



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

October 2023

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*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*



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I am so grateful for you. Together, we are worshipping, learning, witnessing, giving, and serving our community. Here are some highlights of the past month:

- We hosted a quarterly legal clinic here on September 1 for those seeking a path to citizenship. Thank you to all who accompany our immigrant neighbors.
- We dedicated the solar powered courtyard and celebrated that Good Shepherd is now officially a carbon neutral facility! We have been designated as a Cool Congregation by Interfaith Power and Light and our story is featured on their website: interfaithpowerandlight.org/coolcongregations/good-shepherd-lutheran-church/ Thank you Mission Green and all who are giving generously of finances, time, prayer, and service to make this possible.
- We hosted a wonderful Welcome Friends and Neighbors Community Picnic for about 250 people. Much joy and connection happened that night! Thank you to the Outreach and Hospitality Committee, Erica, and everyone who participated.
- Seven 7th and 8th grade Confirmation students were blessed in worship and began classes. Three 9th graders are preparing to affirm their baptisms on October 29. Fourteen youth have registered to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2024. Thank you to Kelli and the Education Committee for your work in faith formation!
- The Racial Justice Team is helping the congregation participate in the ELCA Truth and Healing Initiative by hosting five opportunities to watch and discuss zoom presentations together. Thank you to the Racial Justice Team as well as Linda Donoghue and Kelli Gapinski, who encouraged the team to participate in this, and Cheri Lane for leading the sessions.
- We are participating in the ELCA process to develop a social statement about Faith and Civic Life by sharing in five Adult Forums on this topic this fall. Thank you to John Moeller for leading this and to all who are participating.
- We are gathering supplies to create school kits that Lutheran World Relief will distribute throughout the world. Thank you to Bev Sheridan and WELCA.
- We are exploring powerful stories from the Old Testament that help us reflect on who we are as God's people. Thank you to the Thursday Bible Study for helping us all learn from these stories. Their insights always shape the sermon. All are welcome to participate in the Bible Study every Thursday at 11:00 a.m.
- The amazing music offered in worship continues to inspire, uplift, console, and help us to pray together. Thank you to Brooke, Jon Ailabouni, and all musicians!
- Our Altar Guild works behind the scenes to prepare the feast of worship and communion and to help me take communion to the care facilities. Thank you!
- A large contingent from Good Shepherd took part in the unified witness to God's love and welcome at the Decorah Pride parade on September 16. Together with siblings in Christ throughout Decorah, we marched behind a sign proclaiming God is Love, Love is Love: Decorah Christians United in Celebrating Pride. Thank you to the Social Justice Team and all who participated.
- In response to the hate crime following Decorah Pride, a large contingent from Good Shepherd gathered to pray and help clean up the messages of hate at Decorah UCC and the courthouse. Thank you to all who participated.

- Good Shepherd had a booth at the first Luther College and City of Decorah Culture Fest. We shared the story of Good Shepherd's culture of welcome with pictures, our statements of welcome, prayer squares, and candy. Thank you to the Congregation Council for leadership on this and to all who participated.
- Shepherds and Flocks are serving on Sunday mornings together, potlucking together, and connecting with one another. Thank you to the Shepherds, Flock Servants, and the Stewardship Committee for the wonderful Flock Ministry!
- We have an amazing staff! Tristan did his own and Erica's job so beautifully during Erica's maternity leave. I'm grateful that they are now both working 15 hours per week. Tristan is in every day from 9am-12pm. Erica's hours rotate. If you have questions about who can help you, just call the office in the morning or email office@goodshepherddecorah.org and you'll get directed to the right person.

This is just a sampling of what happens through this congregation every month! I give thanks for all of this and for all of you. Like living stones, we are being built into a spiritual house. This is language from 1 Peter 2:5 that speaks to how we are growing together as God's people. You'll hear more about this in October as this is our theme for the fall stewardship appeal. Together, we are part of something more than ourselves. Together, we are bearing witness to God's love in our community. Thank you for your part in all of this. Thanks be to God.

Peace to you,
Pr. Amy



PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

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prayer offered by Jane Jakoubek

This month we are invited to pray using our "highs" and "lows". Highs are things that are life-giving for us, that we are grateful for, that are lifting our spirits. Lows are things that we are struggling with, worried about, feeling exhausted by.

Gracious God, thank you for creating me in your image and being with me through all that life brings. Today I lift up the highs and lows that are part of my life right now: Thank you for _____(name your highs and talk to God about how they are helping you and your gratitude for them).

Help me with _____(name your lows and talk to God about what you are struggling with and what you need from God right now).

Help me remember that I am your beloved child. Help me remember that nothing I do or that happens to me ever changes that. Thank you for being my refuge and strength this day and always. Amen.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

	Old Testament Reading	Psalms Reading	New Testament Reading
Oct. 1	<u>Exodus 17:1-7</u> <i>Water from the rock in the wilderness</i>	<u>Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16</u> <i>We will recount to generations to come the power of the Lord. (Ps. 78:4)</i>	<u>Philippians 2:1-13</u> <i>Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross</i>
Oct. 8	<u>Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20</u> <i>The commandments given at Sinai</i>	<u>Psalms 19</u> <i>The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart. (Ps. 19:8)</i>	<u>Philippians 3:4b-14</u> <i>Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ</i>
Oct. 15	<u>Exodus 32:1-14</u> <i>The Israelites forge a golden calf</i>	<u>Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23</u> <i>Remember, O Lord, the favor you have for your people. (Ps. 106:4)</i>	<u>Philippians 4:1-9</u> <i>Rejoice in the Lord always</i>
Oct. 22	<u>Exodus 33:12-23</u> <i>The glory of God revealed to Moses</i>	<u>Psalms 99</u> <i>Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God. (Ps. 99:5)</i>	<u>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</u> <i>Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica</i>
Oct. 29 <i>Reformation & Confirmation Sunday</i>	<u>Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18</u> <i>Holiness revealed in acts of justice</i>	<u>Psalms 1</u> <i>Their delight is in the law of the Lord. (Ps. 1:2)</i>	<u>1 Thessalonians 2:1-8</u> <i>The apostle's tender care for the Thessalonians</i> GOSPEL READING: <u>Matthew 22:34-46</u> <i>Two great commandments: love for God and neighbor</i>

SUNDAY MUSIC SCHEDULE

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Choir rehearses 7-7:45 PM on Wednesdays
Band rehearses 7:45-8:30 PM on Wednesdays
Handbells rehearse at 8:45 AM on Sundays we play

October	
10/1	Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude; Sunday School kids sing
10/8	Choir sings offertory
10/15	Handbells play offertory
10/22	Guest choir
10/29	Reformation/Confirmation: Jazz Service
November	
11/5	Handbells play at start of service and offertory; Sunday School kids sing
11/12	Choir sings offertory
11/19	Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude
11/26	Choir sings offertory
December	
12/3	Advent 1: Choir Sings offertory ("Advent Prayer"); Sunday School kids sing
12/10	Advent 2: Handbells play offertory
12/17	Advent 3: Solo or small ensemble opportunity! Christmas Pageant @ 5 PM: band plays alongside youth
12/24	Advent 4: Solo or small ensemble opportunity! Christmas Eve: Choir and band will offer music during service
12/31	Solo or small ensemble opportunity!



A number of Good Shepherd folks have been watching webinars from the ELCA about Indian Boarding School, some of us watching from home and others gathering at church with conversation afterwards. Two recent ones—one with a survivor of an Indian Boarding School and one with descendants of Indian Boarding School survivors—were recorded and are available at tinyurl.com/elca-boarding-school-sessions .

What's the value of learning about difficult things like this? It's one way to be part of an effort by the ELCA "to learn the true history and current realities of Indigenous people. It is these truths, truths that have been ignored by most for hundreds of years, that will bring healing for both Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people," according to the ELCA's Truth and Healing website.

We profess a faith that calls us to love our neighbors. In learning about difficult things, we need to move past feelings and simply learning more. We are called to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8) Doing justice calls us to walk with those carrying the burdens of the past by hearing their stories and their thoughts on what can be done to help bring truth and healing. That's what the ELCA is doing with this initiative.

We at Good Shepherd are learning more about this part of our history. It hits close to home because people who were connected to Luther College were involved with the Bethany Indian Boarding School in Wisconsin. There was an Indian Boarding School in Allamakee County. The land on which our church stands was taken from Indigenous people to enable European settlement.

Upcoming webinars from the ELCA's Truth and Healing initiative are available at the website listed above. Watch for programs on Indian Thought and Theology, the ELCA's work on Truth and Healing, and information on Land Acknowledgements. The Good Shepherd weekly email will continue to publish these as well.

For now, here's a prayer for all of us as we continue on this journey together: *Merciful God, thank you for calling us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you on this journey of truth and healing. Help us to open our hearts, minds, and lives to all you are calling us to do on behalf of your beloved people. Amen.*

Submitted by Jane Jakoubek

YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS

2024 Youth Gathering: We have **14 students registered for the youth trip to New Orleans in July 2024!** Pretty incredible! Good Shepherd youth that will attend the trip: Abby Larson, Adeline Bollinger, Oliver Bollinger, Weston Cote, Mason Cote, Lulu Bellrichard, Poppy Bellrichard, Gabriel Hiner, Mikayla Hiner, Aidan Nalean-Carlson, Keaton Nealean-Carlson, Logan Nalean-Carlson, Leah Holland, and Victor Biedermann. Please pray for these youth as they prepare and fundraise for the trip.

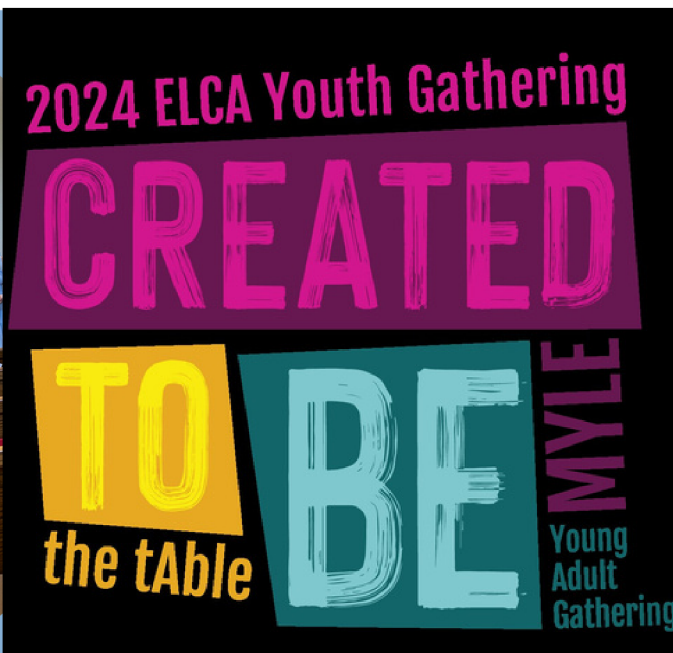
Make a joyful noise! Sunday School students will be singing during worship during the 1st Sunday of the month! The first one for this year will be on October 1st. Parents please have children arrive at 9:00am on Sunday to practice briefly.

Frolic into Fundraising: On October 15th, 5:30-7pm, there will be a youth gathering for both students and guardians meeting held at Bob and Ann Naslund's house. We will discuss youth gathering fundraising opportunities over a shared meal together. Grilled hotdogs/hamburgers will be provided. Registered gathering families please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please RVSP to Kelli by October 8th, so we have an idea of how much food to prep for!

Building School Kits Youth Group Activity: Calling all 7th-12th Youth! On Sunday, October 22, during Fellowship Hour, Lutheran World Relief school kits are being packed. Bev Sheridan is seeking your help. This will be a fun way to connect with each other by also helping our global neighbors.

Dirty Feet Retreat! October 20-22, 2023. All 6-9th graders are invited to attend this overnight retreat at Camp Ewalu. Pastor Amy is planning to go and stay till Saturday. Pick up details for Sunday afternoon would need to be arranged. If interested please register by Oct 1st and let Kelli now. More details can be found at ewalu.org/dirty-feet-retreat-2023/.

Three youth will affirm their baptisms on October 29th: Lulu Bellrichard, Victor Biedermann, and Colin Thompson.



Bev Sheridan recently returned from the Twelve Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA. At the Convention we adopted resolutions on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Safety of our Children and a Calling for Peace and Unity plus a \$1.9 million budget. Anna Jetson from Highland Lutheran Church was elected to our Church-wide board for a 3 year term. We had inspirational and thought provoking bible studies and reflections on "Just Love through the lens of human trafficking, migration, and immigration" plus many workshops and servant events. The next triennial will be in Des Moines, Iowa in July of 2026. Plan now to attend this event in our home state!



Bev Sheridan with Maryn Olson at the Triennial WELCA Gathering in Phoenix. Maryn is the director of Lutheran Disaster Response and the daughter of Pastors Ginny (Good Shepherd Member) and the late Phil Olson. She presented one of the workshops.

LWR school kits will be assembled on Sunday October 22. Good Shepherd youth group with the assistance of the entire congregation will assemble the kits **during coffee hour**. Make plans to join in this intergenerational activity.

We will meet on **October 24 at 6 pm in the church fellowship hall to assemble baby care kits**. Small hand towels, 4 ounce soap bars and infant sleepers are still needed for these kits. If you have questions, you can contact Gail Judisch, 563-380-7276. Gather bible study will follow at 7 pm. All are welcome.

Volunteers are needed on **Friday November 3 to load vehicles** that will be taking the kits to Olson Trucking on Saturday. The kits will then be delivered to the warehouse in St Paul along with donations from other churches in Northeast Iowa. Packing boxes are also needed. Contact Bev or Gail if you can help.

Gather Bible Study

Fall 2023: "Holy places," a three-session Bible study by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. Physical places often shape our identities, relationships and faith. "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it," Paul writes. Part of what this means is that faith doesn't just reside in our thoughts or emotions. Faith resides in our whole bodies, and how our bodies "live and move and have our being" in the sacred places where God encounters us.

October 2023 - Holy places: Sanctuary

For thousands of years, physical spaces have been set apart for individual prayer and community worship. "Sanctuary" is one word for such spaces. Throughout history, "sanctuary" has also referred to spaces of safety and refuge. If God is everywhere, what is the importance of sanctuary? What can Jesus' teachings and Paul's correspondence with the early church teach us about what sanctuary looks like today? (from the Gather magazine)

SAVE THE DATES:

October 22: Assemble LWR school kits during fellowship hour

October 24: Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 6 pm assembling LWR kits; 7 pm bible study. Ann Naslund-Bible study, Kris Peterson -refreshments. All are welcome!

November 4: LWR in-gathering, Olson Trucking, 7:30 am to 10:30 am

"COOL CONGREGATION" STATUS FOR OUR CARBON NEUTRAL INITIATIVE

The national organization Interfaith Power & Light recently certified Good Shepherd as a "Cool Congregation", since we now are at zero carbon emissions through our Carbon Neutral Initiative with Mission Green LLC. Good Shepherd received a certificate suitable for framing, a letter of congratulations, and a window cling from Interfaith Power & Light, and Iowa Interfaith Power & Light will provide a plaque. IPL is broadcasting our certification on social media and posted Good Shepherd's story on their website, including a story about the project by Good Shepherd members and Mission Green founders Jim and Liz Fritz. To view, go to interfaithpowerandlight.org/coolcongregations/find-inspiration/success-stories/

- You can also read about and see photos of Good Shepherd's Carbon Neutral Initiative on our website at goodshepherddecorah.org/missiongreen/



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Certified! Cool Congregation

Living Stones: Building Up Our Spiritual House

1 Peter 2:5a *Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.*

THANK YOU for being a vital part of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Like the living stones described in 1 Peter, each of us brings skills and talents to this congregation that benefit not only this church, but also the wider world beyond the Good Shepherd's doors. THANK YOU for being a key part, a living stone, of this spiritual house. Building on the work of the recent past, the Good Shepherd Living Stones Stewardship Appeal will focus on two key goals described as follows:



Goal #1: Supporting Our Growth

Increasing support for Good Shepherd's growing ministry by \$25,000 over 2023 levels.

As Good Shepherd grows, this also means that staff and administrative support for this ministry is also growing. We are blessed to have a talented staff led by Pastor Amy. This team helps move the work of Good Shepherd forward through support of initiatives such as youth ministry, Flock Ministry, and social and racial justice, but this vital work also requires financial resources.

Why is this important? Good Shepherd is not immune from rising operational costs that any organization must contend with. To keep pace with operational costs, continue to support a growing and vibrant congregation, and continue to give 26% of our operating expenses to needs in the world, the Stewardship Committee is seeking to raise an additional \$25,000 beyond 2023 levels.

Goal #2: Supporting our Coming Together

Raise an additional \$5000 for Pergola Courtyard Furnishings

Once the stewardship appeal has achieved the first goal of increased support for Good Shepherd's growing ministry, a follow-on stretch goal is to raise an additional \$5,000. These funds will go toward the purchase of additional furnishings to support the new courtyard space that has been created through the Mission Green project.

Why is this important? In the brief time it has been open, this courtyard space has proved to be a great community venue for outdoor gatherings such as the recent Friends and Neighbors Community Picnic. The purchase of these additional furnishings will enhance the functionality of the Pergola Courtyard and make it a better community gathering space.

Increased giving in 2024 will allow us to meet these goals. We invite you to consider how you can build up this spiritual house in 2024. Please watch for more information in the month ahead.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Do you enjoy crocheting or knitting? The next Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting is on Wednesday, October 18, 1:00-3:00 in the Gathering Space at the church. New members please join us! Yarn will be available. Confirmants, graduates, people who are baptized, those suffering illness, Helping Services for Youth and Families and Hospice Winn-Med are all recipients of shawls. Questions: Contact Jeri Laursen at jeri.laursen@gmail.com or **608-498-8069**.

ADULT FORUM SERIES THIS FALL, you are invited to join in a conversation about **Civic Life and Faith**. Discussions will be held each **Sunday, Sept. 17-Oct. 15 from 11-11:45 am** in the Gathering Space and will explore key questions such as: *How Is God's Invitation to Discipleship Lived Out in a Democracy? How Do Christians Address Controversial Civic Issues? What Are Lutheran Views on Civic Life? What's Faith-based Living Got to Do With Civic Life?* The conversation will be facilitated by John Moeller, Luther College Professor Emeritus of Political Science. After each discussion, we'll have an opportunity to provide brief feedback to the ELCA's Task Force on Civic Life and Faith as they draft a social statement for consideration at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Learn more at the ELCA's website: elca.org/civicsandfaithstudy

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL on Thursday, October 5th, 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.:15 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of Decorah Lutheran Church, 309 Winnebago Street. All are welcome! Come enjoy fellowship with your friends and neighbors. Members of Decorah Lutheran Church will provide volunteers, salads, and desserts. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College. Gluten-free options and carry-outs are always available.

Pastor Bauer (he was an intern at Good Shepherd with Rev. Paul Hasvold) is RETIRING! After 25 years of ministry, Pr. Norm Bauer is retiring! Please join Pastor Bauer at a celebration in his honor Sunday, October 8, 2:00-4:00 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 705 3rd Ave. Charles City. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to send greetings his address is Pr. Norm Bauer, 1103 Allison St. Charles City, IA 50616.

BINGO VOLUNTEERS, PRIZES, AND TREATS NEEDED: Good Shepherd is hosting Bingo at Wellington Place on Tuesday, October 10th from 12:30-1:30. We are in charge of providing: cookies/bars for 30 people, prizes (small items/anything is welcome!) for 30, and 3-4 volunteers to help some of the folks play bingo/socialize. Contact Erica in the office to sign-up to help or sign-up in the Gathering Space. erica@goodshepherddecorah.org

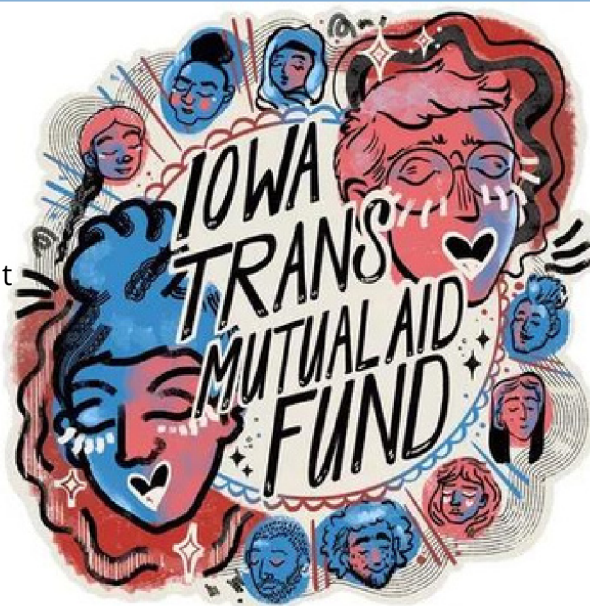
FLOCK SUNDAY: Sunday, October 22 we'll have a Flock Sunday. Flocks will share Fellowship Hour together. This is informal and some shepherds won't be able to be there, flocks will just have time to connect.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS (NHN) HAS URGENT NEED FOR DRIVERS AND HAULERS

NHN is a partnership between Decorah United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center's Immigration Working Group. This partnership sponsors and coordinates rides for families and individuals to get to Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) check-ins, lawyer appointments, and court dates. It also helps provide basic furniture to immigrants and families. Complete information about NHN, Offering a Ride, and Help Hauling Furniture is here:

decorahucc.org/neighbors/ Volunteer Drivers: contact Kristin P. at office@decorahucc.org To donate furniture or help haul furniture, contact NEI Peace and Justice Center, **563-382-5337**.

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 you schedule allows or could offer simple overnight accommodations to a parent and child, please call or text Marty Steele at **563-419-6163**. Please consider donating via the above website.

LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH RELATED SUPPORT GROUPS: The local Northeast Iowa team for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) leads two support groups related to mental health. Detailed flyers are posted outside the Fellowship Hall.

- **The Connection Recovery Support Group** is a support group for individuals who experience mental health conditions. It is held every Tuesday in Decorah.
- **The Family Support Group** is held on the 4th Monday of the month in Elgin. The Family support group is for adult family members or loved ones of those experiencing mental health conditions. The next meeting date is Oct. 23rd.

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT REQUESTED FOR GEORGE LOWE & MARTHA MONSON LOWE

Good Shepherd members George Lowe and Martha Monson Lowe are returning to the city of Bethlehem in the West Bank, Palestine, for 3 months, to serve at the Bethlehem Bible College Guesthouse. They leave October 4 and will be there through Christmas.

- This is part of their ministry of accompaniment with the Palestinian people, and they undertake significant personal financial costs to do it. Financial gifts to support their ministry are most welcome. To donate, give to Good Shepherd, either online at our website's GIVING Tab, or by check noting "Palestine Ministry". Deadline for contributions is Sunday, October 1.

COMMUNION VISITORS NEEDED: Would you consider serving as a communion visitor to those who cannot come to worship? We have a number of people who would value receiving the sacrament more regularly. Pr. Amy visits with communion and more visitors would help people to receive more often. It also helps people to connect with the larger congregation. If you are interested in this beautiful ministry, please contact Pr. Amy. She provides you with support and resources.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

13

Sep 19, 2023, 7:00 PM

Attending: Lise Kildegaard, Tim Lecander, Chris Johnson, Kris Peterson, Karin Martin Huber , Anne Clausen, Pastor Zalk Larson

AGENDA

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 - by Karin
- 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? Anne made a motion to add Culture fest to our agenda number 1 and Karin seconded.
- Kris moves approving the agenda and Chris seconded and it was approved .

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of August 2023 Council Meeting Minutes August Council Minutes
2. Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)
3. Approve Melanie Folkerts replacing Ginny Olson on the Stewardship Committee. (Ginny had to resign for health reasons.)

Discussion Agenda

1. Approval of Treasurer's Report Moved by Lise and seconded by Chris. And it passed.
2. Fire alarm system recommendation from Facilities and Grounds **Anne makes a motion to accept the recommendation for the fire alarm system Karin seconded and it passed.**
3. Update to the Abuse Prevention Program
 - Youth should be contacted via email. Parents must be copied on all emails to youth.
 - If youth are texted, parents must be included in the message. **Kris makes a motion to adopt updating the Abuse Prevention Program, Karin seconded it and it passed.**
4. Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) request for \$5000 in the budget
 - a. MEF proposes "That a \$5000 line item be included in the congregation's annual budget to be utilized by the Mission Endowment Fund Committee in administering the congregation's EPIC scholarship ministry. The \$5000 would supplement the 4% of the total fund allowed annually by the MEF continuing resolution for the scholarships. Any remaining balance of the \$5000 supplement would automatically be placed in the MEF accounts to assist with fund growth. The committee reserves the option of requesting additional funds depending on the number of scholarship applications received in any given year.
 - b. Precedence for this proposal is based on Good Shepherd's tradition of annually financially supporting seminary students who are members of Good Shepherd. In the not-too-distant past Good Shepherd supported as many as 6 or 7 seminary students. Their support was considered part of our 26% benevolent commitment in the annual budget. Currently Good Shepherd seminary student support is at a minimum. Since we are facing a bit of an urgency, support for the EPIC scholarship ministry could also be considered a part of the 26% benevolent commitment."

continued on next page

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

14

Sep 19, 2023, 7:00 PM

- ***Congregational council vote defeated the motion.***
- **Chris makes the following motion:** EPIC scholarships should be funded by the Mission Endowment Fund 4% annual distribution. Any additional scholarships needed should come from a new line in the regular budget. For 2024, the Congregation Council recommends designating \$3000 towards this new line.
- ***Lise seconded the motion and it was passed.***
- **Lise makes the following motion.** The Congregation Council directs the Mission Endowment Fund Committee to focus on memorials and planned giving/estate benefits in conversation with the Council. Direct special appeals to fund the endowment should not be used. The Easter brunch should be an Education and Youth Committee fundraiser.
Chris seconded the motion and it passed.
- **Anne makes the following motion..** The Congregation Council appreciates the work of the MEF committee in preparing to have scholarships for students. The council asks that MEF communicate with parents and students about scholarship applications through mail and email and church communications rather than phone calls and text messages. ***Chris seconded the motion and it passed.***

Announcements – Newsletter Deadline is September 25, 2023 (always the 25th of the month)
Next Council meeting - Oct. 17, 2023 7:00pm

- **Adjournment and Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer**

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

Education Committee

- There are 14 youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering, they will need lots of fundraising.
- Youth Group on Sunday mornings has not been working well for the kids. We will focus on Youth Gathering preparations and the Dirty Feet retreat at Ewalu this fall. Pr. Amy will take youth to
- There are 6 7th and 8th grade youth in Confirmation class this year. 3 9th graders will affirm their baptisms on Oct. 29 in worship.

Outreach and Hospitality Committee

- Our last meeting was to put the finishing touches on our community picnic for Friends and Neighbors for 9/10. About 250 were served. And the wasps did not win!!! Great music, fellowship, and food. The congregation rose to the occasion to all pitch in to make it a success!

Facilities and Grounds Committee

- much of the month was spent watering trees when needed
- a checklist of what Mission Green promised the congregation was reviewed by the committee. It was determined that the project was completed as promised
- it was decided that due to the drought and the restoration of the backyard that we would suspend further lawn mowing
- we'll monitor the temperatures for the transition from AC to heat

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

15

Sep 19, 2023, 7:00 PM

Stewardship Committee

- Found a new member for the committee with help from Lyle Otte of the Nominating Committee.
- The Fall Appeal Theme is Living Stones. The Goal is \$25,000 more for annual expenses and \$5000 more for courtyard furniture.

Worship and Music

- Did not meet in Aug.

Pastor's Report

- 14 youth attending the ELCA youth gathering. Watch for lots of fundraising to support these kids!
- Adult forums in Sept. and Oct. on Faith and Civic Life.
- Racial Justice gatherings to participate in the ELCA Truth and Healing Initiative

Treasurer -

- Profit & Loss. total income through August was \$241,663.05 and total expenses were \$253,518.61. That means the deficit was up again, this time to \$11,855.56. Expenses always shoot up the month we make our Synod offering and I presume the deficit will decline at the end of September. It remains possible we won't end the year with a deficit, but in the October meeting the council may want to discuss whether you are comfortable ending the year with a deficit.
- Statements of Intent & Actual Giving. Projected regular offering (statements of intent) through August was \$220,000. Actual regular giving (Envelope + Designated + ACH + Retirement Funds) was \$214,329. That puts the actual giving a bit behind intended giving but there is a caveat: due to a misunderstanding regarding one statement of intent and a death, the gap between statements of intent and actual giving is not as large as it appears.
- French Drain/Courtyard. The final cost for the French drain and courtyard was \$28,994.81. The 2020 surplus and the contributions in response to the requests for funds totaled \$36,650.87. That means we have \$7,656.06 available for purchasing seating for the courtyard area.



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div>8:45am - Band warms up for worship 9am - Sunday School choir warms up for 9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 10:45am - Sunday school 11am - Adult Forum @ Gathering Space</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Keili's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 9am - Prayer shawl meeting @ Library 10am - Erica office hours 5:30pm - Piano lessons 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>4</div> <div>9am - Bobbers coffee 9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 5:30pm - Piano lessons 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>5</div> <div><div>Recycle</div><div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 2:30pm - Piano lessons 5pm - Decorah Community Meal @ DLC 5:30pm - Racial Justice Team @ Library</div></div>	<div>6</div> <div><div>Pastor Amy out</div><div>9am - Church Office Hours 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @ Library</div></div>	
<div>8</div> <div><div>Pastor Amy out</div><div>Rev. Dr. Holt Swanson preaching 8:45am - Choir warms up for worship 9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 10:45am - Sunday school 11am - Adult Forum @ Gathering Space</div></div>	<div>9</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 4:30pm - Keili's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 12:30pm - Wellington Place Bingo</div>	<div>11</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Eastern Star/Arlin Falck 1pm - Wellington Place Communion 2:30pm - Aase Haugen Communion 5:30pm - Piano lessons 6:30pm - Kinderhaus Parent Help Night - 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @ Sanctuary 8pm - Confirmation meeting with 9th</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 1pm - Travel Club Fellowship & Gathering 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 2:30pm - Piano lessons 4pm - Stewardship Committee 5pm - Education Committee</div>	<div>13</div> <div><div>Kinderhaus closed for Staff Development</div><div><div>Pastor Amy day off</div><div>9am - Church Office Hours 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @ Library</div></div></div>	<div>14</div> <div></div>
<div>15</div> <div><div>No Sunday School</div><div>8:45am - Handbells warm up for worship 9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 11am - Adult Forum @ Gathering Space 5:30pm - Youth Gathering Fundraising</div></div>	<div>16</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Keili's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 3:30pm - Piano lessons 6:30pm - Sons of Norway @ Fellowship 7pm - Congregation Council meeting @</div>	<div>18</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ Gathering 5:30pm - Piano lessons 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>19</div> <div><div>Recycle</div><div>8am - Worship and Music 9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 12:45pm - MEF Committee Meeting @ 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 2:30pm - Piano lessons</div></div>	<div>20</div> <div><div>EWALD DUFFY Feet Rehearsal</div><div><div>Pastor Amy day off</div><div>9am - Church Office Hours 3pm - Luther Football Reunion Back-Up 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @ Library</div></div></div>	<div>21</div> <div></div>
<div>22</div> <div><div>EWALD DUFFY Feet Rehearsal</div><div>8:45am - Guest choir warms up for 9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 10:45am - Flocks gathering @ Fellowship 10:45am - School Kit building @ 10:45am - Sunday school</div></div>	<div>23</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 4:30pm - Keili's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 3:30pm - Piano lessons 6pm - Baby Care Kits and Gather Bible 7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather Study @</div>	<div>25</div> <div><div>Newsletter Deadline</div><div>9am - Church Office Hours 5:30pm - Piano lessons 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div></div>	<div>26</div> <div><div>Pf. Amy out</div><div>9am - Church Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 2:30pm - Piano lessons</div></div>	<div>27</div> <div><div>Pastor Amy day off</div><div>9am - Church Office Hours 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @ Library</div></div>	<div>28</div> <div></div>
<div>29</div> <div>8:30am - Jazz ensemble warms up for 9:30am - Affirmation of Baptism for 9th 9:30am - In-person Worship & Live 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 10:45am - Sunday school</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Keili's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>1</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 5:30pm - Piano lessons 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary 7pm - Confirmation Class @ Fellowship 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>2</div> <div><div>Recycle</div><div>9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Erica office hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 2:30pm - Piano lessons 5pm - Decorah Community Meal @ DLC 5:30pm - Racial Justice Team @ Library</div></div>	<div>3</div> <div><div>Pastor Amy day off</div><div><div>School Kit loading</div><div>9am - Church Office Hours 1:30pm - Loading vehicles for LWR @ 3pm - Path to Citizenship Legal Clinic 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @ Library</div></div></div>	<div>4</div> <div>7:30am - LWR In-gathering @ Olson</div>