

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

AUGUST 2024



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A Season of Bread

Beginning on Sunday, July 28th, with the feeding of the 5000, and continuing for 5 weeks, we will be reading from the gospel of John, chapter 6. Jesus feeds the physical hunger of the crowd with bread that he blesses, breaks and shares. But when they come back seeking more, he begins to teach them about the true meaning of that bread. "I Am the Bread of Life," Jesus says, "the true bread which has come down from heaven." Each Sunday, we give thanks for this Bread of Life, as we share in the sacrament of Holy Communion. It is a great and gracious mystery of our Christian faith, the God meets us in bread and wine, filling us with everything for which our hearts and souls are longing.

This poem, *Love Bade Me Welcome*, by George Herbert, has long been one of my favorites. The tenderness of Love, wooing and encouraging the reluctant guest to partake of the meal, always fills me with gratitude and wonder. During this Season of Bread, may you hear Love's invitation and come to receive all that God desires to give to you.

Love Bade Me Welcome

*Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lacked anything.
A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?
Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.*



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

offered by Jane Jakoubek

Gracious God, thank you for the stories of creation where you brought order and new life out of chaos. Help us to see that this is who you are as God: the One who brings order and new life out of chaos. Help us to see you at work amidst the chaos we see in our own hearts, families, country, and world. Help us to listen for the ways you invite us to be part of your life-giving peace, justice and shalom.

Gracious God, thank you for the stories of healing where you brought hope and restoration to broken bodies, relationships, and souls. Help us to see that this is who you are as God: the One who brings hope, restoration, healing and salvation to all in need. Help us to work alongside you so we, too, can be part of bringing hope and restoration.

Gracious God, thank you for the stories that speak hope amidst hard times, promise in the face of desolation, and peace in the midst of storms and fear. Help us to know your words are spoken to each of us in our own time just as much as they were spoken back then. Help us to bring everything to you, for you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF ED HOVER

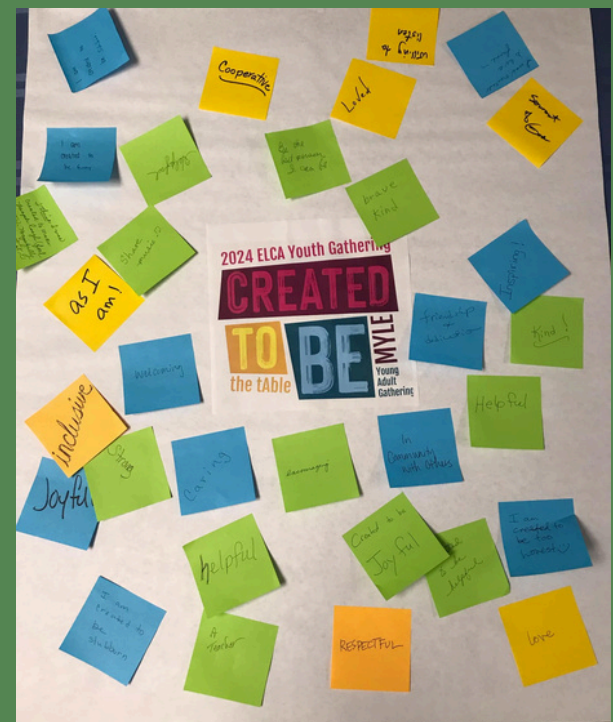
My daughters and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Good Shepherd family for everything you have done during Ed's time at Eastern Star. We are grateful for your kindness and generosity of providing meals, calls, prayer shawls, visits, and prayers during this difficult time. The Good Shepherd community meant a lot to Ed. He enjoyed the fellowship along with supporting the church in any way he could. It gave him great pleasure to provide fresh produce from the garden on Sunday mornings.

We are truly blessed to be a part of the Good Shepherd loving and caring community.

Charilyn, Sarah, Stephanie, Joanna, and Jane

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

	Old Testament Reading	Psalms Reading	New Testament Reading	Gospel
August 4	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 <i>The Lord gives manna in the wilderness</i>	Psalm 78:23-29 <i>God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)</i>	Ephesians 4:1-16 <i>Maintain the unity of the faith</i>	John 6:24-35 <i>Christ the bread of life</i>
August 11	1 Kings 19:4-8 <i>Elijah given bread for his journey</i>	Psalm 34:1-8 <i>Taste and see that the Lord is good. (Ps. 34:8)</i>	Ephesians 4:25—5:2 <i>Put away evil, live in love</i>	John 6:35, 41-51 <i>Christ, the bread of life</i>
August 18	Proverbs 9:1-6 <i>Invited to dine at wisdom's feast</i>	Psalm 34:9-14 <i>Those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good. (Ps. 34:10)</i>	Ephesians 5:15-20 <i>Filled with the Spirit, sing thanks to God</i>	John 6:51-58 <i>Christ the true food and drink</i>
August 25	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 <i>Joshua calls all Israel to serve the Lord</i>	Psalm 34:15-22 <i>The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous. (Ps. 34:15)</i>	Ephesians 6:10-20 <i>Put on the armor of God</i>	John 6:56-69 <i>The bread of eternal life</i>



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Thank you for supporting our youth!

We want to share a final thank you for the support in getting the Youth to the National Youth Gathering this summer. The Youth and Kelli share one final prayer with us in closing and sending from the Gathering:

Lord God, we who do new things sometimes feel afraid. **So make us brave.**

We who live this life as a full gift from you, are often challenged, **so make us authentic.**

We who serve others are sometimes held back. **So make us free.**

We who trouble the systems of this world as it is, invite anger. **So make us disruptive.**

Now send us out created to be your disciples in the world that we may tell the story of your love. **Amen.**



ADULT FORUM SERIES:

Learning & Responding to Christian Nationalism

Christian Nationalism is in the news, and in the coming months, there will be a number of opportunities to learn about what it is and how to respond. First, there is a two-part free webinar, "Breaking Point" from Broadleaf Books and Fortress Press.

August 1, 6 pm central

August 8, 6 pm central

Registration is free at <https://shorturl.at/MCn3b>. The webinars will be recorded for later access for those who register but cannot attend the live session. Join this conversation to learn how we got here and about how we can respond to extremist movements. In September and October, there will be several Adult Forums to continue the conversation.

UFF DA! We survived the 2024 Nordic Fest. Thank you to all who helped to make our Krumkake Demo and Sale a success. We all worked many hours-buying ingredients, labeling baggies, retrieving supplies from the annex, mixing batter, baking and packaging krumkake, cleaning the downtown booth, transporting everything downtown, demonstrating and selling at the Fest and then-cleaning up and bringing everything back to the church-wow! We sold until 9 pm on Saturday evening and then had a few left and they were purchased by GS members after church on Sunday, giving us a total sales figure of \$4,745. 10% of the total sales will be given to the Nordic Fest board. We will be disbursing the proceeds at our WELCA annual meeting in January. Please let Bev or Ann if you have any funding requests.

We applied for a Thrivent Action card and a Walmart grant and along with monetary donations were able to purchase paper products and baggies, water for our volunteers and extra baking ingredients.
Thank you again for all your help.

This fall we will again be collecting items for LWR school kits and baby care kits. School supplies are on sale right now so it is a good time to start stocking up. Items needed for school kits are 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, 30 cm ruler, pencil sharpener, blunt scissors, #2 unsharpened pencils, black or blue ballpoint pens, box of 16 or 24 count crayons, 2 ½ "eraser. Items needed for baby care kits are cloth diapers, small hand towels, infant sleepers, receiving blankets(up to 50 "square), sweater or jacket, cotton t-shirts, and 4 ounce soap bars. City-wide garage sales are September 14, these are a good place to find nice, gently used baby items. If you have questions, you can contact Gail Judisch, 563-380-7276 (baby care kits) or Bev Sheridan, 563-608-3272 (school kits). Thanks so much for supporting our LWR project this fall. A donation box has been set up in the gathering space.

LWR in-gathering will be held Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 7:30 am to 10:30 am at Olson's Explosives 1837 Trout Run Rd, Decorah, IA 52101

Save the dates:

- August 27: Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 7 pm, Ann Naslund bible study, Jan Siefken refreshments**
- Oct 5: Upper Iowa Cluster Fall Gathering, St Paul's Lutheran, Lime Springs, Coffee at 8:30, Program at 9am**
- Nov 2: LWR pickup, Olson Explosives, 7:30-10:30 pm**

Gather Bible Study:

Summer 2024 “After certainty: A biblical guide” by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

A global pandemic, political upheaval, a changing climate... these days, the future is more uncertain than it has ever been. Or is it? For the people of the Bible, life was often shaped by deep uncertainty. Encounters with God sparked awe, confusion or courage, but rarely certainty. Instead, God’s people have always been called to follow God into the unknown, trusting in God’s certain grace and love. This summer Bible study explores God’s invitation to the people of the Bible and to us, to take the holy journey beyond certainty to curiosity, community and compassion, where we find abundant life in Christ.

August 2024

After certainty: Compassion

When certainty becomes judgmentalism, it contributes to divisions between people and within communities. The teachings of Jesus and the pastoral writings of the apostle Paul sometimes urge people to choose compassion over correctness—a model that can offer Christians guidance in a polarized time.

Read more at goodshepherddecorah.org/after-certainty

RACIAL JUSTICE SPOTLIGHT: *WHAT’S IN A NAME*

Joining other more recent ones, there is another new bulletin board currently placed in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall. Okayed by the church council and Pastor Dave before his departure, the board currently carries the title Racial Justice Advocacy. Several board titles were discussed by the racial justice committee before settling on the RJA heading. Racial justice is, of course, a large umbrella under which many images and perspectives flow. The same holds true for the powerful word “advocacy”!

As a congregation we have publicly stated that part of our Christ centered mission is played out in advocating for racial justice. As we pass through the connecting hallway linking the sanctuary and fellowship hall, the bulletin board is simply a reminder of that commitment. Images, book titles, brief essays, questions, prayers, posters are the kinds of materials that will be found on the board with the hope of changes every two or three weeks. Suggestions and ideas are welcome as well. Many thanks to Erica and Reg for the board’s construction and lettering.

Some years ago, maybe 2018, the EPIC Scholarship/Mission Endowment Fund Committee published an informational brochure about both the Mission Endowment Fund, which provides the monies for the Good Shepherd EPIC scholarships, and the scholarship ministry itself. The brochure had an emphasis on the Mission Endowment Fund and has now become outdated.

The EPIC Scholarship Committee, together with Erica Yaneff, is currently working on publishing a new brochure that hopefully will be completed by September 1st. It will be mailed to each household within the congregation in early September.

The new EPIC Scholarship Ministry brochure will emphasize the ministry as well as the funding vehicle. It will include photos of Mara Holland, Annalise Skrade, Daniel Skrade, Mason Cote and Gabe Hiner, all recipients of the Good Shepherd EPIC scholarship for the 2024--2025 academic year.

This ministry is a joint partnership between the ELCA, ELCA colleges and universities and local ELCA congregations. It has been a part of this congregations life for over 25 years.

welcome Friends & Neighbors COMMUNITY PICNIC



All are invited to the “Welcome Friends & Neighbors Community Picnic” hosted by Good Shepherd on Sunday, September 15 from 5-6:30 p.m. It is free and open to all!

A meal of hot dogs, chips, salads, and desserts will be enjoyed outside under the Solar Panel Canopy or indoors in the Fellowship Hall at Good Shepherd. There will be live music, games for kids, and the opportunity to gather with those in the local community.

The picnic is planned by the Outreach & Hospitality Committee and put on with the help of many volunteers. This year the meal and set-up will be simple with the intention of easing the burden on volunteers. More information about getting involved will be coming soon. We look forward to gathering together at this community event again soon!

TREASURER'S REPORT

1/1/24-6/30/24

9

Income v. Expense. Total income for the first half of 2024 was \$195,377.96; total expenses for the same period were \$206,803.82. That means on June 30 we had a deficit of \$11,425.86.

Budget v. Actual Spending. The total budget for 2024 is \$395,541. That means if we were right on budget our expenses for the first half of the year would be \$197,770.50. As noted above we have spent almost \$207,000 thus far. That means we currently are over budget.

Projected Regular Giving v. Actual Regular Giving. When we put the budget together we projected regular giving (envelope + automatic payments + Qualified Charitable Distributions) of \$346,154. That would suggest regular giving at the end of June would be \$173,077. In fact, our regular giving for the first half of the year was \$170,658.56. Because members pay at different times during the year, that difference is not significant.

2024 v. 2023. Our total income this year was \$195,377.96; at this point in 2023 our total income was \$182,802.88. Our total expenses were \$206,803.82, compared to \$192,597.56 in 2023. In other words, we are spending more this year but the giving also is higher.

What should we conclude?

1. Most important, giving continues to be strong. Because some give once or twice a year, rather than monthly, I think at the end of the year giving will be what we projected. Note, too, that we ended up receiving more than \$17,000 from the recently completed stewardship campaign. In addition, members were extremely generous in supporting the National Youth Gathering.
2. I always worry that we will spend more than we have, but I don't think the current deficit will end up being a problem for the following reasons.
 - a. Last year we ran deficits every month until December and then we ended the year with a surplus.
 - b. There are a number of areas where we already have exceeded what we budgeted but in each case I don't think there will be significant second half expenses.
 - c. The interim pastor costs will go down significantly during the second half of the year.
 - d. Custodial costs will continue to be higher than we budgeted, and there will be both increased and decreased personnel costs after August, which probably will even out.
3. Recall, that we have some surplus from last year, which we can use if needed.

LUTHERANS TALK

about God, sex, and politics (Oh my!)

A SUMMER BOOK CLUB ORGANIZED BY DECORAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, & GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

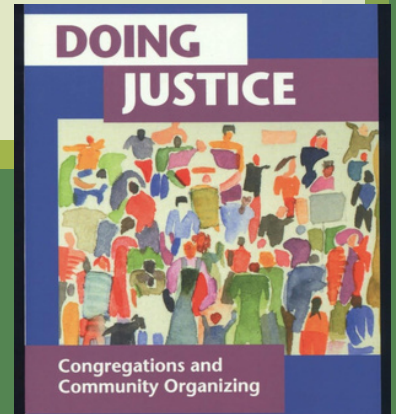


Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

August 21-22

Wednesday sessions are 7:00-8:30 pm at Pulpit Rock
Thursday sessions are 10:30-Noon at the Landing

Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing By Pastor Dennis Jacobsen. copies \$10 at First Lutheran.



VBS THANK YOU!



We had a joy-filled three days of Vacation Bible School this past week at Good Shepherd. **THANK YOU** to the children and youth that joined and the caregivers that got them here. **THANK YOU** to the adults that filled the children's tummies with nourishing food, filled their hearts with song, gave their bodies space to be silly, guided their hands to create beautifully, applied the parable of the sower to their lives, and so much more. **THANK YOU** for another successful year of VBS!

DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL: THURSDAY, AUGUST 1st, 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.,

Please join your friends and neighbors for this free meal in Decorah Lutheran's Fellowship Hall, 309 Winnebago Street. All are welcome! This month, members of the Decorah Community Food Pantry are providing volunteers, salads, and desserts, with the main course provided by Sodexo of Luther College. Gluten free options and carry outs are always available

Folding Paper Cranes: Remembering Hiroshima. Tuesday August 6, 2024, 5-7 pm. Phelps Park (During Decorah's National Night Out). Shelter # 4 (above the fountain) Join Decorah Friends Meeting (Quakers) folding paper cranes while sharing thoughts on building peace and a world without war.

KIDS LUNCH CLUB: It is estimated that up to 150 kids – just in Decorah – go without adequate access to meals during the summer months. During the school year, students have access to lunch at school, but during the break, many kids and families struggle. So as a community, we've mobilized volunteers to pack and serve lunches to make sure that kids in our community have meal opportunities during the the summer. Please help us by telling others about Kids Lunch Club, by volunteering, or by making a donation to the program. Learn more & sign-up:

<https://decorahucc.org/kidslunchclub/>

GUATEMALAN BASICS INITIATIVE NEEDS FINANCIAL DONATIONS: The Guatemalan Basics Initiative provides staples to local immigrant families that form an important component of meals for the family. Each set of staples costs about \$90 wholesale and can provide food essentials to a family of four for approximately six weeks. Give online by credit/debit card or bank transfer by going to decorahucc.breezechms.com/give/online and selecting "Neighbors Helping Neighbors—Guatemalan Basics Fund" from the dropdown menu. You can also write a check, payable to Decorah UCC with "Guatemalan Basics" in the memo line, and send it to Decorah UCC, Box 470, Decorah, IA 52101.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES: The Good Shepherd Council does not meet in July. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 20th at 7:00 pm.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Tag Sunday Pr. Tom Burash 9:30am In-person Worshi 10:45am Fellowship Hou 6:30pm Investors Banque 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VBS at Good Shepherd 9am Church Office Hours 4pm VBS Volunteer Prep 5pm VBS at Good Shephe 6:30pm AL/ANNON 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Pastor Marion in 9am Church Office Hours 5pm VBS at Good Shep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Pastor Marion in 9am Church Office Hours 5pm VBS at Good Shep 6:15pm Trumpet lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Pastor Marion in 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 11am Bible Study 5pm Decorah Community 5:30pm Racial Justice Te 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Marion PJ 9:30am In-person Worshi 10:45am Fellowship Hou 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinderhaus summer camp 10am Erica office hours 6:30pm AL/ANNON 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Pastor Marion in 9am Outreach & Hospital 10am Erica office hours 4pm Stewardship Commi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Pastor Marion in 6:15pm Trumpet lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 8:30am Pastor Marion in 9am Church Office Hours 11am Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 3pm Immigration legal cli 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Hayes family event
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinderhaus summer camp Pr. Marion PJ 9:30am In-person Worshi 10:45am Fellowship Hou 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 6:30pm AL/ANNON 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Pastor Marion in 9am Church Office Hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Pastor Marion in 9am Church Office Hours 10am Eastern Star/Arln F 10am Erica office hours 12pm Town and Country 1pm Wellington Place Coi 2:30pm Aase Haugen Coi 6:15pm Trumpet lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Town and Country G 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 11am Bible Study 12:45pm MEF Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Melissa Bills 9:30am In-person Worshi 10:45am Fellowship Hou 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 6:30pm AL/ANNON 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 6:30pm Sons of Norway 7pm Congregation Counc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 1pm Prayer Shawl Ministr 6:15pm Trumpet lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 9am Church Office Hours 11am Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing of the Backpack Pr. Stacey Nalean-Carlson Newsletter Deadline 9:30am In-person Worshi 10:45am Fellowship Hou 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 6:30pm AL/ANNON 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 7pm WELCA Circle Mtg. C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 6:15pm Trumpet lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 11am Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 	