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 ...

Psalm 100:3



April 28th - 5th Sunday of Easter

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.

Welcome to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

As you enter the Sanctuary, you are invited to make the transition from "getting here" to "being here". Take a moment to silence phones. You may use these moments of quiet time to listen to the Prelude as you prepare to come fully into the presence of God and our community of faith.

Worship Books are in the Pews

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (**ELW**) - red book

All Creation Sings (**ACS**) - purple book

Page numbers (p.) in front of the books; hymn numbers (#) in back of books.

Congregational responses are in **bold**. An * indicates a time to rise in body or spirit.

Worship Window Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

Peter set us straight in our lesson for today, when he says, "We believe that we are saved by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ." Period. End of discussion. The Pharisees believed in grace. But they were so bound to their own customs that they were confusing non-essentials with essentials. And they were making life more difficult not only for Gentile Christians, but for the working of the Holy Spirit.

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS and especially to Luther College 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 is available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works for you and your child.

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. Find the full statement at **goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement** or by scanning the code.



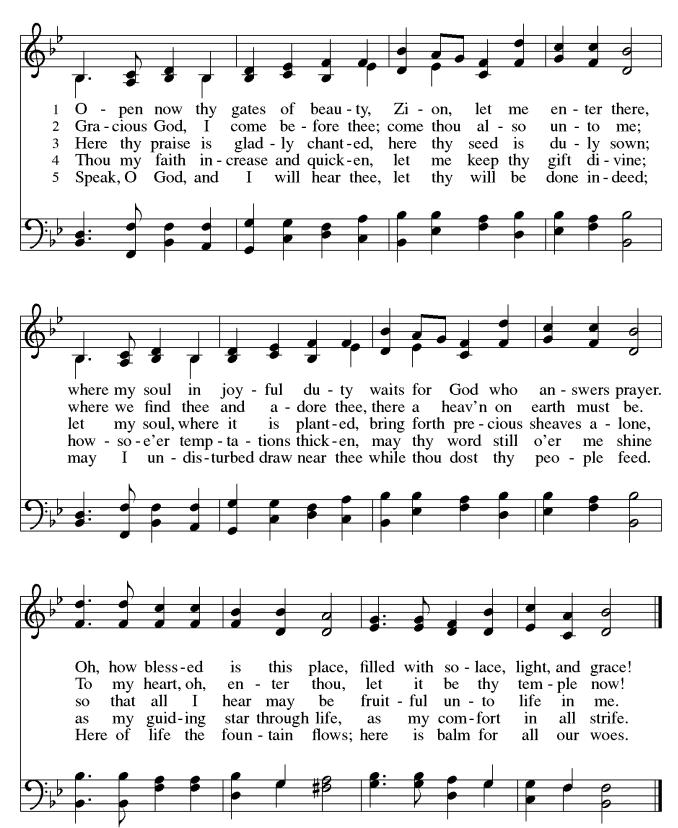
We publicly declare that we will actively pursue racial justice in all aspects of our congregational life and make changes to adopt antiracist policies and practices around worship, education, advocacy, stewardship, governance, and through our community partnerships and relationships. (Ephesians 2: 14-15, Isaiah 56: 6)

GATHERING

PRAYER BELL - PRELUDE: "Pavane" - Tilman Susato

WELCOME

*GATHERING HYMN: ELW #533 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" vs. 1, 2, 5



Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

*APOSTOLIC GREETING:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

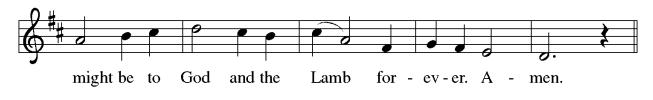
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE:







This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray together... O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

LESSON: Acts 15:1-12

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ²And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. ³So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. ⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

⁶The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has

made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." ¹²The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles.

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

PSALM 22:25-31

- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly; | will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.
- ²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- ²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD, who rules o- | ver the nations.
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.
 - ³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
 - ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn, saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



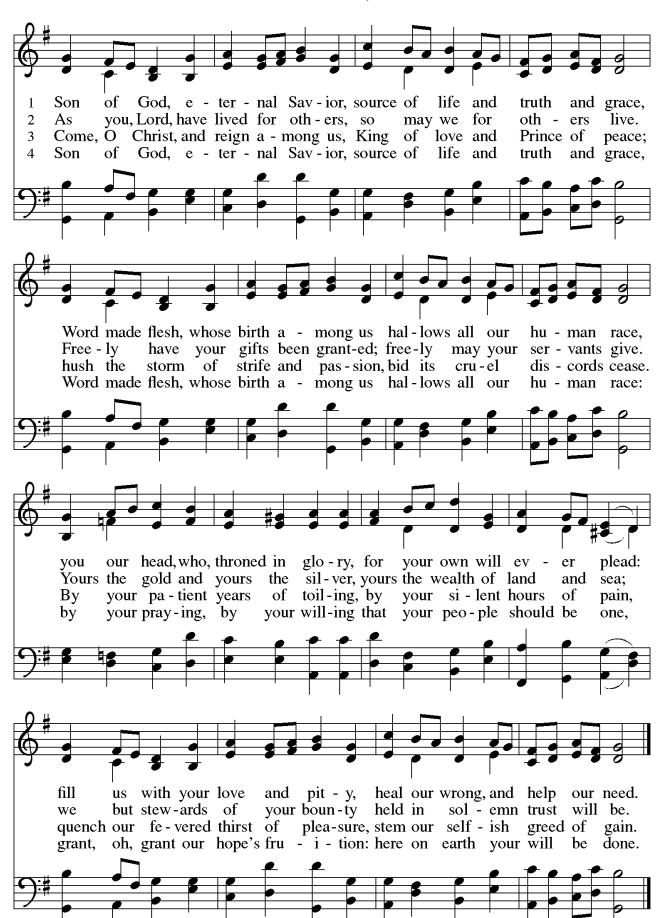
GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8

- The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.
- [Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."
- The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Cleansing the Heart with Faith"

- Pr. Dave Wrightsman

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #655 "Son of God, Eternal Savior" vs. 1, 3, 4



Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932
Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr. Julius Rönigen, 1855–1932

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

*PEACE OF CHRIST: 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: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" - arr. Johnie Dean *OFFERING SONG: ELW #184 "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



*OFFERING PRAYER:

Let us pray together... Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING - HOLY HOLY: p. 152

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:



*LORD'S PRAYER: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

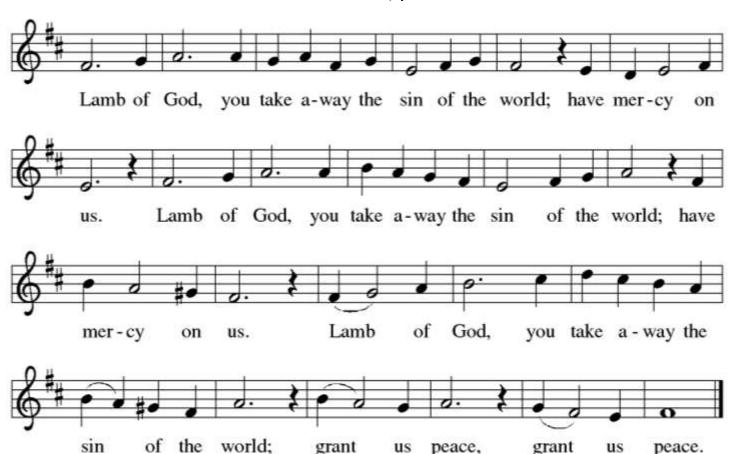
HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table. As Lutherans we believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord. All who desire to receive the gifts of grace, forgiveness, and new life are welcome to come to the Lord's Table. You do not need to be Lutheran or a member of Good Shepherd to receive these gifts.

- Ushers will direct you to the altar rail.
- Gluten and dairy free bread and red wine/white grape juice are available to all.
- If you prefer only blessing, indicate by placing your hands in front of your heart.
- Prepackaged servings of bread and wine are available.

COMMUNION SONGS:

Lamb of God, p. 154



peace,

us

peace.

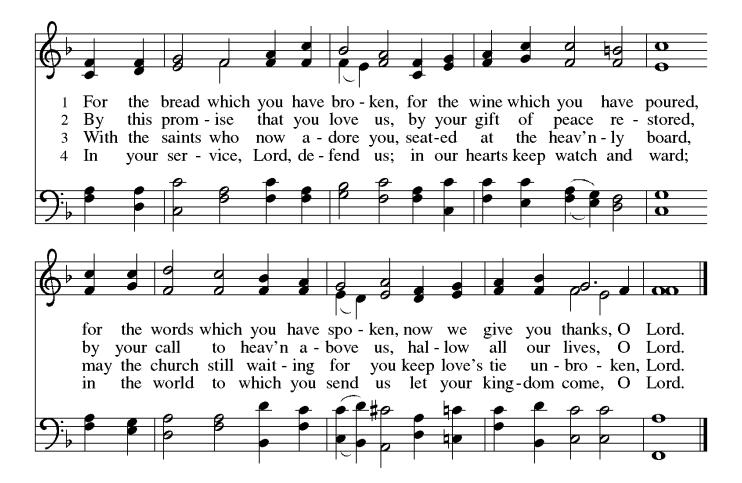
ELW #359 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
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ELW #494 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"



Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.
Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

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ELW #595 "Jesus Loves Me!"



Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt. Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

*TABLE BLESSING

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Let us pray together... Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

SENDING

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

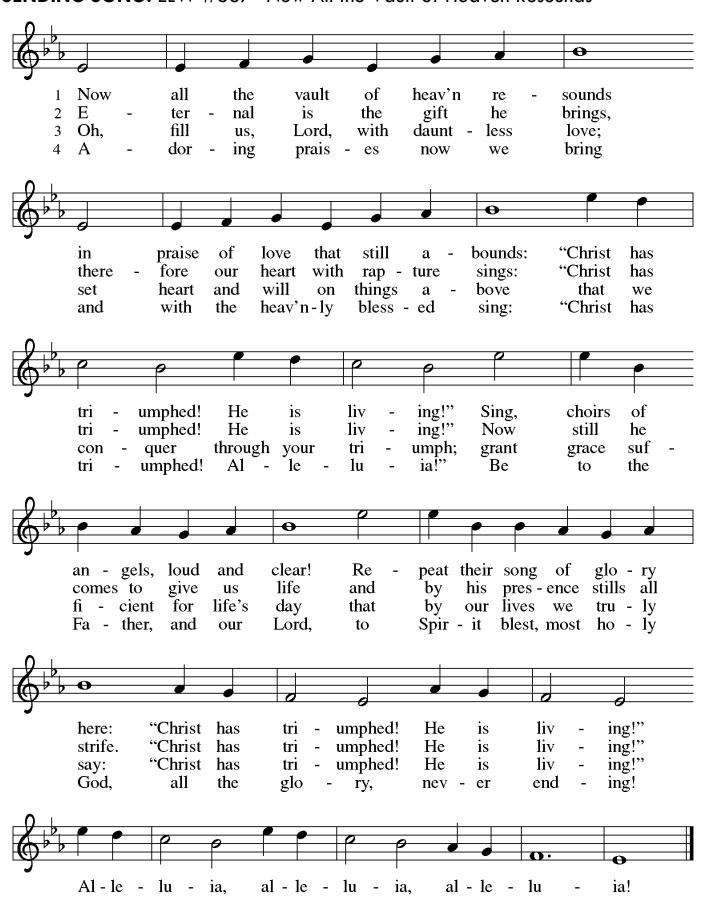
*BENEDICTION:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always. **Amen**.

*SENDING SONG: ELW #367 "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"



Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt. Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*PRAYER BELL

*DISMISSAL: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: "Amazing Grace" – arr. Luther Henderson

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: USHERS: Mic Martin, Christy

Tomlinson; CANTOR: Melanie Folkerts; READER: Jonathon Struve; ASSISTING MINISTER: Linda Martin; FELLOWSHIP: Naomi Craft, Christy Tomlinson, Jonathon

Struve, Doris Barnaal, Sharon Drew

Special thanks to the the Noble Brass Quintet for their music today!

Matthew Boardman ('24) trumpet, Hannah Wren ('24) trumpet, Maggie Bruck ('25) horn, Elias Vorvick ('27) trombone, Mark Severtson ('25) tuba

ADULT FORUM TODAY: VOTE FORWARD - ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN THE 2024 ELECTION: 11:00 in the Gathering Space. Come and learn from Pr. Marion Pruitt-Jefferson & Jane Jakoubek about an organization called Vote Forward, which "empowers grassroots volunteers to send handwritten letters encouraging fellow Americans to vote."

CALL COMMITTEE REQUEST: The Call Committee is making progress on the Ministry Site Profile, and we need your help! Please pick up a blank note card, available from the ushers on Sunday, and write what you think are the **top three challenges** our congregation is facing. Submit your note card on the way out of church, to the church office, or email your response to **Anne Clausen** at anne59clausen@gmail.com Thank you!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED ON ST. GRUBBY'S DAY: From Jim Fritz, chair of the Facilities and Grounds Committee: The amount of work that got done was awesome! Thanks to all who volunteered or sponsored the pizza party after. It was such a beautiful spring day!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 - EPIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: All

Good Shepherd high school seniors and current college students attending an ELCA college or university during the 2024-2025 academic year are eligible to apply for an EPIC (Education Partners in Covenant) scholarship. Applications are available in the church office and on our website at **goodshepherddecorah.org/endowment-fund**

BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES SUNDAY: Blessing & celebration of graduates from high school and college will be on Sunday, May 12th during worship – there will be a special Fellowship Hour following worship. If you are a Luther student who would like to be blessed and celebrated, please contact the church office.

MAY 5th ADULT FORUM ON PRAYER: Do you wonder how to draw closer to God in prayer in your everyday life? Come learn about *Lectio Divina* (using scripture to listen to God) and how to practice the presence of God in all the ordinary parts of your life at the Adult Forum on May 5th with Kris Peterson and Jane Jakoubek.

INVEST IN YOUTH FUNDRAISER: Thirteen Good Shepherd youth invite church members and friends to purchase (fictitious) stock certificates, as they continue to raise funds for their trip in July to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Stock certificates cost \$20 each and will be sold in the Fellowship Hall on all 4 Sundays in May, May 5, 12, 19, and 26. Our youth and two adult leaders (15 total) are partnering with Decorah Lutheran and First Lutheran to share transportation and housing costs.

VBS SAVE THE DATE: MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, JULY 29-31 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024: GROW IN FAITH. HAVE FUN. CHANGE THE WORLD. All children entering grades K-6th are invited to VBS at Good Shepherd July 29-31 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. each evening. Start the night with dinner, then enjoy a fun evening including music, games, small groups, and crafts! This year's theme is ReNew: The Green VBS. The cost is \$20/child, with \$5 per additional household member. Scholarships are available. Email the office at office@goodshepherddecorah.org for more information. Deadline to register is July 8.

VOLUNTEER AT VBS: We are also seeking youth and adult volunteers to help support activities, be a positive presence, and/or lead portions. Please connect with Kelli Gapinski, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, at **kelli@goodshepherddecorah.org** or Pastor Dave if you are interested.

DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL - THURSDAY, MAY 2, 5:00 - 6:15 p.m., Decorah Lutheran Church: Please join your friends and neighbors for this <u>free</u> meal in Decorah Lutheran's
Fellowship Hall, 309 Winnebago Street. All are welcome! This month, the Lions Club is providing volunteers, salads, and desserts, with the main course provided by Sodexo of Luther College.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall - MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY: All are welcome! Coffee and treats are at 9:00 a.m. The program begins at 9:30 with Bible study, based on the theme "Love Mercy" (Matthew 5:7), and a speaker from Decorah's Sunflower Child Development Center. In addition to Good Shepherd, Decorah Lutheran, St. Benedict Parish, Decorah UCC, First United Methodist, and the Shared Ministry group of rural Lutheran churches participate in this yearly program, sponsored by Church Women United. CWU was founded as a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women's movement to celebrate unity, diversity, and work for peace in the world. Ann Naslund and Bev Sheridan are on the planning committee from Good Shepherd.

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: Tristan: 9 AM - 12 PM M-F.

Erica: 10 AM - 5 PM W-Th.

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 listed for 2 weeks.

Those with medical concerns...

- Stephanie Hoff awaiting kidney transplant
- Jutta Anderson Chordoma, rare cancer of the spine
- Brielle (granddaughter of Tom & Connie Buresh) recovery from knee surgery, torn ACL
- Rolf Svanoe recovering from surgery on his parotid gland
- Haakon and Carol Andreasen (parents of Sara Hopkins) chronic health problems
- Christy Vrtis recovering from surgery

Those in hospice...

- Ed Hover, Eastern Star
- Mirium Plaatz, Melanie Folkerts' aunt; in California
- Dennis Martin, Marv & Mickey Slind's brother-in-law, Buffalo, NY
- Bob and Eileen Fahrenkrug, grandparents of Sarah Wicks
- Janet Gall, Eastern Star

Those celebrating joy...

Aaron and Rachael Palmer on the birth of their daughter Iris June on April 20th, 2024. Iris is
in the NICU at Gundersen, as she was born at 30 weeks.

Those serving on Good Shepherd's Call Committee...

 Megan Buckingham (Convener), Anne Clausen, Steve Holland, Karin Martin-Hiner, Bob Larson, and Leah Holland

Residents of Aase Haugen and Wellington Senior Living Centers

- · Aase Haugen: Jutta F. Anderson, Jim Kruse
- Wellington Place: Marion Hanson

<u>Prayers for the Church, the Nation, and the World...</u>

- For the United Methodist Church, its delegates and staff participating in the upcoming General Conference, including Allie and David Scott.
- For those victimized by the war in Ukraine, Haiti and in Gaza (and famine in South Sudan).
 May calm minds from all sides return to the negotiating table and bring peaceful
 resolutions. Be with those who have lost their livelihoods and family members to destruction.
 Be with those serving on the ground and in harm's way: diplomats, soldiers, aid workers,
 missionaries, and medical personnel.
- For the gift of community and neighbors in the greater Decorah area who reach out in small and large ways to help each other.
- For high school seniors and college graduates discerning their future vocation/career plans. May they receive God's guidance in their decisions. Congratulations!
- For those who support our church's ministry with their tithes, offering and gifts.

To have a prayer request added to the Prayer List, please email Pr. David Wrightsman at: pastordavid@goodshepherddecorah.org or Tristan/Erica at: office@goodshepherddecorah.org

^{*}Missionaries and Seminarians listed on the 1st Sunday of the month; those who serve in the wider church listed on the 2nd Sunday of the month; Eastern Star and Arlin Falck residents listed on 3rd Sunday of month; Aase Haugen & Wellington residents listed on 4th Sunday of the month.

Sunday Worship Schedule

Today, Sunday, April 28: 5th Sunday of Easter

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion

Preaching: Pr. David Wrightsman; Sermon title: "Cleansing the Heart with

Faith"

Special Music: Band

Sunday School: 10:20-11:00 am

Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall

Adult Forum: Vote Forward: Encouraging Participation in the 2024 Election

with Pr. Marion Pruitt-Jefferson and Jane Jakoubek

Sunday, May 5: 6th Sunday of Easter

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. David Wrightsman; "As Plain as the Nose on your

Face"

Sunday School: 10:20-11:00 am

Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall

Adult Forum: learn about Lectio Divina (using scripture to listen to God) and how to practice the presence of God in all the ordinary parts of your life

with Jane Jakoubek and Kris Peterson

Sunday, May 12: 7th Sunday of Easter

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion

Celebrating our High School Graduates

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. David Wrightsman; "Jesus, teach us to Pray"

Sunday School: 10:20-11:00 am

Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall

<u>GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:</u>

Rev. David Wrightsman; Pastor pastordavid@goodshepherddecorah.org 612-599-6911

Brooke Joyce; Music Director

Kelli Gapinski; Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Tristan Occhipinti; Office & Building Manager

Erica Yaneff; Ministry & Communications Coordinator

Mike Sammons; Custodian



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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