

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE

April 2019

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. (Luke 24:2-3)

Finally, we are seeing and experiencing the signs of spring! I am dancing and hopping these days because of sunshine, robins, buds in the tree, and anything which tells me spring is here. We had a bad winter with too much ice on the ground. Many of us could not get around much for the last 8 weeks or so, but finally spring has come. It lifts my spirit. Everyday on my walk to church, I feel energy and sense all the living things around me.

Sometimes I pause and look around to find signs of spring. One day I saw a skunk casually walking through an alley. Bats came out from their hibernation and worshipped with us a couple Sundays ago. Lambs are born and cardinals and blue jays are visiting our bird feeders. The signs of spring are everywhere.

So, where do you find signs of Jesus' resurrection? Do you have experiences of the living Christ in your daily lives?

The disciples of Jesus found the first sign of the resurrection in the empty tomb. In early dawn, the women, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women went to the tomb with spices and saw an empty tomb. The big heavy stone which covered the entrance was rolled away, and the body of Jesus was not there. The empty tomb became the sign that Jesus had risen from the dead.

It sounds strange to me that we find this sign of life and hope in the empty tomb. I do not like emptiness because it makes me scared and anxious. I am always making sure that I have a full tank of gas in my car and that my phone is fully charged. The empty tomb is something I would have wanted to avoid, yet it is a sign of new life. I wonder how in our emptiness we meet the risen Christ. When I was overworking and totally exhausted, a teenager showed up and offered a helping hand. When I did not have time nor energy to cook supper, a friend stopped by with a container of chili. It seems to me that at times I felt stuck and had nowhere to go, I found a sign of hope.

The stone is rolled away! The tomb is empty! Christ is risen!
Happy Easter to you all. Pr. Miho



Dear Good Shepherd Family,

Your kindness is more deeply appreciated than we can find words to express. Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow.

Thanks for all the great food for Dad Verl Price's funeral, it was all great.

Barb Price

Prayer Chain:

If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, please call the Church Office at 815-369-5552. We lift up the following loved ones who are homebound in prayer: Steve Fahr, Lois Paulsen, Fern Harnish. They would love to hear from you. Consider visiting, calling, or sending them a note. Please call the church office if you need an address.

Need of a ride to church on Sunday?

Call: Donna Gullickson at 369-4708

We love worshipping with you, and we want to help make sure you can get here to join us! If you are interested in being added to this list of available drivers, please contact the church office @ 369-5552



Volunteers Needed

To sign up for treats for Fellowship after Sunday Church Service. Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you



April Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday April 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE on Wednesday, April 3rd, supper at 5:30pm, worship at 6:30pm

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, April 4th at 9:00am in the home of Rene' Johnson

PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP will meet on Monday, April 8th at 1:30pm.

LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING will be on Monday, April 8th at 6:00pm.

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be on Tuesday, April 9th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday April 9th at 6:30pm.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE on Wednesday, April 10th, supper at 5:30pm, worship at 6:30pm.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet on Thursday, April 11th at noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment with "Take Two".

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
April 14th at 9:30am.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE April 18th at 5:00pm at GS, and 7:00pm at UMC, Lena. Joint Service with UMC.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE April 19th at 3:00pm at UMC, Lena, and 7:00pm at GS. Joint Service with UMC.

GOOD SHEPHERD AT FRIENDSHIP CENTER for Devotions & Dessert on Thursday, April 25th at 1:00pm.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the May 2019 Newsletter is April 15th, 2019. Thank You!

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

April 21st

Sunrise Service at 7:00am

Easter Breakfast at 8:00 am

Easter Festival Service at 9:30am





April Birthdays

- 4/1 Troy Doubler
- 4/2 Wieland Kayser
- 4/3 Joshua Andrews
- 4/5 Delbert Scheider
- 4/5 James Swain
- 4/5 Cadie Wolfrom
- 4/6 Kurt Baldauf
- 4/7 Darren Aurand
- 4/7 Brody Diffenderfer
- 4/8 Betty Raders
- 4/8 Ruth Jacobs
- 4/8 Donna Christen
- 4/8 Lucas Fye
- 4/9 Erick Kurth
- 4/15 Kathy Graff
- 4/16 Ian Geiseman
- 4/17 Betty Koehn
- 4/21 Braden Diddens
- 4/22 Danielle Balbach
- 4/28 Helen Cross
- 4/30 Jacob Andrews
- 4/30 Gage Hancock



If we missed your birthday (or someone in your family)
please call the office so that we may update our records!



ARE YOU HUNGRY?

If you don't have enough to eat, Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry can help.

Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry distributes nutritious food in high-need areas.

Food is free to low-income neighbors in need.

Please bring bags or boxes in which to package your food.



Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.



Feeding Our Neighbors



For additional food resources, visit www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp

On Tuesday, April 23rd the Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry will be at the Lena-Winslow Food Pantry parking lot at 130 1/2 Main Street, Lena, IL from 4pm-6pm. Please bring bags or boxes, food will be distributed on a first come first serve basis, while supply lasts



Upcoming Events

April 14 (Sunday) Palm/Passion Sunday

Children will lead the congregation with the processional Gospel reading at the beginning of the service.

April 20 (Saturday) Easter breakfast preparation (4pm-)

April 21 (Sunday) Easter Breakfast at the Fellowship Hall

April 27 (Saturday) Relay for Life

at Stephenson County Fair Ground

May 12 (Sunday) Baccalaureate Service (7pm at UMC)

May 19 (Sunday) Teacher recognition Sunday

Last day of Sunday School

Mark Your Calendar!

Vacation Bible School 2019

Friendship: A Love that Never Ends!

July 15(Monday)-July 18 (Thursday)

details are coming soon....



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

can be picked up at the church office starting

April 1st

Applications must be filled out and returned by

April 30th

Building Maintenance and Improvement (BMI)

The Building/Maintenance/Improvement is a designated account that funds are used for maintaining real estate and personal property of our congregations. All funds are used to maintain the church building, all personal property (furniture, appliances, computers, sound and projector equipment, etc.), and inspections required by law, (fire extinguishers, boiler, elevator). All offerings given in BMI envelopes go into this account.

*Thank you, Beth Martin, Shirley Fox
Cindy Doubler, Donna Gullickson,
Darlene Aurand, Kelsey Albrecht,
Vivian Hesselbacher
Deb Hesselbacher and for helping
with the March Newsletter.*



April Weather Lore Sayings

1. If it thunders on All Fool's Day, it brings good crops of corn and hay.
2. A cold May and a windy April, a full barn.
3. The louder the frog, the more the rain.
4. If the oak is out before the ash then we are in for a splash,
But if the ash is out before the oak we are in for a soak.
5. Sounds traveling far and wide, A rainy day will betide.
6. A cow with its tail to the west, makes weather the best;
A cow with its tail to the east makes weather the least.
7. April Showers brings May flowers.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Members and Friends,

We are contacting you with an urgent need. It has come to the attention of the Church Council at our last council meeting that our finances are struggling this year. In the first 2 months of 2019 we find ourselves almost \$6,000. behind in meeting our current expenses. This shortfall has the Council very worried.

We know that January and February have been very cold this year. But, the trends so far this year of 2019 are not looking good. Remember we started out the year with only half of our Revolving Cash funds and we are tapping into those already.

With spring & summer months coming up this will only get worse if not addressed. We want everyone to prayerfully consider their financial support of the church. We need everyone's help to help us get out of this hole. So we are asking all to give extra to get us back in good standings to keep our current expenses paid and up to date.

Thank you very much. God's Blessings and Love.
Good Shepherd Congregation Council.

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming February 2019	\$ 5691.00
Expenses February 2019	\$ 10,085.85
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (4394.85)
Income, Year to Date 2019	\$ 15,258.00
Expenses, Year to Date 2019	\$ 20,747.12
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (5,489.12)

Highlights from March Council Meetings

- Jay Andrews provided the Treasurer's Report which showed a February electric bill of \$242.50 and gas bill of \$872.54. V. Gordon made a motion to transfer \$1343.78 from the SW15 Interest Fund to the checking account to cover current expenses. Patterson made the second and motion was approved.
- Pastor Miho gave her monthly report which included a review of upcoming Lenten services and an invitation to participate in the Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop at Our Savior's Church in Rockford March 23. All are invited to share in the Prince of Peace Installation Services for Rev. Karen Tews 2 pm March 24. Tim Gordon made the motion to approve the report and Patterson seconded. All approved.
- In Committee Reports: Patterson stated a meeting for upcoming confirmation students is planned for March 24. Youth Sunday and the Easter Breakfast are also on the calendar.
- Luke said the Property Committee met with Steve Buss regarding the installation of the sound system for the sanctuary. Some modifications are being made which include one audio desk rather than two units. Luke also requested the purchase of a remote control camera be added to the Memorial List at an expected cost of \$2,500 to \$3,000. Raymer made the motion and T. Gordon seconded. Council agreed.
- Andrews said the Men's Group plans an upcoming workday for tree clean up.
- Committee reports were approved with a motion by Patterson and second by V. Gordon. Motion approved.
- Pastor Miho advised Constitution revisions are in progress and will continue prior to submission to the congregation for final approval later this year. She also mentioned a male delegate is still needed for the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly June 14 – 15.
- Council discussed the first Reunion Sunday which is set for March 17 with Pastor David Raben to officiate. Pastor David and Jane now reside in Door County Wisconsin. A shared dinner will follow the service. Those confirmed during Pastor Raben's tenure were personally invited to attend. Council approved paying Pastor Raben the Synod guideline for substitute preacher plus mileage. T. Gordon made the motion and Don Wienand provided a second. Council approved. Council also discussed reviewing the birthday list now printed in the newsletter and potential purchase of arm chairs for fellowship hall. Various sources, styles and prices were offered. Further discussion will take place. Luke also noted that more volunteers are needed for weekly services. Training will be offered.
- A complete copy of minutes will be posted on the bulletin board.

Why Does the Date of Easter Change?

The date of Easter changes yearly because it is a movable feast that the Christian church calculates to be on the first Sunday after the full moon, known as the Paschal full moon, following the vernal equinox. The equinox is fixed as March 21, so depending on the appearance of the full moon, Easter can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

The Early Church

In the early church, the date of Easter was linked to the Jewish feast of Passover. Because Christians believed that Jesus's death and resurrection occurred after Passover, they wished to observe the holiday after the Jewish feast each year. This meant that Christians were dependent on Jewish experts to calculate the exact date of Easter each year.

At the First Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., Christian bishops decided to separate Easter from the Jewish calendar, in order to determine the date in a simpler way. Although the equinox often occurs on March 20, for uniformity it was set on March 21. Astronomers created a table for calculating the approximate dates of Paschal full moons with which they were able to determine the yearly dates of Easter.

Date Discrepancies in Eastern and Western Churches

The Western Christian church does not always celebrate Easter on the same day as the Eastern Orthodox church because the Western church uses the Gregorian calendar, while the Eastern Orthodox church uses the Julian calendar. Because of the 13-day difference between the two calendars, in Eastern Orthodox churches, Easter falls between the Gregorian calendar dates of April 4 and May 8.

In addition to Eastern Orthodox Churches using the Julian calendar to calculate the date of Easter, they also use the true astronomical full moon and vernal equinox as observed in Jerusalem.

Source: Wikipedia

Lenten Luncheon
March 13th 2019
Hosted by Good Shepherd WELCA

Friends and family were served home made chicken noodle soup, ham sandwiches, Rice Krispie Treats and coffee or water. Wonderful meal, and wonderful time together.



Rene' Johnson
gives luncheon prayer.



Hannah Circle

Will meet on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 9:00 am at the home of Rene' Johnson. Rene' will be treating us to her wonderful cooking by making Biscuits and Gravy.



Our Bible Study for 2019 is from the Gospel of John—"Meetings with Jesus", by Judy A. Kanarr in our January 2019 "Gather Magazine" Rene' Johnson is our Bible Study leader. Session Two: By Night and Day: Coming to Faith in Jesus.

Thank you, to all who helped with the March 13, 2019 Wednesday Noon Lenten Luncheon hosted by Good Shepherd. It was a great success and we couldn't have done it without all your help. We served 68 at noon, plus also had evening service and meal for our church serving 10 in the evening.



Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA will have their spring retreat on Saturday, April 27th, 2019 from 9:00am-3:00pm at LOMC. Topic will be "God for all Seasons of Life". Worship Leadership by Pastor Jessica Bakken, Bible Study Leader will be Esther Prabhakar, and special music by Peg Lehman. Registration begins at 8:30am, registration fee is \$40. Find out more and register at: nisynod.org/women

Lenten Luncheon Schedule in April

April 3rd -at St John's

April 10th -at Lena UMC

April 17th -at Lena UMC hosted by Salem and Beloved



Q: What's the Easter Bunny's favorite restaurant?

A: IHOP

Confirmation Reunion Sunday



Pastor David
with member
of confirmation
classes of
1996, 1998,
1999



Thank you all for coming. God bless



Date: Monday, April 8, 2019

Time: 1:00 pm—1:15 pm **EXERCISE**

Time : 1:30 pm—**MEETING**

Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

118 E.Mason Street, Lena, IL

(Handicap access at Washington Street entrance)



*Parkinson Support
Group Meeting*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME !!!

Invite all those you know who are interested in sharing in an afternoon of Parkinson Disease information, fellowship and refreshments.

If you have a favorite snack or treat and you would like to bring to share, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our speaker will be:

SEAN HUGUENIN—Spiritual Care Coordinator of Pastoral Care at FMH

Topic: will be:

"STRESS & THE HOLISTIC AFFECTS OF PARKINSON'S"



ANY QUESTIONS ???




*OR if you want your name removed
from our mailing list,*

Call

Carol Griffin 815-947-2208

If you would prefer to receive meeting information via email, please send your request to Carol Griffin at cag@aeroinc.net

April 2019 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:00pm Pastor Miho Text Study	3 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon at St. John's 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Mid-week Service	4 9:00am Hannah Circle at the home of Rene' Johnson	5	6
7 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	8 1:30pm Parkinson Support Group 6:00pm Learning Committee Meeting	9 9:45am Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 6:30pm Council Meeting	10 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon at Lena UMC 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Mid-week Service	11 12:00pm Friendship Club/Potluck Entertainment by "Take Two"	12	13
14 9:30am Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	15 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16 1:00pm Pastor Miho Text Study	17 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon at Lena UMC	18 Maundy Thursday Worship Service 5:00 pm (at GS) 7:00pm (at UMC)	19 Good Friday Worship Service 3:00pm (at UMC) 7:00 pm (at GS)	20 4:00pm Easter Breakfast preparation
21 Easter Sunday 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Worship Service 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Easter Festival Worship Service	22 	23 1:00pm Pastor Miho Text Study 4:00pm-6:00pm Mobile Food Pantry at Le-Win Food Pantry Parking Lot	24 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	25 1:00pm Devotions & Desserts at Friendship Center 6:30-8:00pm NW Confer- ence Pre-Assembly meeting St. Johns, Pearl City	26	27 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry 10:00am-12:00pm Pr. Miho at CWA meeting, Synod Office, Rockford
28 9:30am Christ is Risen! Pol- ka Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	29	30	<div data-bbox="1155 1372 1669 1453" data-label="Text"> <p>April Communion Set-up/Clean up Bob and Sharon Schlachter</p> </div>			



April Worship Volunteers

April 7th

Lector Coralyn Hudik
 Acolyte Kayla Runkle
 Assisting Minister Wayne Kurth
 Worship Assistant Tena Rackow
 Communion Assistants Beth Martin and
 Brianna Andrews
 Communion Ushers Virgil and Joanne Martin
 Sound System Jay Andrews and open

Greeters Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
 Troy and Cindy Doubler

Ushers Bob and Sharon Schlachter,
 Jerry and Beth Martin

April 14th

Lector Anna Patterson
 Acolyte Jacob Runkle
 Assisting Minister Jay Andrews
 Worship Assistant Kayla Runkle
 Communion Assistants Marybeth Brinker and
 Shirley Fox
 Communion Ushers Troy and Cindy Doubler
 Sound System Wayne Kurth and open

Greeters Gary and Cynthia Boeke
 Donna Gullickson, Paul Fox

Ushers Chris and Angie Brinker
 Troy Keene and Andrew Martin

April 21st Sunrise Service

Lector Shirley Fox
 Acolyte Jared Runkle and Kayla Runkle
 Assisting Minister Brianna Andrews
 Worship Assistant Denny Luke
 Communion Assistants Beth Martin and
 Denny Luke
 Communion Ushers Virgil and Joanne Martin
 Sound System Troy Doubler and open

Greeters Jerry and Beth Martin
 Virgil and Joanne Martin

Ushers Paul & Shirley Fox
 Virgil Gordon and Tim Gordon

April 21st 9:30am Service

Lector Tina Rackow
 Acolyte Ethan Fye and Maddi Diddens
 Assisting Minister Sheila Keene
 Worship Assistant Vivian Hesselbacher
 Communion Assistants Cora Hudik and Marybeth
 Brinker
 Communion Ushers Larry Fulfs and Jim Swain
 Sound System Denny Luke and open

Greeters Bill and Jean Engel
 Marybeth Brinker, Willie Kayser

Ushers Bob Schlachter and Andrew Martin
 Troy and Cindy Doubler

April 28th

Lector Tena Rackow
 Acolyte Sunday School Children
 Assisting Minister Jay Andrews
 Worship Assistant Cora Hudik
 Communion Assistants Troy and Cindy Doubler
 Communion Ushers Gary and Cynthia Boeke
 Sound System Denny Luke and open

Greeters Bill and Jean Engel,
 Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher

Ushers Don and Lisa Weinand
 Sunday School Children

Please mark your calendars for the dates that you have been assigned, if you cannot serve on that day that you have been assigned please switch with someone and /or call the church office by Tuesday of the week that you are to volunteer so that arrangements can be made. 815-369-5552



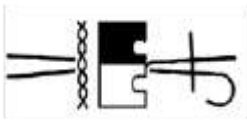
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am
Pre-K & K Sunday School after Children's Message
Fellowship Hour 10:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
CHURCH OFFICE 815-369-5552
Pastor Milho Yasukawa
Church Secretary Betty Allen

For More Good Shepherd
Pictures and highlights go to
Facebook: "GSLClenall"
or www.GoodShepherdLena.org

Month's Highlights!

April 3 Lenten Dinner 5:30pm, Lenten Service 6:30pm
April 4 Hannah Circle 9:00am
April 8 Parkinson Support Group 1:30pm
April 9 Hymn Sing Lena Living Center 9:45am
April 10 Lenten Dinner 5:30pm, Lenten Service 6:30pm
April 11 Friendship Club 12:00pm
April 14 Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service 9:30am
April 18 Maundy Thursday Services 5:00 pm (at GS), 7:00pm (at UMC, Lena)
April 19 Good Friday Worship Services 3:00pm (at UMC, Lena), 7:00pm (at GS)
April 21 Easter Sunday Worship Services 7:00am (Sunrise), 9:30am
April 21 Easter Breakfast 8:00am
April 25 Good Shepherd at Friendship Center for Devotions & Dessert 1:00pm
April 27 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry
April 28 Christ is Risen! Polka Service 9:30am



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
118 East Mason St.
Lena, IL 61048
GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com

*The Good Shepherd cares for us.
He gives His Life for us and to us.
We give and use our lives in love,
care and service of one another.*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE for the May 2019
Newsletter is April 15, 2019
Thank You!