

# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*



## *Many Voices,* **One Song**

*Love, Renewal, and Generosity*



GOOD  
SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

2025 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

## NOVEMBER 2024

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My heart is full daily of rich images of life in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Decorah, Iowa.

Thank you again to our Stewardship Committee for so beautifully lifting up these past weeks the broad and deep dimensions of our life together at Good Shepherd. It is my joy to serve you as your pastor, seeing and hearing your daily witness to this wondrous Good News of knowing, loving, and following Jesus.

What a gift to hear the faith statements of our four confirmands. They joyfully led us in remembering our baptismal promises. We witnessed their public affirmation of their baptismal promises. God is always, always, in the business of creating new life.

In my synodical office years in Wisconsin, we walked in accompaniment with the Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus. (Mekane means dwelling of Jesus.) Again and again and again I witnessed their unbelievable gift of faith, waiting even years or decades for God to act. Never in my life had I seen such patience in faith. Watching these siblings in Christ I thought, "the Israelites wandering in the desert for forty years have nothing on them."

On these coming November Sunday Worship services we hear only two more times the voice of the writer of Mark witnessing to Jesus. Unlike the Gospels of Luke, Matthew, and John who even in the years that are not their own in the Lectionary, we still hear their voice occasionally. So Sunday, November 17, Mark's voice, Mark's witness to Jesus speaks one more time and then is silent. We wait two years, until Advent of 2026 when Mark's voice speaks again.

On pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter two dear siblings in Jesus, Stephanie and Stacey in intertwining stories give witness to the recent "Mighty Acts of God" in their lives and also in ours. God is loose. God is alive. Their written story becomes part of the "Book of Acts, Good Shepherd." God is not far away only in ancient texts and with ancient people across the ocean. God's mighty acts in Jesus by the breath of the Holy Spirit breathes now, here, among us. God is on the loose in Good Shepherd.

Not unlike our Ethiopian siblings in Jesus, we waited and waited with Stephanie. God's Spirit blew mightily and several friends and family tried but could not be donors. However, God's Spirit continued to blow on one who did not know Stephanie, that is, on Stacey. God stirred and brought the one who could help.

*continued on next page*

I know as your Pastor, that often in daily ways not visible to the congregation, God is doing Mighty Acts among us, but this one, we all waited and prayed together and we all got to see God act. All those months of prayers mattered. On October 30th before midnight Stephanie Hoff received a kidney, new life. It came via the journey which involved years of waiting which stirred in this congregation, in this place of prayer. Stacey, hearing God's call, donated her kidney.

Not unlike Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John, and all the Scripture writers, our dear siblings in Jesus, Stephanie and Stacey speak out loud the work of our loving, gracious, generous, and ever new-life giving God.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor April Ulring Larson

## PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

offered by Jane Jakoubek

Eternal God, we pray for those who are vulnerable:

**all who** face hatred, violence and war;

**all who** live with injury or illness;

**all who** are surrounded by messages that trigger fear;

**all who** are grieving, alone, different, or overlooked;

**all who** live in a society that prioritizes individualism over community;

**all whose** ancestors were displaced, enslaved, and denied resources and opportunities;

**all who** bring their vulnerabilities to you and look to your mercy and providence to sustain them;

**all who** risk sharing their vulnerability and in doing so find support and encouragement;

**all who** take comfort and security for granted and fail to see those who live without;

**all who** make themselves vulnerable by choosing to love a spouse through hard times, a child with challenging needs, friends who are difficult, those who are different or need help;

**all who** face the vulnerable places in their own lives and reach out to you for help;

**all the vulnerable ones** we carry in our hearts, yearning, hoping and praying for always.

God of Mercy, thank you for being our refuge and strength through all generations, in each moment of our lives. Bring relief and healing, safety and love, freedom and peace, to all who are vulnerable, this day and always. Amen.

	Old Testament Reading	Psalms Reading	New Testament Reading	Gospel
<b>Nov. 3</b> <i>All Saints Sunday</i>	<u><b>Isaiah 25:6-9</b></u> <i>The banquet of the Lord</i>	<u><b>Psalm 24</b></u> <i>They shall receive blessing from the God of their salvation. (Ps. 24:5)</i>	<u><b>Revelation 21:1-6a</b></u> <i>A new heaven and a new earth</i>	<u><b>John 11:32-44</b></u> <i>The raising of Lazarus</i>
<b>Nov. 10</b>	<u><b>1 Kings 17:8-16</b></u> <i>God feeds Elijah and the widow at Zarephath</i>	<u><b>Psalm 146</b></u> <i>The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)</i>	<u><b>Hebrews 9:24-28</b></u> <i>The once for all sacrifice of Christ</i>	<u><b>Mark 12:38-44</b></u> <i>A widow's generosity reveals the hypocrisy of the scribes</i>
<b>Nov. 17</b>	<u><b>Daniel 12:1-3</b></u> <i>The deliverance of God's people at the end</i>	<u><b>Psalm 16</b></u> <i>My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope. (Ps. 16:9)</i>	<u><b>Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25</b></u> <i>The way to God opened through Christ's death</i>	<u><b>Mark 13:1-8</b></u> <i>The end and the coming of the Son</i>
<b>Nov. 24</b> <i>Christ the King</i>	<u><b>Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14</b></u> <i>The one coming with the clouds rules over all</i>	<u><b>Psalm 93</b></u> <i>Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (Ps. 93:2)</i>	<u><b>Revelation 1:4b-8</b></u> <i>Glory to the one who made us a kingdom</i>	<u><b>John 18:33-37</b></u> <i>The kingdom of Christ</i>

## JOIN IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN! HELPERS REQUESTED & ADDITION OF YOUTH GROUP

Each week we request a helper in each age group to supporting the lead teacher and join in the fun and growth of faith. We are also excited to announce that Judd Larson will be leading a youth group on Sundays from 10:45-11:30 in the Pastors Office.

**PK(4 years)-2nd Grade:** Meet in the classroom for a variety of activities, stories, and songs as we explore the Bible together - Lead Teacher is Brooke Joyce

**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. - Lead Teacher is Melissa Bills

**7th-12 Grade:** Join Judd Larson in the Pastors Office for youth group beginning Nov. 3rd!



## Good Shepherd Stewardship Campaign - 2025

*Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. - Colossians 3.*

**THANK YOU for all you do to make Good Shepherd possible. Your voice and presence matter.** With your help we share God's love with children and youth, families and seniors, reducing social isolation and fear. We share God's love in stewarding God's creation and working for justice. We share our abundant gifts with the broader community and the church. And this year we have the special opportunity to sustain all that and build toward our future growth together.

**LOVE:** Knowing that we are loved, we are inspired to love others

**RENEWAL:** God sustains us as we are called into what is next.

**GENEROSITY:** Acknowledging that all good gifts from God, we respond in joyfully sharing our time, money, and talents.

**Your contribution will enable our congregation to:**

- Sustain the ongoing mission of this congregation, including our music ministry, our youth program, our hospitality and social engagement, our Flocks, our 27% contributions to the broader community and our carbon-neutral footprint
- Prepare ourselves for our next pastor and our future ministry together.
- Increase our giving by 5% increase to cover salaries and transition cost

**PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER GROWING YOUR GIFT TO GOOD SHEPHERD.** Now is a key moment in the history of Good Shepherd. The "Many Voices, One Song" campaign addresses our present and our future together. Please help Good Shepherd live out God's call and lift up that call who we are and what we believe in – to ourselves, to new members, to the community, and to our next new pastor. Your contribution makes all this possible. **THANK YOU** for your response of gratitude, generosity, and love!

**On Sunday, November 3rd we will have "Stewardship Sunday" and bring our statements of intent forward during worship.**





Campus and community members are invited to attend this brief worship service that includes prayer, scripture, and communion as we remember our connection to one another in the body of Christ. While this is a worship service in the Christian tradition, all who desire to be present in this spiritual space are welcome to attend.

## DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE NATION

On Monday, November 4th, the Good Shepherd Sanctuary will be reserved for anyone who wants to come and pray silently for our nation in this time of elections. People are welcome to pray in anyway that is meaningful to them. Handouts with prayers and information about prayers for our nation in the Lutheran Book of Worship will be available.

You are welcome to come whenever you are able between 8 am and 8 pm on November 4th.

You are also welcome to sign up using this link ([LINK TO SIGN UP GENIUS](#)) or on the poster in the narthex. There is no limit to the number of people who can be present at one time.

Holding our nation in prayer is a way for us to join together with others around the globe and to help us remember and call on God's presence in all things.

# THIRD QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT

*SUBMITTED BY JOHN MOELLER, TREASURER*

**Income and Expenses.** At the end of the third quarter (September 30) our expenses totaled \$288,355.04, and our Income totaled \$295,906.06. That means for the first time this year we show a surplus: \$7,561.04. I know I sound like a broken record, but its not quite that simple. We had a \$7,625 expense in September that had not been processed, which means our expenses and income are about the same.. We have been fulfilling our benevolence obligations throughout the year and assuming we have no unanticipated expenses we are on track to end the year in good shape.

**Actual v. Projected Regular Giving.** As I have noted on many occasions, for 2024 we projected regular giving (the total of our statements of intent) of \$346,154. That would suggest our regular giving at the end of September should be \$259,615. In fact, the total is just shy of \$261,000. The reason we are in such good shape right now is that the members of the congregation have given what they intended to give.

## ELL CLASSES AT GOOD SHEPHERD

As part of our AMMPARO welcome and with the approval of the church Council, Good Shepherd is once again hosting an English Language Learning class. When this ongoing class lost their meeting space at the Peace and Justice Center due to remodeling, I reached out to the teachers (Peg Matter and Amy Webber) and suggested the possibility of using space at Good Shepherd. We are already hosting a quarterly legal clinic for immigrants and have a history of teaching English here as part of our extensive welcome to Southeast Asian folks in the 1970's (the annex was originally built for this purpose). Most of the current students are from Central America. Another group of students, primarily Decorah residents learning to speak Spanish, had also lost their meeting space and the plan is for the two groups to overlap periodically. This group is led by Liza Hicken and Emily Neal. Because this group had already been meeting on Wednesday evenings, Council gave approval for the two groups to use the library on Wednesday evenings until 7. They will move to the annex on Wednesdays when the space is not available. I am so grateful to the Council and Pastor April for affirming this very concrete manifestation of our AMMPARO commitment to be a welcoming congregation and to provide hospitality for those newly arrived in our country.

-Marty Steele

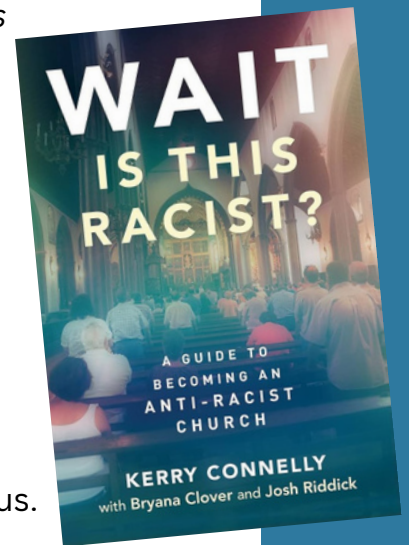


# RACIAL JUSTICE SPOTLIGHT:

## INVITATION TO GOOD SHEPHERD

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” This encouragement from Maya Angelou characterizes Good Shepherd, with its long history of welcome and service. It also characterizes the commitment of our Racial Justice Statement: *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.*

Each time any Good Shepherd member or group takes a step to learn more, they are living out this commitment. Now, we have a resource designed to help us go further: *Wait-Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming An Anti-Racist Church* (by Kerry Connelly with Bryana Clover and Josh Riddick). The book has chapters on the traditional components of congregations (leadership, preaching and liturgy, music, small groups, buildings and grounds, communications, missions and service, children and youth, pastoral care, and interracial dialogue) so offers something to all of us.



Each committee, each group, and each individual that is part of Good Shepherd is invited to use the section(s) of the book that speak to their part of our life together. Everyone is welcome to do this in the way and on the timeline that works for them. Everyone is encouraged to find others to talk with about the ideas and questions these authors propose. Everyone is encouraged to find ways to put their learning into action. **How to get started?** Borrow a copy from the GS library, share the copy provided to a committee you are part of, or to buy a copy for \$10 from Tristan in the office. Then see where the Spirit leads you. We are all in this together, being led by the Spirit, on behalf of the kingdom of God.

Where can you go with questions, get encouragement and help with finding other resources about what you are learning? Talk to anyone on the Racial Justice Team: Laura Barlament, Sandyha Caton, Jane Jakoubek, Bob Larson, Lyle Otte, and Germano Streese. Our goal is to help Good Shepherd take another step (or two or twenty) into living out our Racial Justice Statement.

We've all been doing the best we can with what we know. Now, as we learn more, we are able to do better. Thanks for all the ways you are part of the Good Shepherd congregation.

### **Stephanie:**

As you, members of Good Shepherd, have known for some time, I inherited both polycystic kidney disease (PKD) and polycystic liver disease (PLD), which were diagnosed in 1994. Because the type of the disease I inherited presented when I was in my 40s and my kidney function gradually diminished over time (and my liver function remained normal), I was able to have good health throughout my 22-year career of public service to the State of Iowa before my retirement in 2018. I began evaluation for a kidney transplant at Mayo in Rochester in May 2021, with that evaluation extended to my liver as well to be sure that a liver-kidney transplant could be ruled out. By February 2022, after a procedure that enabled me to keep my still-functioning liver, I was approved for a kidney transplant and could then seek a living kidney donor as well as being listed on the national deceased donor list (UNOS).

While my sister's health issues precluded her from being a living donor, three first cousins volunteered to be donors without my even asking but were not approved, though knowing that each one would volunteer was a gift to me. The search continued with many people helping to spread the word: My sister and her kids posted my story on Facebook; my high school classmates and Luther classmates collectively heard my story with the help of friends from each class; the current director of my former workplace permitted my story to be sent to current staff; many friends made personal pleas to their friends and family; and many others helped in their own unique ways.

Even so, I focused my search primarily on my church family. I first told my story to the Good Shepherd congregation in December of 2022, and the congregation has prayerfully supported me throughout this time. Along with the talk, with then Pastor Amy Zalk Larson's kind assistance and support all along the way, my story was placed on the Good Shepherd website, and a brief announcement appeared in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. I was so gratified that a member of the congregation eagerly volunteered to be a donor but was not approved and that another member gave the possibility careful thought but could not go forward. Then, in December 2023, I gave a brief second talk, after having begun dialysis in August 2023. This time, Tim Folkerts, a member of the congregation who is a living kidney donor, volunteered to speak about his experience. I was so appreciative of his story and continue to be so grateful for the support and prayers of the congregation as a whole. But ultimately I decided that, after this wide-ranging search, I would wait for a deceased donor kidney based on my placement on the national list (UNOS). Little did I know where letting go of the search would lead.

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**Stacey:**

After reading that bulletin announcement each week for over a year, it was during a worship service in the sanctuary at Good Shepherd that I heard the Spirit's call to explore becoming a living donor for Stephanie.

At the time, I would have described my relationship with God as dried up. I felt nothing. I heard nothing, as much as I tried to listen for God's voice. I had no real sense of God's presence with me. Nothing felt certain. Nothing felt clear.

But on that Sunday morning, surrounded by the people of God gathered for worship, I knew, without a doubt, that God was calling me to explore responding to Stephanie's need for a new kidney. It was one of the most profound experiences of call that I have ever had. I experienced it as a call to me, yes, but more so as a call to all of us in this community of faith. Together, we would continue to weep with one another and rejoice with one another. Together, we would continue to show up for one another. Together by the power of the Holy Spirit, we would be the body of Christ. Listening. Heeding. Giving. Healing. Each step along the way, I experienced God making a way.

On August 8, during a meeting with Pastor Marion, I received the call from Mayo that I was approved to donate. With great joy, Marion and I met with Stephanie the very next day, in the pastor's office at Good Shepherd, to share the good news.

One month later, September 9, Stephanie and I were meeting with Pastor April—again in the pastor's office at Good Shepherd, when I received another call from Mayo. This time with the incredible news that through the National Kidney Registry, Stephanie and I (who are not quite a perfect match for each other) had been matched with another donor-recipient pair. I will donate to a different recipient, and Stephanie will receive her new kidney from a different donor. Our surgeries are scheduled for October 30. A miracle.

**Stephanie:**

Stacey, there are no words to express my gratitude for your gift of new life inspired by the call of the Spirit.

**Stacey:**

Together, as a pure gift from God, we all become what we receive in the sacrament of Holy Communion—the body of Christ, broken and blessed for the sake of this world God so loves.

**Stephanie & Stacey:**

Thank you, people of God, for your prayers that have brought us this far along the way, and we humbly ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers as we travel together on this journey. Together, we stand in awe of God's steadfast love in our lives and in the life of the world. Thanks be to God!

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our LWR kits this fall. **We were able to complete 65 baby care kits and 86 school kits.** Thank you also to the volunteers who loaded kits on Friday and delivered them to Olson Trucking Saturday morning. The kits will then be delivered to the warehouse in St Paul along with donations from other churches in Northeast Iowa. Thanks so much we couldn't do it without you!

### Gather Bible Study

We will meet on November 26 at 7 pm for our Gather bible study at the church.

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

#### **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)*

### Upcoming events:

**November 1:** Load vehicles for delivery of LWR kits, Fellowship hall, 3:30 pm

**November 2:** LWR pickup, Olson Trucking

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

**November 26:** Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 7 pm

Carolyn Solberg-Bible study, Marty Steele-refreshments

All are welcome!

**December 7:** Burr Oak Lutheran Annual Advent Brunch



*Preparing Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief*

In 1993 Luther College music professor Weston Noble purchased from Good Shepherd the property known as the Green House for the sum of \$50,000. The congregation created the Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund with the proceeds.

Over the years the MEF has seen various uses. Shortly after its establishment the fund was used as a loan to the congregation to pay off the debt of our current sanctuary; that loan was repaid over a period of approximately nine years. The fund was also used periodically to assist congregational and local community projects as decided by the congregation.

Sometime in the early 2000s the congregation voted to utilize the Mission Endowment Fund to provide scholarships to Good Shepherd members attending college. Jim and Kathy Buzza's sons were among the first to receive the MEF scholarships when they attended Wartburg College. As a result, it was learned that Wartburg was participating in the ELCA program known as Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC). This is a program by which congregations award scholarships to members attending an ELCA college or university, and the institution typically matches the congregations' scholarships. Good Shepherd joined in partnership with the ELCA's EPIC program about a decade ago. The only qualification is that the student must be enrolled full time in an ELCA college or university as an undergraduate student.

Since joining the EPIC scholarship partnership, the Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund has provided over \$30,000 in scholarships to 12 members of the congregation. With the institutional match, over \$60,000 of scholarship assistance has been received by Good Shepherd students. Currently Mara Holland, Annalise Skrade, Daniel Skrade, Mason Cote and Gabe Hiner are attending ELCA colleges with the financial assistance of EPIC scholarships.

According to the Good Shepherd Continuing Resolution, the EPIC/MEF Committee can utilize 4% of the total value of the Mission Endowment Fund annually for scholarships. Currently the fund value stands at \$125,000, and is supporting five \$1,000 scholarships. Up to now, no congregational budget funds have been used. However, that may have to change in the near future, as youth membership is growing faster than the fund. We'll explore that topic in next month's The Shepherd's Voice.



## TRUTH AND HEALING

# WAHPETON BAND OF THE DAKOTAH OYATE

WAHPETUNWAN (People Dwelling Among the Leaves)

*In our October newsletter we promised to share with you each month an article on one of the four tribes/nations who resided on the land we now "own" and care for. We encourage you to watch the videos of our Wahpeton brothers and sisters today and to hold them in your minds and hearts when their band of the Dakotah Oyate are honored in Good Shepherd's Land Acknowledgement statement.*

***This full article including sources cited AND Maps referenced can be found on the Good Shepherd Website under " Ministries - Racial Justice Team"***

The Wahpeton (WAH-peh-ton) Band is one of four bands of the Isanti (Santee) or eastern Dakotah who speak the Dakotah dialect (4). "The word 'Dakotah' can be translated into English as 'friend' and is the preferred identification of the ... Wahpeton band. The real significance of the word 'Dakotah' derives from the word 'WoDakotah,' which means 'harmony, a condition of being at peace with oneself and in harmony with one another and nature...(2).'" Oyate (oh-YAH-tay) means people or nation and is preferred over the words "Sioux Tribe (1)."

"At the time of initial contact with European traders and missionaries in the mid 1700s, the ... Wahpeton band resided in villages extending from Manitoba, Canada to their present homelands on the Lake Traverse Reservation and further south into Minnesota and Iowa (1)."

"Historically, the Santee Dakota moved their villages and varied their work according to the seasons. ... In the spring, winter villages dispersed, and men left on hunting parties while women, children, and the elderly moved into sugaring camps to make maple sugar and syrup. During the summer months families gathered in villages to hunt and fish. They processed the game and harvested traditional medicines and indigenous plants, as well as crops such as corn, squash, and beans. In autumn families moved to the year's chosen hunting grounds for the annual hunt that also prepared them for the upcoming winter. ... Winter months were spent living off the stores of supplies they built up during the previous year, along with continual fishing and hunting. This traditional lifestyle of communal support and a deep connection to the land and natural resources are the basis for Dakota society and culture (4)."

In the 1800s, daily life for the Dakotah centered on survival. The Wahpeton Band lost its homeland in Minnesota and Iowa due to conflicts with the Sauk and Meskwaki over Iowa lands, pressure from incoming settlers and land speculators, and threats and coercion from Territorial, State, and Federal governments.

In 1825 the US government arranged a treaty with multiple tribes, including the Wahpeton, Sac and Fox, Iowa, and Ho Chunk, setting boundaries of tribal land and making it simpler for the government to negotiate with the Indians to purchase their lands (4). Five years later, in 1830, the cession of lands began "being anxious to remove all causes which ... may create any unfriendly feeling" between the tribes and "being anxious to provide other sources for supplying their wants besides those of hunting (12)."

The Sioux bands, including the Wahpeton, ceded a strip of land 20 miles wide from the Mississippi to the Des Moines River north of a line established in 1825 (Tract 153) as did the Sac and Fox south of the line (Tract 152) (5,12). **Tract 153 included Cresco and Decorah and Tract 152 Waukon.** *continued on next page*

Pressured by traders and threatened with military force, the eastern bands of the Dakotah were coerced into signing treaties (Treaty of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota) in 1851, ceding all their remaining lands in Minnesota and Iowa (35 million acres) (Tract 289). Under the Treaty des Sioux, the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands alone ceded 21 million acres in both States. The treaties also called for setting up reservations on narrow strips of land on the north and south sides of the Minnesota River forcing the Dakotah to become farmers (Tracts 414, 413, and 440) (4,5,6,11). This massive loss of Dakota land allowed a flood of settlers and land speculators to move into lands formerly occupied by the Dakotah people.

In 1858 Dakotah leaders were taken to Washington D.C. to sign away land north and east of the Minnesota River. US officials were under pressure from settlers and speculators to acquire the land for farming and economic development and were convinced that the Dakotah had failed to improve their reservation land by farming. They coerced the tribal leaders, including the Wahpeton, to cede the north side of the Minnesota River—probably the most fertile land in the State (Tracts 413 and 414) (3,5,6,8,9,10).

Having only a small strip of land on which to live, and without access to hunting land, the Dakotah revolted in 1862 against reservation life when the Government did not meet its treaty obligations and non-Indian traders refused to allow food and provisions to be distributed, causing starvation and extreme hardship among the Dakotahs (4). The Wahpeton were not considered a hostile party during the uprising (7).

In 1863 Congress passed The Dakota Expulsion Act that “abrogated and annulled” all treaties with the Dakotah people and shortly after passed a bill providing for the removal of the Dakotah from their ancestral homelands. It applied to all Dakotah, regardless of whether they joined the war in 1862. It has never been repealed (4,6).

The Lake Traverse Treaty of 1867 allowed remnants of the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands to retain a small triangular shaped piece of land known as the Lake Traverse Reservation, in the northeastern corner of South Dakota and a small portion of the southeastern corner of North Dakota (2,3). The treaty was created for the “friendly” Sisseton and Wahpeton bands who did not participate in the hostilities of 1862 and who were deemed “homeless wanderers” subject to intense suffering. Banned from their homelands to this reservation, the Sisseton/Wahpeton have nevertheless survived mission schools, boarding schools, hundreds of educational laws and policies, and more. The reservation currently has a combined membership of 13,872 Sisseton-Wahpeton peoples (3).

### **Watch these videos to hear Sisseton-Wahpeton voices today.**

**On Youtube search:** “Telling the history of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate | Dakota Life” - on the SDPB (South Dakota Public Broadcasting) Channel

**On the PBS website search:** “Almanac | Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation”

***This full article including sources cited AND Maps referenced can be found on the Good Shepherd Website under “ Ministries - Racial Justice Team”***



A community-wide luncheon and presentation featuring Dr. Caryn Riswold, Professor of Religion and McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College, will be held on Sunday, November 10, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Earlier that morning, Dr. Riswold will also present at the Sunday Forum at First Lutheran Church, 604 W. Broadway Street, Decorah, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., offering two opportunities for community members to engage with her work.

Dr. Riswold will discuss her recent publication, "ReEngaging ELCA Social Teaching on Abortion," which examines the evolution of Lutheran social teaching in changing contemporary contexts. The book focuses on fostering thoughtful dialogue within faith communities while emphasizing the Lutheran call to compassionate community engagement.

A respected scholar in Religion and Gender Studies, Dr. Riswold joined the Wartburg College faculty in 2018 after sixteen years of teaching at Illinois College. Her work is praised for its nuanced approach to complex social issues through the lens of Lutheran theology and ethics.

Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, former Concordia College professor, describes the book as "nuanced, clear, and hopeful," noting that it "takes holy risks, builds bridges across barriers, and insists that we feel the intricate textures of real-life situations." The book includes discussion questions and additional reading resources, making it suitable for both individual and group study. Copies are available through Augsburg Fortress Press and as a Kindle download on Amazon.

**As hosts of this event, we are requesting help providing a simple soup/bread/veggie meal for around 30 people at this event. The Sign-Up to help provide food or time helping can be found in the Gathering Space or online under Sign-Ups.**

## **Event Details:**

### **Sunday Forum:**

- Date: Sunday, November 10
- Time: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.
- Location: First Lutheran Church, 604 W. Broadway St, Decorah

### **Community Luncheon:**

- Date: Sunday, November 10
- Time: 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.
- Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 701 Iowa St, Decorah
- Cost: Free-will donation for Iowa Abortion Access Fund

**All community members are welcome to attend.**

REENGAGING ELCA  
SOCIAL TEACHING ON  
ABORTION

Caryn D. Riswold



# KEATON SOLBERG AWARDED GOOD SHEPHERD EPIC SCHOLARSHIP



Keaton Solberg, life-long member of Good Shepherd, has been awarded a Good Shepherd EPIC scholarship in his first year as a Luther College student.

Keaton grew up in Decorah, was baptized and confirmed at Good Shepherd, and graduated from Decorah High School in 2020. His parents and grandparents are also longtime members of Good Shepherd.

As a senior in high school Keaton chose to attend Marshalltown Community College to study a trade. Within weeks after starting his program the college was closed because of the Covid epidemic and Keaton has spent the last three years working and taking classes at NICC. He is now in his first year at Luther and considered a non-traditional student. Keaton has chosen a Management major and an Applied Leadership minor. He is considering running on the Luther track team in the spring season.

Good Shepherd now has six students attending ELCA colleges on EPIC scholarships: Mara Holland and Mason Cote at Gustavus, Annalise and Daniel Skrade at Concordia-Moorhead, and Gabe Hiner and Keaton Solberg at Luther.

## GOOD SHEPHERD IS HIRING!

Good Shepherd is actively seeking to fill 2 positions: Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator and Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator. They are both part-time positions that can be filled by one or more people. Full position descriptions and instructions for applying are posted on our website under "Connect", on Decorah Now, and in paper form from the Gathering Space at Good Shepherd. Please share these positions with anyone you think may be a good fit, and continue to pray for the future persons to hold these positions.

### **Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator:**

Job Summary: The Youth Ministry Coordinator will oversee Good Shepherd's middle school and high school programming; they will also collaborate with the Interim Youth Coordinator to plan monthly youth and family events.

### **Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator:**

Job Summary: The Children's Ministry Coordinator will oversee Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches (GSLC) TK-6th grade Sunday School program, the annual SS Christmas program, and Vacation Bible School; they will also collaborate with the Interim Youth Coordinator to plan monthly youth and family events. This is a 5 hr a week/20 hr a month part-time position.



BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND  
THE CALL OF THE CHURCH

*Kathryn Thompson*

WILL BE ORDAINED TO THE MINISTRY OF  
WORD AND SACRAMENT  
IN CHRIST'S ONE HOLY, CATHOLIC, AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH

11.23.2024

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2:30 p m

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
701 IOWA AVE. DECORAH, IA 52101

*Rev. Amy Zalk Larson, preaching*

*Bishop Felix Malpica, presiding*

*Jon Ailabouni, music*

Liturgical color of the day is red.

All are invited to wear any (and every) color of the rainbow.

Clergy and all children invited to process.

Livestream and recording on Good Shepherd's YouTube Page

MEAL TO FOLLOW

Kathryn is called to serve as the Campus Pastor for  
LuMin - Lutheran Campus Ministries in La Crosse, WI.

**HELP WITH LUNCHEON AFTER ORDINATION:** The Celebration Committee for Kathryn's Ordination celebration meal is seeking volunteers to help on Saturday November 23. Volunteers are needed to donate crock pots of soup, as Kathryn & Sara have requested a good, old fashioned Good Shepherd Soup 'supper' as the celebratory meal - this is a tradition that meant so much to them in their time at Good Shepherd. We do need some soups that are vegetarian, or gluten free, or dairy free. Volunteers are also needed to help with set up, food serving, coffee making, and clean up on Saturday November 23. You may sign up on the sign up genius link on the GS website, or physical sign up sheets on the table in the narthex. Thank you for sharing our Good Shepherd support and blessing with Kathryn & Sara & their family!

**Eat, Play, Love:** 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 the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall in November 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). **November gathering is the 17th.**

**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. **The November meeting is Nov. 20th.**

**LECTURE ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS:** Nov. 7, at 7:00pm, in the Pulpit Rock Brewery event room: **The Business of Baskets: Weaving Economic Ties Between the Bethany Indian Mission, Ho-Chunk Families, and Lutheran Ladies' Aides in the Mid-Twentieth Century Midwest** by Dr. Anna Peterson. Dr. Anna Peterson's presentation will explore the ways Ho-Chunk women and their families negotiated the effects the Bethany Indian Mission had on their lives and took advantage of the opportunities it presented through the making and selling of black ash basketry.

- *Dr. Anna Peterson presented at Good Shepherd last December at an adult forum on the connections between Luther College & Indian Boarding Schools.*

**BINGO AT AASE HAUGEN:** Good Shepherd is taking a turn leading Bingo at Aase Haugen on Tuesday, November 12th. Arrive at 3:00. Bingo from 3:30-4:00. 2 volunteers needed Specific prizes for 18-25 players. Email Erica in the office to get the list or to sign up to help. There is also a sign-up in the Gathering Space.

**Toward Truth and Healing: How Churches Face Accountability for their Indian Boarding Schools** - Sunday, November 10, 2024 7 - 8:30 p.m.

[friendspeaceteams.org/accountability-boarding-schools-2024/](https://friendspeaceteams.org/accountability-boarding-schools-2024/)

Members from a number of faith communities will discuss how churches are reexamining the roles their denominations played in operating Indian boarding schools, in collaboration with the federal government's policy of forced assimilation. They will talk about the harm done to Native American families and nations as well as the ongoing impacts on Native communities today. They will also share how they are conducting research and approaching questions of accountability, apology, reparations, and healing.

**DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 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, salads and desserts are provided by The Landing Market, and volunteers from the Luther College Nordic Choir will serve the meal. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College. Gluten free options and carry outs are always available

**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.

**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](https://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

20

**October 15, 2024 - In Attendance:** Pr. April Ullring Larson, Kris Peterson, Brian Caton, Lise Kildegaard, Anne Clausen, Chris Johnson, Karin Marin-Hiner, Marilyn Rue (on zoom).

## 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 - Marilyn Rue
- 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 makes a motion to approve the agenda and Chris seconded and it was approved.

## LINK TO REPORTS:

*All submitted committee reports are located in the folder linked above. Links to individual reports are included at the end of this document. Thank you.*

## Consent Agenda

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

## Discussion Agenda

- **Pastors Report:** *Pastor April Ullring-Larson:* Appreciating Decorah Pride and Harley Refsal's memorial. She is holding up the staff, Brooke, and Kris Peterson, (the council president) in this time of transition.
- **Call Committee Update:** *Karin Martin-Hiner and Anne Clausen:* Zoom meetings have begun with candidates. A second one is on the calendar. We have all Call Committee members on the zoom mtg. We are still welcoming any possible candidates anyone knows of.
- **Update of Stewardship Campaign progress:** The campaign and information is being handled well. We are thankful to the campaign committee and the progress.
- **Update of Committee reorganization structure:** *Brian Caton and Pr. April:* Each committee should review the google documents of continuing resolutions and see if they are indeed what you are doing and report back to the council. Once the tasks of the committee are agreed on, the language needs to fit into the constitution.
- **Update of Budget sub-committee:** *Chris Johnson:* We have received budget requests and there is a meeting scheduled to work on it more with Erica, Tim, and Chris.
- **Additionally, from our list of Congregation Council Yearly Tasks, we are tasked to:**
  - A) appoint two additional nominating committee members from the council (who will serve in addition to the president and vice president, and the two non-council members elected at the annual meeting.) Kris Peterson, Chris Johnson, Reg Laursen, Marty Steele, Lise Kildegaard, Brian Caton, and Pastor April.
  - B) charge council members on the nominating committee to start the process
  - C) request liaisons to ask committee to suggest people for the nominating committee to invite *continued on next page*

# GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

- D) charge personnel committee with doing staff reviews Pr April, Steve Holland, Wes Anderson, Matt Bills
- E) charge executive committee with doing review of pastor and ministry (*we will not do a review of Pastor at this point after 2 months. The review of ministry will be deferred to December*)
- F) designate Advent/Christmas offering so it can be advertised in advance *Moved to November*
- **Approval of Treasurer's Report**
  - *Brian moves to approve the Treasurers report seconded by Chris and it passes.*

## Announcements

- **Staffing Needs:**
  - AV/Sound technician Two candidates have come forward.
  - Ed position/education planning The word is out for filling this position.
- **Kathryn Thompson's ordination Saturday 11/23/2024** - Soup supper plans are forthcoming.
- ELL classes are meeting at GS Wednesday evenings
- Details of update on Nursery project
- Newsletter Deadline is October 25, 2024 (always the 25th of the month)
- Committee reports/summaries due to office on Second Monday of the month, 11/11/24
- Agenda with committee links emailed to Council Third Monday of the month 11/18/24. Please read prior to the Council meeting.
- Next Council meeting (third Tuesday of month) is November 19, 2024
- Thank-you's and appreciation time Will be done from home

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

### **Education Committee:**

- Education Committee/Youth & Family personnel
- Sunday School planning
- Nursery project

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

### **Facilities and Grounds Committee:**

- No more mowing
- Thank to for Annex painting
- Tristan to switch over to heat when seasons call for it

### **Stewardship Committee**

- Finalizing & printing stewardship materials

### **Worship and Music**

- Up flower budget to \$250
- Need more consistent/trained AV persons so streaming and audio are consistent

**Marilyn moved to close the meeting, Chris seconded and it carried.**

### **Closing Prayer**

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<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 Time</li> <li>10:45am Sunday School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>6pm Peace &amp; Justice Cent</li> <li>6:30pm AL/ANON</li> <li>7pm Event: Peace &amp; Justice</li> </ul>	<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>	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>12pm Violin lessons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:30pm Loading LWR kits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Decorating Fellowship</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am In-person Worship</li> <li>10:45am Fellowship Time</li> <li>10:45am Sunday School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election setup</li> <li>8am Day of Prayer for the</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>6:30pm AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election day</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A</li> <li>3:30pm Piano lessons</li> <li>4pm Stewardship Commit</li> </ul>	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>12pm Violin lessons</li> <li>5pm Decorah Community</li> <li>5:30pm Racial Justice Tea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3pm Immigration legal clin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:30pm Community event</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pr. Marion Preside</li> <li>9:30am In-person Worship</li> <li>10:45am Fellowship Time</li> <li>10:45am Sunday School</li> <li>12pm Community Luncheo</li> </ul>	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Life Line</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>3pm Bingo at Aase Haugei</li> <li>3:30pm Piano lessons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Eastern Star/Arin Fa</li> <li>2:30pm Aase Haugei Con</li> <li>5pm English language clas</li> <li>7pm Choir rehearsal</li> <li>7:45pm Band rehearsal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>12pm Violin lessons</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am In-person Worship</li> <li>10:45am Fellowship Time</li> <li>10:45am Sunday School</li> <li>4:30pm Eat, Play, Love</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>6:30pm AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A</li> <li>3:30pm Piano lessons</li> <li>6pm Sons of Norway</li> <li>7pm Congregation Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>12pm Violin lessons</li> <li>12:45pm MEF Committee I</li> <li>5pm Oneota Community C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>12pm Kathryn Thompson C</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name Tag Sunday</li> <li>9:30am In-person Worship</li> <li>10:45am Fellowship Time</li> <li>10:45am Sunday School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter Deadline</li> <li>9am Church Office Hours</li> <li>10am Erica office hours</li> <li>6:30pm AL/ANON</li> </ul>	<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>7pm WELCA Circle Mtg. G:</li> </ul>	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office closed for Thanksgiving</li> <li>Recycle</li> <li>12pm Violin lessons</li> </ul>		