



April 2022



Easter Breakfast

What's the best thing about holiday celebrations? FOOD. This year, we're bringing back breakfast! the tradition of Easter morning Join us between services (9am – 10:30am) to enjoy a delicious meal as a church family.



We would like to reach out to our extended church family as well, so if you're interested in transporting meals to homebound and shut-in members, please reach out to the event coordinator, Duane Thorpe, for more details; (515) 777-0061, or reach him by email at dbthorpe91@gmail.com.

We could also use help serving, if you're interested in participating, we'd love to have you! You can reach out to Duane, or just show up ready to pitch in Easter morning.

What's happening at Good Shepherd ...

Sunday Mornings

- Children's Sunday School & Adult Study - **8:45 a.m.**
- Worship Services - **9:30 a.m.**

Wednesday Evenings

- Children's Ministries/Confirmation - **5:30 p.m.**

Thursday Mornings

- Men's Bible Study Fellowship - **7:00 a.m.**

Thursday Evenings

- AA, Al-anon and Alateen meeting - **7:00 p.m.**

Saturday, April 9th - 9-11 a.m.

- Spring Cleaning

Sunday, April 10th - following the Service

- Group Picture

Tuesday, April 12th

- Council Meeting

Sunday, April 3rd - 9:30 a.m.

- Worship with Holy Communion

Monday April 11th

- Evening meal at St. Joseph's Family Shelter

Maundy Thursday Service, April 14th - 5:30 p.m.

- Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday Service, April 15th - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 16th - 10 a.m. - Noon

- Youth Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 17th EASTER Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m.

- Breakfast between services 9 - 10:30

Saturday April 30th - 9:30 a.m.

- Fill bags for Meals From the Heartland

COMING IN MAY

- May 15th - 5 p.m.

Small Group Dinner

EASTER EGG HUNT - Saturday, April 16th

If you know any young ones who might be interested in hunting for Easter eggs, we've got you covered! Join us on Saturday, April 16th for spring-time fun. We'll be hosting two separate hunts, one at **10 am for youth ages 2 - 4**, and another at **11am for ages 5 - 7**.

Eggs will be scattered all around the front lawn of the church - tell your family, your friends, and your neighbors! We'd love to see you here!

GROUP PICTURE

It's been a while since we last took a picture together as a community. In preparing for Easter, we'd like to send out a letter updating our neighbors on our service time, as well as invite them to come to church. **Please stick around for a few minutes after the service on Palm Sunday (April 10th) so we can capture your smiling faces!**



NEW BANNERS

If you attended worship service this past few weeks, you might have noticed that we have some new banners for the sanctuary. Thank you to the Muelenthaler family for the memorial gift in remembrance of a long time member, Bernice Muelenthaler. The new banners that were purchased will help enhance our worship space for years to come.



Thank You

SERMON'S ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON PODCAST.

You can find them on the church website under the "SERMON" tab.

Available on



the Pastor's Letter

This past Sunday's Gospel passage [Luke 15: 11-32] is familiar to those of us who have been around the church for a while. The parable is historically titled the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*. Those titles we see in our translations of the bible are not there in the original texts. They are put there by the editors and translators. While I don't disagree that with calling this the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*, there are other titles that I also think fit. For this season of my life the *Parable of the Lost Sons* seems fitting.

Parables, more times than not, were Jesus' attempt to help people get to know the God that he knows. Often times the people's view of God was just not big enough. I fear that Jesus might just say the same of us today. Too often our view of God is too small.

"There was a man who had two sons..." Not the first time we have heard about a man having two sons in the Bible. In fact, the first time is back in Genesis with Adam's two sons Cain and Able.

And for this story, Jesus starts off with the younger son. The younger son comes to the father and says give me my share of my inheritance.

The father does the unexpected and gives his son his share of the inheritance. The son then leaves for a far-off country and spends his inheritance in dissolute living. Squandered it all. Nothing left. I love how the King James Version states it. "He squandered everything in *riotous living*."

In Jesus' story things go from bad to worse and the younger son finds himself broke, jobless, hungry and a long way from home. Then Jesus uses a marvelous turn of a phrase. Wallowing among the unclean pigs, the prodigal "came to himself." He realizes that he is lost. *He came to himself*. He realizes that who he has become is so far from who he truly is. He still doesn't realize who he is at this point. He just knows that something is not the way it is supposed to be.

He is living a nightmare in this far off country when he is meant to live his father's dream. Something inside of him says, "You were not meant for this." He has been lost to himself. And knowing this he prepares to go to the last place where he knew who he was. The last time he knew himself, it was in his father's house.

The lost younger son rehearses what he will say to his father. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands..." And he rehearsed and rehearsed on his travels back to his father's house.

After he arrives and is embraced by his father, he starts "Father I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son..." But before he can finish what he has rehearsed, his father interrupts him before the request to become the hired hand. Whatever this lost younger son has done, this prodigal son is still the father's son; He can never become his hired servant.

After the father calls for a party to celebrate, the elder brother enters the story. He hears the music and sees the dancing as he comes in from the fields and wonders what is going on. Instead of going to into his father's house, he stays outside asking a hired hand what is going on.

I imagine what is going on within this elder brother. He sees the party; he sees that his brother who left him behind with a robe and ring and called son again – when everything that his brother did means he isn't a son anymore. Surely the rage of Cain was forming in his eyes and overtaking his heart in these moments.

"Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command." It is at this moment we see the elder son is also lost. The elder son does not realize who he truly is. He might be the



... letter continued

obedient son; he might be the one who stayed. But he doesn't see himself as a son. "For all these years I have been working like a slave for you." A slave. Not a son. Lost in his stubbornness. Lost in his piety. Lost in his following of the rules. While he never left his father physically, he has certainly become lost also.

And the father calls to this son also. The father knows who he is too. And he calls him back into the father's house so that all can be right. Sometimes we need to hear the words that help us to become unlost in a world that is so easy to become lost in. We have all been lost somehow and in some way at some time in our lives.

It is in the Father's house that we hear the words that we need to hear so that in the Father's house we can know that we are all the Father's children. The Father has no grandchildren. We are all God's children.

We get our identity all mixed up. We become lost to ourselves. We see ourselves not as children of the heavenly Father. We use words we were never meant to use to describe ourselves.

Not worthy Sinner Unclean Guilty Condemned Broken Lost

Like both the younger and elder sons we get lost to ourselves. And just like them, it is the Father who knows us for who we are. And here in the Father's house we hear the words that we need to hear. Here in the Father's house we are all welcome. Hear the words that your Father calls you – to make you unlost in a turbulent world.

You are a royal priesthood. You are a light shining in a world that so needs some light.

You are blessed. You are holy and blameless. You a new creation in Christ.

You are justified. You are victorious. You are the salt of the earth.

You are forgiven and free.

You are redeemed.

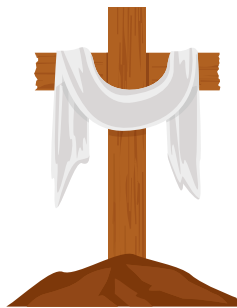
You are Chosen.

In the Father's house – you are loved.

In the Father's house, you are a child of the most high.

Peace,

Pastor



APRIL LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
April 3	Isaiah 43:16-21	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
April 10	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14 – 23:56
April 14 - Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
April 15 - Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13–53:12	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1–19:42
April 17 - Easter	Acts 10:34-43	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12
April 24	Acts 5:27-32	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31

St. Joseph's Shelter – getting back to pre-pandemic system where individuals will provide the meal or at least the sides as Good Shepherd provides the main dish.

The 2022 schedule for Servers

Apr. – Paul Talkington
May – Dennis Loll
Jun. – Mike Strum
Jul. – Russ Gerke

Aug. – Nancy Thorpe
Sep. – Mike Strum
Oct. – Dennis Loll
Nov. – Paul Talkington
Dec. – Nancy Thorpe

*"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
- Revelation 21:4 -*

It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of John Rauh who died Friday, March 11, 2022.

A service was held Monday, March 21st.

We thank God for the life of John. With a sure and certain hope in the resurrection, we pray for John's family and all those who mourn.

[Click here to view John's Obituary](#)



FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Care Team is kicking off a fundraising event to support a neighborhood family this Christmas.

Our goal is to raise \$500.00 by mid November. Good Shepherd may be small, but we are mighty!

Please save your pocket change and look for the Care Team collection jar. We also plan to have the youth participate in this project throughout the year. You may see kids shaking cans with coins and asking for a donation on a Sunday in the near future – a noisy (and fun) activity for them to get excited about caring for our neighbors!



The Care Team feels it's important to open our arms to those in need, and this is one way we can make a difference in our church community. Your support can make a big impact! We'll make sure to keep you informed on the progress as we fill up the jar!

Each item we wrap up in December will include a note to the recipient that Good Shepherd is praying for them.

Thank you for your support – we look forward to caring together!

CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER AND SERVICES

Good Shepherd will be serving a hot meal on **Sunday, April 3**



We need 12 to 15 volunteers to help serve. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office or Mike Strum at mlstrum50@yahoo.com

Future Meal Dates for 2022

Sunday, Jun 12 • Sunday, Sept. 25 • Sunday, Nov. 20

If you are interested in donating to this outreach, please indicate on your offering envelope that your contribution is for the Shelter meal. **Thank you**

JOIN A SMALL GROUP DINNER!

WHEN: Sunday, May 15th, 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: At a dinner table near you, followed by dessert for all at 7:30 p.m. at the church

WHY: Getting to know each other better!

We are introducing small group dinners at Good Shepherd! We ask for volunteers to host a small group of dinner guests at their homes for 7 - 11 people. Members of the congregation are invited to sign up to be guests. We will then assign the guests to a dinner host close to them. The host may ask guests to bring a dish to pass. Then we will all gather at church at 7:30 for dessert. Sign-up sheets will be on the church bulletin board, Or you can call or text **Becky Decker at 515-556-7882** or **Carol Olson at 515-975-2932** to volunteer as a host.

What's the one thing everyone—no matter who you are, where you are, or how old you are—unabashedly loves? Care Packages!!



This May, the Care Team is sending care packages and cards to church members who are in college or actively serving in the military. Please join us in sending a bit of joy to our extended family!

♥ Gabrielle Segar: Senior at Iowa State University majoring in Criminal Justice and minoring in French, Russian, and Business.

♥ Grant Schiltz: Fifth year Navy, currently stationed at NAS Oceana, Virginia.

♥ Payton Decker: First year Navy, currently stationed on USS Abraham Lincoln with the Wizards Squadron.

Please let us know if we've overlooked any collegiate student or active military members— we'd love to send them care packages too!

A brief bio on our extended family members;

♥ Gabrielle Segar: She is a resident counselor in the dorms and also works at the Iowa State Alumni center. Following graduation, she plans to attend graduate school to obtain a Master's of Science in Information Systems. She hope's to one day work in government law enforcement like the FBI or CIA. Gabrielle loves peanut butter, chocolate, peanut butter M&Ms, Twix, Goldfish, Cheez-its, and fruit snacks. She also loves adult coloring books for stress relief!

♥ Grant Schiltz: Fifth year Navy, currently stationed at NAS Oceana, Virginia. Grant likes to read, and play board games and video games. His favorite foods are spaghetti, pizza, sushi and ramen.

♥ Payton Decker: First year Navy, currently stationed on USS Abraham Lincoln with the Wizards Squadron. Payton enjoys playing cards games, video games and getting mail. He loves ramen, beef jerky and oreos.

More than just a weekly envelope...

Over the last few weeks, the Stewardship committee took the time to sit down and ponder: *What is stewardship? What's our purpose? How do we best fill our role in the church?* As one would expect, we came up with many answers, but the core all of us agreed on was this: stewardship boils down to management of resources. In the past, this "management" has mostly manifested as a push for pledged giving in October, and an occasional end-of-year letter reminding us that donations are tax deductible. Those drives for giving are important – and vital – to our church community. But we also realize that we've neglected to shore up another crucial resource for the church: time and attention. Our presence is just as essential as our donations. Showing up to Sunday services, showing up for clean up days, Easter egg hunts and Sunday morning brunch is just as – if not more important, than our financial support. What is a church without its people?

One of the many goals of the Stewardship committee

this year is to promote a more balanced approach to managing our resources. We'd like to encourage participation – through dollars and involvement. Our committee is tasked with managing the resources of the church, and you are our resource. So we hope to pour our energy into you – your needs, interests, and goals. What do you need to better serve the church? We're the group that can help you discern those questions and answers. And honestly, what better time to reflect on your relationship with Jesus and our congregation than during the season of Lent? As we march toward the hope of the resurrection, let us ask ourselves: how am I sharing the light of Christ in my community? What more is God calling me to give?

And where is the spirit pushing me to be more present in my life? May God bless you and yours as we celebrate the hope and grace of Easter this month.

Peace be with you,

Britany Thorpe, Stewardship Committee



MARCH 2022

FUND BALANCES

Operating*	\$15,761.56
Good Samaritan Fund	\$1,565.39
Thursday Morn Bible Study	\$301.83
Homeless Shelter/St. Josephs Meals	\$249.41
Howe School	\$2,400.99
Food Pantry	\$470.00
Meals from the Heartland	\$3,855.00
World Relief	\$282.00
Memorials	\$47,410.38
Scholarship Fund	\$16,440.05
TOTAL	\$88,736.61

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Checking	\$15,871.29
Money Market	\$21,205.68
MIF Demand Acct	\$51,659.64
Mission Investment Fund	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$88,736.61

Fund balances may not be correct but Total is correct.

*(includes Fixing God's House, Thrivent Choice)

BENEVOLENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Food Pantry	\$0.00
Homeless Shelter/St. Josephs	\$710.07
Howe School	\$245.36
World Relief	\$0.00
Meals from the Heartland	\$0.00
Good Samaritan	\$0.00
ELCA Goodgifts	\$0.00
Southside Thanksgiving Dinner	\$0.00

MEMORIALS

	March	Year-T-Date
Gifts/Interest	20.00	610.00
Disbursements	714.00	714.00
	(\$694.00)	(\$104.00)


CASH FLOW (ex Memorials)

	Month to Date	Year to Date
Receipts	\$10,652.00	\$43,411.08
Disbursements	\$13,256.07	\$38,471.79
Net Inc/(Dec)	(\$2,604.07)	\$4,939.29

Women of the ELCA

\$1,737.70

APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p style="background-color: yellow; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">Have an article for the newsletter?</p> * Send an email to Carla Horner by April 24th chornergraphics@yahoo.com					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45 Sunday School & Adult Study 9:30 Worship with Communion 5:00 Serve evening meal at the Homeless Shelter			6:30 p.m. Lenten Services	7:00 a.m. Mens Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA, Al-anon & Alateen meeting		9:00 -11 a.m. Cleaning Day at church
Palm Sunday 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Palm Sunday 8:45 Sunday School & Adult Study 9:30 Worship GROUP PICTURE following the service	Serving at St. Joseph's Shelter	6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting		7:00 a.m. Mens Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion	5:30 p.m. Good Friday Service	10:00 a.m.-12 noon YOUTH EASTER EGG HUNT
EASTER 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:00 Worship with Communion 9:00-10:30 Breakfast 10:30 Worship with Communion			5:30 Childrens Ministry/Con rmation	7:00 a.m. Mens Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA, Al-anon & Alateen meeting		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:45 Sunday School & Adult Study 9:30 Worship			5:30 Childrens Ministry/Con rmation	7:00 a.m. Mens Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA, Al-anon & Alateen meeting		9:30 a.m. Fill bag for Meals from the Heartland