

February 2024 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Dear friends,

I write today because we have arrived at a crucial moment in our church's mission to end hunger, and you can make a difference.

The transition from one year to the next always gives us a chance to reflect on the past and dream about the future. As director of giving for ELCA World Hunger, I find that especially true this year, because in 2024 we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of this ministry and all we have accomplished through it as church. However we face new challenges as food insecurity rises across the globe.

In 1974, as hunger skyrocketed around the world, Lutherans in the United States launched the World Hunger appeals. Members of Lutheran congregations across the country participated by fasting for one meal per week and donating the cost of that meal to their neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Those appeals eventually grew into ELCA World Hunger, which now works to address the root causes of poverty in 64 countries around the world, including the United States.

While we look back on our history, we also look ahead to all we have yet to accomplish. After historic decreases in hunger worldwide, **the number of people now living in hunger approaches heights we haven't seen in nearly 20 years.** Rising costs, global conflict, climate change and the lasting impacts of COVID-19 affect more of our vulnerable neighbors. As in 1974, we face a startling rise in hunger that threatens to undo the decades of progress made since ELCA World Hunger was founded.

At this crossroads-for our world and church-we are living into a gospel of abundance and hope. ELCA World hunger is uniquely positioned to enable communities to address the specific challenges they face. Thanks to deep relationships with churches and partner organizations across the globe. Through your generosity to ELCA World Hunger you walk alongside our neighbors near and far.

I hope you will join us in commemorating our 50th-anniversary year. (Visit [ELCA.org/WH50](https://www.elca.org/WH50) for more information and resources!) I also hope you will be part of the story of our next 50 years together, boldly and hopefully pursuing God's promise of a just world where all are fed.

In gratitude,

Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Highlights from December Council Meeting December 21, 2023

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council met on December 21, 2023 at 6:30pm. President Jonathon Kurth called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: There were three (3) Secretary's Reports to review. The November 16, 2023 regular Church Council Meeting, November 19 Special Church Council Meeting, and December 17, 2023 Special Church Council Meeting. After reviewing the minutes of the meetings, all meeting minutes were approved.

Treasure's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report. Currently there is about \$484.40 in the checking account. There is still a budget deficit for the year but with the help of the year end offerings the deficit is being reduced.

Electric Bill 193.60 Gas Bill \$163.64

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Vicar's Report: Vicar Thomas Mosbo reported that in the last month he was able to spend more time in the church building. He was able to meet with the Quilting Ladies and meet with some of the people who drop into the church during the week, Vicar Thomas also was preparing for his ordination on January 7, 2024 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Rockford, Illinois. He was also working on the Christmas Services for this year. The Vicar's report was approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

- **Stewardship Committee:** The Stewardship Committee reported that there have been some pledge cards coming in. They have been given to Sheila Keene to be processed.
- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee had a meeting to work on the 2024 budget. It was noted that Larry Fulfs has also joined the Finance Committee.
- **Property Committee:** The Property Committee had a meeting on December 3, 2023 following Church Service. The meeting was to approve a bid for the boiler repair that was mandated by State Fire Marshall. The Committee accepted the bid from Loescher Heating for \$1685.56 to repair the boiler. Motion was made to pay Loescher Heating \$1686.56 for the boiler repair from the Special Funds BMI Trust Account. The motion was approved.
- **Staff Support/Mutual Ministry:** It was reported that Tim Gordon accepted a position on the Staff Support/Mutual Ministry Committee.
- **Men's Group:** The Men's Group gave donations to Good Shepherd Church for the use of the Church building for their meetings of \$500, the Quilters for \$250. and to WELCA \$100.

Old Business:

- **Constitution:** nothing has changed.

New Business: The Finance Committee carefully looked over the budget to try to hold down as many costs as possible. Unfortunately a negative budget will be presented to the congregation again this year. Motion to approve the 2024 Budget was approved.

Having not other business before the Church Council motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be on January 18, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Janis Kurth

Church Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report
Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2023	\$41,594.79
Expenses December 2023	<u>\$15,660.01</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$25,934.78
Income, Year to Date 2023	\$143,506.40
Expenses, Year to Date 2023	<u>\$111,956.55</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 31,549.85



*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. If you are interested, add your name to the sign up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office, 815-369-5552. The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers for February 24th.

Thank you for donating your time.

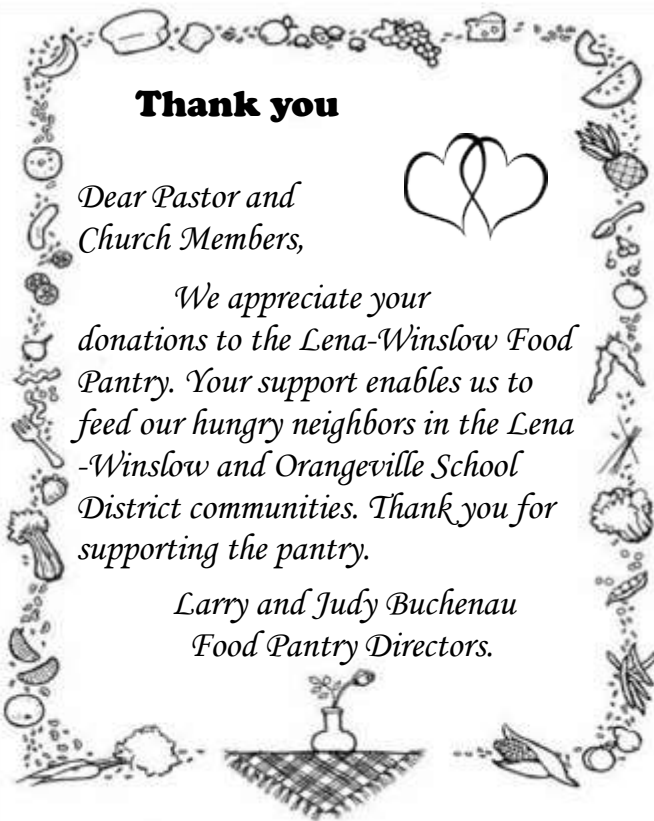


Thank you

*Dear Pastor and
Church Members,*

*We appreciate your
donations to the Lena-Winslow Food
Pantry. Your support enables us to
feed our hungry neighbors in the Lena
-Winslow and Orangeville School
District communities. Thank you for
supporting the pantry.*

*Larry and Judy Buchenau
Food Pantry Directors.*



Did you know?

February is the only month where it is possible to go the entire time without having a full moon!

Source: © 2024 The Fact Network Ltd | All Rights Reserved



Thank you

Dear Congregation of Good Shepherd,

The Lord makes their face to shine upon you and to be gracious to you; the Lord lifts up their countenance upon you and gives you peace. Numbers 6:25-26.

Peace to you! LOMC is enjoying welcoming guests and we love the support you give! Thank you for your donation to our Annual Fund. Your support gives LOMC the ability to host many diverse types of groups.

Blessing and Peace from the LOMC staff and board.

Robert Gieraltowski

Executive Director



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.”

SAVE THE DATE:

April 4, 2024,

Northwest Conference Spring Gathering, Christ Lutheran in Stockton,
Rev. Twila Schock from Mosaic

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, April 27, 2024.

The WELCA Retreat will be held at LOMC near Oregon.

Women of the ELCA as an organization is so much larger than what you might realize. It encompasses women across the U.S. and the Caribbean. They are active in discipleship, justice and stewardship as well as the special initiative of Raising Up Healthy Women & Girls. Quilts, health kits, school kits and fundraisers have long been a staple of the hands-on work these women do. Circle Groups, sometimes referred to as Bible Study, Book Study or a church specific name are a way for ELCA women and their guests to come together in fellowship and conversation. Funeral lunches combine hands-on work and fellowship. You're encouraged to spend several minutes perusing the website, www.womenoftheelca.org. You'll find more detailed information about WELCA, resources and a link to sign-up for free e-newsletters and a daily devotional.

If a hard-copy magazine is your preferred method to stay connected to the stories and Bible studies of WELCA, *Gather* magazine subscriptions are available for \$19.95/year for six issues. In the past, Good Shepherd WELCA has been blessed with gift money that allowed us to pay for member subscriptions. These subscriptions will be expiring with the March/April 2024 issue. There are renewal cards included in the magazines so that you can purchase your own subscription. A *Gather* subscription not only keeps you connected but also supports the work of the Women of the ELCA.



After Ram Kala's husband died, she wasn't sure how she would support her four children through traditional farming. "I worked hard," she says, "but the land only produced enough for four months."

Then, a few years ago, Ram Kala connected with the Ekikrit Bikash Manch (EBM) organizations. EBM partners with the United Mission to Nepal, which is supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Through EBM's food security program Ram Kala received training in home garden management, financial literacy, climate change adaptation and more eventually she was selected to receive four goats and training on how to keep them.

Ram Kala's goats, along with the vegetables from her home garden have increased her income and helped her create a stable future for her children. She has been able to pay for their schooling and support her daughter's work toward her bachelors degree.

We lift up our prayers

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, 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, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Jim Clay, Sharon Janicke, Ethan, Hanna, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Jeri, Allie Al, Glen Hagemann, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Howard D., Christine, Michelle and Maci Diffenderfer.

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.

ECLA World Hunger Facts:

821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.

According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population.

At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.

39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.

Source: ELCA Word Hunger



Walking Through Grief Support Group

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

February 14th continuing until March 20, 2024 from 10:00am- 11:30am at Monroe Engraving, 1005 30th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin.

This group is free of charge, but space is limited.

Please register online at ssmhealth.com/events

or call 608-324-1143 or 1-800-367-8406 for more information.





rockford rescue mission
rescue • recover • restore

ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION

2024 marks a milestone for the Rockford Rescue Mission. We're celebrating 60 years of serving, in Jesus' name, people in our community who are homeless and hurting.

Sherry Pitney, CEO

Thinking Creatively about the Numbers

Prior to about 1991, statistics were inexact at best when it came to counting how many meals, night of shelter and spiritual decisions happened at Rockford Rescue Mission. For our 60th anniversary, we thought it would be interesting to compile the precise stats we do have. In just the 33 years we've kept exact statistics, from 1991-2023, here's what we know.

1.8M Nights of lodging—Comparison; if thought of consecutively, this totals more than 3,729 years of nights or every night since 1706 B.C.

4M Meals Served—We've served three meals a day, every day since 1964 to anyone in need. Just since 1991 that's more than 4 million meals

42,147 Spiritual Decision—This is our bottom line. The number represents people coming to salvation in Jesus Christ, being baptized and/or rededicating their lives to Christ. For comparison, this is about equal to the crowd capacity of Chicago's Wrigley Field.

Source: Rockford Rescue Mission, The Rescuer, Winter 2024



Lutheran Summer Music 2024

Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN

Full Session: June 20-July 28

Half Session: June 30-July 14

Grades 8-12

Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school students. Students come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in joyful music-making a supportive and welcoming community, living together on a Lutheran college campus. During the day, students receive advanced musical instruction through large ensembles, chamber music, private lessons and elective classes. In the evenings, students attend recitals, evening prayer services and social events

Thank you for considering the young musicians in your life and nominating them for LSM. A simple nomination from you can be the first step toward an experience that will positively shape their life.

MaryLynn Mennicke

Dean and Director of Admissions

Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival

CALL: 612-879-9555 ext. 5 | TEXT: 612-879-9555 website; LSMacademy.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

02-20 Millie Koppean
02-21 Jesse Klosterboer
02-21 Taylor Bastian
02-27 Kayla Runkle
02-27 Brady Broshous

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 2024 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>February is American Heart Month, a time when all people—especially women—are encouraged to focus on their cardiovascular health.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>				1	2 	3
<p>4 9:30am Worship Service Installation of Pastor Thomas Mosbo Communion Sunday 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice</p>	5	6	<p>7 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p>	<p>8 6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	9	10
<p>11 9:30am Worship Service Transfiguration Sunday 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice</p>	12	13	<p>14 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Worship Service  8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p>	<p>15 6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	16 News Letter Deadline	17
<p>18 9:30am Worship Service Communion Sunday Transfiguration Sunday 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice</p>	19 President's Day 	20	<p>22 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p>	22	23	<p>24 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry </p>
<p>25 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice</p>	26	27	<p>28 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p>	29 		

February Volunteer Schedule

Greeter

February 4 Cindy Fahr and Virgil Gordon
February 11 Virgil Gordon and Tim Gordon
February 18 Sue Diddens and Tim Gordon
February 25 Darci Meier and Cindy Fahr

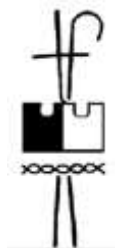
Lectors

February 4 Larry Fulfs
February 11 Coralyn Hudik
February 18 Tena Rackow
February 25 Karen Niemeier

Communion Assistant

February 4 Shirley Fox
February 18 Beth Martin

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

Famous Hymn Writers

Frances Jane Crosby
March 24, 1820-February 12, 1915

Known as **Fanny J. Crosby**, was an American mission worker, poet, lyricist, and composer. She was a prolific hymnist, writing more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs, with more than 100 million copies printed. She is also known for her teaching and her rescue mission work. By the end of the 19th century, she was a household name.



Crosby was known as the "Queen of Gospel Song Writers" and as the "Mother of modern congregational singing in America", with most American hymnals containing her work. Her gospel songs were "paradigmatic of all revival music", and Ira Sankey attributed the success of the Moody and Sankey evangelical campaigns largely to Crosby's hymns. Some of Crosby's best-known songs include "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour", "Blessed Assurance", "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home", "Praise Him, Praise Him", "Rescue the Perishing", and "To God Be the Glory". Some publishers were hesitant to have so many hymns by one person in their hymnals, so Crosby used nearly 200 different pseudonyms during her career. She has also been blind from infancy.