

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

March 2023

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Unbind Him - Hannah Garrity. Copyright purchased from Sanctified art LLC

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This Lent our theme for worship is Open our Lives, God. On Sundays we're asking questions that can open us; questions like, *"who will you listen to?" "how do we begin again?" "where are you headed?"* We're also drawing on poetry and visual art. On Wednesdays we're considering how God opens our eyes, hands, ears, hearts and lives.

This theme has gotten me thinking about our bodies and how God is at work in and for our bodies. I'm also pondering bodies as I'm aware that many of you are facing health challenges and sitting at the bedside of loved ones who are sick and dying. One of my favorite pieces of poetry about bodies is a blessing by Jan Richardson (see below.)

Living as a fragile body in this world is both hard and holy. It is both beautiful and brutally hard. It amazes me that God knows what it is to live as a human body. God knows the joys and the challenges.

It's also amazing that our own bodies are a sanctuary for God world. Our individual bodies and our collective body are a home for God, a way for us and others to experience God. How is it with your body? How is it with our collective body as a congregation? As you ponder those questions, remember that God looks upon us and says: *Holy. Beloved. Sanctuary.*

Blessing the Body by Jan Richardson

This blessing takes
one look at you
and all it can say is
holy.

Holy hands.
Holy face.
Holy feet.
Holy everything
in between.

Holy even in pain.
Holy even when weary.
In brokenness, holy.
In shame, holy still.

Holy in delight.
Holy in distress.
Holy when being born.
Holy when we lay it down
at the hour of our death.

So, friend,
open your eyes
(holy eyes).
For one moment
see what this blessing sees,
this blessing that knows
how you have been formed
and knit together
in wonder and
in love.

Welcome this blessing
that folds its hands
in prayer
when it meets you;
receive this blessing
that wants to kneel
in reverence
before you:
you who are
temple,
sanctuary,
home for God
in this world.

PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

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Offered by Jane Jakoubek

Dear God, help me keep turning back to you...when I lose my way...when I get distracted...when other things are more enticing...when the going gets tough. Help me be faithful to my commitment to make this season of Lent a time to deepen my awareness of your presence in my life and your call to join you in caring for your beloved people and this earth.

Dear God, help me to keep trusting you...when I lose my way...when nothing seems to change...when my frustration overwhelms me...when I want to be in charge of my own life. Help me know that you are at work in and through all things, even when it doesn't make sense to me, even when there is no end in sight.

Dear God, help me to grow in compassion and courage,...compassion and courage when things confuse me...compassion and courage when judging others is easier...compassion and courage when I need to take risks to reach out to others on your behalf. Help me turn to you for the compassion and courage I need now in Lent, to keep turning back to you, to keep trusting you, and to keep serving you. Amen.

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
March 5	Genesis 12:1-4a <i>The blessing of God upon Abram</i>	Psalm 121 <i>I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord. (Ps. 121:1, 2)</i>	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 <i>The promise to those who share Abraham's faith</i>	John 3:1-17 <i>The mission of Christ: to save the world</i>
March 12	Exodus 17:1-7 <i>Water from the rock in the wilderness</i>	Psalm 95 <i>Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)</i>	Romans 5:1-11 <i>Reconciled to God by Christ's death</i>	John 4:5-42 <i>Baptismal image: the woman at the well</i>
March 19	1 Samuel 16:1-13 <i>David is chosen and anointed</i>	Psalm 23 <i>You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)</i>	Ephesians 5:8-14 <i>Awake from sleep, live as children of light</i>	John 9:1-41 <i>Baptismal image: the man born blind</i>
March 26	Ezekiel 37:1-14 <i>The dry bones of Israel brought to life</i>	Psalm 130 <i>I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)</i>	Romans 8:6-11 <i>Life in the Spirit</i>	John 11:1-45 <i>Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus</i>

LENT WITH GOOD SHEPHERD: OPEN OUR LIVES, GOD

4

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. See the next page for more information.

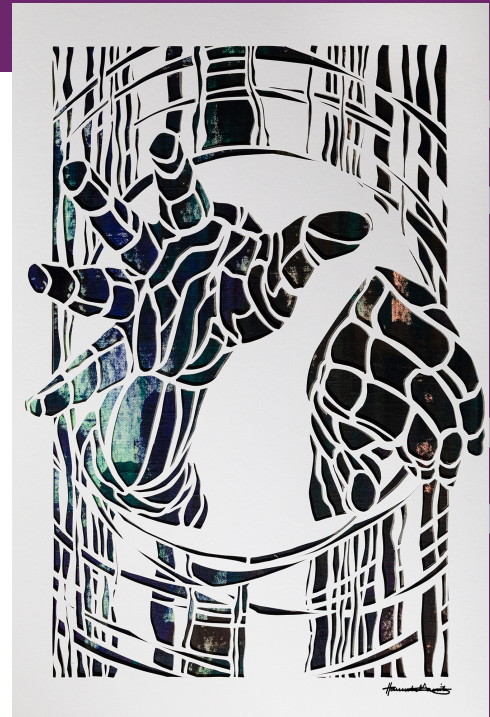
Confirmation Mentors During Lent During Lenten Soup Suppers, our Confirmands and Kelli will be sharing high and lows, talking about midweek worship, praying for each other, and blessing each other.

Lenten recitals will happen in the month of March - see page 6 for more information.

The **Lent Youth Project**, selected by our Confirmation students with a goal of \$5000, **focuses on housing insecurity, specifically people who are unhoused**. Donations will be shared locally with House of Hope, a shelter in Waterloo for single women, mothers, and children without housing; and globally with those impacted by the ongoing crisis caused by earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

- Worshippers are invited to come forward each Wednesday and Sunday to place their offering in a small house in front of the altar.
- Youth will provide Temple Talks about the project each Sunday.
- When giving towards this project, please write "**Lenten Youth Project**" in the memo

Easter Brunch will happen following Easter Sunday worship. This year it is offered by Good Shepherd Youth and the Mission Endowment Fund. See page 7 for more information.



LENT WITH GOOD SHEPHERD: OPEN OUR LIVES, GOD

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COLLECTION FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS Supplies for Personal Care Kits will be collected throughout Lent. Drop off donations in designated bins in the Gathering Space outside the Sanctuary.

- Items needed: new, dark-colored bath towels (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"); 4-5 ounce wrapped bars of soap, any brand; new adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging; sturdy new combs; new metal nail clippers.
- **Some Personal Care Kits will be assembled on Wednesday, March 22, at the north end of the Fellowship Hall after the Soup Supper.** Donations will still be accepted until the end of Lent.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

LENTEN SIMPLE SOUP SUPPERS

Our Simple Soup Suppers will offer Soup (including vegetarian, vegan, and G-F), Crackers, Milk, and Water. The SSS are scheduled to begin at 6:00, following the Lenten Wednesday Evening Prayer services on March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. We had a GREAT showing for our first suppers and are greatly enjoying coming together in Fellowship!

All soups will be set out and served buffet style with crackers, water, glasses, spoons, napkins on the round tables. Milk and G-F crackers are on the serving table. We will use our ceramic bowls. The Committee is providing the crackers and milk. Sign-up on a poster in the Gathering Space or on the website under "Sign-Ups"

Please drop off soups in crock pots at 5:00 pm. Each week we are requesting 12 soups (2 GF, 2 Vegetarian or Vegan, 8 no restrictions necessary) We ask that folks provide an ingredient list, a recipe isn't needed. Cards are available with the sign-up posters on the table in the Gathering Space.

Duties for workers: Arrive at 5:00 to receive and set up soups, set tables, help with the buffet line, and clean up using our dishwasher. Worship & Music Committee members Stephanie Hoff and Elizabeth Kaschins are the Coordinators for each Supper.

LENTEN MUSIC SERIES

A **Lenten Recital Series** featuring a variety of music will be held on three Wednesdays during Lent, from **12:15-12:45 p.m.**, in the Good Shepherd Sanctuary. All recitals are free and open to the public.

The series kicks off on **March 15**, featuring renowned organist Jean-Baptiste Robin. Robin is regarded as one of the most prominent French concert organists and composers of today. With his appointment in 2010 as Organist of the Royal Chapel at the Palace of Versailles, he secured a place in a long line of famous French organists, such as François Couperin, Louis Marchand, Louis-Claude Daquin, and Claude Balbastre. He also serves as Professor of Organ and Composition at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional in Versailles.

- Robin is in residency at Luther College, March 13-16. While there he will conduct organ and composition master classes and be featured at Chapel on March 15.

On **March 22**, musicians from the Good Shepherd community will perform a program of solo and chamber music.

On **March 29**, students from the organ studio of Alexander Meszler, college organist at Luther College, will perform.

YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS:

LENTEN PROJECT EVENT: On March 11th a really fun event is happening to kick off our Lent project. From 2-4pm in the fellowship hall, there will be four stations of activities!

- Students will decorate cookies (shaped like houses)
- Make a craft for our centerpieces during Lent fellowship tables
- A group game
- Listen to a story

The purpose of of this event is for children and youth to gather together and learn more about this year's Lenten project of housing insecurity.

Then the next day, Sunday, March 12th, Youth will be hosting fellowship. We will be serving the house cookies and having a brief forum from House of Hope. I will need youth to help with set up and clean up during fellowship.

EASTER BREAKFAST: MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Good Shepherd Easter Breakfast is back! The Mission Endowment Fund Committee is partnering with our Youth Ministry to provide this annual celebration for the Good Shepherd congregation and guests. The breakfast will be offered as a fundraiser to assist the Mission Endowment Fund Committee's commitment to award EPIC Scholarships to Good Shepherd students attending ELCA colleges or universities.

MEF Committee member Jim Buzza and Kelli Gapinski, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, are providing the leadership and Good Shepherd youth and members of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee will serve the meal. Bob and Ann Naslund have generously provided \$250 to fund the breakfast through the use of their Thrivent Community Impact Card. Come and enjoy a Good Shepherd tradition and support this long-time Good Shepherd ministry. A freewill offering will be accepted.

The Mission Endowment Fund was established in the 1990s with \$50,000 received from the sale of church property to the late Weston Noble. The fund has grown to approximately \$115,000, of which 4% can be used annually for scholarships/ grants. With the 4% annual limitation, it takes \$25,000 to generate one \$1,000 scholarship; the current balance of \$115,000 allows for four and a half awards. The long-term goal is to grow the fund to \$200,000-\$250,000 which will generate 8 to 10 scholarships annually.

This academic year the MEF Committee awarded 4 scholarships and it anticipates there will be a need for five next year. During the 2024-2025 academic year it is estimated there will be a need for 9 or 10 scholarships.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT: GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

THE PRAYER

May God's grace be upon this shawl...
warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.
May this shawl be a safe haven...
a sacred place of security and well-being...
sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.
May the one who receives this shawl
be cradled in hope,
kept in joy,
graced with peace,
and wrapped in love.
May God's grace be upon this shawl...
Blessed be!

THE SHAWL

Prayer Shawls are knit and crocheted by the gifted hands of members of the Good Shepherd Prayer Shawl Ministry. The yarn used to create them is provided by the members, who may choose to be reimbursed by a \$1000 budget line item approved by the congregation at last month's Annual Meeting.

Each Shawl receives the Prayer of Blessing before it is presented to a recipient. Shawls are given to those in need as well as those experiencing joy, regardless of their affiliation with Good Shepherd Church.

THE MINISTRY

The Good Shepherd Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 2005 under the leadership of Marion Hanson. The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month September through May, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., in the church's Gathering Space. An invitation is extended to anyone wanting to participate; contact Jeri Laursen or Connie Buresh for more information.

- Jerry Bruce, Stewardship Committee



"I have a dream..."

"I have a dream..."

"I have a dream..."

Those words from Martin Luther King, Jr touch me as much today as they did when I first heard them in 1968. They are an unending drumbeat calling for change, a change we need today just as much then.

It's worth reading or listening to his whole speech (see links below). He shows how the sweep of our nation's history falls so short of its promise. His words are powerful, moving, demanding. But he shows us his dream, too. He offers us hope, promise, a future worth working for.

Sometimes in church I hear verses of scripture that echo King, and then I remember that's because he got many of them from the Bible. Those are not just Martin Luther King, Jr's words; they are God's words.

Can you imagine God's dream for our world? What might God say to us to help us realize that dream?

God's message to us is there in the Bible. Here are some verses that speak powerfully to me about God's dream for our world and my role in making that dream real:

- *God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. Genesis 1:31*
'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews: Let my people go,...Exodus 9.1
- *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11*
- *Seek good and not evil, that you may live, and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,..Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate...let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:14-15; 21; 24*
- *Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6)*
- *[W]hat does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*
- *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10b I will not leave you all alone. John 14:18a*
- *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Matthew 18:20*
- *[t]hose who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles'; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31)*
- *He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak (Isaiah 40:29)*
Behold, I make all things new. Revelation 21:5

What verses, stories, and parables from the Bible are powerful for you? What helps you join in the fight for justice? What helps you walk humbly with God? What gives you hope against all odds? *(continued on next page)*

ANTIRACISM DEVOTION

Prayer: Merciful God, thank you for reminding us over and over of the kind of world and community you dream of. Thank you for teaching us how to contribute to your work of bringing our world into line with your dream. Thank you for giving us the courage to struggle with places where there is injustice, to keep learning about what we can do, and to keep praying for a world where justice flourishes for all your beloved children. Amen.

Here is a link for a transcript of Martin Luther King's speech: [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Here is a link for a recording of the speech:

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/i-have-a-dream-speech>

WELCA - NEWSLETTER

LWR (Lutheran World Relief) Personal Care Kits will be collected throughout Lent. Donations can be dropped off in the containers in the Gathering Space outside the Sanctuary. Items needed: new, dark-colored bath towels (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"); 4-5 ounce wrapped bars of soap, any brand; new adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging; sturdy new combs; new metal nail clippers. Some Personal Care Kits will be assembled on Wednesday, March 22, at the north end of the Fellowship Hall after the Soup Supper. Donations will still be accepted until the end of Lent.

Gather Bible Study

(March 2023) Session three: Sanctity of life and love (Commandments 5 & 6)

Join *Gather* magazine and revive your soul in 2023 with a four-session study of the 10 commandments.

In our third session, we will review some of the major murders of the Bible. We'll also delve into the scriptural witness to the spirituality of sex and the covenant of marriage. (from Gather website)

Upcoming events

March 22: Assemble Personal Care Kits following Lenten Soup Supper, GS fellowship hall

March 28: Gather Bible study, GS fellowship hall, 7 pm, Wanda Rueber Bible study, Sue Blom refreshments

April 22: Cluster D Spring Gathering, Big Canoe Lutheran Church, coffee at 8:30 program at 9. Program: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Riverview Center speaker.

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, March 15, 1:00-3:00 in the Gathering Space.

PASTOR MELISSA BILLS TO PRESENT ADULT FORUM SERIES: SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Join Pastor Melissa Bills, Luther College Director of College Ministries, College Pastor, and Good Shepherd member, for a series of four Adult Forums beginning Sunday, March 12, at 10:50 a.m. in the Gathering Space. She will lead us through videos and discussion topics from the series Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. These are no-homework, no-prep Adult Forums; but if you'd like to read the accompanying book of the same title, copies are available at Dragonfly Books in Decorah.

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/

MINISTRY SUPPORT for MARCH- 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!

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE: Thursday March 23rd 12:30-5:30 and Friday March 24th 9:00 am-2:00 pm at Stone Ridge Community Church in Decorah. Appointments encouraged: lifeservebloodcenter.org

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CAN DRIVE: Luther College Habitat for Humanity is doing an annual Can Mountain Fundraiser in partnership with Winneshiek County Habitat taking place March 8-11. The money raised will go towards the spring break trip to Naples, Florida. You can drop cans on those days from 7am to 7pm in the sectioned off area at the red barn across from Luther College. The Luther college habitat will do all the sorting of the cans.

WAYS TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH national AAMPARO activity:

AMMPARO Facebook: facebook.com/ELCAammparo

ELCA Advocacy Twitter: @ELCAadvocacy

AMMPARO Blog: blogs.elca.org/ammparo/

ELCA Advocacy Connections Monthly Newsletter:

<http://elca.org/advocacy/signup>

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.

MARCH

Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
26		27		28		1		2		3		4	
Enica out of office													
New Members Sunday		No School - Kinderhaus		10am - Office Hours		First Day of Women's History Month		11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space		Pastor Amy day off		10am - FH Prep	
9:30am - In-person Worship & Live		10am - Office Hours		5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @		1:30pm - ESL		2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @		8am - Office Hours		8am - Office Hours	
10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group		4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours		6:30pm - Peace & Justice Center Event @		5:30pm - Lent Midweek Worship		2pm - Flute Lesson		8am - WDP Prep		9:30am - World Day of Prayer Event	
10:45am - Fellowship Hour		6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall		7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather Study @		6pm - Lenten Soup Supper				9:30am - World Day of Prayer Event		11am - WDP Cleanup	
						7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary				1pm - Senior Center Board @ Library			
						8pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary							
Aurora singing in worship				5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @				Recycle		Pastor Amy day off		2pm - Youth Lent Project Event	
5		6		7		8		9		10		11	
9:30am - In-person Worship & Live		8am - Office Hours		10am - Eastern Star/ArIn Falck		10am - Office Hours		10am - Office Hours		8am - Office Hours			
10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group		9am - Worship and Music Committee		10am - Office Hours		1:30pm - ESL		2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @		1:30pm - Senior Citizen Board Meeting @			
10:45am - Fellowship Hour		3pm - Judisch Meeting		1:30pm - ESL		2:30pm - Aase Haugen Communion		2pm - Flute Lesson					
11am - Adult Forum: Russ Balder		4pm - Outreach and Hospitality		5:30pm - Lent Midweek Worship		5:30pm - Lent Midweek Worship		4pm - Staff mtg.					
		4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours		6pm - Lenten Soup Supper		6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary		5pm - Education committee					
		6pm - Antiracism team		6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary		7:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary							
		6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall		7:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary									
12		13		14		15		16		17		18	
Daylight Saving Time starts		10am - Office Hours		10am - Office Hours		12:15pm - Lenten Recital: Jean-Baptiste		11am - Bible Study @ Gathering Space		Pastor Amy day off		8am - Recital Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	
Youth led Fellowship Hour		4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours		5pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @		1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ Gathering		12:45pm - MEF Committee Meeting @		St. Patrick's Day			
8:45am - Choir Warm-Up for Worship		6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall		1:30pm - ESL		1:30pm - ESL		2pm - Erik Sessions Lessons @		8am - Office Hours			
9:30am - In-person Worship & Live				5:30pm - Lent Midweek Worship		5:30pm - Lent Midweek Worship		2pm - Flute Lesson					
10:30am - Sunday School & Youth Group				6pm - Lenten Soup Supper		6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary		2pm - Stewardship Committee @ Library					
10:45am - Fellowship Hour				6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Sanctuary		7:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ Sanctuary							

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

13

Feb. 21, 2023 - 7:00pm

Present: Cindy Ernst, Kris Peterson, Chris Johnson, Brian Caton, Lise Kildegaard, Marilyn Rue, Anne Clausen, Pastor Amy, **Absent:** Tim Lecander, Karin Martin-Hiner

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- Pastor or member
- 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? Lise moved to approve Chris 2nd and it was passed

Consent Agenda

- Approval of January 2023 Council Meeting Minutes
- Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)
- Receiving New Members to the Congregation
 - Sonya, Dave, Violet and Jack Geenen
 - Steve and Sara Hopkins
 - Anne Jacobsen Clausen
 - Linda and Mic Martin
 - Norman and Susan Friedrich, Tristan, Benjamin, Ethan, and Ellen Friedrich
- Credit Card for Altar Guild, Worship & Music Committees
- Bank Authorization, authorize Tim Lecander, Kristin Peterson, John Moeller, Marie Freerking and Erica Yaneff access to account 010245 and safe deposit box.

Discussion Agenda

- **Council Retreat reflections** - ideas on big picture items and moving them forward _
Discussed the recommendations of the meeting. Working with the flow and possibly following that in the council meetings. Connections to be presented by counsel members and using post it notes with three topics or themes so that we can use the pattern for work in the counsel. Brainstorming the post it notes in relationship with other post its. Recognizing gifts as a base.
- **Proposal from Facilities and Grounds committee to change insurance companies:**
Grinnell Mutual proposal This will involve a change in the budget because of a budgeting error and an additional cost for new year. Looking into changing to a new local company who understands covering solar power. Jim, Tim, and Brian will be looking into this and returning information in March.
- **Reminders for committee liaisons** Lise asks what others will be doing to connect with their committee. It can vary by meeting and be in touch as is appropriate. Copies of reports to Tim, the president, will be sent to the Liaison ahead of the meeting. The top three of each committee will be presented so the secretary can report that and are more visible to the congregation.
- **Outreach & Hospitality:** We set times for the year to meet and plan. We planned out our informational time for Feb 12th for the perspective new members. A new item coming from the team is the "Inviting Church Challenge" shared in the newsletter, bulletin, and weekly e-news.

- **Facilities & Grounds:** AED/CPR Training coming in Spring (Dave Peterson is spearheading), planning for spring yard and interior work, and working alongside MG to finish final phases of solar installation.
- **Stewardship:** Plan newsletter articles for the year highlighting different aspects of GS activity, Flock development continuing to be refined and discussed internally.
- **Worship and Music:** Reparations royalties next steps spearheaded by Bobby Vrtis, Lenten soup suppers are off and running, Guidance and support for readers in worship and texts being added to bulletin, discussed the Theme for Lent
- **Pastors Report:** Upper IA River Conference and stepping down as Dean after 5 years, Water Street Park prayer & confession Ash Wed. Training with SACReD (Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity)
- **The newly formed Social Justice Team** may, from time to time, want to involve the wider congregation in issue based legislative advocacy. This is especially true during the months of Jan. - May, when the Iowa State Legislature is in session. We might, for example, host post card writing during fellowship hour (much like we did earlier regarding cuts to SNAP benefits) We would like the Church Council to give us guidance on how often and in what ways they would recommend we engage the congregation in legislative advocacy.

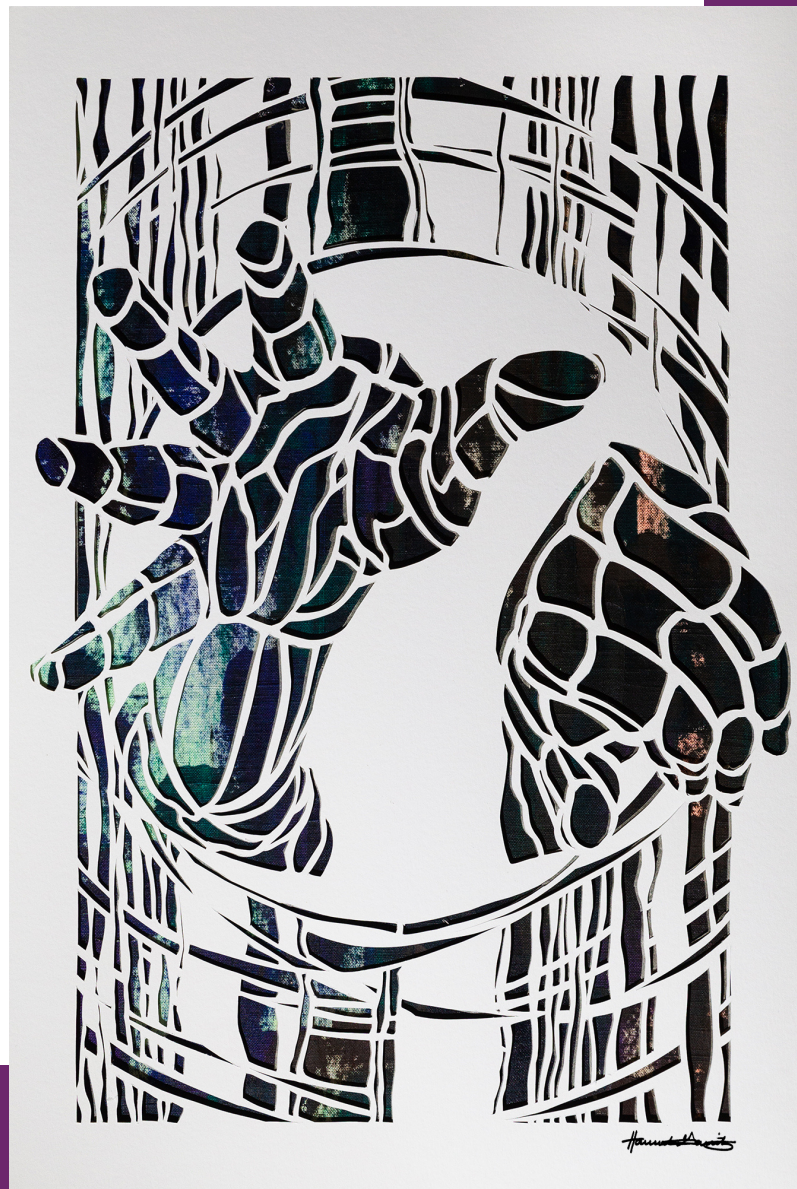
We don't want to over burden folks with what may feel like "demands" that they participate in advocacy work. Neither do we want to neglect the very real needs of our neighbors when pending legislation threatens their well-being. The Council's thoughts and guidance will be invaluable for us as we move forward. The council appreciates reaching out in conversation about this. It was discussed that an environment of advocacy can be set up as it has in the past so that it is easy to present the opportunity to respond. Maybe a table or two and other tables where people don't need to feel obligated to participate. Holden Village Advocacy was cited by Anne Clausen. How often doesn't seem like the right direction since it depends on what comes up in the year that the committee deems worthy.

Approval of Treasurers Report- Chris moved approval Marilyn seconded the motion and it passed.

Announcements -

- Newsletter Deadline is February 25, 2023 (always the 25th of the month)
- Next Council meeting - March 23, 2023 7:00pm
- Lise brought up celebrating and what is coming up, 65th anniversary.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer



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