

## The SHEPHERD'S VOICE January 2018

*But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.*

*2 Corinthians 4:7*

Vessels for joy. I heard this phrase at a Hannah Circle Bible study. The circle meets every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month starting with breakfast and then holding a Bible study. All women are welcome to the circle meetings, and I have been enjoying the frank conversations we share at the meetings. (Needless to say, I also enjoy the breakfast.) The Bible study comes from Gather magazine, and the opening prayer in the December issue caught my eyes. The prayer goes like this: "Holy God, open our hearts to hear your Word in this season of hope and expectation. Like the magi who wondered at and worshipped the baby Jesus in the manger, may we allow ourselves **to be vessels for joy**, full of wonder at the gift of life made complete in your Son." (page 24, emphasis added.)

Being vessels for joy. I realized that we are vessels holding the joy of God. God's joy is a unique joy. It is a type of joy which cannot stay within us but overflows from us. I think of God's joy when the residents at the nursing home gather for the hymn sing. When they hear the tune of "Jesus Loves Me," they sing loudly with their faces shining. The joy of God is a special kind of joy which makes other people's hearts warm. If you are thinking about your New Year's resolution for 2018, I encourage you to be the vessels and eyes and ears and hands and feet for God's joy because as you know, God's joy is love. May you be filled with God's joy today.

Pr. Miho

**ELCA National Youth Gathering at Houston, TX**  
**June 27-July 1**

2018 is a Youth Gathering year. We are going to Houston, TX to love and serve God and our neighbor. The theme of the gathering is “This Changes Everything” which is based on *Ephesians 2:8* “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*” The Youth gathering provides wonderful opportunities for youth and adults to grow their faiths in Jesus Christ. It is open to 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders at the time of registration and for adult leaders, the person must be 21 years old or older. If you or someone you know are interested, please talk to Pr. Miho. Regular registration will close on February 15<sup>th</sup> (late registration will be closed on May 15).

Come an Join!

**Volunteers Needed**



Volunteers would be appreciated to make visits or phone calls to shut-ins or home bound parishioners. Those interested are asked to contact Pastor.

Volunteers are needed to operate the sound board for worship services. This is an adult position. If interested please contact Troy Doubler or Wayne Kurth.

**January Meetings at Good Shepherd**

**PIECE CORPS QUILTERS** will meet Wednesday  
January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will meet Wednesday  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will not meet in January.

**LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING** Monday, January  
8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**HYMN SING** at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday,  
January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets on Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup> at  
6:30pm.

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB** will meet Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at  
noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment with  
*“Set Free-Butlers & Lloyd.”*

**GOOD SHEPHERD AT FRIENDSHIP CENTER** for  
Devotions & Dessert January 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for the February 2018  
Newsletter is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Thank You!

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10:45am**

*annual report will be available for pick up at church  
from January 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. If you're not able to pick  
up, call the church office at (815-369-5552) and one  
can be mailed to you.*



## **January Birthdays**

- 1-01 Tim Gordon
- 1-02 Elizabeth Kurth
- 1-03 Brady Meier
- 1-03 Shayleigh Albright
- 1-08 Tena Rackow
- 1-10 Noah Schoaf
- 1-11 Tamara Albrecht
- 1-13 Heather Fye
- 1-14 Courtney Lawson
- 1-15 Isabelle Schoaf
- 1-16 JD Fye
- 1-16 Sarah Baker
- 1-17 Gary Meyers
- 1-17 Mike Koppean
- 1-18 Tim Aurand
- 1-21 Tyler Raders
- 1-22 Ethel Lobdell
- 1-23 Janis Kurth
- 1-27 Becky Huttenlocher
- 1-28 Jan Wybourn
- 1-28 Denise Flack
- 1-28 Heather Block
- 1-29 David Graff
- 1-30 Marilyn Fulfs

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

**Thank  
You!**

*Beth Martin, Donna Gullickson, Joanne Martin, Cindy Doubler, Darlene Aurand, Kelsey Albrecht, Vivian Hesselbacher and Shirley Fox for helping with the December Newsletter.*

**Thank  
You!**

We cannot thank everyone enough for your support with the LACC projects! The great success of the Thanksgiving baskets, cookies for Operation Good Fellow and Angel tree, are because of all of you. We are humbled by your generosity and thoughtfulness. Our family here at Good Shepherd truly cares for one another and helping the needs of the community.

We are reminded of Matthew 25: 40 "And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Thank you and may God Bless you all,  
Shirley Fox and Mary Lloyd

**Thank  
You!**

*Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. I appreciate it greatly. I would also like to notify you of my home address change. My new home address is 214 Oak Terrace Ct. Lena, IL, 61048. Thank You again!*

*Sincerely, Colton Brinker*

## Look to the Star in the Eastern Sky

Above the dark of night and the cold of winter  
It illumines dark corners and slides under closed doors  
Piercing the silence and coaxing heartbeats from weary  
worlds

As wonder becomes reality and hope is revealed  
Look to the Star and discover the glory of Epiphany  
Eastern kings carrying treasures from afar  
Gifts to lay at the feet of the Christ Child  
Riches of gold, frankincense and myrrh  
Glistening farther than the reach of fear, the depth of  
despair

Lighting shadowed paths with holy light,  
Speaking foreign tongues in a common voice  
Singing majestic songs long hidden with clarity and pur-  
pose

Fulfilling ancient prophecies and holding present prom-  
ises in virgin hands

Sending shepherds to their knees and angels to break  
forth in song

Making mansions out of mangers and kings from car-  
penters

Look to the Star of Epiphany rising

Bringing hope and salvation to all in His hands

(c) Susan D. Gordon

## 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, those who are 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 need 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](mailto:goodshepherdlc@mediacombb.net) or [Good-ShepherdLena@outlook.com](mailto:Good-ShepherdLena@outlook.com) in Word format.

## Highlights from December Council Meetings

- Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report. The November gas bill was \$243.00 and the electric bill was \$154.34. A motion to approve the report was made by Troy Doubler and seconded by Gene Hesselbacher. All approved.
- Pastor Miho presented her monthly report which included information on a Youth Owl Night, similar to a lock-in, Dec. 22. Youth will spend the night filled with activities at the church. More adult volunteers are needed.
- More volunteers would be appreciated to make visits or phone calls to shut-ins or home bound parishioners. Those interested are asked to contact Pastor.
- Coralyn Hudik, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee, said estimates are being sought for a 4-inch by 8-inch cling-on that would feature Good Shepherd. The cling-on can be applied to vehicles. Several design options are being considered.
- Kristy Patterson updated the Council on the upcoming Children's Christmas Program set for Dec. 17 and Denny Luke, Finance Committee, said a Dec. 18 meeting is set to discuss the 2018.
- Troy Doubler, Property Committee, said adjustments are being made to the outdoor railings.
- Nominating Committee member Cora Hudik, said Council nominees are being sought for the upcoming term. Outgoing members are Cora Hudik, Tim Gordon and Karen Niemeier.

## Highlights from December Council Meetings Cont.

- Jay Andrews said the yearly treasurer’s audit has been completed. On behalf of the Men’s Group, Andrews said the following donations were made: \$250 to ELCA; \$100 to WELCA; \$100 to the church to cover utilities, etc., \$100 to Danica Balbach for her mission trip; and \$600 to the Peace Corps for quilt batting.
- In future items, Pastor Miho presented a Vision for 2018 – Making God Smile. Throughout the coming year she would like the congregation to deepen its relationship with God through thought, reflection and sharing how we make God smile in our everyday lives. These moments can be shared through the newsletter, worship, the Facebook page and the church bulletin board.
- Troy Doubler said more volunteers are needed to operate the sound board for worship services. This is an adult position.
- A complete copy of minutes will be posted on the bulletin board.

### **Treasurer’s Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews**

Incoming November 2017	\$ 5,690.38
Expenses November 2017	\$ 9,413.80
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (3,723.42)
Income, Year to Date 2017	\$146,985.38
Expenses, Year to Date 2017	\$140,640.43
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 6,344.95

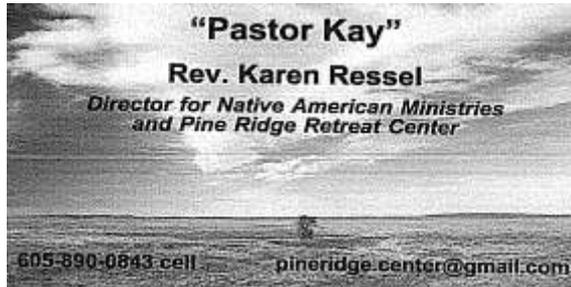
**Hannah Circle** will not meet in January or February, 2018. We will resume our Bible Study and meetings on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 9:00 am at church in the Fellowship Hall.



\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to everyone who made cookies and helped with the Lena Living Center December Birthday Party. We especially thank Marion Fahr for all the years she has played the piano for us and been an integral part of the birthday celebration. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*



DEAR FRIENDS OF GOOD SHEPHERD,  
THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR  
ENDOWMENT GIFT WITH US. YOUR  
SUPPORT WILL HELP US TO CONT-  
INUE OUR MINISTRY WITH THE  
PEOPLE OF PINE RIDGE.

YOUR WILLINGNESS TO  
PARTNER WITH US IS SUCH AN  
ENCOURAGEMENT!

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS, PASTOR  
KAY

Pine Ridge Retreat Center 51 East Highway 18 PO Box 862 Pine Ridge, SD 57770  
Phone: 605-867-5262 Email: [pineridge.center@gmail.com](mailto:pineridge.center@gmail.com) Website: [www.pineridgeretreatcenter.org](http://www.pineridgeretreatcenter.org)

# January 2018 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<b>1</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  <i>“Happy New Year”</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>7 9:30am Worship Service</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	<b>8</b> 10:00am –2:00pm Pastor Miho at FCTE at St. Paul, Dixon, IL 6:30pm Learning Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:45am Hymn Sing Lena Living Center 2:00pm Pastor Miho Text Study 6:30pm Council Meet- ing	<b>10</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 6:30-8:00pm Confirmation Class	<b>11</b> 12:00pm Friendship Club Potluck/ Entertainment <i>“Set Free-Butlers &amp; Lloyd”</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>14 9:30am Worship Service</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 2:00pm Pastor Miho Text Study	<b>17</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 6:30-8:00pm Confirmation Class 9:30am-1:00pm Pastor Miho at NW Conference Meeting, Synod Office, Rockford, IL	<b>18</b> 1:00pm Good Shepherd at Friendship Center Devotions & Dessert	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>21 9:30am Worship Service</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 2:00pm Pastor Miho Text Study	<b>24</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 6:30-8:00pm Confirmation Class	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry	
<b>28 9:30am Worship Service</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Annual Meeting 5:00pm Chime Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 2:00pm Pastor Miho Text Study	<b>31</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 6:30-8:00pm Confirmation Class	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                         January Communion Set-up/Clean up                          Sheridan &amp; Marybeth Brinker                     </div>			

## January Worship Volunteers

### January 7

Lector	Wayne Kurth
Acolyte	Ashtyn Brinker
Assisting Minister	Sheila Keene
Worship Assistant	Sue Diddens
Communion Ushers	Virgil and Joanne Martin
Communion Assistant	Jay and Michelle Andrews
Sound System	Troy Doubler, Hanna Brinker
Greeters	Darlene Aurand, Chris and Angie Brinker
Ushers	Claire and Helen Cross, Virgil and Joanne Martin
Elevator Operator	Chris Brinker

### January 14

Lector	Marybeth Brinker
Acolyte	Ethan Fye
Assisting Minister	Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant	Shirley Fox
Communion Ushers	Paul and Shirley Fox
Communion Assistant	Cora Hudik, Sue Diddens
Sound System	Jay Andrews, Ashtyn Brinker
Greeters	Sheridan and Marybeth Brinker, Curt and Sue Diddens
Ushers	Virgil and Joanne Martin, Paul and Shirley Fox
Elevator Operator	Jean Engel

### January 21

Lector	Marybeth Brinker
Acolyte	Hanna Brinker
Assisting Minister	Jay Andrews
Worship Assistant	Cora Hudik
Communion Ushers	Jerry and Beth Martin
Communion Assistant	Troy and Cindy Doubler
Sound System	Wayne Kurth, Ethan Fye
Greeters	Troy and Cindy Doubler, Donna Gullickson
Ushers	Jerry and Beth Martin, Chris and Angie Brinker
Elevator Operator	Sue Diddens

### January 28

Lector	Beth Martin
Acolyte	Jacob Runkle
Assisting Minister	Sheila Keene
Worship Assistant	Vivian Hesselbacher
Communion Ushers	Mike and Kelly Geiseman
Communion Assistant	Shirley Fox, Marybeth Brinker
Sound System	Troy Doubler, Hanna Brinker
Greeters	Bill and Jean Engel, Paul and Shirley Fox
Ushers	Mike and Kelly Geiseman, Andrew Martin, Tim Gordon
Elevator Operator	Donna Gullickson

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.  
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!**

**January 9 Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am**

**January 11 Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment 12:00pm**

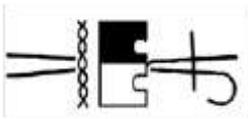
**January 18 Good Shepherd at Friendship Center for**

**Devotions & Dessert 1:00pm**

**January 27 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry**

**January 28 Annual Meeting 10:45am**

For More Good Shepherd  
Pictures and highlights go to  
Facebook: "GSLC LenaLL,"  
or [www.GoodShepherdLena.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLena.org)



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.*

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NEWSLETTER**  
**DEADLINE for the February 2018**  
**Newsletter is January 15, 2018**  
**Thank You!**