

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*February 2023*

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The Outreach and Hospitality Committee and I have been having good conversations about what it means to be an inviting congregation- not just welcoming but inviting. Good Shepherd is an incredibly welcoming congregation. Many members also invite people to come to worship. The article shared below has wonderful ideas and reflections about the importance of inviting people to experience the gift of beloved community and worship that we experience at Good Shepherd. I shared these ideas with the congregation in 2016 but the Outreach and Hospitality Committee and I feel it is good to revisit these and challenge ourselves to do more inviting!

Peace to you, Pr. Amy

**“Why We Will No Longer Be a Welcoming Church” by Rev. Rob Moss from the Living Lutheran Magazine, June 2016 issue:**

We’ve decided to quit being a welcoming church. No kidding. We’re giving it up...Welcoming, from a missional perspective, is passive. It denotes waiting for visitors and guests to drop by. Inviting is different. Inviting is active. Being an inviting church means that we leave the comfort of Sunday morning worship and seek out our neighbors. Being an inviting church starts with who God has called us to be as church and mandates joining God at work in the world.

Each congregation has a purpose within God’s mission. Each has particular gifts. No congregation is everything to everyone. But every congregation is something to someone. Who can know God through your worship style? Who can experience forgiveness and grace through your congregational community? Who needs the gifts you have to offer? Who can offer gifts you need?

Only when we are centered in this purpose can we become an inviting church. What does this look like in action? Something like this ...

- While in conversation over the backyard fence, you invite a neighbor who is in pain after losing a loved one to your congregation’s grief support group.
- When in the lunchroom chatting about the pressures of work, you invite a co-worker to your Bible study.
- While waiting for your kids to get out of school, you talk with a friend about the struggles of parenting and invite their family to your congregation’s upcoming family picnic.

Being an inviting congregation involves sharing God’s specific gifts—made real in your congregation—with people outside the walls of the church building. Perhaps you already do this, or perhaps you need this push to step outside your comfort zone.

It can be terrifying to step outside comfort zones and establish a pattern of inviting friends to attend worship. What if he laughs at me or thinks less of me?...

What if she labels me as a narrow-minded, judgmental, hypocritical Bible-thumper? Or what if they actually come? Then what? Being invitational seems too big, too audacious, too frightening, so we simply don't do it. How about breaking it down into bite-size chunks that people actually can do? Here are a few exercises my congregation has tried. See if something like this works for you.

**CHALLENGE 1:** *"Just go two blocks past my church and you'll see the grocery store."*

- Try using the phrase "my church" in a conversation with one person each week. It's as simple as talking with just one person one time each week during the month.

**CHALLENGE 2:** *"School violence? My church is hosting a forum about that next month."*

- Consider one word or phrase that describes your congregation well, then use that word to finish the phrase: "My church is \_\_\_\_." Try doing this in conversation with one person per week during the month. When you start looking for opportunities to bring up your congregation in conversation, it's amazing how often they arise.

**CHALLENGE 3:** *"My church is really good at music."*

- Think about one thing your congregation does very well. Perhaps it's children's ministry, education, music, social activism or making the parking lot available for ride-sharing. Use that to finish the phrase: "My church is really good at \_\_\_\_." Again, try this one time per week with one person in a conversation. By now you might be getting the hang of this.

**CHALLENGE 4:** *"Check out my church's volunteer day at the food pantry."*

- Invite one person to check out something in which your congregation is involved. This should be done in appropriate conversations when an opening naturally presents itself—it should not feel forced or manipulated. By now, hopefully this feels more comfortable and you are more attuned to ways to bring church into your everyday conversations.

**CHALLENGE 5:** *"Would you like to join me at church this Sunday?"*

- Invite someone you know to come to worship with you. This seems to be the most frightening invitation for many to make. Remember, the basis of our identity as people of God is our new life given to us in Jesus Christ. When we quit pushing that on others and simply be that through caring relationships, we reveal the love of God. And who knows? The neighbor you invited to church might just reveal something about God that you didn't know before.

# PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

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Offered by Jane Jakoubek

*...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice\* and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God... (Micah, 6:8)*

Merciful God, help me to do justice this month. Open my eyes to the places in our world that call out for justice. Open my eyes to how I can help bring justice to those who are oppressed. Give me courage to do the work you are calling me to, work that will help bring justice for all of your beloved ones.

Gracious God, help me to love kindness this month. Open my eyes to those around me needing a kind word or action. Show me how to bring kindness into every corner of my world. Give me courage, wisdom, and patience to speak and act kindly, even when it is hard.

Loving God, help me to walk humbly with you this month. Open my eyes to the ways things like my pride, independence, fear, narrow vision, or sense of unworthiness keep me from walking humbly with you. Open my heart to your living Word of life. Give me courage to walk humbly with you each day, letting your unfailing love be the foundation of my life and nourishment for my interactions with others. Amen.

*\*See <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2015/07/justice/> for Peter Marty's column from the Living Lutheran on God's justice.*

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
<b>Feb. 5</b>	<b>Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]</b> <i>The fast God chooses</i>	<b>Psalm 112:1-9 [10]</b> <i>Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)</i>	<b>1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]</b> <i>God's wisdom revealed through the Spirit</i>	<b>Matthew 5:13-20</b> <i>The teaching of Christ: salt and light</i>
<b>Feb. 12</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 30:15-20</b> <i>Choose life</i>	<b>Psalm 119:1-8</b> <i>Happy are they who follow the teaching of the Lord. (Ps. 119:1)</i>	<b>1 Corinthians 3:1-9</b> <i>God gives the growth</i>	<b>Matthew 5:21-37</b> <i>The teaching of Christ: forgiveness</i>
<b>Feb. 19</b>	<b>Exodus 24:12-18</b> <i>Moses enters the cloud of God's glory on Mount Sinai</i>	<b>Psalm 99</b> <i>Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill. (Ps. 99:9)</i>	<b>2 Peter 1:16-21</b> <i>The apostle's message confirmed on the mount of transfiguration</i>	<b>Matthew 17:1-9</b> <i>Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son</i>
<b>Feb. 26</b> <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	<b>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7</b> <i>Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil</i>	<b>Psalm 32</b> <i>Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. (Ps. 32:10)</i>	<b>Romans 5:12-19</b> <i>Death came through one; life comes through one</i>	<b>Matthew 4:1-11</b> <i>The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days</i>

# LENT WITH GOOD SHEPHERD: OPEN OUR LIVES, GOD

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This Lent, we turn to God seeking release from all that binds us, seeking a spacious and expansive experience of God so that we may share God's love and mercy.

**During Sunday worship**, we'll reflect on questions that can open us to deeper faith. **During Wednesday Evening Prayer**, we'll pray for God to open our eyes, hands, hearts, ears, and lives.

**Lenten soup suppers** are back this year! Plan to enjoy this meal after midweek worship at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. More information and sign-ups will be available when we get closer!

**Confirmation Mentors During Lent During Lenten Soup Suppers**, our Confirmands and Kelli will be sharing high and lows, talking about midweek worship, praying for each other, and blessing each other. This is a beautiful time together! You can experience this with these youth as a Confirmation mentor. If you can attend at least three of the suppers and would like to be part of this, please email Pr. Amy

**Lenten recitals** will happen in the month of March. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer.

The **Lent youth project** was chosen by the confirmation students. This year they selected housing insecurity, specifically homelessness as the focus. The money raised during lent will be donated to House of Hope, Waterloo Iowa, a homeless shelter for single women, mothers, and children. Read more about this on the youth & family events page - page 7.

**Easter Brunch** will happen following Easter Sunday worship. This year it is offered by Good Shepherd Youth and the Mission Endowment Fund to raise awareness and funds for the endowment that provides scholarships for youth attending ELCA colleges and universities.

**Lenten Devotionals** from Augsburg Fortress will be available for pick-up in the Gathering Space beginning Feb. 6th.

## **An overview of worship during the season of Lent:**

- Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7pm
- Midweek Lent Worship, March 1-March 29, 5:30pm, Soup Supper following
- Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7pm
- Good Friday, April 7, 7pm
- Easter Vigil, April 8, 7pm
- Easter Sunday, April 9, 9:30am



## Music Schedule, Winter/Spring 2023

1/1	Solo	Brooke/Marion Duets
1/8	Handbells	Offertory: TBA
1/15	Choir	Offertory: The Saviour of the World is Born (Holst)
1/22	Band	Gathering: "Cantate Domino, I" (de Lassus) Offertory: "Prelude from trio sonata no. 1" (Corelli) Postlude: "Cantate Domino, II" (de Lassus)
1/29	Handbells	Offertory: TBA
2/5	Choir	Offertory: Non Nobis, Domine (van Wilder)
2/12	Handbells	Offertory: TBA
2/19	Choir	Offertory: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)
2/26	Band	Gathering: "Sonata no. 3" (Pezel) Offertory: "The Cloths of Heaven" (Hailstork) Postlude: "Sonata no. 3" (Pezel)
3/5	Choir	Offertory: "Intervestibulum et altare" (Garcia)
3/12	Handbells	Offertory: TBA
3/19	Choir	Offertory: "Wondrous Love" (Sacred Harp)
3/26	Band	Gathering: "Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (arr. Miller) Offertory: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (Dorsey, arr. Engebretson) Postlude: "Sonata no. 1" (Pezel)
4/2 Palm Sunday	Handbells	Offertory: TBA
4/6 Maundy Th.	Choir	Offertory: "Lamb of God" (arr. Christiansen)
4/15 Good Friday	Jazz	Jazz service
4/9 Easter	Band	Gathering: "Rondeau" (Mouret) Offertory: "Easter Anthem" (Billings) Postlude: "And the Glory of the Lord" (Handel)
4/16	Guests	Offertory: Cathedral Choir
4/23	Choir	Offertory: "Lift up your Heads" (arr. Andersen)
4/30	Jazz	Jazz service
5/7	Band/ Choir	Gathering: "Three Pieces, no. 1" (Maurer) Offertory: "Jesus, The Christ, is Risen Today" (Handel) Postlude: "Three Pieces, no. 3" (Maurer)
5/14	Guests	Offertory: Norskkor
5/21	Handbells	Offertory: TBA

- ❖ Choir rehearses weekly, Wednesdays 7-7:45 pm; on Sundays, warm-up at 8:45
- ❖ Band rehearses weekly, Wednesdays 7:45-8:30 pm; on Sundays, warm-up at 8:45
- ❖ Handbells rehearse at 8:45 on the morning we play
- ❖ All members/friends/guests at Good Shepherd are welcome to join each of these groups. For more information, please contact our music director, Brooke Joyce: 419-9995, or [wbjoyce3@gmail.com](mailto:wbjoyce3@gmail.com).

# YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS:

**UPCOMING LENT PROJECT:** This year and moving forward the confirmation students selected the annual Lent project recipient. During confirmation class, students participated in a reflection activity to brainstorm a need they see in their greater community. **This year the confirmation students selected housing insecurity, specifically homelessness.** The money raised during lent will be donated to House of Hope, Waterloo Iowa, a homeless shelter, for single women, mothers, and children. House of Hope is very excited and grateful to partner with us! Throughout Lent, youth will share success stories along with other statistics of home insecurity in Iowa.



**Youth/Family led Fellowship Hour** will be on Sunday, March 12th - look for more details coming soon about a youth event on Saturday, March 11th from 2:00-4:00 pm to help prepare treats and table centerpieces for this Sunday in connection to the Lent Project.

**Reminder:** There is no Sunday school/youth group on Feb 19th due to the Decorah school district's long weekend.

**Confirmation Reminder to Parents and Students:** we don't have class during Lent. Instead, students are expected to attend midweek worship and have Lent Soup Supper with other confirmation students and mentors.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Good Shepherd's VBS Compassion Camp will be held on July 24th-26th, from 5pm-7:30pm! Registration and more information to come as it gets closer.



## RECENT GIFTS TO THE MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND:

Every gift helps solidify our ministry of financially assisting Good Shepherd members to reach their college dreams. Towards this goal MEF has recently received donations totaling \$5,450. Thank you to these recent donors for their generosity: **Jutta**

**Anderson - Jane Jakoubek - Ed & Joyce Epperly - Bob Felde & Marty Steele - Marie & Russ Freerking**

If you are interested in estate planning options or supporting the Mission Endowment Fund ministry in any way, please contact MEF chair Jerry Bruce at 563-419-6625 or [jf.bruce14@gmail.com](mailto:jf.bruce14@gmail.com).

# A NOTE FROM THE ANTIRACISM TEAM:

"Raygun: The Greatest Store in the Universe" is a snarky midwest t-shirt and stationary shop originating in Des Moines, IA. On a recent trip to purchase more of their beloved merchandise, I bought a shirt that caught my eye. It said, "Black History is Iowa's History." I believe this to be true, but it got me thinking how much do I really know about Black history in Iowa? So as a curious person, I did some research and found some interesting facts!

Did you know Ceryl Brown, a Luther College student, took the crown for the Miss Iowa Pageant in 1970, and became the first Black woman to compete in the Miss American Pageant?

Did you know, in 1946, people protested to the Des Moines Public School board to NOT hire the first Black teacher elected for a kindergarten position in Des Moines? (*Facts cited from the Des Moines Register*)

These stories among many others have unfortunately been forgotten or avoided. Black history is Iowa's history. Thankfully, the African American Museum of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, is one example where these stories of black Iowans are uplifted and protected. From the words of Brian Stevenson and his organization the Equal Justice Initiative, "To overcome racial inequality, we must confront our history."

May your journey of learning and unlearning not just be in February but a continuous path moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
*AntiRacism team member, Kelli Gapinski*

## AAMPARO NEWS

A huge thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the 29 prayer shawls and to Harriet Hayes for two baby quilts which will be shared with newly arrived immigrant families in upcoming weeks. AMMPARO is active as a part of the Immigration Working Group of the Peace and Justice Center which has arranged for the shawls and quilts to be delivered to new families along with our regular deliveries of furniture and "Guatemalan Basics" (corn, beans and masa corn meal) to help families newly arrived in northeast Iowa. A welcoming prayer (in Spanish) from the people of Good Shepherd will be included with the shawls and quilts. The food is funded by donations to a "Guatemalan basics" fund at the Congregational United Church of Christ and donations are always welcomed.



# FACILITIES & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

## HVAC POLICY

The Facilities and Grounds Committee has adopted a new HVAC Control Access policy. This is to insure that the entire facility is adequately heated and cooled. This is in response to the fact that the entire facility will be exclusively conditioned by heat pumps and we are aiming for Carbon Neutral/Net Zero energy usage.

### **Rationale:**

- The new HVAC systems in the 1958 and 1988 buildings are as much computers as anything.
- There are multiple thermostats on each heat pump. If thermostats on same pumps are set differently it sometimes scrambles the computer in that heat pump, causing problems with settings. (according to the LG Rep)
- Thermostats now allow complete control and password protection for each space.
- The geothermal system in the 1958 building should be left at one temp at all times. The 1988 building may allow setbacks but that is yet to be determined.
- If projections are accurate and solar is sufficient, the need to “setback” becomes mute as the facility should become Net Zero energy use.

### **New HVAC Control Access Policy:**

- Thermostats should be “set it and forget it”. Only seasonal changes will be needed and should be done by Facilities and Grounds committee members.
- Password access should be limited (Pastor Amy, Erica Yaneff, Brooke Joyce, Erik Berg, and the Facilities and Grounds Committee).
- Any request for temperature adjustments should be directed to Erica or the Facilities and Grounds committee members only.
- The password will remain confidential.
- Once the solar installation is complete, a thorough review of usage/production will steer any future changes.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Jim Fritz, Chairman of Facilities and Grounds Committee.

# WELCA - NEWSLETTER

**Good Shepherd will be hosting World Day of Prayer on Friday March 3.** World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. We rotate hosting this event with St Benedicts, Congregational UCC, First Lutheran, Decorah Lutheran and First United Methodist (once every six years). The theme of the WDP 2023 program is based on Ephesians 1:15-19, the letter sent to a faith community to express gratitude. Paul gave thanks to God for the Ephesians living out their love and faith, and prayed that they could see these three truths: the hope to which God has called the disciples, the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of God's power. We will be serving coffee along with fruit and muffins/coffee cake. Sign up sheets will be available soon. All are welcome.

## Gather Bible Study

Winter/Spring 2023 Bible study, "The Ten Commandments" by The Rev. Christa von Zychlin Join *Gather* magazine and revive your soul in 2023 with a four-session study of the 10 commandments. ELCA pastor and Bible study author Christa von Zychlin will help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance.

### **(February 2023) Session two: Rhythms and respect (Commandments 3 & 4)**

Some might say the Old Testament commands Remember the Sabbath and Honor Your Folks seem outdated and quaint. After all, didn't Jesus routinely break the Sabbath? Didn't Jesus (on occasion) talk back to his mother? Yet these commandments are far from outdated. Find out how these commands offer a source of peace and inspiration in today's often hectic and generationally segregated society and church. (from Gather website)

## Upcoming events

- **February 28:** Gather Bible study, Fellowship Hall, 7 pm, Gail Judisch Bible study, Marty Steele refreshments
- **March 3:** World Day of Prayer, Good Shepherd
- **April 22:** Cluster D Spring gathering, Big Canoe Lutheran Church

# ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

Access the 2022 Annual Report on the website under "News, Annual Report" or via a paper copy in the Gathering Space.

The Annual Meeting is February 5th - 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

- There will be a movie (The Prince of Egypt) in the Gathering Space for kids/youth

**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 next meeting will be Wednesday, February 15, 1:00-3:00 in the Gathering Space.

**FOOD DRIVE:** Luther College Ministries has been challenged by Wartburg College Ministries to a food drive competition. The official challenge is between Luther/Good Shepherd and Wartburg/Redeemer, but donations are welcome from all! Collection bins can be found at Good Shepherd and at Luther College Campus Ministries Office. Collecting is from January 29-February 12 for local food pantries. **The Decorah Food Pantry staple items always needed are:** pasta, mac & cheese, peanut butter, flour (small bags), cooking oil, sugar (small bags), soup, cereal, butter, dish soap. The competition is friendly, and the stakes are low – the losing college pastor has to lead one chapel service wearing the opposing school's gear

**GOOD SHEPHERD WILL WELCOME NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY, FEB. 26.** If you are interested in membership in the congregation, please contact Pr. Amy or the church office. All guests and those considering membership are invited to a **GOOD SHEPHERD INFORMATION SESSION** Sunday, Feb. 12 following worship.

**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE:** Stephanie Hoff, a member of Good Shepherd, has polycystic kidney disease (PKD). This has caused her kidney function to diminish over time. She is now in Stage 5, the last stage of chronic kidney disease, and needs a kidney transplant. For the complete story and more information about living kidney donation, click on this link: [www.goodshepherddecorah.org/mystory/](http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org/mystory/)

**MINISTRY SUPPORT for FEBRUARY - APRIL:** Assisting Ministers, readers, ushers, and fellowship servers are needed each week. Learn more about these roles on the website under "Ministries" - grab a friend or family member and sign up to help with a service!

**TO GIVE AWAY:** There are setback thermostats from the old HVAC system that could be used in any home HVAC system. There are also several high quality large wall registers available. If you want any of these items please contact Jim Fritz.

**"Somewhat Silent Saturday"** March 4, 2023, 9 am - 4 pm at St John Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA. The only cost for this event is a donation for expenses such as the meal and facility usage. The event itself will be led by local members of Contemplative Outreach of NEIA. Register by emailing: [CONElowa@gmail.com](mailto:CONElowa@gmail.com) with your name and phone number no later than **Monday, February 27**. More details will be shared with those persons who register. **See the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall for more information.**

**COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE:** Thursday Feb 23rd 12:30-5:30 and Friday February 24th 9:00 am-2:00 pm at Stone Ridge Community Church in Decorah. Appointments encouraged: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org)

**ERICA OUT OF OFFICE:** Erica will be out of the office February 20-March 2nd - this will cause a delay in the release of the March newsletter, and all other duties and tasks will be done through the assistance of volunteers or be on hold until her return. Thank you!

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<div>Reconciling in Christ Sunday</div> <div>8:45am - Handbells rehearsal for</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Live</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School &amp; Youth Group</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>11am - Budget Forum</div>	<div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div>	<div>First Day of Black History Month</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>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space</div> <div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div>	<div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>1pm - Fellowship Hall Prep</div>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<div>Annual Meeting</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Live</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School &amp; Youth Group</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>11am - Annual Meeting @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Worship and Music Committee</div> <div>1pm - Kindertaus Conferences @</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Outreach and Hospitality</div> <div>6pm - Antiracism team</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>5pm - Kindertaus Conferences @</div>	<div>10am - Eastern Star/Alin Fajick</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>2:30pm - Aase Haugen Communion</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>Recycle</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space</div> <div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div>	<div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>3pm - Iowa Migrant Movement for</div>	<div>11:30am - Council retreat</div>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<div>Installation of Council Leaders</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Live</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School &amp; Youth Group</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>11am - Good Shepherd Information</div>	<div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>Valentine's Day</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div>	<div>1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ Gathering</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>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space</div> <div>12:45pm - MEF Committee Meeting @</div> <div>12:45pm - MEF Committee Meeting @</div> <div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>2pm - Stewardship Committee (tentative)</div> <div>5pm - Education committee</div>	<div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>Presidents Day - No School Kindertaus</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<div>Enns out of office</div>						
<div>No Sunday School Programming</div>	<div>Presidents Day</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Worship and Music Committee</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>5:30pm - CARE @ Gathering Space</div> <div>6:30pm - Sons of Norway @ Fellowship</div> <div>7pm - Congregation Council meeting @</div>	<div>Ash Wednesday</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>7pm - Ash Wednesday Service</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>Recycle</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space</div> <div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div>	<div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div>	<div>Newsletter Deadline</div>
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
<div>Enns out of office</div>						
<div>New Members Sunday</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Live</div> <div>10:30am - Sunday School &amp; Youth Group</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>No School - Kindertaus</div> <div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>10am - Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div> <div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather Study @</div>	<div>First Day of Women's History Month</div> <div>12pm - Brookie in Sanctuary @ Sanctuary</div> <div>1:30pm - ESL</div> <div>5:30pm - Lent Midweek Worship</div> <div>6pm - Lenten Soup Supper</div> <div>7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div> <div>8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space</div> <div>2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @</div>	<div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>World Day of Prayer</div> <div>8am - Office Hours</div> <div>8am - World Day of Prayer Event</div>	

# CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

13

Tuesday, January 17, 2022 - 7:00pm

## Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

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

Devotions and Initial Actions: Tom Buresh 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 below)
3. Receive Anne Clausen Jacobsen as a member.

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

## **Discussion Agenda:**

Annual Meeting Proposal: Pr. Amy, Cynthia, and Tim shared a proposal that the 2023 Annual Meeting be held in person only. Previous experiments have all had issues - Zoom allows members to participate in real time (a requirement in Iowa law) but makes it difficult for them to hear speakers. Broadcasting and streaming allows virtual attendees to hear speakers, but they cannot participate in real time. Virtual meetings are easier to hold in the sanctuary, but that space is less comfortable for long meetings, like the annual meeting. Council discussed how many people may be impacted by moving to in-person only (just a few), how many virtual attendees came to past meetings (15 at 2022 annual meeting, 7 for governance meeting in November), coordinating rides for those who would like to attend but need transportation, potential risks to not having a quorum (this is always a risk due to our high quorum requirements). Tom Buresh moved that the 2023 annual meeting be held in-person only. Tim Lecander seconded, motion carried.

Future Council Needs: Pr. Amy asked council members to reflect on anything they thought new council members should know, or what they wish they had known before joining council. Ideas shared included asking questions if you have them, providing organization charts of committees and understanding the role of each, knowing who is who and chains of command in certain situations, providing good context for proposals, being clear on meeting times, using a laptop to take notes if you are the secretary, and being clear on time commitment (commitment ended up being much less than many current members anticipated).



People of Faith for Reproductive Justice Proposal: Pr. Amy shared a proposal from a new group, People of Faith for Reproductive Justice (PFRJ). This newly-formed group is hoping, among other work, to partner with Riverview Center and share information about them and their services in our community (the Center provides support to survivors of sexual assault and abuse). PFRJ has people who want to donate towards this effort and requested that Good Shepherd house the funds, since they are unable to house the funds themselves. Council discussed Riverview and its services, how such an arrangement would work (the funds need to be held by a nonprofit - Good Shepherd would not be expected to provide funds towards the work, nor would members be asked to contribute - the holding funds model has been used before at other churches), if there is precedence for this at Good Shepherd or other groups who hold their funds here (yes, in the past), if this has been discussed with treasurer John Moeller (no, he is currently abroad), potential concerns from members, if PFRJ is actively working towards full non-profit status enabling them to open their own bank account (unknown), if the Peace and Justice Center might be a better fit, would this require an additional line item in our budget (no, since the money would not belong to Good Shepherd), and what overall liabilities and responsibilities would be involved. Council decided they would like to meet with representatives of the group to have a chance for discussion and to ask questions. Bob Naslund moved that the issue be tabled until the next council meeting to allow time to gather more information and get input from incoming council. Tim seconded, motion carried.

Budget Request: Pr. Amy shared a budget request from the Outreach and Hospitality committee that had been missed in the December budget discussion. The committee would like to add \$1000 for prayer shawl supplies. Previously memorials in honor of Judy Mikkelsen were used, but those funds have been used up. Cynthia shared that council had previously approved such a proposal in May, it was just missed while compiling the budget. Pr. Amy indicated that this increase would require council to allocate an additional \$260 in benevolences. After a brief discussion, Chris Johnson moved to add a line of \$1000 to the budget for prayer shawl supplies and allocate the \$260 in benevolences to the Synod. Hayley Jackson seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Council reviewed John Moeller's treasurer's report and recommendation of contributing an additional \$5,000 from our surplus (\$21,000), to our renovation loan. Council discussed potential costs in the upcoming year related to the Mission Green project, utilities bill, and others. Overwhelming sentiment from the council was that it was good to work towards paying off existing loans if there are anticipations of future costs. Chris moved to accept John's recommendation and put an additional \$5,000 from our surplus towards the renovation loan. Bob Naslund seconded, motion carried. Ann Naslund moved to accept the treasurer's report. Chris 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

The committee reviewed the events of December, which went well. The youth have chosen to focus on the unhoused for their Lenten youth project. Planning has begun for the Easter Brunch. January events include game night (middle school and high school, January 20, 7-9pm), tie-dye Sunday (January 22, 2-4pm, all ages), and Youth Group Fellowship Hour, which will be an ongoing event on the last Sunday of the month (Sunday, January 29). Melissa Bills may be able to do some adult education classes that last 4-6 weeks after worship, which may draw more than individual Adult Forums currently do.

Outreach and Hospitality: Ingrid Callaghan

A Good Shepherd Information Session will be held on Feb. 12. New members will be welcomed in worship on Feb. 26.

Stewardship: Chris Johnson

The proposal for flocks of ministry teams will be considered at the annual meeting.

Worship and Music: Tom Buresh

This year's Lenten soup suppers will follow the simplified structure of 2019. The suppers will follow worship, which will start at 5:30 on Wednesdays. The reparations proposal will be discussed at the annual budget adult forum on Sunday, January 29. Reconciling in Christ Sunday will be celebrated on January 29. The sanctuary will be decorated and the RIC banner will be placed outside the church.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Amy

Pr. Amy has done several pastoral care visits as well as visiting with guests and new members. She is currently planning for the council retreat on February 11 and working with the Stewardship committee on the shepherds and flocks proposal. Confirmation students have chosen their Lenten Youth Project this year and chose to focus on unhoused people.

Treasurer's Report: John Moeller

Total income for this year as of December 31, 2022 is \$347,177 and expenses were \$325,930.66.

Announcements:

Newsletter Deadline: January 25, 2023

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be February 21, 2023 7:00 PM in person

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned 8:15 PM. Pr. Amy led the council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.

---Submitted by Hayley Jackson, Congregation Secretary