

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE December 2018

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:42-45)

Blessings and more blessings. When the two women, Elizabeth and Mary, met each other, God's blessings overflowed. Encountering blessed ones makes us become blessed.

Recently I received a note from Pastor Kay from the Pine Ridge retreat center. It was a very nice note which I would like to share with you.

Thank you for reaching out! Your message could not have come at a better time, we are doing our best to keep up with the demands of the community with the approaching winter months. More than 500 homes were damaged in a summer hail storm and we are working together with several other organizations to help get new windows and exteriors repaired to withstand the cold temperatures.

Pray for us, pray for the people in this community as we seem to be in a state of constant emergency! Thank you for reaching out and for your encouragement and prayers, it is what helps us to keep on trying to answer the call that has been placed on our hearts!

Servants Together, Pastor Kay Ressel
Pine Ridge Retreat Center

When I read this note, I was filled with joy. Life is tough but I see God is working through us. We are in the Advent season. The word Advent means to arrive or to come. We are walking with Elizabeth, Mary, and all God's people to witness the profound love of God in our lives. I invite you to continue to pray for God's people in Pine Ridge because together we become God's blessings to each other.

If you would like to know about the Pine Ridge Retreat Center, check their fall Newsletter on the bulleting board.

Merry Christmas to you all. Pr. Miho



Christmas Caroling, December 9th

Meet at the church at 2:00 pm, dress warmly, and 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.



Advent/Christmas at Good Shepherd

Christmas Caroling

Sunday December 9, 2:00pm

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday December 16, 9:30am

Family Christmas Eve Service

Monday December 24, 5:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday December 24, 7:30pm

Christmas Day Service

Lessons & Carols from around the World

Tuesday December 25, 9:30am

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday December 30, 9:30am



December Meetings at Good Shepherd

FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet Tuesday December 4th at 6:30pm.

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday December 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet Thursday December 6th at 9:00am at the home of Rene' Johnson.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Sunday, December 9th will meet at the church at 2:00pm.

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday, December 11th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday December 11th at 6:30pm.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday December 13th at noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment by "*Mississippi Man*".

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHERSAL will be Saturday December 15th from 9:00am until 11:00am.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Sunday, December 16th at 9:30am.

LENA LIVING CENTER, December birthday party is Friday, December 21st from 2:00-3:00pm hosted by Hannah Circle.

YOUTH OWL NIGHT will be December 21st 5:00pm-9:00am December 22nd.

GOOD SHEPHERD at Lena Food Pantry, Saturday December 22rd.



December Birthdays

*12-01 Jacob Doyle
12-01 Daniel Kurth
12-01 Noah Wenzel
12-03 Penelope Price
12-08 Marybeth Brinker
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 missed your birthday (or someone in your family) please call the office so that we may update our records!

With Special Thanks

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, caring messages and sympathy upon the passing of our mother, Laura Derr. A special thank you to Pastor Miho for all her visits and blessings to our mother during her time in the nursing home. Good Shepherd was very important to her and all is greatly appreciated.

Good Bless you all!

The Families of Laura Derr

Theresa Drye and family

Darlene Barr and family

Marlene Pearson

Patti Rowe

Kelly

Thank you

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

Good Shepherd Members,

We appreciate the baby food and Hamburger Helper you donated to the Lena-Winslow Food Pantry. Thank you for supporting the pantry.

Larry and Judy Buchenau



Lena Area Church Cooperative

A big thank you to all who donated for the Thanksgiving food baskets! Baskets were delivered on November 19th 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 16th. 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 300 dozen cookies and we would like to see Good Shepherd donate 30 dozen. Cookies are due back to the church on Wednesday, December 5th. Remember we cannot return your containers!.



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 8:30am until 11:30am. We are putting together the schedule for 2019 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. Thank you!





Advent Fun

December 2, 10am-3pm

**Come for baking cookies, crafts,
decorating the church, and fun!**

Chili lunch will be provided.

Let's get ready for Christmas!



**Christmas Program
at Good Shepherd
Sunday December 16th 2018
at 9:30am**

"Ornaments of Christmas"

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



GOODIE BAGS

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

We need them by December 15th.

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.9. (Cost will be \$12.00). 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) _____



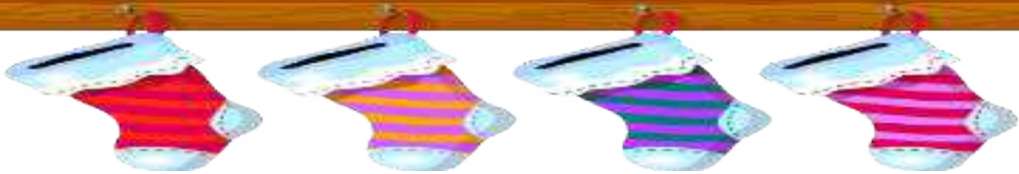
Bring your friends and join us on the
Christmas Tour of Homes

Friday December 7th 4:30pm -7:00pm and
Saturday December 8th 10:00am -2:00pm

Opportunity to minister

Would you like to be involved? Please consider volunteering at Rockford Rescue Mission on Sunday, January 13th, 2019 after service. For more information about Rockford Rescue Mission, go to their web site under the "Give Help" tab or contact Sue Diddens.

Must be over 12 to volunteer.



Good Shepherd is having a Sock Drive this winter.

Our collection will go to Le-Win Elementary School to help children keep their feet warm and dry with our love. There will be a collection box near the church office.

We will collect socks until January 7th, 2019



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, earflap caps, insulated coveralls,

Snot 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 light on decorated trees

Christ's birth

New beginnings, new year

Peace on Earth,

December

Ah, Alleluia!

Christ is born!

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming October 2018	\$7,963.60
Expenses October 2018	\$10,068.54
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,104.94)
Income, Year to Date 2018	\$100,865.99
Expenses, Year to Date 2018	\$106,436.32
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (5,570.33)

Prayer Chain:

Please call the Church Office at 815-369-5552 if you have a request for the prayer chain. We lift up the following loved ones in assisted-living facilities/ nursing homes, homebound, etc. in prayer: Verl Price, Steve Fahr, Lois Paulsen, 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:

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, 2018

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 officers. 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

- Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report pointing out October electric bill was \$138.75 and gas bill was \$150.37. Jay also presented council with a breakdown Church Council Mission/Sound Report.
- Pastor Miho presented her monthly report. Highlights included: Confirmation Sunday and Sunday School Reformation Sunday. Thank you to the parents, Sunday school teachers and youth for the support in making these activities happen. Also, she wanted to thank our members for stepping in communion set up and cleaned. Pastor Miho thanks God for each member of our congregation and she has seen how generous we can be.
- Committee reports were given. Highlights include: the projector is back up and working, Sunday School is working upcoming Christmas activities, finance committee will be meeting in a couple of weeks to work on budget, nomination committee working on getting replacements, and Men's Group had a great steak fry and cleaned boiler room.
- Old business – Constitution still updating. Would like to have done for January Synod Council Meeting.
- Global Church sponsorship – moved discussions into new business.
- Annual meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2019.
- Sound system – present at council meeting. Council will come up with ideas, but tabled until next month.
- Distribute of interest funds for 2018:
 - ELCA Disaster Relief \$1000.00
 - ELCA GLOBAL MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP \$1500.00
 - ELCA GOOD GIFTS \$500.00
 - GRACE PLACE CAMPUS MINISTRY \$250.00
 - LENA AREA CHURCH COOPERATIVE \$500.00
 - LENA FOOD PANTRY \$600/RENT ONLY
 - LENA FOOD PANTRY \$750.00
 - LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRY CENTER \$500.00
 - PINE RIDGE RETREAT CENTER \$1000.00
 - PIECE CORP \$2000.00
- Troy Doubler moved to adjourn the meeting and Virgil Gordon made 2nd. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Advent Litany

(from ELCA World Hunger)

You may say this prayer every week while we wait for Christ.

In this deep-blue season of waiting and watching, turn our thoughts and our prayers to you, God of hope. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

In the wilderness of sin and fear, show us the tree of life for the healing of the nations. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

Accompany us on the hectic highways of our lives. Draw us to your manger to kneel in peace before you. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

Lead us to your justice, O God. Show us your love, wrap us in your holiness. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

We long for your glorious light. Shine your face upon us and we shall be saved. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

“O come, O King of nations, come, O cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. (ELW 257)”

*Advent calendar and devotions are available at the church for your Advent journey.





Hannah Circle will meet on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 9:00am at the home of Rene' Johnson, 621 Deer Trail Drive, Lena, phone (815) 369-2818. This is "Potluck" we will not have a hostess. Rene Johnson is the Bible Study leader.

This years Advent Devotional "Fear Not" by Rev. Katie Hines-Shah, in the December 2018 issue of the "Gather" magazine, will focus on how this oft-repeated phrase in the Bible provides comfort to those who hear it. Pastor Himes-Shah helps us begin to see that the Christmas story is also the story of life in faith.

LENA LIVING CENTER DECEMBER BIRTHDAY PARTY

is Friday, 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 2018 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		December Communion Set-up/Clean up Beth Marin				1
2  Advent 1 9:30am Worship Service 10:00am-3:00pm Advent FUN 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	3	4 8:00am Pr Miho at Lena Ministerial Breakfast 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	5 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	6 9:00am Hannah Circle	7	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0ff; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Christmas Tour of Homes 4:30pm-7:00pm 10:00am-2:00pm</div>
9 Advent 2   9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School/Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 2:00pm Christmas Caroling 5:00pm Chime Practice	10	11 9:45am Hymn Sing Le- na Living Center 6:30pm Council Meeting	12 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	13 12:00 pm Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment "Mississippi Man"	14	15 9:00am to 11:00am Christmas Program Rehearsal January Newsletter Deadline
16  Advent 3   9:30am Worship Service Christmas Program 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	17	18 9:00am Pastor Miho Text Study	19 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	20 1:00pm Good Shepherd at Friendship Center Devotions & Dessert	21 Hannah Circle Lena Living Center Birthday Party 2:00pm-3:00pm	22 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Youth Owl Night 5:00pm — 9:00am</div>
23   Advent 4   9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 2:30pm Good Shepherd at Lena Living Center 5:00pm Chime Practice	24 5:00pm Family Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm Candlelight Service	25 9:30am Christmas Day Worship Service <i>Merry Christmas</i> Office Closed 	26 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters Office Closed	27	28	29 Annual Report Due
30 9:30am Blue Christmas Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship No Sunday School	31					

December Worship Volunteers

<u>December 2nd</u>	
Lector	Sue Diddens
Acolyte	Hanna Brinker
Assisting Minister	Jay Andrews
Worship Assistant	Cora Hudik
Communion Assistant	Brianna Andrews
	Beth Martin
Communion Ushers	Andrew Martin
	Larry Fulfs
Sound System	Wayne Kurth and Ethan Fye
Greeters	Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
	Jerry and Beth Martin
Ushers	Bill and Jean Engel
	Gary and Cynthia Boeke
Elevator Operators	Taylor and Kristy Patterson

<u>December 9th</u>	
Lector	Beth Martin
Acolyte	Jacob Runkle
Assisting Minister	Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant	Kayla Runkle
Communion Assistant	Marybeth Brinker
	Hanna Brinker
Communion Ushers	Virgil Gordon
	Tim Gordon
Sound System	Troy Doubler and Ashtyn Brinker
Greeters	Virgil and Joanne Martin
	Troy Doubler, Robert Schlachter
Ushers	Jerry and Beth Martin
	Chris and Angie Brinker
Elevator Operators	Sue Diddens

<u>December 16th Christmas Program</u>	
Assisting Minister	Anna Patterson
Communion Assistant	Youth
	Youth
Communion Ushers	Sunday School Children
Sound System	Troy Doubler and Youth
Greeters	Sunday School Children
Ushers	Sunday School Children
Elevator Operators	Jean Engel

<u>December 23rd</u>	
Lector	Tena Rackow
Acolyte	Kayla Runkle
Assisting Minister	Brianna Andrews
Worship Assistant	Sue Diddens
Communion Assistant	Marybeth Brinker
	Ashtyn Brinker
Communion Ushers	Bill and Jean Engel
Sound System	Troy Doubler and Ethan Fye
Greeters	Bill and Jean Engel
	Jerry and Beth Martin
Ushers	Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
	Virgil Gordon and Tim Gordon
Elevator Operators	Chris Brinker

December 24th 5:00pm
Family Christmas Eve Service

Youth and Children will help with the service.

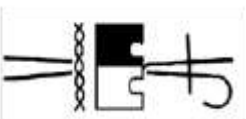


<u>December 24th 7:30pm</u> <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</i>	
Lector	Janis Kurth
Acolyte	Jared Runkle and Jacob Runkle
Assisting Minister	Jay Andrews
Worship Assistant	Vivian Hesselbacher
Communion Assistant	Shirley Fox
	Cora Hudik
Communion Ushers	Jerry and Beth Martin
Sound System	Wayne Kurth and Open
Greeters	Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
	Marybeth Brinker, Robert Schlachter
Ushers	Bill and Jean Engel
	Jerry and Beth Martin
Elevator Operators	Anna and Kristy Patterson

<u>December 25th</u> Christmas Day	
Lessons & Carols from around the World	

<u>December 30th</u> Blue Christmas Service	
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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



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 2019
Newsletter is December 15, 2018
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

Pastor Miho Yasukawa

Church Secretary

Betty Allen

Month's Highlights!

December 6

Hannah Circle 9:00am

December 7 & 8

Christmas Tour of Homes Fri. 4:30-7:00pm, Sat. 10:00am-2:00pm

December 9

Christmas Caroling 2:00pm

December 11

Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am

December 13

Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment 12:00pm

December 16

Sunday School Christmas Program 9:30am

December 21-22

Youth Owl Night 5:00pm-9:00am

December 24

Family Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30pm

December 25

Christmas Day Service 9:30am

December 30

Blue Christmas Service 9:30am

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