

December 2022 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Thoughts from the Vicar

Greetings and love in Christ!

As we enter the season of Advent, looking forward to Christmas this year, it is a comfort to celebrate this festive time in the church together, in the care of God, sheltered from the hustle and bustle outside. Christmas can feel like a lonely time for some people or a cause of great anxiety for others, so it is good that we can proclaim the hope and joy of Jesus' coming anew into our hearts and lives in our worship together. The beautiful blue paraments in the sanctuary, the Advent wreath and Christmas tree are all signs of the blessings God continues to bring us.

One of my favourite Christmas carols, O Little Town of Bethlehem, expresses my hopes for all of us this season:

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

May Christ be born in our hearts anew this Christmas season, and may we rejoice in the spreading of his love in our homes, our community, and the world.

God bless you all,
Vicar Thomas Mosbo

Here we go a-caroling...

*Come and join us on December 10th for "Caroling for our Shut-ins".
Potluck luncheon will be at noon, please bring a dish to pass, we will car pool to our shut-ins homes at 12:45pm for an afternoon of Christmas Carols.*



Highlights from October Council Meetings

The regular Church Council meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was held on October 19, 2023. president Jonathon Kurth called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

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. In the last month there was about \$4,600. of income for the church with the expenses staying fairly consistent. This is currently not enough to meet current budgeted expenses. The deficit is currently \$13,000.

Gas Bill: \$166.54 Electric Bill: \$159.78

Treasurer's Report was approved.

Vicar's Report: Vicar Tomas Mosbo highlighted his report. He and Coral had a wonderful trip to Coral's 50th high school reunion in New York. Vicar also noted that he was approved by Warburg Seminary Faculty as completing his requirements to become a pastor. Vicar has also had an interview with Bishop Fidlar to confirm his placement in the Northern Illinois Synod. His final interview with Synod Candidacy Committee will be on October 19, 2023 after which the Bishop will be informed by the committee of his approval. Otherwise Vicar Thomas has carried out his other duties of attending committee meetings bulletin and worship preparations, visiting the sick and shut-in and preparing for the Fall Festival. The Vicar's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee: Coralyn Hudik passed around a pledge card for the Council to look over. The pledge cards are to be sent out to the members with options on their giving and the ways to help make their giving easier. Coralyn also stated that it would be nice to purchase a stole for Vicar Thomas Mosbo upon his Ordination from church.

Finance Committee: Jay Andrews reported to the committee that the income for the month of September was \$4,568.00 and the expenses were \$6,798.00 with a monthly deficit of \$2,230.00. Several options were discussed including the elimination of funds from the budget for the Web Site, Christian Education, Supply Pastor and Janitor. Also it was suggested to review the Church Insurance and get quotes from other Insurance Agencies to compare with our current insurance in an effort to reduce costs. Wayne Kurth also suggested it may be better to concentrate on trying to increase attendance rather than cutting expenses. A question was asked as to when we renew our contract with the Web Site. Jay Andrews answered that happened in the spring.

Men's Group: The Men's Group will be having their annual Steak Fry on October 28, 2023 and will be meeting at 4:00pm. The cost will be \$20.00 for the meal.

Having no other Committee Reports to review, a motion was made to approve all reports as presented. All Committee Reports were approved as presented.

Old Business:

Constitution: The Committee is working with the Synod. The wrong copy was sent in but they now think that they have the right copy and will be sending it off soon.

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Highlights from October Council Meetings

Old Business:

Clavinova: The party wishing to purchase the Clavinova has looked it over and decided not to purchase it.

The Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on November 16, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary

Special Church Council Meeting

November 5, 2023

A Special Church Council meeting was called by President Jonathon Kurth following Sunday morning Worship Service on November 5, 2023.

The purpose of the meeting was to select members from the congregation to be on a Call Committee. The three(3) members of the Internship Committee have offered to act as Call Committee. The Synod recommends that there should be six (6) members for the Call Committee. Darci Meier, Dale Gullickson and Virgil Gordon have volunteered from the Council to be on the Call Committee with Troy Doubler, Tena Rackow and Wayne Kurth from the Internship Committee.

Having no other business, motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The Special Council Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming October 2023	\$4,534.69
Expenses October 2022	\$6,569.43
Net Income (Loss)	\$(2,034.74)

Income, Year to Date 2022	\$95,523.73
Expenses, Year to Date 2022	\$89,317.83
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 6,205.90

Budget Changes

Committee Chairpersons need to determine budget needs for 2023 and present them to the Finance Committee by December 11.

Annual Reports Are Due

December 8, 2023

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**
in Word format.*

Thank you.

Lena Area Church Cooperative

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. The Lena Business and Professional Association will be doing the Giving Tree again this year at the Lena Mercantile. Please contact the Mercantile if you have questions concerning the Giving Tree.

Thank you,

Shirley Fox and Mary Lloyd

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Special Congregational Meeting

December 17th at 10:45am
following Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

To vote to call Vicar Thomas Mosbo as out part time Pastor

Good Shepherd's Children's Christmas Program

Children's Christmas Program will be held Sunday December 24th at 9:30am during Worship Service.

Practice will be on Saturday, December 23rd at 9:30am 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 10th 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.

Sunday, December 24th, 9:30am
Worship Service with
Children's Christmas Program.

Christmas Eve Worship Service
Sunday, December 24th, 7:00pm

*Holy communion will be celebrated in this service.

Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 25th, 9:30am
With Christmas Carols.



December Birthdays

12-01	Jacob Doyle	12-17	Jim Kurth
12-01	Daniel Kurth	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 Kurth
12-08	Coltin Coonts	12-22	Wayne Kurth
12-10	Sharon Schlachter	12-22	Terra Kurth
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 Lawson	12-30	Lynn Lyvers
12-16	Cali Smith	12-31	Kenlee 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!



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.



We lift our prayers for

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Willie Kayser, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Brady Meier, Leona Block, Connor Stadermann, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, Nicole, Meghan and her baby, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kay, Shanna, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Jack, Gretchen, Tina, Joe, Dan Kempel, Justin Yeager, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Jim Clay, Sharon Janicke, Ethan Hanna, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Vera Kempel, Jeri, Allie, Al Glen Hagemann, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Betty, Tina D., Howard D., Christine and Michelle.

Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family of Richard Diffenderfer.



Our Purpose Statement:

“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”

Upcoming Online Events:

Gather Advent Devotional: Topsy-turvy Advent
December 3 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

This fun, spirit-filled Advent devotional event will take place Sunday, December 3 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. CST. You'll meet our Advent 2023 devotional writer and host, the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson, as she welcomes you to join us from wherever you are most comfortable—favorite armchairs, church fellowship rooms or together with family and friends. Pastor Hannah will help us understand the season of Advent and Mary's song of praise (see Luke 1:46b-55) to God for turning the world upside-down—or perhaps, right-side-up! Participants will also have opportunities to discuss faith questions with others in online small groups. Closed captioning and Spanish language translation will be provided. You do not need to read the devotions ahead of time to participate.

A Virtual Blue Christmas Service
December 21 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Our Blue Christmas Service offers a safe place to bring your grief, fear, and loss. Brief readings. Quiet and reflective music. Prayers. All are welcome. Spanish translation provided. The service takes place at 7 p.m. CST on Thursday, December 21, 2023.

Go the Events tab at www.womenoftheelca.org to register for either of the above events. The above information is also excerpted from www.womenoftheelca.org

Offering Notes

Please be sure that any offering contribution you would like credit for this year, is received by the end of worship on **Sunday, December 31, 2023**. Any contribution received after that time will be credited in 2024. 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.

NOTICE

Due to recent vandalism at area churches, Good Shepherd will be LOCKED whenever there are NOT any scheduled activities.

If you need to be in the church for any reason call the office, Monday -Wednesday at 815-369-5552

Pledge Card

This note is a friendly reminder, to please fill out the pledge card below.

Donations of any size will be highly appreciated.

Your offerings are important for Good Shepherd to continue our ministry and our outreach projects.

Thank you



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. 10th, 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!*

Poinsettia Order

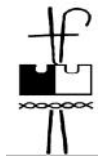
Given by: _____

phone # : _____

Given (check one)

___ in memory of.. ___ in honor of..

Name (s)



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

2023 Annual Collection

As part of my/our commitment to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church I/we pledge;

\$ _____ Per Year \$ _____ Monthly

\$ _____ Weekly \$ _____ Twice a month

\$ _____ Quarterly \$ _____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Signature _____



December 2023 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 4:00pm Lena's Home Town Christmas Parade
3 Advent 1 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice	4	5	6 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	7 Trust Board Meeting 6:30pm	8 Annual Reports Due	9
10 Advent 2 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am- 11:45am Choir Practice Caroling for shut-ins <i>LAST DAY to order Poinsettias</i>	11 Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30pm. Committee Chairpersons; deadline to determine budget needs.	12	13 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters January Newsletter Deadline	14 Friendship Club 12:30pm Potluck, following potluck Entertainment by – Set Free	15	16
17 Advent 3 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) Special Congregational Meeting 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice	18	19	20 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	21 6:30pm Council Meeting	22	23 8:30am-11:30am Good Shepherd at Le-Win Food Pantry
24 Advent 4 9:30am Worship Service Children's Christmas Program (during worship) 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service. with Communion	25 9:30am Christmas Worship Service with Christmas Carols	26	27 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	28	29	30
31 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship /potluck 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am- 11:45am Choir Practice						

DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

GREETER

December 3 Michelle Andrews/ Cindy Fahr

December 10 Sue Diddens/ Darci Meier

December 17 Anna Patterson/ Tim Gordon

9:30am December 24 Cindy Fahr/ Darci Meier

7:00pm December 24 Virgil Gordon/ Tim Gordon

December 31 Anna Patterson/ Wayne Kurth

LECTORS

December 3 Karen Neimeier

December 10 Coralyn Hudik

December 17 Tena Rackow

7:00pm December 24 Karen Niemeier

December 31 Sue Diddens

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 thT week** that you are to volunteer so that arrangements can be made. 815-369-5552

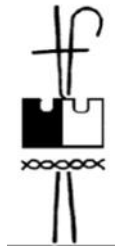
COMMUNION ASSISTANT

December 3 Sue Diddens

December 17 Shirley Fox

7:00pm December 24 Beth Martin





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

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

FESTIVALS AND COMMEMORATIONS

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died on December 20, 1552.

Born to an impoverished nobleman, when Katharina (Katie) was five her mother died and she was sent to live in a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin. Though initially Luther felt little affection for Katie, she proved herself a gifted household manager and became a trusted partner. She was so influential that Luther took to calling her "my lord Katie."

Source: Sundays and Season, ELW Lesser Festivals and Commemorations