next spring. Landscape Committee: Jane Kemp, Elizabeth Kaschins, Harley and Norma Refsal.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES: Bible Study with Pastor Amy will resume for the year beginning Thursday, September 8th in the Good Shepherd Library. Note that Bible Study with Pastor Amy will be held on a new day and time - Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join these sessions which meet for an hour.

The Decorah Community Meal is back!! Please join us for a free meal Thursday, September 8th, at 5:00 PM, at Decorah Lutheran Church, 309 Winnebago Street. All are welcome -- this is a free meal -- serving until 6:15 PM. This month we are hosted by members of First Lutheran who will provide volunteers, salads, and desserts. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR UKRAINE - Brooke Joyce, in collaboration with Ukraine native Maryna Bazylevych Nading, is organizing a concert to support the people of Ukraine on Sunday, September 18 at noon at Good Shepherd. Performers include Decorah middle and high school students, Luther students and faculty, and community members. A freewill offering will be collected and given to Zahyst, a group based in Maryna's hometown, Khmelnytskyi. They have been operating since 2014 and focus on supporting soldiers, civilians on the frontline, and the internally displaced. A reception will follow the one-hour program.

WELCOME, MIKE! Mike Sammons (full bio to come) has officially been hired on as the Facilities Caretaker of Good Shepherd. His family is new to Decorah as they take on roles at "ReRooted Connections" just outside of town.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: If you are an adult grieving the death of a significant person in your life, please join us for our upcoming grief support group. The group offers opportunities to connect with others who are grieving, helps attendees understand their grief, and provides a safe place to share the grief experience. Group meets Mondays, 6:00-7:45 PM from September 26-Nov. 21st at the Kessel Lodge in Cresco. The is a free group but registration is required: 563-547-2989, precka.putnam@avera.org

ERICA OFFICE HOURS CHANGE: Beginning in September, Erica's office hours are going to be changing. The next two weeks are in flux as she adjusts to the new schedule, so look in the back of the bulletin, on the office door, and on the Church calendar to check her office hours for the week. Emails and voicemails will still be answered within 24 hours on days she works from home. WEEK A: Monday 8:00-10:00 am, Tuesday-Wednesday 10:00-5:00 pm, Friday 8:00-10:00. WEEK B: Monday 10:00-5:00 pm, Thursday 10-5:00pm, Friday 8:00-10:00am.

BEER AND HYMNS: Sept 29th, 7 PM at Pulpit Rock Brewing. Did you know that beer and hymns go well together? Martin Luther was fond of them both! Good Shepherd will offer a Beer and Hymns event the last Thursday of each month starting in September. This is for anyone in the community. We will have a keyboard to accompany the hymns and a songbook with lyrics to famous hymns. Come enjoy a brew and great hymns! Beer and Spring Grove Soda will be available to purchase. Skål!

TLOU HOUSE DONATIONS NEEDED: Hla Tlou, who lived in Decorah with her siblings and parents while her father Josiah attended Luther College, benefited from living in the former "Mission House" that Luther had for international students. She is hoping to recreate that housing option and is looking for the following donations:
1-Dresser 3- Table top Lamps 2-Bedside Tables 1-Chair (living room/accent/armchair)
As you can see from the very short list above, the response has been amazing. I very much appreciate the Good Shepard Congregation for their support of this project. If anyone has a donation, they can email me at donationsfortth@gmail.com. This stands for "donations for the tlou house@gmail.com"

DRIVERS NEEDED: Neighbors Helping Neighbors is in need of more volunteer drivers to help support our immigrant neighbors with transportation to their appointments, as well as drivers and physical support for helping deliver furniture. Rides are of varying distance/length and volunteers can choose to sign up when they are available to assist. A copy of your driver's license, auto insurance and registration as well as a background check is needed to get you on the list of volunteers. Heidi at Decorah United Church of Christ can help you make those copies and submit your background check (we cover the fee, so this is no cost to you). Gas cards and McDonalds gift cards will be shared with you to help support the cost of the drive. We are grateful for our many donors that allow us to help with gas, or you can choose to donate the fuel as well as your time. Reach out to: Heidi at office@decorahucc.org or call 563-382-2661.



OFFER A RIDE

Accompany a local individual or family to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) check-in, lawyer appointment, or court date

You need: A driver's license, a registered and insured vehicle, a complete background check on file, 5+ hours (roundtrip),

Destinations vary: Cedar Rapids and Iowa City are most common. Some Spanish skills are helpful but not required. Drivers must be 18+ years old.

We can provide: Gas and food money (reimbursed), temporary plastic sheeting for inside your car (if desired) and guidance on other COVID-19 precautions



HELP HAUL FURNITURE

Work with another volunteer to gather, store, and deliver furniture to families who need it

You need: About 2 hours and the ability to lift heavy items as part of a team

We can provide: A van or truck and an experienced volunteer

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

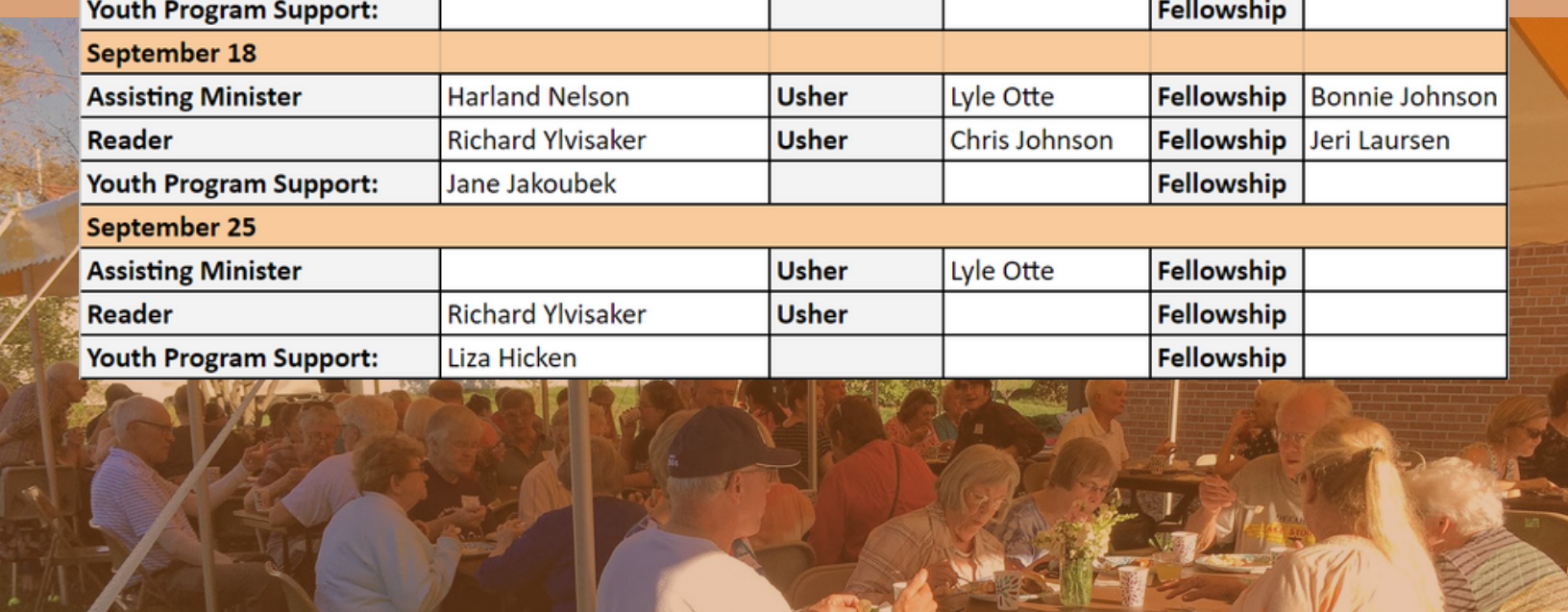
All sign-ups can be found on the website under "Sign-Ups" tab and in the Gathering Space.

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.

September 4					
Assisting Minister		Usher	Lyle Otte	Fellowship	
Reader	Cindy Bellrichard	Usher	Christy Tomlinson	Fellowship	
Travel Testimony	Martha Monson Lowe			Fellowship	
September 11 - Rally Sunday					
Assisting Minister	Reg Laursen	Usher	Lyle Otte	Fellowship	
Reader	Kris Peterson	Usher	Dave Peterson	Fellowship	
Youth Program Support:				Fellowship	
September 18					
Assisting Minister	Harland Nelson	Usher	Lyle Otte	Fellowship	Bonnie Johnson
Reader	Richard Ylvisaker	Usher	Chris Johnson	Fellowship	Jeri Laursen
Youth Program Support:	Jane Jakoubek			Fellowship	
September 25					
Assisting Minister		Usher	Lyle Otte	Fellowship	
Reader	Richard Ylvisaker	Usher		Fellowship	
Youth Program Support:	Liza Hicken			Fellowship	



SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Sunday School/Youth</div>	<div>29</div> <div>8am - KindertHaus Meet the 8:30am - Office Hours 9am - Tiou Reception Set-Up 1pm - Tiou Reception Prep @ 2pm - Josiah Tiou Open House 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8:30am - Office Hours</div>	<div>31</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 8pm - Band Rehearsal @</div>	<div>1</div> <div>KindertHaus 1st day of school</div>	<div>2</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>3</div> <div>12pm - Donna Bahr Birthday</div>
<div>4</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Labour Day - No KindertHaus 8am - Office Hours 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS</div>	<div>6</div> <div>7pm - Social Justice</div>	<div>7</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 8pm - Band Rehearsal @</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Recycle 11am - Bible Study @ Library 1pm - Travel Club @ Fellowship 5pm - Education Committee @</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Picnic: Table & Chairs Pick-Up 8am - Office Hours 1pm - Council Agenda Planning 4pm - Free Immigration Legal</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Kelly Sunday 8:45am - Music Warm-Up 9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:30am - Sunday School & Youth 3:30pm - Picnic Prep & Set-Up 5pm - Welcome Friends and</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Picnic: Table & Chairs Drop-Off 8am - Office Hours 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Asse Haugen Bingo</div>	<div>14</div> <div>11am - Office Hours 1:30pm - ESL 2:30pm - Asse Haugen 6pm - Anti-Racism Task Force 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation Class 8pm - Band Rehearsal @</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline 10am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 4:30pm - Stewardship Committee</div>	<div>16</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div> <div>Pr. Arny @ Ordination of Menzi 8:45am - Choir Warm-Up 9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:30am - Sunday School & Youth 12pm - Ukraine Concert @</div>	<div>19</div> <div>8am - Office Hours 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS</div>	<div>20</div> <div>10am - Office Hours 5:30pm - CARE @ Gathering 6:30pm - Sons of Norway @ 7pm - Congregation Council</div>	<div>21</div> <div>10am - Arlin Falck Communion 10am - Office Hours 10am - Worship and Music 10:45am - MEF Committee 11am - Eastern Star Communion 1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 1:30pm - ESL 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation Class 8pm - 9th Grade Meeting 8pm - Band Rehearsal @</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Recycle 11am - Bible Study @ Library</div>	<div>23</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>24</div> <div>7:45am - Habitat for Humanity 4pm - KindertHaus Festival Back-</div>
<div>25</div> <div>Blessed Together Sunday Jazz Worship 9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:30am - Sunday School & Youth</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9am - Worship and Music 10am - Office Hours 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS</div>	<div>27</div> <div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather</div>	<div>28</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation Class 8pm - Band Rehearsal @</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10am - Office Hours 11am - NO Bible Study @ Library 7pm - Beer & Hymns at Pulpit</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>1</div>

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, August 16 - 7:00 pm

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

Present: Cynthia Ernst, Ann Naslund, Bob Naslund, Tim Lecander, John Moeller, Tom Buresh, Pr. Amy, and Hayley Jackson were present. Ingrid Callaghan was absent.

Devotions and Initial Actions: Chris Johnson 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.

- Approval of the June 2022 Council meeting minutes.
- Reception of committee reports as submitted.

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

Discussion Agenda:

COVID-19 Protocol Update: Council discussed changing the mask requirement and communion practices in level red. Several things were considered, including the need to ensure that those who continue to mask are respected regardless of level, health considerations of the congregation, differences between masking in worship and fellowship, and if the masking policy encourages church attendance. After much discussion, Chris Johnson moved that the protocols be adjusted so that if CDC levels are yellow or higher, masks are recommended, at all levels masks are respected, and at all levels Communion will be served as bread and individual cups, with prepackaged servings available. Tom Buresh seconded, motion carried.

Governance Proposal: Pr. Amy reviewed the proposed changes to the governance structure and asked if Council had received any feedback. She clarified the process for implementation, which would require a congregational meeting to approve necessary changes to the bylaws. Ideally this will be held before the nominating committee begins their work and a discussion forum with the congregation will be held before a congregational vote. g. Council discussed the proposal, including the effects of proposed term limits and clarifying how they would work, as well as how the treasurer role might look in the future. Council agreed that the forum and voting meeting should be held before November, so the Nominating Committee has enough time to do their work before the annual meeting. Chris Johnson moved that the congregational meeting be held on a date that fits in the congregational calendar. Ann Naslund seconded, motion carried.

Stewardship Discussion: Pr. Amy reviewed the discussion of the Stewardship Committee's proposal in June, as well as additional updates from the committee, which included a need to raise enough funds to increase the budget by about \$10,000 next year, because of the Mission Green work and inflation and that a new member needs to be appointed to the Stewardship Committee, as a member has had to step down.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller reviewed his report. Hayley Jackson moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Tim Lecander 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

Vacation Bible School was a success, with 14 children attending. The movie night had a smaller attendance than expected, but could be due to lightness in the evenings. Planning for Sunday School is underway. Volunteers to assist Sunday School teachers are needed.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Total income for this year as of July 31, 2022 is \$188,253.84 and expenses were \$178,810.98, leaving us with a surplus of \$9,442.86.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: September 15, 2022

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be September 20, 2022 7:00 PM in person

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. Pr. Amy led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.

---Submitted by Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary



**WELCOME FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY PICNIC
SEPTEMBER 11 - 5:00-6:30**