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 5th — Second Sunday of Christmas; Epiphany 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)
All Creation Sings – ACS (purple book)

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

GATHERING

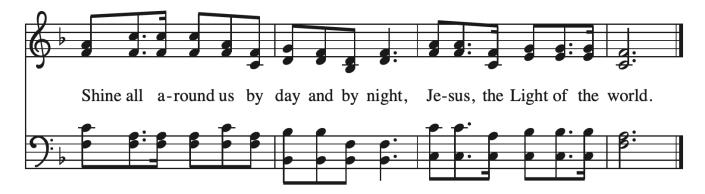
PRAYER BELL - PRELUDE

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: ACS #914 "Jesus, the Light of the World"





*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**.

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷ Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

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

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- ¹ Give the king your jus- ¹ tice, O God, and your righteousness to ¹ the king's son;
- ² that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure, from one generation | to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field, like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the ¹ righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall ¹ be no more.
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.
- 11 May all kings bow | down before him, and all the nations | do him service.
- ¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress, the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.
- ¹³ He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor, and preserves the lives | of the needy.
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives, and precious is their blood | in his sight.

SECOND READING: Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

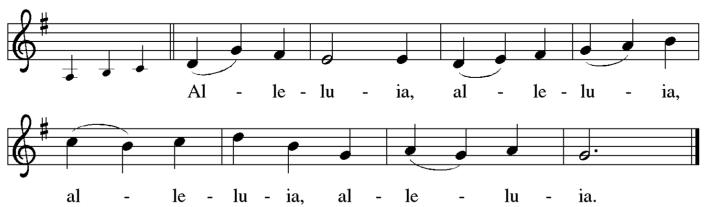
¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



*GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-5, 10-14, 16-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

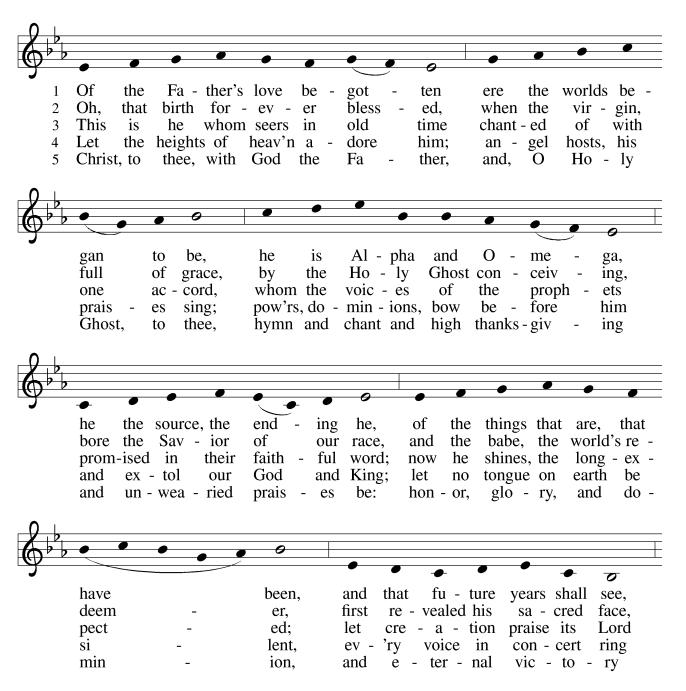
¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,

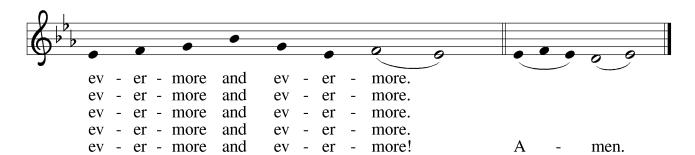
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #295 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" vs. 1-3





*APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: When indicated, respond: 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.

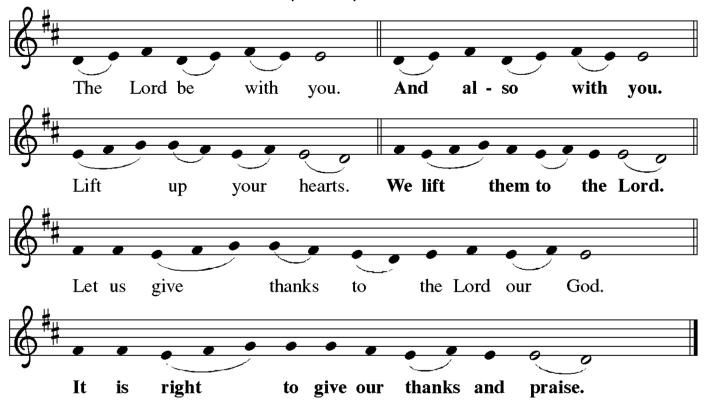
MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Good King Wenceslas"

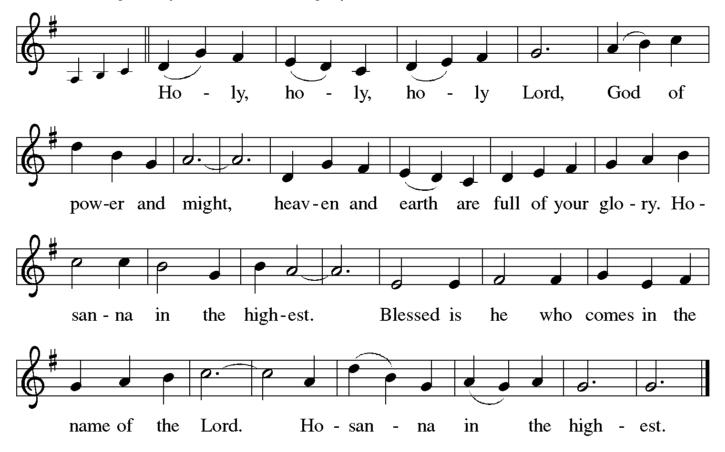
*OFFERTORY SONG: ELW #295 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" vs. 4 & 5 (see above)

*OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray... Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING - HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:



It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:



*WORDS OF INSTITUTION - THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: Our Father...

HOLY COMMUNION: All are welcome at Christ's table.

- Ushers will direct you down the center aisle.
- Gluten and dairy free bread and red wine/white grape juice are available to all.
- Egg-free wheat wafers are also available
- If you prefer only a blessing, indicate that by placing your hands over your heart.
- Please place your wine and juice cups in the tray as you return to your pew.

COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW #487 "What Feast of Love" vs. 1 & 2



- 1 What feast of love is of fered here, what ban-quet come from heav en?
- 2 What light of truth is of fered here, what cov e nant from heav en?
- 3 What wine of love is of fered here, what crim-son drink from heav en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en? What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this Christ the bread come down from heav - en. is king, the This, this Christ the king, the come down from is sun heav - en. This, this Christ the king, the is sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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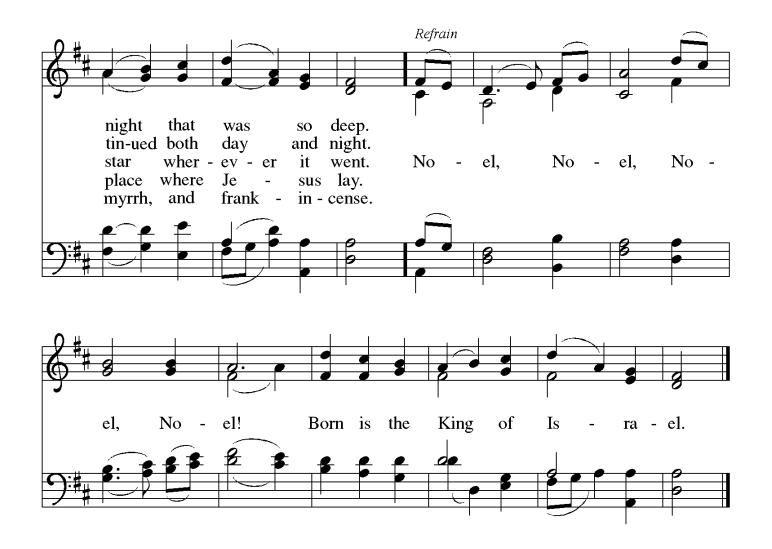
ELW #302 "As with Gladness Men of Old" vs. 1-3



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

ELW #300 "The First Noel" vs. 3-5





"We Three Kings" vs. 1 (or more as time allows)

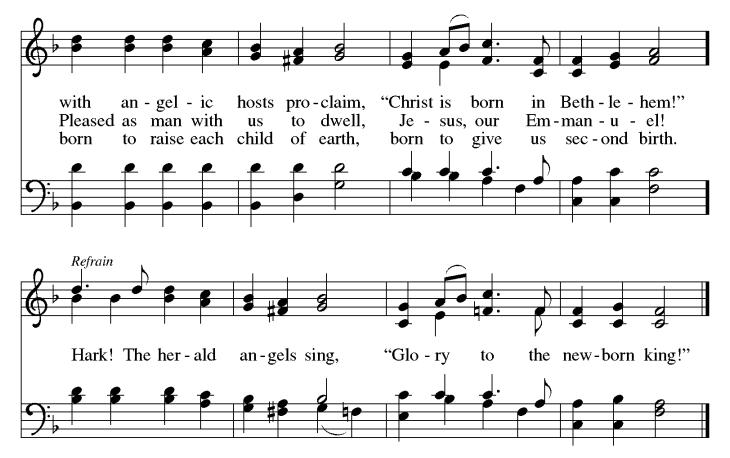


TABLE BLESSING – PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION SENDING

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING - SENDING SONG: ELW #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"





*DISMISSAL: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. 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!

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: PRESIDING & PREACHING: Pastor April Ulring Larson; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; USHERS: Lyle Otte, Carson Eggland; READER: Brian Caton; ASSISTING MINISTER: Bob Naslund; AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Matthew Bills; FELLOWSHIP: Carol Hasvold, Bev Sheridan, Ann Naslund, Donna Bahr, Harriet Hayes, Lyle Otte.

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.

PLEASE REMOVE YOUR POINSETTIA AFTER SERVICE TODAY. The Altar Guild is deeply grateful for the generous response to this year's Poinsettia Project!

ADULT LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES THIS WEEK: Pastor April will lead the Bible study on Tuesday, January 7th at 9:15 AM in the Gathering Space. All are welcome at these sessions which focus on scriptures for the coming Sunday.

NEXT SUNDAY IS THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI: Sunday, January 12 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 use at Good Shepherd and will sing again next Sunday in commemoration. Ben, his wife Renee Splichal Larson, and cousin Jonathan Larson were all seminarians working and teaching at a theological seminary and an orphanage in Haiti at the time of the earthquake. Go to the website "Ben Still Sings" to read more about Ben's life, liturgy, and music at benstillsings.com. Pastor Mike Blair will be our guest preacher.

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.

UPDATE ON SOLAR COURTYARD CHAIRS: The Good Shepherd Council has approved a proposal from the Facilities and Grounds Committee to purchase 64 Houe brand chairs to match the existing Houe brand tables we already have. The Jubilee furniture store on Water Street is the vendor assisting us. They will be shipped in March. There are 64 existing chairs that will be given away. Congregation members will receive first requests. The Council encourages chair recipients to donate to ELCA World Hunger in celebration of its 50th anniversary. Checks should be made out to Good Shepherd with "ELCA World Hunger" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity. 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**.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE AND WINTER GREENS AT GOOD SHEPHERD:

Old Christmas trees and winter greens are being collected for use for the Easter Vigil bonfire (this year March 30th!). **Please leave them in the space between the Annex and Mower shed.** Removal of metal and roping from wreaths and greens is appreciated!

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 5th: 2nd Sunday of Christmas; Epiphany

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

Presiding/Preaching: Pastor April Ulring Larson

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

Sunday, January 12th: 15th Anniversary of Haiti Earthquake

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

Preaching: Pastor Mike Blair

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

Sunday School programming resumes after winter break!

Youth Group (7-12 grade) in Fellowship Hall $-3-6^{th}$ In the Library - Pk-2nd

Grade in Sanctuary

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.



GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

Pastor 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