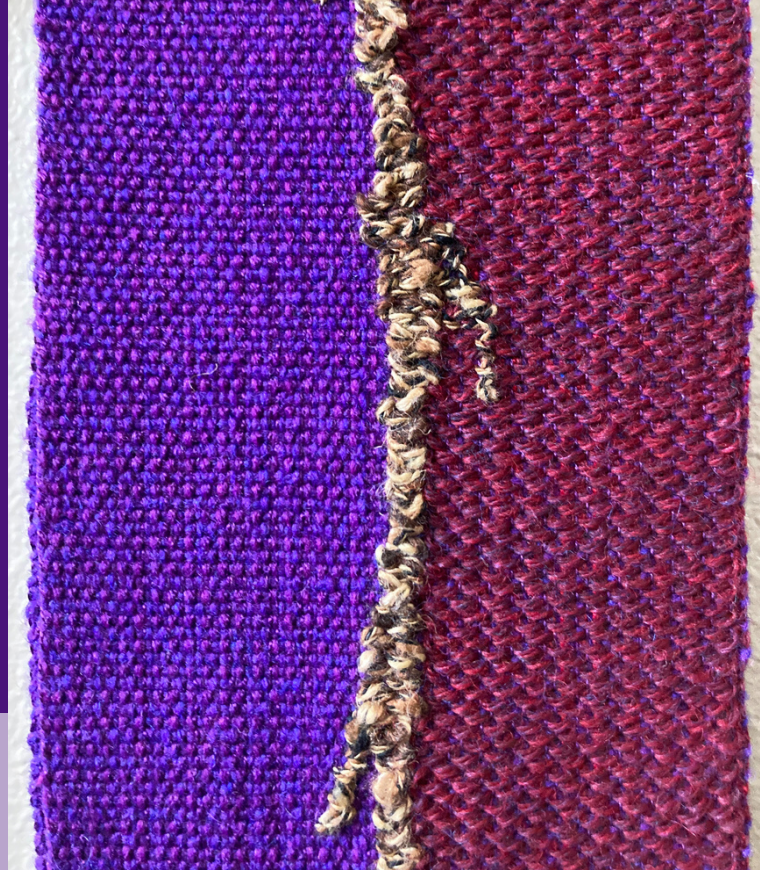


# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*March 2024*

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*Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church*



# STOP! SPIRITUAL REFLECTION DURING LENT

Sometimes I wonder if the church should adopt a one-word mission statement: "Stop." Just getting people (including myself) to slow down and to reflect is what one might call an Audacious Goal! Our ministry programs and our worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran reflect this mission. Most of what we do involves an invitation to step back in this season of Lent and reflect.

For example, at this time of year we teach our Confirmation students and their parents that worship is more important than their normal Wednesday evening class time. So, we instead come and sing (or even just listen to) the Lenten Holden Evening Prayer, and then to also experience the theme of "Forgiveness" expressed in our messages and prayers. Whether it's on Wednesdays or Sundays, worshipping our Lord slows us down and bids us to quiet ourselves to hear God's words to us.

University of California San Francisco scientists have made some new discoveries. They found that when people have new experiences like exploring an unfamiliar area, their brains show new patterns of activity. But only when people take a break from their exploration are they able to process those patterns in a way that seems to create a persistent memory of the experience.

These same discoveries apply to how humans learn. Almost certainly, down time lets the brain go over events it has experienced, to solidify them, and then turn them into permanent long-term memories and learning," says Loren Frank, professor of physiology at the university. (NY Times, 8-2018)

I think most of us need reflection time to learn and grow. So often I wake up in the morning with my brain already in go-mode, my head spinning with things to do and get done. There is a pile on my desks at home and at work, and my e-mail inbox is bursting at its cyber seams.

In my head I know that pausing, and then reflecting and praying with God will bring strength and perspective to my day. Time after time I have experienced the truth of this, but it took me many years of crashing and burning to learn it and then make it a daily habit where I cannot live without it! (Although I will admit that I still fail occasionally!)

"In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. Therefore, the Lord waits to be gracious to you..." says the prophet Isaiah (30:18) Do I believe it? Can I trust it?

A continued blessed and reflective season of Lent to you... remember to Stop!

- Pastor Dave

# SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

3

	Lesson	Psalm Reading	Gospel
<b>March 3</b>	<b><u>1 Corinthians 1:18-25</u></b> <i>Christ crucified, the wisdom of God</i>	<b><u>Psalm 19:1-5,14</u></b> <i>The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)</i>	<b><u>John 2:13-22</u></b> <i>The cleansing of the temple</i>
<b>March 10</b>	<b><u>Ephesians 2:1-10</u></b> <i>Saved by grace through faith for good works</i>	<b><u>Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22</u></b> <i>You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)</i>	<b><u>John 3:14-21</u></b> <i>The lifting up of the Son of Man</i>
<b>March 17</b>	<b><u>Jeremiah 31:31-34</u></b> <i>A new covenant written on the heart</i>	<b><u>Psalm 51:1-12</u></b> <i>Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)</i>	<b><u>John 12:20-33</u></b> <i>The grain of wheat dying in the earth</i>
<b>March 24</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b><u>Philippians 2:5-11</u></b> <i>Humbled to the point of death on a cross</i>	<b><u>Psalm: 31:9-16</u></b> <i>Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)</i>	<b><u>Mark 11:1-11</u></b> <i>Jesus enters Jerusalem</i>
<b>March 31</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	<b><u>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</u></b> <i>Witnesses to the risen Christ</i>	<b><u>Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24</u></b> <i>This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)</i>	<b><u>John 20:1-18</u></b> <i>Seeing the risen Christ</i>

# PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

offered by Jane Jakoubek

God of compassion, thank you for this season of Lent when you invite us to push the pause button on things that distract us from your Word, your way, and your unfailing love. Thank you for inviting us to let go of things that separate us from you and each other. Thank you for teaching us how to live into the freedom, wholeness and new life you offer us.

Eternal God, thank you for being our refuge and strength when all seems lost, when no help is in sight. Be with us as we face things in our world, in our own lives, and in our own hearts that are difficult, painful, challenging, and overwhelming. Thank you for guiding us, encouraging us and sustaining us no matter what comes.

Gracious God, be with our congregation as we move forward to call a new pastor. Bless the call committee as they take up this work. Bless each of us as we do our part to grow into the church you call us to be. Help us be open to change. Help us listen for your voice. Help us notice the ways the Spirit is already at work in our midst. Bless Pastor Dave in his ministry with us in this time. Bless the pastor you are preparing even now to serve us in the fullness of time. Amen.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### **PALM SUNDAY, Sunday, March 24 -Palm Sunday 9:30 worship**

- Processional: Children and Youth will help lead the Palm Sunday processional. Look for Kelli by the Fellowship Hall.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28 -7:00 pm:**

- Full Worship w Personal Absolution, Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar

### **GOOD FRIDAY, March 29**

- **All Day:** Family Friendly Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary for personal prayer
- **7:00 pm:** Jazz Worship with the Stations of the Cross, Reflections on “The Cross and the Lynching Tree”

### **EASTER VIGIL, Saturday March 30 -7:00 pm**

- A Service of Fire, Scripture, Water, & Holy Communion

### **EASTER SUNDAY, Sunday, March 31st -9:30 am**

- Festival Worship with Good Shepherd Band; Holy Communion
- Brunch Following Worship – hosted by GS Youth to help fundraise for the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans

# GOOD SHEPHERD'S 2024 LENTEN SEASON

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

- **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 GS.
- **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
- **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. Funds are being raised to support NAMI NE Iowa: National Alliance on Mental Illness NE Iowa Chapter. Information about NAMI and Offering collected at mid-week worship services and in a special collection box goes to this project.

## SPRING PLANTS OR FLOWERS FOR EASTER SERVICES

Altar Guild welcomes contributions for these services on March 30th & 31st. They can be designated in memory or honor of friends and loved ones. Please provide names to the Church Office no later than Wednesday, March 27, and have contributions delivered to the Gathering Space by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 30. All arrangements are made individually, not through the Church Office. You are welcome to remove your plant/flowers after the Easter Sunday service.

- Due to sensitivities to odors and pollen, Easter lilies (or other lilies) are not placed in the sanctuary. Altar Guild suggestions include azaleas, tulips, daffodils, bulb gardens, kalanchoes, hydrangeas, pansies, roses.

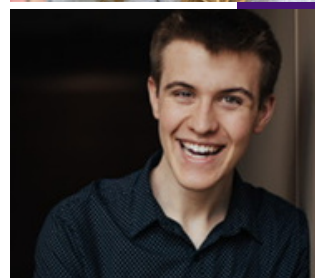


# LENTEN MUSIC RECITAL SERIES

6

This year's Lenten Recital Series at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church once again features a variety of music on three **Wednesdays during Lent, from 12:15-12:45 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. All recitals are free and open to the public. Come and spend your lunch time here!

- The series kicks off on **March 6**, featuring solo and chamber music by Luther College senior music student **Mattie Snyder, cello and friends**. The program includes:
  - *5 Folk Songs for Cello and Piano* by Sultan Tsintsadze, Movements III and IV, featuring Mattie Snyder, cello and Nathan Eck, piano, Luther College '22, with majors in music and philosophy.
  - *Limestone and Felt* by Caroline Shaw, featuring Luther College senior music student Jess Trygstad, viola, and Mattie Snyder, cello.
  - *Folk Suite for Cello* by Liz Davis Maxfield, featuring Mattie Snyder, cello.
- On **March 13**, students from the **organ studio of Alexander Meszler, Luther College organist**, will perform.
- On **March 20**, enjoy music by Warren Gooch, George Walker, and a premiere by **Brooke Joyce, featuring Craig Hultgren**, cello and Brooke Joyce, piano and organ.
  - Joyce is Composer-in-Residence at Luther College and Director of Music at Good Shepherd.
  - Hultgren is a long-time activist for new music, the newly creative arts, and the avant-garde. A recipient of two Artist Fellowships from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, he is principal cellist of the Oneota Valley Community Orchestra.

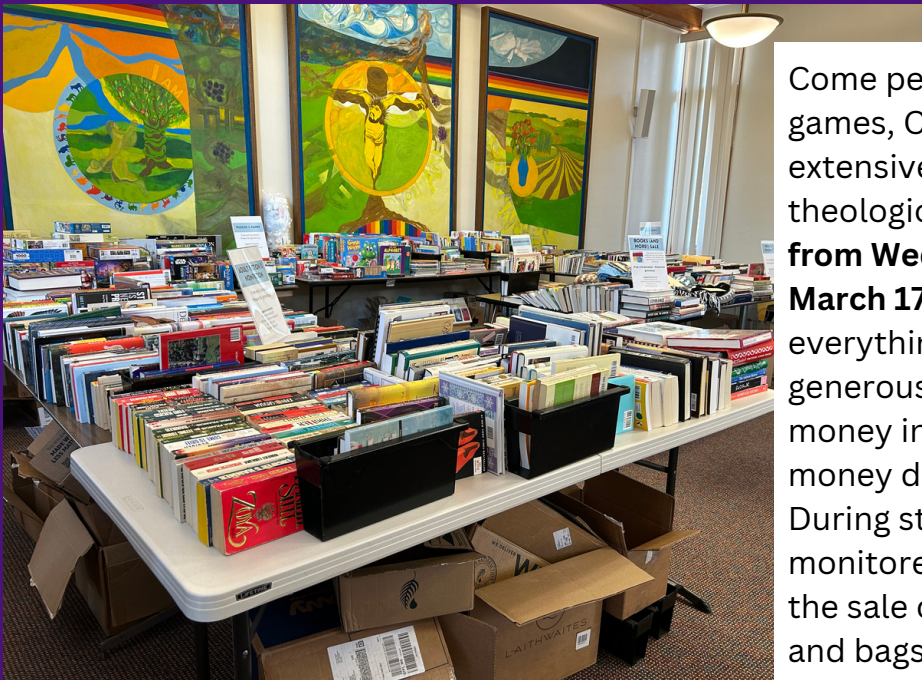


Mattie Snyder - Nathan Eck - Jess Trygstad - Brooke Joyce - Craig Hultgren

# YOUTH FUNDRAISERS FOR THE 2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

Thank you for the generous support in the “Give some love, get some love” recent hearts donation fundraiser - \$1,297 was raised! Amazing! Also a big thank you to Good Shepherd WELCA for their donation of \$500 towards the trip. Here are the upcoming fundraisers to look forward to:

## BOOKS (AND MORE) SALE:



Come peruse the ABUNDANT sale for puzzles, games, CD's DVD's, childrens books, and an extensive array of adult non-fiction, fiction, theological, and biblical books. **The sale will run from Wednesday, February 28 through Sunday, March 17**, in the Fellowship Hall, with everything a free will donation - please be generous. Feel free to “shop” anytime - leave money in the envelope by the sale, or take money down to the Office if you would rather. During staffed hours the money bag will be monitored regularly. Youth will be helping run the sale on Wednesdays and Sundays. Boxes and bags are available under the tables to help you get your things home.

## MUFFINS & TREATS

At the March 13th simple soup supper, youth will provide baked goods to purchase as an additional treat to the meal and fundraiser.

## EASTER BRUNCH

Stay after Easter Worship and bring your neighbors, friends, and family! Easter Brunch foods will be served in the Fellowship Hall and a free-will offering will be collected to help fundraise for the youth gathering trip. Youth going on the trip and their families will help with the brunch.

# 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 Oliver & Adeline

## Oliver Bollinger

- **Year in School:** Sophomore
- **What hobbies do you enjoy/extracurricular activities are you in?** I enjoy running, biking, and playing soccer.
- **Did you go on the Youth Trip last summer or have you been on any trip like this before?** I have never been on any trip like this in my life.
- **Why do you want to go to the Youth Gathering this summer?** Because I feel that I will meet a lot of new people and make new friends.
- **What is one aspect you like about being a part of the Good Shepherd Community?** how supportive everyone is. no matter what time of year I feel like am always supported by the good shepherd community.

## Adeline Bollinger

- **Year in School:** 8th grade
- **What hobbies do you enjoy/extracurricular activities are you in?** I enjoy cross country, swimming, basketball, and track. I am in chorus and play percussion in the band. I like to ride my bike around town!
- **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?** To have fun with friends!
- **What is one aspect you like about being a part of the Good Shepherd Community?** I have good friends at Good Shepherd and I like the people at church.

## ADULT FORUM: PRAYING THE PSALMS

### **Sunday, March 3rd -**

- How can we use these ancient prayers for personal and group prayer? Jane Jakoubek and Kris Peterson will share ideas and resources as well as invite reflection and conversation about praying the Psalms.



# MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND EPIC SCHOLARSHIP PARENT-STUDENT MEETING, MARCH 17

The MEF Committee is announcing a Parent-Student EPIC Scholarship Meeting on Sunday, March 17th at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Gathering Space and is open to 2024 high school graduates as well as any member of the congregation interested in the Good Shepherd EPIC (Educational Partners in Covenant) ministry. Applications for the 2024-2025 academic year will be available.

The EPIC Scholarship ministry is funded by the congregation's Mission Endowment Fund and is available to any member of the congregation attending an ELCA college or university. Each year the MEF Committee is authorized to utilize 4% of the fund's total value to award scholarships. Currently the fund value is approximately \$125,000, which translates into 5 scholarships.

Because of the growing number of youth in our congregation, the fund is currently unable to meet the application requests of all eligible students. At the Annual Meeting on February 4th the congregation reinforced their support of this ministry by voting to provide a \$5000 budget line item to be used for EPIC scholarships if necessary. It is anticipated that up to nine or ten applications could be received for the upcoming academic year. If that many awards are issued, the needs for next year will even be greater since all applications will be from underclass students.

For many years the specific responsibilities of the MEF Committee have been to maintain and manage the fund, accept applications, and award the scholarships. With the growing membership of the congregation, the committee has had to find ways to grow the fund. This past year a Three-Pronged Growth Program was developed to address this need. In the SHORT-TERM the committee has encouraged memorials and direct donations to the fund. In addition, fund raising events such as the Easter Breakfast have been held and more could be planned. In the MEDIUM-TERM the congregation has elected to establish a budget line item to assist the committee.

In the LONG-TERM, a plan has been developed to encourage members of the congregation to consider including the Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund in their estate planning; two families have done so, to date. As part of this plan, Erick Kephart, Decorah Bank & Trust Vice President and Trust Officer, presented an Adult Forum at Good Shepherd on this topic on February 18th.

Should you wish to financially support the scholarships you can do so by placing a check made out to Good Shepherd with a designation of MEF on the memo line or arrange for an on-line transaction. Tristan or Erica will assist you if you choose to make a monthly automatic withdrawal to MEF; several members of the congregation currently do so.

First United Methodist Church will be hosting World Day of Prayer on Friday March 1. The theme is “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love” Ephesians 4:1-3. This program, written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women, calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression. Martha Monson Lowe will be our speaker and Palestinian handwork will also be available for purchase. All are welcome. A second presentation will be given March 2 at Big Canoe Lutheran Church.

Supplies for LWR Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits will be collected during March and April. Donations can be dropped off in the containers in the Gathering Space outside the Sanctuary. We have some supplies on hand. Gail has been busy shopping at the Depot for baby things. Items still needed are: new, dark-colored bath towels (between 20” x 40” and 52” x 27”); 4-5 ounce wrapped bars of soap, any brand; new adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging; new metal nail clippers; sleepers without feet; cloth diapers, flat fold; dark-colored hand towels. We will be assembling the kits in late April.

The NEIA Synod Women Organization has scholarships available for women continuing their education. Please contact Bev Sheridan, 563-608-3272 for more information.

## **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.

Rivers: Springs of life and hope

Fresh water. Most of life on our planet depends on it, and the story of God’s saving work flows alongside it, through stories of biblical rivers that offer a vision of flourishing creation. Together we’ll journey from the rivers in Eden to the prophetic springs in the desert, and from Jesus’ baptism at the river Jordan to the crystalline river of life in Revelation. We’ll discover how rivers are sites of healing, restoration, identity and imagination. (from Gather website)

## **Upcoming events**

March 1: World Day of Prayer, First United Methodist, 9 am

March 26: Gather Bible study, fellowship hall, 7 pm, Marty Steele Bible study, Kris Peterson refreshments

April 20: Cluster D Spring gathering, Good Shepherd

May 3: May Friendship Day, Good Shepherd

May 4: LWR pickup

The Good Shepherd Church Council unanimously elected the following members to serve on the committee calling our next pastor: Megan Buckingham (convener), Anne Clausen (council), Karin Martin-Hiner (council), Steve Holland, Bob Larson, and Leah Holland (youth representative).

The executive committee and convener were enormously grateful for the congregation's nominations and took them very seriously -- thank you, Good Shepherd, for your insight and thoughtful input! In addition to the nominations, the following guidelines were also used to form the committee:

- We strove for a well-balanced committee, making sure we had a mix of perspectives, genders, life experience, and tenure as members of Good Shepherd.
- Per Good Shepherd's guidelines, we included two current members of the church council.
- Per Good Shepherd's practice, we included a baptized and confirmed youth representative.
- All members of the call committee are voting members of the congregation (our congregation has a fair number of associate members who also have affiliations with other churches - those folks are unfortunately not voting members of our congregation).
- Good Shepherd has a wealth of pastors and former pastors among our membership -- per church practice and recommendations, we let those folks off the hook!
- We took into consideration existing service and commitments at Good Shepherd -- including, but not limited to, also letting off the hook the members who served on the most recent call committee.

These guidelines were shaped by Pastor Amy, Pastor Dave, and recommendations from the synod. We are happy to have a committee in place, and to begin our work of calling a new pastor!

A word on the process going forward: As many of us are aware, calling a pastor in this time is not guaranteed to be a quick, easy, or even successful process. That said, Good Shepherd is healthy, vibrant congregation. We believe we will attract good candidates who want to serve in our midst. We may need to have patience as we work through the process to find those folks, but we have faith that we will ultimately find a wonderful pastor who is a good fit for our lively congregation.

As this process unfolds, the call committee will stay in good communication with the congregation. We will provide regular updates on our progress, and also ask the congregation for your input and ideas. Thank you for entrusting us with this important task -- and for all your prayers and support along the way.

*-Megan Buckingham, Call Committee Convener*

# NOTE FROM PR. AMY ZALK LARSON

Beloved Good Shepherd, Beloved People of God,

I am writing you on Sunday, February 18. I just finished reading all the notes and cards that were compiled at the farewell brunch and those that you sent at other times. I am picturing you all. My heart is so full of gratitude for each of you. Thank you for your faithful witness to the love of God. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for sending us with your love and blessing as we begin this new journey.

I also want to thank you more fully for the gifts you gave me as I departed. The print of the woman dancing with birds will be hung in our new home (someday we'll hang pictures!). The Palestinian wood carving of the shepherd and sheep is in my new office. The communion set has been put to good use already. I will use the additional money you gave for a white and a blue pastor stole and other ministry essentials. Thank you!

We are settling in well to Red Wing. It was a joy to have Matt preside at my installation. Many of my and Matt's family members were able to come down from St. Paul, MN and Hudson or River Falls, WI. Matt's parents came from Georgia. Nate came up from Wartburg.

Abby is making friends and busy with choir, speech, horse riding, and youth group activities. Matt is loving his forty-minute commute to the office and much shorter drives to many of the congregations he visits. I am grateful for the people of St. Paul's even as I miss all of you and the wonderful staff of Good Shepherd.

I am so grateful you have Pr. Dave with you in this time of transition. I'm so grateful you have such a good call committee! You are always in my prayers. I am excited to see what the Spirit will do among you next! God is holding our lives; this gives me such hope for all of our futures.

Peace to you,  
Pr. Amy



## ACCOMPANY MIGRANT MINORS WITH PROTECTION, ADVOCACY, REPRESENTATION, AND OPPORTUNITIES

In Spanish, the word amparo means protection, refuge, or shelter. Since 2016, AMMPARO has been the holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA as a church in the world to accompany migrant children and families today and in the future. In 2017, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church became an AMMPARO WELCOMING CONGREGATION, the first designated as such in the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The congregation's commitment to supporting migrants is long-standing, beginning with active assistance for refugees from WWII and southeast Asia in the 1970's.

Since 2017, our congregation has responded generously with financial gifts for medical, emergency and legal needs, and basic food supplies for newly arrived neighbors from Central America in cooperation with other community agencies. We have given rides statewide to medical and legal appointments, have translated in the schools and at medical appointments, and have donated furniture and bedding to help families that come with nothing but what they can carry. We have hosted and provided hospitality to quarterly free legal clinics in the fellowship hall. We have written Christmas cards to persons in immigration detention and have led fundraisers for legal, medical and emergency needs.

Several Good Shepherd members participate in the Immigration Working Group at the Peace and Justice Center and participate in other local immigration advocacy groups such as Path to Citizenship. Those most intimately involved in this ministry work regularly to ascertain needs and legal trends and then ask for your involvement as our area welcomes an increasing number of asylum seekers, especially from Central America.

### **The ways you can support this ministry in an active manner include:**

- Holding in prayer those seeking sanctuary from danger and famine.
- Share financial resources at:
  - Path to Citizenship (donate at [immigrationneia.org](http://immigrationneia.org) or P.O. Box 355 Decorah)
  - Guatemalan Basics (a fund that buys 3 months worth of corn, masa and beans for newly arrived families at a cost of \$90 per set). This fund is housed at the UCC.
  - Neighbors Helping Neighbors (a fund for immigration related emergencies such as covering rent after the loss of a job or a serious illness). This fund is housed at the UCC.
    - For the 2 funds housed at the UCC, go to <https://decorahucc.breezechms.com/give/online>, put in the amount you wish to give and scroll down to choose either Guatemalan Basics or Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

*continued on next page*

## ACCOMPANY **M**IGRANT **M**INORS WITH **P**ROTECTION, **A**DVOCACY, **R**EPRESENTATION, AND **O**PPORTUNITIES

### The ways you can support this ministry in an active manner include:

- Share functional used furniture, particularly twin, full and queen beds and bedding, dressers, and dining tables and chairs (contact Marty Steele, 563-4196163).
- Volunteer to drive people to legal appointments, usually in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City or Des Moines and sometimes in town (contact Marty Steele, 563-4196163).

Marty Steele is the AMMPARO representative for Good Shepherd and is glad to answer any questions about the program or our work.



## MARCH & APRIL MUSIC SCHEDULE

### **3/3 Choir**

- 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)

### **4/7 Choir**

- Offertory: "Hear the Sound of Joy" (Viadana)

# LOOKING BACK ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Submitted by Cheri Lane*

February was Black History Month, a time to honor and celebrate the rich contributions of Black individuals throughout history. This month-long commemoration provides an opportunity for all of us to reflect on and recognize the pivotal role African Americans have played in shaping the fabric of American society, as well as their resilience in the face of adversity.

Respective to music that has shaped society, here are two playlists from Black musicians for you to enjoy:

- [\(Modern Era\) Black Gospel YouTube Playlist](#)
- [Musical Variety Spotify Playlist \(201 songs\)](#)

Respective to Black individual resiliency, did you know that the first U.S. female firefighter was a Black woman? As an employee of a technology company that serves the fire service (and other public safety fields), I was delighted to learn about Molly Williams, who is recognized as the first U.S. female firefighter.

[Reference:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molly\\_Williams#Notes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molly_Williams#Notes)]

I serve on the BIPOC committee at my company and here is a little paragraph that I shared with my colleagues in honor of Black History Month.

Can you imagine how much strength and resiliency it would take to serve on an all-male fire crew? Especially as a Black woman in the early 1800s? During her time at Oceanus Engine Company #11 in lower Manhattan, Molly was simply called "Volunteer No. 11." Her service was noted particularly during the blizzard of 1818. Male firefighters were scarce due to a cholera outbreak but Williams took her place with the men on the drag ropes and pulled the pumper to the fire through the deep snow--at the age of 71.



**MOLLY  
WILLIAMS**

New ways of expressing our prayer life together and responding to confusion about how to direct prayers will result in a shift in the structure and management of the Prayer List and prayer requests under Pastor Dave's guidance. Prayers will be listed and grouped by "need/request" instead of just their name so that we may better pray over and for them. Additionally, Pr. Dave will write prayers for the broader world each week to help focus prayers to communities, current events, etc. This is a process we know will take time to iron out, so please reach out to the Office or Pr. Dave if you have a prayer request - we apologize for any missed requests in this transition time.

When giving prayer requests feel free to share details to have listed, for example "breast cancer treatment", or a general statement of "their health". There will also now be a timed cycling on and off the prayer list managed by the Pastor and the Office. As we transition into this new system, we appreciate your grace in contacting us if you would like someone to be on the list and for what reason.

- People will be kept on the "Medical Concerns" prayer list for 4 weeks. After that they will be cycled off and you will need to alert Pr. Dave or the Office to have them return to the Prayer List for another 4 weeks.
- Those listed under "Hospice" will remain on the prayer list until otherwise noted.
- Those in the "Grieving" section will remain on the list for 2 weeks
- Those who "serve us" are another section (missionaries, seminarians, etc.)
- If your request does not fit in these categories, please let us know and we'll edit the headings to accommodate

## **The prayer page will now look like this:**

### **Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy**

*People will be kept on the "medical concerns" prayer list for 4 weeks. After that they will be cycled off and you will need to alert Pr. Dave or the Office to have them return to the Prayer List for another 4 weeks. Those listed under "hospice" will remain on the prayer list until otherwise noted. Grieving folks are on for 2 weeks.*

#### **Those with medical concerns...**

- 

#### **Those in hospice...**

- 

#### **Those who are grieving..**

- 

#### **Those who serve us...**

- 

#### **Prayers for the Church, the Nation, and the World...**

- 

*To have a prayer request added to the Prayer List, please email Pr. Dave, Tristan, or Erica in the office ([pastordavid@goodshepherddecorah.org](mailto:pastordavid@goodshepherddecorah.org) - [tristan@goodshepherddecorah.org](mailto:tristan@goodshepherddecorah.org) - [erica@goodshepherddecorah.org](mailto:erica@goodshepherddecorah.org))*



# GOOD SHEPHERD IS ONE OF 6 NATIONAL WINNERS

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## *IN INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT'S COOL CONGREGATIONS ANNUAL AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY*

WASHINGTON, D.C., February, 2024 — **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Decorah, IA is one of the six national Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) 2024 Cool Congregations Challenge winners awarded a \$1000 prize.** The annual contest accepts applications from religious congregations around the United States who are doing work to address climate change by reducing their carbon footprint as they create models of sustainability within their communities.

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church won the Energy Saver Award** for entirely eliminating the use of fossil fuels in heating, cooling, lighting, and powering their buildings. They have converted their building to all-electric, with heat pumps to heat and cool their buildings, powered entirely by solar on their property, preventing 25 tons of carbon emissions annually.

“Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the other national winning congregations are casting a vision for the kind of world in which they want to live, and then carrying out that vision with practical actions that make a real difference in creating lasting solutions to climate change,” said Rev. Susan Hendershot, President of Interfaith Power & Light.

The Cool Congregations Challenge shows that people of faith are united by concerns about climate change and are taking action. The winners provide strong moral role models for their communities, and their activities have a ripple effect on people in their own homes, demonstrating that acting on climate is a moral issue.

“Iowa IPL congratulates Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on their well-deserved recognition for their work and commitment on prioritizing sustainability. Good Shepherd shows us all what is possible when people of faith come together and live into bold and just action on the climate crisis. They are a leader and will inspire other houses of worship to see what they can do,” says Deaconess Irene DeMaris, Executive Director, Iowa Interfaith Power & Light.

Interfaith Power & Light is mobilizing a religious response to global warming in congregations by promoting energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. [www.interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org) Twitter: [@CoolCongregations](https://twitter.com/CoolCongregations) @interfaithpower Facebook: [facebook.com/interfaithpowerandlight](https://facebook.com/interfaithpowerandlight)



Interfaith  
Power & Light

Martha Monson Lowe will share stories of the lives of Palestinian women whom she has met in the Holy Land for the **World Day of Prayer, scheduled Friday, March 1st**, starting at 9 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Decorah. She will also sell Palestinian handwork that she has purchased from artists and shopkeepers. Martha and her husband George have spent more than a year living and volunteering in Bethlehem and East Jerusalem.

- A second presentation will also be given March 2nd, 9 a.m., at Big Canoe Lutheran Church.

**Into the Woods Summer Camps:** Into The Woods is a nature-based summer camp supporting youth to deepen their sense of place through earth-based skills, ecological awareness practices, and connection with one another on the land. Our days are centered around play and exploration, building relationships through games, adventures, and spacious time following our curiosity and creativity. Come join us!

- Camps will be held a few miles outside of Decorah Iowa, further information will be given upon registration. Liz Rogs daughter, Ida Rog, is the facilitator of these camps and Red Oak Outdoor School. Learn more at Decorah Now.com and by clicking [HERE](#).

**DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL!** Please join us for a free meal on Thursday, March 7th, at 5:00 PM, at Decorah Lutheran Church, 309 Winnebago Street.

All are welcome -- this is a free meal -- serving until 6:15 PM. This month we are hosted by members of the Northern Lights Chorale who will provide volunteers, salads, and desserts. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College.

## **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!

**COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE:** Thursday, March 2nd - Stone Ridge Community Church - 12:30-5:30 PM.

# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

## **COUNCIL MEETING Feb. 20, 2024**

*In attendance: Anne Clausen, Tim Lecander, Karin Martin-Hiner, Chris Johnson, Kris Peterson, Brian Caton, Sara Hopkins, Lise Kildegaard, Pr. David Wrightsman, and Marilyn Rue on Zoom.*

### **Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve**

- In one word or one sentence, share what you most need from God now.
- Opening Prayer - Kris next month Lise
- 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?

### **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.*

Lise made motion to accept the reports, Sara 2nd and passed.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of January 2024 Council Meeting Minutes
2. Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)

### **Discussion Agenda**

1. Update from Call Committee: *We have not met yet but have a meeting Scheduled with Pr. Liz Bell on March 5th.*
2. Orientation to council (2 handouts: "Serving on your congregational council" and "Organization of Council Meetings") *Please write any edits/additions and notify Erica of any edits that need updating to these documents from your experiences on Council this past year.*
3. Assign committee liaisons
  - Education (Lise K), Outreach and Hospitality (Marilyn Rue), Facilities and Grounds (Brian Caton), Stewardship (Sara Hopkins), Worship and Music (Karin M-H)
4. At large members ask committees to review their continuing resolutions
5. Designate president and vice president to access bank account and safe deposit box, under the condition they submit to background checks. (See notes printed out regarding process for changing access to bank account/safe deposit box)\*
6. Approval of Treasurer's Report *Sara Hopkins made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and 2nd by Tim Lecander and it passed.*
7. Treasurer: Gratitude for John Moeller's great service as Treasurer. Tim Lecander and Chris Johnson will converse with John about future planning.
8. Council Retreat ~ usually Saturday before Annual Meeting. Proposal for May or June Luna Valley Pizza Gathering
9. Interim needed : July 1 and following. Kris Peterson will look into this.

# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

## 10. Annual Meeting reflections:

- Decorah Food Pantry Representative conversation
- Constitutional Continuing Resolution, Elizabeth Kachins and Jane Kemp
- MissionEndowmentFund
- Propose Regular reports from other sub-committees to learn about their work

Pastor Dave and Brian Caton will review and clarify the wording and workings of organization.

## 11. Education Committee and Kelli:

- Children's Area Ask if Outreach and Hospitality will coordinate with Education on use and materials for different areas for children and youth..

## 12. Pastor's Report Kris gave the suggestion to add Flock leaders on the list of leaders.

- Possible invitation to the Forgiveness project to come again
- Reconfiguration of Prayer list in the Bulletin.

## 13. Thank you's On behalf of the Council thank yous for things of the month.

### Announcements

1. Newsletter Deadline is Feb. 25, 2024 (always the 25th of the month)
2. Committee reports/summaries due to office on Second Monday of the month
3. Agenda with committee links emailed to Council Third Monday of the month.  
Please read prior to Council meeting.
4. Next Council meeting (third Tuesday of month) is March 19, 2024

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

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

#### **Education Committee:**

1. Lent project (confirmation): focus on mental health
2. Adult Forums: Education Committee to manage schedule/forum requests going forward
3. F-Word Exhibit - Louisa Hext, exhibit coordinator, to visit GS and close exhibit early

**Outreach and Hospitality Committee:** *no meetings to report on since last council meeting*

**Facilities and Grounds Committee:** *no meetings since last meeting but notes from Jim Fritz on behalf of the committee*

1. Top Recipient "Cool Congregations Challenge" category "Power Savers"
2. Courtyard furniture recommendation
3. Outdoor signage: a vision

**Stewardship Committee:** *no meetings to report on since last council meeting*

#### **Worship and Music**

1. Simple Soup Supper proposal
2. Pew cushions
3. Lenten theme

**Anne moved and Sara 2nded to adjourn the council meeting and it passed.**



# MARCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>25</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Pastor Dave in office</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Kindergarten Enrollment Papers Due</div>	<div>2</div> <div>2pm - Youth Lent Event</div>
<div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	
<div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>	<div>9:15am - Living the Message Bible</div>	<div>4pm - Spiritual Growth Class @</div>	<div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div>	<div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	
<div>10:45am - Sunday school</div>	<div>10:15am - Staff meeting</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>	<div>4:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div>	<div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div>	
	<div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>1pm - Directory meeting @ Library</div>	<div>5:30pm - Wednesday worship</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	
	<div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div>	<div>6:15pm - Trumpet Lesson</div>		
<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div>
<div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>Pastor Dave in office</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>Recycle</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	
<div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div>	
<div>10:45am - Sunday school</div>	<div>10:30am - Liz Rog Meeting @</div>	<div>9:15am - Living the Message Bible</div>	<div>10am - Eastern Star/Arin Falck</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>		
<div>11am - Adult Forum: Praying the</div>	<div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>1pm - Kindertaus Conferences @</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>	<div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div>		
	<div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>2:30pm - Aase Haugen</div>	<div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div>		
	<div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>4pm - Stewardship Committee</div>	<div>4pm - Spiritual Growth Class @</div>	<div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div>		
<div>10</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div>
<div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>Pastor Dave in office</div>			<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Erik Sessions recital</div>
<div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div>	<div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div>	<div>9am - Green Flock Gathering @</div>
<div>10:45am - Sunday school</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>	<div>1pm - Facilities &amp; Grounds</div>	<div>1pm - Travel Club Fellowship &amp;</div>		
	<div>10:15am - Staff meeting</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>4pm - Spiritual Growth Class @</div>	<div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div>		
	<div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div>		
	<div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div>	<div>5:30pm - Wednesday worship</div>	<div>5:30pm - Wednesday worship</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>		
<div>17</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>
<div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>Pastor Dave in office</div>			<div>Recycle</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	
<div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div>	
<div>10:45am - Sunday school</div>	<div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>9:15am - Living the Message Bible</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>		
<div>11am - EPIC Scholarship Meeting</div>	<div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @</div>	<div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div>		
<div>1pm - Erik Sessions Recital</div>	<div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>6:30pm - Sons of Norway @</div>	<div>4pm - Spiritual Growth Class @</div>	<div>12:45pm - MEF Committee</div>		
<div>3:30pm - Erik Sessions reception</div>		<div>7pm - Congregation Council</div>	<div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div>		
<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>
<div>Palm Sunday</div>	<div>Pastor Dave in office</div>			<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>Kindergarten Spring Break</div>	
<div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>Newsletter Deadline</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>7pm - Easter Vigil Bonfire</div>
<div>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9:15am - Living the Message Bible</div>	<div>4pm - Spiritual Growth Class @</div>	<div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	
<div>10:45am - Sunday school</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>	<div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div>	<div>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</div>	
	<div>10:15am - Staff meeting</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	
	<div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather</div>	<div>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</div>	<div>6:15pm - Trumpet Lesson</div>		
<div>31</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>
<div>Kindertaus Spring Break</div>	<div>Pastor Dave in office</div>			<div>Recycle</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	
<div>Easter Sunday</div>	<div>Office closed for Easter</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>9am - Church Office Hours</div>	<div>5:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</div>	
<div>9:30am - In-person Worship &amp; Fellowship Hour</div>	<div>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>9:15am - Living the Message Bible</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>	<div>10am - Erica office hours</div>		
<div>10:45am - Easter Brunch</div>	<div>4:30pm - Keill's Office Hours</div>	<div>3:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>5:30pm - Piano lessons</div>	<div>11am - Bible Study @ Library</div>		
	<div>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</div>	<div>4pm - Stewardship Committee</div>	<div>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</div>	<div>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</div>		