



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## *December 2022*

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### 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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# BELOVED OF GOD,

Advent blessings to you. December is a month full of activity. We decorate, shop, cook, gather, and travel. We prepare for finals, grade papers, complete year end reports, and write Christmas letters. There are so many expectations. There is a lot of pressure to get everything done on time and done well, to have everything under control. It can be a difficult month that leaves us weary. Thankfully, in Advent, God intervenes to open us to disruptive good news.

In Advent, we await Christ's arrival in two ways. We await, again, the birth of a babe in a manger. We also await Christ's return to make all things new. Christ's arrival disrupts—disrupts the sin, brokenness and injustice that is within and around us.

This Advent at Good Shepherd, we are focusing on Opening to Holy Disruption. This is a fitting theme as our building is disrupted to make way for the holy work of caring for creation. We'll hear about this theme on both Sundays and Wednesday nights (during our 5:30-6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Services). On Wednesday nights, we will also hear portions of Mary's story. Her life was certainly disrupted by the call to become the mother of God!

Each Wednesday night we'll also share in a simple practice that helps us to open to God's holy disruption. These four simple, family friendly practices are breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing. These practices will be shared in the weekly news and the bulletin so that you can do that home as well as in worship. These Evening Prayer services will also be livestreamed.

Of course, some disruptions in our life are not holy, they are not of God. Illness, grief and other suffering are disruptions that are not of God. Yet these simple practices of breathing, releasing, receiving and rejoicing can open us to God's presence with us in the midst of unholy disruptions as well.

I hope to worship with you this month on Sundays or Wednesdays in Advent and during the Christmas season. On Christmas Eve, we will share in a Candlelight Service with preaching and Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m. On Christmas Day, which is on a Sunday this year, we will share in a service with preaching and Holy Communion. On the second Sunday of Christmas, January 1st, we will have a Service of Lessons and Carols and Holy Communion. Our Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 18, at 5p.m. Come share in the wonder of the story again. Stay for supper provided by the Education Committee and by families who will bring a plate of cookies to share.

**Peace to you, Pastor Amy**

# SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

Advent Year A	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>Isaiah 11:1-10</b> <i>From David's line, a ruler bringing justice and peace</i>	<b>Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19</b> <i>May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)</i>	<b>Romans 15:4-13</b> <i>Live in harmony, welcoming one another</i>	<b>Matthew 3:1-12</b> <i>A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord</i>
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Isaiah 35:1-10</b> <i>The desert blooms as God's people return from exile</i>	<b>Psalm 146:5-10</b> <i>The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)</i>	<b>James 5:7-10</b> <i>Patience until the coming of the Lord</i>	<b>Matthew 11:2-11</b> <i>The forerunner of Christ</i>
<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>Isaiah 7:10-16</b> <i>The sign of Immanuel</i>	<b>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</b> <i>Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)</i>	<b>Romans 1:1-7</b> <i>Paul's greeting to the church at Rome</i>	<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b> <i>A God near at hand</i>
<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>Isaiah 62:6-12</b> <i>God comes to restore the people</i>	<b>Psalm 97</b> <i>Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. (Ps. 97:11)</i>	<b>Titus 3:4-7</b> <i>Saved through water and the Spirit</i>	<b>Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20</b> <i>The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds</i>

## PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

Offered by Jane Jakoubek

**Merciful God**, there is so much in our lives we cannot understand: suffering, evil, unwelcome changes, other people, death. Be with us in our confusion and struggle. Help us listen this Advent to your quiet steady voice: *Do not be afraid. Wait for the Light. Trust the One who created you.* Help us keep listening to your word of life as we await your coming at Christmas.

**God of justice**, thank you for leading our congregation in our efforts to promote racial justice. May our conversations about paying reparations as we use the music of enslaved people help us grow in understanding and join you in making justice flourish on earth.

**Incarnate God**, thank you for coming to earth to live among us in Jesus. Help us to follow him so that we may be part of your kingdom here on earth. Help us to share our hearts and gifts with others this Christmas, especially the vulnerable and overlooked ones among us. Help us to know your joy as we follow Jesus in loving and serving others. Amen.



# opening to HOLY DISRUPTION

breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing

In Advent we await both Christ's birth and his return to make all things new. We know Christ's arrival brings joy; yet it also disrupts. It disrupts injustice, sin, and brokenness in us and in our world. **This Advent during Wednesday Evening Worship, we will practice opening ourselves to Holy Disruption and reflecting on it deeply on Sundays.** This is an especially fitting theme this year as our building will be disrupted by the holy work of caring for God's creation.

**WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT:** Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m., November 3 - December 21. We'll experience four steps to open God's life-giving yet disruptive promises: ***breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing.*** We'll share in short, simple, family-friendly practices that allow us to experience these steps. We'll sing portions of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Evening Prayer and beautiful Advent hymns.

**Advent Midweek Offerings** will go to ELCA World Hunger and the Decorah Community Food Pantry

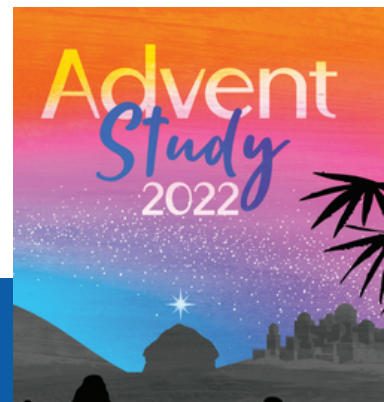


**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING SIGN UP

Families are invited to sign up to light the candles on the Advent Wreath on Sundays, November 27-December 18, and Wednesdays, November 30-December 21. Sign up online at the [November-December Ministry Support](#) link under the SIGN-UPS Tab, or on sheets in the Gathering Space.

**FREE ADVENT RESOURCES:** There are Advent Calendars and devotionals available in the Gathering Space from ELCA World Hunger. All are welcome to take them!



# ADVENT WITH GOOD SHEPHERD

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**PURCHASE POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY:** Altar Guild has arranged with Decorah's The Country Garden for members to purchase poinsettias for the Christmas season at \$15.00 per plant. Orders, with payment, are to be placed through the Church Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12. Contact the church office via phone, email, or note or put your check in the offering plate to place your order. Checks accompanying each order should be made payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, with Poinsettia in the memo line.

- Plants may be given in honor, as memorials, or as a gift by including names with the order. Names will be included in bulletins. Please email, or print clearly the names of those you are dedicating the poinsettia for.
- Red poinsettias wrapped in gold foil will be placed on the altar rail for services beginning Saturday, December 24. You are welcome to remove yours after Christmas, but no later than Saturday, January 7.

**AUGSBURG FORTRESS DEVOTIONALS:** There is a delay in shipping, so these devotionals "Prophets and Promises" will hopefully arrive the first week of December. Erica will contact those who reserved them first then put all extras on the table in the Gathering Space for all who wish.

**CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING:** Dec. 11th following worship - join in the fun and help decorate the tree in the sanctuary!

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & Dinner:** The performance will be held on December 18th at 5pm. A sandwich dinner will be provided for all following the program. Families are providing cookies/desserts and helping serve - all are welcome!





# CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IMPORTANT DATES

## **December 4th Christmas program practice begins!**

- Each week of program practice, all kids age 4yr.-6th grade will start class in the large classroom and then move to the sanctuary, Rehearsals will happen during regular Sunday School from 10:45-11:30 am
- Scripts and parts will be sent out before practice officially starts.

## **December 11th Christmas Tree Decorating/Costume Try-On - 11:30-12:00**

- After program practice, children and youth are invited to help decorate the tree in the sanctuary! As this is happening, students may be pulled aside for costume fittings for the program. Kelli will be needing parent volunteers to help with costume organization along with crowd control with tree decorating. Please put your name on [this google doc](#) or contact Kelli if you are able to help.
- More information from Brooke will be coming soon. However, if your child would like to play prelude or postlude music for the Christmas program. [Please sign up Here](#) or contact Brooke no later than the 11th.

## **December 18th Final practice during Sunday school time & Program Day!**

- The program will be at 5pm. Please plan to have your children at church by 4:15. Laurie and Kelli are looking for parent volunteers to help with costumes. As kids are getting costumes, they will be in classrooms preparing and keeping the kids busy before it starts.
- Children offering special music will need to be at the church by 4:00pm.
- A sandwich dinner will be provided afterwards. Families are asked to bring a plate of cookies to share with the meal and additional help is requested for set-up, serving, and clean-up after the meal. [Sign-up HERE](#) or by contacting Kelli.



# YOUTH & FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Confirmation Dinner!** During Advent, the Confirmation class attends the midweek Advent worship at 5:30pm. There is no Confirmation class at 7pm so that students can attend with their families.
  - After worship on Dec. 7th, Confirmation students along with Pastor Amy and Kelli will all go out to eat at Mables together!
- **Youth Group will be hosting Fellowship Hour:** Once a month(ish), youth group members will be hosting fellowship hour. (Many mentioned their interest in helping on the Blessed Together surveys) Adult leaders will still be available for assistance. **There is no youth group on Dec. 11 - rather we invite 2-3 families and youth to serve Fellowship Hour!!**
- **WREATH LIGHTING:** Families are invited to sign up to light the candles on the Advent Wreath on Sundays, November 27-December 18, and Wednesdays, November 30-December 21. Sign up online at the November-December Ministry Support link under the **SIGN-UPS Tab**, or on sheets in the Gathering Space.

## MUSIC SCHEDULE

**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](mailto:wbjoyce3@gmail.com).

<b>Sunday, 12/4</b>	Advent 2: Choir sings offertory
<b>Sunday, 12/11</b>	Advent 3: Handbells play offertory
<b>Sunday, 12/18</b>	Advent 4: Solo or small ensemble opportunity! Christmas Pageant @ 5 pm: band plays alongside youth
<b>Saturday, 12/24</b>	Christmas Eve: Choir and Band will offer music during service
<b>Sunday, 12/25</b>	Solo or small ensemble opportunity!

# BLESSED TOGETHER SURVEY REPORT & REQUEST

A nice number and cross-section of Good Shepherd folks took the time to complete the new Blessed Together surveys – perhaps 40% of the membership, young and old, long-time members and newcomers. The results are very interesting, painting a picture of a congregation which binds together around worship and spirituality, community service, welcoming, stewardship, and social gathering, while at the same time highlighting some of the individual or component passions and calls within our network.

The survey differed from Time and Talent surveys in a few ways: it didn't ask us to sign-up for specific committees, but rather asked what people seek from their involvement and how we would like to contribute our gifts if possible.

## **To the “what we seek in this faith community” question:**

- Many of us mentioned the worship experience, Pastor Amy's sermons, bible study, theology, and the opportunity to sing and make music together.
- Many also cited the opportunity to share financial support and to work with others for social justice and the environment.
- Aspects of community came out also, with a large number seeking religious education for children and young adults. Considerable interests were also shown in community among older adults, families, and people who are differently abled. Requests for pastoral counseling were significant but smaller in number.
- We expressed strong interest in socializing, events, sharing skills, and studying in small groups. At the same time, some of us specifically said we feel constrained by the current task sign-up system and would prefer a system of organized sub-groups of the congregation to socialize, share, and fill leadership roles.

## **To the “how we feel called to contribute” question:**

- The largest number of respondents said we feel called to greet and welcome people and to connect with others in the congregation. These contributions seemed to include informal connections as well as the formal ushering and “greeter” roles.
- The next most popular role was to read or speak in worship. These responses came from the young and the newcomers as well as the established. This suggests that there is a large untapped supply of people who can contribute to our worship services in a diverse way. Maybe we want to be asked.
- Making music is a strong interest of many members, as is making food and setting up for fellowship and events.

*continued on next page*



# BLESSED TOGETHER SURVEY REPORT & REQUEST

- Every other question elicited at least a handful of responses, from work on facilities to praying with others, from advocacy work to service projects, from finances to technology.

Much of this we might have expected, though it is useful to see how different people seek different things from church, and how each of us feels called to share gifts with others in faith community. Individual hand-written comments and responses are fascinating in this regard, but too numerous and diverse to summarize. One of my favorites was, when asked what we seek at Good Shepherd, one respondent said: "To get my head right for the week."

**All are encouraged to fill out this survey, it is never too late! There are copies in the Gathering Space, or by contacting the Church Office.**

Thank you. - *Stewardship Committee*

## MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE LETTER

Approximately 30 years ago our congregation established the Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund. It has evolved and grown into a ministry to financially assist Good Shepherd students attending ELCA colleges or universities.

To date each student member of the congregation attending qualifying institutions has received \$1000 annually. Because these awards are EPIC (Educational Partners In Coventry) scholarships, the colleges typically match the Good Shepherd award so that the student receives a benefit of \$2000. The MEF Committee and the Congregation Council wishes to continue this ministry as it currently exists and is defined in the Mission Endowment Fund Continuing Resolution.

To maintain the ministry, the MEF Committee is asking for the congregation's assistance and has written a letter that will arrive in each home during the first week of December. Please read the letter and reflect on how you will support this long-time congregational ministry. Our young people are well worth your consideration.

Thank you on behalf of our future leaders.

*The MEF Committee: Jerry Bruce, Jim Buzza, John Jefferson, Brian Solberg, Dick Wuest*

## Advent Brunch

**Burr Oak Lutheran Church** invites us to join with them in preparing our hearts for the Advent Season. They will be hosting an advent program followed by a brunch on **Saturday, December 3 at 9:30** at the church (see poster on bulletin board by fellowship hall). All our welcome.

## Gather Bible Study

Our bible study for December offers a weekly devotional by the Rev Dr Becca Ehrlich, the author of Christian Minimalism: Simple Steps for Abundant Living. She serves as an adjunct professor at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg and Philadelphia. (from Gather magazine)

**Good things come in small packages:** Moving from wanting to waiting at Advent.

Week 1: The "More" Myth

Week 2: The Appearance Illusion

Week 3: The Still, Small Voice

Week 4: The Best Thing Came in a Small Package

**January 28, 2023** will be our WELCA annual meeting and mid-winter brunch. Frank Johnson from EWALU Camp and Retreat Center will be our guest speaker. He will update us on EWALU activities and also tell us about Cedar at 60, a program to renovate Cedar Lodge. We will also be dispersing funds from 2022, contact Bev Sheridan if you have any funding requests. We are also looking for a few people to provide refreshments. All are welcome.

## Upcoming events:

December 3: Advent Brunch, Burr Oak Lutheran, 9:30

January 28: Mid-winter brunch, fellowship hall, 9:00



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** There will be no Prayer Shawl Meeting in December. Meetings will resume in January.

A new paper edition of the ***Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Family Directory*** is planned to be printed at the beginning of January 2023. Please review and update your information in the Directory. If you'd like to have a new photo, that can be done, too. Notify Erica, Ministry Support Coordinator, by calling 563-382-3963 or emailing [office@goodshepherddecorah.org](mailto:office@goodshepherddecorah.org) with updates and photo requests. Paper directories will be mailed or delivered to all who have no internet access. Contact Erica if you desire a paper copy. - *Communications Subcommittee: Kathy Buzza, Elizabeth Kaschins, Jane Kemp*

**DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL supported by GOOD SHEPHERD:** The first Thursday of each month there is a free community meal at Decorah Lutheran, serving from 5:00-6:15 pm. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College and different organizations provide volunteers, salads, and desserts. Good Shepherd will provide volunteers, salads, and desserts for the community meal on Thursday, January 5th, 2023. Sign-up in the Gathering Space, or by contacting the church office. **Here is what is needed to support this event:**

- **6 volunteer workers** requested during each shift. No youth under 14 years old.
  - 4:15-5:30 pm
  - 5:20-6:45 pm
- **14 Total Salads** - each salad serves at least 15 people:
  - 7 green salads
  - 4 fruit salads
  - 3 other salads/sides
- **12 Total Desserts**- each dessert serves at least 15 people:
  - 10 desserts
  - 2 Gluten Free Desserts

**CONGRATULATIONS, Jim!** GS member Jim Fritz recently received the 2022 National Federation Award of Merit from the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHSA) as the Section 4 winner (Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois). He was the 2021 State of Iowa Awardee. The award presentation was at the 2022 Iowa All-State Music Festival concert held Saturday at Iowa State University. Side note: Liz Fritz got this same award last year. They are the first married couple to ever both receive this award from NFHSA... in back to back years!

**ITALY TOUR in 2023:** Rev Svanoë is planning a tour in Nov 2023 to see the highlights of Italy. If you'd like more information you can email him at [rolfsvanoë@gmail.com](mailto:rolfsvanoë@gmail.com)



## **The Facilities and Grounds Committee** are:

- 1) seeking to identify congregation members trained in CPR so they can have a team of people who can respond with CPR and the AED defibrillator
- 2) planning to host a CPR training/recertification class at Good Shepherd. If you are trained in CPR or would like to be, please contact the church office.

**Youth Group Members & Families Invited to Host Fellowship Hour:** Once a month, youth group members and families are asked to host fellowship hour. (Many youth mentioned their interest in helping on the Blessed Together surveys.) Kelli is looking for 2-3 youth group families willing to help for Sunday, Dec. 11. There will be no youth forum that day. Please sign up on the SignUpGenius. Fellowship Hour can be simple and set up in a way that works for your family!

**CONGRATULATIONS, BROOKE!** Brooke Joyce, composer in residence at Luther College and Music Director at Good Shepherd, has been named the winner of two prestigious composition awards by the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the largest professional organization for the organ in the world. Joyce is the recipient of the 2024 AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition and the 2024 AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition. Every two years, the AGO selects outstanding composers for these awards. The winners are paid a commission to write a music composition to be premiered at the biannual AGO National Convention. To be considered, Joyce submitted his portfolio of work along with a proposal of what he would compose if chosen. Read more in the full article [HERE](#).

**Community Winter Book Read - *My Grandmother's Hands*** by Resmaa Menakem. Members of Decorah UU will facilitate a book read starting this January. A community book read of *My Grandmother's Hands* will begin in late January. We will meet 4 - 5 times from January - March. To join a discussion group, contact [decorahuu.contact@gmail.com](mailto:decorahuu.contact@gmail.com).

- "*My Grandmother's Hands* is an intimate guidebook toward racial healing, one that achieves that rare combination for its readers; it is deeply intellectually stimulating while also providing practical ways to engage in the process of repair, even as we read. I believe this book will change the direction of the movement for racial justice."—Robin DiAngelo, Racial Justice Educator and author of *White Fragility*

**DECORAH CHORALE CONCERT:** The 22nd Annual "Home for Christmas" Decorah Chorale concert will be held Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Decorah Lutheran Church. The benefit concert supports the work of the Winneshiek County Habitat for Humanity through the concert free-will offering.

**The Guatemalan Basics Initiative** provides staples to local immigrant families, staples that form an important component of meals for the family. A typical delivery per family consists of a 50-pound bag of rice and a 25-pound bag each of black beans and MaSeCa (corn flour) Tortilla Mix. Each set of staples costs about \$90 wholesale and can provide these essentials to a family of four for about six weeks. Since March 2020, the initiative has served upwards of 56 households comprising more than 350 adults and children in Decorah, Postville, Ridgeway and rural areas. Currently many households are experiencing rising costs in today's economy and truly need this help. Please consider making a contribution to the Guatemalan Basics Fund. Any amount you give goes directly to putting food on the table for the immigrant families who are our neighbors.

- You may give online by credit/debit card or bank transfer by going to Decorah UCC's web-based giving page and selecting "Neighbors Helping Neighbors—Guatemalan Basics Fund" from the dropdown menu of funds.
- You may also write a check, payable to Decorah UCC with "Guatemalan Basics" in the memo line, and send it to the Decorah UCC office at Box 470, Decorah, IA



## ART FROM PALESTINE: *DECEMBER 11*

Martha Monson Lowe and George Lowe have just arrived back from the Holy Land bearing wonderful treasures of olive wood carvings from Beit Sahour, scarves and kefiyas from Bethlehem, Hebron glass, rugs from Gaza, olive oil from the Mount of Olives, za'atar from the fields of Bethlehem, crosses and tree of life necklaces from Jerusalem, feltwork made from Bethlehem wool, traditional Palestinian embroidery, Hebron pottery, lotion with Dead Sea minerals, and olive oil soap from Nablus! Here is an opportunity to give gifts this Christmas from the Holy Land, supporting local artisans and shopkeepers, Christians and Muslims, in the land of Jesus's birth. **We will be offering these special items for sale in the Fellowship Hall the morning of December 11.**





# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<div>Empty Tree in Sanctuary</div> <div>No Sunday School Programming</div> <div>8-4:5am - Band Warm-Up</div> <div>9-3:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Live</div>	<div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6-3:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>10am - Rostered Women Ministers NE</div> <div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather Study @</div>	<div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>5:30pm - Advent Worship</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>Recycle</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div>	<div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<div>Empty Tree in Sanctuary</div> <div>8-4:5am - Choir Warm-Up</div> <div>9-3:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Live</div> <div>10-3:30am - Christmas Program Practice &amp;</div>	<div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6-3:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>7pm - Social Justice subcommittee</div>	<div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>5:30pm - Advent Worship</div> <div>6pm - Confirmation Dinner Together @</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>5pm - Education Committee @ Library</div>	<div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>3:30pm - Regina Noel Music Studio</div>	<div>2pm - Regina Noel Music Studio Recital</div>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<div>Lights on the Tree - Decorate tree after</div> <div>Youth Host FH</div> <div>8:30am - Art from the Holy Land @</div> <div>8-4:5am - Handbells Rehearsal</div> <div>9-3:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Live</div> <div>10-3:30am - Christmas Program Practice</div> <div>11:30am - Tree Decorating Costume</div>	<div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Worship and Music Committee</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6pm - Antiracism Team Mtg.</div> <div>6-3:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>10-3:30am - Facilities and Grounds</div> <div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>7pm - Congregation Council meeting @</div>	<div>10am - Arlin Felck Communion</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>11am - Eastern Star Communion</div> <div>1pm - Wellington Place Worship &amp;</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>2-3:30pm - Aase Haugen Communion</div> <div>5:30pm - Advent Worship</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>Recycle</div> <div>Storytime in Decorah</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>4:30pm - Stewardship Committee</div>	<div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<div>Decorated Tree in Sanctuary</div> <div>9-3:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Live</div> <div>10-3:30am - Christmas Program Practice &amp;</div> <div>4pm - Musicians Arrive for Program</div> <div>4-1:5pm - Children Arrive for Program</div> <div>5pm - Christmas Program</div>	<div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>5:30pm - CARE @ Gathering Space</div> <div>6:30pm - Sons of Norway @ Fellowship</div>	<div>10-4:5am - MEF Committee Meeting @</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>5:30pm - Advent Worship</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div>	<div>No School - Kindergarten</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>Christmas Eve</div> <div>5pm - Christmas Eve Worship @</div>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<div>No School - Kindergarten</div> <div>Christmas Day</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>No Sunday School Programming</div> <div>9-3:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Live</div>	<div>Christmas Day (Observed)</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6-3:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather Study @</div>	<div>No Confirmation Class</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>Recycle</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div>	<div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>New Year's Eve</div>



# CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

15

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 - 7:00pm

## Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

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

Devotions and Initial Actions: Cynthia Ernst 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 Council Meeting Minutes\_*
- 2. Reception of Committee Reports (see links below)*
- 3. Approve changes to the Nominating Committee, Lyle Otte is serving in place of Tim Lecander, Luther Snow is serving in place of Naomi Craft.*
- 4. Sponsoring community meal Jan. 5, people are asked to serve and bring salads. We've always sponsored this in the past, just approving the month.*

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

## **Discussion Agenda:**

Membership Roster Review: Good Shepherd is currently working on updating membership records in preparation for a new print directory. Council reviewed a list of current inactive members and a proposed letter to be sent which would allow them to clarify their relationship with Good Shepherd. Council members discussed appropriate methods of contact and contents of the letter. Tom Buresh moved to send the proposed letters to inactive members listed on the roster. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Facilities and Grounds Funding: Pr. Amy and Bob Naslund shared some unexpected costs for Facilities and Grounds. The west entry door automatic opener has stopped working. Committee member Jim Fritz is attempting to contact the company about fixing it, as a new one would cost about \$2,300. This exceeds the remainder of their budget and would require Council authorization. Ann Naslund moved to approve use of contingency funds up to \$2,500 to cover costs related to fixing or replacing the door. Chris seconded. Motion carried. The other potential costs would be for installing an expansion panel in the sanctuary that would prevent paint peeling in the corners and a new humidifier system for the organ and sanctuary that could be installed with the new heat pumps. The best estimate for the expansion panel would be \$2,000 - this work could be done while heat ducts are removed during upcoming renovation work. The committee is still awaiting an official estimate for the humidifier system, but the current estimate is about \$3,000. Council discussed urgency of the projects (neither is necessarily urgent, it would be convenient to install when we already have scaffolding up, but the humidifier may be  
*continued on next page*

more urgent in terms of preventing any long-term damage to the organ) and potential sources of funding (John Moeller will ask Brooke Joyce if funds for the humidifier could come as a loan from the organ fund). Council decided to wait to vote on these two projects until there are firmer estimates. ((Note, since the meeting it has become clear that an expansion panel is not needed.) Upcoming costs to be factored into next year's budget include \$20,000 for the French drain project (Council is discussing using remaining PPP surplus to cover this) and costs for CPR and AED training, which are \$45 per person. Pr. Amy reminded the Council that all budget requests for next year need to be submitted to John by next month.

Blessed Together Stewardship Report: Chris Johnson shared some initial findings from the Blessed Together report based on surveys sent to the congregation. Some key findings include that members value the worship experience, sharing financial support and working together on social justice and the environment, socializing and sharing skills in small groups, and participating in community. Respondents felt called to contribute by greeting/welcoming/connecting with people in the congregation, reading or speaking in worship, making music, preparing food, and setting up events. Council discussed how to introduce people to service opportunities that require some training (ushering, fellowship) so they are less intimidating and more welcoming to set people up for success while still cultivating a culture of grace and understanding. A key takeaway seems to be that people want to serve! We just have to ask. Members who have not completed a survey yet are encouraged to do so. Stewardship committee is continuing to work on a proposal for a combination of a ministry team and shepherd/flock system for inviting service.

Reparations Royalty Proposal: Council briefly reviewed the proposal as shared by Brooke Joyce and Robert Vrtis at the congregational meeting on November 6. Pr. Amy encouraged members to review it carefully before the budget meeting next month.

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

November events include middle school/high school game night with popcorn bar on Nov. 10; Youth Group card-making for homebound members on Nov. 13; church-wide Family Kickball and playground meetup in Freeport, Nov. 20. Planning is underway for the Christmas program. Rehearsals will be on December 4, 11, and 18. The committee is reviewing Sunday School needs for the new year in preparation for the budget meeting in December.

Worship and Music: Tom Buresh

The committee reviewed the royalties proposal as presented by Jon Ailabouni and Robert Vrtis at the Oct. 23 adult forum. The committee is currently working on plans for Advent/Christmas worship and luminaries. Advent services will be held at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays. Communion will continue to be served using individual plastic cups as a Covid precaution.

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Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

There has been good energy and support for the Governance and Ministry trial proposal. Please share names of people you think would be good with Lyle Otte of the nominating committee. If there are people you haven't seen in worship recently, please reach out to them. It really makes a difference when people hear that they are missed. Confirmation Sunday and All Saints Sunday went very well. I am planning for Advent right now. I am not wanting to propose we consider more staff right now. I am working with the stewardship committee and other committees and Erica to identify ways we can invite and equip people to serve.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Total income for this year as of October 31, 2022 is \$273,597.58 and expenses were \$267,491.90, leaving us with a surplus of \$6,105.68. This does not include \$8,700 given in 2021 and intended for 2022, which increases our surplus to about \$15,000. Compared to 2021, our income has increased and expenses have decreased. We have received approximately \$263,000 in giving, and our Statements of Intent indicate we should have received \$266,000, so we are very close to where we expected to be. Good Shepherd is in good financial health.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: November 25 , 2022

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be December 13, 2022 7:00 PM in person

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned 8:13 PM. Pr. Amy led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting. ---Submitted by Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary

