## 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 5th - Ash Wednesday

### 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 \*

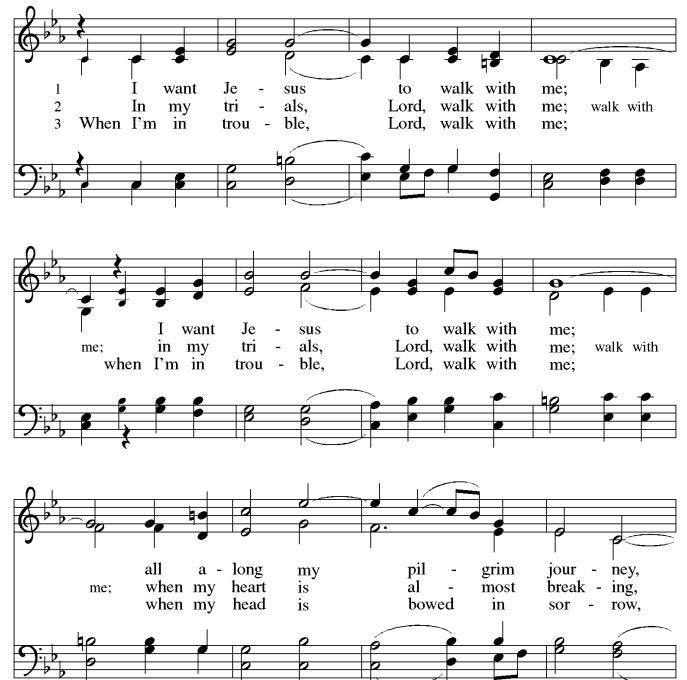
### **GATHERING**

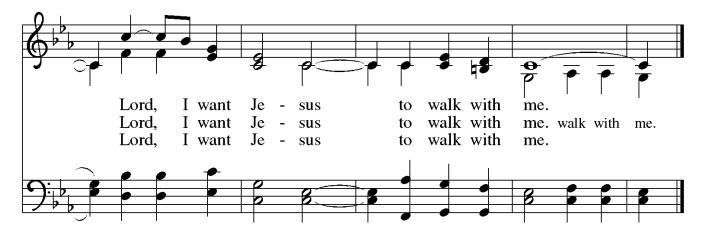
#### **WE GATHER IN SILENCE**

#### PRAYER BELL

#### **WELCOME**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #325 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"





\*GREETING: The Lord be with you. And also with you.

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY: Let us pray. Gracious God... Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.

<sup>1</sup> Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. <sup>3</sup> "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup> Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

#### PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, and cleanse me | from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup> For I know | my offenses, and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- <sup>6</sup> Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me, and would have me know wisdom | deep within.
- <sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear | joy and gladness; that the body you have broken | may rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face | from my sins, and blot out | all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean | heart, O God, and renew a right spir- | it within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away | from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of | your salvation and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.
- <sup>13</sup> Let me teach your ways | to offenders, and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- <sup>14</sup> Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation, and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, o- | pen my lips,

and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

- <sup>16</sup> For you take no delight in sacrifice, or <sup>1</sup> I would give it. You are not pleased <sup>1</sup> with burnt offering.
- <sup>17</sup> The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

<sup>20b</sup> We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup> As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

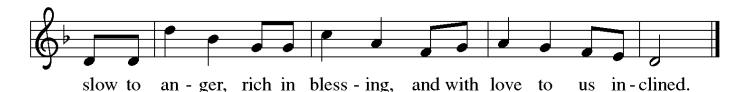
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

- <sup>2</sup> "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- <sup>5</sup> "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- <sup>16</sup> "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- <sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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

### **SERMON**

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #321 "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"



Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 194TH, Trente quatre pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551

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#### INVITATION TO LENT

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN:**

Most holy and merciful God,

we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven,

that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, O God.** 

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God**.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.** 

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us**, **O God**.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.** 

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.** 

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.** 

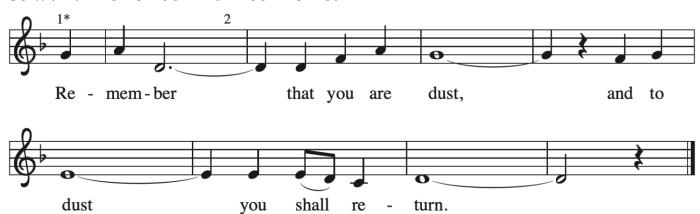
Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great... Amen.** 

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES:** As you are ready, come to the altar rail.

Hymns: ELW #606 "Our Father, We Have Wandered"



#### ACS #919 "Remember That You Are Dust"



Text: Ash Wednesday liturgy Music: CROSS OF ASHES, Mark Mummert, b. 1965 Music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

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#### After all return to their seats:

\*Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

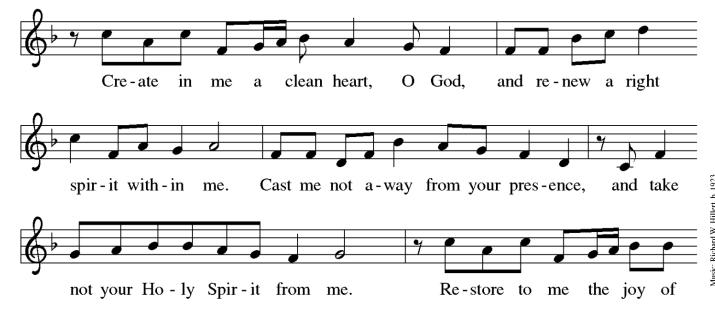
Almighty God showers mercy upon you, forgives you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life. Amen. Amen.

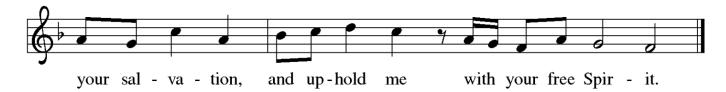
\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: When indicated, respond: receive our prayer.

### **MEAL**

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Inter Vestibulum" – Cristóbal de Morales

\*OFFERTORY SONG: ELW #186 "Create In Me a Clean Heart"





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

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

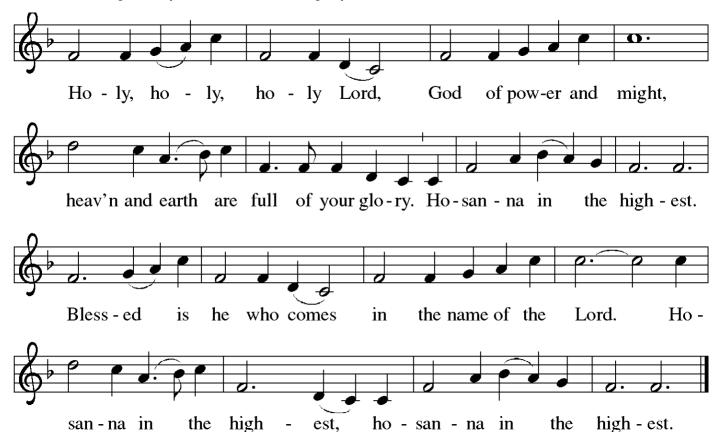
Lift up your hearts.

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:



#### \*PRAYER:

Holy God...with every breath. We praise you, O God.

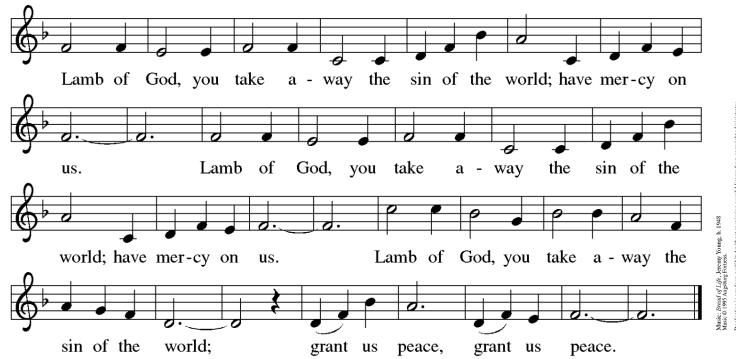
Generations bless your faithfulness...into the future. We bless you, O God. We give you thanks for your dear Son...with us now. We thank you, O God. ...we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

#### LORD'S PRAYER: Our father...

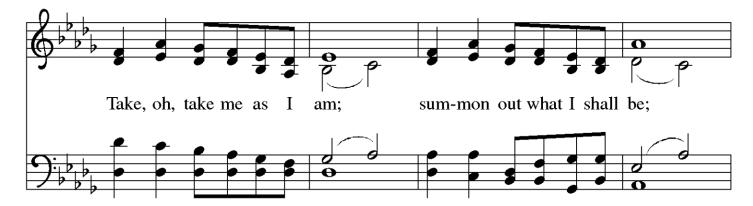
**HOLY COMMUNION:** All are welcome at Christ's table.

- 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:** ELW #195 "Lamb of God"



#### **COMMUNION HYMNS:** ELW #814 "Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"





ELW #592 "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

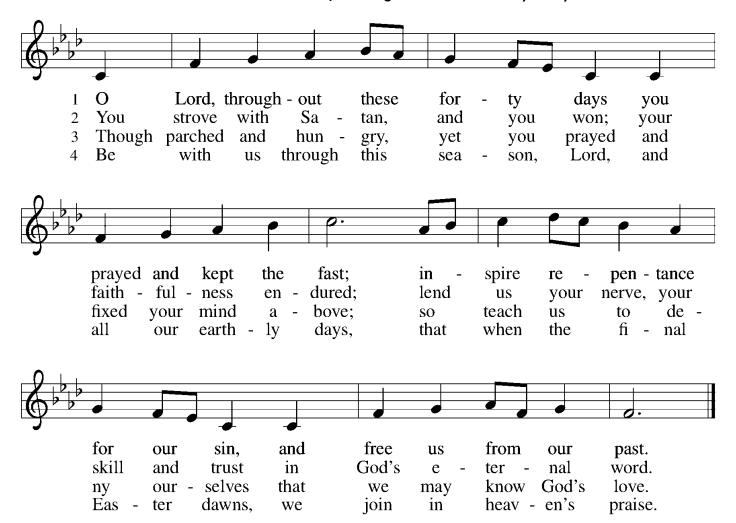


Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

### **TABLE BLESSING - PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **SENDING**

SENDING SONG: ELW #319 "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"



Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin, Augsburg Fortress

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### \*BLESSING

\*ASH WEDNESDAY DISMISSAL: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.** 

## **PRAYER BELL - POSTLUDE:** Fugue in Bb minor - J. S. Bach

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 & PRESIDING: Pastor April Ulring Larson; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; ASSISTING MINISTER: Marion Pruitt-Jefferson; LECTOR/READER: Germano Streese; USHERS: John Jefferson, Wanda Deifelt.

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:

Wed. March 12: Rev. Dr. Wanda Deifelt, PhD; (Lutheran Church in Brazil)

Wed. March 19: Dr. David Scott, PhD; (United Methodist Church)

Wed March 25: Rev. Melissa Bills, DM candidate; (ELCA)

Wed. April 2: Dr. Martin Klammer, PhD; (MA, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago)

Wed. April 9: Rev. Dr. Rolf Svanoe; DM; (ELCA)

**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! The series kicks off on **March 12**, featuring students in the organ studio of **Alexander Meszler**, Luther College organist. 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.

## 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
- Bob Naslund
- Scott Barnes
- Marilyn Anderson
- Jon Wendling
- Helen Hermeier
- James Barth
- Ginny Olson
- Stephanie Hoff
- Wanda Rueber
- Stacey Nalean-Carlson
- 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:

- 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, Wednesday, March 5th: Ash Wednesday

Worship at 7:00 PM; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes Preaching and Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson

## Sunday, March 9th: First 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 12th: Lenten Wednesday Worship

Worship at 5:30 PM; Sanctuary

Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson Preaching: Rev. Dr. Wanda Deifelt

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

Flock

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup>: 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

**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 <a href="mailto:goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement">goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement</a> or by scanning the code.



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

## **GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:**

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

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