

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE December 2016

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

Happy New Year! As you may know, the church calendar starts with the Advent season, so this year our new year started on Sunday, November 27. The church new year also means that we say good bye to Luke and the lectionary will switch to the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel according to Matthew starts with a genealogy. Genealogies in the Bible are some of the most boring and hard sections to read because they are just lists of names. In the genealogy, there are some names we know, but many we probably do not know. Interestingly, Matthew's genealogy includes five women's names: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba), and Mary the mother of Jesus. Scholars are still debating about why these women were mentioned, but it's clear that these women had vulnerable statuses in their communities. Tamar's life included broken, childless marriages which meant her life was insecure. Rahab lived in the outskirts of her town, and the townsfolk discriminated against her due to her job. She was marginalized in her own community. Ruth left her homeland and became a resident alien in order to remain with her friend and mother-in-law Naomi. She did not know the people, customs, religion of the foreign land but she loved and cared for Naomi. Bathsheba married twice, first a foreigner and then a king. She lost her first husband and first child. Mary became pregnant in her young age but could not talk about her pregnancy (except to Elizabeth). She witnessed her first child die on the cross and buried him. These women had challenging lives. They likely had dreams and plans for normal, calm lives; instead, they had lives like roller-coaster rides with ups and downs. They did not expect

such hardships in their lives. Nevertheless, we hear their names in Matthew's genealogy as those whose lives impacted the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. When the birth of Jesus was announced to Joseph, the angel told him that the child in Mary's womb would save people from their sins, so that they would call him Emmanuel, God is with us. I wonder what the people who heard the stories in Matthew's gospel thought. Were they thrilled or scared? Did they anticipate a child to save them from life's miseries? We are living in an uncertain, unpredictable world. It is impossible for us to feel absolutely secure. Yet Jesus has come among us and lives among us to show God's love through his life. The Gospel of Matthew ends with Jesus proclaiming that "I am with you always, to the end of the age." May we know God's presence among us this coming year.

Pr. Miho

Worship News

December worship services are filled with music and lights. Color of Advent season is blue, which is the color of hope. In cold dark winter, we find hope in Jesus Christ. We will light advent candles every Sunday to remind ourselves that Jesus came and lives among us.

December 4th choir will praise with their voices.

December 11th chime choir will ring the chimes.

December 18th children will proclaim Christmas joy through the Christmas Program.

December 24th Christmas Eve services (5:00pm and 7:30pm),
Choir and Chime will offer their music.

December 25th Lessons and Carols

Come and worship with us .

December Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday December 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th from 8:00 am to 11:30 am.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet Wednesday December 7th and 21st from 6:30pm-8:pm.

Hannah Circle will meet on Thursday, December 1st at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday December 8th for a Potluck Dinner & Entertainment with Take Two at 12:00pm.

MEN'S GROUP will meet Saturday December 10th at 4:30pm.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING December 11th meet at the church at 2:00pm.

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday, December 13th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday December 13th at 6:00pm.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHERSAL December 17th 9:00am –10:30am.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM December 18th at 9:30am.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES Saturday December 24th at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL December 25th

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for January 2017 Newsletter is December 15th, 2016. Thank You!



December Birthdays

12-01 Jacob Doyle
12-01 Daniel Kurth
12-01 Noah Wenzel
12-08 Marybeth Brinker
12-10 Sharon Schlachter
12-10 Ron Cross
12-10 Jarod Timms
12-11 Ryan Fye
12-14 Chris Fahr
12-16 Dan Lawson
12-16 Cali Smith
12-16 Mary Freitag
12-17 Jim Kurth
12-18 Ray Stamm
12-18 Jean Engel
12-20 Cyndy Shumaker
12-21 Brian Kurth
12-22 Richard Johnson
12-22 Wayne Kurth
12-23 Abigail Brinker
12-24 Paul Hardel
12-24 Paula Schoenhard
12-27 Tom Brinker
12-29 Joyce Tessendorf
12-30 Lynn Lyvers

If we miss your birthday (or someone in your family) please call the office to update our records!



Sunday School Activities

Christmas Program at Good Shepherd

Sunday December 18th 2016 at 9:30am

Join us for a festive worship service led by our children and youth as they present

“Footprints to the Manger”.

The children will lead us in song and actions.

There will be special music from our children and youth. We will have congregational hymns, and we will hear and see the story unfold.



First Communion Class

First Communion preparation for Third Graders and older will be offered on February 5, 12, and 19, with celebration on the 26th, 2017. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour led by Marybeth Brinker.



Consider Alternative Giving this Christmas
Celebrate Giving with ELCA GOOD GIFTS
Make a difference in the world as you give gifts to loved ones this Christmas.

In lieu of traditional gifts, consider supporting meaningful projects of the ELCA in honor of friends and loved ones through **ELCA Good Gifts, ELCA Disaster Relief, or God's Global Barnyard**. Honor friends and loved ones with gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. You can buy a chicken that will provide eggs and income, you can support a missionary, support a church plant, buy a well or a portion of a well, and so much more. Consider creating a new family tradition! Maybe you can decide to go in together and choose together what would be meaningful to do. **Check out the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall for more ideas!**

Lena Area Church Cooperative

A big thank you to all who donated for the Thanksgiving food baskets! Baskets were delivered on November 21st by members and volunteers of the LACC. We appreciated your support greatly.



The Angel tree is up in the fellowship hall and gifts will be due back to Good Shepherd by the end of service, Sunday, December 18th. If you take an angel (top card), fill out the information card attached (leave it here), and return your gift (s) to the church with the top angel attached to it. Please make sure that if you have multiple packages, that they are all marked or tied together.

The sign up sheet for cookies for Operation Good Fellow is on the bulletin board at the bottom of the ramp. Please indicate how many dozen you are able to donate. The Lions Club is needing 200 dozen cookies and we would like to see Good Shepherd donate 30 dozen.



Cookies are due back to the church on Wednesday, December 7th by 3 p.m.

Monetary donations are always accepted for all projects.

Checks can be made payable to the Lena Area Church Cooperative or LACC. Checks can be given to either Shirley Fox or Mary Lloyd. If you prefer, checks can also be mailed to the LACC, PO Box 5, Lena IL 61048. Thank you!



Christmas Caroling December 11th

Meet at the church at 2:00 pm, dress warmly, to bring the Joyful sounds of the Christmas Season to others in our community. After Caroling, enjoy a hot bowl of soup back at Good Shepherd. Bring finger foods to share.

Prayer Chain:

If you have a request for the Prayer Chain:

Please call the Church Office at 815-369-5552. We lift up the following loved ones in assisted-living facilities/ nursing homes, homebound, etc. in prayer: Dorothy Weimer, Gladys Staderman, Verl Price, Steve Fahr, Lois Paulsen, Laura Derr, Ray Stamm, Carol Wybourn, Fern Harnish. They would love to hear from you, consider visiting, calling, or sending them a note Please call the church office if you are in need of an address.

Pastoral Visits

Would you like Pastor Miho to visit your home or would you like to set up a time to talk to Pastor, please contact the church office (815-369-5552) and/or Pr Miho at (815-821-9570) or email [**gslpastor@aeroinc.net**](mailto:gslpastor@aeroinc.net)

Pastor Miho's Hours

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Monday | 1:00pm-3:00pm |
| Tuesday | 10:00am-2:00pm |
| Wednesday | 10:00am-2:00pm |
| Thursday | (By Appointment) |
| Friday | Day Off |
| Saturday | Day Off |

Check us out on Facebook during Advent!

Do you like to doing devotions with pictures? During Advent Good Shepherd Facebook page offers picture based to the Advent readings every week. Please check our Facebook page **GSLCLenaIL** and share with your friends.

Poem from Virgil Gordon

I started this poem one Dec. morning it was one of those days a person would rather forget but I told Susie we need to write a poem about this day.

Wintertime

December

Bah, humbug!

Ice, snow, cold,

Schools closed, stores closed,
roads drifted shut

Frozen water, icy fields,

icicles hanging off the roof

Cold fingers, cold toes, wet frozen gloves

Mittens, ear flap caps, insulated coveralls,

Snow plows, cars in a ditch,

December

Bah, humbug!

BUT...

Christmas carols, cookies and candy canes

Merry times with family and friends,

Church bells, organ music, lighted candles

Twinkling lights on decorated trees

Christ's birth - new beginnings, new year

Peace on Earth,

December

Ah, Alleluia !

© **Virgil & Susan D. Gordon**

Council Members for 2016

Wayne Kurth—President Coralyn Hudik—Vice President

Secretary/Youth Representative—Colton Brinker

Council Members: Shirley Fox, Karen Niemeier,

Tim Gordon, Jon Hudik, Troy Keene, Troy Doubler, Eugene Hesselbacher, Pastor Miho

Highlights from November Council Meeting:

- Pastor urged members to attend the Discipleship Gathering, at Prince of Peace, Freeport, November 15 at 6:15 p.m.
- Pastor Miho and the Worship committee thanks everyone who assisted with the installation service. Pastor requests members to help her connect with people for her visitation list.
- Stewardship committee reported that they have personally contacted members who have not attended church recently.
- Troy Doubler requested that the Treasurer share monthly payments for electricity and heat with council. For October, the electricity bill was \$141.52 and the heating bill was \$174.60. We want to encourage everyone to conserve energy.
- Discussion was held on the sound system and telephone problems.
- Discussion was held concerning monies in the memorial fund and possible items that can be purchased from this fund.
- The council voted to contribute to the following groups from interest money generated from the Endowment Fund: After School Program- \$500; ELCA Disaster Relief- \$500; ELCA Global Missionary Sponsorship (Stubbs family)- \$1500; ELCA Good Gifts (Barnyard Gifts)-\$500; Grace Place Campus Ministry- \$250; Lena Area Church Cooperative-\$500; Lena Food Pantry-\$750; Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center-\$500. This amounts to a total of \$5000 in gifts, about 2% of the total interest available.
- Committee chairpersons need to submit their requests for the 2017 budget by November 28, to the church office.

Thank you

I would like to thank all of you for your support and prayers for my ordination and installation services. Your presence and prayers meant a lot to me. Thank you. Pr. Miho



Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Incoming October 2016 | \$12,489.99 |
| Expenses October 2016 | \$13,991.65 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$(1,501.77) |
| Income, Year to Date 2016 | \$112,779.88 |
| Expenses, Year to Date 2016 | \$120,219.48 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$(7,439.60) |

Need of a ride to church on Sunday?

Call:



Troy Doubler 369-5117

Donna Gullickson 369-4708

We love worshipping with you, and we want to help make sure you can get here to join us! If you are interested in being added to this list of available drivers, please contact the church office @ 369-5552

Annual Reports Are Due

January 9, 2017

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. We will be sending out the reports from last year for you to update your reports and turn them into the office by Monday, January 9, 2017. If possible, please type up the report and email it to gslchurch@aeroinc.net or GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com in Word format.



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 December 4. (Cost will be \$10.00). 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) _____

Volunteers Needed

**For All positions at the 5:00pm and 7:30pm
Christmas Eve Services**

**If you can assist please call the church office at
815-369-5552 or
email at gslchurch@aeroinc.net or
GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com
Thank You!**

God's Work Our Hands Sunday



Hannah Circle will meet on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. This is “Potluck” we will not have a hostess. René’ Johnson is the Bible Study leader.



The Advent Devotional material is in the December 2016 issue of “Gather” magazine. “Advent Waiting” written by Sonia C. Solomonson asks the question: “What wants to be born in you?” Advent is a time of darkness and possibility. A period of waiting and anticipation. A time of preparation, of making ready. A good time to ask the question: “What wants to be born in me this season” a perfect time to follow Mary’s example and ponder things in our hearts.

Lena Living Center December Birthday Party is Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm, hosted by Faith and Hannah Circles. We will sing Christmas songs, provide birthday gifts, bring treats and wish Happy Birthday to some very special people. Please join us for fun and fellowship in sharing Christ’s love. Circle members are asked to bring 2 dozen cookies to share with the residents. Contact Rene’ Johnson (815)369-2818 if you have any questions, need a ride, or to have your cookie donation picked-up. We will meet at 1:45 pm at the LLC dining room to set-up for the party.

All women of the church and their guests are welcome to attend all circle functions.



Joyce Tessendorf, Ellen Kyles, Beth Martin, Donna Gullickson, Joanne Martin, Cindy Doubler, Darlene Aurand, Kelsey Albrecht, Vivian Hesselbacher and Shirley Fox for helping with the November Newsletter.

December 2016 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, IL

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------------------------|--|---|--|-----------|--|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #d3d3d3; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> December Communion Set-up/Clean up Beth Marin </div> | | | | 1 9:00am Hannah Circle Bible Study in Fellowship Hall | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice | 5 | 6 | 7 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 6:30pm-8:00pm Confirmation Class | 8 12:00 pm Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment/ Take Two | 9 | 10 4:30pm Men's Group |
| 11 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 2:00 pm Christmas Caroling | 12 | 13 9:45am Hymn Sing at the Lena Living Center 6:00pm Council Meeting | 14 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 6:30pm- | 15 10:30am Devotions at Friendship Center 2:00pm Faith and Hannah Circle Lena Living Center Birthday Party | 16 | 17 9:00am to 10:30am Christmas Program Rehearsal |
| 18 9:30 am Worship Service Christmas Program 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 2:30pm Good Shepherd at Lena Living Center 5:00pm Chime Practice | 19 | 20 | 21 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 6:30pm-8:00pm Confirmation Class | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Services 5:00pm Candlelight 7:30pm Candlelight |
| 25 9:30 am Worship Service/Lessons and Carols 10:30am Fellowship | 26 Office Closed | 27 | 28 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters | 29 | 30 | 31 |

December Worship Volunteers

December 4

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Lector | Shirley Fox |
| Acolyte | Madilyn Diddens |
| Assisting Minister | Taylor Bastian |
| Worship Assistant | Taylor Bastian |
| Communion Ushers | Jerry and Beth Martin |
| Communion Assistant | Tony and Jackie Jordan |
| Sound System | Troy Doubler, Hanna Brinker |
| Greeters | Virgil and Joanne Martin, Paul and Shirley Fox |
| Ushers | Jerry and Beth Martin, Gary and Cynthia Boekle |
| Elevator Operator | Taylor Patterson, Kristy Patterson |

December 11

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Lector | Beth Martin |
| Acolyte | Ethan Fye |
| Assisting Minister | Jay Andrews |
| Worship Assistant | Shirley Fox |
| Communion Ushers | Jerry and Beth Martin |
| Communion Assistant | Troy and Cindy Doubler |
| Sound System | Austin Andrews, Taylor Bastian |
| Greeters | Wayne and Janis Kurth, Bob and Sharon Schlachter |
| Ushers | Jerry and Beth Martin, Gary and Cynthia Boekle |
| Elevator Operator | Jackie Jordan |

December 18

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Lector | Cora Hudik |
| Acolyte | Taylor Patterson |
| Assisting Minister | Sheila Keene |
| Worship Assistant | Vivian Hesselbacher |
| Communion Ushers | Paul and Shirley Fox |
| Communion Assistant | Marybeth Brinker, Colton Brinker |
| Sound System | Wayne Kurth, Braden Diddens |
| Greeters | Donna Gullickson, Neal and Cynthia Shumaker |
| Ushers | Paul and Shirley Fox, Chris and Angie Brinker |
| Elevator Operator | Jean Engel |

December 25

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Lector | Cora Hudik |
| Acolyte | Open |
| Assisting Minister | Wayne Kurth |
| Worship Assistant | Taylor Bastian |
| Communion Assistant | No Assistant |
| Communion Ushers | Dennis Luke, Andrew Martin |
| Sound System | Troy Doubler, Ashtyn Brinker |
| Greeters | Jay and Michelle Andrews, Darlene Aurand |
| Ushers | Eugene and Vivian Hesselbacher, Dennis Luke, Andrew Martin |
| Elevator Operator | Taylor Bastian |

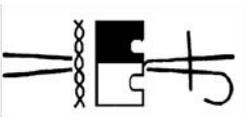
Please mark your calendars for the dates that you have been assigned, if you cannot serve on the day that you have been assigned please switch with someone and call the church office with the change by Wednesday AM of the week that you have been assigned. If you cannot switch with anyone please call the church office by Tuesday of the week that you are to volunteer so that arrangements can be made. Office Hours-Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00am-2:00pm Telephone: 815-369-5552

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am
Pre-K & K Sunday School after Children's Message
Fellowship Hour 10:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
CHURCH OFFICE 815-369-5552
Pastor Pastor Miho Yasukawa
Church Secretary Darlene Barr

Month's Highlights!

December 1 Hannah Circle 9:00am
December 8 Friendship Club 12:00pm
December 10 Men's Group 4:30pm
December 11 Caroling 2:00pm
December 13 Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am
December 15 Good Shepherd Devotions at Friendship Center 10:30am
December 15 Birthday Party at Lena Living Center 2:00pm
December 17 Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:00-10:30am
December 18 Christmas Program 9:30am
December 18 Good Shepherd at Lena Living Center 2:30pm
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00pm and 7:30pm
December 25 Christmas Worship Service/ Lessons and Carols



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
118 East Mason St.
Lena, IL 61048
GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com

*The Good Shepherd cares for us.
He gives His Life for us and to us.
We give and use our lives in love,
care and service of one another.*

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