

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

*Email: goodshepherdlena@outlook.com
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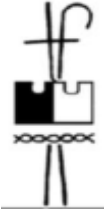
*Martin Luther's Small Catechism
The Lord's Prayer*

The Fifth Petition

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What does this mean?

We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we daily sin much and indeed deserve only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and to do good gladly to those who sin against us.



April 2021 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Shepherd's Voice

Jesus came and stood among [the disciples] and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. John 20:19-20

Dear God's beloved,

Two months ago, I wrote about my burn and visit to the clinic in town. Thank you for your prayers! My hand is much better. New skin covered the burn, and I do not need to put any more cream on it. One of our members said it was a second degree burn since I had a small potato sized blister which burst three times. Now the burnt spot is smooth, and I have no pain. Everything healed except it left a mark on my hand. I do not know if it will go away eventually or if it will stay permanently on my hand. Well, I guess it is a charm in my life. Whoever asks me about the mark, I can tell the person about my burn story.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he appeared to his disciples. He greeted them and showed them his scars. Probably until six years ago I did not pay attention to the scars of Jesus. It was a minor point to me. The first Easter after my mother's death, the scars of Jesus caught my attention. Jesus was resurrected with scars on his body. It was not a smooth perfectly nice-looking body but one with scars on his hands, side and feet. His resurrected body had scars. And Jesus did not hide his scars. He showed them to his disciples and let them touch the scars because his scars tell a story of his trauma—betrayal from close friends, public humiliation, torture, abandonment, and loneliness, as well as stories of courage, trust, and love. His scars tell stories.

Some of us carry scars. Our scars can be physical ones like scars from an accident, scratches from injury or surgery and burn marks. We may also carry scars which are deep in our hearts. These may be caused by traumas like experiences of abuse, bullying, violence, living through the global pandemic, suicide in a family, and witnessing violence in homes. Sometimes our scars hurt badly and make us numb and terrified. These scars can tell pieces of our stories, and not all stories are pretty and happy; yet our stories may bring healing and life by sharing like Jesus did with his disciples.

Jesus had scars. Through his scars we have life. And remember Jesus ascended to heaven with the scars. May the life of Christ be with us always.

Pr. Miho

Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming February 2021	\$6,121.10
Expenses February 2021	\$11,487.71
Net Income (Loss)	\$(5,366.61)
Income, Year to Date 2021	\$15,630.56
Expenses, Year to Date 2021	\$21,438.87
Net Income (Loss)	\$(5,808.31)

Highlights from March Council Meeting

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve was made by Tim Gordon and a second was made by, Don Wienand. Motion carried. Minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Treasure's Report: Jay Andrews gave the report. More is coming in by mail than on Sunday Service, the count is being done later in the week.

Heating: \$675.26 Electric: \$160.55

Cora Hudik made a motion to approve the Treasure's report and Virgil Gordon made the second. A voice vote was taken. Treasure's report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor asked at the beginning of her report "What is Young at Heart?" Members explained that at one time it was Loyal Club, then it faded away and it was a group of both young and old that met and often went on outings. Members had a copy of her report. Key points that Pastor Miho pointed out: the sending of postcards letting people know of the Easter times of the Service and how they can participate. Motion was made by Bari Raymer to approve the Pastor's report second was made by Cora Hudik. A voice vote was taken to approve the Pastor's report which passed.

Committee Reports;

Worship report was made by Wayne and Pastor stating that there would be two Easter Sunday services a 7:00 a.m. and a 9:30 a.m.

Learning committee report stated that there would be a confirmation class.

Service there is a need of volunteers in the Food Pantry on April 28th. Tim Gordon asked about the bi annual donation to the Food Pantry which is \$600.00 Jay explained it would be due in April.

Property report was given by Tim Gordon and Wayne Kurth it was pointed out that the organ needs repair, the little leather nuts are dried out and that is one of the reasons that the sound is not clear and a few of the bellows are also in poor condition. Some of what is in need of repair is from the 1940's, cost of the repair an estimate is over \$6,000. Discussion was then should there be a special fund set up for the repair. Other items the boiler was repaired bill still is to be paid, the lap top in the office is having issues. Virgil Gordon made a motion to approve the reports and the second was made by Tim Gordon, motion passed with a voice vote.

Old Business: Constitution update: Pastor is still working on it with assistance from Tim Gordon and Virgil Gordon. Good Shepherd Collaboration Pastor Miho gave a report that it is a group of churches networking together who have the name Good Shepherd. The council agreed that it would be Ok to join in.

New Business: The need for the Organ to be repaired. That there would be an appeal for organ repair and the money would be in the BMI fund. Motion was made by Tim Gordon and the second by Bari Raymer. Motion passed with a voice vote.

Discussion: Could the calendar be put back in the Newsletter?

Attendance count. It could be put back in the bulletin but would be two weeks prior since persons could be viewing the service for a whole week. The count would be from those in the sanctuary and those viewing virtual.

Next Meeting: 8th of April 2021 at 6:30PM

Submitted by Coralyn Hudik
Secretary of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

We lift up our prayers to

Lynn Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Delbert Scheider, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B., Gene Hesselbacher, Connor Stadermann, Jaden, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Deb Lindeman Harder, Paul Heller, Dave Heinkel, Cindy Tessendorf, Tim Tessendorf, the Heimann Family, Janet, Lori, J.T., Ryse Stone, Harry Perra Jr, Nicole, Meghan, Kelly Thurman, Tom, Brian Gobeli, John, Jerred, Bronwein, Matt and Julie, Susan Andersen, Chuck, Joyce, Marcia, Deb, Mary Gerbode, Terri, Tina, Julie, J.T., Jamie, Penny Day, Crystal, Jesse Becke, Sue, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, the Anthony Nelson family, Jim DeMontigny, Richard Gordon, Norma, Dick Kleckler, Kirk, and those serving our country, especially Kyle. Pray for love, peace, comfort, and hope of resurrection for the families and friends of James Kempel, Helen Cross., Michael Arn, and Wayne Herrmann



Prayer Chain

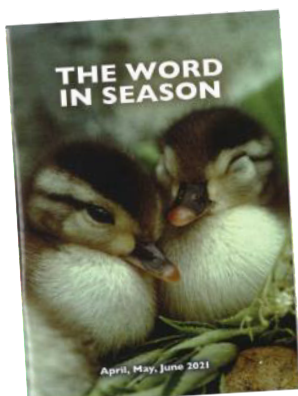
If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, please call the Church Office to submit your request at 815-369-5552. We are also looking for anyone who would like to join the prayer chain. We send prayer through the phone chain and e-mail. You pray individually and pass it on to the next person in the prayer chain. God hears our prayers.



Did you know?

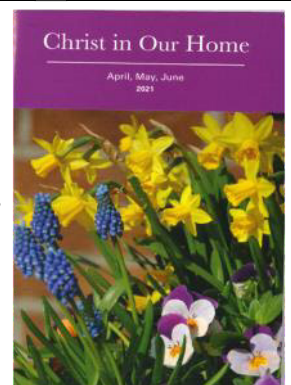
On April 3, 1973, Martin Cooper of Motorola, makes the first hand held mobile phone call to Joel S. Engel of Bell Labs.

We have come a long way with mobile phones since then.



Devotion Books

April-June 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. Take one home today and start your day with the Word of God.



Open Registration - Dive In at Any Time!

The diakonia™ Program is a two-year process of lay spiritual formation consisting of 12 courses, 6 per academic year. Each course is 5 sessions in length and meets weekly on Zoom for a 3 hour class. Assignments and reading relate directly to your life and ministry (within family, parish, neighborhood, and vocation), giving you a solid background of the topic. You work at your own level, and assignments reflect the understanding that students are already busy in their families, jobs, and parish. Typically, students average approximately 2 to 5 hours of studies per week in addition to class time. The goal of the diakonia program is to help you discover your God-given gifts, strengthen your faith and discern your purpose within your congregations, synods, and the church-wide body of Christ. Through the diakonia experience, you'll gain a better understanding of theology and your relationship to God, helping you bear fruit as a light of Christ in your community and beyond. New courses begin every 5 weeks, and you can jump in at any time. Not sure, come to a few classes and see if diakonia is for you. For more information on the diakonia program, visit www.nisynod.org/diakonia or discuss it

*We are looking for volunteers at the Le-Win Food Pantry for
 April 24th from 8:20am-11:30am*

We need 1 adult and 2 youth volunteers.

*If you are interested in volunteer at Food Pantry, here are upcoming dates:
 June 26th, August 28th, October 23rd, December 25th.*

*We usually have 2 adults and 2 youth volunteers. If you can help, please let the
 church office know.*



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.





Angels to help us

By Catherine Malotky



Good and Gracious God, we all need some comfort these days. We are launching into Lent, coming off a year of phenomenal political turmoil, and almost all of us know someone who has been stricken by or has even died of a virus none of us had heard of just a year ago. The past 12 months have been really

tough!

We know we're not the first of your children to be in a difficult place. Like our ancestors in faith, we struggle with complications of competing values that become ethical challenges. We fret. We work to make things as clear as a bell, but too often they are not. Sometimes the challenges we find ourselves caught in are not of our own making, which is even harder.

Where can we look for resilience? Patience? Clarity? Empathy? Compassion? Joy? How do we position ourselves and our attitudes when the deck seems stacked against us, and sometimes is? Where are your angels to help us?

Some of us retreat in times like these. We find a place to hide and surrender to the inevitable. Hagar did this. Her situation felt impossible. She had no power except her body's ability to reproduce, and even that was used against her. She fled with her son, found a quiet place and prepared to die. But you found her, God. You spoke to Hagar, and her life was changed, not because her circumstances turned around but because she clung to a promise of a better future, a promise from you. She began to see her world differently.

I wonder whether we give ourselves time and space to grieve, dear God. Or does our cultural expectation that we pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps cheat us, in this situation, of an opportunity to feel our losses, to grieve and to process them? Are we so committed to preserving the past that we are unable to welcome a better future, one promised by you? Are we missing the angels you send, God because getting help is not in our emotional vocabulary? Because we can sometimes be so sure we know better?

What kind of humility does it require to wait, to listen, to be influenced, to change? Perhaps when we can surrender, when we can let ourselves be vulnerable to you, God, and to each other, we can in humility, gain a new perspective. Perhaps we can begin to see a vision of the future you offer, God: a vision that assumes that all have enough, that none are mocked or dehumanized, that creation and we humans are in balance with each other, and that both justice and mercy prevail.

It takes tremendous courage to cling to this vision, especially if the world around us marches on with a short-term, "get what you can" value system. We need to find our own better angels, because in the long run, this kind of survival orientation will not serve us, our children or their children.

Surround us, God, with your angels of hope, justice and mercy. Give us eyes to see the, ears to hear and courage to respond to your messengers. In Jesus' name. Amen

Source: Gather Magazine, March 2021



April Birthdays

- 4/1 *Troy Doubler*
- 4/2 *Wieland Kayser*
- 4/3 *Joshua Andrews*
- 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 *Donna Christen*
- 4/8 *Lucas Fye*
- 4/15 *Kathy Graff*
- 4/16 *Ian Geiseman*
- 4/21 *Braden Diddens*
- 4/22 *Danielle Balbach*
- 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!

Bible Quiz

A man named Simon was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus.

In Mark 15:21 we are told the names of Simon's two sons.

What were their names?

- A) *Bert & Ernie*
- B) *Alexander & Rufus*
- C) *Shaul & Joseph*
- D) *Mark & Peter*

Answer on page 11

Save the Date

April 22, 2021—Luther Day

Many people, One Voice

Every year in partnership with other Lutheran organizations, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) organizes Lutheran Day, an event where friends from across the state gather to learn more about our call to social advocacy and become informed about current legislation affecting Illinois residents. Visit LutheranDay.org to learn more about this year's virtual event and register for free. Program updates will be posted as there as they become available.

For questions contact Joy Medrano at Joy.Medrano@LSSI.org

April 25, 2021—

Good Shepherd Sunday

Please plan now to celebrate Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) during 2021 Easter season. We will have a video and other resources available for your congregations to use on Sunday, April 25 or another Sunday during the Easter season. Given the ongoing pandemic, the resources being created for Good Shepherd Sunday will include options for churches holding online services. Visit LSSI.org/GSS to sign up for the video, download resources and to get more information about Good Shepherd Sunday. For additional inquiries contact Susan Greeley at 847-635-4617 or Susan.Greeley@LSSI.org



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

This last year has been challenging for all of us. LSSI has remained committed to serving the whole person, listening with empathy and compassion just as we have since 1867. By promoting the dignity of people, valuing the diversity of human life, and helping people realize their full potential, we transform one life at a time. A ripple effect is felt as that transformation impacts and creates stronger relationships with others.

Mission Statement

Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) brings healing, justice and wholeness to people and communities.

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for being a courageous partner with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) during this unprecedented year. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly reshaped almost all aspects of our lives.

Together, we have been firm in our faith and through your gifts, we were able to quickly adapt and continue to respond to the needs of almost 44,000 people across Illinois.

This was an especially difficult year to be courageous and to be strong, for some, life already presented seemingly unsurmountable challenges that the pandemic and its' effects pushed to the brink. We were there for them

Your gifts helped 468 children in our foster care services find their forever home; provided books to 3,700 children through our Storybook Project; and served 18,600 people receiving critical and sometimes life-saving mental health services.

The enclosed 2020 Impact Statement provides a brief summary of our work. I invite you to learn more about the people whose lives have been changed by your generosity by visiting LSSI.org and our Facebook and YouTube accounts. Additionally, I appreciate hearing your feedback about our ministry and invite you to reach out to me by phone at 847-635-4671 or email at David.Novak@LSSI.org.

As we begin this new year filled with new hope, LSSI continues to emphasize care for the whole person by promoting dignity, enhancing health and well-being, and helping people reach their full potential.

Thank you for your prayers and support of LSSI's work.

Peace and prayers,

David P. Novak, JD

Vice President for Advancement

Whom LSSI Serves

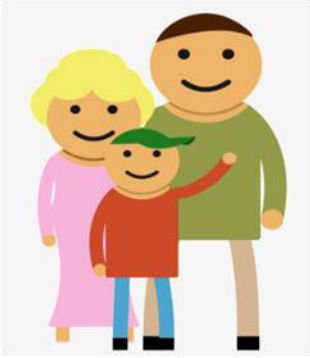
Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 LSSI's service helped almost **44,000 children, adults, and seniors throughout Illinois. That is one of every 289 people in the state.**

30% of the children served by LSSI's Children's Community Services are **under 5 years**; and **18% of people served** in all LSSI programs are **between 24-34 years**.

94% of LSSI's primary clients have household incomes below \$25,000; 74% have incomes below \$5,000.

"Success is measured not by what you have, but by whom you help along the way."

Evelia Rivera, Therapeutic Foster Parent



dren with 33 youth

Foster Care Services

As the largest provider of Foster Care Services in Illinois, we care for children who have been removed from their birth families due to abuse and/or neglect and we place them with foster families who receive training and support from LSSI. Our primary goal is to help children find their forever home, either by reunification with birth families whenever possible or through adoption. LSSI continues to provide specialized Therapeutic Foster Care through an evidence-based treatment program that places children with histories of severe trauma and emotional/behavioral needs into single-family homes rather than institutional settings

2,729 children were served through Foster Care placements.

Since May 2017, LSSI's Therapeutic Foster Care program has enrolled 59 children successfully completing the program.

Intact Family Services

Designed to stabilize, strengthen, enhance, and preserve family life by enabling children to remain safely at home, Intact Family Services works with families who have come to the attention of Illinois DCFS.

1254 families were enrolled in this project.

The Storybook Project

With the help of dedicated, well-trained volunteers and donated new children's books, LSSI's Storybook Project continues to connect incarcerated parents with their children. At 14 Illinois prisons and jails, incarcerated moms and dads read and record a book. LSSI mails the book and recording to their child.

3703 children received books from their incarcerated parents through 67 events before the pandemic temporarily suspended programming.



Mental Health Services



LSSI's **Welcoming Center** is a safe, walk-in emergency department alternative for people experiencing behavioral health symptoms like, anxiety, depression, bi-polar disorder, substance use, and post-traumatic stress. **Project IMPACT (Immediate Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team)** uses a creative wrap around behavioral health model with trained counselors available 24 hours a day, every day, to help people experiencing a behavioral, psychiatric, or addiction crisis. LSSI's Step-Up School-Based Counseling services partner with 58 Chicago Public Schools to provide

needed mental health care to grammar and high school-age students.

LSSI Provided critical mental health services to 18,660 clients.

Alcohol and Drug Treatment

LSSI provides a full continuum of targeted Alcohol and Drug Treatment for individuals, beginning with medically assisted detox, all the way through residential care and transitional housing.

LSSI served 3207 clients with alcohol/drug issues

LSSI's programs consistently outperform other comparable services throughout Illinois.

"Be strong on your guard, stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

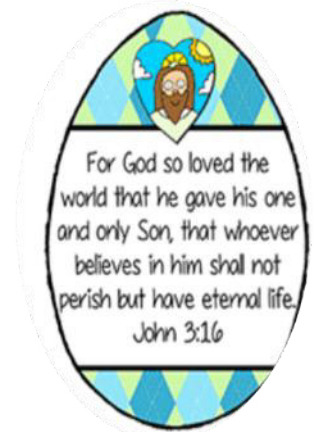
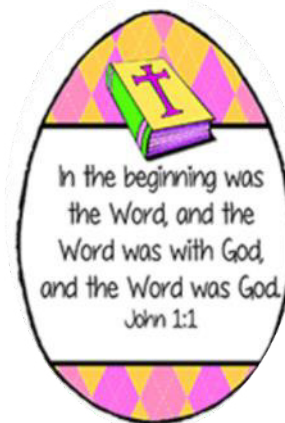
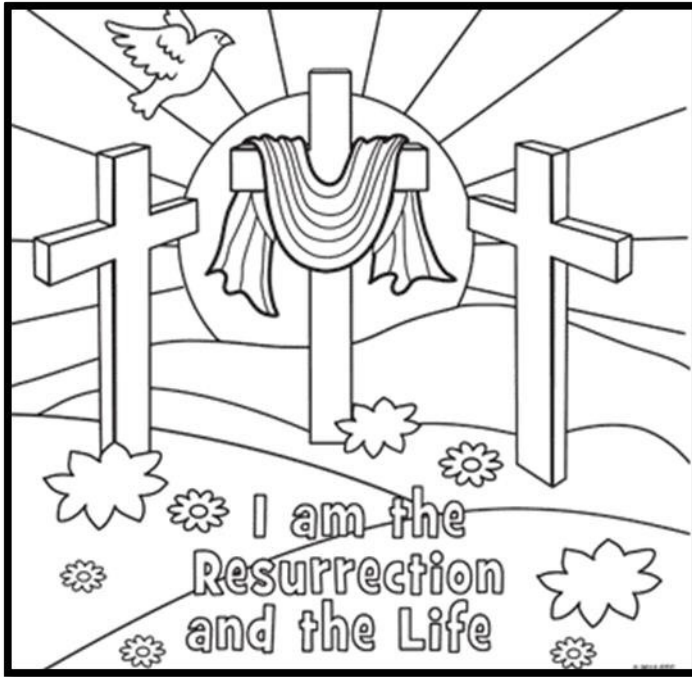


FY20-2.21



Funding provided in part by the Department of Human Services/Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Illinois Licensed Child Welfare Agency - License #013005. LSSI does not discriminate in admission to programs or employment in compliance with the law.





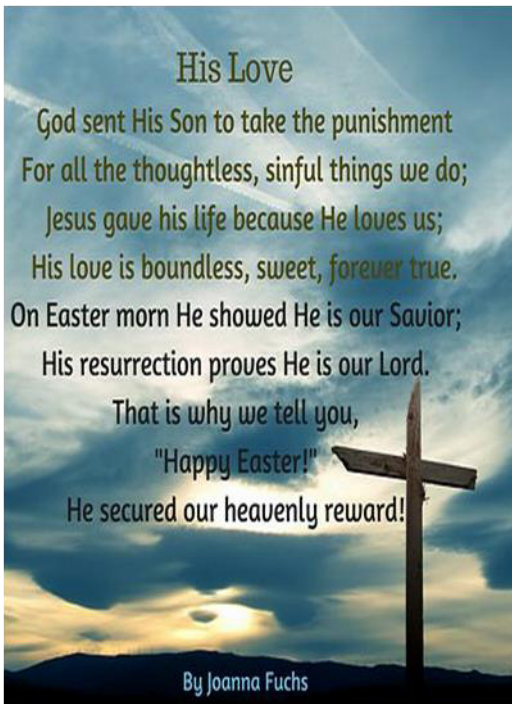
Easter Word Search

P I E R C E D S
I A S L R U R P
E C S A S A T K
C N E S C I B L
E P D W O R N B
S N Q F Z V I Y
O O S L S O E F

K	Z	O	U	K	H	J	R	C	Y	J	F	I	N	E	H	Y	K	R	I	E	K	A	U	Q	H	T	R	A	E
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ANGELS
APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
BLOOD
CALVARY
CROSS
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
DARKNESS
DEATH
EARTHQUAKE
EASTER
GOLGOTHA
HIGH PRIEST
JESUS CHRIST
JOSEPH
JUDAS ISCARIOT
KING
LAMB

MARY
NAILS
PASSOVER
PIECES OF SILVER
PIERCED
PILATE
RESURRECTION
ROBE
ROMANS
SACRIFICE
SIMON OF CYRENE
SOLDIERS
SON OF GOD
SPEAR
STONE
TEMPLE
THIEVES
THREE DAYS
TOMB



The custom of setting aside a day for the playing of harmless pranks upon one's neighbour is recognized everywhere. Some precursors of April Fools' Day include the Roman festival of Hilaria, the Holi festival of India, and the Medieval Feast of Fools.



Good Shepherd Scholarship Applications for 2021

Applications for 2021 scholarships will be available April 1, 2021 at the church office.

They must be returned to the church office by April 30, 2021.

Recipients may not reapply for additional scholarships.

Amount of scholarship is not to exceed \$1000, and may be less than this amount as demand requires.

Also offered is a \$200 award for adults returning for class work.



The Easter Lily and Christianity

Known to Christians as the “white-robed apostle of hope,” the Easter lily has also been a religious symbol since the birth of the Christian religion. The flower is even mentioned in the Bible quite a few times. It is said that when Eve shed tears of remorse as she and Adam left the Garden of Eden, white lilies sprang up where her tears fell.

Easter lilies are also admired as a symbol of motherhood and the Virgin Mary. In artwork, she is often depicted receiving a bundle of white lilies from the angel Gabriel at Jesus’ birth, and the flowers were said to have been found in her tomb after her death.

The most famous biblical reference to the Easter lily is when Jesus told his followers, “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: They toil not, neither do they spin; and yet ... Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” It’s also believed that the lilies grew where Jesus’ sweat and tears fell to the ground during his crucifixion. Many churches today continue the long-held tradition and commemorate the resurrection of Jesus by adorning their altars with pure white Easter lilies.

Source: The History of the Easter Lily & How It Became the Most Popular Easter Flower



We are in need of some help here at the Friendship Center. We are looking for help in the following positions: Bus Aides; Cooks; Cook Aides; RN’s; CNA’s; and Volunteers in general. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining our team or have questions, please reach out to us at (815) 369-2690 and ask for Randy or Denise.



Answer to Bible Quiz

B) Alexander and Rufus

Mark 15:21 ²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

Source: What Christians want to know

Whether you make one or a few Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits as a solo kit-maker, or hundreds as part of a kit assembly with your congregation, every kit you make will be cherished by the person who receives it in their time of need.

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

ONE adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*

ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

** Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.*

HOW TO PACK YOUR PROJECT PROMISE KITS

- Fold the towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.
- Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS on the outside of the boxes.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box and label the contents.

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.



The real story of Amazing Grace, the beloved hymn, and its author.



How industrious is Satan served. I was formerly one of his active undertemptors and had my influence been equal to my wishes I would have carried all the human race with me. A common drunkard or profligate is a petty sinner to what I was.

John Newton, 1778

Amazing Grace is a Christian hymn published in 1779, with words written in 1772 by the English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton (1725–1807).

Newton wrote the words from personal experience. He grew up without any particular religious conviction, but his life's path was formed by a variety of twists and coincidences that were often put into motion by others' reactions to what they took as his recalcitrant insubordination.

In 1725, Newton was born in Wapping, a district in London near the Thames. His father was a shipping merchant who was brought up as a Catholic but had Protestant sympathies, and his mother was a devout Independent, unaffiliated with the Anglican Church. She had intended Newton to become a clergyman, but she died of tuberculosis when he was six years old. For the next few years, while his father was at sea Newton was raised by his emotionally distant stepmother. He was also sent to boarding school, where he was mistreated. At the age of eleven, he joined his father on a ship as an apprentice; his seagoing career would be marked by headstrong disobedience.

He was pressed (conscripted) into service in the Royal Navy. After leaving the service, he became involved in the Atlantic slave trade. In 1748, a violent storm battered his vessel off the coast of County Donegal, Ireland, so severely that he called out to God for mercy. This moment marked his spiritual conversion but he continued slave trading until 1754 or 1755, when he ended his seafaring altogether. He began studying Christian theology and later became an abolitionist.

Ordained in the Church of England in 1764, Newton became curate of Olney, Buckinghamshire, where he began to write hymns with poet William Cowper. "Amazing Grace" was written to illustrate a sermon on New Year's Day of 1773. It is unknown if there was any music accompanying the verses; it may have been chanted by the congregation. It debuted in print in 1779 in Newton and Cowper's *Olney Hymns* but settled into relative obscurity in England. In the United States, "Amazing Grace" became a popular song used by Baptist and Methodist preachers as part of their evangelizing, especially in the South, during the Second Great Awakening of the early 19th century. It has been associated with more than 20 melodies. In 1835, American composer William Walker set it to the tune known as "New Britain" in a shape note format. This is the version most frequently sung today.

With the message that forgiveness and redemption are possible regardless of sins committed and that the soul can be delivered from despair through the mercy of God, "Amazing Grace" is one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world. Author Gilbert Chase writes that it is "without a doubt the most famous of all the folk hymns". Jonathan Aitken, a Newton biographer, estimates that the song is performed about 10 million times annually.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

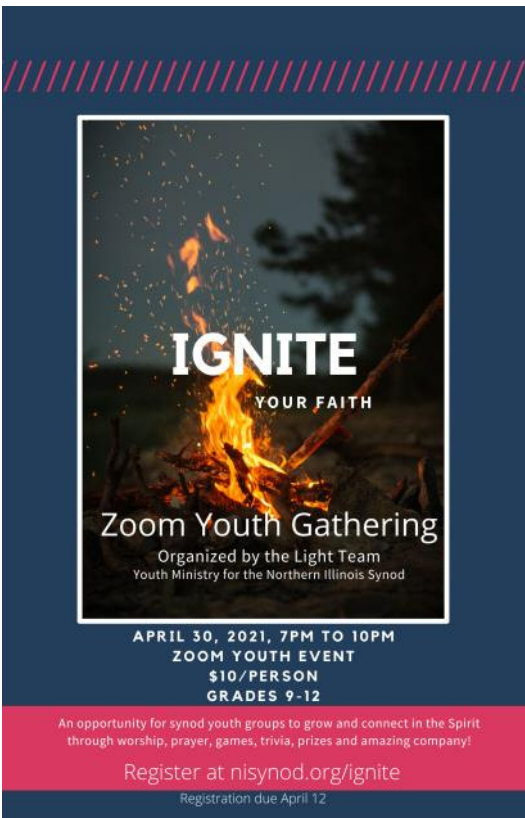
We are looking for your favorite hymns for worship in summer.

Please submit your favorite hymns to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Name (optional): _____

Favorite Hymn: _____

Tell us why it is your favorite _____



NIS LIGHT Youth Leadership Team present
 IGNIGHT YOUR FAITH Zoom Youth Gathering
 Youth in grades 9 - 12

7 - 10 p.m., Friday, April 30.

Registration deadline: **April 12 at 11:59pm.**

The cost of the event is \$10 and includes a t-shirt!

For more information and to register, please go to the "[Ignite Your Faith](https://nisynod.org/events/ignite)" page on the Synod website at <https://nisynod.org/events/ignite>

Confirmation class is back! Our youth are learning about Bible characters and Luther's Small Catechism.

Do you know these Bible characters?

- Miriam
- Cleopas
- Nicodemus
- Jethro
- Deborah

If you don't, ask our youth. They can tell you what they are learning in class. And please remember our youth and their families in your prayer.




BIG Thank you

To

Lukas, Penelope, Kenlee, Dena, Karen, Jared, Jacob, Ethan, Brianna, Lucas, Sue, Sarah, Ian, Kelly, Darci, Cora, Wayne, Terry, Nakoah, Miho, Kristy, Krista, Sheila, and Taylor for their help with Palm/Passion Sunday Video. You guys have done an awesome job!

*Palm/Passion Sunday video can be viewed on GS website, YouTube, and Facebook page.

April 2021 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday <i>Service of the Stripping of the Altar at 6:30pm via Facebook live</i> GSLC Scholarships forms available	2 Good Friday Worship Service 3:00pm and 6:00 pm At Lena UMC parking lot	3 Holy Saturday 10:00am Outside Easter Activities (chalk art, flower planting)
4 Easter Sunday 7:00am Sunrise Sunday Worship Service at Lena Cemetery (in case of rain service will be held at Good Shepherd) 9:30am Easter Sunday Worship in-person and via FB live. Holy Communion will be available.	5 6:00pm Property Committee meeting 	6	7 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 9:00am-10:00am Pr. Miho NW Conference zoom meeting	8 6:30pm Council Meeting	9	10
11 9:30am Worship Service Second Sunday of Easter 10:30am-11:30am Confirmation class	12	13	14 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	15 	16	17 9:00am-10:30am NIS WELCA Spring zoom retreat
18 9:30am Worship Service Third Sunday of Easter	19	20	21 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	22	23	24 8:20am-11:30am Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry
25 9:30am Worship Service Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday 10:30am-11:30am Confirmation class	26	27	28 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	29	30 7:00pm-10:00pm NIS IGNITE Youth zoom Gathering GSLC Scholarship application deadline	