

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*

February 2024

CONTENTS



- 2-3 Words from Pr. Dave Wrightsman
- 3 Scriptures for the Month
- 4 Prayer for the Month / What is Lent?
- 5-6 Lenten Season Information
- 7 Music Schedule / Call Process Update
- 8 Youth Gathering Fundraisers / Pr. Dave Bible Study
- 9 Youth Gathering Spotlight
- 10 Land Acknowledgement
- 11 Erick Kephart Adult Forum / Annual Meeting Reminder
- 12-13 WELCA Newsletter
- 14 Announcements
- 15-16 Congregational Council Meeting Notes
- 17 February Calendar

WORDS FROM PR. DAVE: THE SEASON OF LENT

2

The beginning of Lent always puts me in the mood to think back to the gloomy feeling I remember feeling from growing up, as well as the way my Catholic friends always “gave up” something, and the ashes on my forehead getting smeared by my siblings. Having to go to church twice week also was a part of feeling depressed and dismal about church in general and Lent in particular.

When I was in college, I remember clearly the experience of standing outside of St. Basils Cathedral in downtown Moscow as a part of a study trip. Suddenly I heard a huge commotion inside. A boy came running out, chased by a church official who was shouting and hitting him on the head with a book. An elderly woman, distributing candles to the visitors entering this famous church on Red Square, saw the puzzled look on my face and explained in heavily-accented English, “He was stealing. He is a bad boy.”

A few days later, as a part of the same tour, I was standing with a group of Americans in the Eastern Orthodox cathedral that holds the famous Black Madonna icon in Czestochowa, Poland. We had just entered the vast sanctuary which tradition regards with great reverence in Eastern Orthodoxy (some believe that great healings have taken place there), when someone began to sing the hymn, “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!” Gradually, the rest of us joined in. Suddenly, we were interrupted by an Orthodox priest who began shouting at us, “Stop! Stop! Please Stop!”

Sitting with our group in the hotel later that night, I told those around me how unsettled I was. My visits to two very holy sites in Eastern Europe/Russia had been tarnished by shouting church officials, stealing, and ugly confrontation – obnoxious reminders of the human condition.

“The nations are in an uproar,” (Psalm 46:6), the Psalmist declares. He really doesn’t have to tell us that – we hear the daily news - many people die tragically in Gaza and Ukraine each day, extremists slaughtering people in South Sudan, car accidents claiming lives. Things haven’t changed much.

The season of Lent comes as God’s invitation to look squarely at the darkness within us and within the world around us and discover the light shining there- “the light shines in the darkness,” John declares, “and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Later that same week, after returning to the US from our tour, we went to church - a service at Central Lutheran in Minneapolis. ... *continued on next page*

WORDS FROM PR. DAVE: THE SEASON OF LENT

3

The pastor, a friend of my family, said, "It's painful to live and work here in the downtown, watching all the struggle of those on the street, the homeless, the poor, the immigrants. *But it just may be that those experiences make the promises of God look and sound even more clear and powerful.*" Important words that have stayed with me ever since.

Lent is about the darkness of the human heart and the light of God's promises, as it leads us to the risen Christ. Let's make this journey together this Lent.

Pastor Dave

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

	First Reading	Psalms Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
Feb. 4	<u>Isaiah 40:21-31</u> <i>The creator of all cares for the powerless</i>	<u>Psalms 147:1-11, 20c</u> <i>The Lord heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)</i>	<u>1 Corinthians 9:16-23</u> <i>A servant for the sake of the gospel</i>	<u>Mark 1:29-39</u> <i>The healing of Peter's mother-in-law</i>
Feb. 11 <i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i>	<u>2 Kings 2:1-12</u> <i>Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha</i>	<u>Psalms 50:1-6</u> <i>Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)</i>	<u>2 Corinthians 4:3-6</u> <i>God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ</i>	<u>Mark 9:2-9</u> <i>Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son</i>
Feb. 18 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	<u>Genesis 2:15-17</u>	<u>Psalms 32: 1-6</u>	<u>Romans 5:12-14</u>	<u>Matthew 4:1-11</u>
Feb. 25 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	<u>Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16</u> <i>God blesses Abraham and Sarah</i>	<u>Psalms 22:23-31</u> <i>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)</i>	<u>Romans 4:13-25</u> <i>The promise to those who share Abraham's faith</i>	<u>Mark 8:31-38</u> <i>The passion prediction</i>

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

offered by Jane Jakoubek

Lord Jesus, you said “*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*” John 13:34. You showed your love for your followers by taking on the role of servant and washing their feet. Help us grow in our willingness and capacity to love. Help us to see how your peace fills our own hearts when we love others.

Lord Jesus, you said “*Whenever you pray, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses*” (Mark 11:25). You asked your Father to forgive those who crucified you. Help us to grow in our willingness and capacity to forgive. Help us see how your peace fills our own hearts when we forgive others.

Lord Jesus, you said “*Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy*” (Matthew 5:7). You showed mercy to the the woman caught in adultery, to Peter who denied you, and Thomas who doubted you. Help us let go of our judgments and grow in our willingness and capacity to be merciful. Help us see how your peace fills our own hearts when we extend mercy to others.

Lord Jesus, we ask these things of you this day and always. Amen.

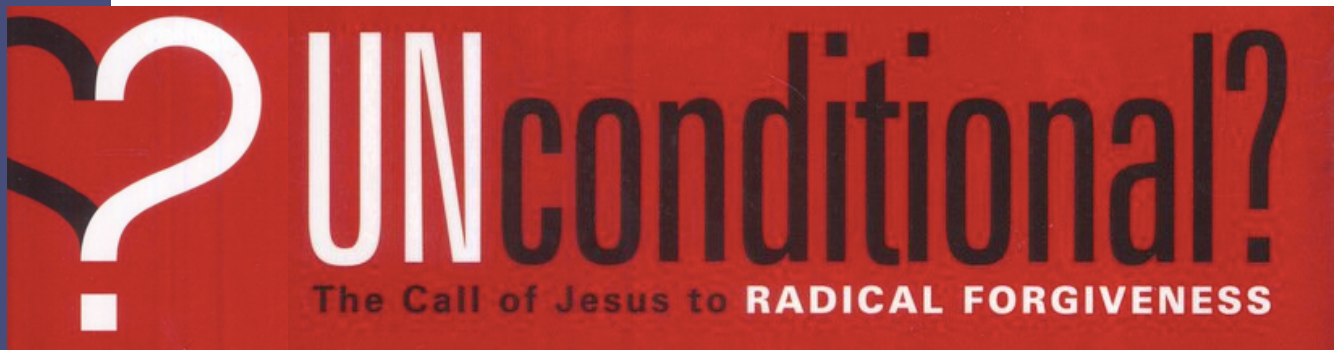
WHAT IS LENT?

by Pr. Dave

The Season Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, 2/14. As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days. The forty days of Lent recall the 40-day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). It is a time of simplicity and preparation. The principal themes of Lent include penitence; baptismal renewal; prayer; fasting; service; and confession of sin rooted in the promise of God that comes through the cross of Christ.

GOOD SHEPHERD'S 2024 LENTEN SEASON

5



Theme: "Unconditional? The Call of Jesus to Radical Forgiveness"

Utilizing the book by the same title, author Brian Zahnd writes, "Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. Whatever else may be said about Christian people, it must be said that we are a people who believe in the forgiveness of sins... we believe in the forgiveness of sins as surely as we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we grow in our faith, it is vital we become aware that we are called to be those who extend forgiveness to others, thus making the world a more forgiving place. For if Christianity isn't about forgiveness, it's about nothing at all." This will guide our lenten Wednesday services.

- **Ash Wednesday** - February 14th
 - 7-9:00 AM - Ashes will also be shared in downtown Decorah that morning near the Food Co-op by the Lutheran pastors of Good Shepherd, Decorah Lutheran and First Lutheran.
 - 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 2:30 PM (repectively)- Services at Eastern Star, Wellington and Aase Haugen led by Pr. Dave and Brooke Joyce. Pr. Dave is looking for help from one person to assist in welcoming and communion serving at each of these three places... please let him know if you are available.
 - 7:00 PM - Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes will be shared at the service. All are encouraged to invite family and friends to join us for worship on this holy day.
- **Midweek Worship - Holden Evening Prayer:** The musical setting and liturgy used during Wednesday Lenten Worship services will be Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Short messages around the theme of forgiveness will all be a part of the 45 minutes services on the 5 Wednesdays of Lent, 2/21-3/20, between 5:30-6:15 pm. Short messages on the theme of Forgiveness will be offered by 5 pastors who are members of Good Shepherd. Stick around after for simple soup suppers.
- **Augsburg Fortress Lenten Devotionals** are available in the Gathering Space. A suggested donation of \$3.50 is appreciated to help cover the order cost.

GOOD SHEPHERD'S 2024 LENTEN SEASON

Confirmation Mentors: Good Shepherd's six 7-8 graders will meet with their selected adult mentors during the Lenten suppers 4 times.

Lenten youth project: 7-8 graders have chosen to focus this year on mental health awareness, resources, and assistance in NE Iowa. They will share in short temple talks at worship inviting participation of service and giving by the congregation. Offering collected at mid-week worship services and in a special collection box goes to this project.

Lenten Wednesday Simple Soup Suppers will be served each week following worship, at about 6:15 pm. The Flock groups are assigned various Wednesday to prepare, serve and cleaning up supper. The schedule is as follows:

- 2/21: Green Flock
- 2/28: Yellow Flock
- 3/6: Blue Flock
- 3/13: Purple Flock
- 3/20: Pink Flock

*Orange and Red flock are asked to provide back up and extra soups

Lenten Musical Recital Series: Midday on certain Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45 pm on the following dates:

- March 6: Mattie Snyder, cello and friends (solo and chamber music)
- March 13: Luther College Organ Studio (students of Alex Meszler)
- March 20: Craig Hultgren, cello and Brooke Joyce, keyboard (meditative music)

Spiritual Growth Class: Spirituality and Aging. Using the background of Lent with the ever-stark reminder of our deaths, Good Shepherd member, Pr. Marion Pruitt-Jefferson will use Joan Chittister's book, "The Gift of Years" as a segue into the topic of spirituality and aging and Richard Rohr's book, "Falling Upward – A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life". Starting on Wednesday, February 21, this class will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-5:30, prior to Lenten Evening Worship.

Art Exhibit: The F Word - Stories of Forgiveness, an exhibition of personal narratives exploring forgiveness from around the world and which were originally displayed in the CFL, 2nd floor, are coming to Good Shepherd this week and will be displayed through the end of February to enhance our learning and spiritual journey of forgiveness.

FEBRUARY & MARCH MUSIC SCHEDULE

7

2/4 Band

- Gathering: "Pavane" (Susato)
- Offertory: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" arr. Dean
- Postlude: "March" (Handel)

2/11 Handbells

- Offertory: TBA
- Collegiate Chorale singing in worship

2/18 Choir

- Offertory: "O Still Small Voice of Calm" (Lovelace)

2/25 Band

- Gathering: "I will arise and go to Jesus" (arr. Block)
- Offertory: "The Lord's My Shepherd" (arr. Marlatt)
- Postlude: "Canzona per sonare" (Gabrieli)

3/3 Choir

- Offertory: "Holy City" (Sacred Harp)
- Aurora Choir singing in worship

3/10 Handbells

- Offertory: TBA

3/17 Choir

- Offertory: "My Song is Love Unknown" (Childs)

3/24 Handbells

- Offertory: TBA

3/28 Maundy Thursday

- Choir Offertory: "Behold The Lamb of God" (Willan)

3/29 Good Friday Jazz service

3/31 Easter Band

- Gathering: "Rondeau" (Mouret)
- Offertory: "Easter Anthem" (Billings)
- Postlude: "And the Glory of the Lord" (Handel)



CALL PROCESS UPDATES

The Congregation Council, in the process of discerning a Call Committee, approved Megan Buckingham to serve as convener 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 potentially announcement to the congregation on Sunday, February 11.

YOUTH FUNDRAISERS FOR THE 2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

There are 2 upcoming fundraisers for the youth attending the ELCA youth gathering:

Send some love: February 14-18th

- **Take a heart to pledge a donation and get a valentine in return!** All are invited to take a heart shaped pledge from a board outside the Sanctuary on the 14th and 18th. Each heart is a monetary pledge given in support of the youth attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. When hearts are returned via the offering plate or to the Office, the youth will send you a valentine in the mail as a thank you.
- You can opt to have a valentine mailed to you or someone else - simply write their name on the heart when you return it (please include the address of the person if they are not in the Good Shepherd directory).

Books (and more) Sale:

- The Good Shepherd community is invited to collect fiction, non-fiction, and children's books, board games, DVDs, and puzzles to contribute to the upcoming Fundraiser for youth attending this summer's trip to New Orleans and the National Youth Gathering. Prayer shawls donated by Good Shepherd's Prayer Shawl Ministry will also be available.
 - Items can be dropped off to the far back tables in the Fellowship Hall starting on Sunday, February 25, but not before!
 - **The sale will run from Wednesday, February 28 through Sunday, March 17,** in the Fellowship Hall, with everything a free will donation.

The purpose of 'Living the Message' is to make the Bible more accessible, convenient, and welcoming. "Living the Message" is an academic oriented class that presents a comprehensive overview of the Old Testament in the upcoming Winter/Spring 2024 term. Friends from outside Good Shepherd are welcome to register for this class - it is led by Pr. Dave.

Tuesdays from 9:15 – 11:15 AM, Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall

Bible Study Starts on: Tuesday, February 13th, 2024

REGISTRATION: Please register by filling out a registration form found in the Gathering Space and turning it in, along with a check, to the Church Office. Cost is \$25, which covers class materials for the Winter/Spring term.

LIVING THE
MESSAGE BIBLE
STUDY

2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING SPOTLIGHT

Each month from here until the youth head to New Orleans in July, we will be spotlighting some of the youth attending, and sharing more information about the ELCA National Youth Gathering. This month, the spotlight is on Logan & Lulu



Logan Nalean-Carlson

- **Year in School:** 8th grade
- **What hobbies do you enjoy/extracurricular activities are you in?** Cross country, basketball, tennis, band, chorus, and Opus Honor Choir.
- **Did you go on the Youth Trip last summer or have you been on any trip like this before?** No
- **Why do you want to go to the Youth Gathering this summer?** I think it will be fun getting to meet new people. And I've never been in New Orleans.
- **What is one aspect you like about being a part of the Good Shepherd Community?** I like how there's a bunch of activities we can be involved in and the people here are all nice and caring to each other. And Pastor Amy's the GOAT.



Lulu Bellrichard

- **Year in School:** Freshman
- **What hobbies do you enjoy/extracurricular activities are you in?** Cross country, golf, cello, and speech
- **Did you go on the Youth Trip last summer or have you been on any trip like this before?** No
- **Why do you want to go to the Youth Gathering this summer?** I would like to go on the Youth Gathering to meet new people, learn more about my relationship with God, and have fun in New Orleans.
- **What is one aspect you like about being a part of the Good Shepherd Community?** The Good Shepherd Community allowed me to meet many new people. Good Shepherd is very welcoming.

GOOD SHEPHERD AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

What is a Land Acknowledgement?

A Land Acknowledgment, identifying Indigenous inhabitants of a particular place, is a public witness that honors mother earth and the Indigenous people who took care of the land. It is not just words but an action—we develop and practice it because we want to shift how non-native people hear or understand the presence of Indigenous people. It is the first step of a learning process that promotes truth and healing and, for a brief moment, whether spoken or published, causes us to think about Indigenous people and the lands we live on (from Vance Blackfox, ELCA director for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations; www.livinglutheran.org/2021/11/48330/).

Why should Good Shepherd work on this?

Developing a Land Acknowledgement will help us move more deeply into the ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement which provides opportunities to learn the true history and current realities of Indigenous people. "It is these truths, truths that have been ignored by most for hundreds of years, that will bring healing for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people" (elca.org/indigenous). From it we can begin to discern what God is calling us to do on behalf of our Indigenous siblings who carry the consequences of our history and take actions we feel we are called to do to promote truth and healing for all of us.

How will we do this?

Even though tribal nations are acknowledged in our Racial Justice Statement, we have more work to do to update it, learning more about the Indigenous people who took care of the land on which our congregation now worships; what happened to them, and where are their descendents today. Most of us have not grappled with the questions this raises: How do I face this? How do I deal with the feelings it raises? How does our faith guide us in difficult places like this? And because our nature at Good Shepherd is get to work, we will ask, "So now what? What can we do? How will we do it?"

Our work into this new territory will be led by the Land Acknowledgement Task Force appointed in December by Council: Anne Clausen, Linda Donoghue and Elizabeth Kaschins. They are ready and eager to help us get involved in this important initiative from the ELCA that grows out of the Gospel's call.

Where can I learn more?

The ELCA website is a great place to start: <https://www.elca.org/indigenous>

ERICK KEPHART TO PRESENT ADULT FORUM--FEBRUARY 18TH

The Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund Committee is sponsoring an Adult Forum on Sunday, February 18th featuring Erick Kephart, Vice President and Trust Officer of Decorah Bank and Trust. Erick will lead a discussion on charitable giving through estate management. Particular emphasis will be given towards the use of the Charitable Remainder Trust as a tool to meet personal goals.



The Charitable Remainder Trust is designed for the conversion of appreciated assets such as stocks or real estate into lifetime income with reduced taxes now and reduced estate taxes when you die. You pay no capital gains taxes when the assets are sold and you help one or more charities that have special meaning to you. The MEF Committee is not assuming, but hoping, that one of these charities might be to assist the Good Shepherd scholarship ministry through the Mission Endowment Fund.

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 Charter Members of GS and Jean was the church secretary for many years. Erick graduated from Loras College in Dubuque and served in several banking positions before coming to Decorah Bank and Trust as a VP.

The MEF Committee is encouraging members of the congregation to attend this Adult Forum to become better informed on the subject of charitable gifting and estate planning.

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 4th in the Fellowship Hall. Reports can be found online under "News" - we look forward to seeing you there!

WELCA NEWSLETTER

At the recent WELCA annual meeting, Patty Casterton told us about the Aase Haugen Capital Campaign, A New Place to Call Home. We voted to give \$500 to the Aase Haugen capital campaign, \$500 to the GS youth attending the National Gathering, \$350 to the GS endowment fund and \$125 to the Riverview Center in addition to our regular giving. We also agreed to make the GS endowment fund part of our yearly giving.

Join the 'Rejoice & Renew' Appreciation Event: Women of the ELCA and their friends are invited to an appreciation event Feb. 23-24 at EWALU Stone Retreat Center, Strawberry Point.

Sponsored by the Northeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA Synod Board and Katie's Fund, this "Rejoice and Renew" event is an opportunity to gather with other women to celebrate, learn and do ministry together. The cost to attend is \$35 for both days, including overnight accommodation. The rate for those wanting to attend only on Saturday is \$15, including the noon meal. In case of inclement weather, the event will take place March 1-2. Registration deadline is Monday, Feb. 19. Contact Bev Sheridan for registration forms and carpool information.

First United Methodist Church will be hosting World Day of Prayer on Friday March 1. World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. The theme of the WDP 2024 program is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love" Ephesians 4:1-3. This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression. The program was written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women in response to the passage from Ephesians 4:1-7. We reflected collectively on this theme from the context of our suffering as Palestinian Christian women. We hope to inspire other women around the world to bear with one another in love during troubled times. (from WDP website) All are welcome.



WELCA NEWSLETTER

Gather Bible Study

Winter/Spring 2024 Bible study: “Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith” by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith

Jesus regularly invokes nature in his teaching, drawing us into deeper relationship with the created world. This four-session Bible study explores how biblical stories of the natural world help us to grow our love for and commitment to God, other people and our beloved earth.

What critters teach us about faith

Jesus invites us to consider the birds, but we’ll get to know biblical critters beyond the sparrows. We’ll look at biblical animals (some adorable, some terrifying) from ravens and lions to a big fish, paired creatures on the ark, and that sneaky serpent in Eden. Stories of human and animal interactions in Scripture help to reorient our relationships with the non-human world, while pulling us into deeper trust in God. (from Gather website) Be sure to check the **“Even the Sparrows”** Gather article where one of our members share what critters have taught them about faith.

Upcoming events

- **February 23-24:** Rejoice and Renew NEIA SWO retreat, EWALU Stone Retreat Center (more information listed below)
- **February 27:** Gather Bible study, fellowship hall, 7 pm, Gail Judisch Bible study, Carolyn Solberg refreshments
- **March 1:** World Day of Prayer, First United Methodist
- **April 20:** Cluster D Spring gathering, Good Shepherd

Access the full WELCA Calendar and contact information by clicking here, or on the website under “Ministries”

Friday Feb 23rd arrive anytime after 4pm

- and join in a baked potato bar, hymn sing, game and craft.
- Stay overnight and meals for \$35
- Share a room, Beds, bedding, and towels

Saturday Feb. 24th: come for the day,

- breakfast/ coffee @ 8am;
- Noon meal and enjoy learning about global health ministries, hymn sing, bible study, rolling bandages,
- Day ends @ 3pm
- Day only rate for meals and building usage \$15

Registration deadline: Monday Feb 19th

REJOICE &
RENEW RETREAT

“THE F-WORD: STORIES OF FORGIVENESS” EXHIBIT NOW AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Thirteen panels from the exhibit that was installed in Luther’s Center for Faith and Life during January will be on display at Good Shepherd through the end of February.

The “The F-Word: Stories of Forgiveness” Exhibit, part of The Forgiveness Project, is a thought-provoking collection of images and personal restorative narratives from survivors/victims and perpetrators that explore forgiveness in the face of atrocity.

The panels are hung in the Sanctuary, Gathering Space, along the corridor leading to the Fellowship Hall, and in the Fellowship Hall. Voices from South Africa, the United States, Canada, Israel, Palestine, Rwanda, Northern Ireland, and England examine forgiveness as a healing process, a path out of victimhood, and ultimately a journey of hope.

All are welcome and encouraged to view the panels anytime the church is open, 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. daily. Reflection journals are available for viewers to add comments.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS REMINDER

- Thrivent Choice Dollars designated for the past calendar year can be directed until March 31, 2024. Consider directing these to Good Shepherd or to support the Good Shepherd youth attending the 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering.
- If you want your designated Thrivent Choice Dollars to be given to the youth trip, please contact the church office so we can allocate those funds correctly when they arrive from Thrivent. Use Good Shepherd as your designated church for your Choice Dollars on the Thrivent website, and we will assign the funds to the youth group trip. Thank you!

SAME MISSION, NEW NAME

- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) will now be known as Global Refuge. According to the Global Refuge website: “The decision to rebrand as Global Refuge is rooted in the growing worldwide need for compassion and support. With millions of people displaced by war, famine, climate change, persecution, and more, our mission of providing the ‘long welcome’ has become more crucial than ever. The accompanying growth in the demand for our essential, expanded suite of services has sparked the need to identify ourselves ever more clearly and create a bigger table of supporters.”

DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 5:00 - 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Decorah Lutheran Church -

- Join your friends and neighbors at this free monthly meal at Decorah Lutheran, 309 Winnebago Street.
- First Lutheran Church will provide volunteers, salads, and desserts for the meal in February. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College.
- Gluten free options and carry outs are always available.

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Jan. 16, 2024

In attendance: Cindy Ernst, Marilyn Rue, Karin Martin-Hiner, Kris Peterson, Chris Johnson, Anne Clausen, Tim Lacander, Lise Kildegaard, Brian Caton, Lise Kildegaard by zoom in Japan, and Meagan Buckingham; to present about the call committee.

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

- In one word or one sentence, share what you most need from God now.
- Prayer - Pr. Dave
- As we deliberate, let us affirm our congregation's commitment to pursue racial justice, advocate for migrant families, and support the LGBTQIA community.
- Is there anything on the consent agenda that should be moved to the discussion agenda? If not, is there a motion to approve the whole agenda?

Kris made a motion and Anne seconded to move the facilities and grounds discussion about repairs to the building to main discussion tonight. It was Passed.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of December 2023 Council Meeting Minutes
2. Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)

Discussion Agenda

1. Call Committee status (Convener Megan to report)

Meagan Buckingham presenting about the call committee as Convener. After being appointed Meagan met with Pastors Dave and Amy and considered what the make up should look like.

Considered the nominations from the congregation. Looked at not having clergy or former clergy on the committee. We Chose not to have staff on committee but instead bring them in for conversations or interviews or some sort of input. Call committee will drive the bus but may call on other members for specific help. Also removed from last call committee. Two members from council are recommended by NE Iowa synod. Unique and Pastor Dave doesn't think it is necessary. When the committee is complete Meagan will let the executive committee and/or council know and then the announcement will be made.

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Annual Meeting Agenda

- Commentary: In person attendance for Annual Meeting
- Request for Council members to attend Jan. 21 Forum on Budget at Gathering Space
- Courtyard Furniture: Kris makes a motion to give permission for Jim to apply for the depot grant and if satisfied with this sample order the additional chairs. Cindy seconded. Motion carries.
- Recommendation to increase office manager from 15 to 20 hours/week
Cindy makes a motion and Kris seconded and we pass this recommendation.
- Treasurer conversation - current & future state
 - Conversation about direction and possibility of using MLB in the future.
- Approval of Treasurer's Report Link to Report
- Karin makes a motion to accept the treasurers report. Brian seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Thank you for Cindy Ernst & Welcome Sara Hopkins & Chris Johnson returning in his new role.

Announcements

Newsletter Deadline is January 26, 2024 (always the 25th of the month)

Next Council meeting is February 20, 2024

Committee annual reports due January 15, 2024 (past due)

Adjournment and Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer

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

Outreach and Hospitality Committee:

- Farewell to Pr. Amy, Catering choice, Gifts

Facilities and Grounds Committee:

- Blow foam & GFI circuit for insurance compliance, Net metering balance, Snow removal issues

Stewardship Committee:

- Outreach to Worship & Music for Lenten Soup Suppers w Flocks

Worship and Music:

- Pew cushions, Reparations royalties, Lenten and Good Friday worship

Brian made a motion to adjourn and Marilyn seconded the motion it carried.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div>28</div> <div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship school</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday school</div> <div>11am - Adult Forum: Indian</div> <div>11am - Youth Gathering Meeting</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>29</div> <div> <div>Pastor Dave in office</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>4:30pm - Keili's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>30</div> <div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>31</div> <div> <div>9am - Church 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> </div>	<div> <div>1</div> <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>5pm - Decorah Community Meal @</div> <div>5:30pm - Racial Justice Team @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>2</div> <div> <div>Pastor Dave out of town</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>3</div> <div> <div>9am - Kinderhaus Open House @</div> </div> </div>
<div> <div>4</div> <div> <div>Pastor Dave out of town</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>5</div> <div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>6</div> <div> <div>Kinderhaus Enrollment open to</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>7</div> <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> </div>	<div> <div>8</div> <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> </div>	<div> <div>9</div> <div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>3pm - Immigration legal clinic @</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>10</div> </div>
<div> <div>11</div> <div> <div>Installation of Council Leaders</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship school</div> <div>2pm - Upper IA River Conference</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>12</div> <div> <div>Pastor Dave in office</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>4pm - Worship & Music</div> <div>4:30pm - Keili's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>13</div> <div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>14</div> <div> <div>Asht Wednesday</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Eastern Star/Arlyn Falck</div> <div>1pm - Wellington Place</div> <div>2:30pm - Aase Haugen</div> <div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>15</div> <div> <div>9am - Church 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>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>5pm - Oneota Coop Potluck @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>16</div> <div> <div>Kinderhaus Closed for Presidents Day</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>17</div> </div>
<div> <div>18</div> <div> <div>Kinderhaus Closed for Presidents Day</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div> <div>11am - MEF Adult Forum @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>19</div> <div> <div>Pastor Dave in office</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>4:30pm - Keili's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>20</div> <div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>6:30pm - Sons of Norway @</div> <div>7pm - Congregation Council</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>21</div> <div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @</div> <div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>5:30pm - Wednesday worship</div> <div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div> <div>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>22</div> <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> </div>	<div> <div>23</div> <div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>24</div> </div>
<div> <div>25</div> <div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:45am - Fellowship school</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday school</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>26</div> <div> <div>Pastor Dave in office</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>1pm - Kinderhaus Spring</div> <div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div> <div>4:30pm - Keili's Office Hours</div> <div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>27</div> <div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>10am - Erica office hours</div> <div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>5pm - Kinderhaus Spring</div> <div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>28</div> <div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div> <div>5:30pm - Wednesday worship</div> <div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div> <div>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>29</div> <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> </div>	<div> <div>1</div> <div> <div>Kinderhaus Enrollment Papers Due</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div> <div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>2</div> <div> <div>2pm - Youth Lent Event</div> </div> </div>