

# **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 Hands, 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:

As we live in community with God and one another,

**may our hands touch the lives of our neighbors.**

When a stranger is in our midst,

may our hands be extended in welcome.

When another is lost, distraught, or troubled,

**may our hands be used to point to the cross of hope and salvation.**

Where there is injustice in the world and in our communities,

**may our hands be instruments of healing, justice, and hope.**

In times of sorrow, sickness, and great suffering,

**may our hands embrace the broken and offer prayers of consolation.**

In times of disaster and tragedy,

**may our hands bring help and comfort.**

Into your hands O God, we commend our bodies, our souls and all that is ours.

**Hold us in your loving hands, now and always.**

*(from Northeastern Iowa Synod Blessing of the Hands Service)*

\***GATHERING SONG:** ELW 678 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

# God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je - sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,  
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.  
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;  
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;  
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.  
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.  
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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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**

**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**

Deuteronomy 15:7-11- Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark 6:1-5 - Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

In groups of 2 people who don't live in the same house (or 3 people if needed), take turns sharing, one minute per turn. Listen for the chime each minute to note when to change partners.

- 1) **Share about someone who takes good care of others or of you with their hands.** What do they do? Have you noticed anything about how their hands look? (1 minute for each partner)
- 2) **Share about something you do or have done with your hands that brings you and/or others joy,** maybe playing an instrument, baking, making... (1 minute for each partner)

Blessing the Body by Jan Richardson

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

that wants to kneel  
in reverence  
before you:  
you who are  
temple,  
sanctuary,  
home for God  
in this world.

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.

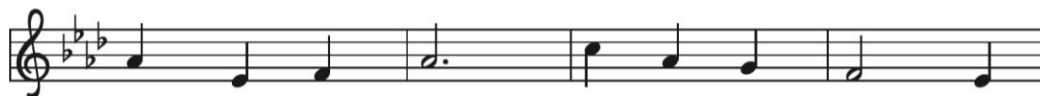
Holy in delight.  
Holy in distress.  
Holy when being born.  
Holy when we lay it down  
at the hour of our death.

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

**\*HYMN:** ACS 1000 God's Work, Our Hands

*During the hymn you are invited to come to the altar rail to receive an anointing and blessing of your hands. We'll use olive oil and make the sign of the cross on your hands. Come if you'd like, at your own pace.*



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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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.**

#### **\*BLESSING**

**\*HYMN:** ELW 538 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

# The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

## *Enviado soy de Dios*



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá  
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.  
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain  
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;  
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America

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**\*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: Matt Larson;  
USHERS: Sharon Drew; 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! Confirmation students and mentors go first through the line so that you can have time together during soup.

**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.

**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 (the room with a TV outside the Sanctuary). 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. Watch for additional information in the March newsletter.

**YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT: Saturday, March 11th**, from 2-4pm in the fellowship hall, all families are invited to participate in a Lent project gathering. There will be 4 stations, and children will rotate to different stations by helping decorate cookies shaped as houses, make a craft, playing a group game, and listening to a story. It will be a fun afternoon! **Then on Sunday, March 12th, during fellowship hour, the cookies will be served and the congregation will learn more about the Lent project.**

**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 15 featuring renowned organist Jean-Baptiste Robin
- March 22 musicians from the Good Shepherd community will perform a program of solo and chamber music
- March 29 students from the organ studio of Alexander Meszler, college organist at Luther College, will perform

**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). **Kits will be assembled on Wednesday, March 22.**

**LENTEN SIMPLE SOUP SUPPERS:** Because Lent is a season of reflection, preparation, and liturgical fasting, we embrace the idea of simplicity in our Lenten Soup Suppers. A humble meal shared together, deepens and extends the themes of Lent expressed in our worship services. 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. Committee members Stephanie Hoff and Elizabeth Kaschins are the Coordinators for each Supper. A crew of five volunteers from the congregation is needed each week to host, set up, help with serving, and clean up.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 5:00 p.m., Library - SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM MEETING:** The Social Justice Team's first gathering was on Sunday, February 12. Anyone interested in the intersection of faith and social justice is welcome to attend this meeting, or contact convener Pastor Marion Pruitt-Jefferson [mpruitt-jefferson58@gmail.com](mailto:mpruitt-jefferson58@gmail.com)

**LOCAL EVENT ABOUT CULTIVATING SKILLS TO CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES IN**

**COMMUNITY:** "From duck and cover to hearts and mind: cultivate skills to create inclusive spaces in our community!" with TedX Speaker and DEI facilitator Colice Sanders (she/her). This highly interactive session will introduce two useful models for maintaining inclusive spaces. Come prepared to connect with others while we explore realistic ways to incorporate inclusion in our community. Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30-12:30p at the Driftless Yoga Studio. Learn more at [driftlessyoga.org/events](http://driftlessyoga.org/events)

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY(HFH) CAN DRIVE, MARCH 8 - 11** Luther's Campus Chapter is partnering with Winneshiek County HFH for the annual Can Mountain Fundraiser to support the Spring BreakTrip to a HFH build site in Naples, Florida. Drop off cans from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. at the sectioned off area at the red barn across from the College along College Drive. Cans do not need to be sorted.

**BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR AMY WILL NOT MEET ON THURSDAY, MARCH 9**

**OUTREACH AND HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE'S "INVITING CHURCH" CHALLENGE - WEEK 5!**

Everyone at Good Shepherd is invited to participate in this last "Inviting Church" Challenge which can help Good Shepherd become not just a Welcoming Church, but an Inviting Church! Here's 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 LIST:**

**Good Shepherd Family:** Naomi Craft, Sue Luzum, Marv & Mickey Slind, June Melby, the Caton Family, James Barth, Marion Hanson, Stephanie Hoff, Donna Bahr, Ed Hover, Harland Nelson, Jerrine Jacobsen, Glenn Nelson, Janet Gall, Lowell Erdman, Jutta Anderson, all residents and staff at Aase Haugen, Eastern Star, Wellington Place, Mosaic Homes, and Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, and those preparing for public ministry: Joseph Doegen and Kathryn Thompson

**Relatives and Friends:** Maryn Olson (daughter of Ginny Olson in South Sudan for LDR), Noi Tran (Kim Kavan's mother), Frank Barth (James Barth's Brother), Sylvia Clisham (member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry), Parents of Dan Raney, Suzette and Richard Caton (Brian's parents), Diane Borness (Sister of Marilyn Anderson), The family of Luke Hackman (Friends of the Bureshs), Ann Hovde Nelson (Daughter-in-law of Glenn Nelson and Jane Borelli), Sarah Jane, Tim and Sue

Broderick (friends of Jerry and Ruth Bruce), Nathaniel Judisch (son of Dave and Gail), Robin Darland (Friend of Erik Berg), Dennis Martin (brother-in-law of the Slinds), Randy Erion (friends of Charilyn & Ed Hover), Nathan Scheuerelein (grandson of Bonnie Flora), Lynzee Makowski (friend of Laurie Biedermann), John Monson (Martha Monson Lowe's father), Barb Reckling (Martha Monson Lowe's cousin), Erik Wangsness (nephew of Sharon Drew), Todd Hove (son of Gloria Hove), Aaron Buzza (son of Jim and Kathy), Marilyn Walli (Cousin of Marv Slind), Marian Brynsaas (sister of LaVerne Ramsey), Mary Beth & Bayo Oyebade and the Mashiah Foundation in Jos, Nigeria, and our Companion Synod in Hungary

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Pastor Amy: Cell 563-419-0140, [pastoramy@goodshepherddecorah.org](mailto:pastoramy@goodshepherddecorah.org)

**WELCOME GUESTS. THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN SOUP SUPPER FOLLOWING 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](http://goodshepherddecorah.org/racial-Justice-Statement) or by scanning the code:



**We confess** by what we have done and left undone that we have perpetuated systems of racial injustice and violence. (*Micah 6:8*)

**We acknowledge** that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is built on land that was home to the Ioway, Otoe-Missouria, Eastern Dakota, Sac, Fox, Winnebago and Ho-Chunk tribes. In 1848, over two thousand Winnebago were forcibly displaced from here by the U.S. military to make way for European-American settlers. (*2016 Assembly Action CA16.02.04 Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery*)

**We lament** that the white Church in the United States, through its dominant place in our country's culture and history, has actively constructed, justified, and sustained systems of racial injustice and violence. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has marginalized Lutheran Black, Indigenous, and People of Color leaders and communities and perpetuated a patriarchal, monocultural and racially segregated status quo. (*From Declaration of the ELCA to Peoples of African Descent issued by ELCA Church Council, June 27, 2019*)