

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

APRIL 2023



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office@goodshepherddecorah.org

563-382-3963

goodshepherddecorah.org



All Lent we've been praying, Open our Lives, God. I see God answering that prayer in so many ways.

- During Wednesday night worship, we've spent time talking to each other in pairs. We've prayed and blessed each other with our hands, hands that also received an anointing one night. We've sung beautiful new and familiar hymns. Pr. Marion helped us to listen when she offered a reflection on bird song and seminarian Kristin Kopperud-Stinn opened our hearts with reflection on her heart surgeries.
- Lent Soup Suppers have been so joyful! It is wonderful to gather around tables and share a meal together. It is delightful to hear the buzz of conversation. Thank you to coordinators Elizabeth Kaschins and Stephanie Hoff; soup makers, kitchen workers, and all who have participated in these wonderful nights. Thank you to Confirmation Mentors Reg Laursen, Ginny Olson, Kristin Kopperud-Stinn, and Kelli Gapinski who are connecting with youth during the suppers.
- Lent Recitals have been such a gift. Thank you to Brooke Joyce for offering these to the congregation and community. Thank you to Good Shepherd members Carol Hasvold, Pr. Melissa Bills, and Laura Barlament for sharing their gifts at one of these recitals and to Kathy Buzza and Elizabeth Kaschins for providing receptions following the recitals.
- On Sunday mornings we've reflected on questions. Visual art and poetry have helped to open us to God and others. We've heard wonderful stories from the Gospel of John. Many have shared their gifts as readers to help these stories come alive. We've learned a new liturgy from All Creation Sings and, thanks to the generous gift of a member, we now have more All Creation Sings hymnal.
- Our children and youth have invited our generosity to people who are unhoused in Iowa as well as Turkey and Syria. Each week they've shared scripture and prayer. They also decorated cookies, made table decorations, and led a Fellowship Hour for the congregation. Thank you to all who've given to this project, a total of \$6,953 has been raised so far!
- Good Shepherd members have shared supplies for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) personal care kits. Confirmation students, mentors, and others assembled forty-seven kits on March 22. More will be assembled in Easter so you can still bring supplies. Thank you to Bev Sheridan, Gail Judisch, and Carrie Solberg for their leadership in this project and to everyone who has brought supplies.



- The Social Justice committee has invited our advocacy with the IA Legislature, on behalf of our neighbors at the southern border, and in Palestine.
- Thank you to all who share their gifts for midweek and Sunday worship as ushers, assisting ministers, readers, fellowship servers, cantors, and as part of choir, band, and handbells. Thank you to the committees who help to make this all possible. Thank you to the Congregation Council for your faithful leadership.

All of this happens because of your prayers, your love, your financial gifts, your time, your lives offered in service. I'm so grateful for you all and grateful to be your pastor.

Peace to you, Pastor Amy

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
April 2 <i>palm sunday</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a <i>The servant of the Lord submits to suffering</i>	Psalm 31:9-16 <i>Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)</i>	Philippians 2:5-11 <i>Humbled to the point of death on a cross</i>	Matthew 26:14-27:66 <i>The passion of the Lord</i>
April 9 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Acts 10:34-43 <i>God raised Jesus on the third day</i>	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 <i>This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)</i>	Colossians 3:1-4 <i>Raised with Christ to seek the higher things</i>	Matthew 28:1-10 <i>Proclaim the resurrection</i>
April 16	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 <i>Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David</i>	Psalm 16 <i>In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)</i>	1 Peter 1:3-9 <i>New birth to a living hope through the resurrection</i>	John 20:19-31 <i>Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ</i>
April 23	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 <i>Receiving God's promise through baptism</i>	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 <i>I will call on the name of the Lord. (Ps. 116:13)</i>	1 Peter 1:17-23 <i>Born anew through the living word of God</i>	Luke 24:13-35 <i>Eating with the risen Christ</i>
April 30	Acts 2:42-47 <i>The believers' common life</i>	Psalm 23 <i>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)</i>	1 Peter 2:19-25 <i>Follow the shepherd, even in suffering</i>	John 10:1-10 <i>Christ the shepherd</i>

PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

Offered by Jane Jakoubek

Eternal God, in this season when Spring brings new life to all the earth, bring new life to each of us through your merciful healing.

Heal our relationships. Help us recognize where we have wronged others. Forgive us the harm we have done. Help us ask for forgiveness. Help us forgive those who have hurt us. Help us make compassion our default setting. Through all these things, bring healing into our lives as we step into Spring.

Heal our minds. Clear away attitudes that derail us. Free us from grudges that burden us. Help us be open to other viewpoints. Help us see your mercy and grace at work in the world every day, especially in people different from us. Through all these things, bring healing into our lives as we step into Spring.

Heal our lives. Set us free from the addictions of society. Set us free from habits that harm ourselves, others, or this earth. Show us the many ways you offer us meaning and purpose, love, and joy by following you. Help us to set aside all that gets in the way of living the lives of love, service and joy that you created us for. Through all these things, bring healing into our lives as we step into Spring.

Eternal God, in this season when Spring brings new life, heal us and bring us the new life for which we yearn. Amen.

EASTER BRUNCH: MEF FUNDRAISER

This year's Easter Brunch will benefit the MEF scholarship program. The Good Shepherd Youth Group and the Mission Endowment Fund Committee are working together to host the brunch under the leadership of Youth Director Kelli Gapinski, and Jim Buzza, MEF Committee member. Current scholarship recipients Ava Holland, Mara Holland and Nate Larson have been invited to assist with serving, and Bob and Ann Naslund have generously provided \$250 for start-up supplies. The menu includes mini quiches, sausage links, coffee cakes, build your own parfait, baked goods, orange juice, and coffee.

Jerry Bruce, Chair - Mission Endowment Fund



PALM SUNDAY, April 2

-Palm Sunday Processional: Children and Youth will help lead the Palm Sunday processional. Look for Kelli by the Fellowship Hall on April 2nd.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 6

-12:15pm: Brief, Simple Service of Holy Communion- masks required

-7pm: Full Worship w Personal Absolution, Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY, April 7

-All Day: Family Friendly Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary for personal prayer

-1:00 PM Egg dying in the Kitchen – open to all youth! Read more on the Youth & Family Page.

-7pm: Jazz Worship with the Stations of the Cross, Reflections on “The Cross and the Lynching Tree”

EASTER VIGIL, Saturday April 8

-7pm A Service of Fire, Scripture, Water, & Holy Communion

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9th

-9:30 am Festival Worship with Good Shepherd Band; Holy Communion

-Brunch Following Worship – hosted by GS Youth & Mission Endowment Fund see the previous page for more info.



SPRING PLANTS OR FLOWERS FOR EASTER SERVICES

Altar Guild welcomes contributions for these services on April 8 and 9. **They can be designated in memory or honor of friends and loved ones. Please provide names to the Church Office no later than Wednesday, April 5, and have contributions delivered to the Gathering Space by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 8.** All arrangements are made individually, not through the Church Office. You are welcome to remove your plant/flowers after the Easter Sunday service.

Due to sensitivities to odors and pollen, Easter lilies (or other lilies) are not placed in the sanctuary. Altar Guild suggestions include azaleas, tulips, daffodils, bulb gardens, kalanchoes, hydrangeas, pansies, roses.

Palm Sunday Processional: Children and Youth will help lead the Palm Sunday processional. Look for Kelli by the fellowship hall on April 2nd.

Good Friday Easter Egg Dying: Dying open to all kids 1pm, at Good Shepherd Kitchen. 1pm Elizabeth Kaschins will be hosting this event for the kids. All eggs and food coloring will be provided! Please RSVP by emailing Kelli.

Easter Brunch: Youth and Mission Endowment have partnered together to host an Easter Brunch on Easter Sunday at 10:45am. The menu includes mini quiches, sausage links, coffee cakes, build your own parfait, baked goods, orange juice, and coffee. Free Will Donation proceeds will go towards the **mission endowment fund**. There will be an opportunity to sign cards for the four college students currently receiving the mission endowment scholarship. **Watch for a sign-up to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up for the brunch!**

Sunday School/Youth Group Schedule

- **April 2nd**-Palm Sunday
- **April 9th**-Easter Sunday: No Sunday School or Youth Group
- **April 16th**-Sunday School (Jesus rising from the dead) Youth Group (Earth Day Activity)
- **April 23rd**- St. Gruby's Day!! Kids and Youth will be participating to help clean the church. Pizza served afterwards!
- **April 30th**- Sunday School (Jesus rising from the dead) Youth Group (Service Learning: Making May Day baskets for Good Shepherd Shut-ins)

Confirmation spring schedule:

- **During Holy Week:** Maundy Thursday (April 6), Good Friday (April 7), and Easter Vigil (April 8) worship services are at 7pm and take the place of class. Students are asked to attend with families.
- **No class** April 12
- Classes **resume** on April 19 at 7pm.
- The **last class** of the year will be May 10.

April 21st: **Youth Group Game Night!** 7pm-9pm. All middle school and high school youth are invited to another game night! Friends are welcome as well. Soda and juice will be provided. Participants are invited to bring a snack that has their favorite color on it.

April 30th: **Family Kickball Event!** All families are invited to join in a kickball and fall gathering at Freeport park, April 30th, starting at 2pm. Please bring a snack to share and join the fun! The creation of teams will happen the day of the event.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee is announcing the availability of EPIC (Educational Partners In Covenant) scholarship applications for the 2023-2024 academic year. **The forms are located in the church office and must be completed and returned to the church no later than May 1st.** To be eligible to apply one must be a member of Good Shepherd and attend, or plan to attend, an ELCA college or university.

The Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund was established in 1993 and has the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to members of the congregation attending qualifying institutions. The fund currently provides annual scholarships in the amount of \$1000 per student; typically the qualifying institution matches the Good Shepherd award.

The Mission Endowment Fund presently has an approximate value of \$125,000. The committee is allowed to utilize 4% of the total value of the fund annually for awards. Simply put, it takes \$25,000 of fund value to create one \$1,000 scholarship. This academic year four Good Shepherd members are receiving scholarships and it is anticipated that next year we will have five eligible students. To date each application for an EPIC scholarship has been successfully met. However, with the growth of the congregation's membership, the program is beginning to be stressed. The committee is in the process of developing activities and plans to grow the fund in order to continue this long established ministry.

To receive an application for an EPIC scholarship please contact Erica in the church office or Jerry Bruce, MEF Committee chair.

THANK YOU! FROM KELLI

In February, I was able to attend the ELCA Youth Networking Extravaganza Conference. I am very grateful for this continuing education opportunity. I was able to grow both personally and professionally. Thank you again for the prayers and this opportunity!

This month the Stewardship Committee wants to highlight the Good Shepherd ministry of jazz worship. This article is the Q&A between Ginny Olson (Stewardship Committee member) and Jon Ailabouni, founder of jazz worship at Good Shepherd (began in 2019).

Why do you think this is an important part of our worship life?

Because it stems from members - me and all the others who participate. Because it allows for novel ways of experiencing familiar worship elements (hymns and liturgy). Jazz worship has been a part of the racial justice work of this congregation. It grounded us in the cultures and stories of people - rather than making racial justice work about intellectualizing - the music acted as a gateway into our hearts. It provided a shared (and enjoyable) experience as we dealt with challenging work surrounding the GS Racial Justice Statement, Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy*, and the 2022 Good Friday Worship Service which centered the history of lynching in America and its connection with Jesus' crucifixion through the writing of James Cone in *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*.

As one who is not familiar with Jazz basics, please explain a little about the focus of this ministry. What does this ministry mean to you?

I like to take hymns and liturgy that would be familiar to members at GS and rearrange it or compose new music that is flowing from Black American music traditions, especially jazz. The arrangements feature jazz harmony, which is rich in color and sophistication and rhythms that are rooted in West Africa, the Caribbean, New Orleans, Chicago, and New York. The rhythmic element is stemming from dance traditions and is designed to activate and move the body. Improvisation is an essential feature of this music tradition. There is an element of improvisation in every instrument (piano, bass, drums, trumpet, and voice). This music creates room for individual expression and celebrates innovation and ingenuity and the immediacy of creation in the moment.

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Where does the music originate?

Many places, but primarily West Africa and the Caribbean, via New Orleans, via the blues in the Mississippi delta, via the steam boat tradition of the Mississippi, via Chicago, via New York and then reinterpreted and reimagined by generations of jazz musicians and other creators of Black American music styles through the 20th and 21st century. It's a rich and diverse tradition sonically and historically.

How might I/we get the most out of this worship service?

A spirit of openness is key. Be open to hear familiar music in a new way. Be open to experiencing the Spirit moving in your body, in your heart, and in the assembly in new ways. Notice the way the grooves, harmonies, melodies, and improvisations create a new space for the Spirit to work in worship. What is healing through the music? What is the music stirring up? My two favorite qualities in listeners are openness and curiosity. You don't need to understand anything about the jazz tradition or be a jazz aficionado to have a disposition of openness and to notice how the music reaches you.

ANTIRACISM DEVOTION

SCRIPTURES THAT INSPIRE ME FOR THE WORK OF RACIAL JUSTICE

- BY ANTIRACISM TEAM MEMBER LAURA BARLAMENT

As a White person, I grew up unconscious of how my ethnicity afforded me social privileges. In addition, I grew up with the privileges of a stable home, with loving parents and economic well being.

I also grew up in a home and a church where we read the Bible regularly. I was exposed to the counter-cultural ways and teachings of Jesus from my earliest memories. I want to point out two New Testament scriptures that, to me, crystallize Jesus' teaching about the qualities and values of the "kingdom of heaven" (quoting the often-used phrase in Matthew) – God's rule. My perception is that this is not the rule of middle class White America, my born social class. Reading them over and over again reminds me that Jesus's way is to bless those who are not privileged, to embrace the poor and the marginalized, to walk with the hurting.

One of these passages is the Beatitudes. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus has just started preaching his message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." He has been "curing every disease and every sickness among the people." Enormous crowds of people are now following him. The way I read it, he sees these crowds and takes his disciples up a mountain to give them perspective on how God sees these crowds of poor, needy, hurting people.

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He said:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

I have read this passage over and over again during my life to renew my vision for God's rule. I have often thought this passage's purpose is to hit me in the face with God's vision of reality, versus my own limited vision.

The other passage is from the book of Hebrews, which explains how Jesus's life, death, and resurrection gloriously fulfill and complete the work of God begun with the Jewish people in ancient times. In Hebrews 13: 11-12, Jesus is even identified with the sacrificed bodies of animals, and the Hebrews writer draws from that analogy a lesson for his Christian readers.

"Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come."

My calling is not to live the life of a privileged insider, safely inside the "city gate." This is the work of antiracism and racial justice.

-Laura Barlament, AntiRacism Team

Our Cluster D spring meeting will be held Saturday April 22 at Big Canoe Lutheran Church with coffee at 8:30 and the meeting starting at 9 am. The program is: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Riverview Center speaker. All are welcome to attend.

LWR Kits

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Personal Care Kits during the month of March. The confirmation class helped to assemble 47 kits. We will continue collecting until Easter Sunday.

Collection containers will remain in the Gathering Space. **Items needed are bath towels and nail clippers.**

We will also be collecting for Baby Care Kits. Items we are in need of are: receiving blankets between 36" and 52" square; cloth diapers: infant sleepers up to 24 months size. Final assembly of the kits will be Tuesday April 25 at 6 am, before the Gather bible study.

Gather Bible Study

(April 2023) Session four: Guardrails for love of God and neighbor (Commandments 7,8,9 & 10)

In this fourth and final session, we will consider sayings from Proverbs and other biblical wisdom related to minding our tongues, integrity in the marketplace, and practical ways to serve our neighbor. (from Gather website)

The Gather magazine has experienced some delays in printing and will therefore be extending all existing subscriptions by two issues as an expression of appreciation for your loyalty to the magazine and Women of the ELCA. The circulation management company will handle the administration of this extension.

Upcoming events:

- April 22 : Cluster D Spring Gathering, Big Canoe Lutheran Church, coffee at 8:30. Gathering at 9.
- April 25: Gather Bible study, GS Gathering space, 7 pm, Sue Blom Bible study, Wanda Rueber refreshments; assemble LWR kits at 6 pm
- May 5: May Friendship day, Decorah Lutheran
- May 6: LWR pickup, Olson Explosives
- June 17: NEIA SWO Annual Gathering, Trinity Lutheran, Belmond, Iowa, 8 am



MOWING THE GOOD SHEPHERD PROPERTY

Tis the season for growing grass and mowing the Good Shepherd property! Our sign-up is on the website under "Sign-Ups" and on the table outside of the Gathering Space. Our mowing season dates are from April 10-Sept. 25. Read here about mowing details and instructions (also found on the website).

- Lead person is responsible for scheduling work at the beginning of the assigned work week. Phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the Roster included with this schedule. It is suggested that the crew of two work at the same time for camaraderie and safety.
- Mow on Thursday, Friday or Saturday (Respect Saturday event schedule).
- Mow after 3pm on Thur. and Fri. to respect the Kinderhaus School which concludes at the end of May.
- If you need orientation to the equipment please contact Jim Fritz, Bob Wilson, or Lance Wood
- Mow only when the grass is dry and keep the mower height at 3.0 inches.
- If you need to make a switch or use a substitute consult the mowing crew roster.
- The mowing shed lock code is on the paper sign-up in the Gathering Space.
- Please advise Jim Fritz of any problems with equipment or if gas is getting low.
- Bring your own ear and eye protection.
- Areas to mow are bound by the red line in the image.
- There will be much construction with the Mission Green project. It is better stay away from those areas (and let the grass grow) until such time as the project allows it.
- There will be numerous hoses to 3 new trees along the east lot line (next to the condos). The hoses have quick disconnects to allow them to be moved for mowing. PLEASE DON'T try to mow over the hoses.



ST. GRUBBY'S DAY SAVE THE DATE

The change of seasons brings our favorite day, St. Grubby's Day! Sunday, April 23rd after worship (and a cup of coffee) people of all ages are invited to roll up their sleeves and help clean up both the inside and outside of the church. Job assignments will be given that day. A pizza lunch will be provided in the Fellowship Hall. Please use [THIS](#) form to let F&G committee know any restrictions you have so they can help assign tasks (for example: not comfortable with heights, no heavy lifting, I love ladders, etc.) Thank you!



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH

9:30 a.m. Jazz Worship led by Jon Ailabouni

The new Racial Justice Logo, commissioned by the Racial Justice Team and approved by the council, will be shared. There will be a special offering for Reparations Royalties.

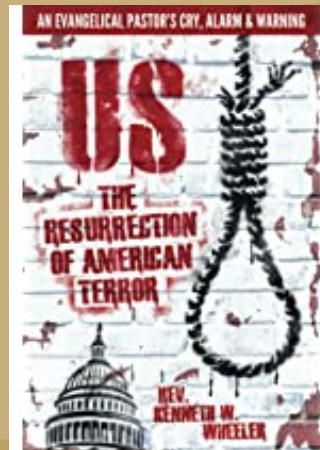
10:50 a.m. Adult Forum on the Fruits of the Racial Justice Statement led by Pr. Amy

We'll hear updates on the Reparations Royalties work and updates from the Racial Justice Team. We'll reflect on the fruits we've seen in the congregation and hopes for next steps.

4:00 p.m. Public Event held at Good Shepherd with Rev. Kenneth Wheeler

ELCA Pastor and Author of *US: The Rise of American Terrorism*

From his website: *In US: The Resurrection of American Terror, Evangelical Lutheran pastor Kenneth Wheeler exposes white supremacy as America's greatest threat. Transcending the boundaries of memoir, scholarship, theology, and sharp political critique, Pastor Wheeler takes readers on his own seven-decade-long journey that lays bare the terror of being Black in America. From his childhood in Jackson, Mississippi under the trauma of Jim Crow segregation to the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, Wheeler steadily holds a mirror up to a nation drowning in a rising tide of white supremacy. US: The Resurrection of American Terror offers a deeply vulnerable and piercing portrait of the human toll of white supremacy and points to the Cross as a place of hope and reconciliation. This is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the toxic and deadly interplay between anti-Blackness, nationalism, and Christianity in America.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rally for Queer and Trans Youth Autonomy: Friday, March 31 at 5:15 - Winn. Co. Courthouse Steps. You are invited to take part in a rally to support queer and trans youth who are experiencing unprecedented legalized discrimination across the nation and especially here in Iowa. As a Reconciling in Christ partner congregation, we have committed to welcome and affirm the dignity of "persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions." As followers of Jesus who are held in God's unconditional love, we are also called to put that great love into action by advocating for justice, equality and the well-being of all people - especially those who are most vulnerable. Today in Iowa, queer and trans young people's mental, physical, and emotional well-being is being seriously threatened by punitive new laws.

PALM SUNDAY SALE OF PALESTINIAN HANDWORK: A selection of Palestinian items will be for sale **Palm Sunday (April 2nd)** outside the fellowship hall before and after worship. There will be olive oil, scarves, Jerusalem crosses, olive wood, olive oil soap, L'arche felt Easter eggs, and more, focusing on the Easter season and Spring. Cash and checks accepted. Thank you for your help in supporting the Palestinian community! The sale is sponsored by **Martha Monson Lowe** and **George Lowe**, with 100% of the proceeds going directly to the Palestinian artists and craftspeople.

CPR TRAINING APRIL 11 - 7:00 PM: For those people who have signed up for CPR training, our class will be April 11 at 7:00 pm in the GS Fellowship Hall. The class will include CPR hands only, AED information, and a portion on stop the bleed. If you were not able to sign up and desire to, please contact Erica in the church office. Thanks for your interest to serve our church and community in this way.

Bridging the Gap Workshop: Listening Skills for Bridge Building. Saturday, April 15, 2-4pm Mott-Borlaug room, Dahl Centennial Union (Luther College). In these divisive days, how do we build bridges across lines of difference? The Bridging the Gap experience includes skills training and experiential learning to engage participants in acts of intentional listening and storytelling in order to build relationships, cultivate understanding, and initiate collaboration between diverse and even dissenting parties. This training is funded by a "Bridging the Gap" grant through Interfaith America and is co-sponsored by Luther College Ministries and the Center for Ethics and Public Engagement. For questions or more information, contact ministry@luther.edu.

KINDERHAUS SAFETY REMINDER: As the weather warms, please refrain from driving in the back yard of the Church during school hours as Kinderhaus preschoolers run and play in that space. If you need to get to the back of the building with tools/etc. please do so by driving from the condo driveway instead of along the sidewalk or communicate with the teachers first. Thank you!

PRINT DIRECTORY UPDATE: A print church directory was ordered for all member households as the online directory will be taken down Monday, April 3. Our online directory experienced a series of hacks, so a print directory will provide needed information until a new church management system is selected. Households will be able to pick up their directory at church, and if that's not possible, they will be delivered/mailed.

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, April 19th 1:00-3:00 in the Gathering Space.

FIRST QUARTER GIVING STATEMENTS: (Jan.-March) are available upon request from the Church Office. You can request a print or digital copy of your giving statement at any time in the year, and paper copies will be mailed at the half way point in the year and end of the year.

SEMINARIAN APPROVAL ANNOUNCEMENT: On March 10, 2023 seminarian Joseph Doegen (Tiegen) was approved for Ordination in the ELCA by the North East Iowa Synod. He is assigned to the synod of South Central Wisconsin where he and his wife, Paige, will begin looking for a First Call. They ask for your continued prayers as they enter this time of transition and discernment.

BABY CARE KIT ITEM COLLECTION: The CLA Circle will be assembling world relief baby care kits Tuesday, April 25th at 6:00 pm. A plastic tote is in the Gathering Space to collect donations. We especially are in need of: cloth diapers, receiving blankets, infant sleepers up to 24 months size.

The ELCA is one of ten US Christian churches and agencies calling for “urgent action ... to end violence and to hold Israel accountable for its ongoing and flagrant violations of Palestinian rights.” Please read this letter and let it guide your advocacy and prayer. See the full letter here: [Church Call for Israeli Accountability](#).

LGBTQ+ Acceptance in Mainline Denominations in Western Wisconsin SURVEY:

This survey will explore specific effectiveness in language used in religious communities within the tri-state area in expressing acceptance and welcome for LGBTQ+ individuals and families. You are invited to take a confidential online survey that will take about 10 minutes if you: Over the age of 18 Identify currently or historically with both/or LGBTQ+ identity, religious identity, or interest in either Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or any sexual minority identity Identify as any gender identity (trans inclusive) Reside within the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa area.



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/

INTERFAITH EVENT: Parliament of the World's Religions is convening on the theme A Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom & Human Rights held August 14-18, 2023 in Chicago, IL. Parliament Convenings attract participants from more than 200 diverse religious, indigenous, and secular beliefs and more than 80 nations. Registrants enjoy access to all the plenary sessions, hundreds of breakout sessions, art & cultural exhibits, performances, a film festival, and countless opportunities to connect with individuals and organizations committed to justice, peace, and sustainability. Register by March 31st to get the advanced rate. Learn more at: <https://parliamentofreligions.org/parliament/2023-chicago/>.

EWALU Spring Work Weekend May 5-6: Join other volunteers, families, and church groups for outdoor activities, fun fellowship, and service projects around camp. Lodging and meals provided free of charge. Please RSVP to camp@ewalu.org or call 563-933-4700.

APRIL-JUNE 2023 MINISTRY SUPPORT: The spring ministry support sign-up is available on the website and in the Gathering Space for April-June.



BIKE RIDE FOR DECORAH FREE CLINIC: DECORAH RIDE is an organization led by a group of Luther Students who want to contribute to the Decorah Community. On May 6th there is a bike ride planned to raise awareness and funds to support the Decorah Free Clinic. Get involved by riding (and registering), volunteering, or donating funds. Learn more by scanning the QR Code or checking out the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall.

APRIL

Sun		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 10:50am - Adult Forum: Fr. Melissa -		8am - Office Hours 9am - Worship and Music Committee 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6pm - Antiracism team 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall	5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 10am - Office Hours 5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 7pm - CPR Training @ Fellowship Hall	Deadline to get Plant Dedications to No Confirmation or midweek worship 1:30pm - ESL 6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	Recycle 10am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space 12:15pm - Maundy Thursday Brief 2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 2pm - Flute Lesson 7pm - Maundy Thursday Service	Jazz worship Pastor Amy day off Stations of the Cross in Sanctuary 10am - Office Hours 7pm - Good Friday Service	7pm - Easter Vigil Service 8pm - Fellowship
		9	10	11	12	13	14
Easter 9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:30am - Easter Brunch: Youth & MEF		Office Closed for Easter Monday 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall	10am - Office Hours 5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 7pm - CPR Training @ Fellowship Hall	No Confirmation Class 10am - Eastern Star/Arin Falck 1pm - Wellington Place Communion 1:30pm - ESL 2:30pm - Asse Haugen Communion 6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space 1pm - Travel Club @ Fellowship 2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 2pm - Flute Lesson 5pm - Social Justice Team Meeting @	Pastor Amy day off 8am - Office Hours	11am - Dorian Choral Invitational @
		16	17	18	19	20	21
Guest Visiting Pastor 9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group 10:45am - Fellowship Hour		8am - Office Hours 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall	5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 5:30pm - CARE @ Gathering Space 6:30pm - Sons of Norway @ Fellowship 7pm - Congregation Council meeting @	10am - Office Hours 1pm - Prayer Shaw Ministry @ Gathering 1:30pm - ESL 4:15pm - Staff Mtg. 6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship 7:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	Recycle 10am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space 12:45pm - MEF Committee Meeting @ 2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 2pm - Flute Lesson 2pm - Stewardship Committee @ Library	Pastor Amy day off 8am - Office Hours 7pm - Youth Group Game Night	
		23	24	25	26	27	28
St. Grubby's Day (tentative) 9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group 10:45am - St. Grubby's Day		8am - WELCA Baby Care Kit Prep in FH 10am - Office Hours 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall	Newsletter Deadline 10am - Office Hours 5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather Study @	1:30pm - ESL 6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship 7:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space 2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 2pm - Flute Lesson	Pastor Amy day off 8am - Office Hours	
		30	1	2	3	4	5
Jazz worship KELCA Justice Reaffirmation Sunday 9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 2pm - Family Kickball Event 4pm - Public Lecture: Rev. Kenneth		MEF Epac Sponsorship Applications Due 8am - Office Hours 9am - Worship and Music Committee 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6pm - Antiracism team 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall	5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @	10am - Office Hours 1:30pm - ESL 6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship 7:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	Recycle 10am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space 2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @ 2pm - Flute Lesson	Pastor Amy day off 8am - Office Hours 3pm - Path to Citizenship Legal Clinic @	

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

17

March 21, 2023 - 7:00pm

Attending: Tim Lecander, Cindy Ernst, Chris Johnson, Jim Fritz (from Facilities and Grounds), Kris Peterson, Karin Martin-Hiner, Marilyn Rue, Anne Clausen, Pr.Amy, Zoom: Brian Caton, Lise Kildegaard

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

- Highs/Lows - An opportunity to share a personal high and/or low of your past month
- Prayer for these highs and lows - Tim
- As we deliberate, let us affirm our congregation's commitment to pursue racial justice, advocate for migrant families, and support the LGBTQIA community.
- Is there anything on the consent agenda that should be moved to the discussion agenda? If not, is there a motion to approve the whole agenda? Chris moved for the agenda to be approved. 2nd was by Brian. The Agenda was passed.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of February 2023 Council Meeting Minutes February Council Minutes
- Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)

Discussion Agenda

- Proposal from Facilities and Grounds committee to change insurance companies Grinnell Mutual proposal Proposal **Jim went over the searching for insurance and the need for that at this time. Comparison Review and Coverage Comparison handouts are enclosed. Chris motion to adopt the Grinnell Mutual proposal as presented. Marilyn seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Tree proposal Jim is proposing donation of trees. A second water meter to be used for watering outdoors. \$1700 Motion to table the discussion by Brian no 2nd because the trees would leaf out before April.. Motion to accept by Cindy and Seconded by Lise Motion carries.
- Depot grant When the court yard and pergola are complete Seating. A grant to the depot outlet for picnic tables Aluminum and fiberglass or table benches aluminum non maintenance. May need up to 8 tables whatever we get this year will be applied to this. Marilyn makes a motion that Jim apply for the grant, Chris seconds and the motion is approved.
- Stewardship Committee updates
 - Proposal from executive committee that Chris Johnson replace Jerry Bruce who has resigned. Kris made a motion to pass this proposal and Seconded by Karin. Motion carries.
 - Executive committee has charged stewardship committee with moving ahead with Flock Ministry Team Proposal
- Racial Justice Logo and Racial Justice Sunday on April 30 Recommendation Report Combined with Jazz worship. Brian made a motion to approve this LOGO and recommend the artist be invited to present. Seconded by Chris. Motions Carries.
- Council vote needed: Could we eliminate 1st and 3rd quarter giving statements? Rarely picked up. We mail 2nd and 4th quarter statements. Karin moves that this happens and Seconded by Kris, Motion carries.
- Approval of TREASURER'S REPORT Cindy made motion, Seconded by Chris Johnson, Motion Carries. *continued on next page*

- Topics/themes to explore in council meetings, In Feb. we engaged in a process to identify and decide together about the topics/themes we will consider this year. Council members were asked to identify 4-5 or more topics/themes and then we made connections:
 - Environment, Stewardship and Justice, Social Justice, Highest and best use of outdoor space
 - Community Outreach, Service, Joint initiatives with other congregations, Global humanitarian relief, Care for members neighbors world
 - Aase Haugen and sew and craft, Involve Kinderhaus
 - Celebration, Recognize Gifts- March, Co-regulation
 - Healing, Wisdom of Trauma, Membership and Belonging, Welcoming, Progress report and discussion on shepherds and flocks

Announcements – Newsletter Deadline is March 25, 2023 (always the 25th of the month) Next Council meeting - April 18, 2023 7:00pm

Adjournment and Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer Cindy made a motion to Adjourn, 2nd by Chris Johnson and it Carried.

For Review: Recurring Work of the Body – Committee, Pastor, and Officer Reports

Education Committee

- Lent check-in - youth project, adult forum, House of Hope Director Karen Rowe coming March 26, adult forum with Melissa Bill
- Easter brunch with Mission Endowment Fund as fundraiser and awareness raising
- Spring/summer planning VBS - July 24-26, 5-7:30 p.m

Outreach and Hospitality Committee

- Welcome bags ready
- Bonnie led in reading of perfectionism
- Discussed if any feedback on inviting church
- thoughts on bulletins

Facilities and Grounds Committee

- Assisted Mission Green with suspended ceiling

Worship and Music

- Reparations royalties update; Racial Justice Sunday, April 30
- Discussion/exploration of characteristics of white supremacy culture: defensiveness
- Check-in on Lenten soup suppers

Pastor's Report

- Working with Matt Bills to get Personnel
- Committee going
- Working on staffing plans
- The council's emphasis on recognizing gifts has been helpful to my work this month.



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