



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

LARGE PRINT EDITION



Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Introduction: *On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD.

There is more information about our ministry on the back of the bulletin.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*rise in body or spirit when indicated by **

PRAYER BELL AND WELCOME

GREETING:

We gather to worship this night in the strong name of the Trinity, one God, who writes his law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

PRELUDE: *Inter Vestibulum* – José Maurício Nunes Garcia
(text from Joel 2:17, printed below)

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1, 12-13, 15-17

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near!

¹² Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love.

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion!

consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar,

let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "

GATHERING HYMN: *Gather Us In* (vs. 1-3)

532 Red Hymnal



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God,
you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

KIDS' TIME

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13, The Way of Love

(from The Message Paraphrase of Scripture by Eugene Peterson)

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love,
I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

² If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day,
and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps,
but I don't love, I'm nothing.

³⁻⁷ If I give everything I own to the poor
and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr,
but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere.

So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always, Always looks for the best,

Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

⁸⁻¹⁰ Love never dies.

Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end;
understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth,
and what we say about God is always incomplete.

But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

¹¹ When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

¹² We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

¹³ But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation:

Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly.

And the best of the three is love.

PSALMODY: Psalm 51: Create in Me a Clean Heart

188 Red Hymnal

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the upper staff, and the accompaniment is in the lower staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The melody continues in the upper staff, and the accompaniment is in the lower staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The melody concludes in the upper staff, and the accompaniment is in the lower staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14

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

⁹ Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

HOMILY: *Spirit, Change our Hearts*

Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

INVITATION TO LENTEN RECONCILIATION

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to new life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Beloved, God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Just as I Am, Without One Plea (v. 4)

*Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

***PEACE OF CHRIST**

The Peace of Christ be with you all. **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.

OFFERING AND CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Children are invited to come forward to get a pail to collect change and bills for our mission of the month, which is Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

To give online, scan here.

Thank you so much for your support of our shared ministry!



OFFERTORY MUSIC: *There is a Balm in Gilead* – arr. Adolphus Hailstork

OFFERTORY SONG: *Take My Life (v. 5 and 6)* **685 Red Hymnal**

5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

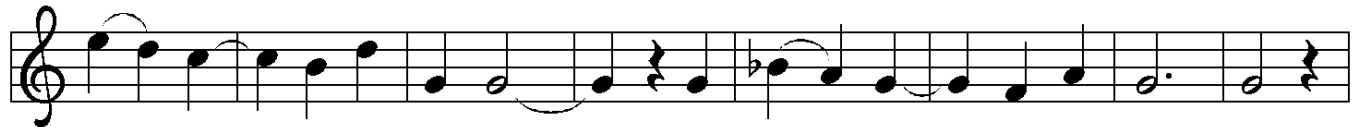
It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



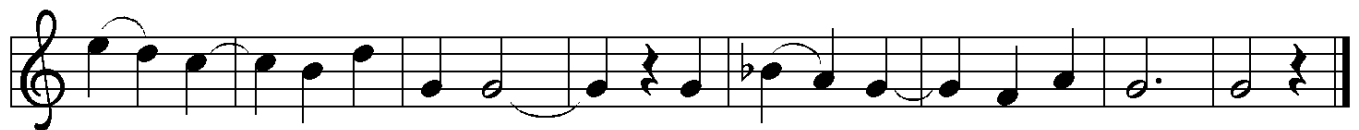
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE:**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father... Amen.

Here is abundance for the journey. Come and be filled.

HOLY COMMUNION AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

All are welcome at Christ's table.

LAMB OF GOD:



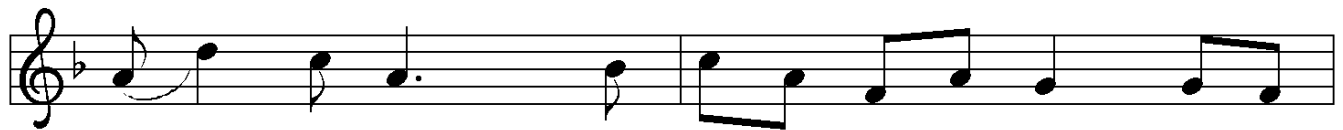
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

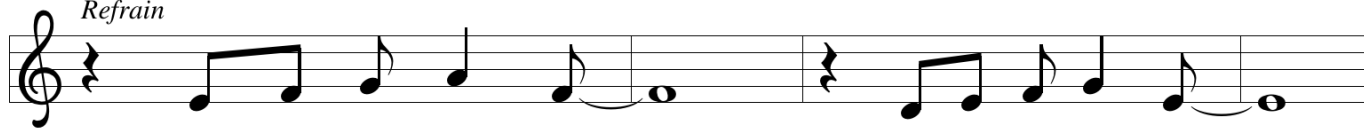
You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Change My Heart, O God (sung twice)

801 Red Hymnal

Refrain



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

End



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Refrain

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

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O Holy Spirit, Enter In

786 Red Hymnal



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in



work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,
nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -
doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -



O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength
fast - ness, that we may fol - low you for - ev - er free, no mat -
ful un - to death and live in love and ho - ly faith, from you



in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is
ter who de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some
true wis - dom learn - ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show - er; by your



giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.
to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.
pow - er Christ con - fess - ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Let us pray... **Amen.**

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

SENDING SONG: *Beautiful Things

925 Purple Hymnal

Cantor will sing the verses. All sing the chorus.

Due to copyright we are unable to print this hymn in the bulletin.

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Believe the Good News. Thanks be to God.

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY:

PREACHING AND PRESIDING: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce

QUARTET: Izzy Clements, Julia Severtson, Connor Sandman, Gabe Hiner

CANTOR: Jonathon Struve

ASSISTING MINISTER: Karl Wicks

LECTOR/READER: Megan Buckingham

USHERS: Brian Solberg, Reg Laursen

Children's Offering for February

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is not an organization but rather a specific fund held by the Immigration Action Network that is used for a large variety of immigration emergencies. It has generous guidelines so it can help just about any immigration related crisis, although it is not used for attorney fees.

Lenten Silent Saturday Retreat - Saturday, February 21, 9am-12pm - First Lutheran Church and the Decorah Contemplative Circle invite you to a free Lenten Silent Saturday at First Lutheran Church, 604 W. Broadway, Decorah. Sign-in and refreshments begin at 8:30 a.m. Attendees are asked to arrive by 8:45. This contemplative morning offers participants an opportunity to pause, reflect, and be still as they prepare their hearts and minds for Lent. For more information, contact Chris Frantsvog at 515-306-1221 or iowatreefarmer@hotmail.com.

This Week at Good Shepherd

Thursday, February 19th: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM

12:45 PM: EPIC Scholarship Committee Meeting

3:30 PM-8 PM: Violin Lessons

5:00 PM: Oneota Co-op Potluck

Friday, February 20th: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-12 PM

Saturday, February 21st:

10:00 AM: Fellowship Hall Setup

Sunday, February 22nd: First Sunday in Lent

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

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 23rd: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM

9:30 AM: Church Staff Meeting

3:30 PM-8 PM: Violin Lessons

6:30 PM: AL/ANON; Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 24th: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM

9:30 AM: Bible Study with Pastor Kristen; Library — all are welcome

7:00 PM: WELCA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 25th: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM

1:00 PM: Acts Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Kristen; Library

3:30 PM: Men's Coffee Ministry; Lefse Lodge Kafe

5:30 PM: Supper for all; Fellowship Hall – Pasta

6:15 PM: Lenten Wednesday Worship

7:15 PM: Choir Practice

8:00 PM: Band Practice



Lent at Good Shepherd

Artwork by Anne Clausen

Each week we will hear stories from Acts acted out and stories from our community shared exploring how the Holy Spirit empowers and leads God's people in unpredictable and powerful ways. We will ponder what it looks like for us to be Spirit-led in this time and place—as individuals and as God's church.

Soup Supper: 5:30 Worship: 6:15

Wed Feb 25: Spirit, Speak Through Us

Wed Mar 4: Spirit, Give Us Courage

Wed Mar 11: Spirit, Put us in the Right Place at the Right Time

Wed Mar 18: Spirit, Open Our Eyes to See You

Wed Mar 25: Spirit, Change our Minds

Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Praying for others is a cherished ministry that everyone can participate in at any time. People on the prayer list are welcome to remain there for as long as is needed.

Those with health concerns:

- Alex Anderson
- Marilyn Anderson
- BJ Overlie
- Mic Martin
- Dick Schmidt,
Brian Larsen-Schmidt's dad
- Wanda Rueber
- Ruth Bruce
- Evah Raney, *aunt of Dan Raney*
- Barbara Nasby, *best friend of Stephanie Hoff*
- Ann Fredrickson,
friend of Gabby Bizal
- Bob Wilson
- Linda and Jim Morgan
- Joan Searles
- Glenda Wuest
- Naomi Craft
- Barbara, *mother of Christy Vrtis*
- Anthony McCabe
- Mickey Slind
- Jon Wendling
- Elizabeth Hermeier
- James Barth
- Ginny Olson
- LaVerne Ramsey
- Phillip Swanson
- Harland Nelson
- Carrie Solberg
- Jutta Anderson

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.

Lenten Bible Study on the Book of Acts

Wednesdays in Lent, 1pm, Good Shepherd Library



If you would like to go deeper into this study of Acts, please join me for a six week Bible Study I wrote called "Get to know the Book of Acts." I will lead these sessions each Wednesday at 1, beginning on February 18 through March 18. In March this will directly follow the Lenten recitals. I will also put a few copies of this resource out in the gathering space for you to read on your own in case this time doesn't work for you.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
701 Iowa Ave. Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 382-3963 office@goodshepherddecorah.org

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS! 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 – just follow the crowd. Sit anywhere!

- **All are welcome at Good Shepherd.** 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. Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero Energy use.
- **Our RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT** was approved by the congregation on February 6th, 2022. Find the full statement at goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement or by scanning the code.
- **ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION**, the bread is all non-gluten. Wine is dark, grape juice light.



GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

(563) 202-0780

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Gabby Bizal; Community Engagement Coordinator

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Brooke Joyce; Music Director

music@goodshepherddecorah.org

Tristan Occhipinti; Office and Building Manager

tristan@goodshepherddecorah.org

Mike Sammons; Custodian