# 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 23<sup>rd</sup> - Third 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)** 

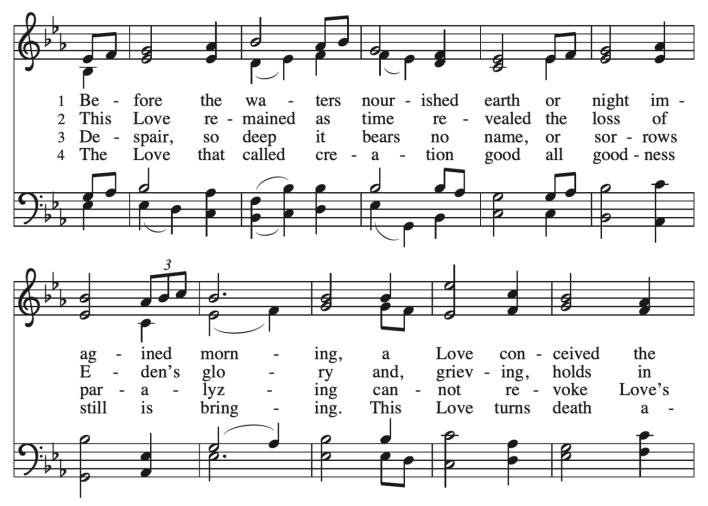
Page numbers (P.) in front of the red hymnal, (#) in back of ELW/ACS congregational responses in **bold**; rise in body or spirit when indicated by \*

#### **GATHERING**

**PRAYER BELL – PRELUDE:** "I'm but a stranger here" – Daniel G. Raney
The prelude is a time when we allow the musical offering to quiet our hearts and minds as we prepare for worship.

#### **WELCOME**

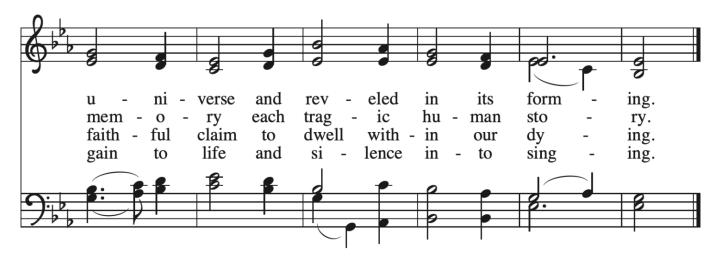
**GATHERING HYMN:** ACS 1049 Before the Waters Nourished Earth



Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

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#### \*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: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight ourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

#### PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eager- <sup>1</sup> ly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there <sup>1</sup> is no water.
  - <sup>2</sup>Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place, that I might behold your power | and your glory.
  - <sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than | life itself; my lips shall | give you praise.
  - <sup>4</sup> So will I bless you as long | as I live and lift up my hands | in your name.
  - <sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods, and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,
  - <sup>6</sup> when I remember you up- | on my bed, and meditate on you in | the night watches.
  - <sup>7</sup> For you have | been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings | | will rejoice.
  - <sup>8</sup> My whole being | clings to you; your right hand | holds me fast.

#### **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if

you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

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

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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.' <sup>34</sup> 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! <sup>35</sup> 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: LBW 358 Glories of Your Name are Spoken (verses 2 and 3)



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809

#### **WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS:**

During the end of the hymn of the day, those being welcomed come stand in front of the altar facing the congregation. Shepherds go to the lectern where they will take turns presenting the new members.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

### Shepherds, at the lectern taking turns, speak words of welcome

We rejoice to welcome you. Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

#### \*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.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Friends in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place? I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us welcome these new members. We rejoice with you in the new life in Christ that we share. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Response is: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

\*PEACE OF CHRIST: The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

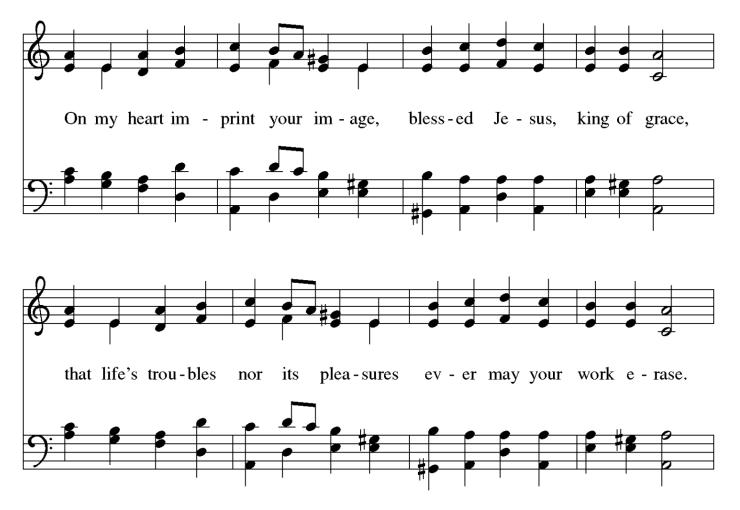
We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary.

### **MEAL**

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING

**OFFERTORY MUSIC:** "Christus Factus Est" – Anton Bruckner

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



Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758



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

# \*GREAT THANKSGIVING – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:

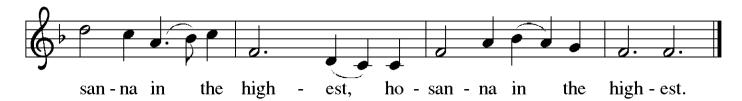
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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:





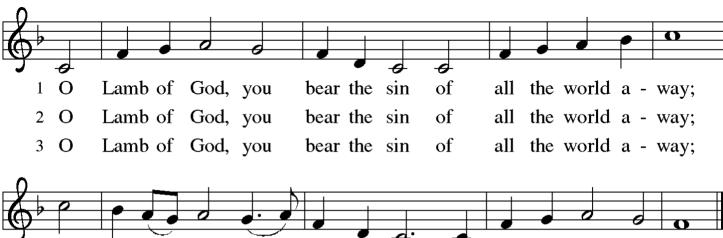
#### \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION - THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

...let us pray as Jesus taught us: 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.

- 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:**

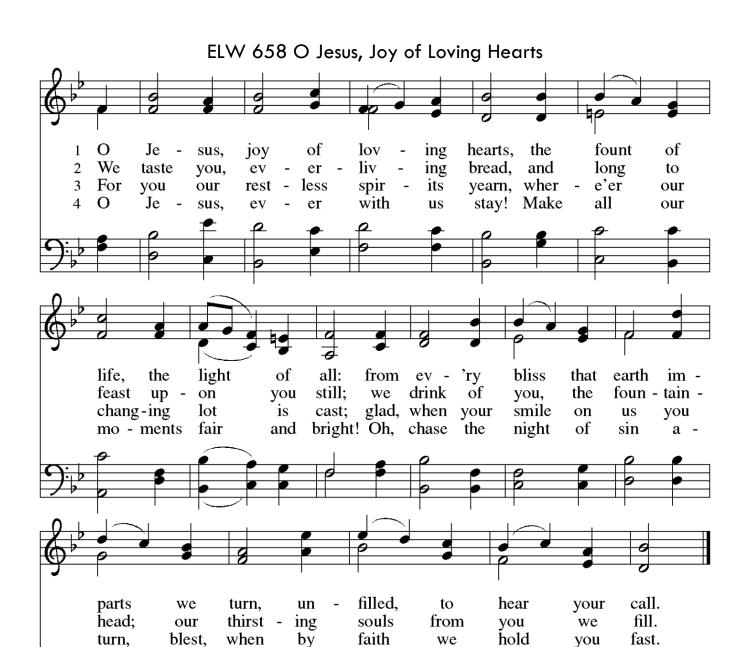


you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray. you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray. e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

# COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW 777 Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty (verses 1-4)



Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374. Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt. Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

Shed

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**TABLE BLESSING** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace forever. **Amen.** 

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#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

# **SENDING**

#### SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BLESSING

### \*SENDING SONG: ELW 342 There in God's Garden (verses 1-4)



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**DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. Thanks be to God!

### PRAYER BELL - POSTLUDE: "Hyfrydol" - arr. Chip De Stefano

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: PREACHING AND

PRESIDING: Pastor April Ulring Larson; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; VIOLINIST: Anishka Vogl; ASSISTING MINISTER: Richard Ylvisaker; LECTOR/READER: Ray Torresdal; ALTAR GUILD SERVERS: Linda Groe, Ann Naslund; USHERS: Tim Lecander, Hayley Jackson; GREETER: Germano Streese; AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Matt Bills; FELLOWSHIP: June Melby, Bethany Volz, Dianne Burke, Wanda Deifelt, Germano Streese.

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 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. 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). 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.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DICK WUEST MARCH 29: Good Shepherd member Richard Emery Wuest, 90, died on March 3, 2025, at Eastern Star Arlin Falck Assisted Living in Decorah, where he lived with his wife of 62 years, Glendalu. A Memorial Service is Saturday, March 29 at 1:30 p.m. A coffee fellowship follows in the Fellowship Hall, with a Celebration Gathering at Pulpit Rock Brewing Company at 4:00 p.m. The funeral will be streamed live; look for details in our weekly news. We need volunteers to bring cookies or bars for the coffee time after the service. Sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Space, online at goodshepherddecorah.org/wuest-funeral-helpers or on our website under the SIGN-UPS tab.

**PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF OUR NEIGHBORS!** We have learned that it has repeatedly happened that worshippers at Good Shepherd parking on lowa Ave. have blocked the driveway of one of the church's neighbors. Please help our church be a respectful part of our community and be mindful that your parking doesn't prevent our neighbors from accessing their property!

**HELP MIKE SAMMONS AND RACHAEL MUNN REBUILD:** Mike's father has set up a GoFundMe site to aid with recovery from the fire at Mike and Rachael's house on March 8. For information about the recovery process and to donate, go to **gofundme.com/f/help-mikes-family-rebuild-after-house-fire**.

NEW LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT EQUIPMENT: The Facilities and Grounds Committee is excited to announce that with our new EGO battery operated landscape management equipment, Good Shepherd is finally truly Carbon Neutral! Check out the EGO riding lawn mower, trimmer, blower, and lawn mower on display today in the Solar Courtyard. The mower shed will soon be "electrified", with all tools and charging infrastructure housed there. Good Shepherd's gas-powered lawn equipment, including a 2018x350 John Deere 48 inch riding lawn mower, Toro 21 inch push mower, and a Stihl string trimmer, is for sale. If you're interested, contact Jim Fritz at 379-7363.

#### ITEMS NEEDED FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BABY AND PERSONAL CARE

KITS: Donate items for LWR Personal Care kits and Baby Care kits, to be assembled in April. Donations can be dropped off in containers in the Gathering Space and Fellowship Hall. Items needed include: new, dark-colored bath towels (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"); 4-5 ounce wrapped bars of soap, any brand; new metal nail clippers; sleepers without feet; cloth diapers, flat fold; dark-colored hand towels. Thank you for your donations!

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Megan Buckingham and family, upon the death of her grandmother Barbara Movall on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 23rd: Third 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, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>: 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** 

# Sunday, April 6th: Fifth 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 Red Flock

# Wednesday, April 9th: Lenten Wednesday Worship

Worship at 5:30 PM; Sanctuary

Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Rolf Svanoe

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

**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

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