



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 22nd, 2026 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Introduction: *In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.*

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

PRELUDE: Largo – G. F. Handel

CALL TO CONFESSION:

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

Amen.

Let us return to the font and open our hearts to our merciful God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

PSALMODY: *Out of the Depths*

600 Red Hymnal

Psalmody Verse 1: Solo by cantor

Out of the depths I cry to you;
O Lord God, hear me calling.
Incline your ear to my distress
in spite of my rebelling.
Do not regard my sinful deeds.
Send me the grace my spirit needs;
without it I am nothing.

PSALM 130: Read responsively

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

² **O Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you there is forgiveness,
in order that you may be feared.**

Psalmody Verse 2: Low voices

**All things you send are full of grace;
you crown our lives with favor.**

**All our good works are done in vain
without our Lord and Savior.**

**We praise you for the gift of faith;
you save us from the grip of death;
our lives are in your keeping.**

Psalmody Verse 3: High voices

**In you alone, O God, we hope,
and not in our own merit.**

**We rest our fears in your good Word
and trust your Holy Spirit.**

**Your promise keeps us strong and sure;
we trust the cross, your signature,
inscribed upon our temples.**

⁵ I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those
who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;
with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

⁸ **For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins.
Yes, the Lord shall redeem us from all our sins.**

Psalmody Verse 4: All

**My soul is waiting for you, Lord,
as one who longs for morning;
no watcher waits with greater hope
than I for your returning.**

**I hope as Israel in the Lord,
who sends redemption through the Word.
Praise God for grace and mercy!**

***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:**

Almighty God,
**your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon
us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and
serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

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

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were

with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

SERMON: *Living in the Waiting Time*

Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Day by Day*

790 Red Hymnal

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
 Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Response: God in your 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.

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: *Safe in the Arms of Jesus* – arr. David Marlatt

OFFERTORY SONG:



Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.

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

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

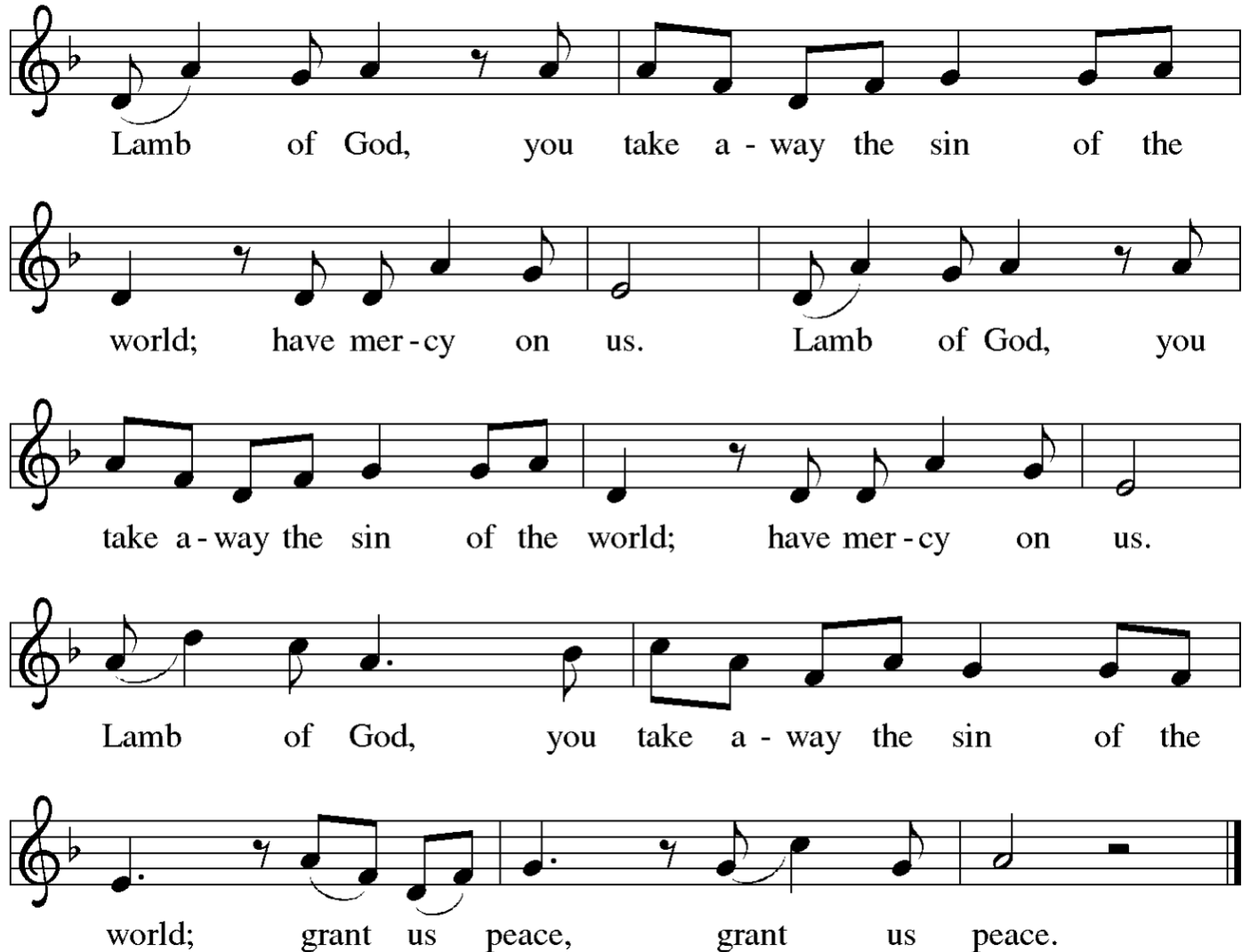
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***LORD'S PRAYER:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

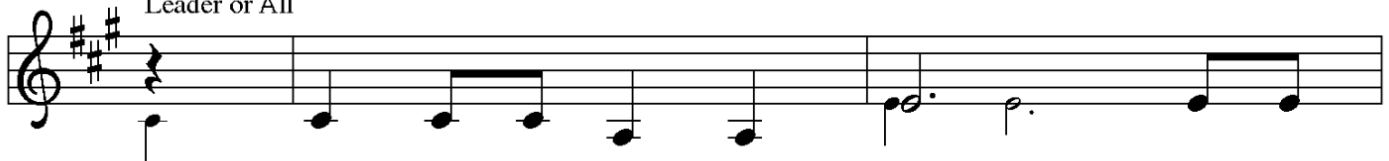
HOLY COMMUNION: *All are welcome at Christ's table.*

COMMUNION SONG:



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.

Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of God, who have



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Refrain
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

773 Red Hymnal

- 1 Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**
- 2 When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**
- 3 When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

TABLE BLESSING

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

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

***SENDING SONG: God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me 1084 Purple Hymnal**

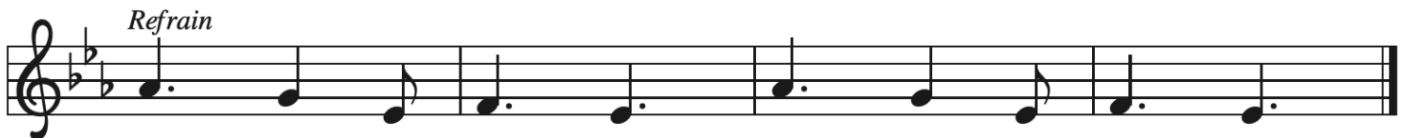
Children are invited to come forward to play percussion instruments during the Sending Song.



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho-ly, great cloud of wit-ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash-ing of light-ning,
4 Walk-ing be-hind to hem my jour-ney, go-ing a-head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up-hold me:
es en-fold; proph-ets, a-pos-tles, an-gels wit-ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan-et:
light my way, and from be-neath, a-bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

***DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Believe the good news. Thanks be to God.**

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. License # SB118886 – Hymns: Copyright © OneLicense A-731311
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible, copyright © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY:

PRESIDING AND PREACHING: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce

ASSISTING MINISTER: Linnea Nicol

LECTOR/READER: Kerry Johnson

USHERS: Kirk Johnson, Jennifer Self

GREETERS: Edith Searles, Jason Engelken

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Hazel Shimek

ALTAR GUILD: Jeri Laursen, Marie Freerking

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Carter Thompson

FELLOWSHIP: Edith Searles, Kerry Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Alex Engelken, Donna Bahr

SPECIAL REQUEST - SPRING PLANTS OR FLOWERS FOR EASTER SERVICES



Altar Guild welcomes contributions to be displayed for the Easter Vigil Service on Saturday evening, April 4, and Easter Sunday, April 5. All arrangements for purchasing and providing flowering plants/flowers are made individually, not through the Church Office. Decorah's Country Garden is offering special pricing on the following and will deliver them to the church: Kalanchoes and Cyclamen, \$25; Mums, \$30; Hydrangeas, \$40; Azaleas, \$50. Country Garden orders must be placed no later than Monday, March 30. Due to sensitivities to odors and pollen, Easter lilies (or other lilies) are not placed in the sanctuary. All plants/flowers should be delivered to the church by 3:00 p.m., Saturday, April 4. You are welcome and encouraged to remove your plant/flowers after the Easter Sunday service. Contributions can be designated in memory or honor of friends and loved ones. Please provide names to the Church Office no later than Wednesday, April 1.

Lent at Good Shepherd

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

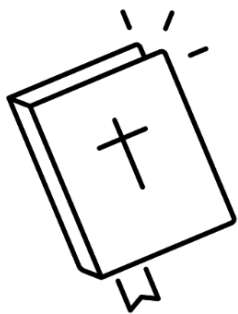
Wed Feb 25: Spirit, Speak Through Us

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



College Student Bible Study

Thursdays, 9:45-10:45am

Magpie Coffeehouse

All college age students are invited to bible study on Thursdays at Magpie. A partnership between Good Shepherd and Decorah Lutheran, we will have a time for fellowship, diving into the Word, and prayer! Coffee is on us!

This Week at Good Shepherd

Today, Sunday, March 22nd: *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM: Youth Communion Education Event

1:00 PM: Farmers Land Investment Cooperative Annual Meeting

Monday, March 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, March 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, March 25th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*

Newsletter Deadline

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

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

5:30 PM: Soup Supper for all; Fellowship Hall – Purple Flock

6:15 PM: Lenten Wednesday Worship

7:15 PM: Choir Practice

8:00 PM: Band Practice

Thursday, March 26th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*

3:30 PM-8 PM: Violin Lessons

Friday, March 27th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-12 PM*

Sunday, March 29th: *Palm Sunday*

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

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall

4:00 PM: Decorah Farmers Market Vendor Meeting/Potluck



Children's Offering for March Neighbors Helping Neighbors in the Twin Cities Metro Area

Neighbors Helping Neighbors connects community members across Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the Twin Cities metro who need support with caring volunteers ready to help with rides, groceries, and more. What began as a small network of friends in South Minneapolis quickly grew. In our first week, we averaged 7 requests per day. Now we're receiving 10x that—over 70 requests daily—spanning the metro area to St. Cloud (Neighbors Helping Neighbors). You can find out more at their website at nhn-tc.org

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:

- Philip Swanson
- Marilyn Anderson
- Mic Martin
- Dick Schmidt,
Brian Larsen-Schmidt's dad
- Wanda Rueber
- Robin Darland
- Barbara Nasby, *best friend of Stephanie Hoff*
- Ann Fredrickson,
friend of Gabby Bizal
- Bob Wilson
- Linda and Jim Morgan, *Jane Borelli's sister and brother-in-law*
- 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
- Harland Nelson
- Carrie Solberg
- Jutta Anderson

Those who grieve:

- Warren Overlie and family, upon the death of his wife BJ Overlie
- Steve Hopkins and family, upon the death of his aunt Verona Zelle
- Dan Raney and family, upon the death of his aunt Evah Raney

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.

Holy Week At Good Shepherd

Thursday, April 2: MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:15pm Worship with Holy Communion

Friday, April 3: GOOD FRIDAY

6:15pm Jazz Worship

Saturday, April 4: HOLY SATURDAY

1:00pm Easter Egg Dyeing Party

6:15pm Easter Vigil Bonfire & Worship, with reception to follow

Sunday, April 5: EASTER SUNDAY

9:30am Celebratory Worship


11:00am Easter Egg Hunt

11:30am Easter Potluck Dinner



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

pastorkristen@goodshepherddecorah.org

Gabby Bizal; Community Engagement Coordinator

gabby@goodshepherddecorah.org

Brooke Joyce; Music Director

music@goodshepherddecorah.org

Tristan Occhipinti; Office and Building Manager

tristan@goodshepherddecorah.org

Mike Sammons; Custodian