## 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



## August 25<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## 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.

## 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.

#### **GATHERING**

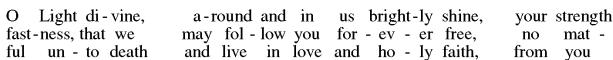
PRAYER BELL - PRELUDE: "American Pastorale" - John S. Dixon

The prelude is a time when we allow the musical offering to quiet our hearts and minds as we prepare for worship.

#### **WELCOME**

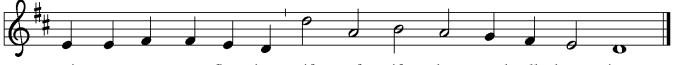
\*GATHERING HYMN: ELW #786 "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"







in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is ter who de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some true wis - dom learn - ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show - er; by your



giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing. to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us. pow - er Christ con - fess - ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.

#### \*APOSTOLIC GREETING:

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.** 

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY: Let us pray... Amen.

#### WORD

#### FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

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

#### **PSALM 34:15-22**

- <sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous, and God's ears are open | to their cry.
- <sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.
- <sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them and delivers them from | all their troubles.
- <sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.
- <sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from | every one.
- <sup>20</sup>God will keep safe | all their bones; not one of them | shall be broken.
- <sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death | to the wicked and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.
- <sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.

#### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20**

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:





## \*GOSPEL READING: John 6:56-69

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not

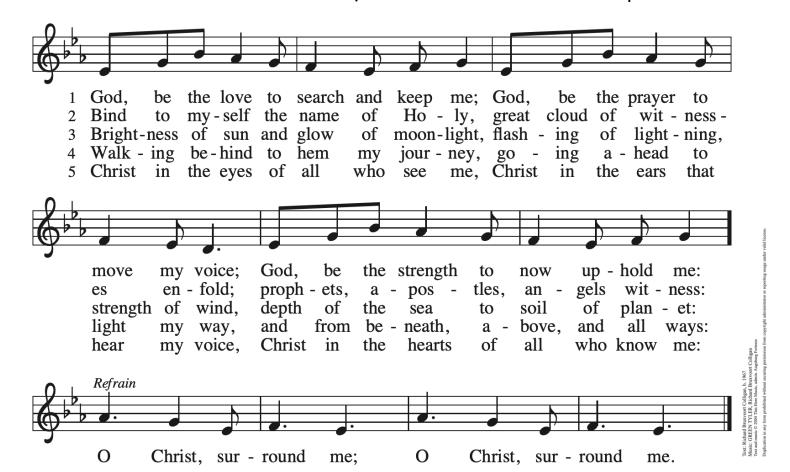
believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **SERMON**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS #1084 "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"



During the final verse, students, teachers, and those who work in education systems are invited to come forward for a blessing.

#### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS:**

You are God's beloved child. God is with you and you are loved when you are at home and when you are away, when you work and when you rest, when you are happy and when you are sad and all the times in between.

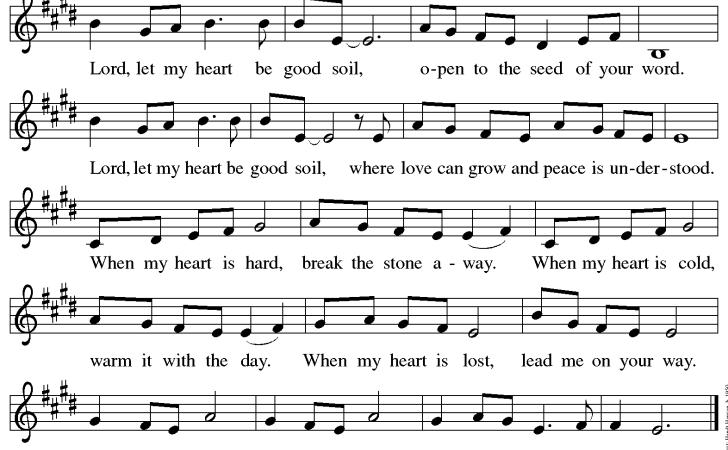
\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Each petition ends... God of mercy, Hear our prayer.

\*PEACE OF CHRIST: The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

#### MEAL

OFFERING MUSIC: "Moonlight Sonata" – Ludwig van Beethoven

\*OFFERING SONG: ELW #512 "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

\*OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray... Amen

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

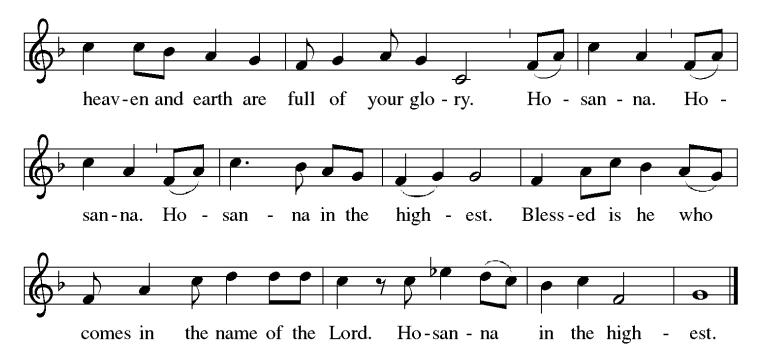
We lift them to the Lord.

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:





Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer...

For as often as we eat... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Christ has died.

#### Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore... to enjoy the tree of life. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Send your Spirit upon us...the Bread of life, your Son. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Through him all glory... both now and forever. Amen.

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

#### WELCOME TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table. Ushers will direct you down the center aisle.

- 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 over your heart.
- Prepackaged servings of bread and wine are available upon request.
- Place wine/juice cups in the tray as you return to your pew.

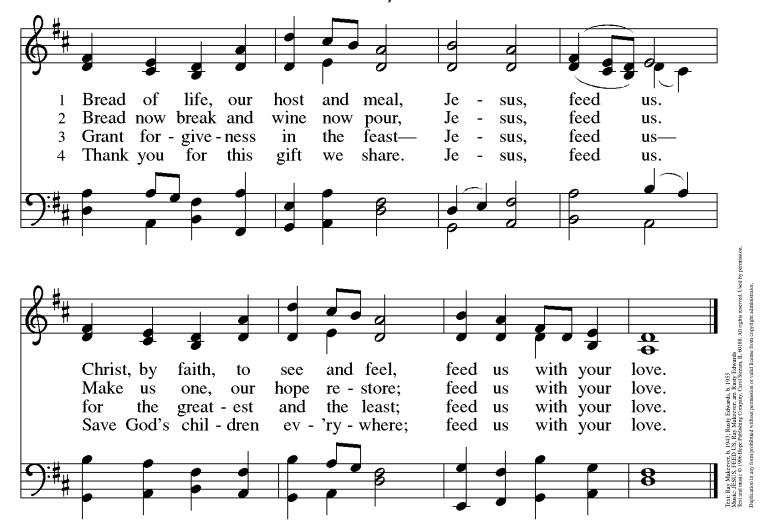
#### **COMMUNION HYMNS:**





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ELW #464 "Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal"



\*TABLE BLESSING

\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Let us pray... Amen.

## **SENDING**

**SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

\*SENDING SONG: ACS #984 "May the God of Hope Go With Us"



#### \*BLESSING:

May God bless you and keep you.

May God' face shine on you with grace and mercy.

May God look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

#### \*PRAYER BELL

\*DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Remember the poor. Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** "Searchlight Rag" – Scott Joplin

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: PRESIDING/PREACHING: Pastor Stacey Nalean-Carlson; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; USHERS: Dick Ylvisaker, Germano Streese; READER: Germano Streese; ASSISTING MINISTER: Jane Kemp; CANTOR: Nicholas Shaneyfelt; FELLOWSHIP: Germano Streese, Wanda Deifelt, Kathy Reed, Jane Kemp, Bethany Volz, Hayley Jackson

**GOOD SHEPHERD CALL COMMITTEE:** Megan Buckingham (Convener), Anne Clausen, Steve Holland, Karin Martin-Hiner, Bob Larson, and Leah Holland.

WELCOME! Pastor April Ulring Larson will be available in the office beginning Monday, August 26. She will preside and preach beginning Sunday, September 1, and will serve Good Shepherd's interim pastor for a period of 6 months, with the potential of an extension if needed.

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE SUBMITTED AND AVAILABLE: The Good Shepherd Call Committee has officially submitted our Ministry Site Profile to the Synod. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is intended for use by congregations to help potential candidates understand the congregation. The next step in the Pastoral Call Process is awaiting names and rostered minister profiles of pastors that are interested from the Synod. Copies of the Good Shepherd Ministry Site Profile are available on the website under "About" and in the Gathering Space.

WELCA BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome at this monthly Bible study. Connie Buresh will lead the Bible study, and Jan Siefken will provide refreshments. Contact Bev Sheridan if you need a copy of the *Gather* Bible study.

**RALLY SUNDAY – September 8th!** We are excited to kick off another year of Sunday School Programming at Good Shepherd! Families and those interested in volunteering save the date to learn more about the year ahead. Class will begin on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

PRODUCE AND FLOWERS THIS WEEK FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD VEGETABLE AND CUTTING GARDEN: Come see what's available this week on the table outside of the Fellowship Hall! Freewill donations are very welcome and go directly to the Decorah Community Food Pantry.

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BABY CARE AND SCHOOL KITS:

With school supplies currently on sale and Decorah city-wide garage sales coming up on September 14, now is a perfect time to pick up gently used items for LWR Baby Care Kits and new items for School Kits. For a list of supplies needed, go to page 6 of the August newsletter. The donation box for all supplies is in the Gathering Space. Questions? Contact Gail Judisch at 563-380-7276 regarding Baby Care Kits or Bev Sheridan at 563-608-3272 about School Kits.

BLESSED BE THE MEMORY OF MISTY SCHWEIZER: Martha Ann (Misty) Schweizer Weber died July 28th in Palm Desert, CA at the age of 70, following a cancer diagnosis in February. Misty's deep faith and devotion to following Christ were nurtured at Good Shepherd where her parents, Edsel and Helen Schweizer, were Charter Members. There will be a Celebration of Life in Christ service on Saturday, September 28 at Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue, WA. Misty is survived by her siblings David, Tim, and Chris, raised as members of our Good Shepherd family, as well as her husband Tim, three children, and eight grandchildren.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF TABLE AT LUTHER COLLEGE FALL MINISTRY FAIR ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: Luther College Ministries is hosting a Fall Ministry Fair for students on Tuesday, September 10 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Dahl Centennial Union, where local churches will have tables displaying materials about their church. Good Shepherd is looking for 2-3 volunteers to sit at the Good Shepherd table and engage with students about worship opportunities, along with other ways they can get involved at Good Shepherd. Contact Erica in the Church Office to volunteer!

HELP WITH WELCOME FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY PICNIC: All are invited to Good Shepherd's 13th annual Welcome Friends and Neighbors Community Picnic on Sunday, September 15, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Celebrate community over a free meal. Volunteers are requested to assist with this welcoming community event. Simple food contributions, as well as serving as greeters, setting up the eating spaces and the food tables, providing beverages, and cleaning up are needed. Complete details about the variety of volunteer opportunities and sign-up are available on our website at the SIGN-UPS Tab. Sign-up sheets are also in the Gathering Space. Contact Erica in the Church Office with any questions or for ways to get involved.

## AASE HAUGEN BINGO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON SEPTEMBER 10: Two

**volunteers** are needed to help with Bingo at Aase Haugen Senior Services on September 10 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Assistance is also needed to gather Bingo prizes. Aase Haugen has specific prizes needed for Bingo, so please email **Erica** in the Church Office to get a list or to volunteer to help during Bingo. Local congregations rotate hosting Bingo at Aase Haugen and other care centers in Decorah each month.

2025 BUDGET REQUESTS DUE BEFORE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: All church committees and subcommittees with budgets are asked to review their current "monies spent" 2024 report, sent out by church treasurer John Moeller, to help determine next year's budget request. The Congregation Council will begin its Budget Review at the September 17 Council meeting, so it's important to have all 2025 budget requests prior to September 17. This information is also important to help the Stewardship Committee plan for the Fall Stewardship campaign. Please send all 2025 budget requests to Erica in the Church Office prior to September 17.

**WINNESHIEK COUNTY LUTHERANS EARTH'S CLIMATE CRISIS GROUP: PRAY, STUDY,** & **ACT.** Wednesdays, Sept. 4 – Oct. 9, 5:30-6:30 P.M. Via Zoom: Join Winneshiek County Lutherans to pray, study, and act together faithfully and courageously to respond to Earth's Climate Crisis. First Lutheran Pastor Mike Wilker will lead the prayer and study via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m., using a study guide developed by ELCA Hunger ministries and an ELCA statement written chiefly by the Rev. Dr. Jim Martin-Schramm, Luther College Professor Emeritus of Religion and member of First Lutheran.

Pantry is on track to distribute over 300,000 pounds of food to northeast lowa neighbors this year. More than half of that food is rescued from local stores that would otherwise end up in the landfill. Shelf-stable food items needed at this time include all varieties of pasta, canned vegetables and fruit, canned soup, canned meat (fish, chicken, pork), all varieties of cereal, sugar, flour, and cooking oil. Non-food items include toilet paper, laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, and dish soap. Items can be dropped off at 110 Railroad Street in donation boxes outside the building. The best way to donate financially is to write a check to "Decorah Community Food Pantry" and mail it to PO Box 26, Decorah, IA 52101.

**OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:** Tristan: 9 AM - 12 PM Monday-Friday

Erica: 10 AM – 5 PM Wednesday-Thursday

## Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Praying for others is a cherished ministry that everyone can participate in at any time. There are no time constraints to our care for others as we offer their needs up to God. People on the prayer list are welcome to remain there for as long as is needed.

#### **Those with health concerns:**

- Stephanie Hoff awaiting kidney transplant
- Jutta Anderson chordoma, rare cancer of the spine
- Carrie Solberg cancer treatment
- Ingrid Callaghan
- Dennis Martin, Marv & Mickey Slind's brother-in-law
- · Bob Fahrenkrug, grandfather of Sarah Wicks
- Harland Nelson
- Millard Nelson, father of Laurie Biedermann and Linda Martin
- Renee Scheuerlein, daughter of Bonnie Flora and sister of Melanie Folkerts
- Phillip Swanson, son of Ted & JoAnn Swanson and brother of Kristin Swanson
- Harley Refsal moved to Eastern Star care facility
- Darlene Ernst Jeff Ernst's mother

#### Those who grieve:

- Charilyn Hover and family, upon the death of her husband Ed Hover on July 11th.
- Our condolences to Brooke Joyce and his family on the death of his cousin, Sister Mary Thomas. (1933-2024) Several years ago, Brooke led an adult forum where he shared with us about her extraordinary life of service and creativity. Thanks be to God for Sister Mary Thomas. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.
- The family of Misty Schweizer, upon her death on July 28th.
- Jeff and Cindy Ernst and family, upon the death of Jeff's mother Darlene on August 19th.

## Those serving the needs of others:

- Maryn Olson, Director of Lutheran Disaster Response
- Kathryn Thompson as she starts her call at LuMin in LaCrosse and that the Conference
  of Bishops approves her request for an exception to be ordained without the usual
  time in a parish.

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

## **Good Shepherd Worship Schedule**

## Today, Sunday, August 25: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Blessing of the Backpacks in worship

Presiding/Preaching: Pr. Stacey Nalean-Carlson

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

## **Sunday, September 1:** 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

Presiding/Preaching: Pr. April Ulring Larson

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

## **Sunday, September 8:** 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

Presiding/Preaching: Pr. April Ulring Larson

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

Rally Sunday

## Sunday, September 15: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

Presiding/Preaching: Pr. April Ulring Larson

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

Welcome Friends & Neighbors Community Picnic at Good Shepherd: 5-6:30 PM

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.

**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



<u>goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement</u> or by scanning the code.

We trust in the new life made possible through Christ's resurrection and we are hopeful that the Church is an ideal place to engage in the lifelong and transformative work of racial justice. Fostering antiracist ideas and actions is one way that we can follow Jesus' example of love for our neighbor. When we fail, we will rely on God's grace, that God might work in and through our broken humanity and that we might be sustained to learn from our mistakes and continue to show up for the work of antiracism. (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

We commit to listen, learn, and act with courage, kindness, respect, and humility as we practice antiracism both individually and as a congregation. (Galatians 5:22)

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)

## **GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:**

Brooke Joyce; Music Director
Tristan Occhipinti; Office & Building
Manager
Erica Yaneff; Ministry & Communications
Coordinator
Mike Sammons; Custodian

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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