

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2025

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Beloved in Christ,

It is not a surprise that this Sunday's February 2nd text from Jeremiah includes the words "Do not be afraid!" Perhaps more than anytime in all the decades I have lived, we are struggling with fear. I remember looking out my University of Iowa dorm room in 1968 at the rows and rows of police dressed head to toe in full riot gear. The students had nothing. Yet it was the faces of the police which were filled with fear. I will never forget their faces. It reminds me of all the different ways we humans behave when we are afraid.

How often fear is at the center of not only the recipients of violence and hate, but the initiators of violence and hate. Yet, is there a more common phrase in scripture than, "Do not be afraid."

God knows our fears. Again and again God speaks to God's people: to Abraham, to Hagar, to Rachel (through her midwife), to Joseph, to Moses, and to the Israelites as the Egyptians bore down upon them. God says in Deuteronomy, "Do not lose heart, or be afraid or panic or be in dread. It is the Lord who goes before you; God will not fail or forsake you." From David to Elijah to Jeremiah, from Job to the Psalms, to Isaiah, Ezekiel, David, to the prophets, across the Old Testament, again and again the words come, "Do not be afraid."

Lest we think this word is only for Israel, it comes again and again in the New Testament. This word came to Joseph, to Zechariah, to Mary, to the shepherds, to James and John, and again and again to the disciples, and also to the women on Easter morning, "Do not be afraid."

From the Acts of the Apostles to the letters of Paul, these words over and over, "Do not be afraid."

This dear congregation, during Covid gathered into flocks for the first time proclaiming to each other and to the Decorah community, "Do not be afraid, God is with you. We walk together. We remind one another, 'You are not alone.'" So now in these anxious days we are trying to find within ourselves deeds and words and courage to be not afraid. As a member of the lectionary Bible Study said, "It is the time to speak out and speak up."

So we proclaim to one another, while God speaks to us in these days, through the scriptures: "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. God will not leave you or forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

God's peace be with you!

Pastor April Ulring Larson

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Offered by Jane Jakoubek

O God, you call us to love one another (*1 Corinthians 13:4-7*). Help us be honest about the ways our love falls short. Heal us. Set us free to grow so we can love others as you love us.

You know when we get impatient. Increase our patience, O God.

You know the ways we are unkind. Help us grow in kindness, O God.

You know the people and things we envy and how that hurts us and others. Free us from envy, O God.

You know the subtle and not-so-subtle ways we boast about ourselves. Help us remember that all we have is a gift from you, O God.

You know how our pride separates us from others and from you. Make us humble. Help us see ourselves and others through your eyes, O God.

You know the ways we are rude to others and sometimes even to ourselves. Help us be gentle and kind to others and to ourselves, O God.

You know the small ways and big ways we make sure things go as we want. Help us put the needs of others before our own desires, O God.

You know what makes us irritable. Give us compassionate and gentle hearts for all our days bring, O God.

You know the ways we hold on to grievances and grudges. You know how that hurts others and ourselves. Heal our wounds and set us free, O God.

You know the ways we take delight in doing things that cause harm to ourselves, others and the earth. Help us face the truth about all these things. Set us free to follow you, O God.

Help us to grow in love, O God. Help us to grow in love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

February 2nd

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Presentation of our Lord

Malachi 3:1-4

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

Psalm 84

*How dear to me is your dwelling,
O Lord. (Ps. 84:1)*

Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shares human flesh and sufferings

Luke 2:22-40

The child is brought to the temple

February 9th

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah says, Here am I; send me

Psalm 138

*I will bow down toward your holy
temple. (Ps. 138:2)*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I am the least of the apostles

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people

February 16th

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10

*Blessed are those who trust the Lord,
they are like trees by water*

Psalm 1

*They are like trees planted by streams of
water. (Ps. 1:3)*

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

*Christ has been raised, the first fruits of
those who have died*

Luke 6:17-26

*Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and
hungry; woes on the rich and full*

February 23rd

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph forgives his brothers

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

*The lowly shall possess the land; they will
delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)*

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

*The mystery of the resurrection of the
body*

Luke 6:27-38

Love your enemies

MESSAGES FROM THE PASTOR AND STAFF

Dear Good Shepherd Council and Members of Good Shepherd,

A special thank you from me and from your staff for the thoughtful Christmas gift to each member of the staff. They expressed their deep appreciation at your kindness and generosity. Thank you again.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor April Ulring Larson

Dear Good Shepherd Congregation,

On Christmas Eve, I was surprised and delighted to receive a very generous gift from the church council on behalf of the congregation. I feel very grateful and humbled by this unexpected gesture, and please know that every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning are weekly reminders of how blessed we are to have such a caring and vibrant congregation that not only values the transformative power of music but also participates in our music ministry in so many ways. Thank you so much!

Peace,
Brooke Joyce



Members of Good Shepherd,

Thank you so much for your many gifts to me this Christmas season. Your words and gestures have made me feel very appreciated, and I want you all to know that that appreciation is returned in kind. Even in these short two years so far as Good Shepherd's office manager, it has been a highlight of my life to serve such a caring community—a group of people so devoted to peace and justice and love. I am so thankful to have the opportunity every day to help things run smoothly within this church, to help you help others and each other. I love the people of Good Shepherd, and I want you to know that I support you, in every endeavor.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Tristan Occhipinti

RACIAL JUSTICE – TRUTH AND HEALING

HO-CHUNK NATION HOCHUNGRA (The People with the Big Voice)

Ho-Chunk history extends back more than 10,000 years, predating the last ice age, with evidence of their presence found throughout the Midwest region. The Ho-Chunk hunted, farmed, and gathered food, including nuts, berries, roots, and edible leaves. With changing seasons, families moved from area to area to find food. Traditionally Ho-Chunk men and women had completely equal but different roles. Women were in charge of the home. They owned the home and everything in it. They were responsible for growing, gathering, and processing food, processing and cooking game, tanning hides, and providing tools, binding, clothing, and covers for dwellings. They also cared for children and elders. Women were held in high esteem because they brought forth life from the Creator. Men were protectors who hunted and fished to support the family and interfaced with other tribal communities (5,6).

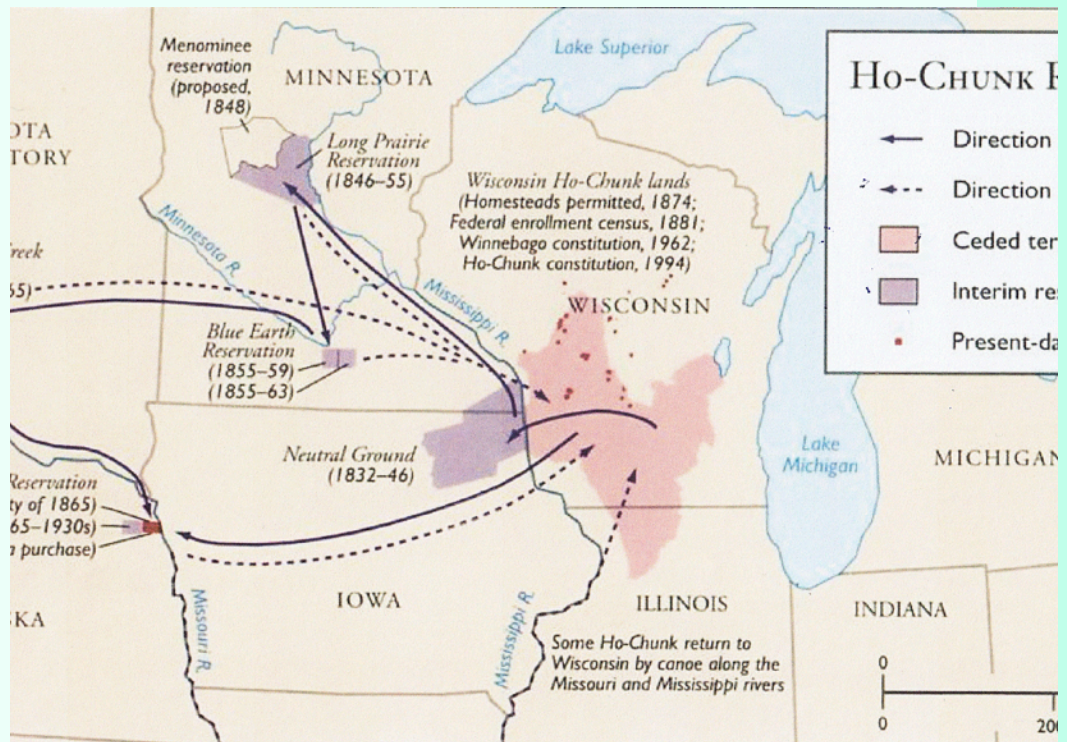
A series of treaties forced the Ho-Chunk out of their homeland, removing them to reservations in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and to a portion of the Omaha Reservation in Nebraska. With each removal (totaling eleven), small bands returned to Wisconsin (3).

During a period of 12 years (1829-1837), the Ho-Chunk lost all their designated ancestral homeland in Wisconsin. The Treaty of 1829, opening land in southeastern Wisconsin for lead mining, removed 1/3 of their ancestral land (1,9). The Treaty of 1832 finalized a second land cession, another third of their land, south and east of the Wisconsin River, and for the first time called for the removal of the Ho-Chunk people west of the Mississippi. It also called for establishing “neutral ground” in Iowa that would be a buffer between the Wahpeton and the Sac and Fox (1). The Treaty of 1837, which the Ho-Chunk were coerced into signing, ceded the last of their ancestral homelands north of the Wisconsin River. It ultimately divided the Ho-Chunk people into “Abiding” and “Non-Abiding” factions. The former decided to quietly resist exile and stay on their homelands, while the latter were reluctant exiles who did not want to leave their homelands but felt they had no choice or assented believing they could carve out some form of autonomy and self-determination in new territory (1,3,9).

Though some Ho-Chunk began to move to the neutral ground in 1837, the first forced removal occurred in 1840 to a 40-mile-wide strip of land (ceded in 1830 by the Wahpeton, Sac, and Fox) stretching southwest across Northeast Iowa including Winneshiek and Allamakee counties. Hundreds if not thousands died during this time. This land was ceded in 1846, removing the Ho-Chunk to the Long Prairie area in Minnesota (1,9).

RACIAL JUSTICE – TRUTH AND HEALING

In 1855 a new treaty caused the removal of the Ho-Chunk from Long Prairie to a fertile farming area near Blue Earth, Minnesota affecting the health and well-being of the Ho-Chunk people who faced hostilities from white settlers and unpaid allotments from the government (1). The aftermath of the US-Dakota War of 1862 impacted the Ho-Chunk at Blue Earth. The desire of colonists to remove all Indians from Minnesota after the war led to a bill to evict the Ho-Chunk, who had been uninvolved in the war but resided on prime agricultural land the colonists wanted (2).



In 1863, a special act of Congress to expel the Ho-Chunk from Minnesota called for their removal to the Crow Creek Reserve in South Dakota, resulting in a cataclysmic exile where hundreds of people died or suffered from illness. This historical trauma lives in Ho-Chunk memory today (9). Lacking resources and food, survivors of the harsh removal to South Dakota fled south to the Omaha Reservation in 1865 (3,7,9). In 1865, the Omaha Nation ceded part of their reserve to the US, which in turn granted this area to the Ho-Chunk, establishing a separate Winnebago Reservation, which was expanded in 1874.

From 1872 - 1874, Congress attempted to remove the Ho-Chunk people from Wisconsin once and for all. In 1873, 800 people were loaded into boxcars in the middle of winter and transported to the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska. This was another traumatic experience of death and suffering that also lives in the memory of Ho-Chunk people today. Despite the horrors, the deportation was a failure. The Ho-Chunk had legitimate claims to remain in Wisconsin and the military had no authority to physically restrain those who wanted to return to Wisconsin. As soon as the people were deposited in Nebraska, they began returning home in huge numbers in 1874. In 1875 the US gave up and granted the Ho-Chunk the right to remain

RACIAL JUSTICE – TRUTH AND HEALING

in Wisconsin and established a special homestead policy for them (9). The attempts from 1832 – 1874 to ethnically cleanse the Ho-Chunk from Wisconsin and Illinois were thwarted continuously by members returning to their ancestral home, finally receiving special legislation to remain on 40-acre homesteads (3,4,9).

Of the Ho-Chunk's 10 million acres of ancestral land, the Nation reclaimed over 2,000 acres in twelve Wisconsin counties and currently has 10,000 citizens. The Ho-Chunk Nation's economic gains from the gaming industry have provided support for tribal programs including health clinics, Head Start centers, wellness programs and family services. Other activities include language renewal and revitalization as well as cultural preservation following the end of federal assimilation and the closing of eleven boarding schools in Wisconsin (1,3,4). The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, consisting of 2,600 members, focuses on economic development, education, housing, and health care (7,8).

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MESSAGE FROM THE ELCA

Jan 23, 2025

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE EXECUTIVE ORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. JANUARY 22, 2025

"And I will be with you until the end of time."(Matthew 28:20)

These words from Jesus to His disciples at the time of His ascension, could not be more timely for the immigrant community, in these moments of fear and uncertainty that we are facing due to the deluge of executive orders announced by the current administration. These orders will certainly impact the immigrant community in our country, and some have already had a chilling effect.

Specifically, as a Latiné community, we are perturbed by the decision made by the current administration to roll back guidance to immigration enforcement officers that may lead to them entering places that are **sacred** such as churches, hospitals, and schools to arrest members of our community. Our places of worship and the dignity of our people should be honored. Undoubtedly, we are facing a challenge that urges all of us—ELCA Latiné leaders and the leadership at the churchwide level—to respond to fear in our communities, propose plans to accompany vulnerable people, and seek wisdom and compassion from our local, state and national elected officials.

Let us keep in mind that Jesus, the head of the church, wasn't afraid of denouncing acts of injustice perpetrated by emperors and religious leaders who thought they were above the principles of justice, mercy, grace, peace, and the love of God's Kingdom. Core values of those who follow God and God's word.

A vivid example of this is the work and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who fought in the civil rights movement to recognize and respect the dignity of every human being—particularly the people of color—in the U.S. society. He embodied someone guided and inspired by God's love, truth, and justice. And overall Jesus' resurrection is evidence that God and God's kingdom will have the victory. And God's victory is ours as well. **We are the people of the Resurrection.**

Now more than ever, let us embrace, share, and support one another in Christ's promises, in which he affirms us that he will walk beside us to make our burdens lighter; that He gives us rest and the peace that surpasses all understanding; he is the bread from heaven that nourishes us with love, justice, and truth, and that he will never forsake or leave us alone.

As the Association, we are committed to joining efforts with other ministries of our church to facilitate spaces for education, dialogue, and advocacy that might benefit our entire community. **We are stronger together!** More information in this regard will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Beloved in Christ, let us stay together until the end of time.

Yours in Christ,
ELCA Latino Ministries Association

WELCA NEWSLETTER

WELCA Newsletter

Our WELCA annual meeting and brunch was well attended by 22 members and friends. We heard Dr Anna Peterson tell us about the basket business weaving economic ties between the Bethany Indian Mission, the Ho-Chunk families and Lutheran Ladies' Aides. We disbursed the funds from Nordic Fest as discussed at the meeting. We also voted to sponsor an Easter potluck dinner along with the Mission Endowment Fund Committee. More information to come in the following months.

Join the M & M Retreat- Mary and Martha fun for all:

Women of the ELCA and their friends are invited to a celebration event Feb. 21-22 at EWALU Stone Retreat Center, Strawberry Point

You and your friends are invited to a retreat to Celebrate all the Marys and Marthas! This is a Celebration of You! The cost to attend is \$35 for both days, including overnight accommodation and meals. The rate for those wanting to attend only on Saturday is \$15, including the noon meal. In case of inclement weather, the event will take place February 28-Mar 1. The retreat is hosted by the Northeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA Synod Board and Katie's Fund. **Registration deadline is Monday, Feb. 19.** Contact Bev Sheridan for registration forms and carpool information.

World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday March 7 hosted by St Benedicts Parish beginning at 1 pm. The theme this year is "I Made You Wonderful" based on Psalm 139:14. The 2025 WDP program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God.

Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this upcoming theme from WDP Cook Islands particularly relevant. The message that we, as women and girls, are "fearfully and wonderfully" made in the image of God reinforces our movement's support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.

The Worship Service invites us to notice aspects of our divinely created bodies that we often take for granted. The Bible Study prompts dialogue around Psalm 139, particularly

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focusing on the relationship between God and each one of us. (from WDP website)
All are welcome.

Gather Bible Study

Winter/Spring 2025: “Faithfulness” by Denise Rector

Session Two: Psalm 22

David testifies that God is God and worthy of praise, even as David is in despair. It’s no wonder that Jesus cried out to God during the crucifixion using these very words. In our worst times, this psalm gives us a way to contemplate God’s holiness. (from Gather website)

Upcoming events

February 21-22: M & M NEIA SWO retreat, EWALU Stone Retreat Center

February 25: Gather Bible study, fellowship hall, 7 pm, Kris Peterson Bible study,
Gail Judisch refreshments

March 7: World Day of Prayer, St Benedicts Parish, 1 pm

April 5: Cluster D Spring gathering, Highland Lutheran



Blessing of the Candles, Sunday, February 2nd

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PROTECT HEALTHCARE FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND OTHERS ON MEDICAID

- Proposed Medicaid cuts could severely impact nursing home residents and other vulnerable lowans who depend on this vital program. Six in ten nursing home residents rely on Medicaid for their care.
- Visit Lutheran Services in America's website lutheranservices.org/take-action to learn more about these cuts, how they would affect the elderly, children, and disabled, and how to make your voice heard by contacting our Iowa members of Congress. **Use the email provided to edit it to make it your own.**

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE HELPS PEOPLE IMPACTED BY CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

- **Lutheran Disaster Response** is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod, Pacifica Synod, and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the California wildfires and provide for immediate and future recovery needs amid the widespread destruction.
- Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities for months and years to come.
- To donate online, go to our website, click on the **Giving Tab**, then choose **Lutheran Disaster Response** from the drop-down menu.



URGENT UPDATE FROM GLOBAL REFUGE (PREVIOUSLY LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES - LIRS): FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HALTS ALL FUNDING FOR RECENTLY ARRIVED REFUGEES

- On Friday, January 24, Global Refuge received a stop-work order from the federal government, calling for our organization to immediately stop serving the nearly 6,000 newly arrived refugees in our care. These children and families fled war, violence, or persecution and came to the United States through the official U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. They arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs and rely on the initial assistance Global Refuge provides for urgent needs like housing, food, healthcare, finding



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work, and enrolling their children in school.

- Your gifts are the only way we can assure that refugees in our care can access the essential resources promised to them. Provide critical support to newly arrived children and families today at <https://www.globalrefuge.org>

IOWA FAITH LEADERS STAND WITH IMMIGRANTS

- Iowa's bishops and religious leaders, including Northeastern Iowa Synod Bishop Kevin Jones, issued a joint letter affirming support for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, joining the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Released on MLK Day 2025, the letter emphasizes our shared humanity, denounces harmful rhetoric, and commits to advocating for fair and compassionate treatment of all migrants.
- Leaders from Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, and Presbyterian traditions signed the statement, pledging to walk alongside immigrant neighbors in pursuing justice and dignity. Read the full letter at <https://neiasynod.org/2025/01/immigration-support/>
- "Know Your Rights Toolkit" and Family Safety Planning guides are **available in multiple languages** at catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/kyr. The guides assist immigrant families to prepare for emergencies and understand their legal rights.

EPIC SCHOLARSHIP/MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE to Sponsor Adult Forum Featuring Thrivent's Jeff Olinger-- February 16th

- Last February the EPIC Scholarship/Mission Endowment Fund Committee held an Adult Forum presented by the Trust Department of Decorah Bank and Trust Co. Erick Kepart was the presenter and the event was well attended. This February the committee is offering an Adult Forum featuring Jeff Olinger of Thrivent Financial. It will be held at 11:00 am February 16th in the Gathering Space and is open to Thrivent members and non- members alike. The Forum will be centered on future planning and will be unstructured. Any and all questions are welcome. After last year's session several members of the congregation expressed their appreciation for the program and were able to complete their estate plans. Get your coffee and goodies in the Fellowship Hall and bring them to the Gathering Space for Jeff's presentation.

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BRIAN SOLBERG RECEIVES 2025 EXCELLENCE IN COLLABORATION AWARD

- Member **Brian Solberg** is the recipient of the Decorah Area Chamber of Commerce's second **Excellence in Collaboration Award**, presented annually to "an individual or team that demonstrates successful cooperation, collaboration, or innovation to positively impact the quality of life for Luther College campus and the community of Decorah. The recipient may have worked on a specific project, event, effort, or initiative that ultimately benefits campus life, community vibrancy, health and wellness, open communication, or the local economy."
- Solberg, Luther College Assistant Professor of Health and Exercise Science, was praised for his lifetime of facilitating connections between campus and community, with notable mention for his more than 18 years and 3,000 hours of service with Nordic Fest.
- For photos and additional information, go to [this article at Decorah News](#).



ELCA BISHOP EATON REACTS TO ACCUSATIONS BY ELON MUSK AND MICHAEL FLYNN OF "MONEY LAUNDERING" BY LUTHERAN AID ORGANIZATIONS

- **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, accused Elon Musk, head of the Department of Government Efficiency, and others of spreading "misinformation" and calling funding to Lutheran aid organizations "illegal", casting baseless doubt on longstanding federal funding agreements, including to resettle refugees.
- Eaton **posted a video** debunking comments by Musk and others on Sunday, February 2. "Despite misinformation and baseless doubt cast today on funding that supports Lutheran organizations across our country, the ELCA remains steadfast in our commitment and work with our many Lutheran partners and expressions of our church," Eaton said. "The ELCA is also concerned for other faith-based communities and organizations who have similarly come under attack."



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- The controversy began late Saturday evening, when Michael Flynn, a retired Army general who previously served as an adviser to President Donald Trump, **published a post on X** alongside screenshots of a spreadsheet detailing federal funding dispersed to Lutheran groups in the last two years. The spreadsheet, which also included organizations that are not Lutheran, listed groups such as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (now Global Refuge), one of several organizations that partner with the federal government to resettle refugees; Pacific Lutheran University; various chapters of Lutheran Social Services, and even Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation, Inc.
- Without citing evidence, Flynn accused the groups, who have long standing funding agreements with the government, of “money laundering,” a federal crime. He also insisted the numbers amounted to “billions” of American taxpayer dollars, a claim not supported by the attached spreadsheet.
- Musk **quote-posted Flynn’s claims**, saying, “the (Department of Government Efficiency) team is rapidly shutting down these illegal payments.” To read more about this controversy, go to religionnews.com/2025/02/03/musk-spotlights-federal-funds-for-lutheran-social-services-calls-them-illegal-payments/
- To write to your representatives in Congress, you can find phone numbers, addresses, and email links at goodshepherddecorah.org/social-justice-team

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2025 SUMMER CAMPS AT EWALU - GOOD SHEPHERD CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

- Discounts for **early registration** are available! Registration forms **received or postmarked by February 28, 2025** are eligible for the **First Early Discount** (\$40 off most full-week youth programs). The **Second Early Discount** (\$20 off most full-week youth programs) is eligible **until April 18, 2025**.
- The **2025 Summer Program Guide and Schedule for camps for Grades 1-12, June 8-August 8**, as well as **Registration** are available here: ewalu.org/summer-camp **Brochures** are on the table in the Gathering Space.
- Camps for **Grades 9-12** include a number of **off-site programs in Wisconsin, Iowa, and on the Mississippi, featuring backpacking, canoeing, rock-climbing, rafting, or house boating.**
- **Camperships of \$100 are available to Good Shepherd campers** attending EWALU this summer. Please notify the Church Office at office@goodshepherddecorah.org when you register, and write on your EWALU registration that Good Shepherd is providing a \$100 campership.
- Campers are responsible for the remaining costs for the camp.



JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING January 21, 2025 AGENDA

Attending: Pr April Ulring Larson, Chris Johnson, Marilyn Rue, Karin Martin-Hiner, Lise Kildegaard, Brian Caton, Kris Peterson, Anne Clausen, and Sara Hopkins

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?

Lise moves the discussion of flock ministry leadership be moved to the discussion agenda.
Chris moves to accept the agenda Marilyn 2nd it and it passed.

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 December 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
2. Staff Update
3. Ministry and Communications Coordinator
4. Director of Youth and Education
5. Visitation help
6. Family weekend in February
7. Lent
2. Call Committee Report: Anne Clausen & Karin Martin-Hiner The process is moving forward with Zoom and live interviews moving forward.
3. President's Report:
 1. Annual Meeting Preparation
 2. 2 F&G proposals:
 1. Old Patio Chairs Proposal Sara makes a motion and Lise seconds the motion to donate half the chairs to the depot and half to Kathi Mitchell of Neighbors Helping Neighbors new immigrant group.

JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

2. Garden Proposal Chris makes a motion and Karin seconded to approve the application for a depot grant to improve the garden.

4. Council Approval to change signers on our ELCA Credit Union Account to:
 1. Tristan OcchipintiAnne makes a motion and Sara 2nd that we change signers on our Credit Union Account.
5. 2025 Proposed Budget: Chris Johnson, Tim Lecander, Sara Hopkins
 1. Benevolence considerations were presented: Martha Steele; David Judisch, Jason Martin-Hiner, Martha Monson Lowe and George Lowe
6. Nominations: Chris Johnson
7. Reception of Treasurer's Report - **Updated to the January Report as of 1/22/25**

Announcements

1. Newsletter Deadline is Thursday Jan. 25
2. Committee reports/summaries due to office on Second Monday of the month, 1/13
3. Agenda with committee links emailed to Council Third Monday of the month 1/20 Please read prior to the Council meeting.
4. Next Council meeting (third Tuesday of month) is February 18th
5. Thank-you's and appreciation time

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

Education Committee: Link to minutes

- 1.

Outreach and Hospitality Committee:

Facilities and Grounds Committee: Link to Report

- 1.

Stewardship Committee: Link to Report

- 1.

Worship and Music Link to Report

- 1.

Closing Prayer

Chris moves to adjourn and Anne 2nd and the meeting was adjourned in a timely manner.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am In-person Worship 10:45am Fellowship Time 10:45am Sunday School 2pm Decorah Farmers Ma 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 2pm Violin lessons 6:30pm AL/ANON 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. J 3:30pm Piano lessons 4pm Violin lessons 7pm WELCA Circle Mtg. G. 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 5pm English language clas 7pm Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Band rehearsal 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 12:15pm Violin lessons 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Kinderhaus Open Hc 4pm Fellowship Setup
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Meeting 9:30am In-person Worship 10:45am Fellowship Time 10:45am Sunday School 11am Annual Meeting 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 2pm Violin lessons 6:30pm AL/ANON 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. J 3:30pm Piano lessons 4pm Stewardship Commit 4pm Violin lessons 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 9:45am Staff Mtg 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 4pm Call Committee Meeti 5pm English language clas 7pm Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Band rehearsal 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 12:15pm Violin lessons 5pm Decorah Community 6:15pm Racial Justice Tea 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Tag Sunday Installation of Council/Leac 9:30am In-person Worship 10:45am Fellowship Time 10:45am Sunday School 12pm Pleasant Valley Meer 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 2pm Violin lessons 6:30pm AL/ANON 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. J 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 3:30pm Piano lessons 4pm Violin lessons 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Eastern Star/Arln Fa 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 1pm Wellington Place Com 2:30pm Aase Haugen Con 5pm English language clas 7pm Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Band rehearsal 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 12:15pm Violin lessons 1pm Travel Club 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Kinderhaus 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am In-person Worship 10:45am Fellowship Time 10:45am Sunday School 11am MEF Adult Forum 4:30pm Eat, Play, Love 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Kinderhaus 9am Church Office Hours 10am Staff Mtg 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 2pm Violin lessons 6:30pm AL/ANON 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. J 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 3:30pm Piano lessons 4pm Violin lessons 6pm Sons of Norway 7pm Congregation Council 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 1pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:30pm Worship/Music M 5pm English language clas 7pm Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Band rehearsal 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 12:15pm Violin lessons 12:45pm MEF Committee I 5pm Oneota Community C 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luther College RIC 30 Yr Ai 9:30am In-person Worship 10am Luther College 30 Yr 10:45am Fellowship Time 10:45am Sunday School 11am Adult Forum: Prayer I 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 2pm Violin lessons 6:30pm AL/ANON 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 9am Church Office Hours 9:15am Bible Study w Pr. J 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 3:30pm Piano lessons 4pm Violin lessons 7pm WELCA Circle Mtg. G. 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 5pm English language clas 7pm Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Band rehearsal 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 12:15pm Violin lessons 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church Office Hours 10am Kinderhaus in Fellow 4pm Sacred Journey to Pe 	<p>1</p>