

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 8th – 16th 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: Prelude in Bb – attrib. 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: ELW #731 “Earth and All Stars!”

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

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

PSALM 146

¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

- ³Put not your [|] trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there [|] is no help.
- ⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- [|] turn to earth,
and in that day [|] their thoughts perish.**
- ⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob [|] for their help,
whose hope is in the [|] LORD their God;
- ⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that [|] is in them;
who keeps promis- [|] es forever;**
- ⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to [|] those who hunger.
The LORD sets the [|] captive free.
- ⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who [|] are bowed down;
the LORD [|] loves the righteous.**
- ⁹The LORD cares [|] for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way [|] of the wicked.
- ¹⁰**The LORD shall [|] reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. [|] Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10, 12-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.
Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** P. 5

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:24-37**

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

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW #886 "Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

INTERIM PASTOR INSTALLATION LITANY:

Pres. Kris: A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life. It is important and good that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings.

Today we share the time of welcome with Pastor April Ulring Larson whose time as our next Interim Pastor begins.

Pastor April, in the presence of this congregation will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to fulfill your duties in harmony with the constitution of this church.

Pr. April: I will and I ask God to help me.

Pres. Kris: Will you love, serve and pray for these people of God, nourishing them with the Word and Sacraments and lead them in this continued time of interim?

Pr. April: I will and I ask God to help me.

Pres. Kris: Will you lead this people of God in giving faithful witness to the Word of God and in making known the love of God through loving service?

Pr. April: I will and I ask God to help me.

Pres. Kris: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the power of the Holy Spirit so that you may perform them with strength and compassion.

Congregation: Amen.

Pres. Kris: I ask all of you, people of Good Shepherd, will you receive this messenger of Christ, Pastor April, who continues the work of bringing the Gospel of hope and salvation. Will you regard her as a fellow servant of Christ and work with her in the ministry of this congregation?

Congregation: We will and we ask God to help us.

Pres. Kris: Will you pray for her and honor her for her work's sake and in all things strive to live together in peace and unity?

Congregation: We will and we ask God to help us.

Pres. Kris: By your statements of commitment and affirmation of this congregation, we welcome you as Interim Pastor of this congregation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

***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: "Garden Song" – David Mallett

***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 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: P. 12 Lamb of God
ACS #1025 "If We Live, We Live to the Lord"
ACS #1043 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

TABLE BLESSING - PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING – SENDING SONG:** P. 14

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

PRAYER BELL – POSTLUDE: Fugue in Bb – attrib. J.S. Bach

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!

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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: Reg Laursen; FELLOWSHIP: Catherine and Gary Hildebrandt, Melanie Folkerts, Al and Marilyn Anderson, Bonnie Flora.

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 8th. A full biography and welcome is 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 TODAY: Today 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.

RALLY SUNDAY TODAY! We are excited to kick off another year of Sunday School Programming at Good Shepherd! Lead teacher **Pastor Melissa Bills** will meet with parents and guardians in the **Library. Music and games** for kids will begin at 10:45 in the Sanctuary with music, then head outside to play games. **Brooke Joyce** and **Sarah Wicks** will lead activities. The first day of Sunday School for **4 year olds - 6th graders** is next Sunday, **September 15**. More information to follow next week!

WEEKLY CHOIR AND BAND REHEARSALS RESUME TONIGHT: Beginning this evening, 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 B \flat and C.

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. For baby care kits, we could especially use cloth diapers, soap (4 oz bars), receiving blankets, and infant sleepers. 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.

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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY DONATION: This week the Prayer Shawl Ministry donated 20 prayer shawls 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 Egglund 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.

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**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BINGO AT AASE HAUGEN: Two volunteers are needed to help with Bingo at Aase Haugen Senior Services. 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.

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.

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

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.
- Denise and Matt Tapscott and family, upon the death of Denise's mother Evelyn Ford on August 25th.

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

Sunday, September 8: *16th Sunday after Pentecost; Rally Sunday*

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

Shepherds' Gathering: 10:45 am; Gathering Space

Rally Sunday Activities: 10:45 am; Sanctuary

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*

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

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:

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pastorapril@goodshepherddecorah.org
Brooke Joyce; Music Director
Tristan Occhipinti; Office & Building
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Erica Yaneff; Ministry & Communications
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