

# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*

## OCTOBER 2024



**2 GRACE AND PEACE FROM PASTOR  
APRIL ULRING LARSON**

**3 PRAYER FOR THE MONTH**

**4 SCRIPTURES FOR THE MONTH  
RACIAL JUSTICE SPOTLIGHT**

**6 UPCOMING ADULT FORUMS**

**7 DECORAH PRIDE**

**WELCA NEWSLETTER**

**9 TRUTH AND HEALING LAND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**10 WALDORF UNIVERSITY EPIC  
SCHOLARSHIP PARTNERSHIP**

**11 A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP EATON**

**12 A TRIBUTE FOR HARLEY REFSAL**

**13 CONFIRMATION**

**14 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**17 SEP. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**19 OCTOBER CALENDAR**

701 Iowa Ave — Decorah IA  
office@goodshepherddecorah.org  
563-382-3963  
goodshepherddecorah.org





# GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE

## FROM PASTOR APRIL ULRING LARSON

2



*"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before God your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1st Thessalonians 1:2*

Dear Beloved People of God at Good Shepherd,

I am thankful to serve you as your Pastor since August 26th. As your Interim Pastor I am here to serve as your Pastor in all the normal ways. This includes worship and preaching, the sacraments, emergencies, church meetings, confirmation, Bible Studies, worship at Eastern Star, Aase Haugen, and Wellington Place, visitations, funerals, baptisms, weddings, welcoming new members, etc. Please do not hesitate to stop by during office hours Monday through Wednesday or make an appointment or request a visit. I am in Decorah Saturday through Wednesday and I am available Thursday by text, phone, or email. Typically, Fridays are my day off for the week.



Thank you for such a full and rich September with all of you! It has been almost a decade since I had the joy to work with Brooke and the Altar Guild and with so many others I have known before (some even in my childhood and Luther years). What a gift you are to me.

Thank you also for the fresh and new joys of getting to know many of you for the first time. I feel so blessed to be around such faithful and enthusiastic siblings in Christ. Special thanks to President Kris Peterson and Office staff Tristan & Erica for making me feel so welcome.

From worship, to long term care facilities, to Lectionary and WELCA Bible Studies, to council meetings, to staff meetings, to Adult Forums on Christian Nationalism, to Racial Justice meetings, home visits, new babies, Stewardship meetings and workshops, to the Welcome Friends & Neighbors picnic, office meetings, and walking with you in grief and in new life; in all of these times I am blessed to be with you.

Now our hard working, creative and enthusiastic Stewardship Committee calls us this fall to love, renewal, and generosity. We are blessed. I am blessed to be with you.



Thanks be to God,  
Pastor April.

# PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

offered by Jane Jakoubek

Creator God, thank you for creating us in your image and grounding our lives in relationships, starting with families. Thank you for all the different kinds of families you give us: biological families; adoption and blended and chosen families; multigenerational families and yearned-for families; families that have ties in spite of absence, rejection, exclusion and alienation; families that span generations from revered ancestors to those who will be here long after we are gone. Thank you for families that care for us; families that challenge us; families that walk with us through all that life brings.

Be with families amidst temptations, weariness, confusion, loneliness, sorrow, grief, questions...

Be with families amidst changes, challenges, hard times...

Be with families amidst the burdens they carry that are visible to others, burdens held within their own circle, and burdens beyond knowing even by themselves...

Be with families who need more resources, encouragement and support than they have now...

Be with families when tension is high, when nerves are frayed, when separations occur, when patience wears thin, when energy is used up, when hope is gone...

Be with families when comparisons with others blinds them to gifts you are giving them in their own unique members and circumstances...

Be with families in times of abundance and celebration and joy...

Thank you for families, O God. Thank you for all you give me as family. Thank you for all our families at Good Shepherd. Thank you for being the Good Shepherd for all families, this day and always. Amen.



*Assembling LWR School Kits - more information on page 7*



	Old Testament Reading	Psalm Reading	New Testament Reading	Gospel
October 6	<b><u>Genesis 2:18-24</u></b> <i>Created for relationship</i>	<b><u>Psalm 8</u></b> <i>You crown us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:5)</i>	<b><u>Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12</u></b> <i>God has spoken by a Son</i>	<b><u>Mark 10:2-16</u></b> <i>Teaching on marriage</i>
October 13	<b><u>Amos 5:6-7, 10-15</u></b> <i>Turn from injustice to the poor, that you may live</i>	<b><u>Psalm 90:12-17</u></b> <i>So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)</i>	<b><u>Hebrews 4:12-16</u></b> <i>Approach the throne of grace with boldness</i>	<b><u>Mark 10:17-31</u></b> <i>Teaching on wealth and reward</i>
October 20	<b><u>Isaiah 53:4-12</u></b> <i>The suffering servant</i>	<b><u>Psalm 91:9-16</u></b> <i>You have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation. (Ps. 91:9)</i>	<b><u>Hebrews 5:1-10</u></b> <i>Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation</i>	<b><u>Mark 10:35-45</u></b> <i>Warnings to ambitious disciples</i>
October 27 <i>Reformation Sunday</i>	<b><u>Jeremiah 31:31-34</u></b> <i>I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord</i>	<b><u>Psalm 46</u></b> <i>The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)</i>	<b><u>Romans 3:19-28</u></b> <i>Justified by God's grace as a gift</i>	<b><u>John 8:31-36</u></b> <i>Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth</i>

## RACIAL JUSTICE SPOTLIGHT

### Why should we continually strive to do better?

Good Shepherd is a congregation with a commitment to strive for social justice in its DNA. One does not need to repeat here all the initiatives the congregation took on in all these years. One essential element of this commitment is the strong sentiment of making people feel they belong here. From the work of engaging in receiving South Asian refugees to the work of supporting AMPARO passing through the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, all show this critical aspect of caring for neighbors and that all people are welcome at Good Shepherd is central to our identity as a Lutheran congregation.

In recent years, a new element has become important in our congregational life: our commitment to racial justice. After the approval of our Racial Justice Statement, some concrete actions have already taken place to make the words that appear on the Racial Justice Statement more tangible. In 2022, the Worship and Music Committee encouraged ...continued on next page



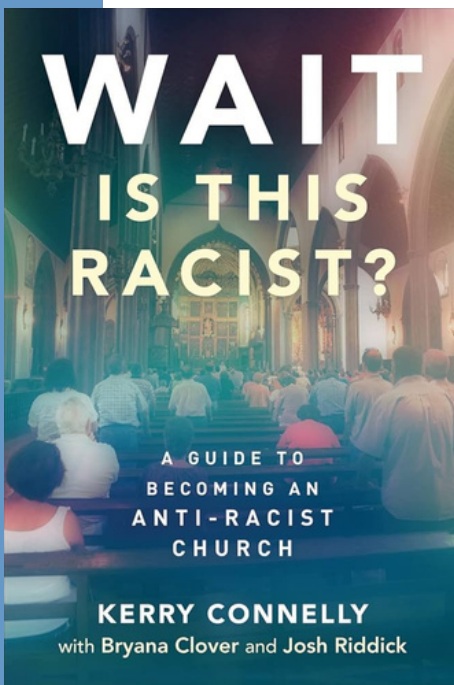
the congregation to explore the concept of reparations for using Spirituals in our worship, acknowledging that the original authors were never compensated. This dialogue resulted in a commitment of \$500 in the annual budget, an amount similar to what is allocated for other music aimed at supporting Black musicians today.

Now, we want to invite the entire congregation to embark on a new process of discernment and action. Why? Our Racial Justice Statement states 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." This bold commitment requires ongoing listening, learning, and action.

Concretely, how will we achieve this? Using Kerry Connelly's book *Wait—Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church*, we are inviting each of the standing committees of Good Shepherd to embark on the journey to learn about what it means to be an antiracist congregation and to discern and commit to the next steps each group will take to live out our Racial Justice Statement. Each committee is invited to find its own approach and determine the timeline for this work, depending on their regular work cycle. The Racial Justice Team will support, help find resources, and keep the congregation informed of the work that is underway so our efforts are increasingly visible within and beyond the congregation.

If individuals other than committee members want to read the book, copies will be available in the library and available for purchase from the church office.

Maya Angelou said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better." Connelly's book *Wait—Is This Racist?* is an excellent opportunity to learn more so that we can do better.



## Sunday, October 6

### **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION GROUP: Decorah Middle School Presentation**

The Climate Change Action Group (CCAG) is made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders from Decorah Middle School hoping to take action to help mitigate climate change impacts in this community and the overall planet. This group is a voluntary group of students willing to put time and effort into doing things as a group for the betterment of the environment and the larger community. This is a group that is intended to amplify student voices. This group has a teacher/advisor, Mr. Boylen, to help navigate and communicate between the students and the adults.

The group is currently working on presenting about how to create a more sustainable and hopefully net-zero energy-use school along with one having much more outdoor play and large windows for natural lighting. They will be sharing a presentation of their work this Sunday during an Adult Forum. People of all ages are welcome.

## Sunday, October 13

### **ELCA's Earth's Climate Crisis**

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.

## Sunday October 20

### **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 & Laura Barlament 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 at [goodshepherddecorah.org/elca-christian-nationalism](https://goodshepherddecorah.org/elca-christian-nationalism) .



Save the date for the upcoming Pride week in Decorah: October 8-13th. Full information about the events can be found at [decorahpride.org](http://decorahpride.org) or on their Facebook page.

**PRIDE PARADE:** The Parade this year is Saturday, October 12th at 3:00 PM. **If you would like to help carry the Good Shepherd RIC Banner** as a part of the **Pride Parade** please let Erica in the Office know so she can arrange getting the banner to you. More details to come about prayers or gatherings prior to the Parade.



## **PRIDE WEEK WORSHIP: Faithful & Fabulous Decorah Pride Community Worship:**

- Thursday, October 10, 6:00 PM Water Street Plaza, next to Oneota Co-op
- Join friends and neighbors to celebrate Decorah Pride and God's love for all people, especially LGBTQ+ community and family members. Sponsored by Decorah area LGBTQ+ affirming and reconciling congregations, including Good Shepherd.

A graphic with a yellow background. On the left, the text "FAITHFUL &amp; FABULOUS!" is written in large, purple, outlined letters. Below it is a small logo for "DECORAH PRIDE" featuring stylized figures. To the right of the logo, the text "COMMUNITY WORSHIP" is written in black. In the center, the date and time "Thursday, October 10 6:00 PM" and the location "Water Street Plaza Next to Oneota Co-op" are listed. On the right side, there is a colorful illustration of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a purple robe, holding a golden chalice and a wooden bowl. The illustration is set against a circular background with a rainbow border and a globe. At the bottom of the illustration, the text "YOU ARE LOVED" is written in a red, outlined font.

# WELCA NEWSLETTER

**86 LWR school kits** were assembled on Tuesday September 24 before our monthly gathering. Thank you to everyone who donated time and materials for the school kits. This was a record number of kits for Good Shepherd-thanks so much for participation!!

**The fall meeting** for the women of the Upper Iowa Cluster D is **Saturday, October 5th** at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Lime Springs. The speaker will be from the Guardians of Northeast Iowa Inc, a nonprofit organization that provides guardianship, conservatorship, and payee services for adults who lack the capacity to make their own decisions. The coffee will be at 8:30 and the program will begin at 9. We will meet at Good Shepherd at 7:30 to carpool.  
*Continued on next page*

**Our in-kind offering will be Christmas gifts for the clients of the Guardians.**

Requests include gift cards, adult puzzle books, nice shampoo/body lotion/body wash/cologne, coloring books/markers/glitter pens and art supplies. Contact Bev for more information.

**The Northeastern Iowa Synodical women are sponsoring a fall trip to the Grotto of the Redemption at West Bend** along with tours of the P.O.W. museum and nativity scene in Algona with lunch at the Wagon Wheel in West Bend on **Saturday, October 19th**. All women are invited, but you must RSVP by October 14th. The cost is \$5 for the POW museum **while lunch is on your own**. There will be car pooling. See Bev Sheridan for registration forms.

**We will meet on October 22 at 6 pm** in the church fellowship hall to assemble baby care kits. Cloth diapers, receiving blankets, 4 ounce soap bars and infant sleepers are still needed for these kits. If you have questions, you can contact Gail Judisch, 563-380-7276. Gather bible study will follow at 7 pm. All are welcome.

**Volunteers** are needed on Friday November 1 to load vehicles that will be taking the kits to Olson Trucking on Saturday. The kits will then be delivered to the warehouse in St Paul along with donations from other churches in Northeast Iowa. Packing boxes are also needed. Contact Bev or Gail if you can help.

**Gather Bible Study**

**Fall 2024 “Receiving grace: A study of Ephesians”  
by the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp**

**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? *(from the Gather magazine)*

**Upcoming events:**

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

**Oct 9:** Canoe Ridge Harvest Supper

**Oct 19:** NEIA SWO field trip to West Bend Grotto

**Oct 22:** Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 6 pm assembling LWR kits; 7 pm bible study Kris Peterson-Bible study, Kathy Buzza -refreshments. All are welcome!

**Oct 27:** Glenwood Lutheran Lutefisk Supper

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

**Nov 6:** Burr Oak Lutheran Meatball Supper



## TRUTH AND HEALING LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In her message to the church, Bishop Eaton noted that the purpose of the Truth and Healing Movement in the ELCA is to:

- Learn the true history and current realities of Indigenous people. It is these truths, truths that have been ignored by most for hundreds of years, that will bring healing for both Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people.
- Increase understanding of our colonizing impacts on indigenous people in the past and present.
- Focus on right and healthy relationships with indigenous people on Turtle Island.

Knowing and embracing the truth is the first step for all of us. The ELCA published “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People,” in which the church confesses its sins toward Indigenous peoples. It also lists the commitments it will begin working toward as it responds to its original “Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery” from 2016.

One commitment found in each document is to formally acknowledge the original inhabitants of North America. The declaration states, “We commit to begin the practice of land acknowledgement at all expressions of the church.”

This is arguably one of the easier commitments, though it should never be thought of as simple or meaningless. Land acknowledgements are indeed meaningful and play a crucial part in combating erasure of Indigenous peoples. They are a ritual of respect and gratitude for the land and for Indigenous peoples from whom the land was taken.

We began our journey toward truth and healing at Good Shepherd when the Racial Justice Team (RJT) appointed a task force to draft one or more land acknowledgement statements for discussion and consideration by the RJT, develop recommendations for how a Land Acknowledgement statement would be used by Good Shepherd, and share the RJT-approved statement with the congregation for discussion and feedback.

To date, using indigenous resources and Library of Congress records, we have conducted extensive research on tribal nations who lived on this sacred land and on the importance of the land to them. We drafted a statement that acknowledges the tribes, the impacts of forced removal and assimilation, and what we need to do on our journey, led by the Spirit, to seek truth and healing that honors the land itself and the indigenous people who have cared for it throughout generations..*continued on next page*

## TRUTH AND HEALING LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we continue our work, we would like to share with you each month an article on each of the tribes/nations who resided on the land we now own and care for. Each article will have a link to their voices today. It's not just about the past, but also a look at our brothers and sisters today and what they choose to share with us about the present. Perhaps, as we get to know them, we can envision their faces and voices each time we use the land acknowledgement statement and maintain a meaningful connection with them.

Peace,

Linda Donoghue

(Task Force members: Linda Donoghue, Elizabeth Kaschins, Anne Clausen)

- Photo header is a photo of "[Detail, Northern Plains dress with glass "seed beads." The Paul Dyck Plains Indian Buffalo Culture Collection. NA.202.1265](#)"
- You can learn more about beadwork art specifically done by Plains Indians at <https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/e-exhibits/loom-beadwork-plains-indians>

## WALDORF UNIVERSITY NOW AN EPIC SCHOLARSHIP PARTNER

The Executive Director of the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA has announced that Waldorf University (formerly Waldorf Lutheran College) in Forest City, Iowa has become a partner in the EPIC (Education Partners in Covenant) ministry of the ELCA. As a result, Waldorf will partner with participating ELCA churches providing matches to the local churches EPIC scholarships. The Waldorf match will be 100% up to \$1000.

For members of the Good Shepherd congregation this means that any Good Shepherd student who selects Waldorf will now be eligible for the Good Shepherd EPIC scholarship. As an EPIC partner, Waldorf will match our scholarship 100%. Each student receiving \$1000 from Good Shepherd will also receive another \$1000 from Waldorf.

Good Shepherd currently has five members of the congregation who are receiving our scholarship for the 2024--2025 academic year. Those students are attending Gustavus, Concordia and Luther. In the past Wartburg and Valparasio have had Good Shepherd members attending those institutions. The Good Shepherd EPIC Scholarship Committee is pleased to now include Waldorf as a partner in this educational ministry.



# BISHOP EATON ADDRESSES HATE TOWARDS HAITIAN COMMUNITY

11

*You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt  
(Deuteronomy 10:19).*

Dear church,

The recent national spotlight on Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, clearly has fanned flames of hate and stoked threats of violence. The rhetoric has created discord and mistrust of people who have already suffered civil unrest in their nation and been granted legal protection in the United States. History shows us that this kind of hatred often carries negative national and global consequences. Our church teaches that immigrants are children of God, made in God's image and worthy of respect and lives of dignity. God calls us to witness boldly to this truth when people tell dehumanizing lies that perpetuate racist tropes and support white supremacist narratives.

As people of faith, we and others look to God's command to "not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16). Martin Luther explains: "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light" (Martin Luther, Small Catechism, Eighth Commandment; Book of Concord, page 353).

Recognizing historic discriminatory policies and treatment of African descent immigrants, the ELCA has specific commitments to strengthen advocacy, protection and accompaniment of Black migrants. The ELCA participates in and promotes the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent. We stand in solidarity with the Haitian community in the United States. We pray alongside Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt and the Southern Ohio Synod, Wittenberg University and Springfield area congregations responding to hateful speech and threats of violence in their communities.

Please pray and take action to stop the spread of hate. As followers of Christ, we are called to love neighbors. Below are resources to support this call.

In peace,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, ELCA

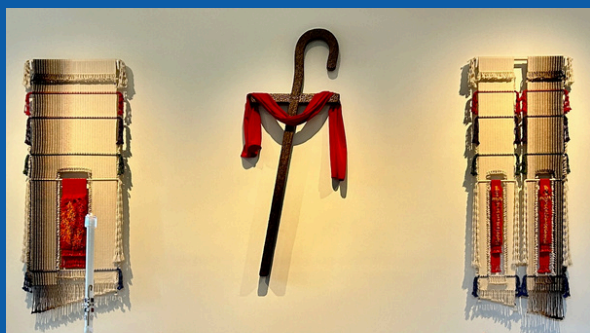
# A TRIBUTE FOR HARLEY REFSAL: HIS LEGACY OF ART AT GOOD SHEPHERD

12

As you walk around the Good Shepherd building, you will notice the astounding amount of art created and designed by congregation members. The late noted artist, Harley Refsal, was a significant contributor of this art and the sole creator or team member for some of the most visible and significant art for our congregation.



One of the most visible examples of Harley's work is the **Paschal Candle Holder** which he designed, built and carved. The stand is constructed from oak to match the other furnishings in the sanctuary while the carving is in butternut. Exemplifying the theme, "Gods Work, Our Hands," it features upraised children's and adult's hands in a variety of sizes, shapes, and conditions lifting or holding up the candle. Placed between the altar and baptismal font, the Paschal Candle remains in the chancel area throughout the year although is removed from Maundy Thursday to the Easter Vigil.



The **Shepherd's Cross** is another very visible example of Harley's artistic design expertise. Installed in 1989 at the front of the sanctuary between the weavings, this unique piece is an artistic combination of a cross and a shepherd's crook. While Harley originated the design concept, congregation members Reg Laursen created several life-size models from which the Congregation Council could make a selection, Hung Van Pham constructed the cross, and Stanley "Slim" Maroushek purposely roughed and finished the wood.



David Faldet and Harley, in collaboration with the Ad Hoc Art Subcommittee, designed and created the **Processional Cross** in 2017 which we view during all services. The design elements use a variety of local materials that link us to our environment. Wood from several tree varieties, a fossil, clay, and repurposed items (including an old hoe handle and iron bar) are used on the two sided cross. The prominent design element on the front side is a cross-on-a-cross, a visual reminder of the body on the original cross. On the backside, the clay shell medallion mounted in the center on blue carved wood connects us to our baptismal font and baptism. *continued on next page...*

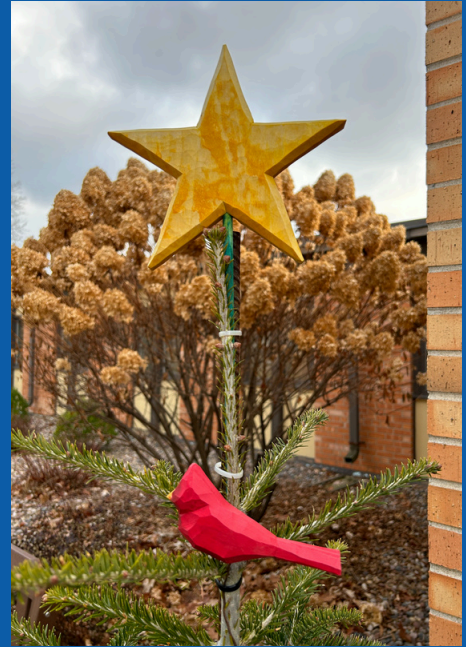
# A TRIBUTE FOR HARLEY REFSAL: *HIS LEGACY OF ART AT GOOD SHEPHERD*

13

Other art created by Harley is used seasonally for special occasions. He constructed the **Advent Wreath and Candle Holder**, designed with four candle holders, used during the Advent season. As a member of the Landscape Subcommittee, Harley helped plant the Christmas trees in the outdoor pots starting in Advent and to decorate the trees, he carved **gold Stars and red Cardinals**. In 2022, Harley carved a series of life-sized **Birds** painted in pastels for use as part of our Fellowship Hall décor. Perched on carved sticks, the birds are used as centerpieces throughout the spring season.

With the legacy of these gifts from Harley, Good Shepherd has been immeasurably enriched by the contributions of this remarkable artist, colleague, and friend.

NOTE: Good Shepherd Archivists Elizabeth Kaschins and Jane Kemp have compiled information about the “Art and Artifacts at Good Shepherd” for the church archives. The file includes information about all the art created by artists for Good Shepherd and is illustrated with photos.



## CONFIRMATION & AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Confirmation students will meet from 11-11:45 am on three Sundays: October 6, October 13, and October 20 in the Pastors Office. You will meet and write a brief faith statement.

**This year the Affirmation of Baptism service for 9th graders will be Oct. 27, 2024 during 9:30am worship. We will be celebrating with Weston Cote, Poppy Bellrichard, Logan Nalean-Carlson, and Addie Bollinger.**



**YOUTH & CHILDREN SINGING IN WORSHIP:** Save the date for Sunday School kids singing in worship the first Sunday of the month: 10/6, 11/3 and 12/1

**HELPERS FOR HARLEY REFSAL MEMORIAL SERVICE:** We are requesting a team to help prepare the kitchen for the catered luncheon, help ushering, and help serving and cleaning up after the luncheon at Harley Refsal's memorial service at Good Shepherd on Friday, October 11th. The Sign-Up can be found online under "Sign-Ups" or in the Gathering Space. Please reach out to Erica in the Church Office with any questions or for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE: Community Luncheon with Prof. Caryn Riiswold:** Nov. 10th, Noon - 1:30 Community Luncheon and opportunity to talk with Prof. Caryn Riiswold, Professor of Religion, and McCoy Fam. This event will take place in the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall. More details to come. Professor Riiswold holds a Distinguished Chair in Luth. Heritage & Mission, about her work on faith and abortion. Dr. Riiswold's recent publication, "ReEngaging ELCA Social Statement on Religion" is a helpful tool for talking about women's reproductive health and abortion in the context of our Lutheran faith. You can order a copy from Amazon, or wherever you purchase your books. All are welcome!

**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 October 20 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).

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** 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. **October meeting is Oct. 16.**

**DONOR MATCH FOUND FOR STEPHANIE HOFF!** We rejoice in the miracle of a living kidney donor match for Stephanie Hoff! As announced last Sunday, Pastor Stacey Nalean-Carlson will be a kidney donor, matched to an individual whose living kidney donor is a match for Stephanie. The donation involves these four individuals, with transplants scheduled at the same time on October 30 at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Please keep Stephanie and Pastor Stacey in your prayers!

**COLOR PRINTER AT GOOD SHEPHERD:** Good Shepehrd has upgraded to a new printer that now has the capacity to print in color. You may have noticed the color print now a part of Sunday worship bulletins, or budget wise will notice the large cut in expenses to pay for outside color printing. With gratitude and excitement we thank Office & Building Manager Tristan for all his energies and work to get a new color printer at Good Shepherd!

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS AND HAULERS NEEDED FOR NHN:** Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is a Decorah interfaith fund that helps local immigrants and their families in rebuilding their lives following an immigration-related crisis. This community effort is funded through individual donations, local congregations, and local organizations. NHN is a partnership between Decorah UCC and the Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center's Immigration Action Network. This partnership sponsors and coordinates rides for families and individuals to get to Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) check-ins, lawyer appointments, and court dates. When possible, the group helps provide basic furniture to immigrants and families. It also sparks advocacy in line with the work of immigrant organizers around Iowa. Over the past few weeks, NHN has received a large number of ride requests and has a need for volunteer assistance! If you can help drive, please connect with Kristin P. in the office ([office@decorahucc.org](mailto:office@decorahucc.org)) and she'll get you all set up.

**DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL:** Thursday, October 3, 5:00 - 6:15 p.m., Decorah Lutheran Fellowship Hall - Please join your friends and neighbors for this free meal at Decorah Lutheran, 309 Winnebago Street. All are welcome! This month, members from St. Benedict Catholic Parish 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.

**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](http://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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS HOSTED BY LUTHER COLLEGE MINISTRIES:

### **Brown-Bag Conversation: Civic Life and Faith**

How do matters of faith intersect with our role as citizens in our society? The Office for College Ministries and campus partners invite you to a discussion on Thursday, October 10 at 12:00 p.m. Grab/bring your lunch and join us in the Mott-Borlaug rooms (Union). We will use the draft ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith as our conversation guide. Copies will be made available, or you can read it online at <https://tinyurl.com/elca-civic-life-draft> Email [ministry@luther.edu](mailto:ministry@luther.edu) for more information.

**Also, save the date for an Election Day Communion worship service** that we will be hosting on November 5 at 12pm in the CFL Recital Hall. More information to come later, but we are glad for anyone to come join us for a time of prayer, music, and unity in the body of Christ.

### **Community-wide Diaper Drive**

The Decorah Community Food Pantry is sponsoring a diaper drive from October 1-15. In-kind donations of diapers, unopened wipes and ointment can be dropped off at the Food Pantry, 110 Railroad Street, weekdays between 9 am and 4 pm. Other collection sites are the Decorah Fareway store and First Lutheran Church during office hours. Monetary donations can be mailed to the Decorah Community Food Pantry, Box 26, Decorah, or online at [decorahpantry.org/give](http://decorahpantry.org/give). Food Pantry clients are given one package of diapers each month, but it has been a long time since the Pantry has had any in stock. Your support of this effort will help young families in need. Thank you.



Sponsored by:  Decorah Community Food Pantry

# COMMUNITY DIAPER DRIVE

**OCTOBER 1-15**



**ITEMS NEEDED**  
New, unopened items

- ▶ Diapers
- ▶ Wipes
- ▶ Ointment

**GIVE HERE**



**MONETARY DONATIONS**

**Mail a Check:**  
Decorah Community Food Pantry  
Box 26, Decorah, Iowa 52101

**Online:**  
[decorahpantry.org/give](http://decorahpantry.org/give) or scan the code

**DROP-OFF LOCATIONS**

-  Decorah Community Food Pantry  
M-F 9am to 4pm, 110 Railroad Street
-  Decorah Fareway  
103 E. Main Street
-  First Lutheran Church  
M-Th 9am to 4pm, 604 W. Broadway



# GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**September 17, 2024**

**Present:** Pr. April Ulring Larson, Anne Clausen, Kris Peterson, Chris Johnson, Lise Kildegaard, Tim Lecander, Brian Caton, Sara Hopkins, Karin Martin-Hiner, Marilyn Rue, Bob Larson, Marty Steele

## **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 - Pr April Ulring Larson
- 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? Lise moves to approve the whole agenda, Chris seconded the motion and it was approved.

## **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of August 2024 Council Meeting Minutes
2. Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)

## **Discussion Agenda**

1. **Call Committee Update:** Karin Martin-Hiner and Anne Clausen We have had one meeting as a call committee and then have put on hold for the birth of Megans Child. We will reconvene and also welcome names being turned in that you think may be a fit for our Congregation.
2. **Invitation from Racial Justice Team:** Bob Larson will be present to share & explain the request. What does it mean for each committee to be intentional about racial justice. The Book "Wait\_Is This Racist? A guide to becoming an Anti-racist Church. The Racial Justice Team will take time to meet with committee chairs and give ideas. Accountability as belonging. A quote read by Bob Larson from the book: Antiracism as Daily Practice by Jennifer Harvey
3. **Request from Amy Webber, community English Language Learners volunteer instructor, to use GS facilities for these classes:** Martha Steele will be present to share and explain the request. Marilyn Anderson tutor of ESL for many years. Peg Matter and Amy Webber were teaching at the Peace and Justice Center. The physical site is no longer available and they now are looking for a space. The request for time is early Wednesday evening. Wednesday is a busy night offering Tuesday or Thursday evenings. We agreed to make the space available to ELL.

# GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

18

## 1. Updates from task groups:

- a. Restructuring process for Committee and Task force/Team alignment: Brian Caton
- b. **2025 Budget Discussion:** Chris Johnson, Tim Lecander, Sara Hopkins, John Moeller, Pastor April WE need the Budget proposals now for the Stewardship direction. Without new directives we need to shore up and strengthen as we anticipate a new pastor. Invitation to give is an affirmation of what we have.
- c. **Treasurer's Duties Discussion:** Tim Lecander & John Moeller Looking at options for what Treasure Duties we have. Professional help for financial direction as we grow the church.

2. **Approval of Treasurer's Report** Chris moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Tim seconded and it passed.

3. **Pastor April:** Welcome! An invitation to share thoughts, reflections with Council

## Announcements

1. As we transition into our time with Pastor April as our Senior Interim Pastor, please include her in your communications and committee involvements.
2. Staffing Needs: Ed position/education planning
3. Newsletter Deadline is September 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 Oct 15, 2024

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

### **Education Committee:**

1. Nursery project discussion/tasks
2. Sunday School prep & Rally Day
3. Youth & Family staffing

### **Outreach and Hospitality Committee:**

- Delegation of members of picking up grocery items for the picnic on the 15th.
- Asking a youth to join our committee- Miky Hiner accepted!!
- To get people excited about attending and signing up for duties, on the 8th at church Miky was introduced and an invite in rap form was given with the congregation keeping the beat.
- New members bulletin board will be redone to blend in with the other 2 boards in that hallway.

### **Stewardship Committee:**

1. Preparing for Leadership Meeting with Peter Reuss: Sunday, Sept. 15
2. Preparing Dates, information, and planning for Fall Stewardship Campaign

# OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am In-person Worship</li> <li>10:45am Fellowship Hour</li> <li>11am Adult Forum: Christia</li> <li>1pm Martin Family event</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>6:30pm AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>3:30pm Piano lessons</li> <li>4pm Stewardship Commit</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>5pm English language clas</li> <li>7pm Choir rehearsal</li> <li>7:45pm Band rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>5pm Decorah Community</li> <li>5:15pm Education Meeting</li> <li>5:30pm Racial Justice Tea</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3pm Decorah PRIDE Parac</li> </ul>
<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am In-person Worship</li> <li>10:45am Fellowship Hour</li> <li>11am Adult Forum</li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>6:30pm AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A</li> <li>12:30pm Bingo at Wellingt</li> <li>3:30pm Piano lessons</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Eastern Star/Atlin Fa</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>1pm Wellington Place Com</li> <li>2:30pm Aase Haugen Con</li> <li>5pm English language clas</li> <li>7pm Choir rehearsal</li> <li>7:45pm Band rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>1pm Travel Club</li> <li>4pm Fellowship Hall setup</li> <li>6pm Faithful &amp; Fabulous C</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>9:45am Harley Refsal Visit</li> <li>11am Funeral for Harley Re</li> <li>12pm Luncheon Following</li> <li>3pm Harley Refsal Burial a</li> </ul>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rev. Dr. Jim Martin-Schar</li> <li>9:30am In-person Worship</li> <li>10:45am Fellowship Hour</li> <li>11am Adult Forum: ELCA's</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>6:30pm AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>3:30pm Piano lessons</li> <li>6pm Sons of Norway</li> <li>7pm Congregation Council</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>1pm Prayer Shawl Ministry</li> <li>5pm English language clas</li> <li>7pm Choir rehearsal</li> <li>7:45pm Band rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>12:45pm MEF Committee I</li> <li>5pm Oneota Community C</li> </ul>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>11am CPPC Community Mi</li> </ul>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am In-person Worship</li> <li>10:45am Fellowship Hour</li> <li>11am Adult Forum: Christia</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am WELCA World Relief</li> <li>6:30pm AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A</li> <li>10am WELCA World Relief</li> <li>3:30pm Piano lessons</li> <li>6pm WELCA Circle Mtg. G</li> </ul>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>5pm English language clas</li> <li>7pm Choir rehearsal</li> <li>7:45pm Band rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>7pm Iowa Migrant Moveme</li> </ul>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter Deadline</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> </ul>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation Sunday</li> <li>Reformation Sunday</li> <li>9:30am In-person Worship</li> <li>10:45am Fellowship Hour</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>6:30pm AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>3:30pm Piano lessons</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>5pm English language clas</li> <li>7pm Choir rehearsal</li> <li>7:45pm Band rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> </ul>	<p>2</p>