

February 2023 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Thoughts from the Vicar

Greetings and love in Christ!

In February, we see chocolates and cards shaped as hearts, and we may hear that “love is in the air”. These sentiments are all related to Saint Valentine’s Day, the 14th of February, when we celebrate the martyrdom of Valentinus (Valentine), who was executed on that day in the year AD 269. And Saint Valentine’s Day is especially dear to me, since it was my mother’s birthday. So in our home, familial love was definitely in the air.

And who was this Saint Valentine? He was a Christian priest in a time when Christianity was illegal in the Roman Empire. At one point, he is said to have healed a blind girl in the name of Jesus. She was then baptized as a Christian and became like a daughter to Valentine. When he was condemned to death, the night before his execution, he was allowed to write her a letter to say farewell, which he signed “from your Valentine”.

So the love that we remember on Saint Valentine’s day is the redeeming love of God, the love that inspired Valentine to be a priest, even though he knew that he might be killed for his faith. It is the love of a girl who was healed by God who then dedicated herself to living as a Christian. It is the love we all share as members of Christ’s body. As John writes in his first letter: “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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

How good it is to have a special day to celebrate God’s love for us and our love for one another.

God bless you all,
Vicar Thomas



Good Shepherd is offering CPR Classes February 6th at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

In an emergency, being able to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can help save a life. CPR is an emergency procedure that consists of chest compressions and often assisted ventilation to maintain the circulation of oxygenated blood if an individual’s heart or breathing stops. Immediately starting CPR and carrying it out until trained medical staff arrives can substantially increase an individual’s chances of survival and improve their overall outcome.

Sign up sheet outside of Fellowship Hall or call the church office 815-369-5552 or Wayne Kurth 815-291-3508.

Highlights from December Council Meeting December 15, 2022

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council met on December 15, 2022 at 6:30pm. President Wayne Kurth called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: The December 15, 2022 Secretary's Report were reviewed. Having no additions or corrections, the Secretary's Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented the Treasurers Report. The November income was low thus ending in a \$6000. deficit for the month. The offering is barely covering the expenses for the month of November. The Budget is currently \$24,000 short for the year. Jay Andrews reported that he paid two months worth of gas bills in November in order to get on a gas plan that would be less expensive for the church. The Property Committee is also working on trying to get a lower rate on the electric Bill
Electric Bill \$1146.5.

Vicar's Report: Vicar Thomas Mosbo reported that he had a meeting with Rev. Julie Monnard, Assistant to the Bishop and members of the Wartburg Seminary Faculty. Vicar Thomas will be beginning his Internship here at good Shepherd on January 1, 2023. The Installation Service will be either January 8 or 15 depending on Rev. Monnard's schedule. Vicar Thomas did spend time visiting the shut-ins and elderly of the church and bringing communion to those who wished to receive it. He also conducted Sunday Morning Worship Service and attended the Tuesday morning Bible Study.

Committee Reports:

- **Worship and Music Committee:** The plans for Christmas are moving along. There will be a Christmas Pageant on December 18 during morning Worship Service.
- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee held a meeting to work on the 2023 Budget. They are waiting to hear from the Synod as to what kind of pay package is expected for Vicar Thomas Mosbo as our Intern. The Committee has plugged in an approximation amount for the purpose of a proposed Budget until a final amount is determined.
- **Property Committee:** Wayne Kurth reported that there was a new motor put on the boiler. The Property Committee got an inquire from Pearl City Seamless Gutters as to payment of their bill. Wayne Kurth reported that the job was not complete at this time. After discussion by the Church Council members, it was decided to not pay the bill until the job was complete.
- **Nomination Committee:** Currently, there are no prospects for new Council Members.
- **Learning and Youth Committee:** The Christmas Pageant will be on December 18 during the Morning Worship Service. The All Ages Sunday School is not going well and will be discontinued for now.

Old Business:

- **Constitution:** The Constitution Committee has sent the latest revisions to the Synod for their approval. A question was asked as to what the next step in getting the Constitution approved was. Wayne Kurth stated that it must be approved by the Synod Constitution Committee and then by the Synod Council before it comes back to Good Shepherd. If either of these committees finds something wrong with the submission, it comes back to Good Shepherd for more revisions and the process starts all over again. Once the Synod Constitution Committee and Synod Council approve the constitution, then it goes to the Good Shepherd congregation to be approved.

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Old Business:

• **Vicar Thomas Mosbo's Contract:** The applications for Vicar Thomas to be our Intern is being completed. There is a need to have a Misconduct and Sexual Harassment Policy for the church. The template on the Wartburg College web site will be used.

• **Annual Meeting:** The Church Council discussed as to when to have the Annual Meeting. It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023 following Worship Service.

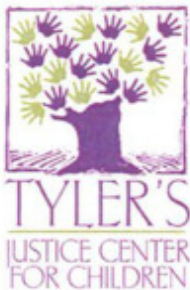
Cub Scouts. The Lion Den of the Lena Cub Scouts has made a request to use the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday nights for their meetings. The Council decided to leave the Scouts use the Fellowship Hall.

Due to any last minute adjustments to the Agenda for the Annual Meeting or the Budget, it was decided to hold the January Church Council Meeting on January 12, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report
Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2022	\$ 9,559.10
Expenses December 2022	<u>\$ 6,441.06</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 3,118.04
Income, Year to Date 2022	\$ 85,128.85
Expenses, Year to Date 2022	<u>\$106,785.80</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(21,656.95)



Dear WELCA and Friends,
We are so honored to accept this donation of \$50.00 on your behalf. We truly appreciate your support of Tyler's Justice Center for Children.

Without support of people like you, who are passionate about welfare of children, we would be hard pressed to provide the needs for these children and their families to begin their journey toward healing.

On behalf of the staff here at Tyler's, thank you again for your kindness and dedication for the children and families we serve. You are appreciated!

Thank You

Sincerely,
Kendra Mosley
Program Coordinator



Oak Sentinels

By Catherine Malotky

God of Grace and Beauty, for more than two decades I have begun my day with a walk in the same wooded park near my home. Situated on glacial moraine, the park has a lake at its center that once was a giant block of ice as tall as the highest building in our city. When the ice melted, this became a transitional place between oak savanna and big woods. Before Eastern European farmers took over these lands I can imagine these acres were prized by their Indigenous caretakers for plenteous water, abundant game and fertile soils. And trees.

Great oaks remain on the steep hillsides, perhaps survivors of the farm-shaping clearing that so changed the landscape once homesteaders appeared. The oaks stand as sentinels over the comings and goings of smaller creatures, the seasons and the weather. Over the years they have stretched out their mighty branches and provided shelter and food for so many human and otherwise. What have these trees witnessed in the last 150 years? What stories could they tell?

Every year, we notice another one has fallen, toppled by a powerful wind, or devastated by oak wilt traveling along its roots. Some have simply outlived themselves and, stripped of leaf and bark, stand naked against the sky, a perch for hunting raptors and a home for woodpeckers. Finally, these, too give way and crash to the forest floor. They will be slowly be reclaimed, returning their nutrients to the earth, sustaining life until the end.

The oaks are such a fine example of your generous bounty, God! So many are fed and sheltered because of them. So many networks of life build out from an oak tree. So much resilience is evident, as they stand strong even in the coldest winter freeze, patiently biding time until the spring thaw, when buds become leaves and acorns yet again.

You teach us through these trees, God, to adapt, as oaks have, to so many different climates and soils. You teach us about cycles of fertility and rest of extravagant generosity, (How many acorns?), and independence between the great and the small. You teach us to be a living being among other living beings, providing for each other while tending to our own well-being. You teach us to heal our wounds and reach out for your sustenance. Through the trees you teach us to be patient and insistent at the same time.

Have we sufficiently honored these messengers of your love and grace? Are we tending to their well-being and doing what we can to support their thriving-not just for the sake of wall joists and firewood, but also to acknowledge that they too, have been created in your image? We are bound up with them, with each other, with the rest of creation. You have created us to be *a part, not apart*. Their health is our health, their thriving is our thriving. Their suffering is our suffering.

Teach us, God, to see the trees, to learn from them and to celebrate our interdependence with them. Give us the courage to support them as fellow creatures of your imagining. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We lift up our prayers



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, Carol Borchardt and Ruby & Denny Schulz. Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the families and friends of Joyce Scheider and and Karlene Heinkel. May the mercy of God surround us this day.

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 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.

Dear Good Shepherd

Thank you for your recent donation of \$50.00 to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center.

May God richly bless all of you!

Jamie Pacer,
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Employee

**“Christ in Our Home”
and “The Word in Season”**

January-March issues of Christ in Our Home and The Word In Season are available now. There are wonderful, Bible study lessons feature articles and short stories.

Take one home today!



**Walking Through Grief
Support Group**



SSM Health will be offering Walking Through Grief, support group Thursday's beginning

On February 16th continuing until March 23 2023 from 10:00am-11:30am at SSM Health at Home, Monroe Hospice Office at 1905 5th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin. This group is free of charge, but space is limited. Please register online at ssmhealth.com/events or call 608-324-1230 or 1-800-367-8406 for more information.



Lena Area Church Cooperative

Good Shepherd Church,

Thank you for the donations to the Lena Area Church Co-op. Every donation means we will be able to help are residents with their heat, electric, water, rent & food. This past year we have also helping the Food Pantry by purchasing items they can't get through the food bank, mostly personal care items.

It has been a privilege for us to help those in need through our area churches

God bless you for your donation to help others.
L.A.C.C



MADONNA
RENEWAL CENTER

Dear Pastor and Parishioners,

Madonna Renewal Center (MRC) continues to e in existence because of generous people like you. We would like to express our deepest gratitude f or your support through monetary donations to MRC. Your donation is very important to us. It helps in the continuity of caring for mothers and babies as the Lord directs. This past year would not have been successful without you. Thank you for your donation of \$250.00.

May God reward and replenish you abundantly. You are always in our prayers.

May the new year be glorious for you and your family.

With deep gratitude.

*Sr. N Nkiruka C. Okafor IHM, PhD
Executive Director*



Be the Body of Christ at CRE

The Congregational Resourcing Event will be held March 4, 2023 at Sauk Valley Community College. Congregations and members of the Northern Illinois Synod will gather under the theme: "Be the Body."

We are excited to welcome the Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox as our speaker and leader as we dive deep into the spiritual practice of vocare. Vocare is an ongoing spiritual practice designed to help you discern and embrace your multiple vocations so that you can more intentionally live life on purpose for the common good. Vocare invites regular reflection upon values, openness, call, attentiveness, regret, and the experience of God's presence.

After hearing a keynote from Bishop Stacie Fidler, participants will be broken out in breakout groups to have conversations that allow us to think about who they are as the body of Christ as individuals and as the church. Participants will be able to self-select two workshops that will touch on a variety of ministries and resources. More information on the workshop offerings can be found below.

We will close the day with a blessing and sending as we go back into the world to be the body of Christ in our own communities.

Cost for participants is \$25 and includes coffee, morning treats and lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact [Rev. Julie Monnard](mailto:jmonnard@nisynod.org) at jmonnard@nisynod.org

February Birthdays



- 02-01 Allyson Kraft
- 02-01 Caleb Mammoser
- 02-02 Robert Kurth
- 02-03 Larry Fulfs
- 02-05 Jerry Martin
- 02-08 Denise Balbach
- 02-08 Jonathon Kurth
- 02-09 Duane Tessendorf
- 02-09 Angie Brinker
- 02-10 Paige Tessendorf
- 02-12 Jeanine Raders
- 02-12 Bentley Euler
- 02-14 Doug Mueller
- 02-15 Corey Luke
- 02-15 Michelle Meyers
- 02-16 Whitney Shumaker
- 02-16 Andrew Wenzel
- 02-19 Ryan Becker
- 02-20 Millie Koppean
- 02-21 Jesse Klosterboer
- 02-21 Taylor Bastian
- 02-27 Kayla Runkle
- 02-27 Brady Broshous

Weather Lore

If the sun shines on Groundhog Day, have half the fuel and half the hay.

Source: The Farmers Almanac

We are looking for volunteers at the Le-Win Food Pantry

Good Shepherd helps with Le-Win Food Pantry on the 4th Saturday of even numbered months from 8:20am-11:30am. Needs are high and we are looking for 2 volunteers as well for the upcoming months (April 22nd, June 24th, August 26th, October 28th and December 30th) If you are interested, put your name on the sign up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office.

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



Make-A-Smile cards for Lena Living Center

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. If you know of anyone who enjoys creating cards, the residents of Lena Living Center appreciate your warm thoughts.

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.

February 2023 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1		3	4
5 9:30am Worship Service Communion Sunday 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice	6 Cub Scouts Meeting at 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall	7 Cub Scouts Meeting at 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall	8 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	9	10	11
12 9:30am Worship Service Installation of Council members 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice	13	14 	15 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	16 6:30pm Council Meeting	17 News Letter Deadline	18
19 9:30am Worship Service Communion Sunday Transfiguration Sunday 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice	20 Cub Scouts Meeting at 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall President's Day <i>Happy Presidents Day</i> 	21	22 Ash Wednesday  8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 7:00pm Worship Service	23	24	25 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry
26 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice	27	28				

February Volunteer Schedule

Greeter

February 5 Darci Meier and Michelle Andrews
February 12 Virgil Gordon and Tim Gordon
February 19 Sue Diddens and Tim Gordon
February 22 Sue Diddens and Michelle Andrews
February 26 Darci Meier and Virgil Gordon

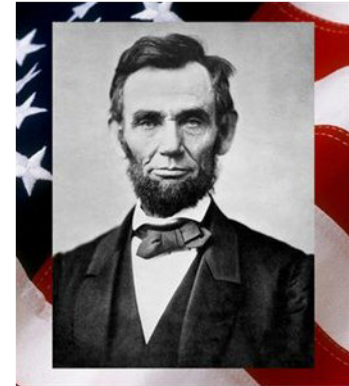
Lectors

February 5 Tena Rackow
February 12 Wayne Kurth
February 19 Cora Hudik
February 22 Wayne Kurth
February 26 Sue Diddens

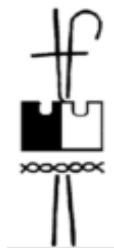


Communion Assistant

February 5 Beth Martin
February 19 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.



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

Email: goodshepherdlena@outlook.com
Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";
Website: www.GoodShepherdLena.org

Upcoming Commemorations

February 2

Presentation of Our Lord

Forty days after the birth of Christ we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There a prophetess named Anna began to speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child. Simeon also greeted Mary and Joseph. He responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel in this child with the words of the Nunc dimittis. His song described Jesus as a "light for the nations."

Because of the link between Jesus as the light for the nations, and because an old reading for this festival contains a line from the prophet Zephaniah, "I will search Jerusalem with candles," the day is also known as Candlemas, a day when candles are blessed for the coming year.

February 18

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

On this day in 1546, Martin Luther died at the age of sixty-two. For a time, he was an Augustinian monk, but it is his work as a biblical scholar, translator of the Bible, public confessor of the faith, reformer of the liturgy, theologian, educator, and father of German vernacular literature that holds him in our remembrance. In Luther's own judgment, the greatest of all of his works was his catechism, written to instruct people in the basics of faith. And it was his baptism that sustained him in his trials as a reformer.

Source: Sundays and Season, ELW Lesser Festivals and Commemorations