

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE February 2017

The First Commandment:

You are to have no other gods.

*What is this? Answer: We are to fear, love,
and trust God above all things.*

(from The Small Catechism, the Ten Commandments)

The Confirmation Class is learning the Small Catechism this year. Many of you who were confirmed in the Lutheran church probably have read the Small Catechism before. You may remember the formula: What is this? (or What does this mean?) Answer: We are to fear and love God (the commandments); or This is most certainly true (the Apostles' Creed). Do you know that Luther wrote the catechism because the pastors of his time knew very little about the Christian faith? Luther was shocked that pastors did not know the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, or even the Lord's Prayer. (If you are interested in Luther's bitter remarks, I encourage you to read the preface to the Small Catechism. He had a unique sense of humor.) The Small Catechism was first published in 1529, and it was meant to be used in households or churches to instruct children about the Christian faith. When I read the Small and Large Catechisms for confirmation class, I find them very interesting. I especially like Luther's explanations in The Lord's Prayer, which makes me assured of God's loving care for all God's children. Let's read from Luther:

The Seventh Petition "But deliver us from evil." What is this? Answer: We ask in this prayer, as in a summary that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil—affecting body or soul, property or reputation—and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven.

Luther states that we ask these petitions so that we see and experience God's saving activity among ourselves. Reading the catechism helps me to deepen my understanding of God and God's grace.

Are you interested in reading the catechism? There are copies in the church and you can also find it online. Lutherans are celebrating 500 years of the Reformation movement this year. This year will be a great time to read Luther's writings and deepen our relationships with God. May God's grace warm our hearts today. Pr. Miho

Worship News

In February we continue to read the Sermon of the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus teaches us how to live as followers of Christ. We hope to see you at worship.

February 5: Installation of new council members

February 26: Transfiguration Sunday/1st Communion

March 1: Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm

Winter Time Pastoral Visits

The winter season makes it difficult for some of us to come to Sunday worship service. It is my joy to visit you and to share communion. Just contact the church office (815-369-5552) and/or me at (815-821-9570) or email gslpastor@aeroinc.net to arrange a time for my visit. When two or three gather, Christ is with us. I am looking forward to seeing you at your place. Pr. Miho

February Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday February 1st 8th, 15th and 22nd from 8:00 am to 11:30 am.

PASTOR KAREN PRESENTATION on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Wednesday February 1st 6:30pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet Wednesday 8th, and 22nd from 6:30pm-8:pm.

HANNAH CIRCLE will not meet in February

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday February 9th for a Potluck Dinner & Bingo.

INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE Luncheon will be February 12^h at 12:00pm

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday, February 14th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday February 14th at 6:00pm.

CONFIRMATION CLASS LOCK-IN February 17th and 18th

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for March 2017 Newsletter is February 15th, 2017. Thank You!



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.





February Birthdays

- 02-01 Allyson Kraft
- 02-01 Caleb Mammoser
- 02-02 Robert Kurth
- 02-03 Norma Eilders
- 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
- 02-11 Tammy Freitag
- 02-12 Jeanine Raders
- 02-12 Bentley Euler
- 02-14 Doug Mueller
- 02-15 Laura Derr
- 02-15 Corey Luke
- 02-15 Michelle Meyers
- 02-16 Whitney Shumaker
- 02-16 Andrew Wenzel
- 02-19 Jason Broege
- 02-19 Ryan Becker
- 02-20 Millie Koppean
- 02-21 Jesse Klosterboer
- 02-21 Taylor Bastian
- 02-27 Kayla Runkle
- 02-27 Brady Broshous
- 02-28 Tom Holtz



History of Our Church

Following the Blackhawk War of 1832 the Northern most tier of Illinois counties were considered safe for white settlement. Settlers flocked in droves as shown by the 1840 and 1850 census which shows a 100% increase in population in northern Illinois during this decade.

The great majority of these settlers were of German heritage, however there were two distinct groups one being first generation immigrants coming directly from Germany and a second being of second and third generation immigrants moving west from New York and Pennsylvania where their parents and grandparents had settled years before.

In 1848 Reverend Scherer an Itinerant State Missionary for the Illinois Lutheran Synod came to Stephenson County and reported back to Synod that there were at least 100 settlers of the Lutheran faith residing in the county.

In 1850, at the urging of his Father-in-law, Samuel Grossman, Reverend George J. Donmeyer came to Stephenson County from Pennsylvania as his in-laws had some five years earlier. On arrival Rev. Donmeyer found 2 preaching stations in the county. However, by the Illinois Synod meeting of 1851 he had organized 5 congregations. In 1856 Reverend Donmeyer organized two more congregations one in Buena Vista with 18 members and another in Lena with 31 members. The congregation in Lena met in various houses as well as the old stone school at the corner of Lena and Franklin Streets.

On November 6, 1850 Rev. El Fair resigned his Berlin parish of Alleghany Synod of Pennsylvania and journeyed west to Lena, Illinois. The Pennsylvania Synod had reported the fields are ripe for harvest and the laborers are few. Reverend Fair served the Lena congregation in late 1856 and early 1857 while Rev. Donmeyer was preaching at his other congregations.

Reverend Donmeyer favored worship services in the original German language and old traditions while Reverend Fair favored services in the English language with emphasis on revivals.

These two philosophies caused a division in the Lena congregation with the first generation immigrants favoring the German services of Rev. Donmeyer while the second and third generation immigrants preferred the English language and revival services of Rev. Fair. And so on March 14, 1857 Amity Lutheran church of Lena was chartered by Reverend Eli Fair while on the very same day Reverend George J. Donmeyer chartered the German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel congregation of Lena.

With both congregations being small and of limited means the two congregations agreed to build one house of worship to be shared by the two congregations. The proposed building was to be 35 feet by 50 feet with a basement and surmounted by a cupola or dome on the corner of Mason and Washington Streets.

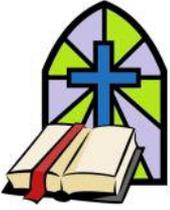
Both congregations were received in the Northern Illinois Synod of the Lutheran church at their 1857 meeting.

Constructions of the proposed church building was completed in 1859 with dedication that autumn. By 1884 Amity was the third largest congregation in the Northern Illinois Synod and Immanuel was the fourth largest.

Article Submitted by:

Wayne Kurth

What is your ethnic heritage? We would like you to share your heritage food with us. International Heritage Luncheon will be Sunday February 12th at noon. There will be a presentation about the history of Good Shepherd after the meal. Come and learn about our heritage



The church windows in the sanctuary are decorated for Epiphany. The concept for this is taken off the definition or the word Epiphany. The Cambridge Dictionary defines Epiphany as “1. a Christian Holiday in January (traditionally January 6 in Western Christianity) that celebrates the revelation of the baby Jesus to the world.” Other

definitions include “2. a moment when you suddenly feel that you understand, or suddenly become conscious of, something that is very important to you.” And “3. a powerful religious experience.”

Each window happens to have a Bible in it with the candles. Each Bible is turned to a different verse that deals with the enlightenment of the Christian faith through an epiphany with Christ. (Find the Bible passage in the Sanctuary)

Luke 2: 27:32; Acts 13: 47-47; John 1:6-9; Romans 13: 11-12

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.



Worship Volunteers



We are setting up the Worship Volunteer schedule for the new year starting February 2017. If you are interested in assisting in any capacity with the services, please contact the office or put a note in with your offering. New volunteers are welcome! If you have been signed up to do something in the past, you will stay on the list unless you request to be taken off. We are looking for people to do all tasks, such as: Lector, Assisting Minister, Worship Assistant, Communion Ushers, Communion Set-up and Clean-up, Communion Assistants, Greeters, Ushers, Special Music, Sound System, Video Camera Operators, and Power Point Operators. We would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped in the past. You make this church work and we really appreciate it!



“Souper Bowl of Caring” Sunday Feb 5th at Good Shepherd

The Youth Group of Good Shepherd is asking worshippers on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 5th to place a monetary donation in a large soup pot held by youth at each sanctuary exit. We will deliver 50% of the funds directly to the Lena-Win Food Pantry and 50% to the ELCA World Disaster Relief. None of the money collected on Souper Bowl Sunday is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters. 100% of the offering goes directly to the agencies designated. More than \$90 million has been collected since the movement began in 1990! Help us grow this movement and tackle hunger in America!

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2016	\$ 15,810.00
Expenses December 2016	\$ 17,422.39
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1611.40)
Income, Year to Date 2016	\$ 138,057.01
Expenses, Year to Date 2016	\$ 148,478.42
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (10,421.41)

Highlights from January Council Meeting:

- The International Heritage Luncheon was discussed and the date was set for February 12th
- Shirley Fox expressed her appreciation for the visits with the shut-ins
- Pastor Miho would like a day off. We as a council decided February 19th or the 22nd for her day off. We suggested for Pastor Miho to find a supply pastor.
- A motion to accept the Pastors report was made by Coralyn Hudik and was seconded by Shirley Fox. Motion passed by voice vote.
- Committee reports were presented
- A motion was made by Troy Doubler to accept the committee reports and Shirley Fox seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.
- Colton presented his Honduras Trip to council. Shirley Fox made a motion to donate \$600 to Colton's Medical Mission Trip to Honduras out of the Endowment earnings and Karen Niemeier seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.
- The fundraising ideas were brought up to send our Good Shepherd youth to the 2018 National Youth Gathering.
- Tim Gordon and the council discussed the 160th anniversary of Good Shepherd, and the events that will entail. The 16th or 23rd of July was suggested to hold an event due the opening of the Bishops schedule.
- Council filled out an ELCA Congregational Report.
- Karen Niemeier expressed its deepest gratitude to Wayne for serving as our council president.

Hannah Circle will not meet in February, 2017. We will resume our Bible Study and meetings on Thursday March 2, 2017 at 9:00am at church in Fellowship Hall.



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 January Newsletter.



*A Big Thank You to all who have so graciously volunteered to read the lessons in the past year. We are always looking for more readers. Let your voice be heard.
Shirley Fox*



*Thank You Virgil Martin for the ice salt you gave to the church. We all here at Good Shepherd greatly appreciate it.
Thank You Virgil!*

February 2017 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 6:30pm-8pm Pastor Karen Resse Presentation on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship Service Installation of new Council Members 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	6	7 Stewardship Meeting	8 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 9:00am-12:00pm Pastor Miho at NW Conference Synod Office 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 6:30pm-8:00pm Confirmation Class	9 12:00 pm Friendship Club Potluck/Bingo	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 12:00pm International Luncheon 5:00pm Chime Practice	13	14 9:45am Hymn Sing at the Lena Living Center 6:00pm Council Meeting	15 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout	16 10:30am Pastor Miho Devotions at Friendship Center	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #d3d3d3; display: inline-block;"> Confirmation Class Lock –In </div>	
19 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 2:30pm GS at Lena Living Center 5:00pm Chime Practice	20	21 10:00am-12:00pm Pastor Miho at PLC committee meeting at Synod office	22 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	23 10:00am-12:00pm Pastor Miho at First Call Theological Education at Synod Office	24	25 4:30pm Men’s Group
26 9:30 am Worship Service Transfiguration Sunday/1st Communion 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	27	28		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #d3d3d3; display: inline-block;"> February Communion Set-up/Clean up Vivian Hesselbacher </div>		

February 5

Lector	Michelle Andrews
Acolyte	Kayla Runkle
Assisting Minister	Dennis Luke
Worship Assistant	Cora Hudik
Communion Ushers	Tim Gordon, Virgil Gordon
Communion Assistant	Sheila Keene, Wayne Kurth
Sound System	Austin Andrews, Ashtyn Brinker
Greeters	Troy, Sheila and Krista Keene, Willie Kayser
Ushers	Jerry and Beth Martin, Tim Gordon, Virgil Gordon
Elevator Operator	Donna Gullickson

February 12

Lector	Wayne Kurth
Acolyte	Taylor Patterson
Assisting Minister	Austin Andrews
Worship Assistant	Sheila Keene
Communion Ushers	Tim Gordon, Virgil Gordon
Communion Assistant	Troy and Cindy Doubler
Sound System	Jay Andrews, Braden Diddens
Greeters	Virgil and Joanne Martin, Neal and Cynthia Shumaker
Ushers	Cora Hudik, Darlene Aurand, Tim Gordon, Virgil Gordon
Elevator Operator	Krista Keene

February 19

Lector	Beth Martin
Acolyte	Madilyn Diddens
Assisting Minister	Taylor Bastian
Worship Assistant	Sondra Winters
Communion Ushers	Virgil and Joanne Martin
Communion Assistant	Tena Rackow, Colton Brinker
Sound System	Wayne Kurth, Hanna Brinker
Greeters	Dana Diddens, Braden Diddens, Troy and Cindy Doubler
Ushers	Cora Hudik, Darlene Aurand, Virgil and Joanne Martin
Elevator Operator	Chris Brinker

February 26

Lector	Michelle Andrews
Acolyte	Hanna Brinker
Assisting Minister	Jay Andrews
Worship Assistant	Kayla Runkle
Communion Ushers	Chris and Angie Brinker
Communion Assistant	Dennis Luke, Beth Martin
Sound System	Troy Doubler, Taylor Bastian
Greeters	Darlene Aurand, Bill and Jean Engel
Ushers	Chris and Angie Brinker, Donna Gullickson, Dennis Luke
Elevator Operator	Braden 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 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!

February 5 Installation of new council members

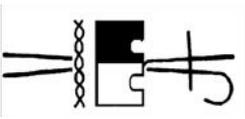
February 9 Friendship Club 12:00pm

February 12 International Heritage Luncheon 12:00pm

February 14 Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am

February 19 Good Shepherd at Lena Living Center 2:30pm

February 26 Transfiguration Sunday/ 1st Communion



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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