



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

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JUNE/JULY 2023

*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*



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I am so looking forward to this summer as a congregation. I am so grateful for the ways we are living as God's people together for the sake of the world. I want to highlight many gifts in our life together during June and July. You can find more details about these things in this newsletter.

- Our worship theme is "Finding our Roots in the Story". We'll be exploring great stories from the Old Testament that help us to know more of who God is and who we are as God's people.
- Each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Library, we will reflect upon the story for the upcoming Sunday. All are welcome!
- Our Shepherds are reaching out and our Flocks are connecting! In July, the Flocks will start taking turns, one Flock each month, with sharing in the Sunday ministry roles.
- We have a great team in the office with Erica Yaneff, Ministry and Communications Coordinator, and Tristan Occhipinti, the new Office and Building Manager. Tristan will also cover some of Erica's roles when she goes on maternity leave.
- We'll share in Holden Evening Prayer Around the World and in Holy Communion with Decorah area ELCA congregations on Saturday, June 3 at 5:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church.
- We'll also share in book discussions with these congregations in June, July, and August. The books all explore the theme of Living as Disciples. You're invited to join in reading one, two, or all three of these books. There will be two opportunities to discuss each book, come to one or both of the discussions!
- We will have a special Summer Solstice worship service on Wednesday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Shepherd will again sell Krumkake at Nordic Fest. Krumkake baking kicks off on Sunday, July 9. All are welcome to share in this fun, community building activity! All the proceeds from the Krumkake sales are given to mission.
- Our youth, Kelli, and I will be traveling to Waterloo and Waverly, July 9-10. We'll do a day at a waterpark, stay overnight in the Wartburg Chapel Commons, tour Wartburg, and do a day of service at House of Hope in Waterloo (one of the organizations we supported with the Lent Youth Project.)
- Kelli will lead a "Run Club" for our kids and will offer Wednesday evening family nights throughout the summer.
- Vacation Bible School will happen in the week right before Nordic Fest.
- Mission Green work continues and hopefully will be completed by mid to late summer.
- The Social Justice Team and Racial Justice Team continue to help us live out our baptismal call to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth."
- The Outreach and Hospitality Committee will help us welcome new members this summer.

Your prayers, participation, and financial giving make all of this possible. Thank you, Good Shepherd, for living out good news and for sharing good news with the world.

Peace to you, Pastor Amy

PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

Offered by Jane Jakoubek

O God, we pray for the newly-formed Good Shepherd flocks. Thank you for the insight, creativity and energy of those who brought forth this plan. Thank you for the congregation's willingness to live, work and serve together in new ways. Thank you for the shepherds who will work with the flocks and those who will help coordinate duties during the flock's month to serve the congregation at worship and fellowship. Thank you for the gifts you are pouring out on Good Shepherds through this new ministry.

Help us find our way together now. Help us see the banquet of gifts that you have given the members of each flock. Help us invite each other to share the gifts you have given us. Help us to let go of old ideas about how things should be and be open to the Spirit who is breathing new life in and through this ministry.

O God, ground our work, our sharing, and our living in you, in your Word, in your Spirit. Be with us; bless the gifts we bring; multiply them for the sake of Good Shepherd, all your beloved people and all of creation. Amen.

MUSIC SCHEDULE: SUMMER 2023

If you are interested in offering special music (a solo, duet, or something else?), please contact Good Shepherd Music Director Brooke Joyce, wboyce3@gmail.com

* = Brooke is not available to accompany on these Sundays

"Pick-up" music Sundays: come at 8:45 on Sunday morning to learn a short piece of music. RSVP's will be prompted via email the prior week, or just show up. For band Sundays, all string, wind and brass instrumentalists welcome!

June	
6/4	Solo/Chamber*
6/11	Pick-up Choir
6/18	Elizabeth Craft
6/25	Pick-up Handbells

July	
7/2	Pick-up Band
7/9	Solo/Chamber*
7/16	Pick-up Choir
7/23	Pick-up Handbells
7/30	Solo/Chamber*
August	
8/6	Pick-up Band
8/13	Pick-up Handbells
8/20	Pick-up Choir
8/27	Pick-up Band

FINDING OUR ROOTS IN THE STORY

The theme for worship this summer is **Finding our Roots in the Story**. We will explore biblical stories from Genesis and Exodus, stories that help us to know more of who God is and who we are as God's people. Worship will look a bit different. Each week, we'll hear just a reading from the Old Testament and a brief Gospel reading. The stories come from the semi-continuous readings in our Revised Common Lectionary. We will also be using Rev. Dr. Rolf Svanoe's book, *I Love to Preach the Story: Finding our Roots*, which is a guide for preachers and congregations diving into these stories in worship.

SUMMER SCRIPTURE

	Old Testament Reading	Gospel Reading
June 4	<u>Genesis 1:1--2:4a</u> <i>The creation of the heavens and the earth</i>	<u>Matthew 28:16-20</u> <i>Living in the community of the Trinity</i>
June 11	<u>Genesis 12:1-9</u> <i>Abram's journey in the promise</i>	<u>Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26</u> <i>Christ heals a woman and raises a synagogue leader's daughter</i>
June 18	<u>Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]</u> <i>The Lord appears to Abraham and Sarah</i>	<u>Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]</u> <i>The sending of the Twelve</i>
June 25	<u>Genesis 21:8-21</u> <i>The rescue of Hagar and Ishmael</i>	<u>Matthew 10:24-39</u> <i>The cost of discipleship</i>
July 2	<u>Genesis 22:1-14</u> <i>The testing of Abraham</i>	<u>Matthew 10:40-42</u> <i>Welcome Christ in those he sends</i>
July 9	<u>Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67</u> <i>The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah</i>	<u>Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30</u> <i>The yoke of discipleship</i>
July 16	<u>Genesis 25:19-34</u> <i>Esau sells his birthright to Jacob</i>	<u>Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</u> <i>The parable of the sower and the seed</i>
July 23	<u>Genesis 28:10-19a</u> <i>Jacob's dream of the ladder to heaven</i>	<u>Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</u> <i>The parable of the weeds</i>
July 30	<u>Genesis 29:15-28</u> <i>Leah and Rachel become Jacob's wives</i>	<u>Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</u> <i>Parables of the reign of heaven</i>

FIVE GOOD SHEPHERD MEMBERS TO RECEIVE EPIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Good Shepherd EPIC Scholarship Program is a traditional ministry of our congregation, administered by the Mission Endowment Fund Committee. To be eligible to receive a scholarship one must be a member of the congregation and be an undergraduate student at an ELCA college or university. Good Shepherd EPIC scholarships are in the amount of \$1000 each and are typically matched by the ELCA institution.

2023-2024 Good Shepherd EPIC recipients include: Ava Holland, Mara Holland, Nate Larson, Annalise Skrade, Daniel Skrade.



AVA HOLLAND

Ava will be a senior at Luther College and has been awarded her fourth Good Shepherd EPIC scholarship. She is working toward a Health Promotions major with an Applied Leadership and Management minor. While at Luther, Ava has been a 3-year member of the Norse volleyball team and has been on the SAAC and DEI committees. She also has been on the Dean's list every semester, and is a three-time member of the All-Conference Academic Volleyball Team. Ava works in the Sports Information Office and coaches a club volleyball team. She will graduate in the spring of 2024 and plans to pursue a career in the Twin Cities.



MARA HOLLAND

Mara will be a sophomore at Gustavus Adolphus College in the fall of 2023 and is undecided about a major. This is her second Good Shepherd EPIC scholarship. As a freshman Mara was on both the President's Honors and the Dean's lists. She was a member of the Gusties volleyball team that won the conference championship and advanced to the second round of the Division III NCAA Tournament. Off-season Mara coached a club volleyball team in St. Peter, MN.



NATHAN LARSON

Nate has been awarded his second EPIC scholarship from the Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund ministry. He will begin his sophomore year at Wartburg College in the fall of 2023. In his freshman year Nate focused on his academic studies, while pursuing his long-term goal of entering the ministry. He intends to attend Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque when he completes his work at Wartburg College.

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ANNALISE SKRADE

Annalise will be a freshman at Concordia College (Moorhead) in the fall of 2023. She plans to be a secondary education teacher and will decide on a major course of study during her early years in college. She plans to play on the women's tennis team and, after very successful experiences with both vocal and instrumental music at Decorah High School, she will decide during her freshman year about participating in the Concordia music programs. Annalise is leaving all options open for her college career.



DANIEL SKRADE

Daniel will attend Concordia College (Moorhead) along with his twin sister Annalise. He plans to major in math, with a minor in Spanish. He intends to play on the men's tennis team and will sing in the Concordia choirs.

On behalf of the Good Shepherd congregation, the Mission Endowment Fund Committee extends best wishes to these five young adults as they pursue their academic careers.

REFLECTION FROM VISITING THE GEORGE FLOYD MEMORIAL



This last summer, I had an opportunity to travel to Minneapolis with other Decorah-area youth on a wonderful 3-day trip. We did volunteer work, explored the Mall of America, and learned about the surrounding area. As part of this very learning process, we were invited to take a tour of the George Floyd memorial in Southern Minneapolis. We took a bus to a nearby church and talked with congregation members before walking to the actual memorial down the street. The whole experience was very moving, as we got to see some real people around the area and see how the events that had transpired there affected them. In fact, if I had to mention the most impactful thing that came out of that trip it would be seeing and conversing with nearby residents. It put unique human faces to the story, which showed me the human impact.

When we hear a news story, oftentimes even if we are shown pictures and videos, we still are disconnected from the actual events. Traveling there and meeting people showed the scope of how impactful this memorial truly was (and is) for Minneapolis, the US, and the whole world.

- *Gabe Hiner, Racial Justice Team Member*

YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS:

7

SUMMER YOUTH TRIP: Youth finishing grades 6 and up are invited on a service trip to Waterloo July 9-10! Youth and leaders will be blessed and sent off during the July 9th worship service, then depart to Waterloo for a short trip filled with fun, an opportunity to learn and serve at House of Hope (one of the receiving organizations chosen for the Youth Lenten Project), and time together. After we leave church on the July 9th, we will go to Lost Island Water Park for Sunday afternoon. Cost includes meals, and housing at Wartburg College. We will do our service learning on Monday and return Monday evening.

- Registration is \$60 per youth, with scholarships available. Please pay via check, cash, or online giving (Tithely) through the Church Office.
- Find more information and a link to the registration/medical release form by scanning the QR code. **Please register as soon as able.**
- Contact the church office for more information.



Wednesday Meet-Ups:

All families are invited for bi-monthly gatherings at the church with an activity and a light snack! Please see the schedule for dates, times, and activities:

- **June 14th: 6:30-8:00-->Craft Night:** Tie-Dye (bring something to tie-dye), Friendship Bracelets, and Decorah Rocks Painting
- **June 21st: 5:30-7:00 --> Yard Games!** Rain Alternative: board games in the Fellowship Hall. At 7pm, stay for Good Shepherd's Summer Solstice Worship!
- **July 5th: 6:30-8:00--> Nature and Whippy Walk:** Meet at the church, Walk to the prairie and hide previous Decorah Rocks, then Whippy Dip Treat (please bring cash with you) and back to the church
- **July 19th: 6:30-8:00--> Family Bike Ride:** Meet at church. We will go to 5th Avenue Bridge, bike to Dug Road: At the Dug Road parking lot: options to turn around or continue to be on the trail till Wold Park and then turn around. Helmets are highly encouraged.

VBS: OPERATION RESTORATION: We will explore being menders of the universe using themes of: Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray and Rest

- JULY 24-26TH - 5-7:30 PM
- ALL YOUTH ENTERING GRADES K-6 ARE INVITED!
- Silver cord hours are available for older youth! There are diverse ways to help make VBS happen - reach out to Kelli to volunteer and learn more!
- \$20 per child & \$5 per additional household member. Scholarships are available: office@goodshepherddecorah.org.
- Dinner provided to start each night.
- Register by July 5th



Run by Faith-Summer Run Club:

Hey Middle and High School Youth! This Summer join Kelli on Thursday mornings starting on June 15th at 9am for summer run club! We will meet at the church, share a tiny devotional, run 2-3 miles together, and come back for a healthy snack. For scheduling purposes, Run Club will be done by 11am, if not earlier. All running experience welcome! There will be different routes throughout the summer. Looking forward to running by faith with all of you!

- Adults: I could use some more volunteers for this as either the caboose or run leader. If you have a passion for running, or could bike with us. Please contact me (Kelli)

Thank You: Thank you children and youth, caregivers, and volunteers for another successful and joyful year of Sunday School and Youth Group! We hope you have a relaxing summer. Please look for a short survey from Kelli coming soon to your emails about this year on what went well and how we can continue to grow for the upcoming year. Sincerely, Kelli, Laurie, and Erin



FALL SAVE THE DATES:

- August 2nd, 6:30 at Decorah Lutheran, is an informational meeting for interested youth and families about the ELCA National Youth Gathering. The gathering will be in New Orleans, July 16-20 2024. Registration will come up quickly as Decorah area churches are looking to register early by September of this year with a deposit of \$250. Estimated cost of the trip will be between \$900-\$1200, with fundraisers opportunities. More information on the trip will come.
- August 27th: Rally Sunday & Blessing of the backpacks during worship. There will also be parent/volunteer orientation for Sunday school/youth group programming.
- September 10th: Sunday School/Youth Group returns.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
CREATED
TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

At the Adult Forum on April 30th, Pastor Amy invited participants to reflect on the fruits they see from the racial justice work we have been doing at Good Shepherd these past three years.

- More than half the responses identified changes in worship: music, art, information in the bulletin, reading the Racial Justice Statement, and references in sermons.
- About a third of participants identified specific changes they noticed in their own lives: broader thinking, greater compassion, deepening faith, learning about white supremacy, personal growth, being energized, feeling greater hope.
- About a quarter of participants noted ways this is changing our congregation as a whole: how we are continuing to “walk the walk,” seeing changes in how we work together (such as less hierarchical ways of working and organizing into flocks so the gifts of all are lifted up); sharing information about our racial justice statement and reparations with others beyond our congregation and finding that our work is inspiring others.

Pastor Amy also invited participants to share their hopes for our ongoing racial justice work. These ranged widely:

- There were specific suggestions, such as outside displays and recognitions, reading more widely, etc.
- One hope that was shared in different ways was showing God’s love within Good Shepherd by welcoming strangers and recognizing everyone’s gifts and moving beyond the congregation to share God’s love with others, especially marginalized people or those who have felt excluded or hurt by the church.
- Several people mentioned hoping we could learn to be comfortable with discomfort because that’s when change can happen and that we could keep being open to the Spirit and moving forward in spite times when things that turn out differently than we expected.
- Another theme was the hope that we keep grounding our work on our faith, God’s love, God’s grace.

Our racial justice work is changing Good Shepherd, and it’s changing us as individuals. As we change, the work we are doing ripples out to others. What fruits do you see at Good Shepherd from our racial justice work? What fruits do you see in your own life? May the Spirit continue to be at work in and through all of it!

APRIL TREASURER'S NOTES

Income versus expenses

Income at the end of the month was \$116,000 and expenses were \$125,000. That means our deficit at the end of the month was just over \$9,000. Because giving comes in at different times and expenses vary from month to month it is hard to know what exactly to make of that deficit.

2023 versus 2022

I’m never sure what comparison over time tells us but here they are. At the end of April last year our income was \$102,690. That means our income this year is significantly higher. Our expenses last year at the end of April were \$102,117. Our expenses this year also are higher; as I explained last month that should not surprise because our budget is higher.

Projected regular giving versus actual regular giving

When we put together our budget we anticipated regular giving (statements of intent) to be \$330,000. That would suggest giving one-third of the way through the year would be \$110,000. In fact, our regular giving at the end of April was \$101,201. Again, because many people no longer give weekly or monthly but rather quarterly, semi-annually, or even annually, it would be premature to conclude that giving has fallen behind statements of intent. At the end of June we will have a clearer sense of where we stand financially.

GOOD SHEPHERD'S KRUMKAKE DEMONSTRATION/SALE AT NORDIC FEST 10



Decorah will soon be celebrating its Norwegian heritage with its 56th year of Nordic Fest. Good Shepherd will also be preparing for their annual Krumkake Fest! Did you know that Good Shepherd has been participating in this event for all 56 years?

Our first project in 1966, and for several years thereafter, was a quilt display here at Good Shepherd along with a *Konditori* (coffee shop) that served sweet soup, a variety of Norwegian cookies and coffee. The quilt display later moved to the high school. Then we were given a booth in front of the Bank of the West and began making and selling *krumkaker* using a favorite recipe from one of our charter members (Doris Klocke).

Planned by WELCA, the Krumkake demonstration and sale is an **all-congregation event**. Although this project is a fundraising event we've found that it is a wonderful fellowship opportunity for all (families, men, women and children) working together baking, demonstrating and selling those little cone-shaped cookies.

All ages are invited to participate and **no experience is necessary**. This year we will be baking at church from July 15-21 plus a gluten free day on the 24th (see church calendar for schedule). We will also be preparing the batter on Friday afternoon July 14 at 1:00 pm.

Krumkake Can Brigade is Sunday July 2. This a fun way to help get the supplies from the annex to the fellowship hall. We will be looking for volunteers to move popcorn cans, pails, totes and other essentials from the annex to the Fellowship Hall.

Krumkake Sunday will be on July 9. We will have a baking demonstration and also give you an opportunity to try your hand at baking. Krumkake will also be available to taste on the table during fellowship hour. On this day we will also put Good Shepherd labels on the baggies that are used for packaging. This is another fun "all congregation" event as every table is given labels and baggies to prepare (visitors have also helped us).

Preparing krumkake batter at church

- In order to comply with health regulations, we will be making the krumkake batter at church. We will be asking for donations (ingredients or cash) for preparing the batter. Sign-up sheets will be available at the church. Please have the ingredients to the church by the morning of July 14. We will also have sign-up sheets for helping mix the batter.

Baking

- 9 sessions are planned at **church**, or you may want to bake at **home** or with a friend. Recipes will be available if you wish to bake at home. Come when you can and work only as long as you want. Bakers and rollers can sit down while working. If you are new to the krumkake baking experience, we will teach you (very easy to learn).

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GOOD SHEPHERD'S KRUMKAKE DEMONSTRATION/SALE AT NORDIC FEST 11

Selling at the Booth

- Selling- 3 hour shifts, stools available for sitting down
- Booth runner-gets full cans from the bank and returns empty cans to storage area (added position)

Demonstrating during Fest

- Baking Krumkake in Bank of the West-2 ½ hour shifts in lobby
- Krumkake bagger-puts fresh krumkake bags to be sold at the booth(added position)

The monies raised (over \$4000) from our Krumkake project are given to many organizations including Aase Haugen, Decorah Free Clinic, Decorah Community Food Pantry, EWALU, LWR, Helping Services, LSI, and YAGM. Plus we also gave to GS Seminary support, GS mission support and GS Path to Citizenship. Last year we also gave to the GS endowment fund, EWALU special appeal and Sunflower building fund. This project benefits many both locally and globally.

As you can see, there are several volunteer opportunities to choose from. Look for sign-up sheets for the various tasks on the table in the Narthex and also on-line with the Sign-up Genius. We are also looking for individuals to serve on our planning committee. Currently we have members ranging from 72 to 85 years old with an average age of 80 years. So we are looking for some new members to carry on the tradition of Good Shepherd participation in the Nordic Fest. If you have questions, contact Ann Naslund, Bev Sheridan, Carrie Solberg or Doris Barnaal,.

A FLOCK IN ACTION!

This is a note from GS Member Jutta F. Anderson sent to Pr. Amy and to the Church Office for sharing in the newsletter on the Sunday of Flock Kick-Off.

Yesterday at about 10:00 am I saw you installing the new flock leaders on my lap top screen. At about 12:00 noon 18 of the orange sheep started moving into our dining room including Liz Rog. Our aides thought the line would never end. Once they had spotted my table and the hugging had subsided, the singing started. Liz has a birthday song that was new to me - a very nice one. It was a very animated affair with clapping and swaying. I was sooooo happy to see so many of my old friends again and briefly talked to five new ones, the Pfiles and their cute little girls, Mattilda and Willow, and a Mr. Schroeher.

Someone must have known that I was turning 84 on Sunday, and that gave Sue Blom and the Laursens something to organize for their flock. Great timing! I became their inaugural project.
-Jutta F. Anderson

The 35th annual SWO Gathering will be on Saturday, June 17 @ Trinity Lutheran in Belmond, 8:30 am – 12:30. The theme is **Stir Us, Free Us**. You can attend in person or virtually, please see Bev Sheridan for registration forms.

Summer 2023 Bible study: Salvation Now by the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen

Session One: Promised Salvation Now—Jesus Brings Wellness

Of all the gospel writers, John is uniquely concerned about the effectiveness of Jesus' immediate presence. One clue is his regular use of the word "now," a tiny but powerful word which appears more here than the other gospels combined. Together, we'll note a few instances of the "Now," and delve into John's observations about the way John focuses not so much on the "hereafter," but more on sharing the difference that Jesus makes in people's lives, straight away.

Session Two: Tangible Salvation Now—Christians Bringing Wellness

Following Jesus means expressing our solidarity with Jesus and his mission, in all we do. Because Jesus is the bringer of salvation, in his name, so, too, are we. Where there are wounds and brokenness, we are called to bring Jesus and the salvation he embodied. Together we'll examine the biblical and theological reasons for not waiting for it to all come out in the wash later, but for us to become faithful ambassadors of Jesus' salvation now.

Session Three: Needed Salvation Now—A World Wanting Wellness

Anyone who's been to a sports game knows John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Lesser known is John 3:17, which states: "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved (σωθῆναι sōthē, from the root soteria) through him." In this session, we'll explore John's commitment to service, how we as Christians see the needs of a hurting world, and how because Jesus is the bringer of salvation, we are compelled to follow Jesus into the need now. (Gather website)

Summer Events:

June 17: NEIA SWO Annual Gathering, Trinity Lutheran, Belmond, Iowa, 8 am

June 27: Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 7 pm, Lindy Moeller Bible study, Ann Naslund refreshments

July 2: Krumkake Can Brigade-annex to fellowship hall

July 9: Krumkake Sunday

July 15-24: Krumkake baking

July 27-29: Nordic Fest Activities

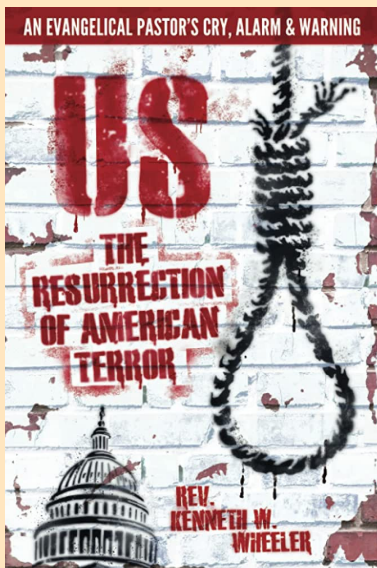
Sept 21-24: Women of the ELCA gathering, Phoenix, AZ

SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSIONS: LIVING AS DISCIPLES

Join a summer series for 1 or all 3 of the books! Come to one or both meeting times.
Cohosted by First Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Decorah Lutheran Church

US: The Resurrection of American Terror

by Rev. Kenneth Wheeler



Wed. June 14, 7pm

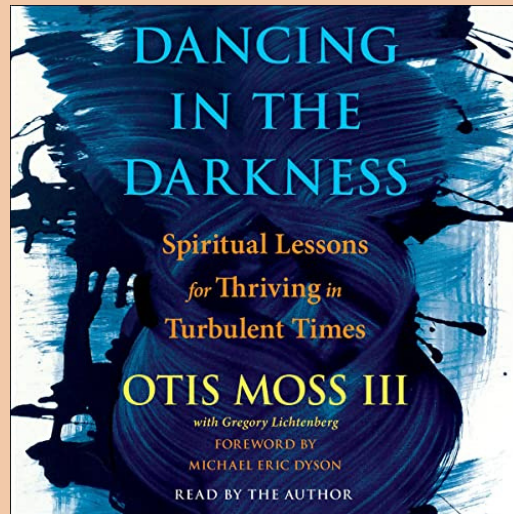
@ Dixie's Biergarten
and/or

**Thurs. June 15,
10:30am**

@ The Landing

Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times

by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III



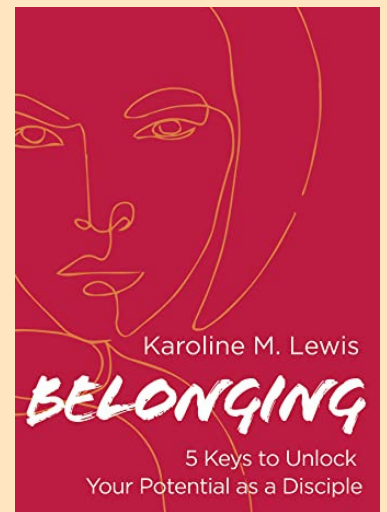
Wed. July 19, 7pm @

Pulpit Rock Brewery
and/or

**Thurs. July 20,
10:30am @ The Landing**

Belonging: 5 Keys to Unlocking Your Potential as a Disciple

by Rev. Dr. Karoloine Lewis



Wed. Aug 16, 7pm @

Dixie's Biergarten
and/or

**Thurs. Aug. 17,
10:30am @ The
Landing**



DECORAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

As we welcome Tristan into the Office & Building Manager position, we thought it would be helpful for folks to know what he will be doing and what Erica will remain doing. This is the current division of labor in the office. This may change a bit as we live into having two people in the office. Also, during Erica's maternity leave, Tristan will take over some of Erica's responsibilities. Erica will begin maternity leave no later than June 25. She will take 6 weeks of paid maternity leave and 6 weeks unpaid leave or fewer paid hours. Starting the week of August 14 she will be doing some work to prepare for fall programming. The week of September 18 she will return to her full set of responsibilities and will be working 15 hours per week.

For now, Tristan and Erica share an email, office@goodshepherddecorah.org, so you can reach the person you need by simply emailing or calling the office.

Tristan works 9am-12pm every weekday.

Office and Building Manager Duties and Responsibilities: Tristan

Hospitality:

- Serves as the outward face of the congregation and its front-line contact.
- Welcomes visitors, congregants, and members of the community.
- Serves as the communication liaison to Kinderhaus and other groups using the church building and grounds.
- Receives and helps to address requests for financial assistance.

Information Management:

- Helps to maintain the church member database, mailing lists, and church calendar.
- Responds to phone, email, and in-person inquiries and requests during church office hours.
- Works with the Archives committee to manage storage and disposal of office documents/files.

Financial Management:

- Manages weekly bank deposits.
- Updates giving records in the church database.
- Inputs and manages pledges of members. Produces giving statements and acknowledgements for occasional gifts.
- Records memorial gifts and produces acknowledgements.
- Collects receipts and compiles staff and church credit card statements for the treasurer.
- Pays bills when they come in or passes them on to the Financial Secretary to pay.

Office Management:

- Oversees all office systems and equipment
- Works with vendors to set up and manage contracts.
- Maintains vendor records and contracts.
- Orders supplies (office, kitchen, cleaning, worship).
- Prints sunday bulletins and assembles leader binders.
- Manages YouTube channel.
- Schedules rooms and meetings.
- Manages volunteers to help with office tasks

Ministry and Communications Coordinator Duties and Responsibilities: Erica

Human Resources:

- Coordinates staff meetings & facilitates staff communications.
- Maintains employee files and records & runs background checks for new staff & volunteers.
- Processes and stores employee documents.
- Oversees Safe Gatherings and Trusted Employees records.
- Oversees Abuse Prevention Program & Checks the sex offender registry monthly.
- Administers policies of the congregation. Periodically reviews and provides recommendations, as required, for Congregation Council action.

Communications:

- Serves as webmaster for the congregation.
- Serves as graphic designer for church materials, publicity, and postings to church social media platforms and general display.
- Works with Shepherd's Voice Weekly News Team on announcements for newsletters and bulletins.
- Creates Children, Youth and Family publicity materials.
- Manages communications with youth and families.
- Creates and designs monthly newsletters, annual reports, and other regular congregational publications and mailings.

Worship Support:

- Generates worship bulletins and posts to website.
- Generates worship binders for leaders.
- Posts sermons to website.
- Manages Licensing/copyrights for hymns and worship materials.
- Oversees those who record and stream worship services.
- Maintains prayer list.
- Works with Altar Guild to order supplies for worship services.

Outreach and Membership Support:

- Oversees outreach to new guests. & manages Sunday worship attendance sheets, and communicates with volunteers and Pastor regarding new attendance and interested members.
- Prepares materials to orient and welcome new members.
- Updates membership roster and oversees reporting of congregational information.
- Works with Congregation Council and Pastor on the updating of membership roster and periodic letters to inactive members about membership status.

Ministry Support:

- Generates sign-ups for events and other committee initiatives.
- Maintains and communicates instructions and information for those serving in roles with worship, Fellowship Hour, education, and other events.
- Supports Stewardship Committee and Shepherds with running and supporting the Flock Ministry in the day to day management/support for Flocks.
- Recruits and equips volunteers for nursing home events.
- Meets with committees in their appropriate season of business to assist in planning/supporting their larger initiatives. Serves as the book-keeper of details from previous years to help new committee members plan initiatives, and as the Church logistics liaison in decision making.
- Supports Congregation Council through preparing materials for meetings and other support as needed.
- Coordinates yearly council, committee chair, and staff retreat.

What have we been doing as a congregation to live out our Racial Justice Statement? Here's the outline that was presented at the Adult Forum on April 30, 2023

Good Shepherd: Racial Justice Update June 2022 to April 2023

Worship

- Diverse music and art in worship
- Using Racial Justice statement in worship
- Bulletin includes information about composers and arrangers
- Including racial justice in prayers
- Special services (Good Friday & annual racial justice recommitment Sunday)

Education

- Book groups: *Me and White Supremacy* & *My Grandmother's Hands*
- Learning time in council & other meetings on characteristics of white supremacy culture
- Forums on reparation royalties
- Monthly newsletter stories & reflections by Racial Justice Team

Advocacy

- Contacting legislators through leadership of Social Justice Team

Stewardship

- Budget for reparations royalties
- Budget Racial Justice Team

Governance

- Racial justice team established: 8 members including pastor to assist congregation with initiatives
- Council votes to read Racial Justice statement before big decisions
- Learning non-hierarchical ways to work together

Community Partnerships

- Participating in book groups etc. with other Decorah congregations
- Good Shepherd participants join ELCA-wide racial justice webinars

Hospitality & Welcome

- Commissioned a racial justice logo to depict our commitment

Communication

- Racial justice statement in bulletins, posted in building & on website

SAVE THE DATE: WELCOME FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS PICNIC

Save the date! The Welcome Friends & Neighbors Picnic will be Sunday, September 10th. We are excited to welcome back a GS Music ensemble and Erik Sessions and the Slim Whimsy as the musical entertainment! More information about how to get involved will be in the next newsletter and closer to the date. We look forward to celebrating community together!



FOOD PANTRY LITTLE FREE LIBRARY: The Decorah Food Pantry is beginning a Little Free Library to provide books for preschool-teens who visit the pantry with their parents. They are collecting used children's books in good condition, or cash/check donations. \$5.00 will buy 20 paperbacks at the Depot! Bins and an envelope for money will be available at the Church. You can also place money labeled in the church office and we will get it to the Pantry.

MOWING HELP NEEDED THIS SUMMER: Tis the season for growing grass and mowing the Good Shepherd property, and it takes a community to keep the grounds managed. The sign-up and full instructions are on the website under "Sign-Ups" and on the table in the Gathering Space. New to mowing at Good Shepherd? Here are the quick facts:

- Lead person will get in contact to set up a time to mow during the week.
- Mow on Thursday, Friday or Saturday.
- For orientation to the equipment please contact Jim Fritz, Bob Wilson, or Lance Wood. If you have equipment questions/need gas contact Jim.
- Mow only when the grass is dry and keep the mower height at 3.0 inches.
- The mowing shed lock code is on the paper sign-up in the Gathering Space.
- Stay away from the construction zone and watch for hoses to trees - move the hoses, do NOT mow over them.

LWR Kit tracking update: LWR has transitioned out of it's old method of tracking kits as it wasn't able to stay up to date with the degree of work LWR is engaged in now. They are in the process of creating an easy way for congregations and individuals to track where the kits they assemble are going, and will update congregations when it is ready. In 2022, the GS WELCA chapter collected donations for and assembled 123 baby care kits, 47 personal care kits and 35 school kits. See where LWR kits were sent in 2022 [HERE](#) on their website, and watch a video on the impacts of quilts being sent in [THIS](#) video.

SEEKING A BOOKSHELF: Do you have a bookshelf that you no longer need or use? I'm looking for a bookshelf to be put in my shared office space to help organize curriculum/supplies! Please contact the office or Kelli if you have a shelf to donate. Thank you for your consideration! -Kelli

Silver Cord Opportunity: High school youth will receive silver cord hours if they would like to volunteer during VBS, July 24th-26th, 5pm-7:30pm. Contact Kelli if you would like to volunteer!

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR GUATEMALAN BASICS INITIATIVE: The Guatemalan Basics Initiative, through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, provides important staples to local immigrant families experiencing difficulties due to the rising cost of food. A typical delivery includes a 50 pound bag of rice and a 25 pound bag each of black beans and MaSeCa (corn flour) tortilla mix at a cost of \$90 wholesale, providing food basics for a family of four for approximately six weeks. You can give online at the Decorah United Church of Christ's online giving page and selecting "Neighbors Helping Neighbors—Guatemalan Basics Fund". You can also write a check, payable to Decorah UCC with "Guatemalan Basics" in the memo line, and send it to the Decorah UCC office.

FRIDAY, JULY 7 - SUNDAY, JULY 9, Luther College - **LITURGY LAB: A CREATIVE WORSHIP RETREAT FOR CLERGY, MUSICIANS, AND LAY LEADERS** Hosted by Jon Ailabouni, Pastor Melissa Bills, Brooke Joyce, and Kathryn Thompson (with support from the Marilyn Roverud Fellowship in Lutheran Studies), Liturgy Lab is a weekend worship retreat for musicians, lay leaders, pastors, poets, writers ... anyone who shares a passion for creative liturgical practice!

- Focused on exploring creativity in the worship arts, the event will include presentations, workshops, and opportunities for the hands-on creation of worship elements.
- The weekend culminates in a collaborative worship crafted from the weekend's creative work.
- Participants are encouraged to bring musical instruments, journals, favorite creative supplies, and favorite books of poetry, liturgy, or other worship resources.
- More information about the worship retreat location, schedule, fees, and how to register is here: luther.irisregistration.com/Site/LITURGY2023

Summer Book Discussion Series: Living as Disciples: A summer series of book discussions hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church, and Decorah Lutheran Church. There will be two opportunities to discuss each book in community. You can come to either discussion (or both!)

US: The Resurrection of American Terror by Rev. Kenneth Wheeler

- Wed. June 14, 7pm @ Dixie's Biergarten
- Thurs. June 15, 10:30am @ The Landing

Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III.

- Wed. July 19, 7pm @ Pulpit Rock Brewery
- Thurs. July 20, 10:30am @ The Landing

Belonging: 5 Keys to Unlocking Your Potential as a Disciple by Rev. Dr. Karoloine Lewis

- Wed. Aug 16, 7pm @ Dixie's Biergarten
- Thurs. Aug. 17, 10:30am @ The Landing

KIDS LUNCH CLUB BEGINS

From June 6 - August 11, Decorah Kids Lunch Club (KLC) will again provide kids ages 18 and under with free nutritious lunches M-F from 12:15-12:30 p.m. at Freeport Park, and 12:45-1:15 p.m. at John Cline Elementary School.

- Volunteers are needed to pack lunches beginning on Tuesday, June 6 at 10:30 a.m., then on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the kitchen at Decorah United Church of Christ.
- Volunteers are also needed to distribute lunches every weekday from 12:10 - 1:15 p.m. at Freeport Park and John Cline, beginning on Tuesday, June 6.
- Sign-ups for packing lunches and distributing lunches are available at decorahucc.org/kidslunchclub/ under the For Volunteers tab, along with descriptions of each position.
- Information about KLC for families and how to donate is also available at decorahucc.org/kidslunchclub/. Or contact KLC Coordinator Shanna Putnam Dibble at 563-419-6624; you can also email her at decorahkidslunchclub@gmail.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Prayer Shawl Ministry is on summer break! The next gathering will be September 20th, 1-3:00 PM in the Good Shepherd Gathering Space.

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/

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

May 16, 2023 - 7:00pm

Attending Brian Caton, Chris Peterson, Karin Martin-Huber, Tim Lecander, Marilyn Rue, Kris Peterson, Anne Jacobsen Clausen, Lise Hildegard by Zoom Amy Zalk Larson

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 - Brian
- 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, Marilyn seconded, and it passed with no Nays.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of April 2023 Council Meeting Minutes April Council Minutes Next month Anne will lead the Prayers for the highs and lows.
- Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)

Discussion Agenda

- Approval of TREASURER'S REPORT Some discussion of monies coming in slowly but will be more in chunks as usual. Motioned to accept treasurer's report from Lise, Seconded by Kris and passed.
- Note from Facilities & Grounds regarding French Drain installation Sidewalk has been found to be unstable and unsafe so it needs to be replaced. Lindsey Erdman was able to advise as engineer and member of the congregation.
- Discussion/closure regarding painting & plaster work done during MG HVAC overhaul. Maintenance will be done but not part of the Mission Green project.
- Office & Building Manager position. The position was posted, received 6 applications, 3 interviewed and Tristan Occhipinti was hired and is going to begin work this Monday. The office will be open 9:00 - 12:00.
- Shepherds & Flocks update
 - *continued on next page*

- Grinnell Insurance Optional Policy recommendations Brian outlined the discussion of recommendations and presented the additional cost. Anne Clausen motioned and Karin seconded and it was passed. Thank you to Brian, Tim and Matt Bills. Tim will notify Insurance Policy.
- Future action item. Church office computer support & security.

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

Education Committee

- Mother's Day/Blessing of Grads/End of SS
- Summer Events
- VBS

Outreach and Hospitality Committee

- Discussed quantity over quality article
- Possible new members list, info 6/4 and join on 6/11
- Community picnic date of 9/10 and possible musicians

Facilities and Grounds Committee

- Summer grounds care moving forward
- French Drain being installed
- Piers for pergola being installed

Worship and Music

- Reparations royalties update - Because no response from the Fisk Jubilee Singers has been received, Bobby Vrtis will reach out to the group's managing agency, and in light of the congregation's goal of giving and educating, the committee decided that a letter and donation from the congregation be sent directly to the Singers.
- Summer worship plans - Summer worship plans include a joint Holden Evening Prayer Around the World at First Lutheran on June 3, summer solstice worship, Sunday summer worship and forums following based on stories in the scriptures for each Sunday, and marking Juneteenth with a jazz service on June 18.

Pastor's Report

1. Hiring of Office & Building Manager
2. Office personnel management during Erica's leave
3. Concerns regarding new Racial Justice logo

Announcements – Newsletter Deadline is May 25, 2023 (always the 25th of the month)

Next Council meeting - June 20, 2023 7:00pm

Adjournment and Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer

Brian Caton moved and Lise Hildegard Seconded adjourning the meeting. It was passed and we will close.

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Fellowship Hour	Office Closed for Memorial Day 4:30pm - Kell's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS		9am - Office Hours	Recycle 9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Gathering 2pm - Flute Lesson 2pm - Worship and Music 6pm - Racial Justice Team @ 6pm - Scholl Music Studio Rectal	Pastor Amy day off 9am - Church Office Hours	11am - Verne Koenig memorial @ 5pm - Holden Evening Prayer
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 10:45am - Shepherd Orientation	9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica Office Hours 4pm - Outreach and Hospitality 4pm - Visitation for Lowell Erdman 4:30pm - Kell's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica Office Hours 11am - Funeral for Lowell Erdman	9am - Church Office Hours	9am - Church Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Gathering 2pm - Flute Lesson 5pm - Education Committee	Pastor Amy day off 9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Office Hours	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 10:45am - Shepherd Orientation	8am - Office Hours 9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Kell's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	Eastern Star Bingo 9am - Church Office Hours	9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Eastern Star/Arin Falck 10am - Office Hours 1pm - Wellington Place 2:30pm - Aase Haugen 6:30pm - Family Craft Night: Tie- 7pm - Decorah Congregations	Recycle 9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Summer Run Club 10am - Office Hours 10:30am - Decorah Congregations 11am - Bible Study @ Gathering 2pm - Flute Lesson 4pm - Stewardship Committee @	Pastor Amy day off 9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Office Hours	9am - NEIA Humane Society
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Fellowship Hour	9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica Office Hours 4:30pm - Kell's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica Office Hours 6:30pm - Sons of Norway @ 7pm - Congregation Council	9am - Church Office Hours 5:30pm - Family Yard Games 7pm - Summer Solstice Worship	9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Summer Run Club 11am - Bible Study @ Gathering 12:45pm - MEF Committee 2pm - Flute Lesson	Pastor Amy day off 9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Office Hours	
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Newsletter Deadline 9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 4pm - FLC Community Event:	9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Kell's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS	9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Staff Mtg. 7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather	9am - Church Office Hours	Recycle 9am - Summer Run Club 11am - Bible Study @ Gathering 2pm - Flute Lesson	Johnson Wedding Rehearsal & Pastor Amy day off 9am - Office Hours 5pm - Wedding Rehearsal	Johnson Wedding 9am - Johnson Wedding

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
<div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div> <div>4pm - FLC Community Event:</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Staff Mtg.</div> <div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - Family Event: Nature & Aase Haugen</div>	<div>Recycle</div> <div>9am - Summer Run Club</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson</div>	<div>Johnson Wedding Rehearsal & Pastor Army day off</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - Wedding Rehearsal</div>	<div>Johnson Wedding</div> <div>9am - Johnson Wedding</div>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:30am - Krumkake Can Brigade</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>Pr. Army out</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>Office Closed for 4th of July</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Summer Run Club</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson</div> <div>6pm - Racial Justice Team @</div>	<div>Krumkake Batter Prep</div> <div>Pastor Army day off</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<div>Youth Trip</div> <div>Krumkake Sunday</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Eastern Star/Arlin Falck</div> <div>2:30pm - Aase Haugen</div>	<div>Recycle</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Summer Run Club</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson</div> <div>5pm - Education Committee</div>	<div>Krumkake Batter Prep</div> <div>Pastor Army day off</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>Krumkake Baking</div>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<div>Krumkake Baking</div>						
<div>Rev. Dr. Rolf Swane</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - Family Bike Ride</div> <div>7pm - Decorah Congregations</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Summer Run Club</div> <div>10:30am - Decorah Congregations</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering</div> <div>12:45pm - MEF Committee</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson</div> <div>4pm - Stewardship Committee @</div>	<div>Pastor Army day off</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<div>Krumkake Baking</div>	<div>VBS</div> <div>GF Krumkake Baking</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - VBS</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - VBS</div>	<div>Nordic Fest</div> <div>Recycle</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Summer Run Club</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson</div>	<div>Pastor Army day off</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>9am - Summer Run Club</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Gathering</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson</div> <div>6pm - Racial Justice Team @</div>	<div>Pastor Army day off</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>		