



## September 2021 Newsletter

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### *Thoughts from the Vicar*

Greetings in Christ,

I am honored to be with you all as your new Vicar during this interim time as we journey together as God's people. I look forward to the new adventure for all of us, to the opportunity and responsibility of serving you, and I especially look forward to get to know each of you. And I'm sure many of you are wondering about me. So let me introduce myself.

I'm an Iowa farm-boy. I grew up on a chicken farm in Northwest Iowa just outside a very small town. We had 5,000 chickens, which my brother and I had to feed and collect the eggs just about every day. And our Lutheran church, with its little choir (which my father directed), and its rich pot-luck dinners, was the hub of the community, where my faith and understanding were nourished in my younger years. I then attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, majoring in Philosophy and Religion, and it is there that I met my wonderful wife, Coral. She had grown up on Long Island, New York, in the suburbs outside of New York City. She's an artist and a loving mother and grandmother.

After we were married I went on to earn a Masters degree in Theology from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, so my Lutheran roots are deep and strong. We raised our three children - our son, Christian and our two daughters, Rachel and Arwen - in the Janesville, Wisconsin area. We then had the opportunity to move to England, where I worked as a computer engineer for 17 years, initially in London, but then in the very Northern of England, just south of Scotland. We are not fond of big cities, so we chose to live in small communities in the English countryside, including living for a time in a (haunted) 17th Century farmhouse, where our landlord kept a flock of sheep, munching away on the grass behind the house. We were drawn to small country churches, but we were also privileged to be members for a time at Durham Cathedral, one of the most beautiful holy place in all of Britain, where Christians have been worshipping continuously for 900 years.

And now we have been back in the States for about 7½ years. We have 7 grandchildren, all in Janesville where our two daughters live, and I am pleased to once again be among Midwest farmers. You may find that I enjoy singing and writing music, and writing books, and although I do like to brag about my farming background, I'm not really very good at it. Since coming home, Coral and I have each has a bout with cancer, but are doing well now. And Coral is now helping to take care of our daughter, Rachel, who is currently going through cancer treatments herself.

Most of all, I love God, and I love the Bible, and I love sharing the Gospel, the good news about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whom we all are privileged to worship and follow. And although I still work some as a computer engineer for IBM, I am nearing completion of the process for ordination in the ELCA, needing only to serve an internship. I look forward to our time together in the days ahead.

Blessings in Christ,  
Vicar Thomas



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

**THANK YOU**

*Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for your generous gift of \$250.00 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church through ELCA Good Gifts.*

*As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.*

*Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources such as seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you're equipping God's people - around the world and around the corner - with what they need to live abundant lives. Thank you for your faithful gift - your partnership makes a difference.*

*With Gratitude,  
Rachel Wind  
Executive for Philanthropy*

### Piece Corps

The Piece Corps would like to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to The Holy Cross Catholic Church of Stockton for taking our quilts to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This year Good Shepherd's Piece Corps donated 34 quilts and 6 pillows to Pine Ridge.

Your kindness is much appreciated and will help keep our friends at the reservation warm during the cold months ahead.



**FRIENDS MAKE  
EVERYTHING BETTER.**



### *Friendship Club*

COME- visit with friends. Join us for **Friendship Club** on **September 8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) at 12:30pm** for potluck, music, devotion, fun, and fellowship! No reservation needed. Just show up!

Entertainment by Dave Ruter Ministries with Dave and Duska.

Hope to see many of you!

## Highlights from July 15<sup>th</sup> Church 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 July 21, 2022

**Secretary's Report:** The July 21, 2022 Secretary's Report was presented and reviewed. Having no additions or corrections, the report was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jay Andrews reported that although the July offerings for the start of July are improving, there is still a shortage of about \$2,300 in the budget. The checking is currently \$788.00 in the red. The overall budget offerings are falling quite short for the year.

Gas Bill \$927.86      Electric Bill \$127.75

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Miho Yasukawa noted that Bishop-elect Stacie Fidler's installation will be on October 8, 2022 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rockford. The Food Pantry has been busy. Needs keep increasing as prices continue to rise. In May the Food Pantry served 75 families including 213 individuals. In June they served 75 families including 239 individuals. On July 12 the Mobil food Pantry served 131 families. Pastor Miho wished to thank the Council for all their prayers, comments conversations, all "holy" angers, sharing joy and exhaustion. Pastor's Report was approved as presented.

### Committee Reports:

**Stewardship Committee:** The Community Picnic is progressing. There is a sign-up sheet on the ramp for food. Paper products, plastic silverware, water, and ice cream will be provided. The Men's Group will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. Also looking into the cost of putting an ad in the Shopper's Guide to promote the picnic.

**Learning and Youth Committee:** On August 6, 2022 there will be a Back to School Family Fun Day at Citizens State Bank Parking Lot from 1pm – 4pm (rain date August 13). The Lena Lions Club has generously donated \$250.00 to purchase prizes for games and other items needed for the afternoon. Thank you to the Lena Lions Club. The Learning Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the games. On August 28, 2022 there will be the kick off for Sunday School. This will be from 9:00 am to 9:30 am in the church sanctuary. It will be a simple format of Bible Stories, songs, opening and closing prayers. Their next meeting will be Sunday, August 14, 2022 at 11:00 am.

**Service Committee:** Need volunteers for the Food Pantry. Please sign up.

**Finance Committee:** The committee had a meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. After a long discussion, the Finance Committee recommends that the Church Council hold a Special Congregational meeting to determine what the Congregation would like to do about the finances of the Church. It was suggested to hold the meeting in mid to late August. The Finance Committee noted that with Pastor Miho Yasukawa leaving and the need for an Interim Pastor, that our costs will be different. Following more discussion, Virgil Gordon made a motion to have a Special Congregational Meeting on August 21, 2022 following the Worship Service at 10:30 am.

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page.*

## **Highlights from July 15<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting**

**Finance Committee:** The Agenda for the meeting would be the Church Finances and Future Pastoral Leadership. These will be the only two items discussed that day. There will be announcements made from the Pulpit on August 7 and 14, 2022.

Announcement will be put in the August Newsletter. The possibility of Zoom will also be explored. Kristi Patterson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**Property Committee:** The Property Committee is recommending putting Gutter Guards on the Church. Noting an error in the Property Committee's presentation to the Council, the Council sent the recommendation back to the Property Committee for clarification.

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 7:00pm for Pastor Miho Yasukawa's Exit Interview with Rev. Denver Bitner.

**WELCA:** The NIS WELCA Convention will be held September 17, 2022 at Prince of Peace Church in Freeport. If anyone wishes to attend, talk to Sheila Keen for information.

**Men's Group:** The Men's Group will be meeting on July 30, 2022 at 4:30pm. They will be grilling for the community Picnic/Pastor's Farewell on August 7, 2022.

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

### **Old Business:**

**Constitution:** The draft of the New Constitution has been sent to the Synod. The Synod has replied with some suggestions for changes in the wording of some portions. The Committee will be meeting to work on these suggestions.

**Shared Ministry:** Will be working with St. Paul's, in Warren, on considering our options to this proposal.

**Membership:** Beth Martin and Wayne Kurth sat down and went over the Membership List. They found a number of members to investigate as to whether to consider them active members, inactive members, or associate members.

**Fall Festival Booth:** The Church Council decided to have a booth at the Fall Festival this year at a cost of \$60.00.

### **New Business:**

**Call Committee:** The Council was asked to think about possible members to serve on the Call Committee. It was voiced by the Council that if St. Paul's, in Warren, wished to continue to exploring the options of the Shared Ministry, that members from their congregation should be included on the Call Committee.

Having no other business before the Council, the meeting was adjourning with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be on August 18, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janis Kurth  
Church Council Secretary

## *We lift up our prayers for*

*Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Willie Kayser, Rene', Darlene Aurand, Sharon, 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, Tina, Joe, Dan Kempel, Bruce Miller, Ron Heckman, Justin Yeager, Phil, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Spencer Fran- sen, Lamar Hail, Connie, Pete and Rachael Collins.*

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 note and words of encouragement. Our hope is to make them smile! Questions? Contact the church office.*

*For all the little and big ways you've pitched in... a BIG thanks! Your all amazing, 54 cards were taken to Lena Living Center in August.*



## **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 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.*



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



*We need 1 adults and 2 youth volunteers for  
the next GS volunteer date: October 22<sup>nd</sup>*

*If you are interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry. Sign-up sheet is located in hallway by Fellowship Hall or let the church office know.*

*Thank you for supporting the feeding ministry.*

## Members & Friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation an online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

*You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.*

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors.

We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage.

We pray by laying hands on the hurting.

**We do life together.**

The church needs you...and you need the church.

Council President

Wayne Kurth

### Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming July 2022	\$5,441.09
Expenses July 2021	<u>\$7,337.91</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(1,896.82)
Income, Year to Date 2021	\$52,845.97
Expenses, Year to Date 2021	<u>\$73,895.98</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(21,050.01)



- 09-01 Tim Tessororf
- 09-01 Marcy Schwartz
- 09-02 Marilyn Hardel
- 09-03 Joshua Proehl
- 09-04 Colton Brinker
- 09-09 Elizabeth Reed
- 09-10 Brianna Andrews
- 09-11 Nina Mueller
- 09-11 Michael Geiseman
- 09-14 Eric Runkele
- 09-15 Jennifer Humeke
- 09-16 Duane Fox
- 09-17 Alexis Martin
- 09-21 Sydney Fox
- 09-21 Anna Andersen
- 09-24 Sally Huber
- 09-27 Andrew Martin
- 09-28 Makenzie Meier
- 09-30 Cody Shumaker
- 09-30 Ryan Huttenlocher
- 09-30 Grayson Albright

### **Festival Choir**

On Saturday, October 8, 2022, we will have the opportunity to participate in a joyful worship service as we gather to welcome and install the Rev. Stacie Fidler as our new Northern Synod bishop of the ELCA. For this special occasion, which will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 200 N. 1st Street, Rockford, we will have a Festival Choir. You, and members of you congregation, are invited to be a part of the choir.

The Festival Choir will rehearse from 9:00am—10:30am on Saturday, October 8th at Trinity Lutheran Church. This will give us time to practice the anthem, the hymns and the liturgy before the service begins at 11:00am. Please encourage your choir members to be a part of the Festival Choir. It would be wonderful to have every church in our NIS represented at this exciting worship service.

If you are interested in joining the Festival Choir, please contact Janis Kurth via email, [jkurth73@yahoo.com](mailto:jkurth73@yahoo.com).



## **WELCA Convention**

**Saturday, September 17th, 9:00am  
Prince of Peace Church, Freeport**

*Ms. Loni Whitford Taylor is the keynote speaker*



*Ms. Taylor has been council president of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in Montana for the past 7 years, she is also an Emergency medical technician, a member of the Chippewa Cree Council of Rocky Boy and of the ELCA.*

***I've been the church council president of Our Saviour for seven years.*** One thing I'm very proud of is that we are housing a Cree language revitalization program. There are nine trainees and two instructors. One of the instructors is my paternal grandmother, Pearl. One of my younger brothers is the program's director. It started in February, and after 14 months the trainees will be fluent Cree speakers. Those are prayers answered from our ancestors. When our tribal leaders and elders helped build this log chapel, they had intentions, prayers and hopes that our language would carry on, and now in this day, our language is being housed in the mission.

***Our congregation is really small,*** but the community knows we are there, and they can rely on our church for different things. To me, our congregation is our community, even though they don't all come to church every Sunday. We have lots of our ceremonies at the church, and our community members utilize prayer services. I believe we all pray to the same creator, the same God.

***I really like being on the ELCA Church Council*** because of all the different individuals I've been able to meet and become friends with. There are so many prayerful individuals I've gotten to know, and I'm so thankful for that. I'm also thankful for being able to learn from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the other council leaders. They're faithful and open to listening. I hope that we can have more people from younger generations be involved in our church—locally, nationally and globally.

*To read more about Ms. Taylor go to <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2022/06/51206/>*

## Bible Study Group

Come and join our new Bible Study group! This group is for anyone who is curious about the stories in the Bible. We will meet on **Tuesdays at 11am at church**. And if you'd like, bring your Bible. We are reading from the book of the Bible—Leviticus. If you have questions, just contact the church office. Hope to see you!

## Grief Support Group Walking Through Grief

On Wednesdays beginning September 7<sup>th</sup>- October 12, 2022 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. At SSM Health at Home, Monroe Hospice Office, 1905 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Monroe.

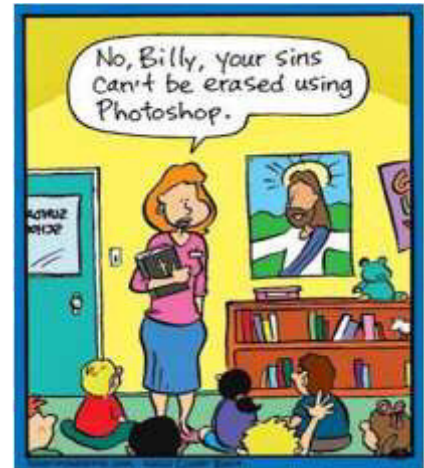
The group will explore the grieving process and ideas for coping and healing. Additional information can be found at - [ssmhealth.com/events](http://ssmhealth.com/events)

## Worship Volunteers needed!

Beginning September 18th there will be an option on how you take communion you may take it as the self serve communion cups we have been using or we believe it is now safe that you may receive communion by intinction.

We are searching for **Communion Assistants**, sign up sheet is posted in the hallway near Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are also needed to be Greeters, and Lectors.

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



## CONTACT of Northern Illinois 815-233-4357

CONTACT Crisis Helpline is a 24 hour crisis helpline that has been serving Northern Illinois since 1981. CONTACT is accredited by CONTACT USA and is one of over 50 centers throughout the United States. CONTACT Crisis Helpline is a member agency of the United Way of Northwest Illinois, and the 708 Mental Health Boards of both Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties.

Yearly CONTACT handles over 25,000 calls and refers over 200 individuals to services that are available in Northern Illinois. CONTACT phones are answered by Certified Line Specialist who are certified in Mental Health First Aid. These individuals volunteer their time to provide the 24 hour 7 days a week confidential helpline.



## STEPHENSON COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

Relay For Life is the world's largest volunteer-based fundraising event. For more than 36 years, communities across the world have come together to honor and remember loved ones and take action for lifesaving change. We strive to make this event as safe as possible and will follow all local COVID related guidelines.



# Youth Corner



## Sunday School is Cool



All Ages Sunday School to start Oct 9 at 9:00-9:20. It will be held the 2nd and Fourth Sundays of each month.



### GREETINGS FROM GRACE PLACE CAMPUS MINISTRIES AT NIU

*WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS FALL WE BEGIN SHARING SPACE WITH ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN DEKALB, JUST UP THE ROAD FROM OUR CURRENT BUILDING. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND US AT ST. PAUL'S ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR AS WE WORSHIP TOGETHER AND SHARE IN A MEAL TOGETHER. THINGS WILL LOOK DIFFERENT THIS YEAR BUT WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE WAYS IN WHICH WE ARE ABLE TO DO MINISTRY TOGETHER.*

Often times as Pastor Mack supply preaches in various congregations, he is asked how individuals and congregations can support the ministry of Grace Place, here are three ways to support the ministry of Grace Place this fall.

- **Invite.** Grace Place, like many ministries, rely on connections to create community, and we need your help to know who is attending NIU or Kishwaukee Community College. We would love to connect with them and invite them to be in community with us. There are two easy ways to invite folks to Grace Place, the first is to send Pastor Mack an email with student's name and contact information. The second way is to fill out a [Refer a Student Form](#), this form not only allows students to be connected with Grace Place but with the campus ministry that is closest to their college.
- **Pray.** Starting a new academic year is challenging for both first year students and returning students. Pray for us as we begin to build community, as our students figure out how to balance school, work, and having a social life as students grow in their faith and discern where they are being called.
- **Give.** Grace Place relies on the generosity of congregations and individual donors to be able to do the ministry we are called to do. At the 2022 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, a resolution entitled, ["A Call to Celebrate and Support Lutheran Campus Ministry in the Northern Illinois Synod"](#) was passed. Part of this resolution is the call to financially support campus ministry in the synod, this can be done in a variety of ways both through financial gifts and in-kind gifts. Grace Place is always in need of a variety of things to keep our ministry running, things from snacks to books to games and kitchen supplies. If you would like to know more about how your gift makes a difference please contact Pastor Mack. Giving to Grace Place is not easier than ever, check out our new website and giving platform at [www.graceplaceniui.com](http://www.graceplaceniui.com).

Thank you for your support to Grace Place Campus Ministry, we are so grateful for your partnership in ministering to young adults in and around NIU.

Peace,  
Pastor Mack Patrick

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

We are searching for **Communion Assistants**, sign up sheet is posted in the hallway near Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are also needed to be Greeters, and Lectors.

#### *Greeter*

*September 4 Michelle Andrews and Darci Meier*  
*September 11 Tim Gordon and Wayne Kurth*  
*September 18 Sue Diddens and Michelle Andrews*  
*September 25 Tim Gordon and Darci Meier*

#### *Lector*

*September 4 Karen Niemeier*  
*September 11 Tena Rackow*  
*September 18 Cora Hudik*  
*September 25 Sue Diddens*


#### *Upcoming events*

*September 8th Friendship Club potluck and entertainment*  
*September 9 & 10 Lena Lions Club Fall Festival - Small Town, Big Heart*  
*September 15 6:30pm Good Shepherd Council Meeting*  
*September 22 7:00 Constitution Meeting*  
*Bible Study Group meets every Tuesday at 11am*  
*Piece Corp Quilters meets every Wednesday from 8:00-11:30am*



# September 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 9:30 am <i>Worship Service</i> <i>(Communion Sunday)</i> 10:30 am <i>Fellowship</i> 10:30a.m <i>Choir/Chime Meeting</i>	<b>5</b> 1:30 pm <i>Fall Festival</i> <i>Float work day</i>  <i>" Office Closed "</i> <i>Labor Day</i>	<b>6</b> 11:00 am <i>Bible Study Group</i>	<b>7</b> 8:00-11:30 am <i>Piece Corps Quilters</i>	<b>8</b> 12:30 pm <i>Friendship Club Potluck,</i> <i>entertainment by Dave Rueter Ministries with Dave and Duska</i>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Lena Fall Festival; Small Town, Big Heart</p> <p>GS-Hospitality Tent Friday Night and Saturday Afternoon. GSLC Float in Parade on Saturday</p> </div>	
<b>11</b> 9:30 am <i>Quilt Sunday Worship Service</i> 10:30 am <i>Fellowship</i> 10:30 am <i>Learning Committee Meeting</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11:00 am <i>Bible Study Group</i>	<b>14</b> 8:00-11:30 am <i>Piece Corps Quilters</i>	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm <i>Council Meeting</i>  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30 am <i>Worship Service</i> <i>(Communion Sunday)</i> 10:30 am <i>Fellowship</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11:00 am <i>Bible Study Group</i>	<b>21</b> 8:00-11:30 am <i>Piece Corps Quilters</i>	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm <i>Constitution Meeting</i> Autumn Begins 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:30 pm <i>Men's Group</i>
<b>25</b> 9:30 am <i>Worship Service</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11:00 am <i>Bible Study Group</i>	<b>28</b> 8:00-11:30 am <i>Piece Corps Quilters</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	



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

Email: [goodshepherdlena@outlook.com](mailto:goodshepherdlena@outlook.com)  
Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL"  
Website: [www.GoodShepherdLena.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLena.org)

*Words from Martin Luther*

*"O Lord, We Praise You"*

*ELW 499 verse 2*

*Your holy body into death was given,  
life to win for us in heaven.  
No greater love than this to you could bind us;  
may this feast of that remind us!  
O Lord, have mercy!  
Lord, your kindness so much did move you  
that your blood now moves us to love you.  
All our debt you have paid;  
peace with God once more is made.  
O Lord, have mercy!*