

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

... We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture ...

Psalms 100:3



**Midweek Lenten Worship
Open Our Eyes, God**

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.

God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection.

We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.

In keeping with our welcome, Good Shepherd is a *Reconciling in Christ* partner congregation, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation.

We are an AMMPARO *Welcoming Congregation* - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

Welcome guests! There is more information for you on the back of the bulletin.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Evangelical Lutheran Worship-**ELW (red book)**, All Creation Sings-**ACS (purple book)**

Hymn numbers (#) in back of ELW and ACS

congregational responses in **bold**; rise in body or spirit when indicated by *

OPENING LITANY:

We look but do not see. **Open our eyes, God.**

We stumble at noon as in the twilight. **Open our eyes, God.**

God brings new sight. **Open our eyes, God.**

We are not forsaken: look up and see! **Open our eyes, God.**

GATHERING SONG: ELW 793 Be Thou My Vision

GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER: Let us pray... **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 42:5-9 - Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Acts 9:1-18 - Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

HYMN: ELW # 779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

PRAYERS

Lord of all life, when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,

open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.

When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,

open our hands to do your work in the world.

When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,

open our ears, that all will know your love.

When we are hardened against our neighbor,

open our hearts and heal our resentment.

When we are closed to the grace you long to give us,

open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING

This year, Lent giving is going towards House of Hope, Waterloo Iowa, a homeless shelter, for single women, mothers, and children. You're invited to place your Lenten offering in front of the altar or in the offering plate.

OFFERING PRAYER Let us pray... **Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN: WOV 743 - STAY WITH US

1 Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to
2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: hear when our
3 Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our
4 Talk with us, till we be - hold a joy - ful
5 Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor

you this day be sung. Bless our bread, o - pen our
wea - ry spir - its cry. Feel a - gain our loss, our
weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, for - give our
life you will un - fold. Heal our eyes to see the
dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, your grace im -

eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.
pain: Je - sus, take us to your side.
fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.
prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.
part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: STAY WITH US, Walter L. Pelz, b. 1926

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY – Good Shepherd Members and
ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; **PREACHER & PRESIDER:** Pastor Amy Zalk Larson

SOUP SUPPER FOLLOWING WORSHIP: All are invited to join in a community meal of soup together following worship in the Fellowship Hall!

Lent with Good Shepherd, 2023: Open Our Lives, God. 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.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WELCOME GUESTS. THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION. It is Christ's table and Christ is the host. Instructions are included in the communion section of the Order of Worship.

THE PRESENCE, ENERGY, AND NOISE OF CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME HERE. The sound of a child in worship is the sound of a new Christian being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. A nursery with toys and activity bags are available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works for you and your child. An Infant Feeding Chair is available in the music office (hallway outside of sanctuary) for more privacy if desired.

RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: This Statement was approved at the annual meeting of the congregation on February 6th, 2022. It was developed through the work of the Antiracism Team which held listening sessions with the congregation. A portion of the Statement is printed here each week: find the full statement at goodshepherddecorah.org/racial-Justice-Statement or by scanning the code:



We publicly declare that we will actively pursue racial justice in all aspects of our congregational life and make changes to adopt antiracist policies and practices around worship, education, advocacy, stewardship, governance, and through our community partnerships and relationships. (Ephesians 2: 14-15, Isaiah 56: 6)