

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
... We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture ...

Psalms 100:3



**January 7th – Epiphany of Our Lord
Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call**

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.

God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection.

We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.

In keeping with our welcome, Good Shepherd is a *Reconciling in Christ* partner congregation, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. We are an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

The Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero Energy use.

Welcome guests! There is more information for you on the back of the bulletin.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship- ELW (red book in pew)
and All Creation Sings – ACS (purple book in pew)

Page numbers (p.) in front of red book and hymn numbers (#) in back of books;
congregational responses are in bold; rise in body or spirit when indicated by *

GATHERING

PRAYER BELL

PRELUDE: “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” - Dirck Sweelinck

WELCOME – ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING SONG:** ELW 275 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The first system includes four numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system is marked 'Refrain' and the fourth system concludes the song.

***GREETING:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Let us pray...**Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

- Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

- ¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²**that he may rule your | people righteously**
and the | poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,**
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,**
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.
¹¹May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,**
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.
¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,

and preserves the lives | of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-4, 712

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ...⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

- Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 302 As with Gladness Men of Old**



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.



***APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***BLESSING OF VOCATION** *Each month, the Worship and Music Committee has been offering blessings for the vocations, or callings, we have in the larger the world. Today we offer a blessing for all of us as we all bear light in the world in our various vocations.*

BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BEAR THE LIGHT by Jan Richardson

Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,

in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing it finds.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *Each petition ends...* God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

***PEACE:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary. Bows, signs, fist bumps, handshakes, are all honored!

MEAL

OFFERING MUSIC: “Blessing” - Joyce/Richardson

***OFFERING SONG:** ELW 296 What Child is This vs. 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;

come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;

let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high,

the virgin sings her lullaby;

joy, joy, for Christ is born,

the babe, the son of Mary!

***OFFERING PRAYER:** Let us pray...**Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING – HOLY:** p. 107-108, 110

***LORD’S PRAYER:** p. 112 – Our Father who art in heaven...

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ’s table. Ushers will direct you out of your pew, up the aisle near parking lot and to the altar rail where you can hold out your hands to receive gluten and dairy free bread. The plate of cups will then be offered for you to select wine or grape juice. If you prefer a blessing, indicate by placing your hands in front of your heart. If you need an individual, pre-packaged serving of bread and wine, please request that of your server. Place wine/juice cups in the basket by the altar as you return to your pew.

COMMUNION SONGS: Lamb of God p. 112-113; ELW 301 Bright and Glorious Is the Sky, ELW 300 The First Noel

1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no

heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly

All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her

heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

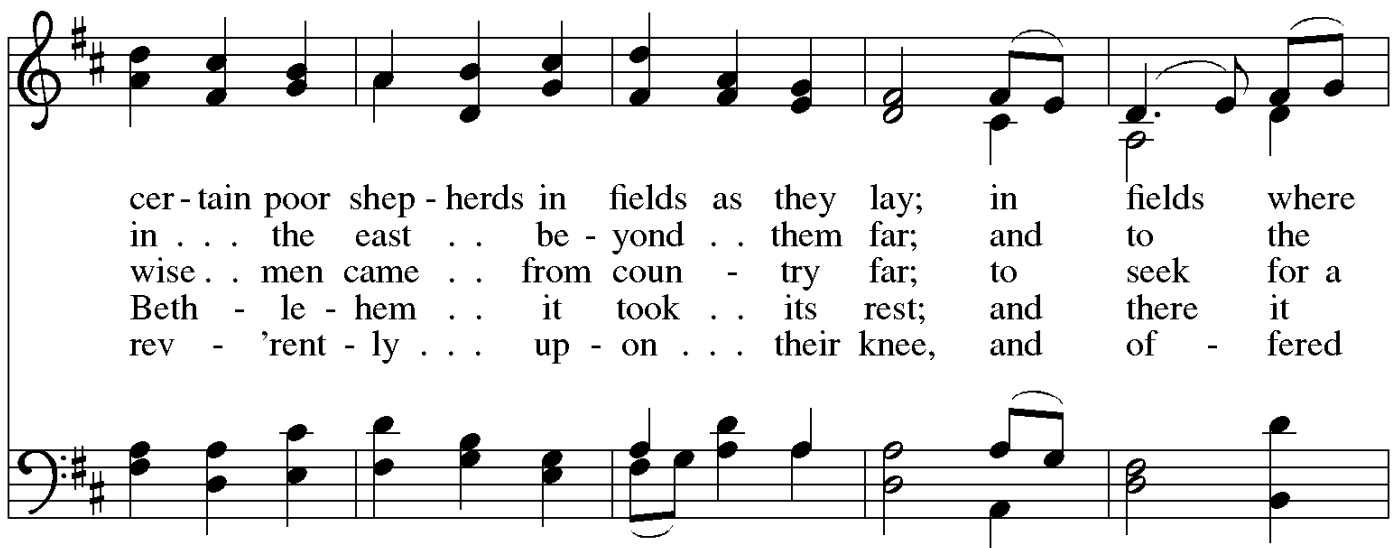
5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the Word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

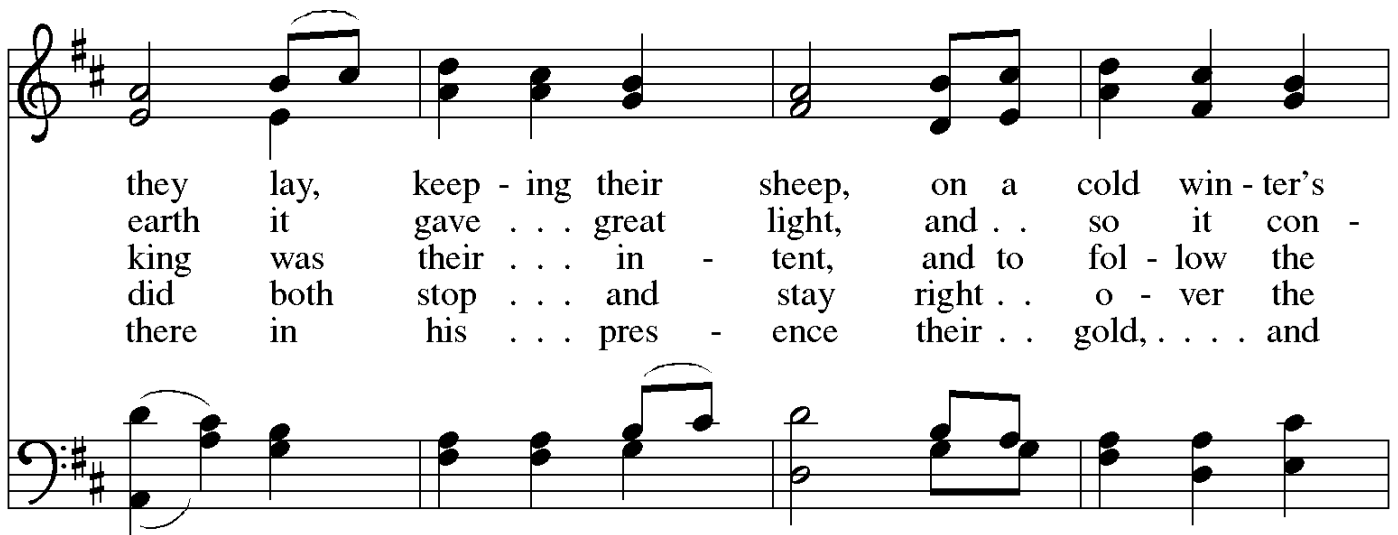
The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin-ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer-tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

TABLE BLESSING- PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING AT THE CONCLUSION OF A CALL

...As you leave this pulpit, we thank God for your preaching ministry. **Thanks be to God.**

... As you leave this font, we thank you for your ministry surrounding baptismal promises. **Thanks be to God.**

...As you leave this table, we thank you for presiding at the Sacrament of Holy communion. **Thanks be to God.**

... As you leave this sanctuary, we thank you for being with us in our times of loss. **Thanks be to God.**

... As you return you key, we thank you for your prayers, your diligent preparation and your careful listening. **Thanks be to God.**

... Thank you for journeying with us these years. **Thanks be to God...**

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING

People of God, members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, do you release Pr. Amy from service as your pastor?

We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together....

Let us pray...Amen.

SENDING

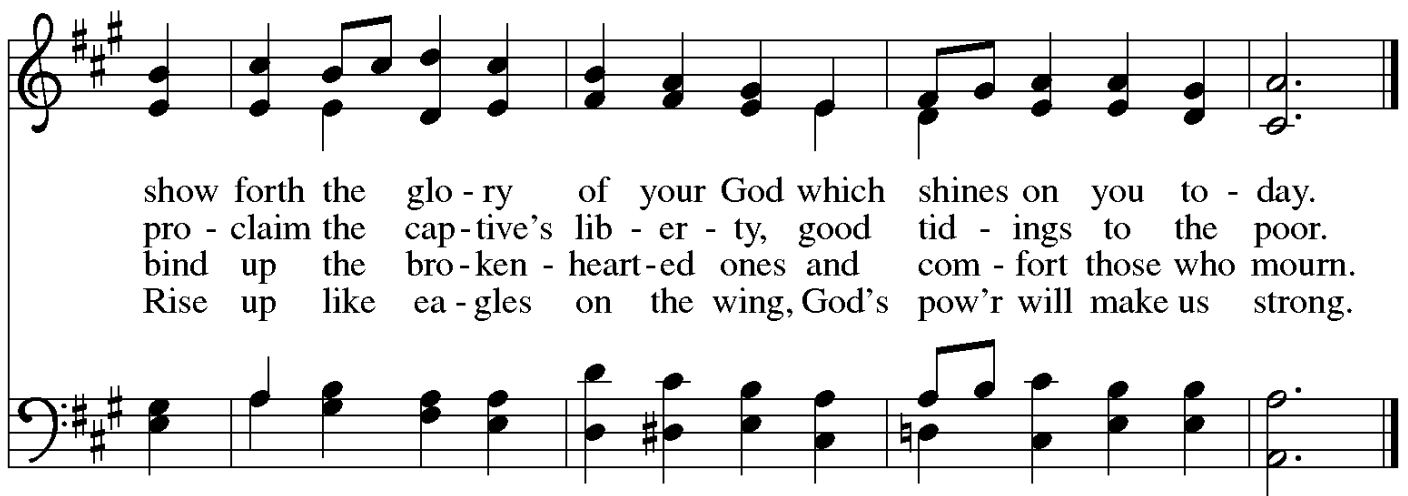
SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING ... Amen.**

***SENDING SONG: ELW 314 Arise Your Light Has Come**



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
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***PRAYER BELL**

***DISMISSAL: Go in peace, you are God's beloved. Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "When the Saints Go Marching In" - arr. Lanning

The postlude sends us out for service in the world. Feel free to use this time in any way that helps to send you out!

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY – USHERS & GREETERS:

Lindsay Erdman, Tim Lecander, Karla Erdman; READER: Richard Ylvisaker; CANTOR: Reg Laursen; ASSISTING MINISTER: Jane Kemp; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; PREACHER & PRESIDER: Pr. Amy Zalk Larson

Today we celebrate with Rose Vrtis on her first communion!

TRANSITION UPDATE:

- The Congregation Council has approved Megan Buckingham to serve as chair of the Call Committee. In this role she will join other leaders in beginning the organizational process of forming the Call Committee: discernment of nominees, Council approval, and introduction to and blessing of the congregation.
- Pastor David Wrightsman, our Intentional Interim Pastor, began serving Good Shepherd on Tuesday to help Pastor Amy and staff with the transition and participate in Pastor Amy's last Sunday. Pastor Dave's email is pastordavid@goodshepherddecorah.org

FAREWELL BRUNCH FOR PASTOR AMY TODAY! All are invited to a Farewell Brunch today after worship to celebrate Pastor Amy's time at Good Shepherd. The meal will be catered by U2 BBQ, so all can sit back and relax. Since there is no Sunday School, families can enjoy the brunch together! Overflow seating will be in the Library and Gathering Space if needed. There will be a photo slideshow of Pastor Amy's at Good Shepherd (uploaded to YouTube later), a memory book for all to write a memory, song, or verse for Pastor Amy, and a presentation of gifts and words of gratitude. The memory book will be on a table right inside the Fellowship Hall, with pens and paper to take to your table and write there if that is more comfortable.

OLIVE OIL ORDERS CAN BE PICKED UP: Martha Monson Lowe announces that the olive oil from the Mount of Olives has arrived and will be distributed at church. Please bring payment in cash or check (large bottle, \$35; small bottle, \$15) to collect your order.

- Additionally, some small bottles at \$15 are available for those who did not order previously.

- The olive oil supports Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, operated by the Lutheran World Federation.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE AND WINTER GREENS AT GOOD SHEPHERD:

Christmas trees and winter greens are being collected for the Easter Vigil bonfire on March 30. Please leave trees and greens in the space between the Annex and mower shed, and remove any metal and roping in wreaths and garland. Thank you!

- Note: Please use the sidewalk from the west parking lot along the south side of the church buildings to drop off your greens and trees. Avoid walking on the amber-colored areas in the backyard as they were seeded and mulched in late fall and cannot handle foot traffic until covered in snow.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Committees and subcommittees, please submit your annual reports to the Church office as soon as possible.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting is Feb. 4th in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

ADULT FORUM: 2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL - SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 11:00 a.m., Gathering Space - Come learn about and discuss the proposed 2024 Good Shepherd budget in advance of the Annual Meeting on February 4.

AASE HAUGEN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & WELCA BRUNCH ANNOUNCEMENT:

WELCA annual meeting and mid-winter brunch will be held **Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 9 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Patty Casterton and Sam Boeke from Aase Haugen Senior Services will be telling us about the Capital campaign to fund a chapel for their new facility. We will also be dispersing funds from 2023, contact Bev Sheridan if you have any funding requests. Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments. Everyone is welcome to come and hear about these exciting plans for Aase Haugen.

MISSION ASSISTANCE FUND DONATIONS STILL NEEDED: Good Shepherd's Mission Assistance Fund, set up to help people who need short-term emergency assistance, is almost depleted. Funds are distributed at the discretion of the Pastor and two congregation members on the Mission Assistance Committee. To donate to the fund, drop your donation in the basket on the Fellowship Hour serving table, in the offering plate, or Church Office, designating "Mission Assistance Fund" on your check or envelope.

DONATE TO GUATEMALAN BASICS PROGRAM: In this season of giving, the Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center's Immigration Working Group is asking people to help our newly-arrived neighbors with a donation to the Guatemalan Basics program. This program provides 50 pound bags of rice and Masa (cornflour) and 25 pound bags of beans to newly arrived immigrants. One delivery, which costs about \$100, feeds a family of four for up to six weeks. This gives new families in the area time to get on their feet and ensures that no one in the family is hungry. To be

part of this humanitarian program, you can send a check to Decorah UCC, PO Box 470, and put Guatemalan Basics on the memo line; or go to the website decorahucc.org/neighbors/ and click on the link to Guatemalan Basics.

REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DREAM WEEK: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 - FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, Luther College. Learn more about events happening in the weekly newsletter.

EXHIBITION: "The F-Word: Stories of Forgiveness", January 10-24, Center for Faith and Life, Luther College, second floor. The exhibit is part of The Forgiveness Project, featuring thought-provoking images and personal narratives exploring forgiveness in the face of atrocity.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Gathering Space - All are welcome at the January Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting! Prayer Shawl Ministry meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month, September through May. Yarn and patterns are available. Questions? Contact Jeri Laursen.

STEPHANIE HOFF'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: Our member Stephanie has Stage 5 chronic kidney disease, is now on dialysis, and is still hoping for a kidney transplant. Information about Stephanie and living kidney donation is available at goodshepherddecorah.org/mystory

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: Tristan: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM M-F. Erica: 10-5:00 PM W-Th.

PRAYER LIST

Good Shepherd Family: Russ Freerking, Marv & Mickey Slind (on the loss of their cousin), Tim Lecander & June Melby, Bonnie Flora, LaVerne Ramsey, Ingrid Callaghan, Ginny Olson, the family of Glenn Nelson, Donna Bahr, Helen Hermeier, James Barth, Marion Hanson, Stephanie Hoff, Ed Hover, Harland Nelson, Janet Gall, Jutta Anderson, all residents and staff at Aase Haugen, Eastern Star, Wellington Place, Mosaic Homes, and Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, and those preparing for public ministry: Kathryn Thompson and Kristin Kopperud-Stinn

Relatives and Friends: Ann Alton (Amelia & William Kurth's mother), Sid Sampson (brother-in-law of Marty Steele), Miriam Plautz (aunt of Melanie Folkerts), Lily Laursen (granddaughter of Reg & Jeri Laursen), Bob Fahrenkrug (grandfather of Sarah Wicks), the family of Amber Einck (friend of Jane Borelli), Maryn Olson (daughter of Ginny Olson), Noi Tran (Kim Kavan's mother), Karen & John Silseth (brother and sister in law of Kris Peterson), Frank Barth (James Barth's Brother), Nathaniel Judisch (son of Dave and Gail), Dennis Martin (brother-in-law of the Slinds), Nathan Scheuerelein (grandson of Bonnie Flora), Lynzee Makowski (friend of Laurie Biedermann), Todd Hove (son of Gloria Hove), Aaron Buzza (son of Jim and Kathy), Mary Beth & Bayo Oyebade and the Mashiah Foundation in Jos, Nigeria, and our Companion Synod in Hungary

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Amy: Cell 563-419-0140 pastoramy@goodshepherddecorah.org

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS and especially to Luther Students! It is a joy to worship with you. You are welcome to enjoy really great coffee, juice, treats, and conversation down the hall after worship – follow the crowd. Sit anywhere!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION. It is Christ's table and Christ is the host. Instructions are included in the communion section of the Order of Worship.

THE PRESENCE, ENERGY, AND NOISE OF CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME HERE!

The sound of a child in worship is the sound of a new Christian being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. A nursery with toys and activity bags are available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works for you and your child. An Infant Feeding Chair is available in the music office (hallway outside of sanctuary) for more privacy if desired.

RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: This Statement was approved at the annual meeting of the congregation on February 6th, 2022. It was developed through the work of the Racial Justice Team which held listening sessions with the congregation. A portion of the Statement is printed here each week. Find the full statement at goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement or by scanning the code.



*We **publicly declare** that we will actively pursue racial justice in all aspects of our congregational life and make changes to adopt antiracist policies and practices around worship, education, advocacy, stewardship, governance, and through our community partnerships and relationships.*

(Ephesians 2: 14-15, Isaiah 56: 6)