

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
... We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture ...

Psalm 100:3



**January 12th – Baptism of Our Lord
15th Anniversary of Haiti Earthquake**

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.

God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection.

We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.

In keeping with our welcome, Good Shepherd is a *Reconciling in Christ* partner congregation, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. We are an AMMPARO *Welcoming Congregation* - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

The Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero Energy use.

Welcome guests! There is more information for you on the back of the bulletin.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Evangelical Lutheran Worship-**ELW** (red book)

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

Page numbers (P.) in front of the blue booklets, (#) in back of ELW
congregational responses in **bold**; rise in body or spirit when indicated by *

A note from Pastor April to all worshipping today: We gather in the name of Jesus on this Baptism of our Lord Sunday. We gather to worship, to praise God, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember the people of Haiti and mark this 15th anniversary of the 2010 Haiti earthquake, one of the deadliest disasters in recorded history. We also remember in prayer all victims of natural disaster from the raging fires of Los Angeles, California to victims of war, violence and hate in Gaza, the Ukraine, and throughout the world. We pray for God's mercy and peace.

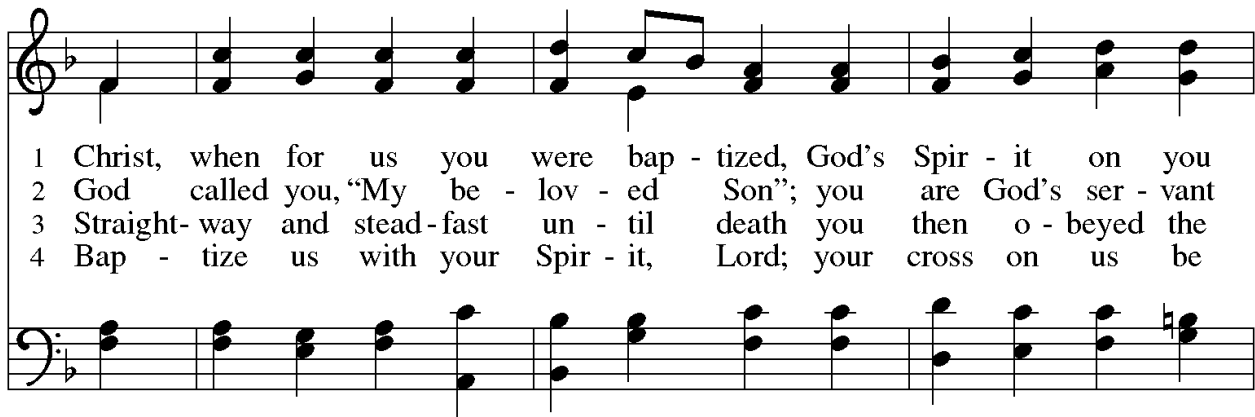
GATHERING

PRAYER BELL – PRELUDE

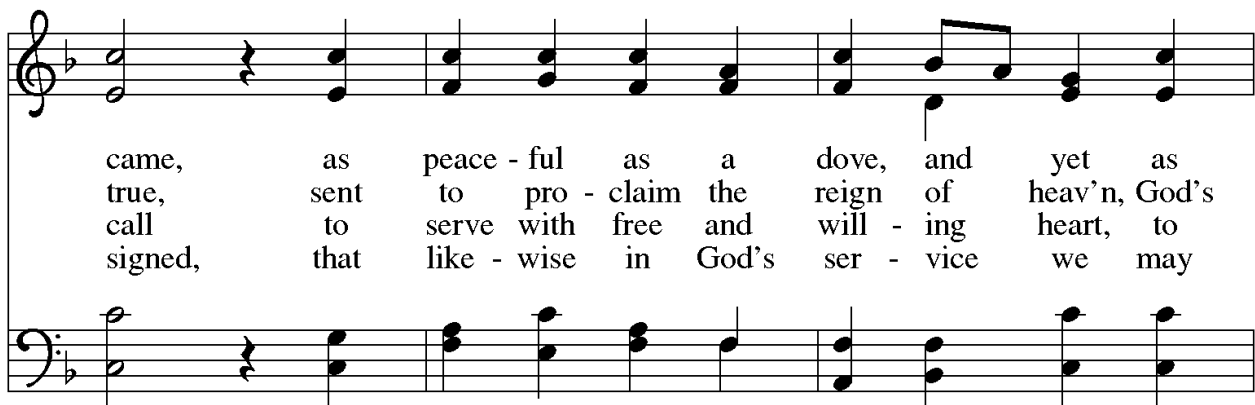
The prelude is a time when we allow the musical offering to quiet our hearts and minds as we prepare for worship.

WELCOME


GATHERING HYMN: ELW #304 "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight- way and stead- fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

***GREETING:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the holy spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE:

In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL



Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer -
 cy up - on us.
 Chri-ste e - le - i - son. Christ, have mer -
 cy up - on us.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ALL:

A - men. A - - - - - men. *rit.*

HYMN OF PRAISE:

This is the fea - - - st of vic - to - ry for our God.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

(low voices) Al - le - lu - ia. (high voices) Al - le - lu - ia. (low voices) Al - le - lu - ia. (high voices) Al - le - lu - ia.

Wor - thy is Christ, the lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bles - sing, and

glo - ry are his. This is the fea - - - st of vic - to - ry

for our God. This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

(low voices) Al - le - lu - ia. (high voices) Al - le - lu - ia. (low voices) Al - le - lu - ia. (high voices) Al - le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and, join in the hymn of all cre -



a - tion. Bles-sing, hon-or, glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev -



- er, A-men. This is the fea - st of vic-to-ry for our God.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. For the



lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign, Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the fea - st of vic-to-ry for our God. This is the



feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu -



ia. Al-le-lu - ia. Al - le-lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹ But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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

PSALM 46: ACS #1035 (sung 3 times)



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



*GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead, he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

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

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit

descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

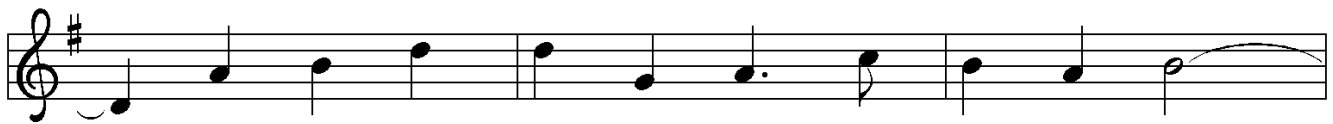
***HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW #449 "We Know That Christ Is Raised"



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *Each petition ends:* God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

***PEACE OF CHRIST:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary.

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Rising Again" – Sue and Mike Blair; lyrics and music by Mike Blair

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

- Worshippers are welcome to kneel or stand at the Altar Rail
- Gluten and dairy free bread and red wine/white grape juice are available to all.
- Egg-free wheat wafers are also available
- If you prefer only a blessing, indicate by placing your hands over your heart.
- Place wine/juice cups in the tray as you return to your pew.

COMMUNION SONGS AND HYMNS:



Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-

- cy on us. Lamb of God you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

ACS #1025 "If We Live, We Live to the Lord"



If we live, we live to the Lord. If we

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, based on Romans 14:8, Psalm 103
Music: IF WE LIVE, Rolf Vegdahl
Music © 2009, 2016 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or
wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Psalm 30, “Mourning into Dancing” – written by Benjamin Splichal Larson, sung and played by Renee, his widow, and her husband, Ben’s cousin Jon, who were both in the Haiti earthquake with Ben.

HYMN: ELW #838 “Beautiful Savior”

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,
Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in the spar - kling stars on high;
bright the of God and Son of Man!
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

TABLE BLESSING – PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING – SENDING SONG



1. Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at your Spir - it's in - vi - ta - tion.
2. Lord, as 'round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture,
3. Lord, we share in this com - mun - ion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



Rest no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der,
for this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - ses - sing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of our ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ve - ry life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of hea - v'nly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy, 'till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

***DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER BELL – POSTLUDE

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

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. License # SB118886 - Hymns: Copyright © OneLicense A-731311 New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Music © 2014 Renee Splichal Larson. Transcribed, engraved and arranged by Cory Clay/BMI.

The flowers today are given by Pastor April and Pastor Judd in remembrance of the fifteenth anniversary today of the 200,000 plus victims who died in the Haiti Earthquake January 12, 2010.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: PRESIDING: Pastor April Ullring Larson; PREACHING: Pastor Mike Blair; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; VIOLIST: Peter Calhoun (*son-in-law of Pastor April and Pastor Judd*); USHERS: Bev Sheridan, Bob Naslund, Lyle Otte; GREETER: Harriet Hayes; READER: Jane Borelli; ASSISTING MINISTER: Stacey Nalean-Carlson; CANTOR: Reg Laursen; AV TECHNICIAN: Alex Bodnar, FELLOWSHIP: Ann Naslund, Bob Larson, Bev Sheridan, Carol Hasvold, Doug and Stacey Nalean-Carlson, Elizabeth Kaschins.

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

TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th is the actual date and 15th anniversary of the **2010 Haiti earthquake** that killed more than 200,000 Haitians, along with a number of Americans, including Benjamin Splichal Larson, son of Pastors April and Judd Larson. Ben is the composer of the beloved liturgy "Behold, I Make All Things New", which we sing today in commemoration. Welcome to all of Ben's family and friends, who gather with us in worship today to remember the Haiti earthquake and celebrate Ben's life and music. Ben, his wife Renee Splichal Larson, and cousin Jonathan Larson were invited as seminarians to teach Lutheran Theology and Christology to parish pastors of the new Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. They had just completed a week of teaching and were attending the 5 p.m. daily worship at St. Joseph's Home for Boys when the earthquake hit, and Ben died on the Resurrection Floor of the building. Go to the website "Ben Still Sings" to read about Ben's life, liturgy, and music: benstillsings.com

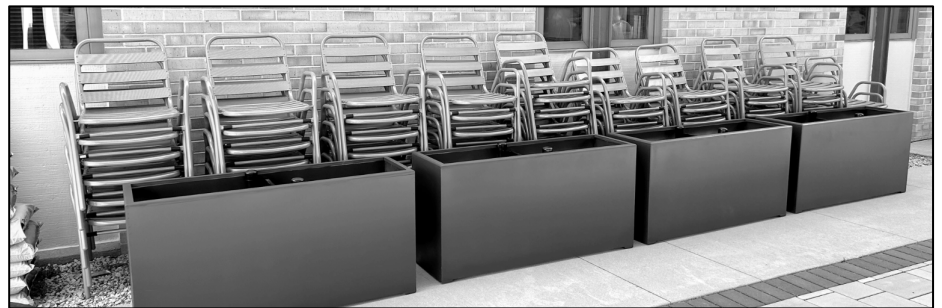
CONTEMPORARY CELLO DUO PERFORMANCE TODAY AT 3 PM IN THE SANCTUARY: Come hear Vcs, Decorah contemporary cello duo Craig Hultgren and his daughter, Shelby Camp, play a program of (mostly) new music in advance of their East Coast mini tour. The recital is free and open to the public. Among other music, the recital will include Two-Part Variations on Axel F for Two Cellos by Paul Ayres (2023), featuring the theme made famous in the 1984 film Beverly Hills Cop, and Driftless Images for Solo Cello by Daniel Swilley (2024), that draws inspiration from the topography of the Driftless Region of northeast Iowa and was composed for Craig Hultgren.

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15th: Good Shepherd standing committees should submit their annual reports to Tristan in the Church office by January 15th at the latest in preparation for the Annual Report and Congregational Annual Meeting on February 2nd. Reports can be dropped off in the office or emailed to office@goodshepherddecorah.org.

OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE NEW SOLAR COURTYARD CHAIRS FOR HOME USE: Jubilee, the downtown Decorah store from which Good Shepherd is buying the new Solar Courtyard chairs, is offering Good Shepherd members only the opportunity to purchase the same chairs for home use. The price is \$250 each, the same price the church is receiving. The purchase must be an identical chair to those on display in the Gathering Space - no variations. If anyone is interested in ordering some of these chairs, they should **contact Jim Fritz prior to January 24th**. Payment will be due in mid-February when the orders are placed.



GIVEAWAY OF OLD SOLAR COURTYARD CHAIRS: Since the Good Shepherd Congregation Council approved the purchase of 64 replacement chairs for the Solar Courtyard, the current 64 chairs will be given away, Congregation members' requests receive top priority. **The Council**



encourages chair recipients to donate to ELCA World Hunger. Checks should be made out to Good Shepherd with ELCA World Hunger in the memo line.) Arrangements to pick up the chair(s) should be coordinated through the Facilities and Grounds Committee: Jim Fritz, Bob Wilson, Dave Geenen, and Reg Laursen.

OPENING FOR PART-TIME MINISTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:

A part-time Ministry & Communications Coordinator position is currently open, due to the resignation of **Erica Yaneff**. The Ministry & Communications Coordinator assists the Pastor and works collaboratively with the Good Shepherd staff, church committees, and congregation members to fulfill the everyday function of the Church, as well as needs that arise throughout the calendar year. The Coordinator serves as the go-to person for managing communications between committees and the congregation. The creation of publications (bulletins, monthly newsletters, social media posts, special event posters, etc.) also falls under this position. For a complete job description and application form, go to goodshepherddecorah.org/ministry-communications-coordinator.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY POSITION OPEN: Good Shepherd seeks a leader for the part-time position of Director of Children and Youth Ministry, working with ages Pre-K through High School. The Director serves the wider mission of the congregation, creating, coordinating, and directly participating with children and youth in programs of learning, service, and faith formation along with the Pastor and the Education and Youth Committee. Applicants should have knowledge of the Lutheran faith; experience with children and youth activities and programs is desired. Contact the church office at **(563) 382-3963**.

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: 9 AM – 12 PM Monday-Friday

Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Praying for others is a cherished ministry that everyone can participate in at any time. There are no time constraints to our care for others as we offer their needs up to God.

People on the prayer list are welcome to remain there for as long as is needed.

Those with health concerns:

- Scott Barnes, *friend of Erik Berg*
- Marilyn Anderson
- Jon Wendling
- Helen Hermeier
- James Barth
- Ginny Olson
- Stephanie Hoff
- Wanda Rueber
- Stacey Nalean-Carlson
- Mickey Slind
- LaVerne Ramsey
- Scott Ulring
- Phillip Swanson, *son of Ted & Joann Swanson and brother of Kristin Swanson*
- Harland Nelson
- Dennis Martin, *Marv & Mickey Slind's brother-in-law*
- Ingrid Callaghan
- Carrie Solberg
- Jutta Anderson

Those who grieve:

- Liz Fritz and family, upon the memorial service for her mother Janet Gall on Saturday, December 28th.
- Sarah Wicks and family, upon the death of her grandfather Bob Fahrenkrug on Saturday, December 21st.
- Norma Refsal and family, upon the death of her husband Harley Refsal on Sunday, September 8th.
- Laurie Biedermann, Linda Martin, and all the family of Millard Nelson upon his death on Saturday, September 7th.

Those serving the needs of others:

- Martha Monson Lowe
- Maryn Olson, *Director of Lutheran Disaster Response*
- Kathryn Thompson as she serves higher education students through LuMin in La Crosse

To have a prayer request added to or removed from the Prayer List, please email Tristan at office@goodshepherddecorah.org or call (563) 382-3963.

Good Shepherd Worship Schedule

Today, Sunday, January 12th: *Baptism of Our Lord*

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion;

Preaching: Pastor Mike Blair

Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall;

Sunday School Programming Pre-K - 2nd Grade, 3rd - 6th Grade, 7th-12th grade

Sunday, January 19th: *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion;

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall;

Sunday School Programming Pre-K - 2nd Grade, 3rd - 6th Grade, 7th-12th grade

Sunday, January 26th: *Third Sunday after Epiphany*

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion;

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall;

Sunday School Programming Pre-K - 2nd Grade, 3rd - 6th Grade, 7th-12th grade

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS and especially to Luther College Students! It is a joy to worship with you. You are welcome to enjoy really great coffee, juice, treats, and conversation down the hall after worship – follow the crowd. Sit anywhere!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION. It is Christ's table and Christ is the host. Instructions are included in the communion section of the Order of Worship.

THE PRESENCE, ENERGY, AND NOISE OF CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME HERE!

The sound of a child in worship is the sound of a new Christian being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. A nursery with toys and activity bags is available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works.

RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: This Statement was approved at the annual meeting of the congregation on February 6th, 2022. It was developed through the work of the Racial Justice Team which held listening sessions with the congregation. Find the full statement at goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement or by scanning the code.



We trust in the new life made possible through Christ's resurrection and we are hopeful that the Church is an ideal place to engage in the lifelong and transformative work of racial justice. Fostering antiracist ideas and actions is one way that we can follow Jesus' example of love for our neighbor. When we fail, we will rely on God's grace, that God might work in and through our broken humanity and that we might be sustained to learn from our mistakes and continue to show up for the work of antiracism. (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

Pr. April Ulring Larson
(563) 217-0741
pastorapril@goodshepherddecorah.org
Brooke Joyce; Music Director
Tristan Occhipinti; Office & Building Manager
Mike Sammons; Custodian



**Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church**

701 Iowa Ave
Decorah, IA 52101

(563) 382-3963

goodshepherddecorah.org
office@goodshepherddecorah.org