

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 15th – 17th 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Evangelical Lutheran Worship-ELW (red book)

Behold, I Make All Things New Liturgy (blue booklet)

Page numbers (p.) in front of the blue booklets, (#) in back of ELW

congregational responses in **bold**; rise in body or spirit when indicated by *

GATHERING

PRAYER BELL – PRELUDE: Pastorale – J.S. Bach

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: ACS #1022 “God, Bless the Hands”

***GREETING – KYRIE – HYMN OF PRAISE:** P. 2-5

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 116:1-9

¹I love the LORD, who has ¹ heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹ supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ¹ ear to me
whenever ¹ I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹ came upon me;
I came to ¹ grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name ¹ of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, ¹ save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the ¹ LORD and righteous;

our God is full | of compassion.

**⁶The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent;
I was brought low, | and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt | well with you.

**⁸For you have rescued my | life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;**

**⁹I will walk in the presence | of the LORD
in the land | of the living.**

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: P. 5**

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 8:27-38**

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

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise

again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW #808 “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** Prayer response is: *Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*

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

We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary. Bows, signs, fist bumps, handshakes, are all honored!

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***OFFERTORY SONG:** Create in me a clean heart ... P. 8

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

***GREAT THANKSGIVING** P. 10

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** P. 11

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION – THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE:** Our Father...

HOLY COMMUNION: *All are welcome at Christ’s table. Ushers will direct you.*

- *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: P. 12 Lamb of God
ACS #966 “Loaves Were Broken”
ACS #1084 “God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

TABLE BLESSING - PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING – SENDING SONG:** ELW #501 “Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus”

***DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER BELL – POSTLUDE: “Gardens in the Rain” – Claude Debussy

The postlude sends us out for service in the world. Feel free to use this time in any way that helps to send you out!

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. License # SB118886 - Hymns: Copyright © OneLicense A-731311 New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Music © 2014 Renee Splichal Larson. Transcribed, engraved and arranged by Cory Clay/BMI.

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: PRESIDING/PREACHING: Pastor April Ulring Larson; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; USHERS: Dave and Kris Peterson; GREETERS: Ed and Joyce Epperly; READER: Shelley Hurst; ASSISTING MINISTER: Lise Kildegaard; CANTOR: Melanie Folkerts; FELLOWSHIP: Dave and Sonya Geenen, Sarah Wicks, Melanie and Time Folkerts, Al and Marilyn Anderson.

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

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.

BLESSED BE THE MEMORY OF HARLEY REFSAL: Good Shepherd member Harley Refsal, age 79, passed away on Sunday, September 8, 2024, at Decorah’s Barthell Eastern Star Home, surrounded by family and friends. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at **11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 11, 2024**, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with Rev. April Ulring Larson presiding. Visitation will be at the church from 9:45 - 10:45 am. There will be a lunch and time of remembrance in the Fellowship Hall following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to any of the following: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; Vesterheim Museum; Luther College; or North House Folk School, PO Box 759, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

JOIN THE PICNIC TONIGHT! Good Shepherd is hosting a community picnic **TODAY, 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. Bring a neighbor, bring yourself: we hope to see you here!

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**.

Those who grieve:

- Norma Refsal and family, upon the death of her husband Harley Refsal on Sunday, September 8th.
- Laurie Biedermann, Linda Martin, and all the family of Millard Nelson upon his death on Saturday, September 7th.
- Denise and Matt Tapscott and family, upon the death of Denise's mother Evelyn Ford on August 25th.
- Jeff and Cindy Ernst and family, upon the death of Jeff's mother Darlene on August 19th.
- Charilyn Hover and family, upon the death of her husband Ed Hover on July 11th.

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, September 15: 17th 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

First week of Sunday School Programming 4yr.old-6th grade! 10:45 am

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

Sunday, September 22: 18th Sunday after Pentecost; Jazz Service

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

Adult Forum: Christian Nationalism; 11:00 am; Gathering Space

Eat, Play, Love Potluck and Playtime: 4:30 pm; Phelps Park

Sunday, September 29: 19th 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

Adult Forum: Christian Nationalism; 11:00 am; Gathering Space

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*)

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:

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

701 Iowa Ave
Decorah, IA 52101

(563) 382-3963

goodshepherddecorah.org
office@goodshepherddecorah.org