



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

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September 2023

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*Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church*



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I've been reflecting a lot about energy lately. What brings energy to my life and my body? What depletes it? I regularly ask myself these questions as I discern how God is inviting me to move through each day.

I've also been reflecting about energy in the congregation. Our life together is powered by the most renewable source of energy of all, the Holy Spirit. How is the Spirit energizing our community right now? I'd love to learn what you're seeing. Here is where I'm seeing the Spirit at work:

- **We are now fully carbon neutral!** I'm so grateful that our building is now completely powered by renewable energy. Thank you, Mission Green. Thank you, Good Shepherd! And thank you to everyone who gave to the courtyard renovation project. We had a goal of \$12,000 and have raised over \$18,000. The additional monies raised will be used to help furnish the courtyard.
- **We're finding ourselves in God's story.** We've been empowered by a summer of diving deep into the Old Testament. These stories of faith have helped us to reflect on who God is and who we are as God's people. The Worship and Music committee and I have decided that we want to continue to explore these stories throughout the fall as we move through the book of Exodus, and maybe beyond!
- **The Body of Christ is connecting as Flocks.** It has been such a joy to hear of flocks connecting through potlucks and get togethers; and to see flocks sharing in the Sunday morning roles. Each Shepherd and each flock do things a little differently, each person serving does things in their own way. That is marvelous! God is at work in all our diverse gifts.
- **The Congregation Council is leading beautifully!** It has made such a difference to have a new format for leadership. Our council has formed a strong bond as a team. This has helped them to have thoughtful and wise discussions as they discern and lead.
- **Our life together is connected to a strong witness in the community.**
  - We shared in discussions around three books with the other ELCA congregations in Decorah this summer. Those were rich and wonderful. As a congregation, we'll return to the books throughout this year.
  - We will participate in Culture Fest, a collaboration between Luther College and the City of Decorah. See more on page 16.
  - We will again share in Decorah Christians United in Celebrating Pride. See more on page 17.
  - We helped to host Rev. Dr. Anthony Bateza, co-chair of the ELCA task force on Faith and Civic Life along with the other ELCA congregations. As a congregation, we will engage in discussion around faith and civic life during Adult Forums, Sept. 17-Oct. 15 and provide feedback to the task force as they draft a social statement. See more on page 18.

I give thanks to God for the ways the Spirit is moving among us. What are you seeing? How can I be praying for you?

Peace to you,  
Pastor Amy



# PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

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*Prayer offered by Jane Jakoubek*

Merciful One, we pray for those who are ill or suffering in any way, especially those with ongoing challenges not visible to us. Be with them. Bring courage, patience and trust day by day as they tend to the needs of their bodies, minds, and spirits. Surround them with those who can bring help, comfort and support day by day. Open our eyes, ears and hearts to those whose lives have been changed by illness and suffering. Show us what to do to help, when to offer a kind word and how to pray for them.

We pray for our world and its unending needs. Help us turn to you as the news floods us with crises, suffering, and violence. Help us be faithful to the work that you give each of us—as citizens; as people with time, skills, energy and money to share with others; as people who strive to follow Jesus. Help us to live amidst seemingly endless tragedy and suffering by remembering Paul's words to the early church in Philippi: Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things you learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

Merciful God, we bring these prayers and all else that is on our hearts and minds today to you. In your infinite mercy, be with us. Amen.

	Old Testament Reading	Psalm Reading	New Testament Reading
Sept 3	<b><u>Exodus 3:1-15</u></b> <i>From the blazing bush God calls Moses</i>	<b><u>Psalm 26:1-8</u></b> <i>Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)</i>	<b><u>Romans 12:9-21</u></b> <i>Live in harmony</i>
Sept 10	<b><u>Exodus 12:1-14</u></b> <i>The passover of the Lord</i>	<b><u>Psalm 119:33-40</u></b> <i>I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)</i>	<b><u>Romans 13:8-14</u></b> <i>Live honorably as in the day</i>
Sept 17	<b><u>Exodus 14:19-31</u></b> <i>Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea</i>	<b><u>Psalm 114</u></b> <i>Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord. (Ps. 114:7)</i>	<b><u>Romans 14:1-12</u></b> <i>Accepting diversity in the community of faith</i>
Sept 24	<b><u>Exodus 16:2-15</u></b> <i>Manna and quails feed the Israelites in the wilderness</i>	<b><u>Psalm 145:1-8</u></b> <i>The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)</i>	<b><u>Philippians 1:21-30</u></b> <i>Standing firm in the gospel</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

<b>September</b>	
<b>9/3</b>	Handbells play offertory
<b>9/10</b>	Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude and picnic
<b>9/17</b>	Choir sings offertory
<b>9/24</b>	Jazz Service
<b>October</b>	
<b>10/1</b>	Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude; Sunday School kids sing
<b>10/8</b>	Choir sings offertory
<b>10/15</b>	Handbells play offertory
<b>10/22</b>	Guest choir
<b>10/29</b>	Reformation/Confirmation: Jazz Service
<b>November</b>	
<b>11/5</b>	Handbells play at start of service and offertory; Sunday School kids sing
<b>11/12</b>	Choir sings offertory
<b>11/19</b>	Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude
<b>11/26</b>	Choir sings offertory
<b>December</b>	
<b>12/3</b>	Advent 1: Choir Sings offertory ("Advent Prayer"); Sunday School kids sing
<b>12/10</b>	Advent 2: Handbells play offertory
<b>12/17</b>	Advent 3: Solo or small ensemble opportunity! Christmas Pageant @ 5 PM: band plays alongside youth
<b>12/24</b>	Advent 4: Solo or small ensemble opportunity! Christmas Eve: Choir and band will offer music during service
<b>12/31</b>	Solo or small ensemble opportunity!



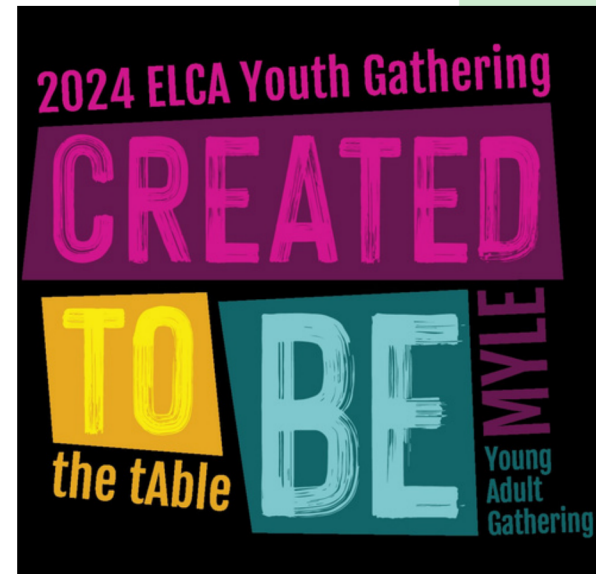
# YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS

**Youth Gathering registration is due very soon!** If your 8th-12th grade student is interested. Please register by **September 3rd**. There are copies of the registration form by the gathering space or under the ministry tab on the Good Shepherd website. A \$250 deposit is needed and checks can be made to Good Shepherd.

**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/](http://ewalu.org/dirty-feet-retreat-2023/) .

**We are looking forward to starting Sunday School soon!** Classes resume on **September 10th**. Each teacher needs one additional adult helper each week. Sunday School helpers assist the main teacher as needed, help students stay on task, and help with overall crowd control. It is a fun, simple commitment supporting children's ministry. Please consider sharing this opportunity a couple of times throughout the year! Please sign up at [tinyurl.com/gs-sunday-school-help-23](http://tinyurl.com/gs-sunday-school-help-23) .

Please note: This year, youth are focused on getting ready for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 2024. We will not have Youth Group sessions on Sunday mornings. Youth are invited to attend Fellowship Hour or help with Sunday School.



# CONFIRMATION

The Affirmation of Baptism (or Confirmation) experience is a way for students to explore and grow in faith and then affirm their faith publicly. The experience also provides community, connection with caring adults, and the opportunity to affirm their baptismal identities as God's beloved children.

Sign up for Confirmation on the website or at [\*\*tinyurl.com/gs-youth-registration-23\*\*](https://tinyurl.com/gs-youth-registration-23)

**Confirmation Classes at Good Shepherd**  
These classes are a way for students to explore and grow in faith and then affirm their faith publicly. Classes also provide community, connection with caring adults, and the opportunity to affirm their baptismal identities as God's beloved children.

Here is a general overview:

- Classes are taught by Pr. Amy. Youth Director, Kelli Gapinski, and other adults also help with Confirmation.
- Students explore the Bible, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments as well as Lutheran teachings about them.



- Class is held most Wednesday nights in the school year from 7-8pm except during Advent and Lent. During Advent and Lent, students are expected to attend midweek worship with their family. During Lent students meet with a mentor during Lenten Soup Suppers.
- Most students do regular Confirmation classes in 7th and 8th grade but students can start later as well.
- During the fall of 9th grade, students meet two additional times to prepare for Affirmation of Baptism. 9th graders are asked to write a brief faith statement.
- The Affirmation of Baptism service happens on the last Sunday in October on Reformation Sunday during the 9:30am worship service. Lulu Bellrichard, Victor Biedermann, and Colin Thompson will affirm their baptisms.



# CONFIRMATION

Here are specifics for 2023-24 for 7th-8th graders:

- Sunday, September 10: All 7th-8th grade Confirmation students will be blessed and new Confirmation students will be given a Bible.
- September 13 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall will be first Confirmation class this year.
- There will be no class and no midweek worship: 11, Nov. 22, Dec 27, Jan. 3, April 3.
- During Advent and Lent: Wednesday worship at 5:30 pm takes the place of class, students are expected to attend with families.
- Advent: Wednesdays, Dec. 6-20, 5:30pm
- Lent: Wednesdays, Feb. 21- Mar. 20, 5:30pm
- Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14), Maundy Thursday (March 29), Good Friday (March 28) worship services are at 7pm and take the place of class. Students are asked to attend with families.
- The last class of the year will be May 8.

Here are specifics for fall of 2023 for 9th graders:

- We will meet from 8-8:45pm on two Wednesdays: September 20 and October 11. 9th graders are asked to write a brief faith statement.
- This year the Affirmation of Baptism service for 9th graders will be Oct. 29, 2023 during 9:30am worship.



## **EPIC Scholarship Growth Through Estate Giving**

### **Erick Kephart To Present Adult Forum**

This academic year (2023-2024) Good Shepherd's EPIC Scholarship Ministry (Educational Partners in Covenant) has awarded five members of the congregation \$1000 scholarships. Ava Holland (Luther College), Mara Holland (Gustavus) and Nathan Larson (Wartburg) are repeat recipients; Annalise and Daniel Skrade are freshmen at Concordia in Moorhead, Minnesota. Those scholarships have been matched by the participating colleges.



The EPIC scholarship ministry was established by the ELCA as a vehicle for participating congregations and colleges to financially assist students with a liberal arts education. Good Shepherd has been a participating congregation since 1994.

Monies for the Good Shepherd ministry come from the congregation's Mission Endowment Fund. Each year the MEF Committee is authorized to utilize 4% of the fund's total value to make the awards. The current value is approximately \$125,000, or five \$1000 scholarships. To date the MEF Committee has been able to grant a scholarship to every applicant of the congregation attending an ELCA college or university. However, because of the growing number of youth in the congregation, it is apparent that the MEF needs to grow significantly.

The committee has established a 3-pronged program to assist with meeting this challenge. In the short term donations, gifts and memorials are being accepted, and the annual Easter Brunch Fundraiser has been established.

Intermediate-term, the committee has asked the Congregation Council to recommend to the congregation that \$5000 be made available annually to assist with the ministry. This support would be provided until the fund has grown enough to meet the anticipated needs. The council will make a decision on this request at its meeting this month.



# MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

In the long term, the solution to growing the fund appears to be through estate plan giving. To this end, the committee is concentrating on this process. Arrangements have been made for Erick Kephart, a Vice-President and Trust Officer at Decorah Bank & Trust, to assist with educating the congregation on the various aspects of estate plan giving. Erick will meet with the MEF Committee at its meeting this month and will present an Adult Forum at a later date, possibly in January.

Erick is a Decorah native who graduated from Decorah High School and was baptized and confirmed at Good Shepherd. His maternal grandparents, John and Jean Bruemmer, were founding members of Good Shepherd and Jean served for many years as the Good Shepherd Church Secretary. Erick graduated from Loras College in Dubuque and served in several banking positions before returning to Decorah as a DB&T Vice-President.

The MEF Committee is encouraging members of the congregation to consider ways they can include the Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund in their estate plans and to attend the Estate Plan Giving Adult Forum when the date is secured.



Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Krumkake Sales a success. We had a net sales of \$4,194. This is after expenses and 10% to the Nordic Fest board. We had over 125 volunteers who clocked in over 670 hours. WOW! Thank you to everyone who willingly volunteered when the call went out for extra help and to those who did not turn the other way or run and hide when we came to coffee hour with a sign up sheet. This congregation is truly amazing.

This fall we will be collecting items for **LWR school kits and baby care kits**. Thank you to all have donated supplies for kits during the month of August. We will continue to collect items until October 15. 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.

**The Upper Iowa Cluster** will hold their fall gathering on Saturday September 23 at First Lutheran in Cresco beginning with coffee at 8:30. Tom Spindler from the Norman Borlaug Foundation will present the program at 9 am. All are welcome to attend.

**"Just Love-live your faith in love that leads to justice"**. The 2023 triennial gathering of the Women of the ELCA will be held September 21-24 in Phoenix, Arizona. Bev Sheridan will be attending the convention prior to the gathering as a voting member.

## **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. In this Fall 2023 Gather Bible study, written by an ELCA missionary living in Jerusalem, we'll explore what holy places mean, not only for the Holy Land of the Bible, but for each of us, wherever we may be.



## September 2023

### Holy places: Home

Home can be the place we lay our head and the people we call family. Home can be our community or homeland. Home is also found wherever we truly and fully belong. This month, we consider the complexity and the promise of “home” through the stories of Israel’s exile, the ministry of Jesus, and the promises of Revelation. (from Gather magazine)

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

**Sept 18-24:** Women of the ELCA convention/gathering, Phoenix, AZ

**Sept 26:** Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 7 pm  
Connie Buresh-Bible study, Kathy Buzza-refreshments. All are welcome!

**Nov 4:** LWR in-gathering, Olson's Explosives, 7:30 am to 10:30 am



## We Are Holding Up This Work

At our last Racial Justice Team meeting, one of our members came in with a question. She had seen our new racial justice logo printed at the top of the Racial Justice Statement posted in the hallway for the first time and found herself wondering: What is it that we are holding up as we do this work?

That question led to immediate answers around the table: We are doing this because white congregations (as a whole, through the years) have failed. We are doing this because systematic racism is endemic to our culture (lots of fancy words there meaning it's all around us and we can't escape it). We are holding this up to God in prayer asking for help. We are holding this up to remind ourselves and each other of our commitment at Good Shepherd to work for racial justice for all whose lives are touched by racism.

We wonder what others at Good Shepherd are holding up as they look at the logo. What do you see as our commitment as a congregation? What is your commitment as an individual? How are you carrying a part of this work in your own life, as part of Good Shepherd, as part of God's call for justice for all members of the beloved community?

*We hold up our hands to you, O Lord, to declare that we need your help:  
In our hearts and in our minds, we have resolved to work towards racial justice,  
But this is culture-changing work, and it bewilders our souls.*

*We hold up our hands to you, our fingers bent with the weight of what we have inherited;  
Our revered foremothers and forefathers were humanly imperfect,  
They meted out injustice in their blindness to the common humanity of the people around them.*

*Teach us, O Lord, how to balance the love we naturally hold for our ancestors, despite their flaws, with the love for our neighbors which we must foreground in our hearts and in our actions.*

*We hold up our hands to declare that we are committed to this work;  
We hold up our hands in humility, O Lord, as we seek your guidance and your blessing;  
We hold up our hands with gratitude, that our eyes have been opened to the necessity of this work;*

*We hold up our hands in invitation, that our friends and neighbors might join us;  
We hold up our hands with hopefulness, that our resolve will lead to change;  
We hold up our hands, O Lord, for through you, we build your beloved community;  
We hold up our hands, O Lord, for with you, we love our neighbors as you commanded;  
We hold up our hands, O Lord, we hold up our hands.*



# 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](http://goodshepherddecorah.org)  
(563) 382 – 3963

Music performances by the  
**Good Shepherd Band**  
and  
**Slim Whimsy!**





# WELCOME FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS PICNIC

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The picnic will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Decorah on **Sunday, September 10 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM**. 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! There are many ways to get involved with the welcome friends and neighbors picnic. Sign up in the Gathering Space, or go to "Sign-Ups" on the website (or go to [tinyurl.com/gs-neighbors-picnic-2023](https://tinyurl.com/gs-neighbors-picnic-2023)) and find a way that fits you to get involved. Task descriptions are listed below in detail, and will be shared with you closer to the event as a reminder. Please direct any questions to the Church Office.

## PICNIC VOLUNTEER ROLES EXPLAINED:

### All Food/Drink donations

- When signing up add comments about what you are bringing in the "Comment" box
- Please bring to the Church kitchen by 4:30 on Sunday the 10th with a serving utensil
- Label all dishes and serving utensils so they make it back to you
- Please label any dietary notes (GF, V, Dairy free, etc.) as applicable

### Sunday Yard Setup

- Put tablecloths and centerpieces on tables, put up chairs. Generally make sure the space looks inviting.

### Greeter at Nametag Table

- Greet folks and invite them to put on a name tag
- Keep a tally of people that come (as able - it's ok if its a rough estimate)
- Set up "Welcome to Good Shepherd" cards at the welcome table by the name tags

### Coffee/Lemonade maker & Drink point person

- In charge of making coffee, decaf coffee, and lemonade prior to the event and throughout as needed. Help monitor drinks.

## **Dishes/Garbage**

- Set out and maintain plates, napkins, silverware, and cups on the table. We will be using all disposable products.
- Set up recycling and trash bins from the kitchen outside and place full bags in the large outdoor bins by the Annex. Replace trash bags with new ones found under the kitchen sink.

## **Food Point Person**

- Supervise the drop-off of food and help lead what food is set out right away and what is stored in the kitchen for later use.
- Make sure dishes/utensils are labeled with the person's name when they drop items off.
- Work with the food runners to organize the serving table and make sure food is labeled with any dietary specifications as needed.
- At the end of the night help organize food and dishes for people to take back home with them.

## **Food Runner**

- Assist Food Point Person in organizing and maintaining food on the serving table so things are fully stocked and labeled as needed.

## **Kids Activity Helpers**

- Help Kelli with activities and games!

## **Hot Dog Roaster**

- Good Shepherd provides the hot dogs and buns, but we need a volunteer to cook the hot dogs in a roaster, and set the roaster out on the serving table.

## **Kitchen Cleanup**

- Kitchen clean up should be happening throughout the event as possible
- Clean up kitchen as needed help with any food related cleaning/storing/labeling. As much as possible, food and dishes should be taken home by the people that brought them.

## **Yard Cleanup**

- Gather tablecloths & centerpieces, wipe off tables, and help take down/load tables and chairs. Tent is handled by Decorah Rental.
- Walk through and pick up any garbage/trash in the yard.

Good Shepherd will participate in the 2023 Culture Fest, formerly known as the Ethnic Arts Festival. This year the event will be a collaboration between Luther College and the City of Decorah. It will be **Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 3pm – 7pm in the parking lot where the Decorah Farmers Market is held.**

Culture Fest will provide an opportunity to celebrate the rich heritage of the diverse communities reflected on campus and in the community and region at large. The organizers believe it is important to have our area churches of various faiths represented at this event.

Good Shepherd's Congregation Council would like to share the story of Good Shepherd's culture of welcome and inclusion. **We will have a booth at the event** and may also be able to share some jazz worship. Would you like to help staff the booth and share the story of Good Shepherd? **Sign up on the Good Shepherd website or at [tinyurl.com/gs-culture-fest-booth-2023](https://tinyurl.com/gs-culture-fest-booth-2023)** for a half hour block! There will be two people at a time at the booth.







# God is love. Love is love.

*Decorah Christians United in Celebrating Pride*

## A PUBLIC WITNESS AT THE DECORAH PRIDE FESTIVAL

*Saturday, September 16, 2023*

Decorah Christians who support the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to join in public witness to God's welcoming, inclusive love during the Decorah Pride Festival. **Here's how you can participate:**

### **1:00 P.M.: BRIEF PRAYER SERVICE AND SIGN MAKING PARTY, DECORAH UCC**

Gather in front of Decorah Congregational United Church of Christ, 209 W Broadway St. Sign making supplies & treats will be available during and after the prayer service.

### **2:30 P.M.: LINE UP FOR UNIFIED PRIDE PARADE WITNESS, RIVERSIDE AVE**

Individuals and openly welcoming congregations/ministries will be united behind a banner proclaiming **God is Love. Love is Love.** Gather at Riverside Ave.

### **3:30 P.M.: JOIN IN THE PRIDE PARTY IN THE PARK, HEIVLY GREEN SPACE**

*(by the softball diamond/John Cline/Tennis courts)* Food trucks, vendors, games, bouncy houses, fellowship and more!

Decorah Christians United in Celebrating Pride is a joint witness of five Decorah Christian congregations/ministries that are openly and explicitly welcoming and affirming of LGBTQIA+ people:

*Decorah First United Methodist Church, Decorah Congregational United Church of Christ, First Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Luther College Ministries.*

**ALL WHO SUPPORT  
PRIDE ARE WELCOME  
TO JOIN IN THIS  
UNIFIED WITNESS!**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT DECORAH PRIDE: [DECORAHPRIDE.ORG](https://decorahpride.org)**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** Do you enjoy crocheting or knitting? As we move from summer into fall the Prayer Shawl Ministry will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 1:00-3:00 in the Gathering Space at the church. New members please join us! Yarn will be available. Confirmands, 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](mailto:jeri.laursen@gmail.com) or 608-498-8069.



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

**DURING FIVE ADULT FORUMS 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.



**A BABY SHOWER FOR BOWEN YANEFF** will be held **Sunday, September 3rd** during Fellowship Hour. Everyone is invited to a Baby Shower for Bowen Yaneff, son of Erica and Nick Yaneff, who was born July 11. Aemon is Bowen's big brother.

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LUTHER STUDENTS!** We are hoping to welcome Luther students to Fellowship Hour throughout the month of September. Please be on the lookout for students and invite them to Fellowship Hour with you!



**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](http://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.

**THERE WILL BE A FREE COMMUNITY MEAL** on **Thursday, September 7th, 5:00 - 6:15 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.

**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.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO OPEN HUB SINGING CLUB**, an 8 week series of song circles, to experience joy in community through voice and song! Liz Rog leads Open Hub, an inclusive and warm singing community open to all regardless of experience. If you're curious, consider attending the first week of open exploration before deciding to join - no commitment! First week is Sept 10, but you are welcome the second week if the picnic keeps you from coming! Registration and more info at [CenterforBelonging.earth](http://CenterforBelonging.earth) , or call Liz at **563-382-8013**. The club will sing simple, soul-nourishing songs learned by ear, songs that were made to nourish and enliven us, to help us heal and grieve, and to hold our hand as we find our way home to a sense of belonging and joy. Open Hub meets at the Pulpit Rock Events Space, 8 Sundays from 3:30-5:00. All are Welcome!



# CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

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August 15, 2023 - 7:00 PM

Attending: Brian Caton, Karin Martin-Huber, Marilyn Rue, Kris Peterson, Anne Clausen, Amy Zalk Larson, Guest: Jim Fritz

Jim Fritz presented the proposal of Prairie planting on the side of the back property near the neighboring condos. 35 x 135 leaving a strip to be mowed around it so it will not infringe on the neighbor. 80% wildflower 20% grasses. Locally sourced seeds. Hydro seeded. 2 to 3 years for it to come in. Will need to use an herbicide.

Kris Peterson is leading the meeting as Tim is with his Mother.

## 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 - Marilyn
- 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?

## Consent Agenda

- Approval of June 2023 Council Meeting Minutes
- Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)
- Receiving New Members to the Congregation
  - Brad, Shelly and Holly Hurst
  - William Kurth and Amelia Kurth

Anne motioned and Brian seconded approving the Agenda. Approved by all.

## Discussion Agenda

- Approval of Treasurer's Report Karin motions to approve and Marilyn seconded the motion to pass the treasurer's report and it was passed.
- Prairie grass proposal Anne makes a motion and Karin seconds and the motion is passed to put a prairie in the backyard. Jim please talk with Kinderhaus and gardeners concerning the timing of the herbicide.
- Mission Green Update, dedication on Sunday, Sept. 10 during Fellowship hour, update bulletins It has been discussed that we would like facilities and grounds to look at possible branding such as logo with Mission Green and people with interest.
- Special Appeal Update: **current total including matching gift is \$17,382.63**

Brian made a motion to use the additional funds gathered beyond what was used for furniture and other courtyard items. Marilyn seconded the motion and it was passed.

- Fall Stewardship Goal: we will need about \$30,000 more next year. Anne makes a motion and Karin seconded that we ask for this increase in fall stewardship goal and it was passed.
- Courtyard furniture process and disposal of old Picnic tables. The council would like to donate the old picnic tables to Center for Belonging and Liz Rog.

# CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

21

August 15, 2023 - 7:00 PM

- Mission Endowment: They are asking for \$5000 from the budget, we tabled this until Sept. As part of that conversation, the council will consider guidance for MEF regarding fundraising including direct appeals and the Easter brunch.
- Ministry to College Students
  - Luther College has invited us to a Ministry Fair on Monday, September 18 from 10:15-11:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Center for Faith and Life. Brooke and Pr. Amy will represent Good Shepherd.
  - We will advertise the picnic to students.
  - Flocks will be encouraged to connect with students.
  - Key student leaders are inviting others to walk to Good Shepherd with them.

**Announcements – Newsletter Deadline is August 25, 2023 (always the 25th of the month)**  
**Next Council meeting - Sept 19, 2023 7:00pm**

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer** Brian motioned and Marilyn seconded motion to adjourn and it was passed.

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

**Education Committee**

**Outreach and Hospitality Committee**

**Facilities and Grounds Committee**

**Stewardship Committee**

**Worship and Music**

**Pastor's Report**

1. Youth service trip
2. VBS recap
3. ELCA Discipleship in a Democracy Discussion

**President**

**Vice President**

**Secretary**

**July Treasurer's Report -**

Total income to date is \$214,924; total expenses are \$220,757. That means our deficit at the end of July was \$5,832. That is lower than it has been for most of the year, suggesting we are moving toward a balanced budget. We are slightly behind on our benevolence giving but presumably won't have as many large costs in the remaining months as we had earlier in the year.

Regarding giving, our projected regular offering through July would be \$192,500 and our actual regular offering was \$190,274. In other words, we are right on target.

According to Tristan's calculations, we already have received the income necessary to cover the costs of the French drain. Much of that money has come in after the end of July but I will provide a full summary of the costs and income for that project next month.

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Sep 2023 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Rally Sunday</b> 9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 11:30am - Civic Life and Faith.	27 9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS	28 9am - Church Office Hours 7pm - Kinderhaus Parent	29 9am - Church Office Hours 4pm - Outreach & Hospitality 6pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary 6:15pm - Trumpet lessons @ 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @	30 9am - Church Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 2:30pm - Piano lessons @ 5pm - Social Justice Team	31 <b>First Day of Kinderhaus for new</b> <b>Pastor Amy day off</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 3pm - Path to Citizenship Legal 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @	1 <b>First Day of Kinderhaus for all</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @
3 8:45am - Handbells warm up for 9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Baby Shower for Yaneff 10:45am - Fellowship Hour 5pm - Luther College Music Dept.	4 <b>Kinderhaus Closed for Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed for Labor Day</b> 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS 7pm - Sangerfest meeting @	5 <b>First Day of Kinderhaus for all</b> 9am - Church Office Hours	6 9am - Bobbers coffee 9am - Church Office Hours 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ 7pm - Rhapsody quartet rehearsal 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @	7 <b>Recycle</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 5pm - Decorah Community Meal @ 5pm - Education Committee 6pm - Racial Justice Team @	8 <b>Bradley Hanson ordination</b> <b>Pastor Amy day off</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @	9 <b>Kinderhaus Closed for Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed for Labor Day</b> 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS 7pm - Sangerfest meeting @
10 8:45am - Band warms up for 9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Dedication of Pergola 5pm - Welcome Friends and	11 9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS	12 9am - Church Office Hours 2pm - Aase Haugen Bingo	13 9am - Bobbers coffee @ 9am - Church Office Hours 10am - Eastern Star/Arin Falck 2:30pm - Aase Haugen 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation Class 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @	14 <b>Decorah PRIDE</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 1pm - Travel Club Fellowship & 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library	15 <b>Pastor Amy day off</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @	16 <b>Pride Parade &amp; Party in the Park</b>
17 8:45am - Choir warms up for 9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Fellowship Hour	18 9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS	19 9am - Church Office Hours 6:30pm - Sons of Norway @ 7pm - Congregation Council	20 9am - Church Office Hours 1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry and 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation Class 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @ 8pm - Confirmation meeting with	21 <b>Recycle</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library 4pm - Stewardship Committee @ 6:45pm - MEF Committee Meeting	22 <b>Pastor Amy day off</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @	23 11am - Jack Kemp North baptism 3pm - Luther College & Decorah
24 8:30am - Jazz ensemble warms 9:30am - In-person Worship & 10:45am - Fellowship Hour	25 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours 6:30pm - ALANON @ GS	26 9am - Church Office Hours 11am - Glenn Nelson Memorial 7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather	27 9am - Church Office Hours 7pm - Choir rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation Class 7:45pm - Band rehearsal @	28 9am - Church Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library 2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library	29 <b>Pastor Amy day off</b> 9am - Church Office Hours 5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @	30 6pm - Kinderhaus Autumn