

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

SEPTEMBER 2024



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WELCOME TO INTERIM PASTOR: PASTOR APRIL ULRING LARSON

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On Monday, August 26th, a new, and also familiar, face appeared in the halls of Good Shepherd. With a simple turning of the key, she entered the Good Shepherd Pastor's Office, organized her books on the shelves, and has begun her ministry among us. With gratitude we share that Pastor April Ulring Larson has accepted our call to serve us as our third interim pastor of 2024. Good Shepherd has been blessed by the care, leadership, and gifts of these three excellent pastors – Pastor David Wrightsman, Pastor Marion Pruitt Jefferson, and Pastor April Ulring Larson - who have responded to our call through the nudging of the Holy Spirit. Pastor April shared her respect and gratitude for the thorough and smooth transition from Pastor Marion Pruitt Jefferson to herself, describing this as “a hand-off that can be compared to Olympian excellence.” While Pastor April is new to some members of our congregation, she and her husband Pastor Judd W. Larson, are also very well-known and valued to members with a longer history at Good Shepherd.

Pastor April was born and raised in Decorah, where she was baptized, confirmed, married, and an active member of Decorah Lutheran Church. Pastor April has known Good Shepherd from its founding. The children of the first families were her friends and classmates, and she has known all of the pastors who have served Good Shepherd throughout its history. Pastor Judd was born and raised in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was baptized, confirmed, and an active member of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. They met as young adults at the ELCA camp Wilderness Canoe Base in the boundary waters of Minnesota, and they were married at Decorah Lutheran Church. During their first two years of marriage, they lived in Decorah, while Judd finished his last two years at Luther (he will soon be celebrating his 50th class reunion!), and April taught music in the Catholic School in Cresco. During those two years, they were members at Washington Prairie Lutheran. Pastor April directed the adult and youth choirs, there, and Judd served as part-time custodian. They were also the volunteer youth directors. They spent the next four years at Wartburg Theological Seminary, becoming pastors in February, 1978. Pastors April and Judd served their first eleven years as co-pastors in Iowa. She valued diverse opportunities and experiences, including serving as the Global Music leadership song leader and choral director beginning with the (1984) ALCW Convention in Detroit, then serving at several national Global Mission Events (GME) in the ELCA

In February 1989, Pastor April accepted the call to be Assistant to the Bishop in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. In the summer of 1992, five years after the birth of the ELCA, Pastor April became the first Lutheran woman bishop in the U.S., and the second in the world. Pastor April served sixteen years as Bishop of the La Crosse (Wisconsin) Area Synod. In this period, Pastor Judd served as a parish pastor in La Crosse. ...continued on next page

WELCOME TO INTERIM PASTOR: *PASTOR APRIL ULRING LARSON*

Following Pastor April's maximum allowable three terms of service, she returned to parish ministry in 2008, accepting the call as Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota. In 2010 Pastor Judd joined her there as a staff pastor. Pastor April has rich experiences working with all types of congregations in transition, crisis, or celebration.

After 36 years of active ordained service, Pastors April and Judd returned to Decorah in 2014 to retire. Their retirement was interrupted when April had the joy of serving as interim pastor at Good Shepherd for 9 months, between the ministries of Pastor Mau and Pastor Amy Zalk Larson, and then as interim pastor at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church. Pastor Judd served three semesters as an Interim Campus Pastor at Luther College during this time. Additionally, Pastor April has served as a Regent at Luther College for sixteen years. She has received three honorary doctorates, one of them from Luther College. They moved to Iowa City in December 2021.

All three of their children are Luther College graduates. Their twin daughters, Katie Larson Ode MD and Amy Calhoun MD are physicians and Professors at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital and Medical School. Their son Ben was one semester away from becoming a pastor when he died in the Haiti earthquake on January 12th, 2010 while doing ministry there. We will have the joy and honor this fall of worshipping with the liturgy Ben composed, "Behold, I Make All Things New."

Pastors April and Judd share many hobbies, including seeing their eight grandchildren and working on their cabin in northwest Minnesota a few miles west of Itasca State Park. Perhaps at some time we will get a taste of Pastor Judd's homemade applesauce!

Pastor April shares that after serving her first time as interim here, they missed Good Shepherd, which she values as "an amazing congregation." In consultation with Pastor Amy Zalk Larson, they joyfully became Associate Members of Good Shepherd. Pastor April shares, "Faith is a gift, yet a gift given in community." She concludes, "Judd and I are so excited to walk with you in the great mission in which the Holy Spirit is leading Good Shepherd."

We welcome, with gratitude, Pastor April Ulring Larson, Bishop Emerita. On Sunday, September 8th, there will be a Service of Installation included within our worship service.

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

offered by Jane Jakoubek

Spirit of truth and light, be with our congregation as the call process continues. Help us to let go of human expectations and notice the Spirit at work in all that is unfolding. Be with us as we change, grow, make ready. Bless each of the pastors who have served Good Shepherd and have now moved on to other calls; may they be faithful and may their work be fruitful. Bless Pastor April in her time with us now. Bless our new pastor, the one you have been preparing to send here, unknown to us so far but fully known to you; open the path for them in this time as they respond to your call. Spirit of truth and light, fill us this day.

Spirit of truth and light, be with our nation in this time. Help us to find ways to carry peace in our hearts, to extend peace to others, and to open our hearts and minds to how to live out the Gospel in this challenging time. Help us to find ways to resist all expressions of racism and to stand with our Global Majority siblings and all who are vulnerable. Help us to trust that you are always at work, healing people and communities, breaking down walls and lifting burdens, and bringing forth new life. Spirit of truth and light, guide us yet again.

Spirit of truth and light, be with us in all the struggles we face in our own lives. Help us to name the things that scare us, the things that keep us awake at night, the needs we cannot meet ourselves, the places in us that need healing, and the things we are carrying for others. Help us to share the truths of our lives with you in prayer, for it is in the hard places in our lives that you bring healing, hope, abundance and peace. Spirit of truth and light, hear our prayer.

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.

	Old Testament Reading	Psalm Reading	New Testament Reading	Gospel
Sept. 1	<u>Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9</u> <i>God's law: a sign of a great nation</i>	<u>Psalm 15</u> <i>Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (Ps. 15:1)</i>	<u>James 1:17-27</u> <i>Be doers of the word, not hearers only</i>	<u>Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</u> <i>Authentic religion</i>
Sept. 8	<u>Isaiah 35:4-7a</u> <i>Like streams in the desert, God comes with healing</i>	<u>Psalm 146</u> <i>I will praise the Lord as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)</i>	<u>James 2:1-10, 12-17</u> <i>Faith without works is dead</i>	<u>Mark 7:24-37</u> <i>Christ healing a little girl and a deaf man</i>
Sept. 15	<u>Isaiah 50:4-9a</u> <i>The servant is vindicated by God</i>	<u>Psalm 116:1-9</u> <i>I will walk in the presence of the Lord. (Ps. 116:9)</i>	<u>James 3:1-12</u> <i>Dangers of the unbridled tongue</i>	<u>Mark 8:27-38</u> <i>Peter's confession of faith</i>
Sept. 22	<u>Jeremiah 11:18-20</u> <i>The prophet led like a lamb to slaughter</i>	<u>Psalm 54</u> <i>God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)</i>	<u>James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a</u> <i>The wisdom from above</i>	<u>Mark 9:30-37</u> <i>Prediction of the passion</i>
Sept. 29	<u>Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29</u> <i>The Lord's spirit comes upon seventy elders</i>	<u>Psalm 19:7-14</u> <i>The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)</i>	<u>James 5:13-20</u> <i>Prayer and anointing in the community</i>	<u>Mark 9:38-50</u> <i>Warnings to those who obstruct faith</i>

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.



ADULT FORUM SERIES:

Learning & Responding to Christian Nationalism

September 22, 2024 Adult Forum:

Introduction to Christian Nationalism

Come hear Brian Caton talk about his personal experience of growing up in an area where Christian Nationalism was developing, then join in a conversation led by Lyle Otte on Christian Nationalism. This is the first of three Adult Forums based on the ELCA study guide *We Are Christians Against Christian Nationalism*. Copies of the study guide can be printed upon request from the Church Office, will be available at the forum, and are available online.

September 29, 2024 Adult Forum:

Grace-Filled Conversations on Difficult Topics

Come join others interested in learning about ways to engage in difficult conversations. Jane Jakoubek will draw on resources from the ELCA study guide *We Are Christians Against Christian Nationalism* and share other skills that promote grace-filled conversations. Copies of the study guide can be printed upon request from the Church Office, will be available at the forum, and are available online.

October 20, 2024 Adult Forum:

Individual and Congregational Responses to Christian Nationalism

This discussion will focus on action: what can we do as individuals and what might we want to do as a congregation in response to Christian Nationalism. Lyle Otte will moderate the discussion, drawing on resources from the ELCA study guide *We Are Christians Against Christian Nationalism*. Copies of the study guide can be printed upon request from the Church Office, will be available at the forum, or can be found [here](#).

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMMING 2024

Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School meets Sunday mornings following worship, from 10:45-11:30 a.m. Kickoff dates for 2024-2025 include:

- Sunday, September 8 - Rally Day - activities for kids, parent meeting in the Library
- Sunday, September 15 - First day of Sunday School

Attached is a full Sunday School schedule - any changes will be communicated as early as possible. (The PDF is perfect for printing and sticking on your refrigerator!)

Class Groups

PK(4 years)-2nd Grade: Meet in the Kinderhaus classroom for a variety of activities, stories, and songs as we explore the Bible together using the Spark curriculum

3rd-6th Grade: Meet in the library for a video- and activity-based exploration of famous, quirky, flawed, and awesome characters in the Old Testament using the Re:Form-Ancestors curriculum.

7-12th Grade: Older youth are encouraged to serve as SS volunteers, to attend Adult Forums, and to build intergenerational relationships during fellowship hour.

Teachers & Helpers

- Brooke Joyce will serve as a lead teacher for PK-2nd Grade this Fall
- Melissa Bills will serve as a lead teacher for 3rd-6th Graders.
- We are looking for additional lead teachers/substitute teachers to add to our rotation. Please contact the Church Office to get involved in this capacity.
- In addition, we need two classroom volunteers each week to assist the lead teacher on duty. Please sign up [here](#) today!
- As a reminder, Good Shepherd adopted a [Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Program](#) in 2017 that outlines measures we take to keep kids safe while at Good Shepherd. In this we made a commitment to have all volunteers and staff undergo background checks and have a minimum of 2 adults present with youth at all times.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Krumkake Sales a success. We had total sales of \$4,745 with 10% of this amount going to the Nordic Fest board. We had over 100 volunteers who clocked in over 500 hours. We couldn't have done it without you. This congregation is truly amazing. Thanks again!

This fall we will be collecting items for **LWR school kits and baby care kits**. Thank you to all have donated supplies for kits during the month of August. We will continue to collect items until October 13. 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. If you have questions, you can contact Gail Judisch, 563-380-7276 (baby care kits) or Bev Sheridan, 563-382-9025 (school kits). Thanks so much for supporting our LWR project this fall. A donation box has been set up in the gathering space.

The Upper Iowa Cluster will hold their fall gathering on Saturday October 5 at St Paul's Lutheran in Lime Springs beginning with coffee at 8:30. All are welcome to attend.

Gather Bible Study

Fall 2024 “Receiving grace: A study of Ephesians” by the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp
Session one: Is grace real?

We often focus on how we fall short and deserve God's judgment. What if, instead, we remember God's continual gift of grace? God invites us to lead lives of love and wholeness. What is grace, exactly? Grace does not take away the sin and suffering of this life. Yet grace offers us a way to live from love despite hardship.

Session two: Grace-filled living—ancient and new

What did the writer of Ephesians imagine grace would look like in Christian life and relationships? How can we live from grace in our own time, reading this letter through our cultural lenses and experiences?

Session three: Living as children of the Light

What concrete advice can Ephesians give us on how to live a fuller, happier life? What poetic inspiration can it offer us for living as Christians? (from Gather magazine)

Save the dates:

Sept 15: Hauge Lutheran, 150th Anniversary

Sept 24: Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 7 pm

- Ann Naslund - Bible study/refreshments. All are welcome!

Sept 29: Highland Lutheran Luncheon, Bake Sale and Bazaar, 11 am -1 pm

Oct 5: Upper Iowa Cluster Fall Gathering, St Paul's Lutheran, Lime Springs

Oct 27: Glenwood Lutheran Lutefisk Supper

Nov 2: LWR in-gathering, Olson's Explosives, 7:30 am to 10:30 am

DISCUSSIONS & OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE ELCA'S "EARTH'S CLIMATE CRISIS"

Earth's Climate Crisis Group: Pray, Study & Act

Join Winneshiek County Lutherans as we pray, study, and act together faithfully and courageously to respond to Earth's Climate Crisis. We'll gather via Zoom on Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 PM September 4-October 9. Using a study guide developed by the ELCA Hunger ministries and an ELCA statement chiefly written by the Rev. Dr. Jim Martin-Schramm, FLC Pastor Mike Wilker, First Lutheran Church, will lead our prayer and study.
-Contact the Church Office to learn more/get the zoom link

Adult Forum: Sunday, October 13

The Rev. Dr. Jim Martin-Schramm will be the Preacher/Presider at Good Shepherd on Sunday October 13 and will lead an adult forum following worship. He will present the ELCA Social Message, "Earth's Climate Crisis" unanimously passed April 20, 2023 by the ELCA Church Council. He is the writer of this ELCA social message. It is encouraged to read this message prior to the forum, and copies can be made upon request from the Church Office. All are welcome.

ALL 2025 BUDGET REQUESTS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 16

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.

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.

This event is possible because of the support of volunteers from the congregation. **Consider a way you can get involved in this years picnic** and sign-up in the Gathering Space, online under “Sign-Ups” or by contacting Erica in the office (erica@goodshepherddecorah.org). **We hope to see you there - along with a friend or neighbor or two! Here are the details for the different volunteer roles:**

All Food/Drink donations:

- When signing up please add comments about what you will be making in the “Comment” box as able
- Please bring to the Church kitchen by 4:30 on Sunday the 15th with a serving utensil
- Label all dishes and serving utensils with your name so they make it back to you
- Please label any dietary notes (GF, V, Dairy free, etc.) as applicable. Note cards will be available in the GS Kitchen.

Sunday Setup:

- **Outdoor:**
 - Assemble rectangle tables and chairs along courtyard perimeter with tables & chairs from the annex.
 - Cover tables in tablecloths.
 - Place flowers on tables.
- **Indoor:**
 - Help set the drinks, desserts, and salads/sides tables.
 - Place flowers on tables.

Greeter at Nametag Table - depending on line length, walk the line/go to the end and welcome people there as well.

- Greet folks and invite them to put on a name tag.
- Keep a tally of people that come (as able - it’s ok if its a rough estimate)
- Most likely also help direct folks to the restroom as needed.
- Set up “Welcome to Good Shepherd” cards at the welcome table by the name tags

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Beverage Maker:

- Make coffee & decaf coffee before picnic and at least 1 time throughout as needed.

Food Helper: 4:30-5:30 Slot

- Make sure dishes/utensils are labeled with the person's name when they drop items off and there are dietary labels as appropriate (GF, DF, V, etc.)
- Help stock the serving tables as folks drop things off (dessert, drink, and side/chips tables)

Food Helper: 5:30-6:30 Slot

- Help keep the serving tables stocked with food from the kitchen. Take out empty dishes and utensils and rinse them.

Drink Server: 5-6:30

- Serve drinks/fill cups at the drink table
- Can split the time between 2 people (5-5:45, 5:45-6:30) if wanted

Assist with Carrying Food to tables: 5-6:30

- During the event float around the serving stations offering to help as you see needed. Can split the time between 2 people (5-5:45, 5:45-6:30) if wanted

Dishes/Garbage

- Set out and maintain plates, napkins, silverware, and cups on the table. We will be using all disposable products.
- Set up recycling and trash bins from the kitchen outside in places you think appropriate and place full bags in the large outdoor bins by the Annex. Replace trash bags with new ones found under the kitchen sink.

Kids Activity Leader & Helpers

- Help participate/lead games! Set out balls, bubbles, chalk, etc. Supplies available from the Office.

Hot Dog Roaster

- Heat hotdogs in the oven then place in roasters in the FH serving window.

Kitchen Cleanup

- Kitchen clean up should be happening throughout the event as possible
- Clean up kitchen as needed help with any food related cleaning/storing/labeling.
- As much as possible, food and dishes should be taken home by the people that brought them.

Cleanup Outdoors & indoors

- Gather tablecloths & centerpieces, wipe off tables,
- Outdoors only: help take down extra tables & chairs and return them to the Annex.
- Walk through and pick up any garbage/trash in the yard.
- Vacuum FH

Here are some opportunities to explore topics relevant to racial justice:

In addition to the upcoming Adult Forums on **White Christian Nationalism** (September 22, September 29, and October 20) there are two excellent one-hour videos with helpful background and perspectives: **Breaking Point: Tracing the Roots of White Christian Nationalism** and **How We Can Resist**.

There are three ways to watch them:

1. YouTube: [goodshepherddecorah.org/christian-nationalism-videos](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goodshepherddecorah.org/christian-nationalism-videos)
2. Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/100063205902902/1517739182449146>
3. You can register for the webinar. Even though the webinars have already streamed, you will receive an email after registering that has links to the recordings and the panelist guide:
<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/webinars/WCNwebinar/>

One of our ongoing interests regarding racial justice at Good Shepherd concerns Indigenous people. Here are ways to learn more and get involved:

- Last fall we followed webinars on the impact of Indian Boarding Schools from the ELCA Truth and Healing Initiative, and there are new videos coming up this fall:
 - September 24, 7-9 pm **Presentation: ELCA Truth-seeking and Truth-telling Initiative on Indian Boarding Schools**
 - October 10, 2-4 pm **Indian 101 Class**, an introduction to Indian people, their culture and values;
 - October 24, 2-4 pm **Indigenous Thought and Theology**, an introduction to the wisdom of the indigenous ways of understanding, respecting and interacting with this wondrous world we inhabit.
- You can find all these on the ELCA Truth and Healing website:
<https://www.elca.org/truthandhealing>
- Good Shepherd's Land Acknowledgement Task Force (Linda Donoghue, Elizabeth Kaschins, and Anne Clausen) has been studying the peoples who lived on this land before they were removed by the US Government to open the land for European settlers. There will be opportunities for the congregation to participate in discussions once they provide their report and recommendations.

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Finally, if anyone is interested in a book study on indigenous life, here are some to consider:

- *Calling for a Blanket Dance* (by Oscar Hokeah, 2002, the Luther College summer reading for 2024 on Native Americans living in what is now Oklahoma)
- *The Seed Keeper* (by Diane Wilson, 2021, the All Iowa Reads book for 2024 on Dakota Native Americans living in Minnesota from the 19th century to the present)
- *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* (by Vine Deloria, 1969, a series of essays that critique various efforts to “help” Native Americans, which has been recommended by Vance Blackfox of the ELCA).

If you're interested in forming a book study or discussion, let the Racial Justice team know and we can help organize something.

MEF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT UPDATE: AVA HOLLAND

A little life update from Ava Holland: I recently moved to Minneapolis after I graduated from Luther College in May! I am settling into my cute little apartment in South Minneapolis where I have been loving my new neighborhood. As for work, I started as the Marketing Manager for TGA Premier Sports, where I create and manage social media content, design weekly emails, develop promotional materials, and capture and edit photos and videos. I also lead tennis, golf, and pickleball sessions for K-8 children! It has been great to be back in a bigger city close to all of my college friends and extended family. I appreciate the Good Shepherd support throughout the years, especially with the EPIC scholarship that supported my college education. My experience at Luther truly set me up for the life I am living now, so thank you!



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry donated 20 prayer shawls this week to Helping Services for Youth and Families. This group is dedicated to domestic abuse advocacy, family education, substance abuse prevention and youth mentoring. It has been active in NE Iowa since 1973. Don Kemp was one of their original board members and Good Shepherd member Carson Eggland is the current director. They were very happy to receive the shawls. Thank you, too, to the members of our PS Ministry for their creations.

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

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 anytime after 4:30 p.m. If you have any questions, reach out to Allie Scott (920-203-1352) or Sonya Geenen (309-912-8979).

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.

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.

GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2024

In attendance: Anne Clausen, Kris Peterson, Chris Johnson(zoom), Sara Hopkins, Karin Martin-Hiner, Lise Kildegaard(zoom), Marilyn Rue, Brian Caton, and John Mueller(for treasury conversation),

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve

- In one word or one sentence, share what you most need from God now and/or gratitude
- Opening Prayer - Kris
- 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?

Sara moves to approve the whole agenda and Karin 2nd it. It passed.

Consent Agenda

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

Discussion Agenda

1. **Call Committee Update:** Karin Martin-Hiner and Anne Clausen The Ministry Site Profile is now live on our website and turned into the Synod. The next steps are for everyone and all resources to give that information to candidates so that we may get the work out to a wide group of possible candidates. The call committee will be getting questions together for a zoom meeting of about an hour with a possible candidate. Then when feeling it is appropriate bringing that candidate here to Decorah for a full call committee interview.
2. Council President's Reflections on Council Focus; seeking your input/additions
 - a. **Committee Structural reorganization report: Brian**
 - i. Pastor David Wrightsman and Brian met to discuss structural reorganization. The lists we have are committees and non committee groups and they are not connected in any way. Standing committee or nominating committee, executive committee are all different but not in a structure. If we make the changes that would solve this it may take an amendment to the constitution. There may be a way through bylaws or continuing resolutions. We may need to adopt a new system of Ministry teams and these teams reporting to the council.
 - b. **2025 Budget process/timeline: guidance from John:** John outlined what the Budget process does: Pay is biggest for the Pastor, staff, Education Committees expenses, Building on what already existsthere. Eventually the Mission Green will be paid off and there will be no more electricity bills.

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- *Sara makes a motion to create a committee to prepare the 2025 budget. Members including Past president, Vice President, Treasurer, Council Liaison to the council. Seconded by Marilyn. It Passed. Chris Johnson will be the convener of the first meeting for this committee.*

- Sunday School and Youth
- Continuing gratitudes
 - i. Your faithful and compassionate leadership, open communication, visioning, and providing stability in the ‘chop’
 - a. AV and Youth position openings
 - b. Welcome for Pr. April on Sunday, Sept. 1 service

3. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Brian makes a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Marilyn seconded the motion. Motion is passed.

Announcements

1. Reminder of September 15th 11-2:00 Stewardship Leadership Mtg.
2. Staffing Needs: AV position & Ed position/education planning
3. Newsletter Deadline is August 25, 2024 (always the 25th of the month)
4. Committee reports/summaries due to office on Second Monday of the month
5. Agenda with committee links emailed to Council Third Monday of the month. Please read prior to the Council meeting.
6. Next Council meeting (third Tuesday of month) is Sept. 17, 2024

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

Education Committee:

1. Sunday School planning
2. Nursery project
3. Education Committee members/Youth and Family staffing

Outreach and Hospitality Committee:

- Discussed usher name tags, how Sunday name tag Sunday's were going, and how Shepherds could check in on how new members added to their flock are doing.
- Looked at adding a 4th member to our committee, possibly a youth.
- Started to delegate assignments for our neighborhood picnic on 9/15.

Stewardship Committee:

1. Met with Peter Ruess
2. Theme and focus for Fall Campaign decided and moving along well

Worship and Music

1. Insert into bulletin during prelude for that time to be meditative & listen to the music
2. Microphone added for cantors/special music to improve stream audio
3. Youth can help serve communion once confirmed

Pastor's Report: Link to Report

Closing Prayer - *Sara made a motion to close, Anne seconded and it was approved.*

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Labor Day Weekend</p> <p>Pr. April Ullring Larson</p> <p>9:30am - In-person Worship</p> <p>10:45am - Fellowship Hour @</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Erica out of Office</p> <p>Office closed for Labor Day</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>4pm - Stewardship</p> <p>4:30pm - Green Flock Faith 5</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</p> <p>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>11am - Bible Study @ Library</p> <p>5pm - Decorah Community</p> <p>5:30pm - Racial Justice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Kids sing in worship (singing)</p> <p>Name Tag Sunday</p> <p>Fally Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - In-person Worship</p> <p>10:45am - Fellowship Hour @</p> <p>10:45am - SS Parent Meeting</p> <p>10:45am - Shepherds</p> <p>5pm - Luther Music Dept.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>9:45am - Fall Ministry Fair:</p> <p>3pm - Bingo at Aase Haugen</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Eastern Star/Arhn</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>2:30pm - Aase Haugen</p> <p>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</p> <p>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>11am - Bible Study @ Library</p> <p>1pm - Travel Club @</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Welcome Friends &</p> <p>9:30am - In-person Worship</p> <p>10:45am - Fellowship Hour @</p> <p>11am - Stewardship Retreat</p> <p>5pm - Welcome Friends and</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>6pm - Sons of Norway @</p> <p>7pm - Congregation Council</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry</p> <p>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</p> <p>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>11am - Bible Study @ Library</p> <p>12:45pm - MEF Committee</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30am - In-person Worship</p> <p>10:45am - Fellowship Hour @</p> <p>11am - Adult Forum:</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>2pm - Facilities and Grounds</p> <p>7pm - WELCA Circle Mtg.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</p> <p>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>11am - Bible Study @ Library</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30am - In-person Worship</p> <p>10:45am - Fellowship Hour @</p> <p>11am - Adult Forum:</p> <p>1pm - Martin Family event @</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>6:30pm - AL/ANON @ GS</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>10am - Erica office hours</p> <p>4pm - Stewardship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>7pm - Choir rehearsal @</p> <p>7:45pm - Band rehearsal @</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p> <p>11am - Bible Study @ Library</p> <p>5pm - Decorah Community</p> <p>5:30pm - Racial Justice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>5</p>