

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE December 2017

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

It's already December. I have no idea what happened to Summer and Fall. They went so fast, and now we are in the last month of 2017. December is an extremely busy time of many of us because Christmas is coming. School will soon be over for winter break. We have to plan and make arrangements with family members and friends time to get together. Every December I feel overwhelmed with list after list to check off. It's a frantic month.

It seems strange to realize that Jesus was born in a busy time also. Mary and Joseph were traveling for a mandatory registration. They could not wait but had to make a trip to Bethlehem. Traveling with an expecting mother (and it was her first child) would have made them especially anxious.

The life of Jesus was a wild life in a sense. He did not settle down in one place but frequently moved around. We may recall the places where Jesus resided-- heaven, Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth, Galilee, Samaria, Judea, and Jerusalem. He also spent time in the wilderness and the fields. He visited the sick and the marginalized. He taught at the synagogues and ate at people's houses. Jesus was everywhere.

In this year's Advent readings I was fascinated by the different locations where the good news was proclaimed. Whether it was in a big city or out in the country or in the fields or in small towns, people heard and met the Messiah, the Savior of the world. I think that Jesus is everywhere in our lives and pops up unexpectedly.

In this busy time of the year, I invite you to meet Jesus in various places. It can be on the road when we are driving for family dinners, it can be in line at the post office, or it can be at our dinner tables. Be ready for surprises because Jesus came to the world and is living among us to see, hear, touch, feel, and taste grace. Surprise!

Pr. Miho

Worship News

During Advent we light candles to remember the light coming to us in the world of darkness. Children and their family will lead us in prayers and lighting the advent candle every week.

We hope to see you at worship services.

December 3 Jesus proclaims a hope of his coming.

December 10 A voice in the wilderness “prepare the way of the Lord.”

December 17 Christmas Program

Children will lead us in worship through songs and skit.

December 24 Angel came to Mary to announce the birth of the Savior.

December 24 Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 7:30pm
Lessons and Carols.

December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30am

We will reflect a Christmas story through Martin Luther’s hymn, “From Heaven Above” (ELW 268)

December 31 Christmas 1 Services of music and stories—Our Christmas Stories

December Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday
December 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet Wednesday
December 6th from 6:30-8:00.p.m.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet Thursday December 7th
at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING December 10th meet at the
church at 2:00pm.

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday,
December 12th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday December 12th
at 6:30pm.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday December 14th
at noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment. “*Take Two*”

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHERSAL December 16th
9:30am –11:00am.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM December 17th at 9:30am.

YOUTH OWL NIGHT December 22nd 5:00pm

GOOD SHEPHERD at Lena Food Pantry Saturday
December 23rd.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
SERVICE** Sunday December 24th at 7:30 pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE Monday
December 25th at 9:30 am.



Happy
Birthday!

December Birthdays

12-01 Jacob Doyle
12-01 Daniel Kurth
12-01 Noah Wenzel
12-03 Penelope Price
12-08 Marybeth Brinker
12-08 Amy Hesselbacher
12-08 Coltin Coonts
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 Jean Engel
12-20 Cyndy Shumaker
12-21 Brian Kurth
12-22 Richard Johnson
12-22 Wayne Kurth
12-23 Abigail Brinker
12-23 Bari Raymer
12-24 Paul Hardel
12-24 Paula Schoenhard
12-27 Tom Brinker
12-30 Lynn Lyvers

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



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Thank You for your generous gift to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund in memory of Joyce Tessendorf. With this gift, Lutheran World Relief will help impoverished families find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. We give thanks to God for this gift in celebration of life.



*Beth Martin, Donna Gullickson,
Joanne Martin, Cindy Doubler,
Darlene Aurand, Kelsey Al-
brecht, Vivian Hesselbacher
and Shirley Fox for helping with
the November Newsletter.*

Volunteers Needed

**For All positions 7:30pm Christmas Eve Services
If you can assist please call the church office at
815-369-5552 or
email at goodshepherdlc@mediacombb.net or
GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com
Thank You!**

Lena Area Church Cooperative



A big thank you to all who donated for the Thanksgiving food baskets! Baskets were delivered on November 20st 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 17th. 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 signup 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 25 dozen. Cookies are due back to the church on Wednesday, December 6th by 3 p.m.



We are still looking for volunteers or subs to work at the food pantry. Good Shepherd volunteers at the food pantry the 4th Saturday of each month from 8:30 until 11:30. We are putting together the schedule for 2018 and we are in need of help! Even if you could just work one time out of the year that would be greatly appreciated! Please prayerfully consider helping with this worthwhile project.

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 Program
at Good Shepherd
Sunday
December 17th 2017
at 9:30am

Join us for a festive worship
service led by our children
and youth.



Joy to the World!

Christmas Caroling
December 10th

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.



GOODIE BAGS

For Christmas Program Participants
Please consider donating by signing up on
bulletin board at end of ramp.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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.10. (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) _____



Bring Your Friends & Join Us For

A Christmas Tour of Homes

The following homes will be warm and decorated.
You may visit in any order.

Michael and Sharon Welton – 119 E. Main, Lena
Donna and Dale Gullickson – 219 E. Shippee Road, Lena
Darci Meier – 521 W. Quail Drive, Lena

DATE: December 10, 2017 (Sunday)

TIME: 4:00pm-7:00 pm

Your donation to the Lena Food Pantry at any of these homes will
be greatly appreciated.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 118 E Mason Street, Lena
Phone: 815-369-5552
E-mail: goodshepherdlc@mediacombb.net
Facebook: [GSLCLenaIL](https://www.facebook.com/GSLCLenaIL)

*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.*

Hello, December

Silent white flakes flutter through shivering branches
Sending wintry whispers through quiet, cold skies.
While remnants of autumn peer out from lingering corners
Giving a glimpse of still there, a glimmer of before
A hint of what once was and what will be again.
Silently we're led to the wonder of winter white
A sudden chill masking the memories of remembered
warmth
Pushing us toward another time, another adventure
Nature searching for rest and seeking rejuvenation
Reminding a hectic world that hibernation holds its
promise,
That there is a reason for it all, a time for every season
Perhaps not when it is wanted, but certainly when it is
needed,
Maybe not what man seeks, but definitely what Mankind
finds
Heaven has charge of the times
And when that time is right,
When the palate is complete,
The season will ease forward
All in due time
In destined order; in necessary measure.
Winter waits to sing in full voice,
To take the world inside;
And so her song begins,
In accord with God's holy order
As He gives a winter premonition
And His world marches on

New Babies

If there is a birth within the Good Shepherd church family, please call the church office at 815-369-5552 with all family information. We want to share in the celebration by placing a rose on the altar and announcing it in the bulletin.

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: Verl Price, Steve Fahr, Lois Paulsen, Laura Derr, 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.

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 December 29, 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. If possible, please type up the report and email it to goodshepherdlc@mediacombb.net or GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com in Word format.

Highlights from November Council Meetings

- The Treasurers Report was reviewed with October gas bill of \$118.29 and electric bill of \$158.53. Motion to approve was made by Tim Gordon and seconded by Karen Niemeier. Motion passed.
- Pastor Miho presented her monthly report which included upcoming events of the Re-Markable Conversation with the Bishop in Massbach and Christmas services. Pastor is scheduling one-on-one meetings with Council members in upcoming months. She brought the current issue of *Making Christ Known* where the Piece Corps was featured for the donation of quilts to the Hurricane Harvey mission.
- On behalf of Worship and Music, Denny Luke said 15 – 20 minute training sessions will be held for all volunteers, such as ushers and greeters, to review responsibilities. Special Sunday services will be held when there are five Sundays in a month. Suggestions are welcome.
- Karen Niemeier, Service Committee, said a new location is being sought for the After School Program. Denny Luke said the Finance Committee is asking all committee chairs to prepare budgets for review prior to the annual meeting.
- The Property Committee has prepared a list of improvement projects for the sanctuary. Troy Doubler moved and Coralyn Hudik seconded the motion to consider and move forward the suggestions to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting. Council unanimously approved. The list includes upgrades to the following sanctuary areas: sound and video system, carpet, sanding and refinishing floors, electrical upgrades, refinishing and painting inside of windows and new pew cushions. Cost of the project is estimated to be \$52,000 - \$65,000. current memorial is designated for carpet upgrades, but it is not sufficient to complete the work. With congregational and Trust Board approval, the project has the option of being funded by the Building Trust Fund.
- Troy Doubler made a motion to give \$500 to Danica Balbach for her Mission Trip to Haiti. Gene Hesselbacher seconded and motion passed.

Highlights from November Council Meetings Cont.

- Karen Niemeier presented an update on the Constitution with revisions as suggested by the Synod. The bulk of the changes involve language and separation of the Constitution from other elements such as job descriptions and policies. Fourteen sections were reviewed.
- ELCA Disaster Relief - \$500; ELCA Global Missionary Sponsorship - \$1,500; ELCA Good Gifts - \$500; Grace Place Campus Ministry - \$250; Lena Area Church Cooperative - \$500; Lena Food Pantry - \$750 and \$600 for rent; and Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center - \$500. The Council also agreed to donate \$500 to First Lutheran Church for the Stubbs Family medical needs. Coralyn Hudik moved to add Pine Ridge Retreat Center to the distribution of Endowment Funds. Troy Doubler seconded and all approved for the amount of \$500.
- Approved a Christmas Tour of Homes as a benefit for the food pantry. Date will be 4-7 pm Sunday, Dec. 10 with three homes on the tour.
- Accepted Pastor Miho's suggestion of an Angel theme for Advent and Christmas and to invite the community to stop by and visit. Members are asked to lend angel decorations and contribute to decorating. Donations will be collected for Tyler's Justice Center in Stockton.
- Agreed to consider a new photo directory by Life Touch early in 2018.
- Set the date for the annual meeting for Jan. 28, 2018
- A complete copy of minutes will be posted on bulletin board.

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming October 2017	\$20,505.99
Expenses October 2017	\$10,896.22
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 9,609.77
Income, Year to Date 2017	\$142,807.43
Expenses, Year to Date 2017	\$131,891.38
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 10,916.05

In Loving Memory of Joyce Tessendorf

A gift of \$520.00 was given to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund

In memory of Joyce Tessendorf by Hannah Circle.

We miss you; with all our Love, your Sisters in Christ.



Hannah Circle will meet on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. This is "Potluck" we will not have a hostess. Rene Johnson (815) 369-2818 is the Bible Study leader.

The Advent Devotional material is in the December 2017 issue of "Gather" magazine. "Joy To the World" God in Christ is for all humanity. We will look at four meditations by four different authors, and ponder the question: Joy. When the Christmas season approaches, is joy your first reaction?

LENA LIVING CENTER DECEMBER BIRTHDAY PARTY

is Thursday, December 21, 2017 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm, hosted by Hannah Circle. 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 and others 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 circle functions.

We will collect Thankofferings at our December meeting. Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings. In both significant and ordinary moments, we say "Thank You" to God! Thankofferings help Women of the ELCA provide new resources and events.

December 2017 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December Communion Set-up/Clean up Beth Marin					1	2
3 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	4	5 2:00pm Pastor Miho Text 6:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	6 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 6:30-8:00pm Confirmation Class	7 9:00am Hannah Circle	8	9
10 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 2:00pm Caroling 4:00-7:00pm Tour of Homes 5:00pm Chime Practice	11 10:00am-2:00pm Pastor Miho at 2 nd Yr Theological Ed. Bethany, Leland, IL	12 9:45am Hymn Sing Lena Living Center 2:00pm Pastor Miho Text Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	13 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	14 12:00 pm Friendship Club Potluck//Entertainment "Take Two"	15	16 9:30am to 11:00am Christmas Program Rehearsal
17 9:30am Worship Service Christmas Program 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	18	19 1:00pm Good Shepherd at Friend- ship Center Devotions & Dessert 2:00pm Pastor Miho Text	20 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	21 2:00pm Hannah Circle Lena Living Center Birthday Party	22	23 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry
	Youth Owl Night 5:00pm—9:00am					
24 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:30pm Candlelight Service	25 9:30am Christmas Day Service <i>"Merry Christmas"</i>	26 2:00pm Pastor Miho Text	27 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	28	29	30
31 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 2:30pm Good Shepherd at Le- na Living Center						

December Worship Volunteers

December 3

Lector Michelle Andrews
Acolyte Ashtyn Brinker
Assisting Minister Open
Worship Assistant Kayla Runkle
Communion Ushers Larry Fulfs, Austin Andrews
Communion Assistant Dennis Luke, Beth Martin
Sound System Troy Doubler, Hanna Brinker
Greeters Donna Gullickson, Curt and Sue Diddens
Ushers Larry Fulfs, Austin Andrews, Donna Gullickson, Andrew Martin
Elevator Operator Jean Engel

December 10

Lector Janis Kurth
Acolyte Hanna Brinker
Assisting Minister Sheila Keene
Worship Assistant Krista Keene
Communion Ushers Jerry and Beth Martin
Communion Assistant Wayne Kurth, Cora Hudik
Sound System Jay Andrews, Ashtyn Brinker
Greeters Angie and Chris Brinker, Sheridan and Marybeth Brinker
Ushers Jerry and Beth Martin, Bob and Sharon Schlachter
Elevator Operator Donna Gullickson

December 17

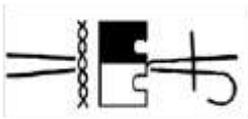
Acolyte Madilyn Diddens
Assisting Minister Jay Andrews
Worship Assistant Jay Andrews
Communion Ushers Austin Andrews, Dennis Luke
Communion Assistant Marybeth Brinker, Sue Diddens
Sound System Wayne Kurth, Braden Diddens
Greeters Sunday School Children
Ushers Austin Andrews, Dennis Luke, Troy Keene
Elevator Operator Willie Kayser

December 24

Lector Shirley Fox
Acolyte Kayla Runkle
Assisting Minister Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant Marybeth Brinker
Communion Ushers Troy and Cindy Doubler
Communion Assistant Ashtyn Brinker, Hanna Brinker
Sound System Jay Andrews, Austin Andrews
Greeters Darlene Aurand, Dennis Luke
Ushers Troy and Cindy Doubler, Chris and Angie Brinker
Elevator Operator Krista Keene, Troy Keene

December 31

Lector Shirley Fox
Assisting Minister Sheila Keene
Worship Assistant Shirley Fox
Ushers Bill and Jean Engel



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.*

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

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
LENA, ILLINOIS
PERMIT #1

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Miho Yasukawa

Church Secretary

Darlene Barr

Month's Highlights!

Hannah Circle 9:00am

Christmas Caroling 2:00pm

Christmas Tour of Homes 4:00pm

Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am

Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment 12:00pm

Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:30am

Sunday School Christmas Program 9:30am

Youth Owl Night 5:00pm

Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm

Christmas Day Service 9:30am

Good Shepherd at Lena Living Center 2:30pm

For More Good Shepherd
Pictures and highlights go to
Facebook: "GSLCLena11"
or www.GoodShepherdLena.org