# 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



# September 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<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.

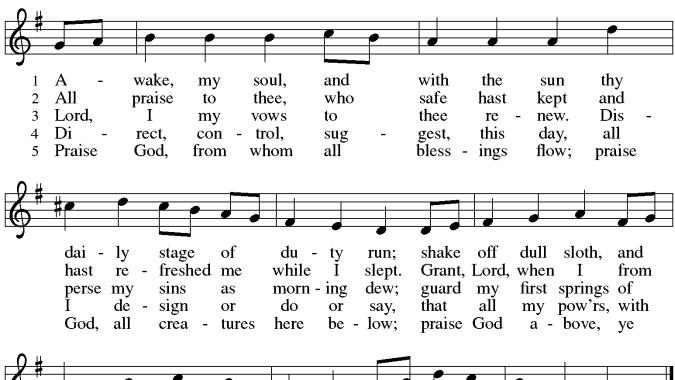
### **GATHERING**

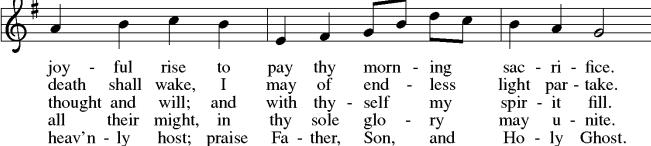
PRAYER BELL - PRELUDE: "American Pastorale" - John S. Dixon

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 #557 "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun"





#### \*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: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

### PSALM 15

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle? Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right, who speak the truth | from their heart;

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends; they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

#### **SECOND READING: James 1:17-27**

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by carina for those least able to care for themselves.

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:





### \*GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

<sup>21</sup>"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** 

**SERMON** 

# \*HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS #987 "Guide My Feet"



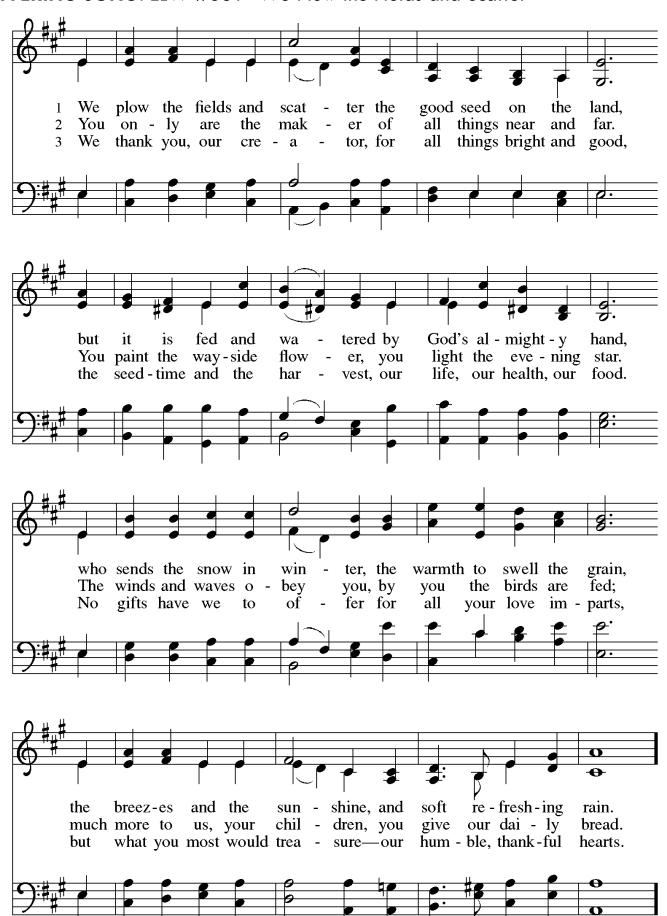
\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Each petition ends... Merciful God, receive our prayer.

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

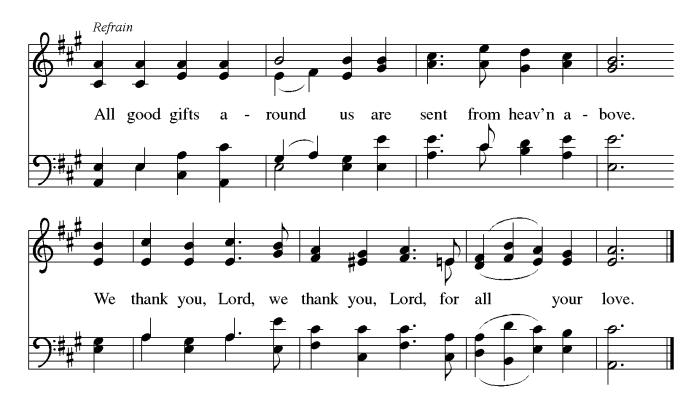
# **MEAL**

**OFFERING MUSIC:** Musical offering from Kimberly Svanoe

### \*OFFERING SONG: ELW #681 "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

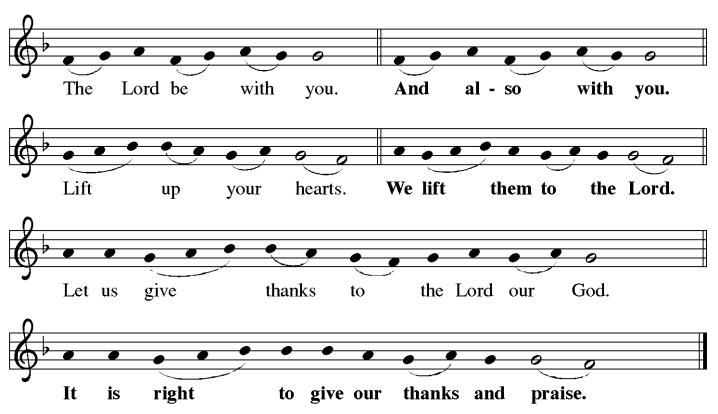


Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt. Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

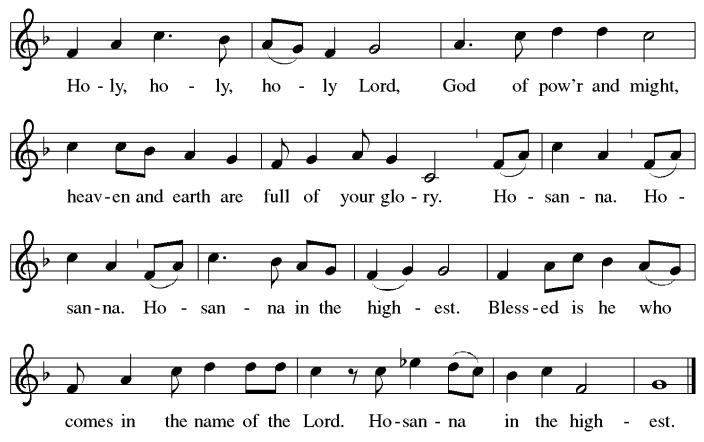


\*OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray... Amen

### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

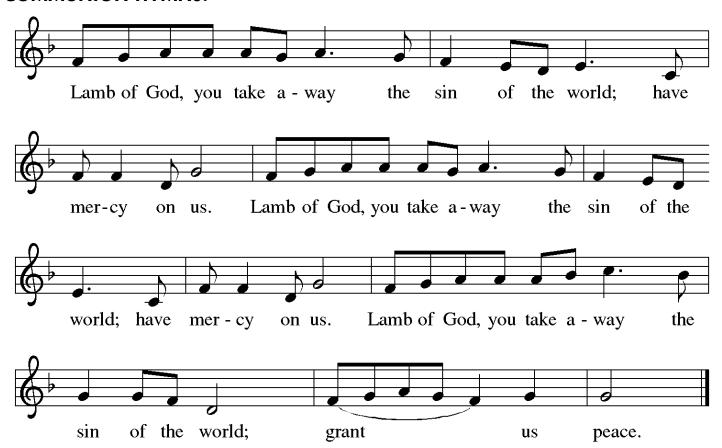
Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory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



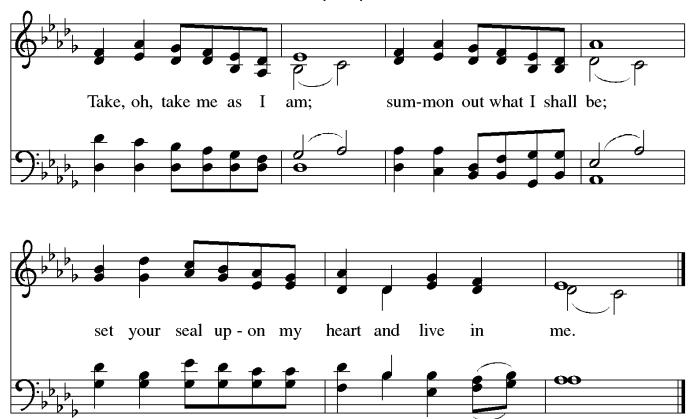
### ELW #460 "Now the Silence"



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text and music @ 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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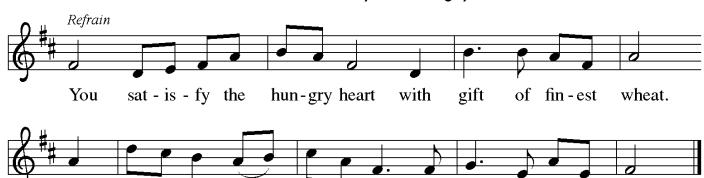
# ELW #814 "Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
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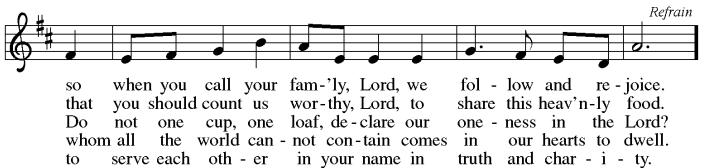
### ELW #484 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"



Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat i tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys-t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor-tal tongue can tell:
  - You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self-less let us be,



### \*TABLE BLESSING

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

# **SENDING**

### **SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*SENDING SONG: ELW #583 "Take my Life, That I May Be"



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENDAL, Robert E. Keettz, 1922–1996
Fext and music O 1977 Aerthéoses of Philadelphia.



#### \*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. Follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Rose Leaf Rag" - Scott Joplin

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**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: PRESIDING/PREACHING:** 

Pastor April Ulring Larson; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; USHERS: Rebecca Hanna, Lise Kildegaard; GREETER: Midge Kjome; READER: Luther Snow; ASSISTING MINISTER: Tim Folkerts; CANTOR: Kimberly Svanoe; FELLOWSHIP: Catherine and Gary Hildebrandt, Melanie Folkerts, Al and Marilyn Anderson, Bonnie Flora.

# Thanks to Kimberly Svanoe for her music this morning!

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

**WELCOME:** Pastor April Ulring Larson! This week marked Pastor April's first week at Good Shepherd, where she will serve as Interim Pastor for the next 6 months and beyond pending a Call of a Settled Pastor at Good Shepherd. Rev. Larson will be formally welcomed and installed during worship next week Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. A full biography and welcome will be in the September newsletter. She will be in Decorah and around the office Monday-Wednesdays, available via phone/email on Thursdays, and off on Fridays. She will return to Decorah to lead Sunday worship each week. Her direct contact information is:

### pastorapril@goodshepherddecorah.org / (563) 217-0741

Rev. Larson has served in diverse settings, from rural parishes to Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod where she was elected as the first woman bishop in the ELCA. She has worked with congregations in all types of transition, crisis, and celebration through being a Lead Pastor, Assistant to the Bishop, or Bishop. She retired to Decorah in 2014 and served as interim pastor at Good Shepherd from 2014-2015.

She and her husband, Luther grad Rev. Judd Larson, both earned their M. Div. degrees from Wartburg Theological Seminary. They were ordained together in February 1978. They are parents to three children (all Luther Grads). Daughters Katie & Amy are physicians and professors at University of Iowa Children's Hospital & Medical School and their son, Benjamin, died in the 2010 Haiti Earthquake in his fourth year at Wartburg Seminary.

**SHEPHERD GATHERING:** On Sunday, September 8th, during fellowship time in the Gathering Space there will be an optional, informal Shepherd conversation. We will talk about how it's going and share ideas or trouble-shoot together. If suggestions come up that we want to pass along to the Stewardship Committee, we can do that. But as so much of the Flock Initiative is Spirit-led, we can let things evolve informally as well.

WEEKLY CHOIR AND BAND REHEARSALS RESUME: Beginning September 4, Good Shepherd Choir and Good Shepherd Band will start weekly rehearsals, with choir at 7:00 p.m. and band at 7:45 p.m. Everyone can attend either or both! If you would like to play with the band (any wind or string instrument is welcome), please let Music Director Brooke Joyce know in advance (wbjoyce3@gmail.com), so he can have parts ready. He regularly has music for treble and bass instruments in Bb and C. The Choir will sing during worship on Rally Sunday, September 8, along with kids who attended Vacation Bible School.

**RIDE TO WORSHIP REQUEST:** Good Shepherd is looking for volunteers to help pick-up and drop-off some elders to and from worship on Sundays. Please get in touch with Erica in the office with any questions or availability to help.

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.

**RALLY SUNDAY – September 8th!** We are excited to kick off another year of Sunday School Programming at Good Shepherd! Parents/Guardians will meet with lead teachers Melissa Bills and Brooke Joyce in the Library and children will engage in games/activities outside and in the Classroom. First day of Sunday School is September 15<sup>th</sup>! **Help lead kids activities!** We are looking for 2 adults to help run activities for kids during Rally Sunday. The Church has sidewalk chalk, bubbles, and more available for use. Reach out to Erica to help out.

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.

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!

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. Please email **Erica** in the Church Office to volunteer to help during Bingo.

**FOOD & VOLUNTEER OPTIONS OPEN FOR WELCOME FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY PICNIC:** Good Shepherd is hosting a community picnic on **Sunday, September 15,** from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Close to 200 people were served last year and we look forward to another great year this year. Please help however fits you best: bring a side, wipe tables, etc. Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Space & online. Contact **Erica** in the Church Office with any questions or for ways to get involved.

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 that date. 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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETINGS RESUME on Wednesday, September 18 and all are welcome! Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m., September through May. Yarn and patterns are available. Please bring any completed shawls to be blessed. Questions? Contact Jeri Laursen.

**EAT, PLAY, LOVE:** We're trying something new in this new season! Come spend some time with other Good Shepherd families on the **third Sunday of each month** for a potluck and some playtime. There's no agenda or program - just time for fun and connection with other families of Good Shepherd. Bring a dish to pass (and if you can't, there's always more than enough to go around) and join us at Phelps Park on **September 22 any time after 4:30 p.m.** If you have any questions, reach out to Allie Scott (**920-203-1352**) or Sonya Geenen (**309-912-8979**).

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.

**DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL:** Please join your friends and neighbors for this **free** meal in Decorah Lutheran's Fellowship Hall, **309 Winnebago Street**, on **Thursday**, **September 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 6:15 P.M.** All are welcome! This month, **Decorah Lutheran Church** is providing volunteers, salads, and desserts, with the main course provided by Sodexo of Luther College. Gluten free options and carry outs are always available.

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

Erica will be out of the office this week.

The office will be closed Monday for Labor Day.

# **Good Shepherd Worship Schedule**

**Today, Sunday, September 1:** 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall; Red Flock

**Sunday, September 8:** 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Rally Sunday Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall; Red Flock

Sunday, September 15: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall; Red Flock First week of Sunday School Programming 4yr.old-6<sup>th</sup> grade! 10:45 am Welcome Friends & Neighbors Community Picnic at Good Shepherd: 5-6:30

PM

# 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

# Those who grieve:

- Charilyn Hover and family, upon the death of her husband Ed Hover on July 11th.
- 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 La Crosse 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

**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 **goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement** 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)

# **GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:**

Pr. April Ulring Larson
(563) 217-0741
pastorapril@goodshepherddecorah.org
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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