

May 2022 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Shepherd's Voice

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1: 8

Dear God's Beloved,

Have you ever sung a hymn through text messages? I mean sending messages using cell phone. Have you? Recently I was on my cell phone back and forth with a family member of our sister who had surgery. In pre-pandemic times I tried to sit with the family while waiting for the surgery to be done; but in this time of global pandemic, the number of people who can stay with the patient is limited. So on the day of surgery I kept my cell phone by my side texting back and forth with the family member. When the text appeared saying the surgery was done, and went well, I was relieved. I immediately texted back saying Thanks be to God!! to express my joy. Within a minute the family member texted me back saying, From whom All blessings flow! I recognized the words, it was the lyrics from the Doxology. I checked the words on my computer and texted back saying, Praise him, all creatures here below! And instantly the text came in saying, Praise him, above, ye heavenly host! And quickly I texted back saying, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! And the text came, AMEN! We sang it! We sang the Doxology via text messages. It was strangely holy, I felt we were singing together even though we were miles apart. I felt God's community. We praised God together.

The resurrected Jesus stayed with his disciples for 50 days. He ate (see Luke 24: 43), cooked (John 21:9), and taught (Matthew 28:18-20). Then he ascended to heaven. We find the ascension story in Luke and Acts. In Luke Jesus blessed his disciples and was lifted up to heaven. (Luke 24:50-51) and in Acts Jesus promised his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1: 8) so that they could become the living presence of God's love on earth. Jesus assured all his disciples that God's Spirit would help and guide them. But sometimes (or rather many times) don't we wish Jesus had stayed with us to solve all the world's problems? Especially these days as we witness cruelty of war in Ukraine, I often wish that Jesus would have stayed on earth longer. Nevertheless, I also would like us to remember that God's Spirit does come down. We can find multiple stories in Acts that out of the blue God's Spirit came down to God's people (like the story of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2). And the Holy Spirit comes down mysteriously in our days too. Like my experience of texting back and forth on that day. Strangely through texting I was in the presence of God. Honestly, I had never imagined that I would find connection through just looking at my cell phone, but it happened! God's Spirit came and blew through my worried heart by connecting me in God's community.

Friends, I hate to admit it but God can utilize technology to make us one body in Christ. As Jesus promised to his disciples (which includes us!!!) the Holy Spirit comes upon us day in and day out so that we too become the witnesses of God who loves unconditionally. Watch out! God pours God's Spirit upon you!
Sola gratia! Pr, Miho.

Treasurer's Report Jay Andrews

Incoming March 2022	\$ 6,637.60
Expenses March 2022	\$10,729.18
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (4,091.58)
Income, Year to Date 2022	\$26,433.63
Expenses, Year to Date 2022	\$32,532.84
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (6,099.21)

Special Thank You

to our choir and chime and brass musicians
Karen Neimeier, Tena Rackow, Janis Kurth,
Wayne Kurth, Billie Jo Runkle, Dan Kurth,
Darci Meier, Michelle Andrews, Terry Hart, Jay
Andrews, Nakoah Cornwell, Peyton Bear, Kristy
Patterson, Sue Diddens, Sheila Keene, Pr. Miho

Highlights from March Council Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Wayne Kurth at 6:40pm on March 17, 2022.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report of the February Church Council Meeting was reviewed and approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews noted that he will be transferring the \$10,000 from the Lucille Baker Fund soon as was approved at the Congregational Meeting. The February income is more than usual because of a one time preset offering that came in. At present, the budget is about \$2,000 behind and the Current Account is about \$11,000 behind. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Miho reported that on March 2, Richard (Dick) Johnson passed away. Please keep the family in your prayers. Pastor noted that in February the Food Pantry served 67 families including 172 individuals, 25 families with children under 18 years of age and 48 children under 18 years of age. A comment was made that these numbers seemed up. Pastor noted that they were due to the increase of food and gas prices mainly, but also do to other factors. Pr. Miho also noted that Synod Assembly will be coming up in June. This will be a hybrid format due to the election of a new Bishop. Pastor's Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee: The February 13 pot luck was a success.

Learning and Youth: Congratulations to the Confirmation Students. They did a great job on March 6. Upcoming: on April 16 the youth will be doing Sidewalk Chalk Art for Easter from 10:00 am until noon. All are welcome to help. The committee will be having a meeting in the next couple of months.

Service Committee: Good Shepherd is in charge of the Food Pantry in April. Still need volunteers to sign up for later in the year.

Property Committee: Will be having a meeting on March 21, 2022.

WELCA: Synod wide spring retreat will be on April 30, 2022. If interested, check out the WELCA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Having no other Committee Reports, all reports were approved as presented.

Old Business:

Constitution: The Congregational Resourcing Event had a workshop on updating a constitution. Several members of the Constitution Committee attend the meeting by zoom. The committee will be having a meeting on March 22, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Committee Assignments: Wayne Kurth, Property Committee, Finance Committee; Nakoah Cornwall, Facebook/Website; Virgil Gordon, Stewardship Committee; Kristy Patterson, Learning and Youth Committee; Anna Patterson, Learning and Youth Committee; Jonathon Kurth, Stewardship Committee; Darci Meier, Scholarship Committee; Janis Kurth, Memorial Committee, Worship and Music Committee; Billie Jo Runkle, Audit Committee.

Devotions/Refreshments: The list for the year was successfully completed.

Membership: The process has begun. The working list has 246 members on it. Unfortunately there are some members that are no longer with us, so the list must be looked over closely to determine who is listed on it. This will be a work in progress.

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Highlights from March Council Meeting

New Business:

Synod Assembly: There is a need for three delegates to attend Synod Assembly. There should be one male, one female and one youth delegate attend. Treasurer Jay Andrews noted that the Church covers the cost of the registration fee, mileage, and housing costs. Pastor Miho stated that this is a hybrid meeting so the delegates will need to be able to attend part of the meeting on zoom and be able to phone in their votes for the new Bishop. Also delegates must show proof of Covid vaccination and be boosted before attending the in-person part of the Synod Assembly. This should be announced during the Worship Service on Sunday mornings.

June Council Meeting: The June Council Meeting fall within the week of the Synod Assembly zoom meetings. It was decided to move the June Council Meeting to the following week on June 23 at 6:30 pm.

Christ Is Risen Care Bags: Pastor would like some ideas for small care bags to give out at Easter time to share God's care for people. Need suggestions for some small gift or candy to put in the bags and some prayer cards. Would like to ask members to give them out to people who may need a little gift.

Ukraine Family Sponsorship: It is a good idea to look into possibly sponsoring a Ukraine family if the opportunity comes up. Currently the Lutheran Disaster Response is in Poland helping. It was decided to wait for guidance from the Synod if such an opportunity should come up in the future.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on April 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Thank you for your gifts given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in January 2022.

Bring us, O Christ to share the fullness of your joy; baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy (ELW 328),

This is a season of reflection and sacrifice, but also a season of hope. As we walk the 40-day journey of Lent, we know that we are walking toward Easter and the promise of renewal. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA are bringing that promise and hope to your neighbors around the world.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy.

In Christ,
The Rev. Robin Brown
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S.

Your \$50.00 donation from January 28, 2022 was used to purchase chicks.
Your January 31, 2022 donation was put towards ECLA World Hunger.



What is WELCA? It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Quite a mouthful, we know. Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in more than 4,500 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA

How does WELCA Work?

There are three expressions of Women of the ELCA, each with its own constitution:

- Congregational, inter-congregational and special units (about 4,500)
- Synodical Women's Organization (in 64 of the ELCA's 65 synods)
- Churchwide Women's Organization

The **congregational, inter-congregational and special units** are the largest expression of the organization and are the heart of the organization. This is where we grow the organization, inviting women to experience the reconciling and transforming love of God through Jesus Christ, encouraging women to act on their baptismal covenant.

The **synodical women's organizations** (SWOs) establish a partnership with units in their geographic areas and with the churchwide women's organization. SWOs exist to support women in congregations. Each SWO has a board whose members are elected at an annual or biennial convention by voting members from units. Each SWO establishes clusters or conferences of units within its geographic area.

Conferences and clusters are groupings of congregations within a synodical organization. While they have no legislative responsibilities, conferences and clusters provide learning opportunities through leadership development, community building, stewardship education, networks for communication and opportunities for joint ministry and action with the guidance of the SWO.

The **churchwide women's organization** (CWO) is the entire organization. Within the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA, the triennial convention is the highest legislative authority; voting members to the convention are elected by synodical organizations. Between conventions, the churchwide executive board (volunteers elected by the triennial convention) conducts the business of the organization.

The churchwide executive board hires an executive director to oversee the operations of the CWO; the executive director, in turn, hires staff to assist in that endeavor. The only paid staff is located within the CWO. In all other expressions of the organization, volunteers carry out the organization's mission and purpose.

WELCA is the women's ministry organization of the ELCA. It is separately incorporated and is not an auxiliary of the church. It is financially independent and responsible for its own financial affairs. Financial support comes from individual and group offerings and gifts.

Source: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/about>

CHICKENS

PROVIDE HOPE AND INCOME, TO FAMILIES.

Neang Bophal is a wife and mother in Krous village, Cambodia. Where she lives income sources can be difficult to find, but things turned around for her after she attended a training session on raising chickens that was supported by the Lutheran Church in Cambodia. Immediately she wanted to try it to earn more income for herself, her husband and her young son. She requested 30 chicks from the church—and her venture went better than she could have imagined.

“After three months I sold the chickens and received a large amount of money, more than I had ever earned before,” Neang Bophal explained. “I gave an offering to the church and with the rest I bought new chicks. I still had some funds left over, so I bought 50 kilograms of rice, which will feed my family for three months. I am so thankful to the church and people who care and thought about me and my family.”

Source: ECLA.org/goodgifts

We lift our Prayers for:

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B., Nina Mueller, Denny Bergmann, Willie Kayser, Rene', Connor Stadermann, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Deb Lindeman Harder, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, Nicole, Meghan, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, J.T., Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kay, Shanna, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Cindy, Amber, Chris, Ron, Vicki, Sophia, Abby and her triplets, Brenda, Abby Schick, Brenda, Jack, Gretchen, Kay, Roger, Tina, Shane, Joe, Dan Kempel, Bruce Miller, Tana, Ron Heckman, Justin Yeager, Paul, Phil, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Spencer Fransen.

Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of the resurrections for family and friends of June Lang. God of new life be with all of us.

Thank you and God's Blessings from the Family of Dick Johnson.

Richard Allen Johnson, born 12-22-1937 in Dodgeville, WI. Died 03-02-2022 at Manor Court Nursing Home in Freeport, IL. 84 years old.

Thank you for your kind words of love, cards and gifts, food and all the support you have given to us during this time in our lives.

With God and all of your help, our journey was and is made easier because of all of you and the love you continuously show and give to us. We have never felt alone these past difficult years, because you were always there for all of us; even when we were too proud or dumb to ask for help—you have always been there. Thank you.

God sends us angels without any fanfare. You have been an continue to be our angels. Thank you. We miss the Dick we knew and loved; and know he is with God and will always be in our thoughts, prayers and love.

Rene', David, Jenny & Steve Johnson

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 prayers 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.

**Spring Fling
Buzzin in the Kitchen
May 12, 2022 from 6-8pm**

A Virtual event presented by the Women's Network of LSSI
Benefiting LSSI's Therapeutic Foster Care Program

Join Global Chef Jessica Dawson - Cooking Instructor and Former America's Test Kitchen Host for a virtual cooking class. Chef Jessica will teach you how to make a four-course meal with impressive, delicious dishes worth knowing and sharing. This is a cook-along class, and once registered you will receive the ingredient list a week before the event, as well as a special key ingredient sent to your home.

Dinner Menu

Spiced Carrot Gazpacho

Pasta Primavera with Spring Vegetables

Salad with Creamy Salad Dressing

Strawberry Shortcake with Salted Honey Whipped Cream.

Visit LSSI.org/Fling to register and learn more. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds from the event will benefit LSSI's Therapeutic Foster Care Program. Questions? Contact Mariah Heinz at Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org or phone 847-635-4656

Youth Corner

*When educating the minds of our youth,
we must not forget to educate their hearts.*



2022 Graduates



After graduation from Le-Win H.S., **Ethan Fye** plans on going to Marquette University on a 4 year, full ride scholarship from NROTC Marine option. He will be majoring in Exercise Physiology. After his four years of college he will be an officer in the United States Marine Corp. *Congratulations Ethan!*

Madi Diddens will be graduating from Pearl City H.S. in May, she plans on attending Highland Community College and getting her Associate's Degree in Accounting. After obtaining her Associate's Degree, she will continue her education through Columbia College on Highland campus to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. *Congratulations Madi!*



Anna Patterson will graduate from Highland Community College with an Associate's Degree in Arts. She plans to continue her education at Northern Illinois University to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts with an emphasis on illustration. *Congratulations Anna!*

Congratulations graduates,

You are moving on to a new and exciting chapter in your life, wishing you all the best for your future.

We will recognize our graduates during the May 8th Sunday worship service.

Please join us to congratulate them!

LOMC Work Day

Date: Saturday, May 7.

We may be doing...

Tear down of the old Gaga Ball pit and installation of new one; and spreading mulch at the team building course and garden areas; or landscaping and tree trimming; and trail maintenance; or window washing; and various small fix-it projects.

We will leave the church at 9:00am

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME TO JOIN US!**



We had fun time sharing
Easter joy through
sidewalk chalk art. On
April 16th.

Check it out!



Plants are growing!

May Birthdays

5/1 Shannon Albright
 5/1 Coralyn Hudik
 5/1 Dennis Luke
 5/1 Chloe Kurth
 5/2 Lynn Meyers
 5/2 Laurie Meyers
 5/3 Angie Jones
 5/5 Dawn Diffenderfer
 5/7 Krystal Schlichting
 5/8 Degan Euler
 5/10 Marcia Meyers
 5/14 Nicole Sullivan
 5/17 Mark Raders

5/20 Nathan Lones
 5/21 Faye Fulfs
 5/23 Susan Koppean
 5/23 Sheila Keene
 5/24 Deb Hesselbacher
 5/24 Quinten Green
 5/24 Nathaniel Baker
 5/25 Elizabeth Martin
 5/26 Drew Solace
 5/27 Chris Brinker
 5/28 Brad Boeke
 5/30 Nick Baker



Help our Hymn Sing Sunday
 with your favorite hymns!
 We are having the Hymn Sing service on May 29th and are looking for hymns. Please help us by submitting your favorite hymn **by May 22nd**. If we have plenty, we will sing your favorites during the summer!
 Thank you for sharing your love of hymns!

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

Good Shepherd Little Care Bag

Do you know anyone who is recently in the hospital or lost a friend? Or do you know anyone who may appreciate a reminder of God's love? Take a Good Shepherd Little Care Bag and share! Good Shepherd Little Care Bags contain a prayer/Bible verse and a tiny gift. These bags are for YOU to share the love of Christ to our friends and God's neighbors. Let's spread God's love to everyone!

Summer Activity is coming! Kids Tell Bible Stories

Saturdays (June 4, 11, 18, 25) 10am-12pm
 June story will be Joseph. Details will be in June newsletter.

Make-A-Smile cards for Lena Living Center

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. This is a simple yet profound way 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!

We are looking for volunteers at the Le-Win Food Pantry For June 25th (2 adults or 1 adults + 1-2 youth)



Good Shepherd will be at the Le-Win Food Pantry every 4th Saturday of even numbered months from 8:20am-11:30am. Needs are high and we are looking for Volunteers.

Upcoming months are :August 27th, October 22nd and December 24th. If you are interested, put your name on the sign-up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office .





May 2022 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 11:00 Chime Practice 11:00am Choir Practice	2	3 9:00am Pr. Miho at Lena ministerial meeting 10:00am Bible Study Group	4 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 10:00am Pr. Miho at Rostered Ministers zoom meeting	5	6 National Nurses Day 	7 9:00am-4:00pm LOMC Work Day 
8 Mother's Day Good Shepherd Sunday 9:30am Worship Service Graduate recognition Sunday 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Chime Practice 11:00am Choir Practice	9	10 10:00am Bible Study Group	11 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 9:00am-10:00am Pr. Miho at NW conference meeting	12 1:00pm Friendship Club Today is "Nuttu Fudge Day" 	13	14
15 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice	16 Newsletter Deadline 	17 10:00am Bible Study Group	18 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 10:00am Pr. Miho at Rostered Ministers zoom meeting	19 12:45pm Good Shepherd at Friendship Center 6:30pm Council Meeting	20	21
22 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	23	24 10:00am Bible Study Group	25 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	26 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i> 	27 Pr. Miho is on vacation	28 4:30pm Men's Group
29 9:30am Worship Service Favorite Hymn Sing Sunday 10:30am Ice Cream Fellowship	30 MEMORIAL DAY <small>REMEMBER AND HONOR</small>	31	May is National Foster Care Awareness Month			
Pr. Miho is on vacation						



May Volunteer Schedule

Greeter

May 1 Michelle Andrews and Darci Meier

May 8 Tim Gordon and Anna Patterson

May 15 Sue Diddens and Anna Patterson

May 22 Tim Gordon and Sue Diddens

May 29 Wayne Kurth and Michelle Andrews

Upcoming events

May 7th LOMC Work Day, 9:00am-4:00pm

May 8th Graduate Recognition Sunday, 9:30am Worship

May 12th Friendship Club, 1:00pm

May 28th Men's Group, 4:30pm

May 29th Favorite Hymn Sing Sunday and Cake and Ice Cream during Fellowship

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.

Lectors

May 1 Karen Niemeier

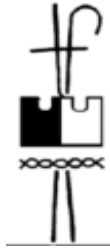
May 8 Cora Hudik

May 15 Wayne Kurth

May 22 Sue Diddens

May 29 Tena Rackow





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Words from Martin Luther'

*So let us keep the festival to which the Lord invites us;
Christ is the very joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.
Now his grace to us imparts eternal sunshine to our hearts;
the night of sin is ended, Hallelujah!*

*Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Band
(ELW 370, verse 4)*