

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 ...

Psalm 100:3



**Midweek Lenten Worship
Open Our Hearts, 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 *

GATHERING MUSIC

*OPENING LITANY:

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

Teach us to walk in your commandments.

Grant us grace to know and understand your will,

for all that we are in body and soul is a gift from you.

Lord, you are the everlasting Truth,

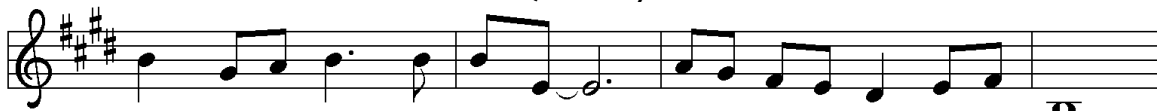
the one who speaks the words of eternal life.

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

Teach us to walk in your commandments.

(Based on Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471, *The Imitation of Christ*, trans. Richard Whitford, ca. 1530)

*GATHERING SONG: ELW 512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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***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.

BODY PRAYER with help from kids

Open my eyes, Lord. (Point toward your eyes)

Open my hands, Lord. (Stretch out your hands)

Open my ears, Lord. (Point toward your ears)

Open my heart, Lord. (Place your hands over your heart)

Open my life, Lord. (Raise your arms up to God)

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 16:11-15- Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

2 Corinthians 6:1-13- Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

***HYMN:** ACS 1043 Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.
1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of
kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to
Refrain
fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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***PRAYER LITANY**

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.**

OFFERTORY

OFFERING

*The Youth Lent Project, selected by our Confirmation students with a goal of \$5000, focuses on people who are **unhoused**. Donations will be shared locally with House of Hope, a shelter in Waterloo for single women, mothers, and children; and globally with those impacted by the ongoing crisis caused by earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. You can place donations for this project in the house in front of the altar or note **Youth Lent project** on gifts placed in offering plate.*

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

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

***HYMN:** ELW 811 On My Heart, Imprint Your Image (see next page)

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,
that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The final note of the piece is a whole note G on the first line of the fourth staff.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

***DISMISSAL:** Go in peace, Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY – ASSISTING MINISTER: Tom Buresh;
USHER: Sharon Drew; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; PREACHER: Kristin Kopperud-Stinn;
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! Confirmation students and mentors go first through the line so that you can have time together during soup.

ITEMS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS will be collected throughout Lent. Drop off donations in designated bins in the Gathering Space outside the Sanctuary. Items needed include new, dark-colored, light-weight bath towels (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"); bath-size, wrapped bars of soap (4-5 ounces each), any brand; new adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging; sturdy new combs (remove packaging); new metal nail clippers with attached file optional (remove packaging).

Some kits will be assembled TONIGHT. After you finish soup, come to the back of Fellowship Hall to help! You can still bring items for kits, the rest will be assembled in April.

LENTEN RECITALS: Good Shepherd Sanctuary 12:15-12:45 pm – free and open to the public. More information can be found on the **GS website**. March 29 students from the organ studio of Alexander Meszler, college organist at Luther College, will perform.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Amy: Cell 563-419-0140, pastoramy@goodshepherddecorah.org

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)