

SELECTED MILESTONES

July 2, 1958

Groundbreaking for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

September 7, 1958

Laying of cornerstone.

September 14, 1958

First worship service; held outdoors

First Sunday School

November 24, 1958

Good Shepherd formally established

December 7, 1958

Pastor Palmer Russeth installed; last service September 1965 (deceased April 28, 2003)

December 14, 1958

First Baptism

May 17, 1959

First Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

June 21, 1959

Dedication of sanctuary and west wing. Sovik, Mathre & Associates, Architect, Northfield, MN; Stoltz Construction Co., New Hampton, IA

October 17, 1965

Pastor David R. Berg installed; last service June 16, 1974

July 1967-July 1999

Quilt shows for Nordic Fest, first at Good Shepherd, later at the high school

1971

Installation of first wooden pews

August 18, 1974

Pastor Paul M. Hasvold installed; last service July 1, 1998 (deceased January 19, 2015)

November 19, 1978

Dedication of Fuehrer organ (built 1968 in Bremen, Germany)

November 20, 1988

Dedication of the present sanctuary, offices, fellowship hall and educational spaces. Architectural Design Group, Rochester; Finholt Construction, Decorah

April 25, 1993

Property sold to Weston Noble for \$50,000; congregation voted to establish an endowment with the funds and then loan the principal of the endowment to pay off a portion of the mortgage

January 23, 1994

Good Shepherd Endowment Fund approved at the Annual Meeting

August 28, 1994

Weavings by John Skare dedicated, located on front wall of sanctuary

December 1994

Five new church pews built by Gunder Church Furniture placed in sanctuary

October 1995

“Handicapped Access Lot” completed on west side of church building

1998-1999

Interim Pastor Daniel David Wee (deceased November 11, 2011)

May 16, 1999-2014

Pastor Joan A. Mau installed; last service September 1, 2014 (deceased May 24, 2015)

July 2000

Krumkake sales for Nordic Fest replaced the quilt shows

2005

Prayer Shawl Ministry begins

January 21, 2007

Certified as a Reconciling in Christ Congregation (RIC)

November 23, 2008

Celebration of 50 years of Worship, Ministry, and Community

October 25, 2009

Dedication of Hook and Hastings Opus 1193 Organ

September 2010

First Welcome Friends and Neighbors Picnic

2013

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star Certification

June 2013

Launch of present Good Shepherd website <http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org>

November 17, 2013

A Celebration of Gathering: 25th Anniversary of the Expansion of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Building and Mission

November 9, 2014 – July 26, 2015

Interim Pastor April Ullring Larson

March 2015

AED (Automated External Defibrillator) installed in corridor

April-May 2015

Narthex and corridor to Fellowship Hall painted; new furniture installed in

Narthex; cabinets, cubbies and counter built in corridor

May 2015

Donation of Estey baby grand piano

June 2015

New roof installed on Annex

September 13, 2015

Pastor Amy Zalk Larson installed; last service January 7, 2024

January 2016

Purchase of handbells

April 2016

LED lights installed throughout building

June 2016

Good Shepherd sign repaired and reinstalled

June-August 2016

Annex exterior painted; annex interior readied for use as Youth Forum space, annex porch rebuilt

February 1, 2017

Assistant Pastor Marion Pruitt-Jefferson installed

February 8, 2017

First Shepherd's Voice Weekly News and Events published online

February 11, 2017

Welcome sign installed in main entry

March and April, 2017 - present

Lenten Recital Series

May 14, 2017

Dedication of Processional Cross

June 2017

Solar panels installed on the Annex roof

September 2017

Recognized as an AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) Welcoming Congregation

October 2017

Reformation Grove planted in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

June-July 2018

Exterior of church building painted

July 8, 2018

Kathryn Thompson installed as Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

July-September, 2018

Sanctuary renovated; pews refinished

November 4, 2018

Dedication of Alleluia Banner

November 25, 2018

Celebrating 60 Years of Connecting, Growing and Empowering: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1958-2018

June-July 2019

Closed loop, ground source, variable refrigerant flow heating, venting and air conditioning system installed for the Fellowship Hall and education wing.

June 24, 2019

Ordination of Nathan Wicks at Good Shepherd

March 15, 2020

Recording of Sunday service available on YouTube due to closure of church during Covid; no KWLC broadcast of worship services due to closure of Luther College; broadcasts resume May 31, 2020

March 18, 2020 - June 24, 2020

Holden Evening Prayer on Good Shepherd's YouTube channel every Wednesday during Lent through June; reflection and prayer practice by Pastor Amy, with live chat

March 26, 2020 - April 15, 2021

Zoom Thursday Bible Study with Pastor Amy

March, 2020

Creation of flocks and shepherds to offer support and assistance to congregation members during Covid

April, 2020

Fabric Collection bins outside west door for facemasks and gowns for Winneshiek Medical and facemasks for Good Shepherd members

April 7, 2020

Good Shepherd building officially locked and closed except to limited staff during Covid

April 9, 2020

Zoom Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship

April 10, 2020

Good Friday online worship

April 11, 2020

"Do-it-yourself Easter Vigil" kit created by Pastor Melissa Bills, First Lutheran

April 12, 2020

Easter online worship

May, 2020

New outdoor signs by Erik Berg

May 7, 2020

Musicians of all ages invited to create audio or video recordings for online worship

May 10, 2020

Weekly online Children's Sermons initiated by Kathryn Thompson

May 24, 2020

Drive-by Graduation Celebration for high school and college seniors

June, 2020 - April, 2021

Zoom *Gather* monthly Bible Study

June - October, 2020

Garden produce available outside for pickup

June 8, 2020 - May 10, 2021

Bell-ringing and Silent Prayer each Monday to mourn deaths from Covid and racism; Parking Lot Communion Services approximately twice a month after Bell-ringing, with sealed individual communion cups

June 28, October 4 and 18, 2020; January 31 and April 18, 2021

Zoom Adult Forums

July 1-29, 2020

Intergenerational Virtual Vacation Bible School every Wednesday

July 8, 2020 and July 12, 2020

Outdoor communion services

August, 2020

Photo Project: Congregation Members during Covid by Jane Jakoubek, Jane Kemp, and Jeri Laursen

August 2, October 11, November 15, December 6 and 24, 2020; March 14, April

4, 2021

Good Shepherd Virtual Choir during online worship

August 9 and 23, September 13 and 23, October 11, November 8, 2020; May 2, 9, 2021

Outdoor worship with communion and children's sermon; Choir, Band, and Handbell Choir on May 2 and 9

August 30, September 20, October 18, November 1, 15, and 29, 2020; January 24, February 21, March 21, 2021

Zoom Sunday School/Family Worship

September 13, October 11, November 8, 2020; May 2 and 16, 2021

Youth Forum in backyard with masks

September 20, 2020 - March 14, 2021

Zoom Coffee Hours

September, 2020 - April, 2021

Handbell Choir monthly recording sessions in Sanctuary, with masks and physical distancing

October 4 and 18, November 29, December 24, 2020; February 21, March 7, April 4, 2021

Virtual Band during online worship

October 15 and 25, November 22, 2020; January 17, February 28, March 14, April 11, 2021

Zoom Youth Forum

November, 2020

Sunday worship services now televised on Fridays via Public Access Channel

November 1, 2020

Outdoor All Saints Service of Prayer and Communion in front yard

October 25, November 22, 2020; January 7 and 31; March, 14; May 25, 2021

Brief Outdoor Communion service by west door, 11:00 a.m.

December 2, 2020

Zoom Advent Worship services

December 13, 2020; January 17, 2021

Zoom Holy Communion

December 21, 2020

Display of Luminaries; households can take one to display at home

December 25, 2020

Zoom Sunday School Christmas Program

January, 2021 - April 11, 2021

Vicar Kathryn Thompson offers YouTube Children's Sermons twice a month

January 23, 2021

Zoom WELCA Winter Brunch and Annual Meeting

February 7, 2021

Zoom Annual Congregational Meeting

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday Outdoor Services, 12:30 and 5:15 p.m. with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion; Noon online Ash Wednesday service; "Ashes To Go" packets available outside west door, mailed upon request

February 24 - March 24, 2021

Zoom Lenten Worship Services, including Confirmation and Luther College students

March 10 - 31, 2021

Virtual Lenten Music Series featuring 4 Wednesday recitals

April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday Parking Lot Communion, 12:30 and 5:30 p.m.; Zoom Gathering with Holy Communion

April 2, 2021

Good Friday self-guided outdoor Stations of the Cross; Sanctuary open for prayer, 10 at a time with masks and distancing

April 3, 2021

Outdoor Confirmation at Easter Vigil during Covid

April 4, 2021

Easter Festival Worship online; Easter Egg Hunt outside with masks, assisted by Youth Forum

April 25, 2021

First indoor worship service in Sanctuary after Covid with masks and distancing; attendance limited to 50 people, no singing or wind instruments, all windows and entry doors open, limited restroom use, individual sealed communion cups, no Fellowship Hour

April 25, 2021

Sunday School and Youth Forum met indoors with masks

May 2 and 16, 2021

Sunday School met outside with masks

June, July, August, 2021

Amalia Vagts provided pastoral support during summer

June 13, 2021

Second indoor worship service in Sanctuary after Covid, with masks; no attendance limit, congregational singing allowed, limited restroom use, individual sealed communion cups, no Fellowship Hour, choir participants required to be vaccinated

June, 2021

Covid protocols relaxed: indoor worship with masks, no distancing or attendance limit; communion at altar rail with individual sealed communion cups; congregational singing with masks; offering plates passed; Fellowship Hour reinstated with paper products; nursery reopened; small group meetings with masks optional

June 26, 2021

Intergenerational Fun Day outdoors, with fishing, hiking, biking, "Pack Your Own Picnic", s'mores station

June 27, 2021

First Fellowship Hour since March, 2020

July and August, 2021

13 small group get-togethers of members to reflect and reconnect, led by Amalia Vagts and Vicar Kathryn Thompson, masks not required, frozen treats provided

July 4, 2021

Return to gluten-free bread and prefilled, disposable cups of wine/grape juice along with individual sealed communion cups

July 4, 11 & 18, 2021

Good Shepherd Summer Music Series

July 9, 2021

Ordination of Daniel Grainger at Good Shepherd

July 12-14, 2021

Vacation Bible School; brown bag supper provided and masks required if indoors

July 22 - 24, 2021

Nordic Fest Krumkake Booth returns

August 16, 2021 - July, 2024

Kelli Gapinski hired as new Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

August 17, 2021

Updated Covid protocols: masks required indoors for Sunday School, Youth Forum, and Confirmation; teachers and worship leaders must be vaccinated; Fellowship Hour outdoors, with servers masked

September 9, 2021

In-person Bible Study resumes with Zoom option

October 20, 2021 - December, 2024

Erica Yaneff hired as Ministry Support Coordinator

October 23, 2021

Ordination of Amalia Vagts at Good Shepherd

November 7, 2021

Fellowship Hour returns to Fellowship Hall; treats "to go" also offered

November 11, 2021

In-person Bible Study, no Zoom option

November 14, 2021

Thank you event for Jenny Werner, retiring after 6 years as Administrative Assistant

November 21, 2021

Special Congregational Meeting in person and via Zoom approved Audio/Video Project and grand piano upgrade

December, 2021

Fellowship Hour suspended in December, due to high Covid rates in Winneshiek County; Fellowship without Food offered, masks required, individually wrapped chocolates provided

December 19, 2021

Communion by individual sealed communion cups due to high Covid rates in Winneshiek County

December 19, 2021

In-person Youth Christmas Program, masks required, grab 'n go bag supper

January 10, 2022

Covid update due to Omicron variant: no Fellowship Hour or food served in building (except Kinderaus); sealed individual communion cups; masks and distancing required

January 13, 2022

Zoom Bible Study only

January 19, 2022

Brief Service of Holy Communion indoors; Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting cancelled, WELCA Mid-Winter Brunch and Annual Meeting postponed to February 26

January 20, 2022

In-person Bible Study with Zoom option

January 27, 2022

Zoom-only Bible Study until further notice

February 3, 2022

Indoor Brief Service of Holy Communion offered every 3 weeks

February 6, 2022

Racial Justice Statement approved at in-person Annual Congregational Meeting with Zoom option

February 13, 2022 - April 10, 2022

Cross+Generational Conversations replace Sunday School and Youth Forum during Lent, with masks and chocolates to "slip under masks"

February 17, 2022

In-person Bible Study, no Zoom option

March, 2022

Good Shepherd uses Luther College's Covid Alert Levels as threat assessment guide

March 2, 2022

In-person Ash Wednesday services: 12:15 p.m. with Communion and Imposition of ashes; 7:00 p.m. worship service, masks required

March 9 - April 6, 2022

In-person Wednesday Evening Lenten Prayer Services, masks required

March 13, 2022

Fellowship Hour with food and beverage returns, masks required until seated; Faith5 practice during Lent

March 23, April 6, 2022

Lenten Recital Series in Sanctuary

April 14, 2022

Two Maundy Thursday services: 12:15 p.m. Brief Communion Service; 7:00 p.m. Communion with Personal Absolution, First Communion for 2 youth, Stripping of the Altar; masks now optional and respected

April 15, 2022

Good Friday Jazz Worship Service; Family-friendly Stations of the Cross available indoors 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Easter Egg dying

April 16, 2022

Easter Vigil with Service of Fire, Scripture, Water, Holy Communion, and Affirmation of Baptism, with dessert reception in Fellowship Hall for confirmands, families and friends

April 17, 2022

Easter Festival Worship, followed by Easter Brunch Youth Fundraiser in Fellowship Hall; worship now livestreamed on YouTube, with Luther College's KWLC also broadcasting livestream until October 9, 2022

April 24, 2022 - July 24, 2022

Pastor Amy on sabbatical

April 24, 2022 - June, 2022, July 28, 2022

Rev. Rolf Svanoie provided coverage during Pastor Amy's sabbatical

May 5, 2022

Yellow Covid Level - masks recommended in worship and building

May 7, 2022

Youth Night for middle school and high school students, hosted by Luther College Outreach Team

May 12, 2022

Masks now optional in building

May 29, 2022 - September 4, 2022

“Travels with the Spirit” Summer Travel Series with weekly travel testimonies, archived on YouTube; Wandering Sheep Summer Travel Project

June 5, 2022

Congregation voted to partner with Mission Green, LLC, to move forward with the carbon neutral initiative.

June 9, 2022

Yellow Covid Level - masks recommended in worship and building;

June 16, 2022

Red Covid Level - masks required in worship, individual sealed communion cups, outdoor Fellowship Hour

June 23, 2022

Yellow Covid Level - masks recommended in worship and building

July, 2022

Rev. Karla Wildberger provided coverage during Pastor Amy’s sabbatical

July 2, 2022

Green Covid Level - masks optional and respected

July 9, 2022

Red Covid Level - masks required in worship, recommended for other events in building

July 14, 2022

Green Covid Level - masks optional and respected

July 20, 2022

Kitchen renovation completed

July 24, 2022 - July 27, 2022

Boundless NEIA Youth Gathering in Twin Cities

August 2-4, 2022

Compassion Camp Vacation Bible School, dinner provided

August 4, 2022

Red Covid Level - masks required in worship

August 29, 2022

Mike Sammons hired as Facilities Caretaker

September 8, 2022

Green Covid Level - masks optional and respected

September 11, 2022

Return of Welcome Friends and Neighbors Picnic after 2 year Covid hiatus

September 18, 2022

Ordination of Menzi Nkambule at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Jersey City, New Jersey, with Pastor Amy preaching, representing Good Shepherd

September 22, 2022

Yellow Covid Level - masks recommended and respected in worship

September 29, 2022

Green Covid Level - masks optional and respected

October 16, 2022

Covid outbreak among Good Shepherd members, masks recommended during worship, individual communion cups offered, no Fellowship Hour, Youth Group, or Sunday School

October 20, 2022

Yellow Covid Level - masks recommended and respected in worship

October 27, 2022

Green Covid Level - masks optional and respected

November 6, 2022

Special Congregational Meeting approves Governance and Ministry proposal and Reparations Royalties for Spirituals - voting in-person and by Zoom

December 2, 2022

52 solar panels installed on the Good Shepherd roof

December 20, 2022

Covid update: masks optional and respected, use no longer tied to CDC Covid Alert Levels in Winneshiek County; individual sealed communion cups available on request

January 17, 2023

Good Shepherd stopped using natural gas for heating

March 1, 2023

Return of Lenten Simple Soup Suppers since March, 2020, due to Covid

April 3, 2023

Online church directory removed, updated print directory provided

May 7, 2023

Flock Ministry launched, with members/friends divided into 7 flocks, each with 2 shepherds; Ministry and Fellowship support begins in July

May 22, 2023

Tristan Occhipinti hired as new Office and Building Manager

July 3, 2023

Solar Courtyard completed; Special Courtyard Renovation Appeal surpasses goal

July 9, 2023 - July 10, 2023

Youth Service Trip to Waverly and Waterloo

July 31, 2023

50 solar panels installed on the Solar Courtyard roof

September 10, 2023

Dedication of Solar Courtyard

September 10, 2023

Joseph (Tiegen) Doegen ordained at Bethany Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

September 21, 2023

Good Shepherd certified as an Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) Cool Congregation

November 14, 2023

Pollinator Prairie planted

November 20, 2023

Online Church Directory launched with Church Management System "Breeze"

December 6-13, 2023

Masks encouraged during worship due to numerous Covid infections among Good Shepherd members

January 9-June 23, 2024

Interim Pastor David Wrightsman

February 24, 2024

Good Shepherd awarded \$1,000 prize from IPL for leadership and sustainability

May 19, 2024 - June 23, 2024

"Prepare the Way" Mini Stewardship Campaign

June 30-August 11, 2024

Interim Pastor Marion Pruitt-Jefferson

July 14, 2024 - July 21, 2024

12 youth and 2 adults attend ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans; Youth Investors Dessert Banquet and Sharing on July 28, 2024

August 8-9, 2024

Painted Annex and Shed

September 8, 2024 - April 30, 2025

Interim Pastor April Ullring Larson

October 3, 2024

New exterior lighting installed

November 25, 2024

Ordination of Kathryn Thompson

February 2025

2025 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star rating.

March, 2025

Nursery renovation completed

March 16, 2025

Pastor Kristen Larsen Schmidt's call approved at Special Congregational Meeting

March 23, 2025

Good Shepherd fully "carbon neutral" with new battery-powered riding lawn mower, lawn mower, trimmer, and blower. Mower shed electrified.