

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH *October 2022*

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Pastor Amy Zalk Larson

Music Director: Brooke Joyce

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Ministry: Kelli Gapinski

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I want to call your attention to some important things coming up in October. Five Decorah congregations are working together to have a unified witness to God's welcoming love during the upcoming **Decorah Pride Festival on Saturday, October 1**. We're calling this unified witness "**Decorah Christians United in Celebrating Pride.**" There will be a joint prayer service and sign making party. We'll march in the Pride Parade together behind a banner proclaiming *God is Love. Love is Love*. All people of faith, from any faith community, are welcome to participate in this witness of love and support. For so long, and in many places still, the church has condemned LGBTQIA+ people. It is, then, especially important for Christians to witness to God's love for and delight in these beloved children of God. See more about this in this newsletter.

The three ELCA congregations within Decorah's city limits are working together to offer a study series specifically regarding ELCA's role and relationship with African Americans. The series is called "**Now Is the Time**" and will help Decorah's mostly white congregations discuss our church's past actions, consider how we can apologize, and seek to repair relationships. This series will be held on **five Thursday evenings, October 20 - November 17, from 6:30-8:00pm**. See more in this newsletter.

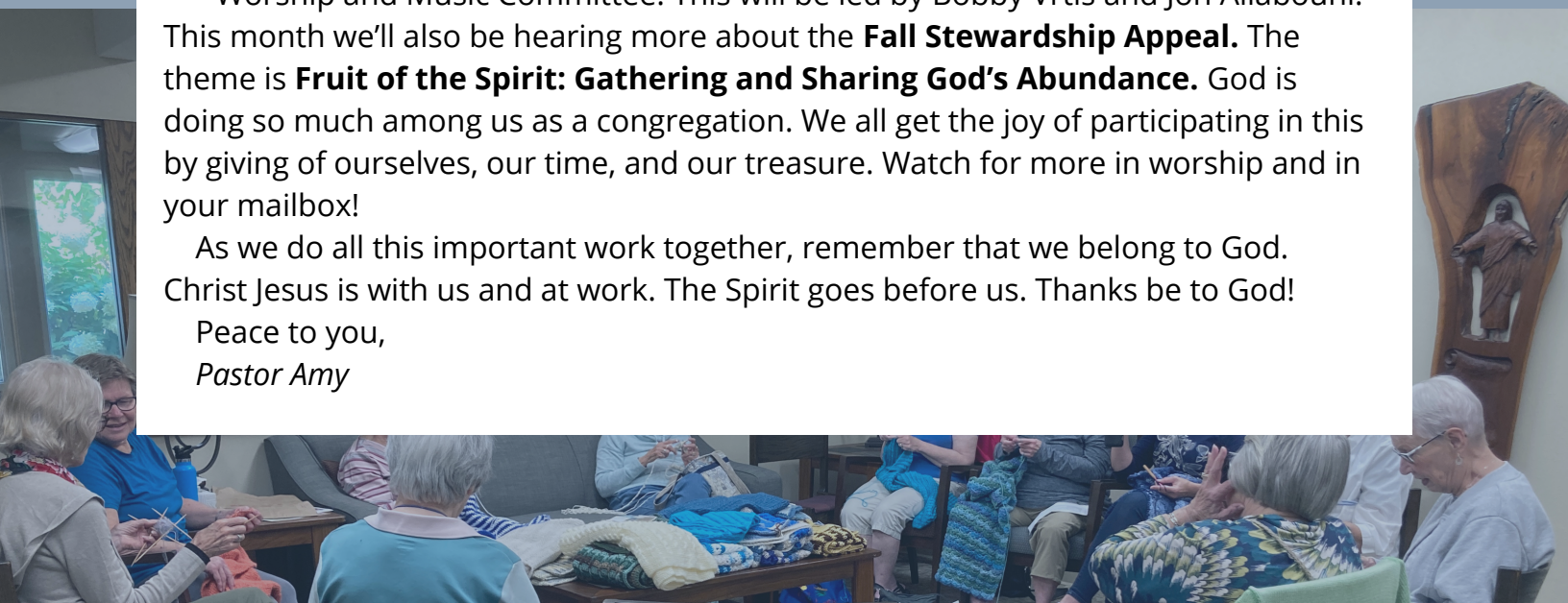
We will also have two important forums this month to consider proposals in our life together. The congregation will be asked to vote on these proposals at a **congregational meeting at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, November 6**. Come to forums this month to learn more.

- On **Sunday, October 2**, from 10:45-11:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space, we will have a forum about how we organize ourselves to live out our mission and carry out ministry. The Council has endorsed a **Governance and Ministry Proposal** that I believe will strengthen our work together as God's people.
- On **Sunday, October 23**, from 10:45-11:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space, we will have a forum about a **Reparations Royalties for Spirituals Proposal** from the Worship and Music Committee. This will be led by Bobby Vrtis and Jon Ailabouni.

This month we'll also be hearing more about the **Fall Stewardship Appeal**. The theme is **Fruit of the Spirit: Gathering and Sharing God's Abundance**. God is doing so much among us as a congregation. We all get the joy of participating in this by giving of ourselves, our time, and our treasure. Watch for more in worship and in your mailbox!

As we do all this important work together, remember that we belong to God. Christ Jesus is with us and at work. The Spirit goes before us. Thanks be to God!

Peace to you,
Pastor Amy



SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

Oct. 2	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 <i>Wicked surround the righteous; wait for the Lord</i>	Psalms 37:1-9 <i>Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord. Ps. 37:5</i>	2 Timothy 1:1-14 <i>Guard the treasure entrusted to you: faith and love in Christ</i>	Luke 17:5-10 <i>Faith the size of a mustard seed</i>
Oct. 9	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c <i>Naaman washes in the Jordan and is cleansed</i>	Psalms 111 <i>I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart Ps. 111:1</i>	2 Timothy 2:8-15 <i>If we die with Christ, we will live with Christ</i>	Luke 17:11-19 <i>One leper made clean by Jesus gives thanks to God</i>
Oct. 16	Genesis 32:22-31 <i>Jacob's struggle with the angel: I'll not let go until you bless me</i>	Psalms 121 <i>My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth ps. 121:2</i>	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 <i>In the presence of Christ the judge, proclaim the message</i>	Luke 18:1-8 <i>The widow begs for justice; God grants justice to those who cry to him</i>
Oct. 23	Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 <i>Jerusalem will be defeated</i>	Psalms 84:1-7 <i>Happy are the people whose strength is in you Ps. 84:5</i>	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 <i>The good fight of faith</i>	Luke 18:9-14 <i>A Pharisee and tax collector pray together</i>
Oct. 30	Isaiah 1:10-18 <i>Learn to do good, seek justice, and rescue the oppressed</i>	Psalms 32:1-7 <i>All the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble Ps. 32:6</i>	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 <i>Faith and love amid persecution and adversity</i>	Luke 19:1-10 <i>Zacchaeus climbs into a tree to see Jesus</i>

STEWARDSHIP FALL APPEAL: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – GATHERING AND SHARING GOD’S ABUNDANCE

God is doing so much among us as a congregation. We all get the joy of participating in this by giving of ourselves, our time and our treasure. This summer, we deepened our commitment to live as a green congregation. More solar panels and heat pumps mean the building will be carbon neutral by next year! We all get to be part of making this happen. Our goal for gathering and sharing God's abundance is to increase our gifts and offerings by \$10,000 in 2023. Watch for a letter with a specific invitation for you to consider.

Learn more about this Fruit of the Spirit focus on these dates:

- **Temple Talks in Worship:** October 23 and November 6
- **Phonathon:** November 6-13 to remind you of Intent Sunday
- **Intent Sunday:** November 13, we will place our Statements of Intent in front of the altar

PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

Offered by Jane Jakoubek

God of mercy, thank you for sending Jesus who taught us how to pray. Thank you for hearing our prayers. Help us pay attention to how you respond, often in surprising ways.

Thank you for giving us so many ways to pray: through the words Jesus taught; the prayers we listen to, say together, and sing in worship; and in our own times of prayer. Help us to be honest when we pray, about our hopes and fears, about what we are grateful for, and about what we need from you. Help us to reach beyond our own needs to pray for the world, for the Good Shepherd congregation and the church throughout the world, for the earth you created which sustains us, for places yearning for justice and peace, for those who need your care, and for our beloved ones who now rest with you.

Help us to make time each day to pray, not because you need us to pray, but because we need to get beyond our own concerns and perspectives and turn our eyes and hearts to your Word, your truth, and your unending love.

O God, you who calls each of us beloved, teach us to pray. Amen.

ADULT FORUMS & CONGREGATIONAL VOTES

There will be a congregational vote on both these topics on Sunday, Nov. 6th following worship. More details to come as we get closer.

Sunday, October 2, 10:45-11:30am

Forum on Proposed Changes to Governance and Ministry Structure in the Gathering Space

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 the 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. Read the whole proposal on the church website under "News" or by [clicking HERE](#).

Sunday, October 23rd, 11:00-11:45am

Reparations Royalties Forum: *More information to come- save the date!*



God is love. Love is love.

Decorah Christians United in Celebrating Pride

A PUBLIC WITNESS AT THE DECORAH PRIDE FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Decorah Christians who support the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to join in public witness to God's welcoming, inclusive love during the Decorah Pride Festival. **Here's how you can participate:**

1:00 P.M.: BRIEF PRAYER SERVICE AND SIGN MAKING PARTY, DECORAH FIRST UMC

Gather in front of Decorah First United Methodist Church's Rainbow Mural, 302 W. Broadway Street, Decorah. Sign making supplies & treats will be available during and after the prayer service.

2:30 P.M.: LINE UP FOR UNIFIED PRIDE PARADE WITNESS, RIVERSIDE AVE

Individuals and openly welcoming congregations/ministries will be united behind a banner proclaiming **God is Love. Love is Love.** Gather at Riverside Ave.

3:30 P.M.: JOIN IN THE PRIDE PARTY IN THE PARK, HEIVLY GREEN SPACE

(by the softball diamond/John Cline/Tennis courts) Food trucks, vendors, games, bouncy houses, fellowship and more!

Decorah Christians United in Celebrating Pride is a joint witness of five Decorah Christian congregations/ministries that are openly and explicitly welcoming and affirming of LGBTQIA+ people:

Decorah First United Methodist Church, Decorah Congregational United Church of Christ, First Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Luther College Ministries.

**ALL WHO SUPPORT
PRIDE ARE WELCOME
TO JOIN IN THIS
UNIFIED WITNESS!**

LEARN MORE ABOUT DECORAH PRIDE: DECORAHPRIDE.ORG



Thank you to everyone who did a travel testimony this past summer. They are accessible on the website under "Worship". If you have one you'd still like to share, please email the church office. Here is a travel testimony from member Melanie Folkerts:

As most of you know, sometimes, despite all of our efforts in planning and preparation, our travels in life aren't always what we expect. Maybe the weather doesn't cooperate, or the bridge is out, requiring a detour, or you are heading to St. Louis for a conference and family vacation when you discover that the low oil light doesn't work when your engine burns up and stops you in Hannibal, MO, where you get to wait a day to get a rental car. These hiccups and obstacles can seem to loom over us... sometimes we have difficulty letting go of that cloud of disappointment to see that maybe the new route brings its own blessings.... Like a chance to tour the Mark Twain caves and see where he grew up, which, while not earth-shattering excitement, sure can come in handy as an English teacher in a Mark Twain unit.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes in travel plans for me was the birth of our daughter. Some of you may know that she was born without an arm. Something we were not expecting and certainly not prepared for. I doubt most people would be prepared for such an event interrupting their lives' travels. It was during that time that I found the following essay that provides a beautiful metaphor for those times when our life journeys have been derailed. I hope you find as much in it as I did. Read the essay here: <https://www.emilyperlkingsley.com/welcome-to-holland>

AUGUST TREASURER'S REPORT

We are 2/3 of the way through the year and the finances are looking good. Our income during that period was \$214,700.20 (last year our income was \$206,928.13). Our expenses during that period were \$212,128.45 (last year the expenses were \$217,144.24). In other words, we have reduced our expenses, increased our income, and running a surplus. We also have \$8,700 that was given last December for this year; I have not shown that as income yet, so our surplus is even higher. Furthermore, after this month, the only significant outstanding benevolence payment will be the final quarter of Synod giving.

I also think it useful to measure how we are doing on our planned giving. Following our stewardship campaign last year the total intended giving was \$320,000. Were everyone giving what they intended to give, we would expect the income to be \$213,333. The total of envelope giving, designated giving, and automatic payments is \$205,344.50. If we add \$2,900 (1/3 of the 2021 payments, which have not yet been added), the total would be \$208,244.50. That means we are a bit behind the intended giving but not much.

-John Moeller, Church Treasurer

MUSIC SCHEDULE

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Choir rehearses weekly on Wednesdays 7-8 pm; on Sundays when choir sings, warm-up at 8:45 am. **Band** rehearses weekly on 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.

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!



YOUTH EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION LOCK-IN: On Friday, October 21st-Saturday, October 22nd is the confirmation lock-in held at UNI (Cedar Falls) in connection with the Northeast Iowa Synod. Pastor Amy, Kelli, and other local churches plan on going! There are plans to have 15 passenger vans for the Decorah kids to help with transportation. The time of lock-in will be from 8pm-6am. This year's "Emerge" theme will feature worship, music, group activity, pizza and snacks, and a variety of recreational activities, including swimming, rock wall climbing, racquetball, games, and movies. Kelli went to this event during her confirmation days and had an absolute blast!

- Students in 9th grade confirmation are certainly welcome to come.
- **Here is the link for registration.** Registration is due on October 14th! If finances are a barrier, please reach out to Kelli.

Additional confirmation reminders:

There is NO 7/8th confirmation class on Oct. 12th

9th grade confirmation class on Oct. 12th switched times from 8pm to now 7pm

SINGER/SONGWRITER RACHEL KURTZ TO PERFORM AT LUTHER COLLEGE:

Minneapolis-based singer/songwriter Rachel Kurtz brings her heartfelt voice and storytelling **Thursday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.** in Marty's (downstairs, Dahl Centennial Union). Folks of all ages are invited to this night of music, stories, and sharing. Admission is free, but you are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for Luther's Little Free Pantry program. To learn more about Rachel, visit rachelkurtz.com. For more information about the concert, contact ministry@luther.edu. Rachel has played for many ELCA Youth Gatherings.

Youth are invited to meet Kelli in the Union, just outside the door into Marty's.



A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the LWR kits. We assembled 35 school kits in September and will complete the baby care kits this month. Volunteers are needed on Friday November 4 to load vehicles that will be taking the kits to Olson Trucking on Saturday. The kits will then be delivered to the warehouse in St Paul along with donations from other churches in Northeast Iowa. Contact Bev or Gail if you can help.

We will meet on October 25 at 6 pm in the church fellowship hall to assemble baby care kits. Cloth diapers, small hand towels, 4 ounce soap bars and infant sleepers are still needed for these kits. If you have questions, you can contact Gail Judisch, 563-380-7276. Gather bible study will follow at 7 pm. All are welcome.

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. 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.

October 2022, Session 2: "Soil," will dig deeply into the parable of the soil (otherwise known as the parable of the seed, Matthew 13) and other Biblical accounts that relate to care for this part of creation, while looking at models of growth that involve wholeness and wellness. (from the Gather magazine)

October 1: Cluster D Fall Gathering, Burr Oak Lutheran, Coffee at 8:30 am, program at 9 am by Kathi Mitchell, Path to Citizenship. All are welcome.

October 25: Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 6 pm assembling LWR kits; 7 pm bible study. Marie Freerking-Bible study, Kris Peterson-refreshments

All are welcome!



NEW MEMBERS CELEBRATED

Please Contact Pr. Amy if you or someone you know would like to become a member at Good Shepherd. There is an informational meeting on Oct. 9th after worship. **During the Sunday, October 23 worship service, we will welcome new members to the congregation. Following worship we will have a special, festive coffee hour to celebrate new members and everyone who has joined the congregation since the pandemic began.** We put the new member lunches on hold for a few years and now want to celebrate with everyone in a special way. The Outreach and Hospitality Committee will provide an extensive cheese tray, other volunteers are requested to help make this Fellowship Hour special!



DECORAH LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS CO-HOST SERIES ABOUT APOLOGY TO AFRICAN AMERICANS

Lutherans in the United States have been on a long journey to reckon with the church's complicity in the enduring legacy of racism in the United States. This fall, the three Lutheran congregations in Decorah will co-host a series to take another step, specifically regarding the church's role and relationship with African Americans. The series is called **"Now Is the Time"** and will help Decorah's mostly white congregations discuss our church's past actions, consider how we can apologize, and seek to repair relationships. **Please sign up on this Google form.**

The sessions will be **6:30-8:00 PM, Thursdays October 20, 27, November 3, 10, and 17.** Co-sponsored by Decorah Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Church. The sessions will all take place at Good Shepherd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PR. AMY OFFICE HOURS: Beginning in October, Pr. Amy's weekly office hours will be posted in the weekly bulletin, and on the Google Calendar posted on the website.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: All are welcome on the third Wednesday of each month to come together to knit or crochet, share skills and conversation! Yarn and patterns are available. The October meeting will be Wednesday, October 19, 1:00-3:00 pm.

BLESSED TOGETHER SURVEYS: Thank you to those who completed the Blessed Together Surveys! If you have not yet filled one out, contact the Church Office to get a copy or pick one up from the Gathering Space.

-Please note, there are 3 without names –double check on the list in the Gathering Space that your name is crossed off if you did turn one in!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: We celebrate the affirmation of baptism of 4 youth Sunday, October 30th. All are invited to celebrate with them in a special Fellowship Hour!

WHO ARE YOU REMEMBERING ON ALL SAINTS SUNDAY? All are welcome to write the name(s) of the saints they remember and honor on the paper on the Gathering Space Table. The names of these Saints will be placed on the cover of the bulletin on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 7th.

WELLINGTON PLACE BINGO VOLUNTEERS: 2 more volunteers are needed for bingo at Wellington Place Tuesday, October 11th from 12:30-1:30. Prizes and treats are accounted for.

BEER & HYMNS: Beer and hymns go well together – Martin Luther was fond of them both! Good Shepherd and Luther College Ministries will offer a Beer and Hymns event the **last Thursday of each month**, October's date is the 20th. This is for everyone in the community. There will be a keyboard to accompany the hymns and a songbook with lyrics for famous hymns. Come enjoy a brew and great hymns! Beer, cider, wine, and Spring Grove Soda will be available to purchase. Skål!



WALK TO RECOGNIZE WORLD FOOD DAY: *"Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world."* - Norman Borlaug. To raise awareness of our neighbors who are food insecure and to recognize World Food Day, the Decorah Community Food Pantry will sponsor a walk on Sunday, October 23. Participate in this family event by registering at the Pantry (110 Railroad St) at 1:00 PM with either a free will donation or a non-perishable food item or simply signing as a participant. For the walk route, watch for a flyer at your congregation.

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>25</div> <div>Blessed Together Sunday</div> <div>Jazz Worship</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Live</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9am - Worship and Music Committee @</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Outreach and Hospitality</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>27</div> <div>12pm - LWR Kit Prep</div> <div>6pm - LWR School Kit Assembly</div> <div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather Study @</div>	<div>28</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>11am - NO Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>7pm - Beer & Hymns at Pulpit Rock</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>1</div> <div>1pm - Decorah Christians United in</div>
<div>2</div> <div>8:45am - Band Warm-Up</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Live</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group</div> <div>10:45am - Forum on Governance and</div>	<div>3</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Fr. Amy Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>6pm - Antiracism Team Mtg.</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>4</div> <div>9:30am - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>7pm - Social Justice subcommittee</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9am - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>3pm - Pastor Amy Office Hours</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Recycle</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>7pm - Rachel Kurtz @ Luther College @</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>8</div>
<div>9</div> <div>8:45am - Choir Warm-Up</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Live</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group</div> <div>10:45am - Good Shepherd Info Session</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Columbus Day</div> <div>Indigenous Peoples Day</div> <div>9am - Fr. Amy Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>3pm - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>11</div> <div>12:30pm - Wellington Place Bingo</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10am - Arlin Falk Communion</div> <div>11am - Eastern Star Communion</div> <div>1pm - Wellington Place Worship &</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>2:30pm - Asse Haugen Communion</div> <div>5pm - Education Committee @ Library</div> <div>6:30pm - Kinderhaus Parent Help Night</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>1pm - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>1pm - Travel Club @ Fellowship</div>	<div>14</div> <div>NO SCHOOL - KINDERHAUS</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>15</div>
<div>16</div> <div>No Sunday School Programming</div> <div>Fr. Stacey Nalean-Carlson</div> <div>8:45am - Handbells Rehearsal</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Live</div>	<div>17</div> <div>8am - Fr. Amy @ Synod Fall Theological Conference</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>5:30pm - CAHE @ Gathering Space</div> <div>6:30pm - Sons of Norway @ Fellowship</div> <div>7pm - Congregation Council meeting @</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Fr. Amy day off this week</div> <div>9:30am - Opportunity Homes, Inc. staff</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>10:45am - NEF Committee Meeting @</div> <div>1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ Gathering</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Recycle</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>1pm - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Stewardship Committee</div> <div>6:30pm - Now is the Time Study: ELCA</div>	<div>21</div> <div>NEA Synod Lock-In</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>8am - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>1pm - Pastor Amy office hours</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> <div>Jazz Worship</div> <div>New Member Sunday</div> <div>Stewardship Temple Talk</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Live</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group</div> <div>10:45am - Forum on Reparation</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9am - Fr. Amy Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Worship and Music Committee</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>10am - WELCA Kit Prep</div> <div>10:30am - Facilities and Grounds</div> <div>3pm - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>9:30am - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>12pm - WELCA Kit Prep</div> <div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather Study @</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9am - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>9:30am - Opportunity Homes, Inc. staff</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>27</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>1pm - Pastor Amy Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - Now is the Time Study: ELCA</div> <div>7pm - Beer & Hymns at Pulpit Rock</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>29</div>
<div>30</div> <div>Confirmation Sunday</div> <div>8:45am - Band Warm-Up</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Live</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Halloween</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Fr. Amy Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>1</div> <div>First Day of American Indian Heritage</div> <div>9:30am - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>1pm - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>7pm - Social Justice subcommittee</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9am - Pastor Amy office hours</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>3pm - Pastor Amy Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - Kinderhaus Conferences @</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Recycle</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>1pm - Kinderhaus Conferences @</div> <div>5pm - Education Committee @ Library</div> <div>6:30pm - Now is the Time Study: ELCA</div>	<div>4</div> <div>NO School - Kinderhaus</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>4pm - Free Immigration Legal Clinic @</div>	<div>5</div>

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

13

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 – 7:00pm

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve: Present: Tim Lecander, Ann Naslund, Bob Naslund, John Moeller, Tom Buresh, Pr. Amy, and Hayley Jackson were present. Jason Martin-Hiner was present as a guest. Chris Johnson, Ingrid Callaghan, and Cynthia Ernst were absent.

Devotions and Initial Actions: Hayley Jackson led devotions.

Guest Speaker: Jason Martin-Hiner shared information with Council about Camp Ewalu's new capital campaign to upgrade and renovate Cedar Lodge. The three-year campaign will raise funds for a number of projects including creating ADA-accessible restrooms on the main level, installing a new HVAC system, and installing new solar collectors. Council members had a chance to ask questions about the project and discuss the best ways to share this information with the congregation.

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 August 2022 Council meeting minutes.
2. Reception of committee reports as submitted.
3. Reception of new Good Shepherd members Paul, Miriam, Annaliise, and Daniel Skrade, and Ginny Olson.

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

Discussion Agenda:

Governance and Ministry Proposal Planning: Pr. Amy shared her proposed timeline for receiving feedback and voting on the governance ministry proposal. An adult forum would be held on Oct. 2 to hear questions and suggestions. Council would review suggestions and propose changes during their meeting on Oct. 18. A congregational meeting would be called on November 6 to have a vote on adopting the proposal on a trial basis, which would require a 2-year suspension of the constitution. This suspension will allow us to run the experiment without altering our constitution now. If the trial was successful, the congregation would vote during the Feb. 2025 annual meeting on constitutional changes required to adopt it into the governing documents. This proposed timeline would allow decisions to be made before the Nominating Committee began their work. Council members should be available to participate in the adult forum and congregational meeting to help answer questions and speak to the proposal. Council reviewed how the proposal has already been shared with the congregation (primarily through committee meetings and in the May newsletter), and future communications about it (information will appear in the October and November newsletters). Congregation members will receive an email notification about the congregational meeting. Pr. Amy has already received questions and some suggestions from members. Hayley Jackson moved to accept the timeline as presented. Tom Buresh seconded. Motion carried.

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Kinderhaus Proposal: Pr. Amy shared a proposal from Kinderhaus requesting that they be able to use the tiled space of the Fellowship Hall on days when it is not in use and the weather is too cold/harsh for the children to be outside. On these inclement days, it can be hard to have quiet and napping children in the same room with kids who are playing without spilling into the hallway, so this proposal would keep the children contained. The tiled area would be partitioned off and Kinderhaus would clean it after every use. Questions from Council included if items would be left in the space (no) and how many children were enrolled (15). Tom moved to accept the Kinderhaus proposal. Ann Naslund seconded. Motion carried.

Decorah Pride: Good Shepherd is once again sponsoring Decorah Pride this year at the Unicorn level (\$250), which allows us to be named in their publicity. Sponsorship information came out during Pr. Amy's sabbatical, so it was sent before Council could formally approve. Pr. Amy suggested that since this has been a regular sponsorship we plan for it and put it in the budget for next year. Hayley moved to affirm continued monetary support for Decorah Pride. Bob Naslund seconded. Motion carried. Pr. Amy shared additional updates from Reconciling Works include a request to update logos to include the new colors that symbolize a commitment to anti-racism. The communications committee has begun this work. Additionally, the five congregations in Decorah (Decorah Congregational United Church of Christ, Decorah First United Methodist Church, Luther College Student Congregation, First Lutheran Church, and Good Shepherd) that are welcoming/reconciling have been meeting to present a unified witness at the parade, including marching together at the parade, a joint prayer and worship service at 1pm Oct. 1 before the parade at First Methodist's new mural, and a sign-making party.

Nominating Committee: Council discussed the membership of the Nominating Committee, which is made up of Council's president and vice-president, two outgoing members of Council, and two members elected at the February meeting. Hayley moved to appoint Ann Naslund and Tom Buresh to the Nominating Committee. Bob seconded. Motion carried. The committee will consist of Cynthia Ernst, Tim Lecander, Ann Naslund, Tom Buresh, Naomi Craft, and Sue Luzum.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller reviewed his report. Tom moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Ann 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

Children who are attending Sunday School and Youth Group will now be dismissed from the worship service at 10:30 to go get a treat and get to their classrooms by 10:45am. Children younger than 6th grade should be accompanied by a parent to sign them in and then be signed out by a parent when it ends at 11:30. Sunday School volunteers are needed - the committee is investigating ways to find new volunteers. The LSI rep was unable to come on Rally Sunday, will come October 2 and do a brief temple talk and adult forum. Upcoming youth activities include painting rocks (9/18), walking in prairie to hide rocks and have Whippy Dip (9/25), and North Iowa Synod gathering middle school lock-in at UNI (10/21-22). Other events include the Pride Parade (Oct. 1), singer/songwriter Rachel Kurtz, (Oct. 6) and beer/Spring Grove sodas and hymns on the last Thursday of the month. Christmas program planning has begun.

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Facilities and Grounds: Bob Naslund

Mission Green provided an update to the Facilities and Grounds Committee. The complete down payment was made in early June, but no progress has been made due to supply chain issues related to the amp service entrance and amp breaker box. Joel Teslow is looking into seeing if service can be gotten from our existing solar panels without overloading the system. The electrical system needs to be set up before any other work on the other projects (French drain, pergola, etc) can be carried out. They are currently exploring if the HVAC can be installed before the electric system and what strategies are needed to ensure we have heat for the bathrooms, hallway, nursery, and library.

Worship and Music: Tom Buresh

The Committee reviewed a proposal to replace the prayers of intercession with an opportunity for silent prayer. After discussion, they decided to keep the prayers for intercession but add a time for silent prayer before the final petition. The committee also reviewed the use of the Racial Justice Statement in the place of the creed this summer and determined it worked best as part of the confession but not as a substitute for the creed. Bobby Vrtis will lead an adult forum in the future on the process of paying royalties for spirituals to allow for discussion. There will be 2 jazz worship services this fall led by Jon Ailabouni instead of the planned three due to scheduling availability.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

Pastoral Acts include the baptism of Oliver and Adeline Bollinger on August 30, 2022 and the memorial service for Richard Dinger on August 24, 2022. The next New Member Sunday will be Oct. 23, 2022, although the Skrade family may be welcomed on Oct. 9.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Total income for this year as of August 31, 2022 is \$214,700.20 and expenses were \$212,128.45, leaving us with a surplus of \$2,571.75. This does not include the \$8,700 that was given to the church in December 2021 for this year. We have received \$205,344.50 in giving, which is slightly less than the intended giving statements predicted (\$213,333.00). We have paid all our benevolences except for the final quarter owed to the Synod. Overall we are in good financial shape.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: September 22, 2022

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

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned 8:00PM. Pr. Amy led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting. ---Submitted by Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary

THIS MONTHS PHOTO: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

