

## December 2022 Newsletter

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### Thoughts from the Vicar

Greetings in Christ,

If you have seen our festive Advent Wreath in church, you will know that it has four banners, one under each of the four candles, with four words to help guide us through the darkness of December as we await the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. These words are: Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace.

The season of Advent is always one of Hope. God does not abandon us in our plight. No matter how dark the road ahead of us may seem, God is with us and among us. When he came to us as the Babe of Bethlehem, he joined with our humanity and shared all our pain and sorrows, even the pain of being tortured and murdered. But we know that this was not the end of the story, and because he is risen from death we know that we, too, will rise to live eternally. This is our hope - life everlasting together with Jesus our Lord and God.

And what Joy this brings us! No matter how heavy our loads are that we must carry, we can rejoice that God is with us along the way, not only to help us carry our loads, but to carry us when we cannot take even one more step. The Lord of all the universe has chosen to be with each one of us and to give us his Holy Spirit. What a wonderful and incomprehensible joy this is.

Yes, we are surrounded and filled with God's love. As John tells us: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." How amazing that the One who created the entire universe cares about every one of us, and was willing to become one of us, to bless our life on earth, and to give himself for our benefit.

And so we have Peace. The turmoil of the world, and the turmoil within our souls, fades away in the light of Jesus' presence. A tiny baby, the creator of the vast universe, comes to give us rest, tranquility, harmony, order, peace in our hearts and minds, peace amidst the confusion and discord we see in the world.

So I wish each of you the Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace of Advent and Christmas this year, in our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessings in Christ,  
Vicar Thomas

## Highlights from October Council Meetings

The regular Church Council meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was held on October 20, 2022. president Wayne Kurth called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Minutes were presented to the Council. Having no additions or corrections, the Secretary's Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report. The account is still behind by \$3,600. the offerings are still low for the month. The checkbook is in the black for September.

Electric Bill: \$170.15      Gas/Heating Bill: \$322.86

Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Vicar's Report:** Vicar Thomas Mosbo presented his report. In September, Vicar has visited and taken communions to shut in and elderly members, visited members in the hospital, provided pastoral care, attended Bible Study as well as a Synod meeting for interim pastors. He has also presided and preached at Sunday morning worship services. Vicar Thomas hopes to expand his visitations to more members as he continues serving Good Shepherd.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Stewardship Committee:** The Stewardship Committee will be hosting a potluck dinner on November 6, 2022 at 12:15pm for everyone to meet Vicar Thomas and Coral Mosbo. There will be fliers going out to the community

**Learning Committee:** Sunday, October 23 will be the next Sunday School gathering.

**Service Committee:** Good Shepherd's share of the rent for the Food Pantry is due next month.

**Finance Committee:** There will be a meeting in November to start reviewing the Budget for the 2023 year.

**Property Committee :** The Committee will be stripping and waxing the Fellowship Hall on October 27, 2022.

**Men's Group:** The Men's Group will be having their annual Steak Fry on October 29, 2022 in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign up sheet on the ram for anyone who wishes to attend. There will also be a few Church cleaning projects to get done as well.

All Committee Reports were approved as presented.

### **Old Business:**

**Constitution:** The Council was presented with a rough draft of the New Constitution. The Council reviewed the draft, and after much discussion several questions were raised concerning the Constitution. The questions were given to the Constitution Committee members at the council to take back to the committee for consideration.

**Vicar Thomas Mosbo's Contract:** President Wayne Kurth has been trying to get help from the Synod as to a written contract for Vicar Thomas. Unfortunately with all the changes going on at the Synod he has gotten little help. Jonathon Kurth made a motion to continue as we are currently with Vicar's contract until the end of December when his current license runs out.

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## Highlights from October Council Meetings

### **New Business:**

**Cub Scout Den Meetings:** A request to use the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Mondays of the month for Cub Scout Den Meeting was presented to the Council. Council approved the request.

**Endowment Fund:** Jay Andrews brought up that is it time to start considering how to disperse the money from the Endowment Fund. The Council should be thinking of where they would like the money given to.

**Newsletter Mailing List:** A request to review the mailing list was presented. Due to the lateness of the evening, the Council decided to table this to the November meeting.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on November 17, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Janis Kurth  
Church Council Secretary

## **Annual Reports Are Due December 9, 2022**

*Annual reports are required for each committee and organization of the congregation. These reports are assembled and made available to the congregation members prior to the meeting. The reports are the responsibility of the chairperson or offices. If possible, please type up the report and email it to*

***[GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com](mailto:GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com)**  
in Word format.*

*Thank you..*

## **Treasurer's Report Jay Andrews**

Incoming October 2022	\$4,398.00
Expenses October 2022	<u>\$6,066.13</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(1,668.13 )
Income, Year to Date 2022	\$71,654.56
Expenses, Year to Date 2022	<u>\$94,057.46</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(22,402.90 )

## **Budget Changes**

Committee Chairpersons need to determine budget needs for 2023 and present them to the Finance Committee by December 5.

You may collect coins for ELCA World Hunger God's Global Barnyard this Advent. Pick up your barns or pigs from church and bring them back.



## **Good Shepherd's Children's Christmas Program**

Children's Christmas Program will be held Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am during Worship Service.

Practice will be on Saturday, December 17th at 9:30am at the church.

## LACC

*The Lena Area Church Cooperative will be giving gift certificates for meat and groceries to those in need this upcoming holiday season. If you would like to donate monetarily to the Lena Area Church Cooperative you can either put the money in the earmarked basket in the Fellowship Hall, or you can put it in the offering being sure to designate that it should go to the Lena Area Church Cooperative or LACC.*

### Giving Tree (Formerly known as the Angel Tree)

The LBPA Giving Tree is setting up at the Lena Mercantile

If you have any questions, contact Lena Mercantile at 815-369-9955.



### Christmas Poinsettias

Each year, Good Shepherd's chancel is decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Services. You may order poinsettias in memory or in honor of a loved one or in celebration of the birth of Jesus!

**Orders must be placed by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Cost will be \$15.00.**

Order forms available on last page of newsletter or at 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 love of Christ to the residence in the nursing home. We are responsible for 10 cards each month. If you would like to help with this ministry, just bring cards to church by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please sign and include short encouraging words. Our hope is to make them smile!

Questions? Contact the church office.

### Christmas Worship Schedules

You may join the service in-person or via Facebook Live. All service will be recorded.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

Christmas Day Service  
Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am

\*Holy communion will be celebrated in this service.

## THANK YOU!

Your generosity helps us continue to do God's work. If you cannot make it to service on Sunday morning, you may mail or drop off your offering to church. Your offering will be included to the following Sunday. We are thankful for all your support to Good Shepherd.

## December Birthdays

12 -01	Jacob Doyle	12 -17	Jim Hurth
12 -01	Daniel Hurth	12 -17	Anna Patterson
12 -01	Noah Wenzel	12 -18	Jean Engel
12 -03	Penelope Price	12 -20	Cyndy Shumaker
12 -08	Amy Hesselbacher	12 -21	Brian Hurth
12 -08	Coltin Coonts	12 -22	Wayne Hurth
12 -10	Sharon Schlachter	12 -22	Terra Hurth
12 -10	Jarod Timms	12 -23	Abigail Brinker
12 -11	Ryan Fye	12 -24	Paula Schoenhard
12 -14	Chris Fahr	12 -27	Tom Brinker
12 -16	Dan Sawson	12 -30	Lynn Lyvers
12 -16	Cali Smith	12 -31	Henlee Price
12 -16	Mary Freitag		

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

### We lift our prayers for

*Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Willie Kayser, Rene', Sue Kraft, Connor Stadermann, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Deb Lindeman Harder, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, Nicole, Meghan, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kay, Shanna, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Amber, Chris, Ron, Vicki, Brenda, Abby Schick, Brenda, Jack, Gretchen, Tina, Joe, Dan Kempel, Ron Heckman, Justin Yeager, Phil, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, LaVonne and Logan. Pray for love, peace, comfort, and hope of resurrection for the families and friends of Wade Flack.*



Good Shepherd will have a float in the Christmas Parade on Saturday, **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. begins at 6:00pm. If you would like to ride on the float, be at the church by 5:30pm.

**LENA'S  
HOMETOWN  
CHRISTMAS  
PARADE**



Advent Devotional  
**ALL THAT STUFF**

*by Becca Ehrlich*

We Americans often have way more stuff than we actually need. The average American home has 300,000 things in it. As a country, we are constantly adding to our possessions, and building bigger and bigger homes to fit everything. No matter how much we have, we tend to think we need more.

As the AT&T commercial shows, the “more is better” mentality is instilled in us at a young age. The children in the commercial were no more than 6 years old. With this thinking already established in childhood, is there any question as to why so many of us adults have a constant want for more?

**ALL THAT STUFF**

Of course, the human desire for more and more is nothing new. We see it in Luke 12, when Jesus shares a parable about a guy whose farm is doing really well. So, the guy decides he’s going to tear down his old barns, build bigger ones and then basically stockpile all the food so he can relax, eat, drink and be merry.

You can almost hear the catchphrase “More is better” as this happens.

What does God then say to the man? Here’s a paraphrase: “Guess what? You actually die tonight. What’s going to happen to all that stuff?”

What’s going to happen to all that stuff, indeed? We spend our lives accumulating it, but when we die, what happens to it? In most cases, our friends and family end up spending days, even weeks, getting rid of it. Don’t get me wrong: They may keep a few things that have meaning to them. But the bulk of it? Thrown out or donated. Same as the guy in Jesus’ story—he spent all his time stockpiling stuff, and now, it’s all going to be given away or thrown out.

You see, it’s not just about the waste of material resources. When we are so focused on accumulating stuff, we miss out on the most important things in life. The guy in Jesus’ parable misses out on spending time with God and loved ones. And what’s left when he’s gone? Just a pile of stuff rather than shared memories, which would mean so much to his family and friends.

It’s the same for us. Because of our sin and brokenness, we believe more is always better. And our consumer society helps us buy into that (pun intended). Over and over, we hear messages that we must buy something more in order to make us prettier or more respected, or to feel like we belong. Every day we’re told: More is better.

Jesus, however, tells us there is a different way to live. Jesus knew our human tendency to think that more is better. Jesus wants us to know that being a Jesus follower means to live counter-culturally— not to live our lives for the purpose of accumulating more stuff. Jesus is very clear when he says: “So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

As Jesus reminds us, God is what really matters. When we put God first in our lives, our priorities are in the right place. Then we are more likely to prioritize our loved ones, our health and our calling from God, rather than chasing the next sale item.

Source: December Gather Magazine

## Christmas Poinsettias

*Each year, Good Shepherd's chancel is decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Services. You may order poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one; or in celebration of the birth of Jesus! Orders must be placed by Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, price of the plants is \$15.00. Please complete the form below and mail it or drop it off at the church office.*

**Thank you!**

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**Poinsettia Order**

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**phone # :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given (check one)**

\_\_\_ in memory of.. \_\_\_ in honor of..

**Name (s)**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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 team. We send prayer through the phone chain and e-mail. You pray on 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.*



Please be sure that any *offering contribution* you would like credit for this year, is received prior to the end of worship on **Sunday, December 25, 2022**. Any contribution received after that time will be credited in 2023. Thank you for your cooperation. In an ongoing effort to reduce expenses, your offering envelope number for next year may change.

*It is imperative that you write your name on your envelope so that you receive proper credit.* Your generosity and cooperation are very much appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact *Sheila* at (815)369-5101.

Thank you.



# December 2022 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 6:00pm Lena's Home Town Christmas Parade
<b>4 Advent 2</b> <b>9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday)</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice 	<b>5</b> Finance Committee Meeting, 6:00pm  Cub Scouts Meeting at 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall	<b>6</b> <i>11:00 am Bible Study Group</i>	<b>7</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	<b>8</b> Friendship Club 12:30pm Potluck, following potluck Entertainment by - Glenda Linneman	<b>9</b> <b>Annual Reports Due</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Advent 3</b> <b>9:00am Sunday School</b> <b>9:30am Worship Service</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am- 11:45am Choir Practice <i>LAST DAY to order Poinsettias</i> 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>11:00 am Bible Study Group</i>	<b>14</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters  <b>January Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Christmas Program practice, 9:30am at Good Shepherd
<b>18 Advent 4</b> <b>9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday)</b> <b>Children's Christmas Program (during worship)</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice 	<b>19</b> Cub Scouts Meeting at 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall	<b>20</b> <i>11:00 am Bible Study Group</i>	<b>21</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>8:30am-11:30am Good Shepherd at Le-Win Food Pantry</b> <b>7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service</b>
<b>25</b> <b>9:30am Christmas Day Worship Service with Communion</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>11:00 am Bible Study Group</i>	<b>28</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 



# December Volunteer Schedule

## Greeters

December 4 Michelle Andrews/ Wayne Kurth

December 11 Tim Gordon/ Darcy Meier

December 18 Anna Patterson/ Suz Diddens

December 25 Anna Patterson/ Tim Gordon

## Lectors

December 4 Karen Heimzier

December 11 Coralyn Hudik

December 18 Suz Diddens

December 25 Wayne Kurth

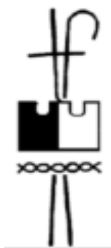
## Communion Assistant

December 4 Beth Martin

December 18 Shirley Fox

December 25 Wayne Kurth

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. 815-369-5552



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

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Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";  
Website: [www.GoodShepherdLena.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLena.org)

## **FESTIVALS AND COMMEMORATIONS**

### **January 1 Name of Jesus**

The observance of the octave (eighth day) of Christmas has roots in the sixth century. Until the recent past, Lutheran calendars called this day "The Circumcision and Name of Jesus." The emphasis on circumcision is the older emphasis. Every Jewish boy was circumcised and formally named on the eighth day of his life. Already in his youth, Jesus bears the mark of a covenant that he makes new through the shedding of his blood on the cross. That covenant, like Jesus' name, is a gift that marks the children of God. Baptized into Christ, the church begins a new year in Jesus' name.

Source: Sundays and Season, ELW Lesser Festivals and Commemorations