

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2024



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Beloved in Jesus,

The days are shortening. The nights are getting longer. As the world laughs its “Ho, Ho, Ho”, plays its Christmas tunes, and turns on its brightest lights, the church begins its New Year not with shouts of “Happy New Year”, or verses of Auld Lang Syne, but in the quiet of shorter days and longer nights.

This Sunday, December 1st our new church year begins. The writer of the Gospel of Luke becomes the main voice who brings us the wonderful good news of Jesus throughout this whole coming year.

Advent proclaims themes of metanoia, often translated repentance but literally meaning, to turn around, to change one’s mind. On the third Sunday of Advent John (the Baptist) calls us to *“Bear fruits worthy of repentance (metanoia)”* Luke 3:8. With the people, we respond, *“what then shall we do.”* John replies: *“Whoever has two coats share with one who has none. Whoever has food must do likewise”*.

Sometimes the world imagines that our Advent giving before Christmas to the hungry and clothing the poor comes from Tiny Tim in Dickens’ Christmas Carol, but John the Baptist preaches from the wilderness shouting to us: *“Share your food with the hungry and clothe the poor.”* This is a sign of your metanoia, your turning around, your repentance in this penitential season of the church year.

Advent as our second penitential season of the Church Year invites us around the altar rail to stand and kneel as we are able. While the world plays Jingle Bells, we hear Luke quote Isaiah:

- *Prepare the way of the Lord.*
- *Make his paths straight.*

and John the Baptist preach:

- *Bear fruits worthy of repentance*
- *Clothe the poor*
- *Feed the hungry*

We who follow Jesus begin our Advent in quiet and prayer, watching and listening, lighting just one, then two, then three, and finally four candles against the darkness.

These Advent midweek worships we, who are Christ’s body at Good Shepherd, gather around the Sanctuary Advent Wreath to once again sing Holden Evening Prayer. Together we watch, listen, and wait, reminding each other:

“Remember Jesus. Prepare the way. He is coming. He is coming soon!”

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP AT GOOD SHEPHERD

This year we gather three Wednesdays for our midweek Advent services at 5:30 pm. We light all candles against the darkness of the world and proclaim: Jesus is coming. Jesus is coming soon.

The offering this year goes to ELCA World Hunger. This is the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger. Like you, Judd and I give locally to food pantries, services of mercy and love, and to organizations such as Bread for the World. For many years now our first gift each month (along with our tithe to the congregations to which we belong) is our monthly gift to ELCA World Hunger.

For 50 years ELCA World Hunger has addressed causes of hunger and poverty around the world, in 63 countries including the U.S. About 30% of that money offering goes to hunger in the U.S. and 70% to hunger raging around the world.

From health clinics to microloans, from food pantries to animal husbandry, from soup kitchens to advocacy, our hunger dollars push against the darkness and suffering of our hungry siblings all across the world. Living with under \$2.15 a day, 700 million people are hungry and living in extreme poverty, including 18 million in the U.S. experiencing food insecurity.

It's a privilege and joy to be able to come together and sing against the darkness of the night and act against the suffering in this world. Come, Lord Jesus. Come soon!



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

offered by Jane Jakoubek

In this season of Advent, help us to draw strength from your promises. Help us draw strength from all those who waited for the promised Messiah over centuries, through every kind of hardship, when everything looked so bleak. Help us to draw strength from the promise Jesus made to the disciples: *I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.* (Matthew 28:20b) Help us to draw strength from the times you have been with us throughout our own lives with the grace, mercy, healing, forgiveness and love that we needed. Help us remember your promises, O God.

In this season of waiting, help us to remember what is really worth waiting for. Help us to remember where our real happiness and peace lie. Help us to remember how easy it is for all the false promises of our culture and the things we like to become false gods. Help us to remember you are the way, the truth, and the life. Help us to remember that you provide all we truly need. Help us us remember your promises, O God.

In this season of Incarnation, help us to draw hope from all the ways you make your presence known in the world. Help us to draw hope from the three strangers Abraham and Sarah welcomed who brought good news. Help us to draw hope from the ways you provided manna and quail and water from the rock for the Israelites in the wilderness. Help us to draw hope from the surprising, unpromising and hidden way you came as a baby at Bethlehem. Help us to draw hope from the unexpected way Jesus revealed God's love and power. Help us draw hope now, trusting you are at work in this time, in our hearts and homes and families, in our congregation and town, in our nation and across the globe, in unexpected and seemingly unpromising ways. Help us to live in hope, O God, now and always. Amen.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

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	Old Testament Reading	Psalms Reading	New Testament Reading	Gospel
Dec. 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16 <i>A righteous branch springing up from David</i>	Psalm 25:1-10 <i>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)</i>	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 <i>Strengthen hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord</i>	Luke 21:25-36 <i>Be alert for the coming of the Son of Man</i>
Dec. 8	Malachi 3:1-4 <i>My messenger is a refiner and purifier</i>	Luke 1:68-79 <i>In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)</i>	Philippians 1:3-11 <i>A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ</i>	Luke 3:1-6 <i>Prepare the way of the Lord</i>
Dec. 15	Zephaniah 3:14-20 <i>Rejoice, the Lord is in your midst</i>	Isaiah 12:2-6 <i>In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)</i>	Philippians 4:4-7 <i>Rejoice, the Lord is near</i>	Luke 3:7-18 <i>One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire</i>
Dec. 22	Micah 5:2-5a <i>From Bethlehem comes a ruler</i>	Luke 1:46b-55 <i>You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)</i>	Hebrews 10:5-10 <i>I have come to do your will</i>	Luke 1:39-45 [46-55] <i>Blessed are you among women / My soul magnifies the Lord</i>
Dec. 29	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 <i>The boy Samuel grew in favor with the Lord and the people</i>	Psalm 148 <i>The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)</i>	Colossians 3:12-17 <i>Clothe yourselves in love; let the peace of Christ rule your hearts</i>	Luke 2:41-52 <i>The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor</i>

Children & Youth Christmas Program: This year the program will be Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary. All are invited to stay after for a simple sandwich/chips/juice/dessert meal in the Fellowship Hall.

Rehearsals for the Youth Christmas Program:

Rehearsals joyfully began Sunday, November 24th - and there are 2 rehearsals remaining on **Sunday, December 8th** and **Sunday December 15th**. If you and your youth haven't reached out to get involved yet, please do so to Bobby & Christy Vrtis for the Program, and Brooke Joyce for Music.

Simple Dinner Following Program:

Help is requested in running the after program simple chips/sandwich/juice/cookies meal for the congregation. All food will be ordered and in the kitchen so helpers simply: put materials out on the serving table prior to the Program, help maintain the table during the Meal, and help tidy up after the Meal. The Sign-Up can be found on the website under "Sign-Ups" or in the Gathering Space.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary: Altar Guild has arranged with Decorah's The Country Garden for members to provide poinsettias for the Christmas season at \$15.00 per plant. Orders, with payment, are to be placed through the Church Office no later than Sunday, December 15. Contact the church office via phone, email, or note or put your check in the offering plate to place your order.

- Checks accompanying each order should be made payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, with Poinsettia in the memo line.
- Plants may be given in honor, as memorials, or as a gift by including names with the order. Names will be included in bulletins. Please email, or print clearly the names of those you are dedicating the poinsettia for.
- Red poinsettias wrapped in gold foil will be placed on the altar rail for services beginning Tuesday, December 24. You are welcome to remove your plant after the Christmas services, but no later than Saturday, January 4. Communion at the altar rail resumes on Sunday, January 5.

The Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary will be decorated after Sunday School/Fellowship Hour on Sunday, December 8th around 11:30 am. **All are invited to join in the fun and help is requested gathering the decoration bins from the Annex after worship.**

The Nativity Scene will be put up in the Sanctuary on **Sunday, December 15th** following worship. **Help is requested to gather the materials from the Annex and put it together after Sunday School around 11:30 am.**

Following worship on December 29th, help is requested taking down the Christmas Nativity Scene and tree decorations.



THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all in the Good Shepherd church family who prepared for, hosted, worshipped, and celebrated with Rev. Kathryn Thompson on Saturday, on the occasion of her ordination; with her precious partner Sara and daughter and son, as their son was baptized; her family, friends, clergy, and larger community. It was truly a joyous worship and celebration. Thanks be to God!



Hopefully the congregation has had the opportunity to relax on the Solar Courtyard. When the committee was assigned to find furniture for the space, they elected to insure the tables were sturdy, elegant and a “forever” solution. The budget didn’t allow for the matching chairs and it was necessary to find a “cheap” option.

The chairs we have were selected because they were advertised as aluminum (no rusting). That turned out to not be true and they have been a constant nuisance, dripping rusty water on the pavers and causing rust stains that are hard to remove. They’re still doing this despite efforts of the Facility and Grounds committee (and others) to mitigate the water problem. Now the paint is bubbling as well.

The cheap option was a poor option. The committee went back to the company who sold them and complained that the website description didn’t match reality. As a consequence, Good Shepherd was refunded 100% of the purchase price for these chairs. The company told us to donate them rather than return them.

A new downtown Decorah store, Jubilee, opened this fall and carries the same table as we have. They also have the matching chairs. These are made by a Danish furniture company and are the highest quality.....”forever solutions”..... powder coated aluminum with 100% post-consumer recycled plastic slats that are replaceable if they ever break. The new owners would like to work with us and are offering the matching chairs at a deep 48% discount (near their cost price).

The replacement chairs are expensive, even with this deep discount....roughly \$225 each and we need 64. We have some of the funds available but not enough to purchase the matching chairs outright at this time. However, there are no more “cheap options” (we tried a couple others, both of which were unsatisfactory). There are “good enough” options available but they definitely are not “forever”.....i.e. resin, plastic, etc. And they cost in the \$150 range. The concern is that they’ll never stand up to the use they’ll receive.

There are now 2 of the matching chairs, loaned by the owners of Jubilee, in the Gathering Space. Please sit in them and offer your opinion to Pr. April. In a perfect world we could replace the poor quality Courtyard chairs with a “forever” chair that matches our tables as early as spring 2025. One way or another, what we have now needs to be replaced.

- *Submitted by Jim Fritz and the Facilities & Grounds Committee*

Advent Brunch

Burr Oak Lutheran Church invites us to join with them in preparing our hearts for the Advent Season. They will be hosting an advent program followed by a brunch on **Saturday, December 7 at 9:30** at the church. All our welcome. Contact Bev Sheridan for carpooling information.

Gather Bible Study

December 2024 “In God’s garden: What fig trees teach us about Advent” by Hannah Hawkinson

This Advent, we’ll learn from some surprising teachers: fig trees. Astonishingly vibrant, fig trees have a zest for life. Their roots have even been known to bust through plumbing and climb walls like ivy! Yet fig trees also have a dormant period—a time when they do not grow or bear fruit. But this period of waiting and rest isn’t a time of waiting around. It’s a time of pruning and fertilizing and watering; a time to prepare for the fruitful season ahead.

As we prepare the way of the Lord in this season, we are in our own dormant period of waiting and anticipation. Still, Jesus calls us to “keep awake” and to prepare ourselves for God’s coming.

Join us to explore what fig trees can teach us about waiting and preparing for God’s coming!(from Gather magazine)

We will be holding our **WELCA annual meeting and mid-winter brunch** in January, date to be determined. We will also be dispersing funds from 2024 krumkake sales, contact Bev Sheridan if you have any funding requests.

Upcoming events:

December 7: Advent Brunch, Burr Oak Lutheran, 9:30

WHAT IS THE RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM DOING THESE DAYS?

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We have been digging into the section of *Wait-Is This Racist?* that relates to our work. We are wondering what we can learn from these authors so we can do better. The book poses three questions for groups like ours:

1. What do we (the Racial Justice Team at Good Shepherd) hope to accomplish?
2. How will we know if (when?) we are successful?
3. How will we know if (when) we cause harm?

These are challenging questions. Each of our six members brings their own background, experiences, and viewpoints to the discussion. We are learning a lot from each other. We are also learning to pray more as we discern at and between meetings.

Of the three questions, the one that has challenged us the most so far is how will we know if (when?) we cause harm. We're not used to asking this question about our decisions and actions. Each person shared their initial thoughts on these questions. We saw that we need time to think and pray over this before moving forward. Thank you, God, for being with all of us in this challenging work!

We have also begun to receive updates and reports from groups across the congregation who are looking at their work in light of the questions posed by *Wait-Is This Racist?* Congregation members are seeing ways this has been present in the work at Good Shepherd up to now. Together we pray for courage and guidance as we see how God is inviting us to grow in our faith and our life as a community through this work in 2024 and beyond. Thank you for the ways you are taking steps, however big or small, to help Good Shepherd live into its Racial Justice Statement.

GOOD SHEPHERD CELEBRATED ITS 66TH ANNIVERSARY!

On Monday, November 24, 1958, the organizational meeting of the new congregation was held at Luther College. The name chosen was Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Decorah, Iowa, affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the constitution was adopted. Those who were part of the congregation and children born as of November 24, 1958, were designated as Charter Members. These Charter Members are currently in our worshiping community: Erik Berg, Lindsay Erdman, Mark Finanger, Mildred Kjome, Karl Kutson, Beverly Ramsey Nelson, and LaVerne Ramsey, our oldest Charter Member.

As was indicated in the Part 1 EPIC Scholarship article last month, the youth population of Good Shepherd is growing. Growing very rapidly. Evidence is in the number of young people participating in the weekly children's message.

The EPIC Scholarship/Mission Endowment Fund Committee has been tracking the number of children in the congregation by age and grade since 2018. The focus is now on high school youth and older.

Good Shepherd currently has six students at ELCA colleges on EPIC (Educational Partners in Covenant) scholarships. It is anticipated that we will need seven to eight next year, and even more in the next few years. All six students currently on scholarships will return next year, and graduating high school seniors will no doubt increase the need for more awards.

The committee's Continuing Resolution allows it to utilize only 4% of the total value of the Mission Endowment Fund annually for scholarships. With that value being at approximately \$125,000, five scholarships are available. Fortunately, the congregation voted at the 2024 Annual Meeting to include the ministry in our annual budget. The vote not only reinforced the congregation's commitment to support our young people at ELCA colleges, but also to uphold the partnership established with the ELCA, ELCA colleges and universities, and other participating ELCA congregations.

The Mission Endowment Fund is growing, albeit slowly. The fund's investments, especially with Thrivent, have shown good growth since the COVID epidemic, and gifts to the fund have been steady. Memorials are directed to the fund periodically, and several members of the congregation make monthly contributions. For the past two years the committee has also been working on getting the fund designated as an estate beneficiary and there are at least two tentative commitments at this time. Anyone who would like to financially support the Good Shepherd EPIC Scholarship Ministry may contact Erica or Tristan at the church office. The committee thanks members of the congregation for supporting this ministry.

TRUTH AND HEALING

IOWAY/IOWA TRIBE

People of the Grey Snow

Each month the Land Acknowledgement Taskforce is sharing an informational article on one of the four 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.

Tribal members use both Ioway and Iowa, but the legal name of both tribes today is Iowa (2). The Ioway resided in Iowa from prehistory to 1837(2). In early times they were one people with the Ho-Chunk, Otoe, Missouri, Omaha, and others but the groups split between 1200 and 1500 due to impacts of climate change and increasing conflict between the various groups (2,3,5). By the 1300s Iowa was inhabited by the ancestors of the Ioway, Otoe, and Missouri (1). The Ioway eventually lived throughout the state and in Minnesota, Nebraska, and Missouri, in several bands numbering about 5,000 (1,2,3,4).

The Ioway began as a Woodland culture but, as they migrated south and west, began to adopt elements of the Plains culture, thus culminating in the mixture of the two (1,2,6). Most important Ioway villages were located along Iowa's major river systems. During the summer the Ioway grew gardens of corn, beans, and squash near their villages, went on two annual buffalo hunts on the prairies, and hunted deer and small game throughout the year. As in other tribes, men were responsible for war and hunting and women were the homemakers and farmers (2).

The Ioway accommodated settlement in eastern Iowa by the Meskwaki after their wars with the French (2,5). The Meskwaki-Sauk alliance against the Dakota pulled the Ioway into intense intertribal wars from the 1700s to the 1830s (1,2,7,8). By the time white settlers first entered Iowa in the 1800s, the Ioway had moved into northern Missouri due to incessant warfare in Iowa between the Dakota in the northern and western parts of the state and the Sauk and Meskwaki in the southern and eastern parts of the state (1,2,3). In signing six treaties from 1824 to 1838, the Ioway ceded their claims to lands in Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri (3,6,7,8).

The treaty signed in 1836 moved them in 1837 from northwest Missouri to a new reservation in Indian Country (northeast Kansas and southeast Nebraska) that abuts the Sac and Fox Nation to the west (1,2,3,5). Successive treaties shrank the reservation and, dissatisfied with their conditions and treatment, a number of tribal members left the reservation in 1878 and moved to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) (5,6).

Continued on next page

TRUTH AND HEALING

IOWAY/IOWA TRIBE

People of the Grey Snow

In 1883 an Iowa reservation was created for these tribal members (6). At their low point in 1906, the Ioway had only 200 – 300 people left, necessitating intermarriage for them to survive as a people (3,5).

Today there are two groups of Ioway people, the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma and the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska (2,5). The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, with around 800 members, has as its priorities the protection, preservation, and retention of its culture and eagle conservation and preservation for future generations (6). The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, with around 5,000 members, is focusing on regenerative farming practices, new economic initiatives, and establishing a tribal national park to protect resources, develop tourism, tell the tribe's story, and work with neighboring communities for the betterment of all (1,3,5).

Sources Cited:

1. Rural Legacy Project, 2021. *Iowa early history – glaciers to settlement*. YouTube, produced by bluespace creative – Dennison, IA and uploaded by CRAaschFamily51458.
2. Foster, Lance M. (2009). *Ioway. Indians of Iowa* (pages 25-28). University of Iowa Press.
3. Foster, Lance M. *Iowa history 101: Iowa's Native Nations*. YouTube, uploaded by the Iowa Dept. of Cultural Affairs.
4. Foster, Lance M. *The Ioway in Iowa History & Today*. YouTube, uploaded by Living History Farms.
5. Iowa tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. *History: About us*. Retrieved from <http://www.iowatribeofkansasantnebraska>.
6. Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma. *About the Iowa tribe*. Retrieved from <http://www.iowanation.org>.
7. Legends of America. *The Ioway tribe – People of Iowa*. Retrieved from <http://www.legendsofamerica.com>.
8. Library of Congress. *Indian land cessions in the United States. Indian land transfers—United States*. Retrieved from <http://www.loc.gov>.

Watch these videos to hear Ioway/Iowa voices today.

On Youtube search:

“Iowa history 101: Iowa's Native Nations.” the video is uploaded by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

“The Ioway in Iowa History and Today” the video is uploaded by Living History Farms

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 December 18th**

DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 5:00 - 6:15 p.m., Please join your friends and neighbors for this free meal in Decorah Lutheran's Fellowship Hall, 309 Winnebago Street. All are welcome! This month, members of Westside Dental are providing volunteers, salads, and desserts. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College. Gluten free options and carry outs are always available.

The Luren Singers present their annual Christmas concert in St. Lucas IA at St Luke Catholic Church on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00PM. "Peace on Earth" conductors are Dr. David Judisch and Doug Poppen. The men will be accompanied on the piano by Chris Hadley and Dr. Jessica Paul. Adrianna L. Tam is the guest soloist who will sing Gesù Bambino by Pietro Yon, I Wonder as I Wander by Benjamin Britten, and O Holy Night by Adolphe Adam. Young and old alike will enjoy this fast-paced program with a variety of songs, soloists and instrumentalists. A free will offering benefits St Luke Church for its restoration project, and also the local food pantry.

GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Kris Peterson, Chris Johnson, Marilyn Rue, Sara Hopkins, Karin Martin-Hiner, Brian Caton, Tim Lecander, Anne Clausen, Pr April Ulring Larson.

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 - Pastor April
- As we deliberate, let us affirm our congregation's commitment to pursue racial justice, advocate for migrant families, and support the LGBTQIA community.
- Is there anything on the consent agenda that should be moved to the discussion agenda? If not, is there a motion to approve the whole agenda?
- *Sara moves that we add the advent offering designation to the agenda. Chris seconded and it passed to add it.*
- *Anne moves we approve the agenda, Tim 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 October 2024 Council Meeting Minutes [Link to Minutes](#)
2. Reception of Committee Reports (see summary below)

Discussion Agenda

1. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor April Ulring-Larson
 - a. Discussing advent worship Holden Evening Prayer with some shifts.
 - b. Concern over the Youth 7th to 12th grade in particular. How do we offer experiences that are beyond the family and home church.
2. **Call Committee:** Megan Buckingham, Convener; Council Representatives Anne Clausen & Karin Martin-Hiner
3. **President's Report:** Kris Peterson
 - a. Staff:
 - i. AV Sound Tech (Kris)
 - ii. Director of Youth and Education
4. **Stewardship Campaign:** Sara Hopkins
5. **Budget:** Chris Johnson and Tim Lecander
6. **Nominations:** Chris Johnson
7. **50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger.** It was designated for Advent offerings by the Council.
8. **Reception of Treasurer's Report** With no objections the Treasurer's Report was received

GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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Announcements

- Kathryn Thompson's ordination Saturday 11/23/2024
- Newsletter Deadline is Thursday Nov. 21 this month due to Thanksgiving holiday
- Committee reports/summaries due to office on Second Monday of the month, 12/9
- Agenda with committee links emailed to Council Third Monday of the month 12/16 Please read prior to the Council meeting.
- Next Council meeting (third Tuesday of month) is December 17th
- Thank-you's and appreciation time

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

Education Committee: [Link to minutes](#)

- Christmas program planning
- Education Committee & Youth/Family Personnel
- Nursery Project Updates

Outreach and Hospitality Committee:

Facilities and Grounds Committee: Nov. meeting is happening on the 19th

Stewardship Committee: [Link to Report](#)

- Campaign check in
- Flocks & Shepherds
- Campaign ending

Worship and Music [Link to Report](#)

- Midweek worship will be Holden worship (3 Wednesday)
- Dec. 29th will be hymn sing
- Jan. 12 will do Behold in memory of Haiti earthquake anniversary

Closing Prayer

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Sunday School 9:30am In-person Worship 10:45am Fellowship Time 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaine Hippen Funeral Good Shepherd Nominati 9am Church Office Hours 1:30pm Elaine Hippen Fun 2:30pm Desserts & Coffee 6:30pm AL/ANON 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A 3:30pm Piano lessons 4pm Stewardship Commit 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 5pm English language clas 5:30pm Advent Prayer 7pm Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Band rehearsal 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 12pm Violin lessons 5pm Decorah Community 5:30pm Racial Justice Tea 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 3:30pm Regina Downing F 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm Regina Downing Reci
8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am In-person Worship 10:45am Fellowship Time 10:45am Sunday School 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election setup 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 6:30pm AL/ANON 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election day 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A 10am Erica office hours 3:30pm Piano lessons 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Eastern Star/Arin Fa 1pm Wellington Place Com 2:30pm Aase Haugen Con 5pm English language clas 5:30pm Advent Prayer 7pm Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Band rehearsal 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 9am Church Office Hours 12pm Violin lessons 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Green Flock Krumka
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am In-person Worship 10:45am Fellowship Time 10:45am Sunday School 4:30pm Eat, Play, Love 5pm Youth Christmas Prog 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 6:30pm AL/ANON 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A 3:30pm Piano lessons 5pm Sons of Norway 7pm Congregation Council 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 1pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5pm English language clas 5:30pm Advent Prayer 7pm Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Band rehearsal 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 12pm Violin lessons 12:45pm MEF Committee I 5pm Oneota Community C 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Gail Memorial 2pm Janet Gail Funeral 3pm Coffee & Cookies Foll
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am In-person Worship 10:45am Fellowship Time 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Kinderhaus 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 6:30pm AL/ANON 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A 10am Erica office hours 3:30pm Piano lessons 5pm Christmas Eve Worsh 7pm WELCA Circle Mtg. G: 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office closed for Christmat Newsletter Deadline 5pm English language clas 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Gail Memorial 2pm Janet Gail Funeral 3pm Coffee & Cookies Foll
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am In-person Worship 10:45am Fellowship Time 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Kinderhaus 9am Church Office Hours 6:30pm AL/ANON 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. A 3:30pm Piano lessons 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 5pm English language clas 7pm Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Band rehearsal 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Erica office hours 12pm Violin lessons 5pm Decorah Community 5:30pm Racial Justice Tea 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours