

# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE



*November 2023*

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*Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church*



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

*Ephesians 2:19-22 "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."*

Beloved People of God,

This month, I invite you to reflect upon the above scriptures that are the basis of our fall stewardship appeal. God has given us an incredible gift by making us members of the household of God. We belong. We have a purpose larger than ourselves.

God has also given us a strong foundation for hope with Christ Jesus. Sometimes it can feel like the world is falling apart. Yet God has not abandoned us. Instead, God is at work building us up into a spiritual house. Together as God's people, we become a temple of God's presence and a way God is known in the world. The spiritual house of this congregation provides strength and shelter and sends us out to help others know God's presence with them.

We are invited to give generously to this spiritual house because it is good for us. The practice of giving forms us into grateful and generous people. Jesus says where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. We shape our hearts and our lives by how we choose to use our money and our time. Giving also helps us to trust that God will provide and experience the abundance God gives when we live our small selves behind.

We are also invited to give generously because we can do more together to help others experience God's loving care. This is certainly true for us as part of the ELCA. Together as the ELCA we are accompanying God's people in Ukraine, the Middle East, South Sudan, Maui, on the Southern Border and in so many other places through our Lutheran Disaster Response. Through our Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services we are helping to welcome others into shelter and safety. Our Lutheran Social Services ministry helps families to stay together in their homes and our ELCA World Hunger ministry works to help all people have enough to eat. Good Shepherd gives 26% of our operating expenses to ministry beyond the congregation. When you give to Good Shepherd, you can know that you are building up a worldwide house of refuge and shelter.

I also want to invite you to pray with one of my favorite prayers from Ephesians 3:14-21, below. When things look and feel hopeless, we can trust that, through Christ, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. We can hope. We can love. We can trust. We can give. God is at work building us up to care for us and to care for all creation.

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*"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

Peace to you,  
Pr. Amy

## SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

	First Reading	Psalm Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
<b>Nov. 5</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b>	<b><u>Revelation 7:9-17</u></b> <i>The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb</i>	<b><u>Psalm 34:1-10, 22</u></b> <i>Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord; for those who fear the Lord lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)</i>	<b><u>1 John 3:1-3</u></b> <i>We are God's children</i>	<b><u>Matthew 5:1-12</u></b> <i>Blessed are the poor in spirit</i>
	First Reading	Psalm Reading	Second Reading	
<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b><u>Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25</u></b> <i>Joshua calls Israel to serve the Lord</i>	<b><u>Psalm 78:1-7</u></b> <i>We will recount to generations to come the power of the Lord. (Ps. 78:4)</i>	<b><u>1 Thessalonians 4:13-18</u></b> <i>The promise of the resurrection</i>	
<b>Nov. 19</b>	<b><u>Judges 4:1-7</u></b> <i>The judgeship of Deborah</i>	<b><u>Psalm 123</u></b> <i>Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy. (Ps. 123:2)</i>	<b><u>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</u></b> <i>Be alert for the day of the Lord</i>	
	First Reading	Psalm Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
<b>Nov. 26</b> <b>Christ the King Sunday</b>	<b><u>Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24</u></b> <i>God will shepherd Israel</i>	<b><u>Psalm 95:1-7a</u></b> <i>We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)</i>	<b><u>Ephesians 1:15-23</u></b> <i>The reign of Christ</i>	<b><u>Matthew 25:31-46</u></b> <i>The coming of the Son of Man; the separation of sheep and goats</i>

# PRAYER FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

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prayer offered by Jane Jakoubek

Eternal God, thank you for being our refuge and strength in a world where everything changes—absolutely everything, except you. Help us to see your unfailing light, love, and life radiating in and around and through all the changes life brings.

Be with us as we face changes in our own lives: in our health; in our relationships; in the world around us. Guide us as followers of Jesus to bring all our hopes and concerns to you. Help us to trust that your unfailing love is with us always.

Be with us as we face changes in our nation, especially the political and social landscape. Guide us as followers of Jesus to bring our voices and our actions to support the common good. Help us to trust that your unfailing love is with us always.

Be with us as we face changes as we live out our commitments to social and racial justice: seeing history anew; facing the feelings that come as we do this work; learning how to care for the lives of others as much as we care for our own. Guide us as followers of Jesus to do all this hard work with love. Help us to trust that your unfailing love is with us always.

Help us face change, O God. Help us to trust that your unfailing love is with us always. Amen.

## SUNDAY MUSIC SCHEDULE

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>November</b>	
<b>11/5</b>	Handbells play at start of service and offertory
<b>11/12</b>	Choir sings offertory, Sunday School kids sing
<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!



## 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. Each of us comes to this place for our own unique reasons, whether it be the fellowship of Sunday worship, the joy of serving in youth ministries, advocating for racial and social justice, performing music in praise of God, or helping to keep the church's facilities in tip-top shape. **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. So, **THANK YOU** for being a key part, a living stone, of this spiritual house.

Our Stewardship Appeal this year focuses on being **Living Stones** ... on building the foundations to grow together within our faith community and reaching out into our neighborhoods.

- Through creative staffing and with the spiritual engagement of our members, we are able to hold the line on expenses for next year, with about **\$10,000 in general inflation adjustments**.
- At the same time, as we grow, we are experiencing generational turnover. We memorialize some of our elder members who have passed away or moved this year. This has an impact on giving at the higher levels, and leaves an **income gap projected ~ \$15,000**.

To keep pace with operational costs and to continue to support this growing and vibrant congregation, the Stewardship Committee is seeking to **increase giving by \$25,000 above 2023 levels**.

**Building together requires each of us**, with each of our varied gifts, working together to cement a foundation of living stones that will continue to grow.

If many of us can "level up", that is, move up a level or more on the giving chart, we can renew our support base from within. This leveling up, combined with our increased membership, will enable us to cover this gap. Please prayerfully consider leveling up your giving in the coming year to support our spiritual home together.

Plan to bring your intent for 2024 to worship on November 12th to come together and celebrate being living stones, building the foundations for one another for years to come.

Intents can be mailed to the office, made online on the website under "giving", or brought with you to worship on the 12th.



# NOW WHAT?

by Cheri Lane

In September, the Racial Justice Committee invited the congregation and community to join in five ELCA-hosted Zoom sessions on the topic of Indian Boarding Schools. These sessions were hosted at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and shared for online viewing as a learning opportunity. Some of the sessions are recorded and can be viewed here.



Vance Blackfox, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and ELCA director for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations, hosted these sessions and many people in our community joined both in-person and virtually via Zoom. While these sessions were wonderful learning opportunities, the question on the minds and hearts of our Social Justice Committee is "now what?" Is there a tangible action we should be taking or encouraging? Or were these just great learning and awareness opportunities that we can store in our 'back pocket' that we might take out in the future as we come across an opportunity? I'm not sure there is a right or wrong answer here, but I do like to remind myself on occasion of a favorite Henry T. Blackaby (author of "Experiencing God") quote--*"We don't choose what we will do for God; He invites us to join Him where He wants to involve us."* And I'm also reminded from past experience that God calls us in different ways and at different times and to different needs.

While we continue to learn, for those feeling a calling to learn more or take some tangible action, I've listed a few suggestions below. And for those of you who are interested in how this connects to the ELCA church, here's a short historical summary. In 2016 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly memorialized the "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery," claiming this action for implementation across all expressions of the church. Yet there was very little action until 2021 when a task force was initiated and subsequently, the position of ELCA director for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations was created in the fall of 2021. You can learn more at ELCA Indigenous Ministries at <https://elca.org/indigenous>.

*continued on next page*

# NOW WHAT?

## TANGIBLE ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE IN 5 MINUTES

- Encourage our federal government to pass the Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act (S.1723): ([Click here](#))
- Donate to this Iowa/Midwest initiative. The Honor Native Land Fund (HNLFF) provides an opportunity for non-Native people living in the Midwest to contribute to Native efforts to restore land by financially supporting the return of land in Iowa to the Indigenous-led Great Plains Action Society (GPAS). [You can support this cause here.](#)
  - Due to colonial agriculture and the forced removal of Indigenous people, Iowa is the most biologically altered state in the U.S.:
    - 99.9% of Prairies are gone
    - About two-thirds of Iowa's 36 million acres are planted in crops (corn, soybeans, hay, etc.), which require fertilizer, insecticides, herbicides, and petroleum.
    - Over 97 percent of Iowa has been altered for cities, roads, and agricultural use.
    - Over 98% of agricultural land in Iowa is owned by white people. The Great Plains Action Society - an Indigenous-led organization made up of Meskwaki, Ho Chunk, Ioway, and other Indigenous people - are working to heal the racial and ecological harms of such colonization by restoring land and water in Iowa to Indigenous stewardship.

## TANGIBLE ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE IN 2 HOURS

- Go see the October 20th major movie release, Killers of Flower Moon ([movie trailer here](#)) or read the book.
- Read the U.S. Dept. of Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Investigative Report. ([Click here](#))

## TANGIBLE ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE IN MORE THAN 2 HOURS:

- Watch the Ken Burns documentary, "We Shall Remain" ([Click here](#))
- Join the ELCA research initiative to return Indian Boarding School records to their rightful ancestors or another activist organization that supports justice for the indigenous peoples of this land. ([Click here](#))



**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.

## **Upcoming Fundraisers to support this trip:**

### **IMPACT COFFEE SALES**

- FINAL day to order is Sunday, Nov. 5th. Pick up Nov. 12 & 19 in the Fellowship Hall
- Choose either whole bean or ground:
  - 2 medium roast (Guatemala or Mexico)
  - 2 dark roast (Brazil or House Roast)
  - 1 decaf (Ethiopia)

Depending on the type of coffee ordered, the cost is either \$14 or \$15 per 16 oz bag, due when ordering with cash or check. Make checks to Good Shepherd, with Youth Coffee Fundraiser on the memo line. All sales to the Good Shepherd Congregation will be split equally between the youth.

### **LEAF RAKING**

- Leaf Raking for free-will donation: Sign-up [HERE](#) to have your leaves raked by youth!
- Oct. 29-Nov. 5th

### **GIFT WRAPPING:**

- Bring your christmas presents to be wrapped by Youth during Fellowship Hour on **December 10th**. GS Youth will provide the wrapping paper and joyous elf-wrapping spirit. Wrapped presents will be ready for pick-up from the Annex after Fellowship Hour. Free-will donation.
  - **RSVP** with any special notes (like "bubble wrap please") in the Gathering Space on **Nov. 26th and Dec. 3rd** or by emailing Kelli @ [kelli@goodshepherddecorah.org](mailto:kelli@goodshepherddecorah.org)

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DINNER**

- Dinner following the Christmas Program: Dec. 17, 5:30 PM. Simple dinner of sandwiches, chips, and dessert.
  - Free-Will donations for meal will go to the trip.
  - Youth attending the Gathering will be in charge of setting up/serving/cleaning up and providing desserts for the meal.



# THE SEASON OF ADVENT: DANCING, DREAMING, AND SINGING IN THE DARKNESS.

The season of advent begins on Sunday, December 3rd. Here are some things to look forward to at Good Shepherd. There will be more detailed information as we get closer.

Advent theme: **Dancing, Dreaming, and Singing in the Darkness.** This will be our theme for Wednesdays, Sundays, and our devotional. Wednesday nights we'll reflect on the book *Dancing in the Darkness*. On Sundays we'll focus on dreaming. Our devotional will help us to sing in the dark.

## ADVENT WORSHIP:

**Advent Evening Worship:** Dec. 6, 13, 20 at 5:30pm

- **Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Wisdom for Turbulent Times** inspired by the book by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III. We'll sing Negro Spirituals and reflect on Dr. Moss's teaching.
- Pr. Amy highly recommends this book - it was read for a book discussion series this summer and was so powerful it is now the guide for Good Shepherds advent worship.

**Christmas Eve Worship,** Sunday, 24th at 5pm

- *note, there is no Christmas Day worship.*

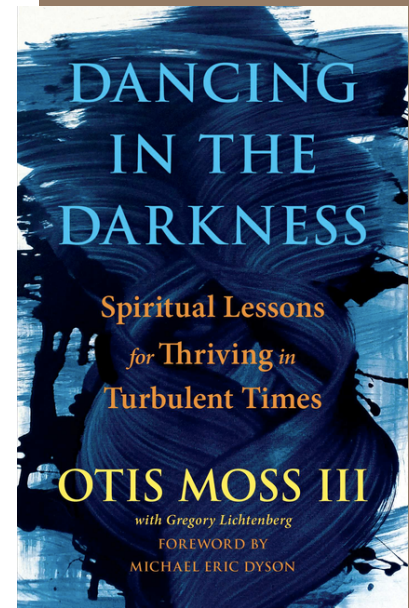
**Lessons and Carols:** Sunday, Dec. 31

**LENTEN SPECIAL OFFERING:** will go to LDR Middle East Crisis: Lutheran Disaster Response is working with partners in the Middle East to get humanitarian supplies to people affected by the Israel-Hamas War

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** December 17th, 5:00 pm

- Simple sandwich/chips/desserts meal to follow with free-will donations to raise funds for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
- Youth attending the Youth Gathering will be in charge of setting up/serving/and cleaning up the meal. They will also provide desserts.
- Rehearsals for the Christmas Program are: Dec. 3, 10, 17 during Sunday School

**AUGSBURG FORTRESS DEVOTIONAL:** Come, Emmanuel: Devotions for Advent and Christmas 2023-2024. Good Shepherd will be purchasing Devotionals for this Advent. A donation of \$3.50 is encouraged to cover the cost of this order.



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**



**Make a joyful noise!** Sunday School students will be singing during worship on **November 12th**. Parents please have children arrive at 9:00am on Sunday to practice briefly.

**Reminders:** There will be no Sunday School on November 5th and 26th

**“EXPLORING GOD’S WORD TOGETHER” CLASS FOR 3rd-6th graders and parents** All 3rd-6th graders and parents are invited to a special class on Exploring God’s Word Together with Pastor Amy. The class will allow kids and parents to explore the Bible together. Nov. 12 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. On Sunday, November 19, Good Shepherd will help you keep one of your baptismal promises by giving you a Bible to place in your child’s hand. All parents or caregivers of children in 3rd-6th grade will present a Bible to their child during worship. If you can't be there on November 19, you will still receive a Bible to present to your child.

**FUNDRAISERS FOR ELCA YOUTH GATHERING:** This summer 14 Good Shepherd Youth and 2 adult leaders will be going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans - to help fund this trip, the youth will be doing fundraisers throughout the year. The detailed list is on page 8 of the newsletter. This month look out for:

- Leaf Raking
- FINAL coffee sales THIS Sunday, Nov. 5th
- Gift Wrapping

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** December 17th, 5:00 pm

- Simple sandwich/chips/desserts meal to follow with free-will donations to raise funds for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
- Youth attending the Youth Gathering will be in charge of setting up/serving/and cleaning up the meal. They will also provide desserts.
- Rehearsals for the Christmas Program are: Dec. 3, 10, 17 during Sunday School



A **big thank you to everyone who contributed to our LWR kits this fall.** We were able to complete **68 baby care kits and 66 school kits.** Volunteers are needed on Friday November 3 at 1:30 pm to load vehicles that will be taking the kits to Olson Trucking on Saturday. If someone has a large vehicle or trailer to haul kits, that would be helpful also. The kits will then be delivered to the warehouse in St. Paul along with donations from other churches in Northeast Iowa. Contact Bev or Gail if you can help.



## **Gather Bible Study**

We will meet on November 28 at 7 pm for our Gather bible study at the church. This will be the 5th Tuesday of the month due to Thanksgiving week.

## **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.

## **November 2023**

Holy places: Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage, a journey to a sacred place, is a spiritual practice with a long history in Christianity (and many other religions). In the Bible, pilgrimage is not only about the destination, but also about the "holy place" of the journey itself. Considering the journey of the Magi, the walk to Emmaus, and Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, we'll ponder how pilgrimage can inspire, challenge and transform our faith and our lives. (from the Gather magazine)

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

- **November 3, 1:30pm:** Load vehicles at Fellowship Hall for delivery of LWR school and baby kits
- **November 28, 7:00 pm:** Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, Kathy Buzza-Bible study, Sharon Drew-refreshments. All are welcome!



# UPDATE FROM SEMINARIAN KATHRYN THOMPSON

Beloved Good Shepherd,

As I begin my last year of seminary, I again send my thanks for the continued financial support for my seminary and candidacy journey. It means so much to have my home congregation support my family and I in this way.

I wrapped up my one-year chaplaincy residency with Gundersen Health System at the end of August. It was a life-changing year of growth and experiences, which will inform my ministry for a lifetime. I also completed some congregational components at First Lutheran Church in Onalaska, WI. While my formal internship with them has ended, I am serving with them this fall as a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) while their assistant pastor is on sabbatical. It has been enriching to preach and preside regularly during this transitional period.

We will remain in LaCrosse, WI, for this final year of seminary while I complete my coursework virtually. We continue to explore this beloved Driftless region and enjoy picnics at Riverside Park along the Mississippi.

I am in the final steps of the candidacy process, and I invite you to pray for: my approval for Word and Sacrament ministry, our family's discernment, and placement for First Call.

Many thanks to you, Good Shepherd, for the ways you continue to accompany my family and I through this journey. We continue to pray for you and call this congregation "home".

Peace to you!

Kathryn Thompson (Sara and Greta, too!)





**BLESSING FOR THOSE WHO PROVIDE FOOD:** Each month in worship, Good Shepherd is offering blessings for the vocations, or callings, we have in the larger the world. This month we are blessing all those who provide food through their work, business, and/or volunteer service and those retired from such vocations. We will be blessing you on Sunday, Nov. 12 during the service. You will simply be invited to stand and receive a blessing. If you can't be there that morning, know that your congregation is praying for you and is grateful for how you do God's work in the world! Feel free to invite others to be blessed!

**BINGO at AASE HAUGEN HELPERS NEEDED:** Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, Nov. 7th from 2-3:00 pm to join in playing Bingo with the residents at Aase Haugen. Specific prizes are needed as well - the Church reimburses for the prizes, we just need a volunteer to get them. Contact Erica at [erica@goodshepherddecorah.org](mailto:erica@goodshepherddecorah.org) for more information and to sign-up. A Sign-Up is also available in the Gathering Space.

**GOOD SHEPHERD INFORMATION MEETING:** Interested in becoming a member or learning more about Good Shepherd Lutheran Church? Pr. Amy will be leading an informational meeting following worship on Nov. 5th. This is an informal gathering designed to give you a chance to get to know more about Good Shepherd and to ask any questions that you might have. **We will welcome NEW MEMBERS on SUNDAY, November 19th during worship.**

**JOE MAILANDER of OKEE DOKEE BROTHERS PLAYING IN WORSHIP: Sunday, Nov. 5th** Joe Mailander of the band "Okee Dokee Brothers" will be offering a song during worship. Joe has been worshipping with Good Shepherd this fall and is grateful to get to offer music here!

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** Do you enjoy crocheting or knitting? Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the third Wednesday of each month 1:00-3:00, September thru May 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.

**FREE COMMUNITY MEAL** on Thursday, November 2nd, 5:00 - 6 7th, 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.

**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.

**THANK YOU from LifeServe Blood Center:** We often save the month of November to vocalize all we are thankful for. I challenge each of you to share your thankfulness each day. Every day at LifeServe Blood Center, we receive dozens of messages from blood recipients, expressing their thankfulness for the work we do. We pass that thankfulness on to all those that assist us in making sure our community hospitals have the blood products they need on the shelves. As a non-profit community blood center, we could not do what we do without the help of organizations, churches, radio stations, newspapers, and social media outlets sharing the information about upcoming events. LifeServe Blood Center is excited to collect lifesaving blood products at an upcoming blood drive in your community!



*Thank You*

Decorah Congregational United Church of Christ  
thanks you for your recent help and support  
restoring the message of welcome for everyone in  
our community.

*With gratitude, the Decorah UCC Church Council and Congregation*

# CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

15

Oct 17, 2023, 7:00 PM

**Attending:** Tim Lecander, Chris Johnson, Pr Amy , Anne Clausen, Brian Caton, Marilyn Rue, Cindy Ernst, Kaarin Martin Hiner, **by zoom:** Kris Peterson

## **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
- 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? Brian moved that we approve the agenda, Chris Johnson seconded it. The motion passed.

### **LINK TO 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**

1. Approval of September 2023 Council Meeting Minutes [September Council Minutes](#)
2. Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)

### **Discussion Agenda**

1. Approval of **Treasurer's Report** Chris moved and Marilyn seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.
2. Budget Deficit Plan:
  - A proposal: we use the additional monies that were raised over what is needed for the courtyard since most of the overrun this year is related to Facilities and Grounds and Mission Green work. Those who gave to the courtyard project gave in support of the Mission Green work and this is a good use for those funds. The courtyard furniture can wait until we have grants or possibly another appeal. We are considering tabling this proposal so that we can earmark these monies to cover deficits in the Facilities and Grounds if there is anyone who would rather their specific offering be kept out specifically for Solar Courtyard Furniture let that be known.
3. Appoint 2 council members to nominating committee:
  - *Nominating Committee: Tim Lecander, Kris Peterson, Matt Tapscott, Marty Steele, Pastor Amy, Council member Lise Kildegaard. Chris Johnson made a motion to accept this composition Cindy seconded it. It passed.*
4. Designate Advent/Christmas offerings
  - A proposal, **Lutheran Disaster Response**: Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land. The ELCA has a longstanding relationship with partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners and will be prepared to answer calls for assistance when the time comes. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has issued a letter of solidarity to Bishop Dr. Sani-Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. In it, she writes, "I encourage the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to unite in prayer for the families of innocent civilians whose lives were lost, as well as pray for healing for all the injured, fearful and traumatized. I pledge our accompaniment and support to you as the Evangelical....."



# CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

16

Oct 17, 2023, 7:00 PM

Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and its ministries provide 'critical and timely assistance (psychological and otherwise) to those affected by this war.' "Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters in the region. Cindy moves that we accept this proposal; seconded by Marilyn. We voted and the motion carries.

**Announcements - Newsletter Deadline is October 25, 2023 (always the 25th of the month)**

**Next Council meeting - Nov. 21, 2023 7:00pm**

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

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

## **Education Committee**

- Those who are willing to help with Sunday School will be asked for the times they aren't available and then scheduled by the office.
- Upcoming fundraising for ELCA Youth Gathering: Impact Coffee Sales, raking days, Christmas present wrapping, youth helping with Christmas program and meal afterwards
- Bible Milestone class for 3rd-6th graders - Nov. 12 during SS time (with parents); Present Bibles on Nov. 19 during worship

## **Outreach and Hospitality Committee**

- Community picnic

## **Stewardship Committee**

- Theme: Living Stones: Building Up Our Spiritual House *"Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house."* 1 Peter 2:5
- Campaign Goal: \$25,000: \$10,000 in inflation adjustments of current budget levels, \$15,000 to replace major givers who passed away or moved

## **Worship and Music**

- Bobby Vrtis will compose a letter from the congregation (on letterhead) to be signed by members on October 29. With the letter, a check for \$650 (\$500 budgeted and \$150 (member gift) to be sent directly to the Jubilee Singers.
- The committee discussed the idea of blessing of vocations on a semi-regular basis and the blessing of the animals, possibly on Confirmation Sunday, October 29, in the evening.
- The committee discussed Reformation - Confirmation day jazz worship on October 29; All Saints Sunday, November 5; a theme for Advent; and a plan for Christmas Day.

## **Pastor's Report**

- Dirty Feet Retreat
- Stewardship appeal
- New Members Nov. 19

## **Treasurer - Treasurer's Report**



# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

17

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>29</div> <div>8:30am - Jazz ensemble warms</div> <div>9:30am - Affirmation of Baptism</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp;</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday school</div> <div>4pm - Blue Flock gathering</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - Social Justice Team @</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Church Office closed</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>1</div> <div>9am - Bobbers coffee @</div> <div>9am - Piano tuning</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation Class @</div> <div>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Recycle</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div> <div>5pm - Decorah Community Meal @</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>School K&amp;T loading</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>1:30pm - Loading vehicles for</div> <div>3pm - Path to Citizenship Legal</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div>	<div>4</div> <div>7:30am - LWR In-gathering @</div> <div>10:30am - Citizens Climate Lobby</div>
<div>5</div> <div>No Sunday School</div> <div>Okée Dokee Brother- Joe</div> <div>8:45am - Handbells warm up for</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp;</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>11am - New Member</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Election setup</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Election day</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>2pm - Aase Haugen Bingo</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Election cleanup</div> <div>9am - Bobbers coffee @</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Eastern Star/Arln Faick</div> <div>2:30pm - Aase Haugen</div> <div>5:30pm - Nominating Committee</div> <div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>4pm - Stewardship Committee</div> <div>5pm - Education Committee</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10:30am - Citizens for Climate</div>
<div>12</div> <div>Stewardship Sunday</div> <div>8:45am - Choir warms up for</div> <div>9am - Sunday School choir warms</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp;</div> <div>10:45am - Exploring God's Word</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday school</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>4:30pm - Staff meeting</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @</div> <div>5:15pm - Education Committee</div> <div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation Class @</div> <div>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Recycle</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>12:45pm - MEF Committee</div> <div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div> <div>3:15pm - Worship and Music</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div>	<div>18</div>
<div>19</div> <div>New Member Sunday</div> <div>8:45am - Band warms up for</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp;</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday school</div> <div>11am - Adult Forum on Palestine</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>5pm - Kinderhaus Fall</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>1pm - Kinderhaus Spring</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>6:30pm - Sons of Norway @</div> <div>7pm - Congregation Council</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Kinderhaus Closed for Staff</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div> <div>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Kinderhaus Closed for Thanksgiving</div> <div>Office Closed for Thanksgiving</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Office Closed for Thanksgiving</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div>
<div>26</div> <div>8:45am - Choir warms up for</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp;</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation Class @</div> <div>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Recycle</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div> <div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Pastor Amy day off</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div>	<div>2</div>