

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE February 2020

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. (Matthew 5:14-15)

According to Jesus, we are the light of the world. We give light to all in the house. I believe that this statement is true. I have seen light coming out from people's faces when they were talking about their God moments. As you know since our baptisms, Christ is living in us, and Christ, the light of the world, shines through us to give light to this broken world. Jesus is right that we who are children of God are the light of the world.

Recently I saw the light of Christ shining. It was one Saturday afternoon. After a snowy Friday, the sidewalk was covered with snow and ice. I was unhappy. It was cold and slippery, and it was not easy to walk around. To make things worse, I could not open the door. Snow and ice (though not much) were blocking the door, and it was heavy. I pushed and shoved the door, but it did not open. My husband saw me frustrated, grabbed the shovel, went out the other door and began shoveling. Once I was able to open the door, I asked him to shovel more so that there would be a path to get in and out. While he was outside shoveling, the little Christ's who were a neighbor couple came outside. When they saw my husband shoveling alone, they offered help and came back with snow shovels. Within 5 minutes the path was cleared. It was a small act of kindness but it made my day. God is good; little Christ's showed up to brighten my gloomy day.

The light of Christ shines. It gives light to our frustrating tiresome days. Have you had similar experiences of someone or something brightening your day? To me the light of Christ often appears unexpectedly like a ride offered on the street, or a surprise phone call to a breakfast, or a new idea popping up while chatting with a church member. I believe that the light of Christ is in us, and it shines. And as you know Christ is out of our control. Whether we like it or not, Christ comes up to give light to the weary ones through our smiles, tears, listening ears, singing, and even just our presence. We are the light of Christ so let your light shine! Pr. Miho



Sunday Feb 2nd

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.” This simple prayer from a single youth group started the Souper Bowl of Caring. This is a nationwide youth-led program to raise awareness of hunger issues and raise money for hunger related causes. The Good Shepherd youth will hold pots on the Big Game Sunday, February 2nd to collect monetary donations for the Lena-Winslow Food Pantry and Lutheran World Relief. Your \$1 makes a difference. Please join our team to tackle hunger together.



Le-Win Ministerial Association Lenten Lunches
Theme: Pictures of Bread.

February 26 at Lena UMC (hosted by Lena UMC/McConnell UMC)

March 4 at Good Shepherd

March 11 at Lena E-Free

March 18 at Synergy Church (hosted by Synergy/Beloved)

March 25 at St. John's

April 1 at St. Joseph

April 8 at Lena UMC (hosted by Salem UCC)

Luncheon starts at 12pm. It's free and everyone is welcome.

*Freewill offering will be accepted at the luncheon.

February Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday, February 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th.

HANNAH CIRCLE will not meet in February.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, Sunday, February 2, 10:45am.

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday, February 11th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30pm.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday, February 13th at noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment with "Set Free"

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the March 2020 Newsletter is February 14th, 2020. Thank You!

GOOD SHEPHERD AT FRIENDSHIP CENTER for Devotions & Dessert Thursday, February 20th at 1:00pm.

GOOD SHEPHERD at Lena Food Pantry Saturday, February 22nd.

ASH WEDNSDAY SERVICE, Wednesday, February 26, 1:00pm at Lena UMC, 7:00pm at Good Shepherd.

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 in assisted-living facilities/ nursing homes, and those who are homebound, etc. in prayer: Lois Paulsen and 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.

February Birthdays

02-01 Allyson Kraft
02-01 Caleb Mammoser
02-02 Robert Kurth
02-03 Larry Fulfs
02-05 Jerry Martin
02-08 Denise Balbach
02-08 Jonathon Kurth
02-09 Duane Tessendorf
02-09 Angie Brinker
02-10 Paige Tessendorf
02-11 Tammy Freitag
02-12 Jeanine Raders
02-12 Bentley Euler
02-14 Doug Mueller
02-15 Corey Luke
02-15 Michelle Meyers
02-16 Whitney Shumaker
02-16 Andrew Wenzel
02-19 Jason Broege
02-19 Ryan Becker
02-20 Millie Koppean
02-21 Jesse Klosterboer
02-21 Taylor Bastian
02-27 Kayla Runkle
02-27 Brady Broshous
02-28 Tom Holtz



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

Thank you notes came to our mail

Thank you notes from the Pine Ridge Reconciliation
Center

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your help is greatly appreciated. Ashley Cottier

My family and I would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Tanya Tobacco Family

Thank you so much for supporting the Energy Matching Fund and keeping our families warm this winter.



The Lena Area Church Co-op would like to thank you for your holiday donation.

Many families were fed a wonderful Thanksgiving meal and supplies that our local food pantry can't obtain from the Northwest Illinois Food Bank were brought. Like: laundry soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream & feminine products.

Thank you for helping us to help these families.

Lena Area Church Co-op



On behalf of the Veterans Assistance of Stephenson County, The Drop In Center in Rockford and the Lena Lions Club, I would like to say a big Thank You for your willingness to collect gloves, hats, socks and other items to be handed out to our Veterans In Need.

This years collection was a huge success, as we collected 77 pairs of gloves, 155 hats, 228 pairs of socks, 73 scarves and numerous coats, shirts and blankets.

I can't tell you how much we appreciate working with you on this event. This year we had 9 area churches as collection points. And with the success of our 2nd annual collection, I look forward to working with you again next year.

Thank you again, Lena Lion's Co-Chairs,
Bill Crichton and Mary Keith

Thank you for supporting Grace Place Campus Ministry, a welcoming community that serves the Northern Illinois University campus.

Thank you for your gift to Grace Place at NIU. Your gift ensures that we are able to create a space at the table for everyone in our community. Students come to Grace Place knowing that they will be fed not only with food but also by community and love.

Thank you for partnering with us.

Peace,

Pastor Mack



Thank You

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.
Philippians 1:3-5

Worship Volunteeers

We are setting up the Worship Volunteer schedule for the new year starting February 2020. If you are interested in assisting in any capacity with the services, please contact the office or put a note in with your offering. New volunteers are welcome! If you have been signed up to do something in the past, you will stay on the list unless you request to be taken off. We are looking for people to do all tasks, such as: Lecturer, Assisting Minister, Worship Assistant, Communion Ushers, Communion Set-up and Clean-up, Communion Assistants, Greeters, Ushers, Special Music, Sound System, Video Camera and Power Point Operators. We would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped in the past. You make this church work and we really appreciate all your help.

VERSE FOR THE DAY:
Matthew 28:19

AUTHOR:
Janice Kempe

PASSAGE FOR THE DAY:
Matthew 28:16-20

Dandelions

DANDELIONS! No matter how carefully I try to pull one up, I never get the whole thing. The root stays deep in the ground, threatening to grow up and blossom again.

But despite their bad reputation, dandelions are pretty little flowers with their yellow strands all tucked neatly into the center. And truly they are the most beautiful of all flowers when presented clutched in a child's dirty little hand. No one gets yelled at for picking them. Perhaps they grow only to be used and enjoyed by children.

Dandelions are ignored or attacked, never nurtured or cared for, and yet they always bloom profusely. They demand no pampering or special attention to yield their bright blossoms; they pop up in fields, in lawns, and between cracks in the sidewalk, even in the best neighborhoods. Can you imagine trying to grow them in a garden? They'd sneak through the boundaries and pop their sunny yellow faces up in the surrounding lawn. They would never stay put!

Christians should be more like dandelions. Our sunny yellow faces should be a reminder that simple faith has deep roots that are impossible to dislodge. Our vast number would show the world that even though we are not fancy or pampered we are evident everywhere, even in the best neighborhoods.

We should be as easily accessible as a dandelion. Jesus was. We need to get out of our gardens and jump across the boundaries that keep us where people expect to find us. We need to show our sunny yellow faces in all the spots that need a little brightening up—the crack in the sidewalk or the lawn of a country club.

Submitted by Rene' Johnson

Hannah Circle will not meet in February, 2020. We will resume our Bible Study and meetings on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 9:00 am.



Questions? Contact Rene' Johnson, (815) 369-2818

Lenten Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at noon, hosted by Good Shepherd.

Hannah Circle is coordinating the soup and sandwich meal. We will meet at 9:00am on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 to set up and prepare the meal. If you would like to help with set-up and preparation before , or clean-up after the meal, or both, please contact Rene' Johnson at 815-369-2818 or just show up. We welcome all who would like to participate. Come and enjoy a Lenten Message along with soup and a sandwich.

Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV)

The Commissioning of the Disciples

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. "

Need of a ride to church on Sunday?

Call: Donna Gullickson 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.



Highlights from January Council Meetings

- D. Luke added two future items to the agenda: the meeting schedule for the future Council and the need for a new blower and rectifier for the organ at an estimated expense of \$5,000. Moving to accept the agenda was V. Gordon with a second by B. Raymer. All approved.
- The Secretary's Report was submitted and approved following a motion by T. Gordon and second by K. Patterson.
- Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's report which reflected a December electric bill of \$200.75 and gas bill of \$678.74. The report was approved following a motion by K. Patterson and second from B. Raymer.
- Pastor also provided her December report which pointed out favorable attendance at Christmas services. Pastor commented that the personal invitations sent to members who may have not attended recently had a positive result. Some of those members also returned to assist with the birthday party at Lena Living Center. Other events include her attendance at two training sessions for mental health first aid workshops offered by CONTACT Northern Illinois, one for adults and one for youth. Synod news includes the Congregational Resourcing Event at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta, IL March 14. Keynote speaker is Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
- Pastor pointed out the Annual Meeting set for Sunday, Feb. 2. Outgoing Council members include D. Luke, K. Patterson and D. Meier. Thank you cards and candies were delivered to local first responders after the Blue Christmas worship service. Pastor's report was approved with a motion from K. Patterson and second from V. Gordon.
- Committee reports included a review of recommendations by the Stewardship Committee for the incoming Council's consideration.
- K. Patterson, Learning and Youth Committee, said Confirmation classes are coming along well and the Youth Gathering for 2021 will be held in Minneapolis, MN.
- D. Luke, on behalf of the Finance Committee, noted that several donations to the Enduring Gift Fund were received and can be used to cover current expenses. Quotes are also being sought for painting Fellowship Hall and for stairway carpet leading to the sanctuary.
- Men's Ministry made donations to various functions and benefits throughout the year. The group will meet again in coming months.

Meeting minuets continued on next page.

- Council approved all reports following a motion from B. Raymer and second by V. Gordon.

Highlights from January Council Meetings Cont.

- Council also reviewed renewal of the bulk mailing permit compared to paying for mailings of the monthly newsletter regularly. The mailing list has been trimmed based on the desire of some members to receive the publication via email or by picking up a copy at the church. Potential savings of nonrenewal is approximately \$750 per year. That figure includes expenses of paper and printing. V. Gordon moved to not renew the bulk mailing permit and T. Gordon made the second. Council gave full approval.
- Council also discussed the second Confirmation Reunion Sunday which will be scheduled in March.
- Motion to adjourn was made by V. Gordon and seconded by K. Patterson.

Council adjourned by standing and reciting the Lord’s Prayer.
 Respectfully submitted,
 Darci Meier, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2019	\$ 28,792.13
Expenses December 2019	\$ 18,179.58
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 10,612.55
Income, Year to Date 2019	\$ 147,611.77
Expenses, Year to Date 2019	\$ 147,176.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 435.77

 * The 2020 flower chart is posted
 * at the entry to the sanctuary.
 * Please pick a Sunday to donate
 * some flowers for a Sunday
 * service. Flowers beautify our
 * altar area.
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February 2020 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p><u>February is "American Heart Month"</u> So it's good news that February is National Heart Month, since it inspires us to examine one of the most pressing health concerns in the United States and to make positive changes to our lifestyles.</p>				<p>1 National Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day</p> 
<p>2 9:30am Worship Service— Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday 10:45am Annual Meeting No Sunday School 5:00pm Chime Practice</p>	3	4	<p>5 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p>	6	7	8
<p>9 9:30am Worship Service Installation of Council members 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice</p>	10	<p>11 9:45am Hymn Sing Lena Living Center 6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>12 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 9:00am-12:00pm Pr. Miho at NW Conference Meeting, Synod Office, Rockford</p>	<p>13 12:00pm Friendship Club Potluck/ Entertainment "Set Free"</p> 	<p>14 News Letter Deadline Happy Valentine Day</p> 	15
<p>16 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 2:30pm Lena Living Center Worship service 5:00pm Chime Practice</p>	17	18	<p>19 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p>	<p>20 1:00pm Good Shepherd at Friendship Center Devotions & Dessert</p> 	21	<p>22 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry George Washington's Birthday</p> 
<p>23 9:30am Worship Service-- Transfiguration Sunday 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice</p>	<p>24 Pr. Miho at DIETF Meeting 1:30pm</p>	25	<p>26 Ash Wednesday 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 12:00pm Lenten Lunch at Lena UMC 1:00pm Ash Wednesday service at UMC 7:00pm Ash Wednesday service at GS</p>	27	28	29
<p>February Communion Set-up/Clean up Vivian Hesselbacher</p>						

February Worship Volunteers

February 2nd 2020

Lector: Terry Hart
Acolyte: Maddi Diddens
Assisting Minister: Sheila Keene
Worship Assistant: Cora Hudik
Communion Assistants: Beth Martin, Denny Luke
Communion Ushers: Jay and Michelle Andrews
Sound System: Wayne Kurth
Greeters: Jay and Michelle Andrews
Tena Rackow, Tim Gordon
Ushers: Bill and Jean Engel
Bari Raymer and Virgil Gordon
Elevator Operator: Sue Diddens

February 9th 2020

Lector: Janis Kurth
Acolyte: Ethan Fye
Assisting Minister: Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant: Sue Diddens
Communion Assistants: Troy and Cindy Doubler
Communion Ushers: Paul and Shirley Fox
Sound System: Tim Gordon
Greeters: Virgil and Joanne Martin,
Chris and Angie Brinker
Ushers: Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
Don and Lisa Wienand
Elevator Operator: Jean Engel

February 16th 2020

Lector: Anna Patterson
Acolyte: Lucas Fye
Assisting Minister: Jay Andrews
Worship Assistant: Sheila Keene
Communion Assistants: Shirley Fox and
Marybeth Brinker
Communion Ushers: Jim Swain and Denny Luke
Sound System: Troy Doubler
Greeters: Bill and Jean Engel
Troy Keene, Krista Keene
Ushers: Paul and Shirley Fox
Virgil and Joanne Martin
Elevator Operator: Anna Patterson

Lector Karen Niemeier
Acolyte Maddi Diddens
Assisting Minister Wayne Kurth

February 23rd 2020

Lector: Beth Martin
Acolyte: Jared Runkle
Assisting Minister: Sheila Keene
Worship Assistant: Kayla Runkle
Communion Assistants: Cora Hudik and Denny Luke
Communion Ushers: Donna Gullickson and Krista Keene
Sound System: Troy Doubler
Greeters: Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
Bill and Jean Engel
Ushers: Jerry and Beth Martin
Jim Swain, Andrew Martin
Elevator Operator Troy Keene



Please mark your calendars for the dates that you have been assigned, if you cannot serve on the 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

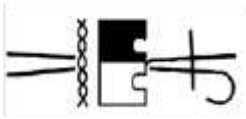
Pastor Pastor Miho Yasukawa

Church Secretary Betty Allen

Month's Highlights!

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 2 | Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday |
| February 2 | Annual Congregational Meeting 10:45am |
| February 11 | Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am |
| February 13 | Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment 12:00pm |
| February 20 | Good Shepherd at Friendship Center for Devotions & Dessert 1:00pm |
| February 22 | Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry |
| February 23 | Transfiguration Sunday |
| February 26 | Ash Wednesday Service 1:00pm (Lena UMC), 7:00pm (GS) |

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



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.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE for the March 2020
Newsletter is February 14, 2020
Thank You!