

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

August 2023



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*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*



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As I'm writing this, we are in the middle of Vacation Bible School. We have nineteen K-6th graders as well as youth and adult helpers who are learning, singing, praying, crafting, and playing together. Our theme is Operation Restoration: Mending God's World. Thank you for all your prayers and support of this wonderful ministry!

The first night of VBS, we explored how we help God to mend the world by forgiving. The kids have had such thoughtful things to say about forgiveness. We forgive so that we don't keep making piles of hurt. We forgive because God always forgives. Forgiving helps to mend the world by stopping the anger and violence.

The theme of forgiveness has also come up a lot in the book discussions we've done this summer. I've been so grateful for these discussions shared with the people and pastors of Good Shepherd, Decorah Lutheran, and First Lutheran. In July, we discussed the book *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times* by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III. Dr. Moss says forgiveness sets us free from the harm others have done to us. It allows us to choose how we will respond rather than being locked into reactive ways of being. If you haven't read this book yet, I highly recommend it. It is just 120 pages, and it is full of wonderful stories, images, and wisdom. If you can listen to the book, that's even better as he is an exceptional preacher!

We've also reflected upon forgiveness in the stories we're hearing from the Old Testament this summer. I'm so grateful that we've had the chance to dive into these stories. Good Shepherd member, Rev. Dr. Rolf Svanoe, encouraged us and other congregations to explore these stories through his book *I Love to Preach the Story*. I recommend this book as well. You can purchase a copy at Good Shepherd.

This August, there will be another joint offering from the 3 ELCA congregations in Decorah, open to all. We are bringing Rev. Dr. Anthony Bateza, a Reformation scholar from St. Olaf College, to Decorah for a workshop on *Discipleship in a Democracy: Prayer in Action*. This will be Sunday, August 27 at 11:30am at First Lutheran Church. Lunch will be provided; a free will donation will be collected. Learn more on page ___ of this newsletter. This will happen after Rally Sunday worship and activities that same morning at Good Shepherd.

These are just a few of the reasons I'm so grateful for this congregation! I also give thanks for our youth trip, the Krumkake ministry, the work of shepherds and flocks, your generous response to the special appeal, and so much more.

God bless you with joy and rest this August.

Peace to you,
Pastor Amy

PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

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Offered by Jane Jakoubek

Gracious God, bless us as we begin to see the end of summer, the harvest coming in, time yet to rest and share with loved ones. Help us savor all you give us each day. Help us be grateful for each moment. Help us become aware of all those whose labor and love make these times possible for us. Prepare our minds and hearts for the work, study, and life that will await us as summer ends.

God who created us to live with and for others, bless the Flock Ministry at Good Shepherd. Help us to see your face in each one of the beloved members of our congregation. Help us to encourage one another in our service to each other, in the ordinary parts of our lives, and in our faith journeys. Help us to be grateful for all you give us through the gifts of others.

God who is with us through all that our days, help us to remember that all we see, all we face, all that concerns us, even all that keeps us awake at night is in your hands. Help us to keep serving others, even when it's hard, because you are with us. Help us to keep listening to others, even when it's hard, because you are with us. Help us to keep loving others, even when it's hard, because you are with us. All these things we entrust to your loving care. Amen.



	Old Testament Reading	Psalm Reading	Romans Reading
August 6	<u>Genesis 32:22-31</u> <i>Jacob receives a blessing from God</i>	<u>Psalm 17:1-7, 15</u> <i>I shall see your face; when I awake, I shall be satisfied. (Ps. 17:15)</i>	<u>Romans 9:1-5</u> <i>The glory of God's people Israel</i>
August 13	<u>Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28</u> <i>Joseph sold by his brothers</i>	<u>Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b</u> <i>Make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples. Hallelujah! (Ps. 105:1, 45)</i>	<u>Romans 10:5-15</u> <i>Hearing and confessing the word of faith</i>
August 20	<u>Genesis 45:1-15</u> <i>Joseph reconciles with his brothers</i>	<u>Psalm 133</u> <i>How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)</i>	<u>Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32</u> <i>God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile</i>
August 27	<u>Exodus 1:8—2:10</u> <i>Pharaoh's daughter takes Moses as her son</i>	<u>Psalm 124</u> <i>We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler. (Ps. 124:7)</i>	<u>Romans 12:1-8</u> <i>One body in Christ, with gifts that differ</i>

The theme for worship this summer is Finding our Roots in the Story. We are exploring 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 also looks a bit different. Each week, we're hearing a story from the Old Testament read by multiple voices and the congregation. We sing a Psalm and then hear a new Testament reading from the book of Romans. The stories come from the semi-continuous readings in our Revised Common Lectionary. This idea came to us from 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.

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,
wbjoyce3@gmail.com

* = Brooke is not available to accompany on these Sundays

"Pick-up" music Sundays:

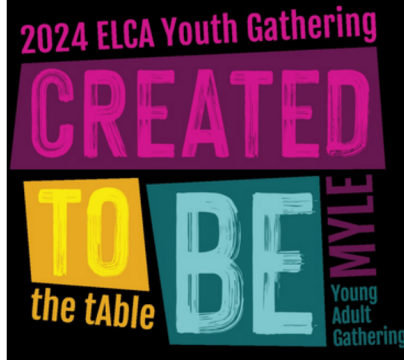
come at 8:45 on Sunday morning to learn a short piece of music. RSVP's will be prompted via email the prior week, or just show up. For band Sundays, all string, wind and brass instrumentalists welcome!

August	
*8/6	Pick-up Band
*8/13	Pick-up Handbells
8/20	Pick-up Choir
8/27	Pick-up Band

YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS:

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ELCA YOUTH GATHERING INFORMATION: August 2nd, 6:30 at First 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.



RALLY SUNDAY WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 27th. All students and educators (preschool-through higher ed.) are invited for the Blessing of the Backpacks during worship. Bring your backpack to receive a blessing as we all prepare for the new school year. After worship, there will be Rally Sunday activities for children and youth! Please note there will also be parent/volunteer orientation for Sunday school/youth group programming following worship. Sunday School and Youth Group return on September 10th.

YOUTH GROUP TRIP: Thank you all for your prayers and support for the youth group trip to Waterloo. We had a blast at Lost Island Waterpark, had a tour of Wartburg College (they have tortoises on campus, who knew?!), and learned more and were inspired by House of Hope. During our service learning time, we helped with landscaping, weeding and washing windows around the House of Hope campus and apartments. We also received a tour of their facilities and gained a greater perspective on how House of Hope is serving the Cedar Valley community. It was a remarkable two days serving as a reminder of God's baptismal promises.



MEF STATEMENT

Over the past four years, the EPIC scholarship has supported my studies and kept me feeling connected to our church community, whether I am near or far from Good Shepherd. I completed my BA at Luther College this spring, with majors in English, Nordic Studies, and international studies, and spent my senior year at the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway in the vocal conservatory. I am grateful to have been the recipient of four EPIC grants for each year of my degree, which has made funding college a little easier, and made me feel deeply supported by my church community.



The flexibility of the grant money has been one of the greatest benefits for me. As a Luther student, the money made a good dent in my tuition and was matched by Luther, but was especially helpful as I was heading to Norway last fall. It covered my plane ticket and some up-front expenses as I waited for other scholarship money to come in, which eased a great deal of stress at the beginning of my trip. In any case, this scholarship truly made me feel supported by our congregation at all points of my education, and for that I am so thankful.

Now, as a college graduate, I am excited to be here in Decorah a while longer as I start a new position as the events coordinator for the Oneota Valley Literary Society and Dragonfly Books, and to reconnect with familiar faces at Good Shepherd after a little while away! Thank you again to the scholarship committee and our generous church community for investing in my education and that of other students in our congregation.

- Hallie Johnson

Thank you to all who helped to make our Krumkake Demo and Sale a success.

We all worked many hours-buying ingredients, labeling baggies, retrieving supplies from the annex, mixing batter, baking and packaging krumkake, cleaning the downtown booth, transporting everything downtown, demonstrating and selling at the Fest and then-cleaning up and bringing everything back to the church-wow!It certainly takes a village (Good Shepherd) to have an amazing Krumkake booth. We applied for a Thrivent Action card and a Walmart grant and along with monetary donations were able to purchase paper products and baggies, water for our volunteers and extra baking ingredients.

We will report next month on our sales but it looks like it is going to be a great Fest!

Thank you again for all your help.

This fall we will be collecting items for **LWR school kits and baby care kits**. School supplies are on sale right now so it is a good time to start stocking up. Items needed for **school kits** are 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, 30 cm ruler, pencil sharpener, blunt scissors, #2 unsharpened pencils, black or blue ballpoint pens, box of 16 or 24 count crayons, 2 ½ " eraser. Items needed for **baby care kits** are cloth diapers, small hand towels, infant sleepers, receiving blankets (up to 50 "square), sweater or jacket, cotton t-shirts, and 4 ounce soap bars. If you have questions, you can contact Gail Judisch, 563-380-7276 (baby care kits) or Bev Sheridan, 563-382-9025 (school kits). Thanks so much for supporting our LWR project this fall. A donation box has been set up in the gathering space.



LWR in-gathering will be held Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 7:30 am to 10:30 am at Olson's Explosives 1837 Trout Run Rd, Decorah, IA 52101

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

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 (σωθῆν sōth, 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.

August 22: Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 7 pm, Carrie Solberg bible study, Connie Buresh refreshments

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

Sept 23: Upper Iowa Cluster Fall Gathering, First Lutheran, Cresco, Coffee at 8:30, Program at 9am



RACIAL JUSTICE DEVOTION

In his book "A Black Theology of Liberation," James Cone affirms that theology can never be impartial. I agree that the way we talk about God's actions reveals as much about ourselves as it does about God. Considering that for centuries the name of God, Scripture, and the church were used to defend enslavement, Cone's attempt to reclaim God-talk from the perspective of the African-American perspective is indeed novel and necessary.

Cone identifies God's actions in favor of those who suffer and are marginalized. These are God's chosen people. From the Israelites in Egypt through the actions of Jesus, the lowly and disenfranchised receive God's attention. Who are the people suffering today? Because historically Black people in the United States have been oppressed by an ideology of white supremacy, they are close to God's heart. We are invited to acknowledge God's actions in the midst of suffering and call out the injustices committed in the name of bigotry, including racism.

We are invited to revisit our own biases and actions and be witnesses of God's love and justice.

If we pay close attention to social injustices, we realize they are part of a larger picture of structural sins. Many Christians avoid certain topics because they can be deemed controversial, seem offensive, or be characterized as divisive. Cone acknowledges that standing against white supremacy and everything it stands for might seem radical and uncompromising. In Egypt, through Moses, God commanded that Pharaoh let God's people go. God intervened radically and straightforwardly when the Pharaoh did not release the Israelites. Liberation from slavery is good news for the oppressed, but it is bad news for the oppressors. There is no other way to dismantle white supremacy but to name it for what it is: sinful.

When we pay attention to the lives of those who suffer and listen to these experiences of exclusion and discrimination, we partake in God's love for her beloved children. We are brought closer to God when we commit ourselves to witness God's love by dismantling all that prevents human beings from flourishing.

To work for racial justice is to have this perspective in mind. Our thoughts, talks, and actions are not based on our privilege or perception. Rather, racial justice takes seriously the experience of people suffering racial discrimination. The oppression experienced by BIPOC people is real. The discrimination endured by BIPOC folk can be deadly. To stand on the side of racial justice is nothing more than following the teachings of Jesus and radically embodying the options God made when hearing the cries of the Israelites enslaved in Egypt.

-Germano Streese, Racial Justice Team Member

WELCOME

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY PICNIC



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
701 IOWA AVE, DECORAH IA

Family friendly food, music, and fun!

5-6:30 PM – Sep. 10th

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

goodshepherddecorah.org
(563) 382 – 3963

Music performances by the
Good Shepherd Band
and
Slim Whimsy!



WELCOME FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS PICNIC

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will host its "Welcome Friends & Neighbors Community Picnic 2023" on Sunday, September 10, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

The picnic will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Decorah. A large tent will provide shelter from sun or showers, and in the event of heavy rain, the picnic will be held in the Fellowship Hall. This gathering is an opportunity for the congregation to thank and celebrate its friends, neighbors and the entire Decorah area community, including Luther College students, faculty, and staff!

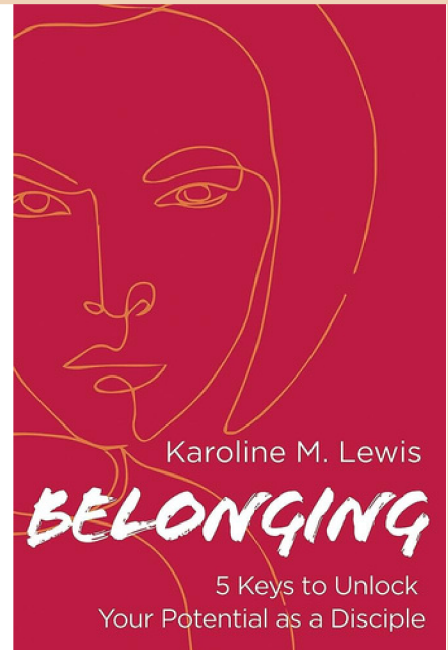
Come enjoy good food, good conversation, and meet new friends. The picnic features a bountiful potluck provided by members of the congregation, and many gluten free options. All beverages, paper products, and silverware will be provided. There will be live music by members of the Good Shepherd Band and Slim Whimsy, an ensemble featuring Erik Sessions and Josh and Ezra Vorvick, as well as games for kids.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to facilitate the picnic and to provide food! Check out the sign-up on our website!



LIVING AS DISCIPLES BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES: The summer series of book discussions hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church, and Decorah Lutheran Church concludes in August. August's book selection is *Belonging: 5 Keys to Unlocking Your Potential as a Disciple* by Reverend Dr. Karoline Lewis. Discussions will be on Wednesday, August 16, 7:00 p.m., at Dixie's Biergarten, and Thursday, August 17, 10:30 a.m., at The Landing. All are welcome to attend one or both discussions!

AFGHAN ADJUSTMENT ACT REINTRODUCED: The House and Senate have reintroduced the Afghan Adjustment Act. ELCA congregations and leaders have been deeply involved in accompaniment and advocacy for this policy, including sending messages through the ELCA Action Center when it was originally introduced in August 2022. Bipartisan reintroduction of the Afghan Adjustment Act could provide a direct path to lawful permanent residency. Operation Allies Welcome brought over 75,000 evacuees to safety in the United States, yet an uncertain legal limbo awaits Afghans who fled their war-torn country. An Afghan Adjustment Act would allow humanitarian parolees here in the United States to adjust their status, providing long-term stability and security for themselves and families.



GOOD SHEPHERD ON NEW "SIGNIFICANT DECORAH PROPERTIES" LIST: Good Shepherd is one of approximately 125 properties on a new inventory of "Significant Decorah Properties" not on the National Register. The list, which includes cemeteries, parks, businesses, structures, and residences, was developed by the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission and is available as a downloadable PDF from the Commission's city webpage at <https://www.decorahia.org/commission-and-boards/historic-preservation/historic-tours>. People are encouraged to send corrections and potential additions to the new list through the Commission's city email address: historicpreservation@decorahia.org. Good Shepherd members Hayley Jackson and Kathy Buzza are on the Commission.

MEAL TRAIN FOR MINISTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR ERICA YANEFF AND FAMILY: A Meal Train has been set up for Erica, Nick, and Aemon Yaneff following the birth of son Bowen Hall, born on July 11. Sign up for dates in August and early September. To sign up to donate a meal or provide a monetary donation for meals for the Yaneff family, go to tinyurl.com/yaneff-family-meal-train.

GARDEN PRODUCE AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS: A variety of garden vegetables and flowers are being harvested from Good Shepherd's garden as produce matures and flowers bloom. Vegetables and flowers will be on a table in the Fellowship Hall entryway. All freewill contributions for produce and flowers are donated to the Decorah Community Food Pantry.

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/

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 after 3pm on Thur. and Fri. to respect the Kinderhaus School which concludes at the end of May.
- 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.

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

TRANS MUTUAL AID FUND: The Iowa Trans Mutual Aid fund has the goal is to provide financial assistance to Trans and Nonbinary individuals in the state of Iowa as they access gender-affirming care. The Social Justice team at Good Shepherd has decided to participate in this effort to facilitate life saving care to those without the financial resources to access it on their own. This means we would provide transportation to and from Telehealth or in-person medical appointments in Minnesota, Illinois or Wisconsin and would provide overnight stays or safe places to stay for those traveling to or waiting for appointments in these states. We also have the opportunity to provide financial gifts to the Iowa Trans Mutual Aid fund by going to the website iowamutualaid.org . If you would be interested in being a driver (no minors will be transported without parents) as your schedule allows or could offer simple overnight accommodations to a parent and child, please call or text Marty Steele at 563-4196163. Please consider donating via the above website.

Lutherans care about democratic government because it is a gift from God. Yet today there is a broad spirit of dissatisfaction, mistrust, and even contempt of government in the United States. What can Christians do to help? What biblical and historical resources can encourage us? Join your neighbors from Decorah Lutheran, First Lutheran, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and throughout Winneshiek County for a lunch, presentation, and discussion led by the Rev. Dr. Anthony Bateza. We'll discuss and pray together for our local and national democracy. The discussion will be held at **First Lutheran Church, Sunday, August 27th at 11:30 AM.** For more information and to register, go to

tinyurl.com/lutheran-democracy-decorah



Dr. Bateza is a specialist in Martin Luther, moral and political theology, and Christian ethics. He is associate professor of religion at St. Olaf College. He earned degrees from Iowa State University (B.S, 2002), the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (M.Div., 2006), and Princeton Theological Seminary (Ph.D., 2017). He is a co-chair of the ELCA's Task Force on Studies for Civic Life and Faith.

This fall the three Lutheran congregations in Decorah will study and respond to the Task Force's draft social statement on the church and state. Dr. Bateza's visit initiates our prayer and commentary. Before the luncheon presentation, Pastor Bateza will preach at Decorah Lutheran Church's 9:00 AM worship service.



CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

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June 20, 2023 - 7:00 PM

In attendance: Marilyn Rue, Tim Lecander, Pr. Amy, Anne Clausen, Kris Peterson, Brian Caton(on Zoom)

Guests: Jim Buzza, Jerry Bruce,

- Mission Endowment Fund - Jerry Bruce Continuation of Mission Endowment fund needs to report to council. Two times per year. One live and one in writing.

Three Prong MEF Funding Program

A. SHORT TERM--Annual Fundraiser (Easter Brunch) Jim gave an extensive report regarding the Easter Brunch. A total of \$1006.25 was received for the fund. Detailed records have been saved in a folder and housed in Erica's office for next year. It has become apparent that we need to seek two \$250 Thrivent cards as opposed to one for up front expenses. (Jim and Kathy Buzza secured one to supplement the one Naslunds provided). We will start organizing at least a month earlier next year. Our goals will remain the same:

1. To serve the congregation
2. To raise MEF funds
3. To keep the fund visible to the congregation

(All Stewardship For All Seasons concepts)

B. INTERMEDIATE-TERM--Proposal to Congregation Council (Budget Request) Based on the rapid growth of youth in the congregation and the commitment by the congregation to continue this ministry (2019 by both the council and congregation) we have requested to be on the council's June agenda to present the following proposal:

THAT A \$5000 LINE ITEM BE INCLUDED IN THE CONGREGATION'S BUDGET TO BE UTILIZED BY THE MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE TO SUPPLEMENT THE MEF 4% LIMITATION IN ADMINISTERING THE CONGREGATIONS EPIC SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY. ANY REMAINING BALANCE WOULD ANNUALLY BE PLACED INTO THE MEF ACCOUNTS. THE MEF COMMITTEE WOULD RESERVE THE OPTION OF REQUESTING ADDITIONAL FUNDS DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IN ANY GIVEN YEAR.

C. LONG-TERM (Estate planning--wills, life insurance, etc.)

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 - Anne
- 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? Kris moved to approve the agenda. Marilyn seconded and it passed.

LINK TO REPORTS: June Committee Reports

All submitted committee reports are located in the folder linked above. Links to individual reports are included at the end of this document. Thank you.

Consent Agenda

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

16

June 20, 2023 - 7:00 PM

Discussion Agenda

- Approval of Treasurer's Report Brian moved to pass the Treasurer's report Anne seconded it and it passed.
- Discussion of Endowment fund It was moved by Anne and seconded by Kris Passed to table until September when people are back from Summer.
- Employee Retention Credit discussion Employee Retention Credit Information Following the guidance of the treasurer we will not pursue this program. Motion by Kris, Seconded by Brian and passed.
- Shepherds & Flocks update Red flock is taking on the month of July for service. Able to email groups because Tristan set up emails. Identity is nice with a group feeling.
- French drain costs discussion Leave alone the sign maintenance and Equipment funds so they are available when and if needed. Look at whatever surplus we have at the end of the year If we don't have any we will need to make an appeal to cover the over cost.
- Update. Net metering reporting Tim is preparing a document to give the information of the process from the solar panels.

Brian motion to adjourn Marilyn seconded and it passed.

Email action taken by the council: Anne motioned, Kris seconded. Aye by Tim , Marilyn, Karin, Lise and Brian A motion was made at the request of Kinderhaus staff, to extend the school day to 5 or 5:30 and have a small group of kids (5 or 6) to be able to stay later for the families that need it. The agreement includes care for good communication regarding church use during that time for Advent and evening church activities. The bathroom usage and pickup space will be sensitive to Church activities and the Church can learn to be hospitable parents of this program.



Here is how our finances look half way through the year.

Income: Our total income at the end of the second quarter is \$182,802.88. There are two comparisons that are worth noting. First, that is \$21,000 higher than last year. That difference is a bit deceptive because it includes Mission Green grants so the better comparison might be between what we call regular offering (envelope + automatic electronic transfers + one-time annual giving prorated). That number this year is \$161,522, compared with \$153,468 last year. That is, regular offerings to this point are about \$8,000 higher than last year. The other comparison is projected giving (statements of intent) versus actual giving. Projected giving was \$330,000, so at this point we would hope for regular giving of \$165,000. As noted above the actual giving to this point is \$161,522, which means we are a little behind where we would anticipate being.

Expenses. Through the end of June we have spent \$192,597.56. That compares with expenses of \$160,212.95 last year at this point; that is no surprise, of course, because our budget is higher than last year. Our total budget for this year is \$365,242.53, which means we have spent more (53%) than what we have budgeted. It is hard to know whether that trend will continue because expenses are not the same each month. Indeed, we had some higher expenses early in the year but we also are slightly behind in our benevolence payments. In addition to anticipating higher expenses, one difference from the last few years is that we tended to spend less than budgeted; last year, for example, we had spent \$160,000 through June despite having budgeted \$167,000.

Income compared to Expenses: As should be apparent from the numbers above our expenses are greater than our income and we are running a deficit of \$9,794.68. As I have noted in the past, in the short run we don't have to worry about our cash flow because we have considerable funds in the bank designated to other accounts.

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>30</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>1</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Summer Run Club 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 5pm - Education Committee</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off 9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>5</div>
<div>6</div> <div>Rev. Susan Friedrich preaching. 9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Eastern Star/Arlin Falck 1pm - Wellington Place 2:30pm - Aase Haugen</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Recycle 9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Summer Run Club 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 6pm - Racial Justice Team @</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off 9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>13</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 2pm - Worship and Music 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 7pm - Congregation Council</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Dessert Among the Flowers Prep 9am - Church Office Hours 7pm - Decorah Congregations</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Dessert Among the Flowers 9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Summer Run Club 10:30am - Decorah Congregations 11am - Bible Study @ Library 12:45pm - MEF Committee 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 4pm - Stewardship Committee @</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off 9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>19</div>
<div>20</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour 10:45am - Green Flock meeting @</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Recycle 9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Summer Run Club 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline Pastor Amy day off 9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27</div> <div>Relly Sunday 9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 11:30am - Civic Life and Faith,</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours 6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Summer Run Club 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off 9am - Church Office Hours 3pm - Path to Citizenship Legal</div>	<div>2</div>