



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
118 E. Mason Street
Lena, Illinois 61048

Email: goodshepherdlena@outlook.com

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Martin Luther's Small Catechism
The Lord's Prayer

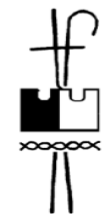
The Second Petition Your kingdom come.

What does this mean?

In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.

How does this come about?

Whenever our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that through the Holy Spirit's grace we believe God's holy word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.



January 2021 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Shepherd's Voice

"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark 1:1

Dear God's beloved,

It's a new year! Are you excited? Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? As a child I came up with brilliant (or unrealistic) New Year's resolutions like "Memorize 100 Japanese classical poems (There is a card game called *hyakunin ishu*, or 100 Classical Japanese Poems. Our family played this card game every new year. And I wanted to win this game by memorizing all 100 poems.) or "Eat healthy and exercise well." Most of my New Year's resolutions disappeared by the end of January, but once in a while I remembered and tried again in the Summer (and forgot them again in a month!).

The new year brings excitement. December 31 and January 1 are different by just a day, but somehow January seems to be different, starting something new—new year, new life, new hopes, new challenges, new dreams, and new learning opportunities. So for this year, 2021, I invite you to try reading the Gospel of Mark. Mark's gospel is short (only 16 chapters), and the story moves quickly. (Mark loves the word "immediately.") It is considered to be the earliest gospel to be compiled (Scholars say the Gospel of Mark was written around 70 C.E.). I like reading Mark not only because it is short and concise but also because Mark is a good story teller. My New Testament professor at seminary said that Mark's gospel was probably performed like a theater before it was compiled in a book. The Gospel of Mark is a good one to try. It is a simple, short, and passionate account about a man named Jesus, the Son of God, who brought the good news of God's reign to people who felt God was distant. And in its simple writings Mark provides room for questions and imagination. If you are like me who can easily forget New Year's resolutions within a month, Mark will be a good one to try. And if you forget some days to read, do not worry. We are in the year of Mark in the lectionary, which means that most of our Sunday readings will come from the Gospel of Mark. We will read together on Sundays! If you would like to explore more about the Gospel of Mark, there are plenty of good resources. (ex. the website Enter the Bible <https://www.enterthebible.org> offers basic outlines, background, and theological themes. If you'd like to read it like a story, you may check Mark as Story by David Rhoads, Joanna Dewey, and Donald Michie.) Reading the Bible keeps us centered in God. The more we explore God's stories, the more we grow in trusting God. Let's give it a try!

Pr. Miho

Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming November 2020	\$4,304.90
Expenses November 2020	\$9,491.69
Net Income (Loss)	\$(5,186.79)
Income, Year to Date 2020	\$95,224.28
Expenses, Year to Date 2020	\$106,562.08
Net Income (Loss)	\$(11,337.80)

Highlights from December Council Meeting

Call to Order: 6:30

Minutes were read by Secretary Cora Hudik for the October 22nd and November 12th phone council meetings.

- Treasurer's Report: Jay Andrews gave the report. Monies were taken out of the revolving fund to meet the bills in October and November. There is a small amount left in the revolving account.

Heating: \$270.36 Electric: \$139.01

A question was raised as to where the seasonal offering is distributed in the budget. Jay explained it goes toward current expenses.

- Pastor's Report: This was presented by Pastor Miho via speaker phone. She pointed out on the printed copy of the report that the Council Members had a few special additions: Bob Herman passed on the 9th and the funeral would be at future date of the following week. She asked the Council Members to contact their flock to update the list of who has internet service for the purpose of knowing what is the best way to contact when announcements need to be made. For those who don't have internet service how would the member want to be contacted: Snail mail/ phone call/ or texting?
Next she asked that the Council Members would sign and mail Christmas postcards with the Christmas worship schedule printed on the card with some space for the Council Member to write a brief notation and sign. Address and postage will be on the postcard. This is to make a personal connection. These will be ready the week of the 14th of December. Pastor will inform council members when they can come by the church to pick the postcards up.
- Committee Reports:
- Worship: Christmas worship services will be on Facebook Live. There will be no in person services.
- Service Committee, the Barnabas/ Health & Wellness, report brought up the discussion of the Le-Win Food Pantry. How many families in the area are getting the benefit? Communities in Winslow, McConnell, Orangeville and Lena are served.
- Annual congregational meeting was discussed: Main question was Should it be held in January or not? By agreement of the Council Members present it was probably difficult to have it in January due to the mitigating orders that the State of Illinois put out regarding COVID-19. Pastor and Wayne will be attending the Zoom meeting hosted by the Northern Synod on Saturday. They will share with the council later. This will be discussed as it relates to the revision of the Good Shepherd Constitution/ By-laws. Can the date of annual congregational meeting be amended without the formal procedure as prescribed in the present Constitution/ by-laws? Discussion will continue to the next meeting.
- If the Annual Meeting is postponed, Don Weinand, Bari Raymer, Virgil Gordon and Billie Jo Runkle agreed to stay on Council at least until the Annual meeting.

Voice vote to adjourn passed and was followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: 14, January 2021 at 6:30PM

Submitted by Secretary, Coralyn Hudik

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Covid 19 pandemic and social gathering limitations continue, your Congregational Council continues to struggle with the question of how to conduct our 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting. Our Congregational Constitution calls for an Annual Meeting to be held in January every year, however, with the current limitations of ten (10) persons for any gatherings, I do not feel it is practical to schedule a meeting, only to cancel it because we are not allowed to gather enough church members to constitute a quorum. Therefore, your Congregational Council will continue to plan for an Annual Meeting later in the spring when the pandemic will hopefully be winding down. If any of you have questions or comments, please feel free to call me or any member of the Church Council.

*Congregational Council President,
Wayne Kurth
815-291-3508*

We lift up our prayers

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 Gobel, John, Jerred, Bronwein, Matt and Julie, Susan Anderson, Chuck, Joyce, Marcia, Deb, Mary Gerbode, Terri, Carla, Tina, Julie, Karla, J.T., Annie, Jamie, Penny Day, Crystal, Jesse Becke, Sue, Pastor Art Stees, Carl Watson, Tina Diddens Tana, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby. We pray for those serving overseas, especially Kyle. Pray for love, peace, comfort, and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Bob Herman, David Chambers, Faith Brookman, and Cathy Stauffer. We pray for the first responders, essential workers, healthcare workers, and their families for their hard work to keep our community safe.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Prayer Chain:

If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, please call the Church Office to submit your request at 815-369-5552. We are also looking for anyone who would like to join the prayer chain.

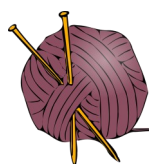


We send prayer through the phone chain and e-mail. You pray individually and pass it on to the next person in the prayer chain. God hears our prayers.

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

The Piece Corps Quilters

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



We are in need of sheets, blankets or other sewing materials. If you have any of these items you can drop them off at the church office or Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your donations.

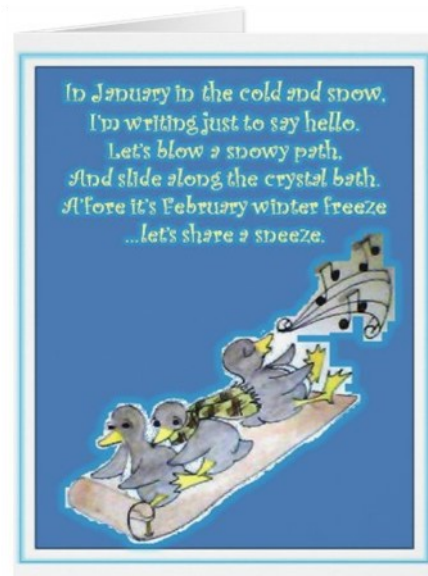


If you have any offering envelopes that you have not used could you return them to use within the church?



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 the love of Christ to the residents 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.*





Grinches and Scrooges can't steal your 'Joy to the World'

by Susan P. Harris, guest blogger for Gather Magazine

In this time when we should be singing "Joy to the World," I wonder how many of us are feeling the joy right now. With COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths on the rise, how can we sing "Joy to the World?" Social distancing and mass gathering restrictions in place make it difficult to celebrate.

With recommendations for limiting social and family gatherings, this Christmas season makes me think of the movie, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," or even Ebenezer Scrooge in the Charles Dickens' novel, "A Christmas Carol." Neither the Grinch nor Scrooge saw anything joyful in Christmas. The Grinch sets out to ruin things for the people of Whoville, and Ebenezer Scrooge is a miser who despises Christmas. I think we could cast COVID-19 in either of those roles. Eventually, both Scrooge and the Grinch realize the joy of Christmas.

We, as Christians, have always celebrated with joy the birth of Jesus Christ. On Christmas Eve and the time following, we usually sing "Joy to the World" with exuberance in our worship. Unlike years past, this year, if we sing the well-loved hymn, it will mostly be in our homes or with others on Zoom. How can we be joyful when all the world seems to be hurting?

The Lord is Come

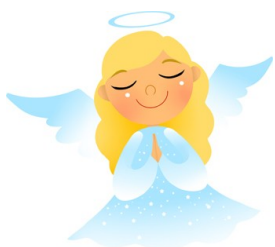
We only need to look to the second phrase of the hymn and the words, "the Lord is Come." Jesus Christ, our Lord, was born on Christmas Day. That thought alone should make us joyful and happy during these unprecedented times. Looking further at the words of this familiar hymn assures us that "the savior reigns" and "He rules the world with truth and grace." The words continue, "He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found." No matter what befalls us, COVID-19, or some other calamity, we know Jesus was born in that manger, and he is our Messiah.

As we look back on this time of the Coronavirus in 2020, we may think about it as a curse. However, there is still joy to be found as we manage to worship in new and different ways, as we connect with our friends and neighbors remotely, as we share the joy of Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ in whatever ways possible. Let us sing "Joy to the World" as we think about the many blessings we receive, even in time of a pandemic, and as we acknowledge that Christ is King!

Susan P. Harris is past president of the North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization and a life-long member of Salem Lutheran Church, Lincolnton, N.C.

Source: Gather Magazine

**We have extra copies of Gather Magazine at church for you. If you would like it to be sent to you, please contact the church office. We'll get it to you.*



Morning Prayer

Your sun rises again, O Lord, embracing the earth and seeking out every corner of our hearts. Warm us with the radiance of your presence. Scatter fear and sadness, that we may live your love today. Amen.

(from Christ in Our Home January-March 2021)

January Birthdays

- 1-01 *Tim Gordon*
- 1-02 *Elizabeth Kurth*
- 1-03 *Brady Meier*
- 1-03 *Shayleigh Albright*
- 1-08 *Tena Rackow*
- 1-10 *Noah Schoaf*
- 1-11 *Tamara Albrecht*
- 1-13 *Heather Fye*
- 1-14 *Courtney Lawson*
- 1-15 *Isabelle Schoaf*
- 1-16 *JD Fye*
- 1-16 *Sarah Baker*
- 1-17 *Gary Meyers*
- 1-17 *Mike Koppean*
- 1-17 *Owen Martin*
- 1-18 *Tim Aurand*
- 1-21 *Tyler Raders*
- 1-23 *Janis Kurth*
- 1-27 *Becky Huttenlocher*
- 1-28 *Jan Wybourn*
- 1-28 *Denise Flack*
- 1-28 *Heather Block*
- 1-29 *David Graff*
- 1-29 *Bailey Schoenhard*
- 1-30 *Marilyn Fulfs*
- 1-31 *Lisa Wienand*



We are looking for volunteers at the
Lo-Win Food Pantry. For 2021

Good Shepherd helps with Lo-Win Food Pantry on the 4th Saturday of even numbered months from 8:20am-11:30am. Needs are high and we are looking for 2 volunteers for the upcoming months (February 27, 2021, April 24th, June 26th, August 28th, October 23rd, December 25th) If you are interested, contact the church office or Pr. Miho.

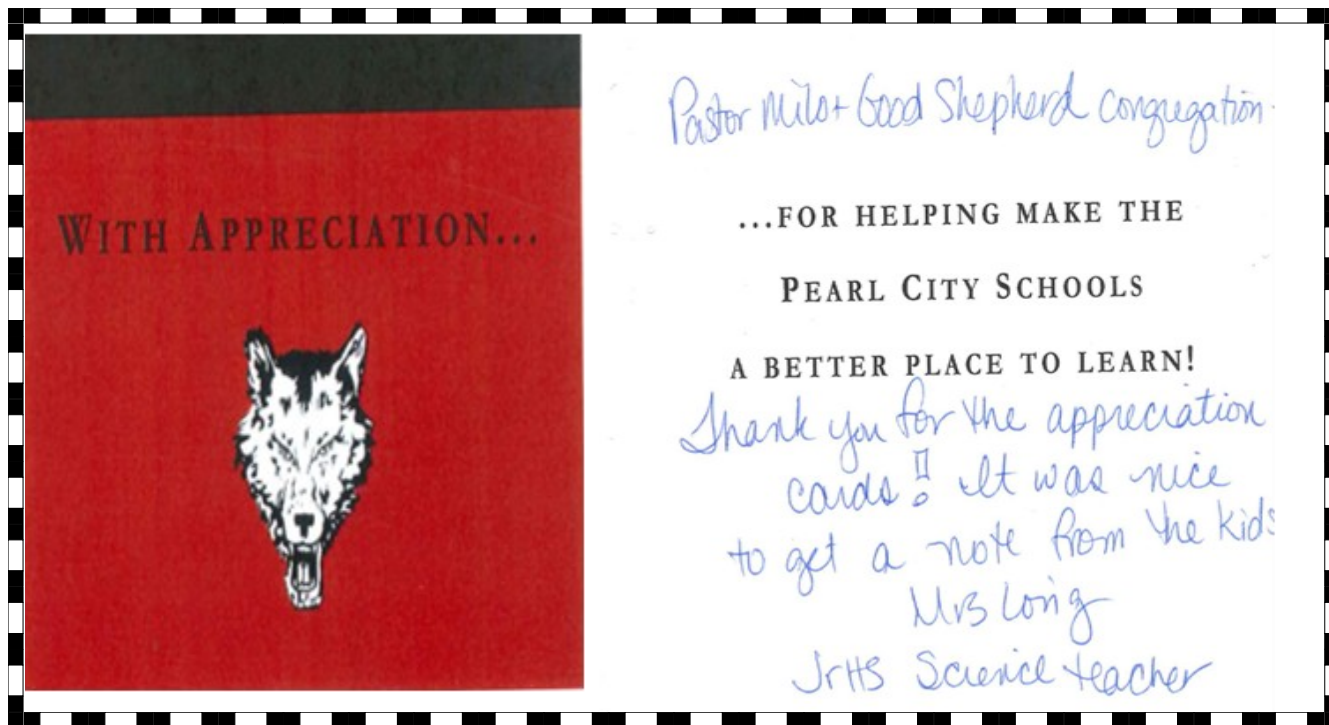
Your help will be appreciated.



GOOD SHEPHERD OFFERING ENVELOPES

2021 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick up outside the Washington Street entrance on Saturday, January 2 and Saturday, January 9 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., weather permitting. Please, remember to wear a mask. You may also call Sheila at (815) 369-5101 to make other arrangements.

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



Christmas Program 2020 Video

Have you seen our first ever Christmas Program video? It is on our website. If you have not seen yet, you may check it out! Our children, youth, and adults did a wonderful job with it. We'd like to give big thank you to Kenlee, Penelope, Lukas, Rene, Nakoah, Jacob, Jared, Brianna, Lucas, Karen, Willie, Sheila, Troy, Krista, Michelle, Jay, Austin, Kaylee, Betty and her husband, Taylor Bastian, the Runkle family, the Fye family, the Price family, the Patterson family, Troy, Wayne, Taylor's friends, Marybeth (for goodie bags), Kristy (for organizing), Taylor Patterson (for editing the video), our website manager (for posting it on time), and YOU (for watching). We had a good time and hope you did too.



Attention! Children! We have goodie bags in Fellowship Hall. Please stop by and pick it up! Thank you.



NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group is a free, peer-led support group for any adult who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition. You will gain insight from hearing the challenges and successes of others, and the groups are led by trained leaders who've been there.

NAMI's support groups are unique because they follow a structured model to ensure you and others in the group have an opportunity to be heard and to get what you need.

Free of cost to participants

Designed for adults (18+) with mental health conditions

Led by people with mental health conditions

90 minutes long and meets weekly, every other week or monthly (varies by location)

No specific medical therapy or treatment is endorsed

Confidential

WHAT YOU'LL GAIN

By sharing your experiences in a safe and confidential setting, you can gain hope and feel a sense of connection. The group encourages empathy, productive discussion and a sense of community. You'll benefit from other's experiences, discover your inner strength and empower yourself by sharing your own experiences in a non-judgmental space.

NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group will help you:

Aim for better coping skills

Find strength in sharing experiences

Not judge anyone's pain

Forgive ourselves and reject guilt

Embrace humor as healthy

Accept that we cannot solve every problem

Understand that mental health conditions are no one's fault and can be traumatic experience.

You Are Not Alone

NAMI's "You are Not Alone" campaign features the lived experience of people affected by mental illness to fight stigma, inspire others and educate the broader public. Now more than ever before, it is important for the mental health community to come together and show the world that no one should ever feel alone. The campaign builds connection and increases awareness with the digital tools that make connection possible during a climate of physical distancing. Even in times of uncertainty, the NAMI community is always here, reminding everyone that you are not alone.

The NAMI National Help Line 1 800-950-NAMI (6264)

*Or join a scheduled NAMI Northern Illinois Connections Recovery Support Group zoom meeting on **Sunday from 2pm-3:30pm**. It is a peer support group for those 18 and older with mental health issues. We help each other work through issues and discuss topics related to the mental health experiences. To register for the zoom meeting or for information please go to <https://naminorthernillinois.org/support-groups/support-groups-2/>*

Blessing the Home at Epiphany
 by Wayne Zschech | Jan 1, 2019 | Uncategorized



Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome. Twelfth Night (Jan 5), Epiphany of Our Lord (Jan 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing for the home. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European traditions, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 19. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means, "Christ bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

The following is a simple Blessing for the Home. Families can use this and every year at Epiphany.

Greeting

May peace be to this house and all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (*Proverbs 24:3-4*)

Reading

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture. Read John 1 verses 1-4, 14, and 16).

Inscription

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance: 20 + CMB + 21. Write the appropriate character while speaking the text

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar

Followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

21 and twenty one years ago.

+ Christ bless this house,

+ and remain with us throughout the year.

Prayer of Blessing

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source:



Lutheran Church of Our Savior
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

January was a monumental year for Alaska! As of January 3rd, 1959, Alaska officially became the 49th state of the United States.

Source: <https://www.thefactsite.com/>

More Fun

BibleWise

The Wise Men

The wise men's journey Matthew 3:7-11 (ASV)

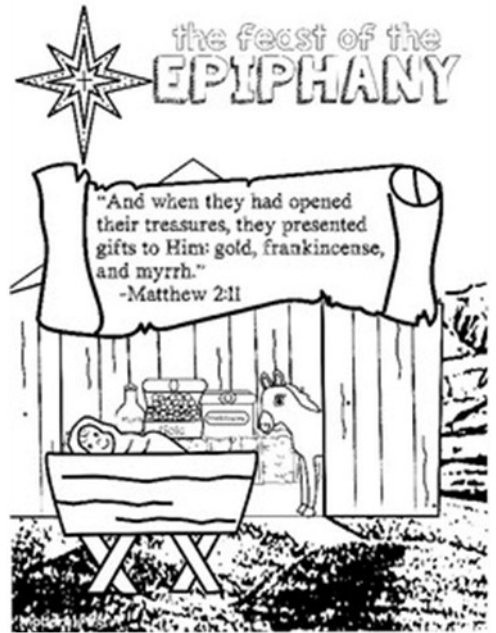
Use the key to complete the verses below about the three wise men.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
K	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
E	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Y	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○



7. Then Herod privily called the Wise-men, and learned of them exactly what time the _____ appeared. 8. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search out _____ exactly concerning the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word, that I also may come and _____ him. 9. And they, having heard the king, went their way; and lo, the star, which they saw in the _____ went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great _____. 11. And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshipped him; and opening their treasures they offered unto him _____, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12. And being warned of _____ in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

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Devotion Books

January-March issues of *Christ in Our Homes* and *The Word in Season* are available now. These devotion books are helpful ways to keep growing our faith. Start a new year with *the Word of God* every day!

Take one home today!

Have a minute spare for 5 random facts?

We're taught to play by the rules. But what if those rules are ridiculous? Do we still follow them? If you're a good sport, you would follow these weird rules, no matter how ridiculous they are!

1. If you injure yourself rounding the bases after a home run, good luck. One collegiate softball player tore her ACL while rounding the bases, and according to the rulebook she couldn't receive help from her teammates to finish her home run trot. In the greatest example of sportsmanship, the other team's players helped her touch all the bases.
2. Golfers have to sign their scorecards, or else they're disqualified.
3. If a pitched baseball is lodged into the umpire's mask, all runners advance one base.
4. Get this: you can win with [Twitter](#). If you receive the most mentions on Twitter during a Formula E race, your electric motor receives an extra boost.
5. There's something called the ground-rule triple in baseball. If someone tries to catch the ball with their hat, the batter is awarded third base.

Source: <https://www.thefactsite.com/>

Snow plow:

The snow was coming in a flurry, and the wind was blowing hard.

It turned into a whiteout blizzard, visibility was no more than a yard.

She was afraid of driving in it, then her **dad's** words crossed her mind.

He had said, " Find a snow plow honey, and drive real close behind."

She was combing her long blonde hair, with her dad's words on her mind.

When a snow plow came slowly by, and she fell right in behind.

She followed it for an hour or more, missing all the snow and muck.

And just like her father told her, she didn't slip, slide or get stuck.

But the snow plow stopped plowing, and the driver came back to her car.

She told him what her daddy said, and how happy she was so far.

He told her it was ok with him, whether she followed him or not.

But he was through with Wal-Mart, and next was the Sears parking lot.

P.N.

Source: Paul Beret [humor](#)



Prayer for Highway Maintenance Workers

Down all the highways that you travel,
Blacktop, stone and even gravel,
On every journey through and through,
May God's angels ride with you. Amen.

