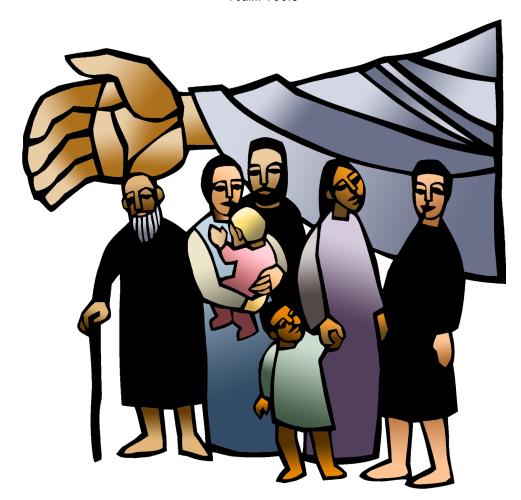
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Psalm 100:3



March 16th - Second Sunday in Lent

Our theme for the Lenten season is, "Lord Jesus, You Are Our Song As We Journey." Martin Luther said, "The only true theology is a theology of the cross, not the false theology of glory." We need to be constantly reminded by Luther and Apostle Paul, the Gospel writers and the entire Scriptures, of our God who is revealed most clearly, not in glory but in the cross, in weakness, in suffering, in loss, in loneliness, pain, and sorrow.

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.

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: "Let all the world in every corner sing" – Daniel Kallman 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 #735 "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"



*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.

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FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

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

PSALM: Psalm 27

- ¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

 The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?
- ²When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.
- ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.
- ⁴ One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze

upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.

- ⁵ For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.
- ⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD.
 - ⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call; have mercy on me and | answer me.
 - ⁸ My heart speaks your message— | "Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.
- ⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.
 - 10 Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me, the LORD will | take me in.
 - 11 Teach me your | way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.
 - 12 Subject me not to the will | of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.
 - ¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD in the land | of the living!
 - 14 Wait for the LORD | and be strong.

 Take heart and wait | for the LORD!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



*GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

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

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of

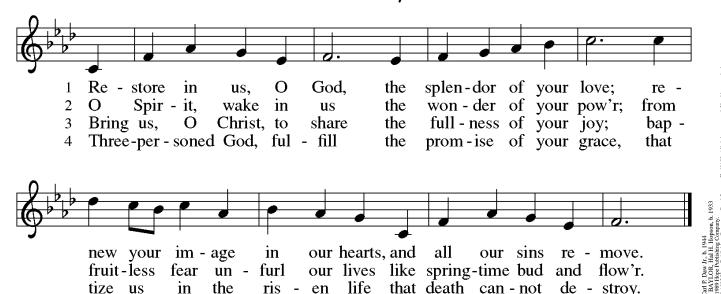
Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #328 Restore in Us, O God



search-ing ends, may see

you face

face.

*APOSTLES' CREED:

when all

our

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

OUR SHARED MISSION: BISHOP KEVIN JONES

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Sleep Song" – Margaret Bonds

*OFFERTORY SONG: ELW #811 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"





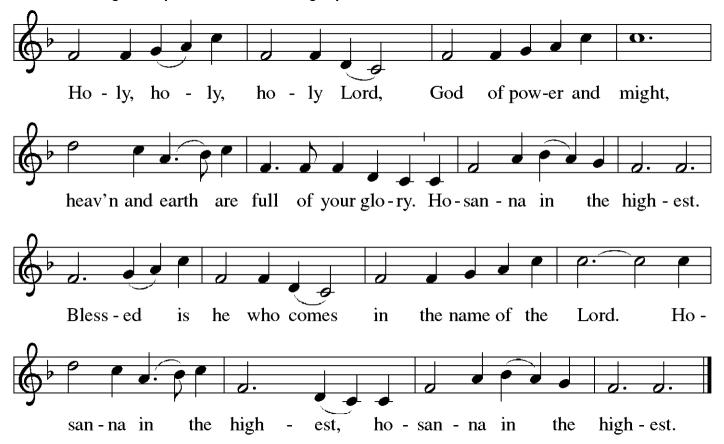
*OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray... Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING - HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise. It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:



*WORDS OF INSTITUTION – THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours now and forever. Amen

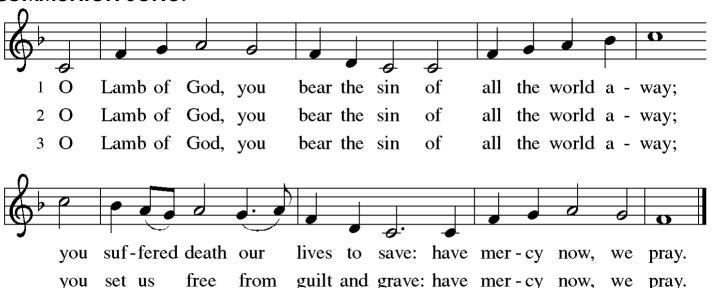
HOLY COMMUNION: All are welcome at Christ's table.

peace with

- Worshippers are welcome to stand or kneel at the altar rail.
- Communion is served in the pews for those who wish to remain seated.
- If you prefer only a blessing, indicate by placing your hands over your heart.
- Gluten and dairy free bread and red wine/white grape juice are available to all.
- Egg-free wheat wafers are also available.
- Please place your wine and juice cups in the tray as you return to your pew.

COMMUNION SONG:

e - ter-nal



God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW #613 "Thy Holy Wings"



ELW #468 "Around You, O Lord Jesus"



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TABLE BLESSING – PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*BLESSING God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG: ACS #1034 "When It Seems the Day Will End"



PRAYER BELL

VOTING MEMBERS, PLEASE REMAIN FOR OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: PREACHING: Bishop Kevin T. Jones; PRESIDING: Pastor April Ulring Larson; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; VIOLINIST: Anishka Vogl; ASSISTING MINISTER: Martin Klammer; LECTOR/READER: Jane Kemp; USHERS: Karla and Lindsay Erdman; GREETER: Germano Streese; AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Alex Bodnar; FELLOWSHIP: Bethany Volz, John Jefferson, Marion Pruitt-Jefferson, Kathy Reed, Hayley Jackson.

A special thank you to Aurora for the beautiful choral music enhancing our worship today. Luther College's Aurora is directed by Dr. Adrianna Tam.

WELCOME BISHOP KEVIN JONES!

The Rev. Kevin T. Jones was elected Bishop of the Northeastern lowa Synod at the 2021 Synod Assembly and begin serving a six-year term on Sept. 1. He most recently served as pastor to Youth, Families and Education for Trinity Lutheran in Mason City, lowa, from 2014 to 2021. Prior to that, he served as pastor to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection at Marion, lowa, from 2001 to 2014, and as pastor to Blair Lutheran Churches at Blair Wis., from 1993 to 2001.



Bishop Jones earned a bachelor's degree in English at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Mich., in 1986 and a Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul in 1993. His internship was served among the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Novato, Calif.

Bishop Jones currently serves on the Board of Directors for Lutheran Services in Iowa, Ewalu Camp and Retreat Center in Strawberry Point, IA, and North Central Iowa Habitat for Humanity in Mason City. He is married to Amy, who is a nutrition and wellness specialist for the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. They have two adult children, Nate and Sara.

STARTING MAY 1st - NEW GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF MEMBER GABBY BIZAL:

New Luther graduate Gabby Bizal has accepted the twofold, now combined position of Youth Director and Ministry and Communications Coordinator at Good Shepherd. We are so excited! We will have a special "Gabby day" to welcome and begin to get to know Gabby Bizal on April 23rd. More information about this faithful and gifted sister in Christ, who joins our staff at Good Shepherd on May 1st, will be coming in our April newsletter.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES: All are welcome at Lenten Evening Prayer services at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary on each of the five Wednesdays in Lent: **March 12, 19, 26,** and **April 2 and 9.** Simple Soup Suppers follow each Wednesday Worship.

Preaching at each Wednesday Worship:

March 12: Rev. Dr. Wanda Deifelt, Luther College Professor of Religion; Brazilian Lutheran pastor

March 19: Dr. David Scott, Ph.D., Director of Mission Theology and Strategic Planning at the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church

March 25: Rev. Melissa Bills, Luther College Pastor and Director of Campus Ministries

April 2: Dr. Martin Klammer, Luther College Professor of English;

April 9: Rev. Dr. Rolf Svanoe, retired ELCA pastor

LENTEN RECITAL SERIES AT GOOD SHEPHERD: This year's **2025 Lenten Recital Series** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church once again features a variety of music on three Wednesdays during Lent, from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the church sanctuary. All recitals are <u>free</u> and open to the public. Come and spend your BYO lunch time here! On **March 19**, **Anishka Vogel**, Luther College senior music major and Good Shepherd Music Intern, will perform a solo violin recital. On **March 26**, enjoy meditative music featuring **Craig Hultgren**, cello and **Brooke Joyce**, piano and organ.

YOUTH LENTEN PROJECT SUPPORTS LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA: This year's Lenten Project, sponsored by Good Shepherd youth, will raise funds for Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). The goal is \$5,000. Because of the recent targeting of Lutheran aid organizations nationally and within Iowa, students felt it was important to remind the congregation of the important work being done each day by LSI across Iowa. A Lutheran Services of Iowa fact and offering prayer, written by students during Sunday School time throughout Lent, will be presented by youth each Wednesday and Sunday during Lent. Donations for LSI can be placed in a special art piece, created by our younger Sunday School students, at the altar during the Offertory Wednesdays and Sundays through Palm Sunday. If you'd like to write a check, make it to Good Shepherd with Youth Lenten Project on the memo line.

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:

- Lise Kildegaard
- Amanda Schwoegler
- Anne Clausen
- Bob Wilson
- Mickey Slind
- Scott Barnes
- Jon Wendling
- Helen Hermeier
- James Barth
- Ginny Olson
- Stephanie Hoff

- Wanda Rueber
- Stacey Nalean-Carlson
- LaVerne Ramsey
- Scott Ulring
- Phillip Swanson
- Harland Nelson
- Dennis Martin, Marv & Mickey Slind's brother-in-law
- Ingrid Callaghan
- Carrie Solberg
- Jutta Anderson

Those in a time of crisis:

• Mike Sammons, our staff custodian, and his family (Rachael Mun and daughters Althea and Eleanor), in the wake of a house fire

Those who grieve:

- Glendalu Wuest and family, upon the death of her husband Dick Wuest on Monday, March 3rd.
- Megan Buckingham and family, upon the death of her grandmother Barbara Movall on Thursday, February 20th.

Those serving the needs of others:

- Martha Monson Lowe
- Maryn Olson, Director of Lutheran Disaster Response
- Pastor 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, March 16th: Second Sunday in Lent

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

Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Preaching: Bishop Kevin Jones

All Congregation Meeting: 11:00 AM; Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 19th: Lenten Wednesday Worship

Worship at 5:30 PM; Sanctuary

Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Preaching: Dr. David Scott

Simple Soup Supper: 6:15 PM; Fellowship Hall; soups provided by the Yellow

Flock

Sunday, March 23rd: Third Sunday in Lent — New Member Sunday

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

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Fellowship Time: 10:45 AM; Fellowship Hall; treats provided by the Pink Flock

Wednesday, March 25th: Lenten Wednesday Worship

Worship at 5:30 PM; Sanctuary

Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Preaching: Rev. Melissa Bills

Simple Soup Supper: 6:15 PM; Fellowship Hall; soups provided by the Green

Flock

Sunday, March 30th: Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Fellowship Time: 10:45 AM; Fellowship Hall; treats provided by the Pink Flock

Wednesday, April 2nd: Lenten Wednesday Worship

Worship at 5:30 PM; Sanctuary

Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Preaching: Dr. Martin Klammer

Simple Soup Supper: 6:15 PM; Fellowship Hall; soups provided by the Blue

Flock

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.



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.

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

Pastor April Ulring Larson
(563) 217-0741
pastorapril@goodshepherddecorah.org
Brooke Joyce; Music Director
Tristan Occhipinti; Office & Building Manager
Rylie Bucklin; Director of Children, Youth, and
Family Ministry
Mike Sammons; Custodian

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

701 Iowa Ave Decorah, IA 52101

(563) 382-3963 goodshepherddecorah.org office@goodshepherddecorah.org