

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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MAY 2024

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ON CELEBRATING...

"My son, said the father, you are always with me and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again' he was lost and is found." Luke 15 :31-32

I love this teaching from the Prodigal Son story... "but we have to celebrate!" Yes, the father could have been resentful. Yes, the father could have been punitive to his young son. Yes, he could send him out to the fields to be his slave as punishment. But instead, he had to celebrate! Of course he had to—he thought his son was dead only to see him again! Sometimes one just has to party!

Rejoicing plays an important part in our journey of faith and life. We celebrate baptisms, confirmations, weddings, graduations, new church buildings, new ministries, returned health, even funerals. Celebrations are continuous and constant within the Jewish and Christian faith. What I love most about celebrations in all of life's facets and important moments, is that God's presence is recognized. Perhaps we do not always acknowledge God's promise of showing up, but God is there in the middle of it all!

Celebrating well is an important expression of a healthy spiritual life. It gets us outside our own self-centeredness and moves us toward God-centeredness. In the month of May, we give God thanks and praise, celebrating God's persistent, radical love for us by...

- Coming together as a community to raise funds for our 13 youth and 2 adult leaders who are heading in July to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. These young people will be selling Invest in Youth Stock certificates to help pay for the transportation and housing parts of the trip. We have to celebrate!
- Seminarian, Kathryn Thompson will graduate with a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Seminary... soon after she will be placed into one of 65 ELCA synods and eventually be called to a congregation. We have to celebrate!
- Graduating Seniors... 3 of our young people will be wrapped in love and the presence of God by the congregation earlier this summer. Others will graduate from college this spring. We have to celebrate!
- Pre-school-6th graders... our young people will experience Vacation Bible School this summer with the theme: ReNEW: The Green VBS on July 29-31, and will grow their faith in Jesus Christ. We have to celebrate!

continued on next page...

ON CELEBRATING...

- **This summer**, our worship series theme will celebrate Living Water. Join us each Sunday where we will encounter Jesus engaging with people near or with water. The Bible is rich with images of water that symbolize new life, cleansing, and the fulfillment of God's promises. We have to celebrate!
- **Claude Hayes**, a "child of God" and member of Good Shepherd for several years died in April but his absence continues to be felt by many in the congregation. He is now experiencing the gift of God's full presence. Yes, we have to celebrate!

And so it is true. May, and then June and July, will be months of parties and celebrations and milestones. For all of them I give God thanks and praise. I hope you do as well. May we all celebrate God in our midst; the God who gives us life! Let the party begin!

—Pr. Dave

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

	Lesson	Psalm Reading	Gospel
May 5 6th Sunday of Easter	<u>Acts 10:44-48</u> <i>The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles</i>	<u>Psalm 98</u> <i>Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)</i>	<u>John 15:9-17</u> <i>Christ the friend and lover</i>
May 12 7th Sunday of Easter	<u>Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</u> <i>Matthias added to the apostles</i>	<u>Psalm 1</u> <i>The Lord knows the way of the righteous. (Ps. 1:6)</i>	<u>John 17:1-11</u>
May 19 Day of Pentecost	<u>Acts 2:1-21</u> <i>Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds</i>	<u>Psalm 8</u>	<u>John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</u> <i>Christ sends the Spirit of truth</i>
May 26 Holy Trinity	<u>Romans 8:12-17</u> <i>Living by the Spirit</i>	<u>Psalm 29</u> <i>Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. (Ps. 29:2)</i>	<u>John 3:1-17</u> <i>Entering the reign of God through water and the Spirit</i>

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

offered by Jane Jakoubek

Gracious God, we pray this month for all those whose suffering we cannot see: suffering that doesn't make the news; suffering that others carry invisibly or silently; suffering we carry but aren't able to face. Bring comfort and healing to all the people and places in our world—including ourselves—where there is suffering. Help us to hear your invitation to be your hands, heart and voice to those who suffer.

Give us hearts big enough to be open, hearts willing to admit our own limits, weaknesses, vulnerability and dependence. Help us to hear your invitation to us to be open—open to our own suffering, open to the suffering of others. You who delight in sincerity of heart (Psalm 51:10), help us to be honest with you about all we carry in our hearts.

God of compassion, heal us. Set us free. Help us to let go of all that separates us from your love that knows no bounds. Help us join you in your unending work of infinite, life-changing love—for us, for all of our neighbors, and for this earth. Amen.

WELCOMING VISITORS

We would like to make an extra effort to welcome visitors to Good Shepherd. With that in mind, we would suggest that when you meet a visitor, please welcome them and introduce them to another person. The other person can chat with them while you continue to greet people as they arrive. For example, **“Hi, I'm NAME. I don't think we've had a chance to meet. Are you new to Good Shepherd? May I introduce you to another member/NAME over here?”**

Another part of this welcoming of visitors will be to have a **“name tag Sunday”** once a month. Name tags and markers will be out on a table outside the Sanctuary, and folks are invited to put one on in an effort to get to know one another, help bridge the gap to meeting new people.



INTERIM PASTORAL UPDATE

It is with deep gratitude that we thank Pastor David Wrightsman, our current interim pastor, for his excellent leadership and service among us. We are glad that we still have two months to worship, work, and serve together with Pastor Dave! At the end of June, Pastor Dave will be transitioning his ministry to his new call, where he joins his wife Pastor Lauren, in service to Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison WI.

We are thankful and share our joy, that the Good Shepherd Executive Committee has unanimously recommended, and the Congregational Council has approved, two excellent, highly respected, and treasured pastors to lead Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in pastoral care during our summer and fall seasons of transition and Call process.

In **July and August, Pastor Marion Pruitt-Jefferson**, member of Good Shepherd, will serve Good Shepherd as interim on a half-time basis. **Beginning prior to Labor Day, Pastor April Ulring Larson**, Bishop Emerita of the LaCrosse Area Synod, and associate member of Good Shepherd, will serve Good Shepherd for a period of 6 months, with the potential of an extension. It is with whole hearts and our prayerful support, that we welcome both pastors as they prepare for their ministry among us. We also express our deep gratitude to the clergy who are members and friends of Good Shepherd, who are available and willing to assist in supporting the ministry of Good Shepherd as needed during this time.

Respectfully,

The Good Shepherd Executive Committee and Council: *Kris Peterson, Tim Lecander, Chris Johnson, Anne Clausen, Brian Caton, Marilyn Rue, Lise Kildegaard, Karin Martin-Hiner, and Sara Hopkins,*

MAY MUSIC SCHEDULE

5/5 Guests

- Offertory: Norskkor

5/12 Band

- Gathering/Offertory/Postlude

5/19 Choir

- Offertory: "Spirit God, Eternal Word" (Behnke)



MAY 5 ADULT FORUM: 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.

VOTE FORWARD INFORMATION

The ELCA calls on all Lutherans to live out our faith through participation in our democracy:

We are called to act by speaking out as advocates and engaging in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens. “[It is] resolved, that members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to “promote public life worthy of the name” by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens ...” Social Policy Resolution “Voting Rights to All Citizens” [This includes mobilizing] participation in the electoral process by...encouraging citizens to vote on Election Day (From ELCAvotes.org on the ELCA website):

One avenue for encouraging citizens to vote on Election Day is Vote Forward, “a nonprofit organization that empowers grassroots volunteers to send handwritten letters encouraging fellow Americans to vote”. It helps people who want to impact voting levels (not particular parties or candidates) by reaching out to eligible members of underrepresented groups. With a little effort and the cost of printing, stamps and envelopes, each of us can make an impact. To learn more and then get started, go to votefwd.org. You’re welcome to contact Jane Jakoubek if you have questions.

Income v. Expense: Our income at this point is \$91,954 compared to expenses of \$107,892. That means we currently are running a deficit of \$15,938.

2024 v 2023: Last year at this point our income was \$81,171, meaning we are almost \$11,000 ahead of last year. That's good because our expenses also have increased from \$102,209 (2023) to \$107, 892. At this point last year, our deficit was \$21,000. In other words we actually are doing better than last year, despite increased spending.

Actual v. Projected Expenses: Except for the Facilities and Grounds line (479A), each of the budget lines is about where we would expect it to be.

Actual v. Projected Regular Giving: Recall that in building the budget we projected regular giving (envelope, electronic, and qualified charitable giving) at \$346,154. That would suggest first quarter giving of \$86,538. In fact, 1st quarter giving has been \$76,670. As I have written repeatedly, one should not conclude too much from this because many congregants do not give weekly or monthly but rather in 1 or 2 or 4 larger payments and when these payments come is not always predictable. I don't want to be complacent, but remember that last year we ran deficits until December and then ended the year with a small surplus.

MAY 5TH AS MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AWARENESS DAY

The ELCA has designated May 5th as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Awareness Day. Why? For example...

- Indigenous women are more than twice as likely to experience violence crimes and rape or sexual assault compared to other women.
- Homicide is the third leading cause of death for Indigenous women aged 10-24.
- Forty percent of victims of sex trafficking are identified as Indigenous women.
- Indigenous women go missing at a higher rate than any other group in this country.

The ELCA has an active national presence on behalf of Indigenous people through its office of Indigenous Ministry and Tribal Relations. In keeping with Good Shepherd's commitment to Racial Justice, all congregation members are encouraged to be part of this work. Please take a moment to offer a prayer for protection and justice for Indigenous women and the work of ELCA's office of Indigenous Ministry and Tribal Relations. If you have a few minutes, search "ELCA Truth and Healing" online to find out more. If you sense the Spirit inviting you to take action, reach out to others at Good Shepherd about ways to become involved.

INVEST IN OUR YOUTH FUNDRAISER

8

The high school youth of Good Shepherd are inviting church members and friends to purchase (fictitious!) stock certificates as they continue to raise funds for their trip this July to New Orleans and the National Youth Gathering. Thirteen of Good Shepherd's young people and two adult leaders (15 total) are partnering with Decorah Lutheran and First Lutheran Churches sharing transportation and housing costs.

Stock certificates cost \$20 each and will be sold on Sunday mornings in May in Fellowship Hall by the youth. (They are also available in the church office M-F mornings, from 9-12 noon.) Owning stock and investing in the youth trip entitles the certificate holder to receive a postcard from the youth while they are in New Orleans sharing their experience. It also entitles the investor to attend the Investors Celebration evening following the trip to hear the students share slides and stories about their journey. A dessert will be served as well. **The goal for this fundraiser is to sell 225 certificates to raise \$4,500.**

The ELCA hosts a national youth gathering every three years for high school age students. National speakers and musical artists connect with the 30,000+ participants in the Super Dome each evening. During the mornings small groups work through daily biblical themes and the afternoons are filled with options for service and experiencing the very large Interaction Center which fills the New Orleans Convention Center.

CONGRATS, GRADUATES!

Bless and celebrate these graduates on Sunday, May 12th! A blessing and prayer will be said over them during worship and cake enjoyed during Fellowship Hour.

AIDAN NALEAN-CARLSON



GABRIEL HINER



MASON COTE



EPIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED JUNE 1ST

Each year the Mission Endowment Fund Committee is charged with the responsibility of awarding EPIC (Educational Partners in Covenant) scholarships to those Good Shepherd members attending ELCA colleges or universities. Traditionally those scholarships are for \$1000. The committee will be meeting at its regular monthly meeting on May 16th to make those awards. Typically the ELCA institution receiving the Good Shepherd scholarship dollars will match it for the student.

The funding for the Good Shepherd EPIC scholarships comes from the congregation's Mission Endowment Fund. Each year the MEF Committee is authorized to utilize 4% of the fund's total value to make the awards. On January 1, 2024, the value of the MEF was slightly over \$125,000. 4% of that value is \$5000, or five \$1000 scholarships. January 1st is the annual date the committee uses to establish the 4% figure.

This academic year, five Good Shepherd members received the scholarship. Four of those were underclass students and are expected to apply for a scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year.

This year Good Shepherd has five graduating high school seniors. Should all of those high school graduates chose to attend ELCA colleges or universities there is a potential for nine scholarships needed. With only five available from the MEF Fund, a potential problem could develop.

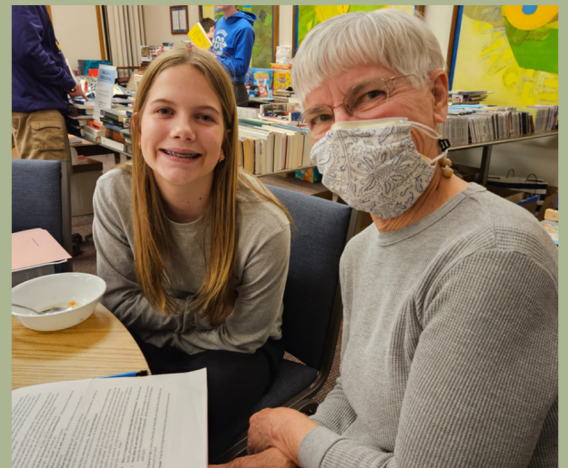
At the Good Shepherd Annual Meeting in February the congregation voted to provide the MEF Committee with a \$5000 line item in the congregation's annual budget to use for the scholarships if necessary. That vote not only provided necessary funds but also reaffirmed the congregation's commitment to the EPIC Scholarship ministry. Eventually, taking into consideration the committee's commitment to grow the fund, there should not be a need for a Budget Line Item. Until then, the young people keep multiplying.

The recipients of the 2024-2025 EPIC scholarships will be announced in the June Newsletter.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS ON THE MOVE!

This year the confirmation students have been busy learning and growing together during faith/life class, alongside mentors, and in community. Thank you to the confirmation mentors, congregation members, and staff that have helped this year!





LIVING WATERS

Good Shepherd Summer of 2024 Worship Series



©Mark R. Worcester †

The Gospels introduce us to John the Baptist at the Jordan River. Additionally, scripture centers much of Jesus' activity in the towns around the Sea of Galilee. Here he not only teaches from a boat, but he and his disciples travel in it from one side of the lake to the other, which includes a miraculous walk on and rebuking of the stormy waves.

Join us on Sundays this June – August at 9:30 am where worshipers will encounter Jesus engaging with people near or with water. Water not only sustains our bodies and communities, but also is an integral part of our spiritual lives. The Bible is rich with images of water that symbolize new life, cleansing, and the fulfillment of God's promises.

We are looking for **tree decorations (fake Christmas trees with no lights) to put up in the Sanctuary**. We are also **assembling a crew** to help "transform" the Sanctuary into a woody wonderland. Please get in touch with the Office or Pr. Dave if you have any trees available or if you would like to be part of the assembly crew.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped assemble our LWR baby care kits and personal care kits. The confirmation class helped to assemble 50 personal care kits (in record time) and 60 baby care kits were assembled at a recent a WELCA meeting. We will be packing things up on Friday afternoon at 2 pm. If you can help, it would be deeply appreciated. You are an amazing congregation! Thanks again!

May Friendship Day will be held Friday, May 3 here at Good Shepherd with coffee being served at 9am. This year's theme is Love Mercy from Matthew 5:7 "God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy". There will be a bible study and a speaker from the Sunflower Child Care Center. All are welcome. If you can help with setting up the Fellowship hall on Thursday, please contact Gail Judisch.

The NEIA Synod Women Organization has scholarships available for women continuing their education. Please contact Bev Sheridan for more information. The 36th annual SWO Gathering will be on Saturday, June 15 @ Redeemer Lutheran in Waverly, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm with a luncheon included. This year's theme will focus on "Rejoice and Renew," based on Philippians 4:4 – "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" An option to attend by Zoom is also available. Registration deadline is May 20. Please see Bev Sheridan for registration forms.

Gather Bible Study: May 2024 Devotional on Mental Health and Wellness by Elise Seyfried

As long as humans have existed, there has been mental illness. By some estimates, as many as 20% of all adults live with a mental health issue. In biblical times, mental illness was often misunderstood and thought to be caused by demonic possession. In modern times, we have learned much more about brain chemistry. Although the stigma around mental illnesses has decreased, we still have a long way to go, and our faith communities can help. Looking particularly at biblical people and passages that relate to living with mental illness, the May 2024 devotional reminds us of Jesus' compassionate care for those who struggle. Together, we'll learn how congregations can become "stigma-free" zones, welcome and support those with mental health issues and their loved ones and provide opportunities for all ages to learn more about a topic that affects us all. (from Gather website)

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Looking ahead: Nordic Fest will be held July 25-27. Some of our members of the planning committee are not able to help this year so we are looking for volunteers who would be able to help out. If you would be available to assist the committee with planning, making batter, baking, transporting, demonstration/booth sales at the fest, clean-up, please contact Bev Sheridan or Ann Naslund.

Calendar of events

May 3: May Friendship Day, Good Shepherd, 9 am

May 4: LWR pickup, Olson Explosive, 7:30-10:30

May 28: Gather Bible study, GS Fellowship hall, 7 pm, Sharon Drew Bible study, Wanda Rueber refreshments

June 15: NEIA SWO Annual Gathering, Redeemer Lutheran, Waverly Iowa, 8 am – 2 pm

July 25-27: Nordic Fest Activities

UPDATE FROM KATHRYN THOMPSON

Greetings from your Seminarian Graduate, Good Shepherd! I'm happy to announce my graduation from Wartburg Theological Seminary on Sunday, May 12th, with my Master's of Divinity degree. I have also been approved for Word and Sacrament ministry in the ELCA and am currently in the first call process. Sara, Greta, and I are also happy to announce the growth of our family. We will welcome a new baby in August. We welcome your continued prayers of support along the discernment and first call journey, and we look forward to my ordination which will be held at Good Shepherd. We send you continued prayers and love, particularly in this time of transition and in your discernment of calling a new pastor.

Peace, Kathryn, Sara, and Greta



**RE
NEW**



THE GREEN VBS™

Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

**GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH VBS
JULY 29-31 5-7:30 PM**

At ReNew, kids explore the Bible and discover ways to care for God's creation.

Emphasizing stewardship and community, kids will have an amazing time growing in faith, having fun, and changing the world!

- All children entering grades K-6th are invited
- July 29-31st, 5:00-7:30 PM at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- Start the night with dinner, then enjoy a fun evening including: music, games, small groups, and crafts!
- \$20/child & \$5 per additional household member. Scholarships are available - email office@goodshepherddecorah.org for information.
- Register & pay online or follow the code - www.goodshepherddecorah.org/education



REFLECTION AND GRATITUDE

-Gabe Hiner

Gabe Hiner has been the youth member of the Racial Justice Team the last two years. He shared his experiences of visiting the George Floyd Memorial with the Good Shepherd youth in this column a year ago. We have been grateful for, and inspired by, Gabe's contributions to our group, to Good Shepherd, and to the community, and are glad to have his words here once again as he graduates.

As I find myself here at the start of something new, I think it is appropriate to reflect on how my time at Good Shepherd has shaped what I view as the next steps in my life.

For starters, I am extremely grateful for everything the people of Good Shepherd have done for me, from providing a space for me to share music, to letting me attend different youth activities, to even funding parts of my summer camp and now college programs.

First and foremost, Good Shepherd has been a place where I have been encouraged to share my musical gifts with this congregation. Whether I sang in church choir, played a duet with my sister, or joined the bell choir on occasion, I have wholeheartedly enjoyed offering my music. By allowing me to gain experience performing for you, I have made myself more ready to perform in the future. All of the music I have done here has also made me more aware of a career in music. I have known all along that I wanted to become a teacher, but the more I perform music the more I see the possibility of becoming a music teacher come into focus.

In addition, Good Shepherd has provided me with many opportunities to work in service and ministry as a youth. Your contributions have allowed me to travel to Minneapolis, EWALU, and finally New Orleans this summer at the National Youth Gathering. The lessons I have learned from these experiences have been critical in shaping who I am. I now know that I want to work as a camp counselor over summer at college, in no small part thanks to my experiences at Good Shepherd. Outdoor ministry has become something that I believe is incredibly important, and I look forward to spreading messages learned at Good Shepherd to others.

This short list cannot possibly contain everything that Good Shepherd has done for me - I haven't even mentioned the fact that you saw me through the end of my confirmation, or invited me to serve on the Racial Justice Team, or gave me delicious treats every week after service :)

I'm glad that I have attended Good Shepherd for the past 6 years, not only because of the wonderful people I've met, but because of what I've learned. Thanks to you, I am better prepared for what lies ahead. Thank you.

MOWING THE LAWN AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Tis the season for growing grass and mowing the Good Shepherd property! This year, the lawn will be less of a time commitment and easier as much of the backyard is being converted to prairie and will be managed by Facilities & Grounds. Our sign-up is accessible at goodshepherddecorah.org/2024-mowing on the website under "Sign-Ups" and on the table outside of the Gathering Space. Read here about mowing details and instructions (also found on the website).

- Lead person is responsible for scheduling work at the beginning of the assigned work week. It is suggested that the crew of two work at the same time for camaraderie and safety.
- Mow on Thursday, Friday or Saturday (Respect Saturday event schedule).
- Mow after 3pm on Thur. and Fri. to respect the Kinderhaus School which concludes at the end of May.
- If you need orientation to the equipment please contact Jim Fritz, Bob Wilson, or Lance Wood
- Mow only when the grass is dry and keep the mower height at 3.0 inches.
- The mowing shed lock code is on the paper sign-up in the Gathering Space.
- Please advise Jim Fritz of any problems with equipment or if gas is getting low.
- Bring your own ear and eye protection.

THANK YOU FROM DONNA BAHR

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to say a BIG thank you to all of you great people at Good Shepherd for the wonderful help you gave me during my illness, followed by an allergic reaction. There were so many cards, flowers, phone calls, and oh yes, the suppers! I'm feeling almost "normal" and really happy to be more "out and about". Again, my appreciation for your kindness and PRAYERS!

-Donna Bahr

VOLUNTEER AT VBS: We are 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.

LAST SUNDAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL: The final week of Sunday School is May 12th - we look forward to ending the Sunday School year together with you!

HELP NEEDED FOR ARLENE LECANDER MEMORIAL SERVICE: We are seeking two ushers and a crew in the kitchen to help with a memorial service for Arlene Lecander on Saturday, May 25th. Visitation is at 12–1:00 at Good Shepherd, and service at 1:00 pm with a light luncheon to follow. Extra helpers are requested prior to the luncheon to help assemble simple meat/cheese sandwiches. Sign-Up is at goodshepherddecorah.org/lecander-memorial-helpers, on the website under “Sign-Ups”, or contact Erica at erica@goodshepherddecorah.org.

TREES FOR SANCTUARY: We are looking for tree decorations (fake Christmas trees with no lights) to put up in the Sanctuary. We are also assembling a crew to help “transform” the Sanctuary into a woody wonderland. Please get in touch with the Office or Pr. Dave if you have any trees available or if you would like to be part of the assembly crew.

WELCOME FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS PICNIC: Save the date in your calendars now for the annual “Welcome Friends and Neighbors Picnic!” September 8th 2024. Look forward to gathering in the Solar Courtyard.

DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL! Please join us for a free meal on Thursday, May 2nd, 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 Decorah Lions Club who will provide volunteers, salads, and desserts. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College.

Decorah Chorale presents “Glorious Day”

The Decorah Chorale will present a spring concert Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m. in the Decorah High School Auditorium. The concert "Glorious Day" explores the beauty, wonder, mystery and thrill of the world around us. Each piece in the program invites one to embrace nature's splendor and the human spirit.



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

April 16, 2024 - MINUTES

In attendance: Pr David Wrightsman, Marilyn Rue, Chris Johnson, Brian Caton, Lise Hildegard, Tim LeCander, Karin Martin-Hiner, Sarah Hopkins, Kris Peterson, Anne Clausen

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

- In one word or one sentence, share what you most need from God now.
- Opening Prayer - 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? .
 - *Marilyn Moved to accept the agenda Karin seconded and it passed.*

LINK TO REPORTS:

All submitted committee reports are located in the folder linked above. Links to individual reports are included at the end of this document. Thank you.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of March 2024 Council Meeting Minutes [Link to Minutes](#)
2. Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)

Discussion Agenda

1. **Call Committee Update:** Karin Martin-Hiner & Anne Clausen
 - *Anne and Karin shared what the committee is up to. The gathering of notecards and soon survey. On going to get out a survey do research. On going able to give names to the synod.*
 - *It is good to reach out to all contacts you may know that could be strong candidate for Call as our next Pastor. Anyone can give those names to the Synod.*
2. **Interim Pastor Search Update:** Kris Peterson, Pastor Dave, & Executive Committee
3. **Money procedures update:** Pr. Dave
 - a. *New process with a safe in the office.*
4. **Committee Structure:** Pr. Dave & Brian Caton
 - a. *looking at structure and our constitution so that the mission of our congregation is covered by sufficient organization and communication channels.*
5. **Youth Gathering Update:** Pastor Dave
6. **Family & Children/Youth Director Position:** Pr. Dave & Kris Peterson

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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

7. Facilities & Grounds Updates:

- a. Update on Outdoor Lighting/Big Projects Fundraising, Tables: waiting on Depot Grant, Nursery Redecorating
 - i. *Discussion with Stewardship committee will happen and then a vote of the council for a \$10,000 building fund raising having \$2,500 already donated as matching funds by an anonymous donation. The brick and mortar fund raising is for outdoor lighting and updating the nursery with a large window , Dutch door and painting the interior of the room.*
- b. *St. Grubby's date of conflict - Sat. optional helping The conflicts are Luren singers out of town and Northern Lights concert. Jim will be available saturday if people*

Lise motioned to extend the meeting and Anne seconded it and it passed.

8. Aase Haugen Capital Campaign: Pr. Dave

9. Approval of Treasurers Report

Brian moved to approve the treasurers report. Chris seconded and it passed.

10. Gratitude time

Announcements

1. Newsletter Deadline is May 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 the Council meeting.
4. Next Council meeting (third Tuesday of month) is May 21, 2024

Adjournment and Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer

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

Education Committee:

1. VBS dates/curriculum
2. Nursery refresh
3. Children & worship

Outreach and Hospitality Committee:

1. Name tag Sundays monthly
2. Greeter instructions update to help welcome guests/new folks
3. Save the date for picnic: Sept. 8th

Stewardship Committee:

1. Stewardship for all seasons
2. All flock Sunday look ahead

Worship and Music

1. Summer series "Lessons at the Lake"
2. Communion serving age
3. Organ needs attention

Pastor's Report - Closing Prayer - Adjourn

Sarah motioned to adjourn and Brian seconded it and it passed.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45am - Sunday school</p> <p>11am - Adult Forum: Vole</p> <p>12pm - Denise Wegge Piano</p> <p>3:30pm - Open Hub Singing Club</p> <p>5pm - Linda Martin Piano Recital</p>	<p>Pastor Dave in office</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>3:30pm - Sangerefest meeting @ Sanctuary</p> <p>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</p> <p>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>9:15am - Living the Message Bible</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>1:30pm - Pastor's conference</p> <p>6:30pm - Sons of Norway @</p> <p>7pm - Congregation Council</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>5pm - Piano lessons</p> <p>6:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</p> <p>7pm - Confirmation Class @</p> <p>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</p> <p>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano lessons</p> <p>5pm - Decorah Community Meal @</p> <p>5:30pm - Racial Justice Team @</p>	<p>May Friendship Day @ Fellowship</p> <p>8am - May Friendship Day</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>9:30am - Daughters of the</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45am - Sunday school</p> <p>11am - Adult Forum: Prayer</p> <p>3:30pm - Open Hub Singing Club</p>	<p>Pastor Dave in office</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10:15am - Staff meeting</p> <p>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</p> <p>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>Eastern Star Bingo Prize Drop-off</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>9:15am - Living the Message Bible</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano lessons</p> <p>4pm - Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Eastern Star/Arin Falck</p> <p>2:30pm - Aase Haugen</p> <p>5:30pm - Piano lessons</p> <p>6:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</p> <p>7pm - Confirmation Class @</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>11am - Bible Study @ Library</p> <p>12:45pm - MEF Committee</p> <p>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</p> <p>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano lessons</p>	<p>Kindertolk On Stage</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>3pm - Immigration legal clinic @</p> <p>3:30pm - Regina Downing recital</p>	<p>2pm - Regina Downing Recital @</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>Celebration of Graduates</p> <p>Last week of Sunday School</p> <p>Name Tag Sunday</p> <p>8:45am - Band warm ups</p> <p>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45am - Sunday school</p> <p>6pm - Nonprofit meeting</p>	<p>Pastor Dave in office</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</p> <p>4pm - Worship & Music</p> <p>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano lessons</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @</p> <p>5:30pm - Piano lessons</p> <p>6:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</p> <p>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>11am - Bible Study @ Library</p> <p>12:45pm - MEF Committee</p> <p>1pm - Violin lessons @ Sanctuary</p> <p>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano lessons</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>1pm - Aidan Malean-Carlson Grad</p> <p>5pm - Kayla Scholl Recital</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>DHS and Luther College</p> <p>8:45am - Choir warm ups</p> <p>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>Pastor Dave in office</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>10:15am - Staff meeting</p> <p>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</p> <p>4pm - VBS Planning Mtg.</p> <p>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>9:15am - Living the Message Bible</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>1:30pm - Pastor's conference</p> <p>6:30pm - Sons of Norway @</p> <p>7pm - Congregation Council</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>5:30pm - Piano lessons</p> <p>6:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</p> <p>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>11am - Bible Study @ Library</p> <p>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano lessons</p> <p>6pm - Kayla Scholl recital @</p>	<p>Last day of Kinderhaus</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>5:30pm - Kinderhaus Spring</p>	<p>Newletter Deadline</p> <p>12pm - Arlene Lecander Visitation</p> <p>1pm - Arlene Lecander Memorial</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>9:30am - In-person Worship & Fellowship Hour</p> <p>10:45am - Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>Office closed for Memorial Day</p> <p>4pm - Piano lessons @ Sanctuary</p> <p>4:30pm - Kelli's Office Hours</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>Pastor Dave in office</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>9:15am - Living the Message Bible</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano lessons</p> <p>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg. Gather</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>5:30pm - Piano lessons</p> <p>6:15pm - Trumpet lessons @</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>11am - Bible Study @ Library</p> <p>2pm - Flute Lesson @ Library</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano lessons</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>9:30am - Daughters of the</p> <p>2pm - Gabe Hiner Graduation</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>