

November 2020 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 E. Mason, Lena, IL 61048 Phone # (815) 369-5552

Shepherd's Voice

*“Even if the world was to end tomorrow, I would still plant a tree today.”
A quote attributed to Martin Luther.*

Dear God's beloved,

The year is ending. For the church calendar the last day of the year is Christ the King Sunday (remember the Sunday we wear HATs to worship?). So according to the church calendar this year ends on November 22nd. What a year we have had! Nobody imagined that we would live through the global pandemic, racial unrest, and severe wildfires and multiple hurricanes and storms. Our routine has been disrupted, plans and schedules were changed, and our patience has run out multiple times. It has been a year of chaos, confusion, frustration, and fear. At the same time this was the year that I witnessed resilience, perseverance, creativity, and caring. In all of these God has been present with us, walking with us, and leading us day after day.

As we approach the end of the church year, the words attributed to Martin Luther came to my mind. “Even if the world was to end tomorrow, I would still plant a tree today.” You may have heard different translations of this quote. (When I was looking it up on the internet, there are several versions of this), but the point is clear: trust in God. Even though this quote was probably not said by Martin Luther, it resonates with his theology and life. Martin Luther also lived through several plagues. Luther even wrote about what to do during a pandemic. (If you are interested, you may check out his treaty entitled “Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague” published in 1527. You can find it online.) Luther went through colorful life experiences full of trials and tribulations. Yet he trusted God. Luther believed in our gracious God who loved him no matter what he did or did not do. God loves God's children no matter what. Luther probably did not say that he would plant a tree as a daily activity or planting of hope even if the world would end tomorrow; nevertheless, this quote inspires me and many Lutherans to live each day to the fullest without being consumed by fear of uncertainty. Live each day and trust God who created the heaven and earth, who breathed life to us and all God's creatures, and whose love is unconditional and never ending. There were days I felt stressed out and with no energy to go on with so many changes happening constantly. But you know, we live day by day. God gives us life each day. Do the task for the day, that will be enough. God is good my friends! And Happy New Year!

May Christ live among us.
Pr Miho

September Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming September 2020	\$10,514.25
Expenses September 2020	\$11,963.30
Net Income (Loss)	\$(1,449.05)
Income, Year to Date 2020	\$80,419.53
Expenses, Year to Date 2020	\$88,274.96
Net Income (Loss)	\$(7,855.43)

Highlights from September Council Meetings

Treasurer's Report: Jay Andrews gave the report. Bills are getting paid.

Heating: \$ 197.37

Electric: \$ 120.38

Pastor's Report: Follow up on how the church could help the Lena Living Center and the Lena School during these challenging times. An e-mail was sent to Dr. Chiles, Le-Win School Superintendent, waiting for a response. Lena Living Center stated that cards to the 65 residents would be appreciated. Pastor Miho brought up to the Lena Ministerial that other churches might join in to make/write Make-a-Smile cards.

Committee Reports:

Worship: First in-person church service went well, thanks to council members assisting.

Learning Committee: Working on remote Sunday School. Fall learning goal is getting to know the Bible. Confirmation class will have service projects. Christmas Program will be a video production.

Service Committee: Reminder that the Food Truck was going to be at the food pantry on the 20th of August between 4:00pm and 5:30pm.

Property Report was given by Tim Gordon about update on internet connection with Aero. Pastor's e-mail is now with Outlook.

New Business:

Feedback on the in -person worship service on the 6th of September (Went Well)

Volunteer assignments for the next two weeks and possibly through September then ask for others from the congregation to assist.

The members of the council have and will continue to contact members on the calling list through calling or sending emails to members. Try to find who has internet and who does not have access to the internet. Office will update phone numbers accordingly.

Next Meeting: 22, October 2020 at 6:30PM

Submitted by Coralyn Hudik, Secretary

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we all know 2020 has been a very challenging year, not only for businesses and us as individuals but for the church as well. We, your Good Shepherd Church Council, are asking as you make your plans for the rest of 2020 that you prayerfully consider the needs of Good Shepherd. Your financial support is needed ***in order to continue Good Shepherd's basic programs.***

Again we, your church council, ask that you prayerfully consider what you can do to help alleviate short falls.

Thank You,
Good Shepherd Congregational Council

Offering Notes

Please be sure that any contributions you would like credit for this year, is received prior to the end of worship on Sunday, December 27, 2020. Any contribution received after that will be credited in 2021. Thank you for your cooperation.

I apologize for any inconvenience but if it is possible that your offering envelope number may change again for next year. This is part of an ongoing effort to reduce the number of boxes we order, thereby reducing our expenses. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila at (815) 369-5101. Thank you.



*We are looking for your
FAMILY CHRISTMAS COOKIE RECIPE
for Sunday School. If you can share
your family Christmas cookie recipe,
please bring it to the church office.
Thank you.*



If you have any offering envelopes that you have not used could you return them to use within the church?
Thank you



THANKS!

*Dear Garden Angels,
Thank you to the Garden Angels,
Pr. Miho, Lucas, Brianna and Heather Fye, Sarah and Kelly Geiseman, Nakoah Cornwell, Kristy and Taylor Patterson.*

*I am so grateful for all the yard work you did.
Caroline Jam*

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

Winter months are beautiful at Pine Ridge, but very cold. Many families are faced with the financial burden of heating their homes, many of which were not built to withstand the South Dakota winters. The Energy Assistance Matching Fund will match families in their contribution up to \$200 to pay their heating bill.



*Please remember to check our website;
www.goodshepherdlena.org*

for Sunday Bulletins and monthly Newsletter.

The Piece Corps Quilters
Are you looking for yarn, are you getting ready for those winter knitting or crochet projects? If you are, the Piece Corps Quilters has extra yarn available for you.

Clothing is not needed at this time. If you have any of these items you can drop them off at the church office or Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your donations.



To make a donation, donate online at sdsynod.org/donate and choose Energy Assistance Matching Fund or make a check out to Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center and mail it to Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, P.O. Box 862, Pine Ridge, SD 57770.

We lift up our prayers

Bob and Lynn Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Delbert Scheider, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B, Gene Hesselbacher, Lisa Wienand, Connor Stadermann, Jaden, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Deb Lindeman Harder, Paul Heller, Dave Heinkel, Cindy Tessendorf, the Heimann family, Janet, Lori, J.T., Dan and Sue White, Ryse Stone, Harry Perra Jr., Nicole, Meghan, Kelly Thurman, Tom, Brian Gobeli, John, Jerred, Bronwein, Matt and Julie, Susan Andersen, Ben, Chuck, Joyce, Marcia, Deb, Mary Gerbode, Terri, Carla, Tina, and Julie. We pray for those serving overseas, especially Kyle. We pray for the love, peace, comfort and resurrection of hope for the families and friends of Maurice Holmes, Dale Larson, and Hailey Betthausen.

Loving God, protect the vulnerable, heal the broken, strengthen the weary, embrace the lonely, comfort the grieving, and give peace to all call upon you; trusting in your mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Chain:



If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, Please call the Church Office at 815-369-5552.

We are also looking for anyone who would like to join the prayer chain. We send prayer through the phone chain and

e-mail. You pray your own and pass on to the next person in the prayer chain. God hears our prayers.

If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

Lena Area Church Cooperative

The members of the Lena Area Church Cooperative have decided that due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be delivering Thanksgiving food boxes this year. It was a decision that weighed heavy on our hearts but we feel we have made the right decision. The Angel Tree will also be done differently this year. If you choose to participate, it is being sponsored by the Lena Business Association and the tree will be at the Lena Mercantile. Please contact the Mercantile if you have questions about the Angel tree.

Thank you and please be safe.

Shirley Fox and Mary Lloyd

World Kindness Day, November 13th

We are encouraged to spread kindness like an infectious cold. We want to share it more than usual because studies show when others observe kindness in action they are more likely to carry out an act of kindness, too.

So, imagine if you head out for the day and your neighbor's garbage can has tipped over, Instead of ignoring it and letting the wind make a mess, you pick it up and return it to the corner. Three other neighbors notice and give you a smile and a nod on their way to work.

One of the neighbors notices a stranded driver on the side of the road on his commute to work. He remembers your thoughtfulness and offers assistance to the stranded driver. Several passerby take notice.

We each have the potential to improve each others lives through understanding and kindness. Whether it's a friend, family member, coworker or stranger, our ability to show our humanity should have no limit.

November Birthdays

11-01	Margery Ference
11-03	Brian Albrecht
11-03	Brianna Lynn Fye
11-04	Kathy Andrews
11-04	Ashtyn Brinker
11-04	Hanna Brinker
11-06	Lorene Solace
11-06	Neal Shumaker
11-06	Dale Andrews
11-07	Amanda Lessman
11-07	Cameron Baker
11-10	Martin Luther
11-13	Brian Eilders
11-15	Sarah (Huber) Andrews
11-18	Deanna Drye
11-19	Lukas Price
11-20	Melinda Reed
11-20	Wade Flack
11-22	Leona Block
11-22	Sue Diddens
11-23	Peggy Roettger
11-28	John Huneke
11-30	Taylor Patterson
11-30	Alex White



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



Worship Vol unteers needed!

We are looking for those who can help with Sunday worship.

- Temperature check person
- Elevator operator
- Sound system
- Ushers
- Lector (who will read scripture and prayer)

If you can help, please let the church office know. We appreciate your help!



We are looking for Youth volunteers at the Le-Win Food Pantry.

Good Shepherd helps at the food pantry on the 4th Saturday of every other month from 8:20am-11:30am. Needs are high and we are looking for 2 youth (junior high and older) volunteers for upcoming months (December 26, February 27, 2021, and April 24., 2021) If you are interested, contact the church office or Pr. Miho. THANK YOU

**DID YOU KNOW?
AN ACT OF KINDNESS CAN:**

- ✓ DECREASE STRESS
- ✓ BOOST HAPPINESS
- ✓ LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE
- ✓ RELEASE FEEL-GOOD CHEMICALS (serotonin & dopamine)
- ✓ INSPIRE MORE KINDNESS!

randomactsofkindness.org



History of God's Eye



A **God's eye** (in Spanish, ***Ojo de Dios***) is a spiritual and votive object made by weaving a design out of yarn upon a wooden cross. Often several colors are used. They are commonly found in Mexican and Mexican American communities, among both Indigenous and Catholic peoples.

Ojos de Dios are common in the Pueblos of New Mexico. Often they reflect a confidence in all-seeing Providence. The spiritual eye of the *Ojos de Dios* is thought by some believers to have the power to see and understand things unknown to the physical eye. During Spanish colonial times in New Mexico, from the 16th to the 19th centuries, *Ojos de Dios* (God's Eyes) were placed where people worked, or where they walked along a trail.

In other parts of the Americas, artisans weave complicated or variegated versions of the traditional *Ojos de Dios*, selling them as decorations or religious objects. There has also been a huge increase in the use of *Ojos de Dios* as an easy and fun craft for children.

The Ojo de Dios or God's eye is a ritual tool that was believed to protect those while they pray, magical object, and an ancient cultural symbol evoking the weaving motif and its spiritual associations for the Huichol and Tepehuan Americans of western Mexico. The Huichol or Wixaritari call their God's Eyes **Tsikuri**, which means "the power to see and understand things unknown."¹ When a child is born, the central eye is woven by the father, then one eye is added for every year of the child's life until the child reaches the age of five. Original Tepehuan Crosses are extremely rare to come by. There are many that are being made for the tourist market, but they do not carry the same traditional and spiritual significance.

Source From: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

We need your help with Christmas season

Christmas is only 2 months away. We need your help with preparation for the Christmas season. There are two ways you can help.

Make God's Eye crafts

We are thinking about decorating the halls with God's Eye craft, easy to make, supplies are available at the church.



Adopt a room to decorate;

We have 5 rooms for you to adopt for Christmas decoration. If you are interested contact Kristy

Thank you



Turkey Chuckles

Phyllis Kramer works for the Butterball turkey call center in Naperville during the holiday season. "When it comes to thawing, you turkey people forget how long it may take. With a fridge, you need 24 hours for every four pounds. But people have called and come up with some very creative ideas." Kramer recalls a few calls which got her attention; "A person once asked about doing it in the dishwasher and insisting they wouldn't use soap. And another wondered if wrapping the turkey in an electric blanket would work.." The person called and said some people were sitting around outside in the Jacuzzi and would it be OK to thaw the turkey in there,"

Source: Aurora Beacon-News, Nov 21, 2016

Christ the King HAT Sunday

November 22nd.



Wear your HAT to worship space!

We will celebrate the last day of church year by wearing our favorite hat to worship.

Make-A-Smile cards for Lena Living Center



Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. This is a new ministry to share love of Christ to the residence in the nursing home. We are responsible for 10 cards each month. If you would like to help with this ministry, just bring cards to church by the 10th of each month. Please sign and include short encouraging words. Our hope is to make them smile!

Questions? Contact the church office or Pr. Miho.



All Saints Sunday—November 1st
Worship with all saints

This year's All Saints Sunday you are invited to bring something to remind you of the loved ones to the worship space. (ex. quilt, picture, necklace, or wearing their favorite color.) We will worship together with all saints.

Advent starts on November 29th.

Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation in hope. As darkness grows we look for Christ, the light of the world to come and born among us.

There are several ways to spend your Advent season.

-Advent Devotion

Our hope and expectation: Devotion for Advent & Christmas 2020-2021 is a daily devotion with scripture, to ponder, short reflection and prayer. You may use as individuals or as a group.

God With Us: Advent Study 2020 is a weekly devotion from ELCA World Hunger. Each reading goes along with lectionary with questions. Digital copy is also available on their website.

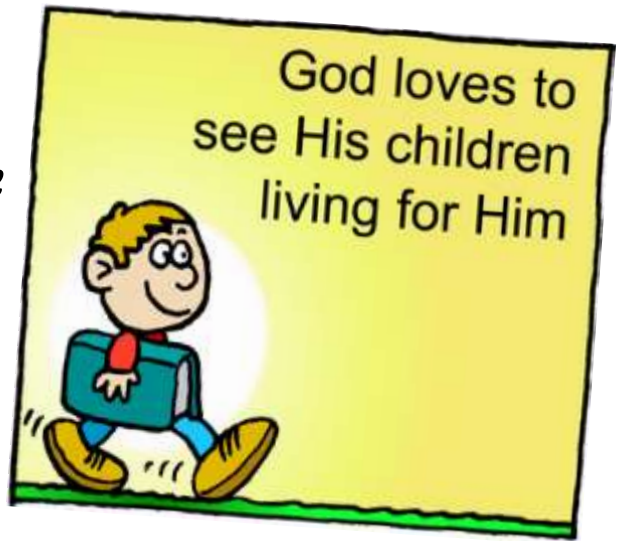
Families Celebrate 2020-2021 Advent & Christmas is a daily devotion and activity for all ages. Each card features a ritual, prayer, reflection, or activities for families with kids ages 3-12 (and older!) This includes lighting the advent wreath prayers for each week. This colorful deck of card may be used in your family time.

-Advent Calendar

ELCA World Hunger 2020 Advent Calendar has scripture verses, prayer, hymns, and information about God's Global Barnyard. Each day you open the window and learn about God and God's work.

All resources are available at church.





Luther is honored on February 18 with a commemoration in the Lutheran Calendar of Saints and in the Episcopal Calendar of Saints.

Luther went to study in Rome. There, he discovered that many of the leaders of the Catholic Church were dishonest and corrupt. People would pay them money to get into heaven, which Luther thought was wrong.

Luther made effective use of Johannes Gutenberg's printing press to spread his views. He even switched from Latin to German in his writing to appear to a broader audience.



Source: Historical Figures



IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Pinetuckley.com

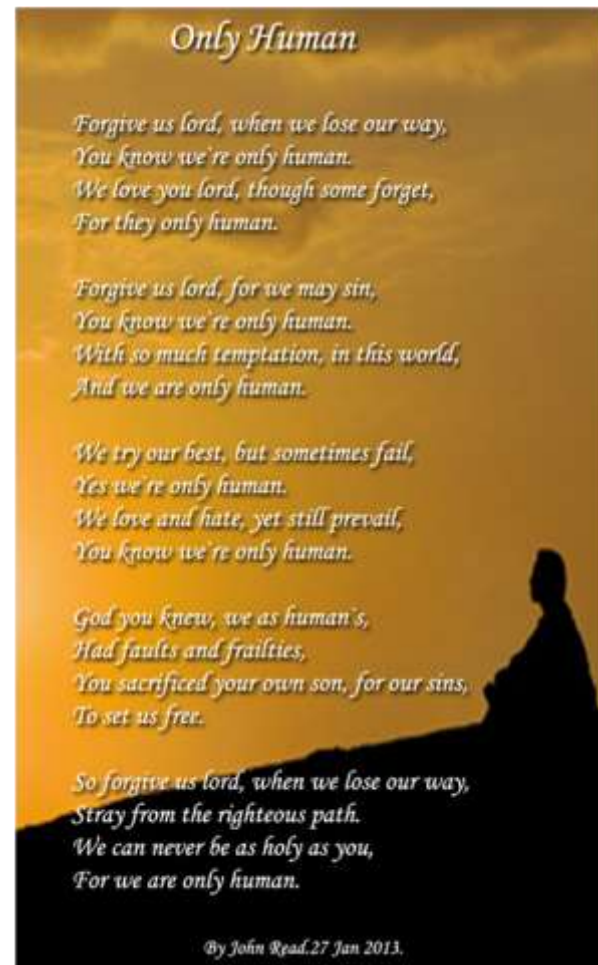
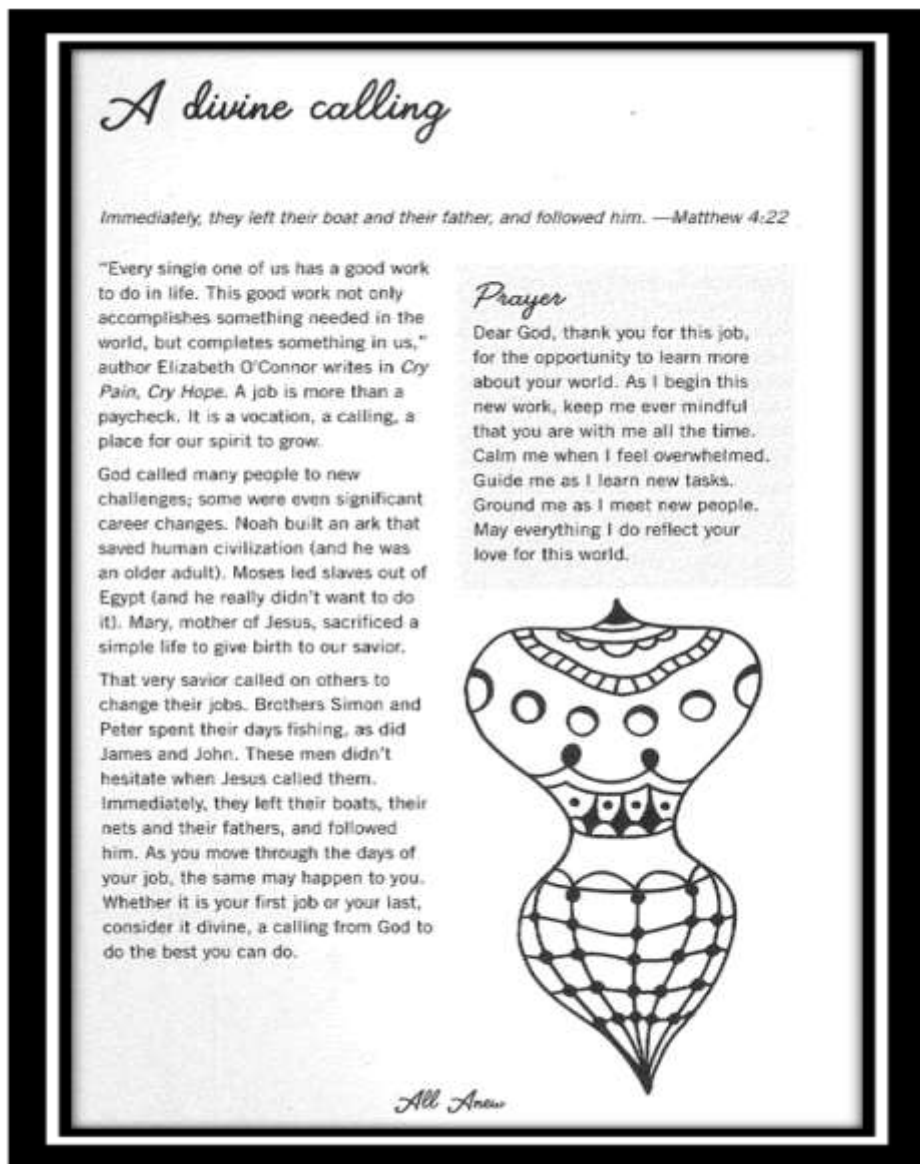
ANIMALS	F H R A U N W B V N R F E
BEGINNING	P V N N U C R E A T I O N
CREATION	M U A I Y G W G V N Y S C
EARTH	L E M M Q W Q I K W W T N
GARDEN	S T D A E K M N L A T N E
GOD	U P J L O T M N V Y X A D
HEAVENS	K N Q S G O D I S I X L R
LIGHT	H A H E A V E N S T H P A
MAN	H M B E F G S G S W A X G
PLANTS	Y O G M A K Q L N T W R Y
SEA	Y W T W S R T H G I L C S
STARS	M P M K F Z T H B C B C H
WOMAN	J L P X I K C H S O U C F



A Devotional Coloring Book

Women of the ELCA and Gather Magazine.

Here is a sample of a few of the inspirational stories from the booklet*.



The Lutheran Journal

Has arrived and is available at the magazine rack by the Washington Street entrance.

Pick up your copy soon.

Kind Words Can Heal the Heart and Mind

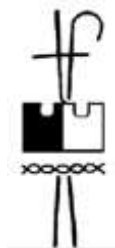
By Guest Blogger, Margene Thompson

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up ([Galatians 6:9](#)).

As I write this, I'm embracing the start of a new season marked by back to school and garden harvests. My heart and mind are busy places right now—just as I'm offering blessings and grace for students and teachers returning to school and beaming up thanks for the bounty of the land.

For me, it was hard to close this season when we haven't been able to experience the fullness of activities that bring so much to our lives. The time we share at our conventions and synodical meetings is precious. **I've missed being together, lifting our voices in praise, bowing our heads in prayer, leaning into one another to share experiences, the laughter and joy that comes from women worshipping together.** I missed the renewal that I receive from those meetings—a renewal that helps strengthen my faith and supports me in practicing and living with God's light shining.

I'm not alone in having these feelings. In conversations with women, a comment that I have heard often is as the pandemic wears on and challenges people to their cores, kindness, patience, and love seem to be lost. Yet, as women, those beautiful virtues are often the ones that we exhibit, offer, and share with our friends, families, and communities.



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*Martin Luther's Small Catechism
The Lord's Prayer*

Introduction

Our Father in heaven.

What does this mean?

With these words God wants to attract us, so that we come to believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father.