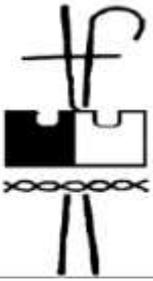


The SHEPHERD'S VOICE

February 2019



Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:10-11)

You probably have heard the story about the call of Simon (who is also known as Peter, the Rock). He and his brother Andrew were fishermen when they met Jesus for the first time. Jesus came to their workplace and invited them to join his ministry. The Gospel of Luke recorded that Jesus said to Simon “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”

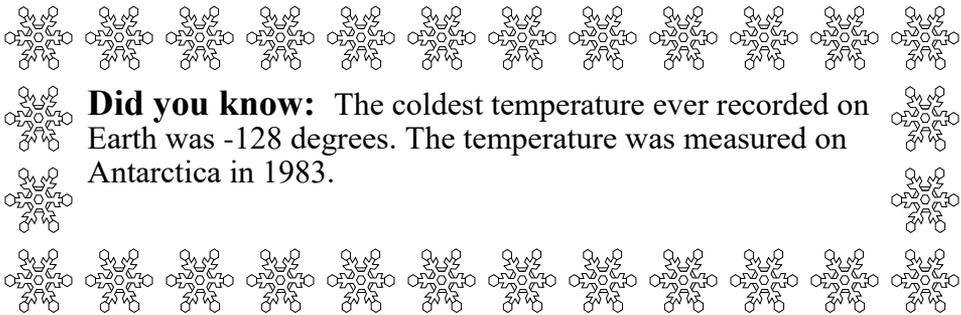
Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people. I did not pay attention to these words until I started working on this article. Do not be afraid. Why did Jesus assure Simon that he would not need to be scared or afraid? Was following Jesus a scary thing?

Two and a half years into God’s call into ministry, I am gradually realizing that catching people is a scary thing. To catch people can be scary for me because it reveals my own flaws and brokenness. A big part of my ministry is going to see our members. Sometimes I see our members on stage singing with choirs, playing with bands, or performing in theater productions. I also see members on athletic fields playing baseball, football, or in track meets. All these experiences which I share with God’s people are precious and holy. They are blessings. But sometimes I perceive God’s blessings in critical circumstances. For instance, God has given me opportunities to walk along the final journey of one’s life on earth. I did this with my mother, and I tell you it is a sacred experience. Every journey is unique and special, and I feel humbled to be present with the family members. I cry with the family and laugh with them through the sacred journeys. These are blessings. But they are blessings that also reveal my fears and wounds which I have tried to cover up. To catch people means to enter their life journeys. Through walking with God’s beloved children, I faced my own flaws, brokenness, and vulnerability. It made me discouraged and made me tremble. Surely, following Jesus is a scary matter.

“Do not be afraid,” Jesus said to Simon. Catching people is scary because it requires building relationships. To build relationships we have to share our stories, stories of joys and sorrows, stories of pain and frustration, and stories of doubts and wonders. It’s not easy, but it is worth trying. “I thank you for journeying with you. Through sharing our joys and sorrows, I witness God’s presence among us. Peace in Christ, Pr. Miho



*Lena Area Church Co-op would like to thank you for your holiday donation. Many families were fed a wonderful Thanksgiving meal & supplies that our food pantry can't obtain from the Northern Illinois Food Bank were brought; deodorant , tooth paste, tooth brushes, shaving cream, feminine products & more. Thank you for helping us help these families.
Thank you,
L.A.C.C. Organization*



Did you know: The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was -128 degrees. The temperature was measured on Antarctica in 1983.

Dear Pastor and Good Shepherd Family,
We wanted to thank you once again for your continuous prayers for Connor. He cleared his 1 year scans and tests and continues to be cancer free. He now wears hearing aids because the treatments damaged his hearing and his heard (or blood pressure) continues to be controlled with medicine. However, he is in 1st grade and doing great! We believe it's because of all of the love and prayers. Hopefully we will be able to come for worship again soon—Thanks again.



Tom and Donna Stadermann

February Meetings at Good Shepherd

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

HANNAH CIRCLE will not meet in February.

LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING, Monday, February 4th at 6:00pm.

VBS MEETING will meet on Sunday February 10th at noon at Beloved Church.

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

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

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday, February 14th at noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment with "Mary Berryhill"

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the March 2019 Newsletter is February 15th, 2019. Thank You!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING, Monday, February 18th at 7:00pm.

GOOD SHEPHERD AT FRIENDSHIP CENTER for Devotions & Dessert Thursday, February 21st at 1:00pm.

GOOD SHEPHERD at Lena Food Pantry Saturday, February 23rd.

ATTENTION-Annual Congregation Meeting Rescheduled February 10th, 2019 at 10:45am

The Annual Report is available. If you would like one mailed or delivered call the church office (815-369-5552).

Dear Church Members,

We are writing to thank you for your generous donation of food and money from the Lena Christmas Tour to the Lena Winslow Food Pantry. Your generous support enables us to further our outreach effort to provide assistance in order to feed our hungry neighbors.

We thank you for helping to strengthen our outreach effort. Your donation will continue to make a difference in the Lena-Winslow and Orangeville School District communities.

*Sincerely,
Larry Buchenau
Food Pantry Director.*



February Birthdays



02-01 Allyson Kraft

02-01 Caleb Mammoser

02-02 Robert Kurth

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 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

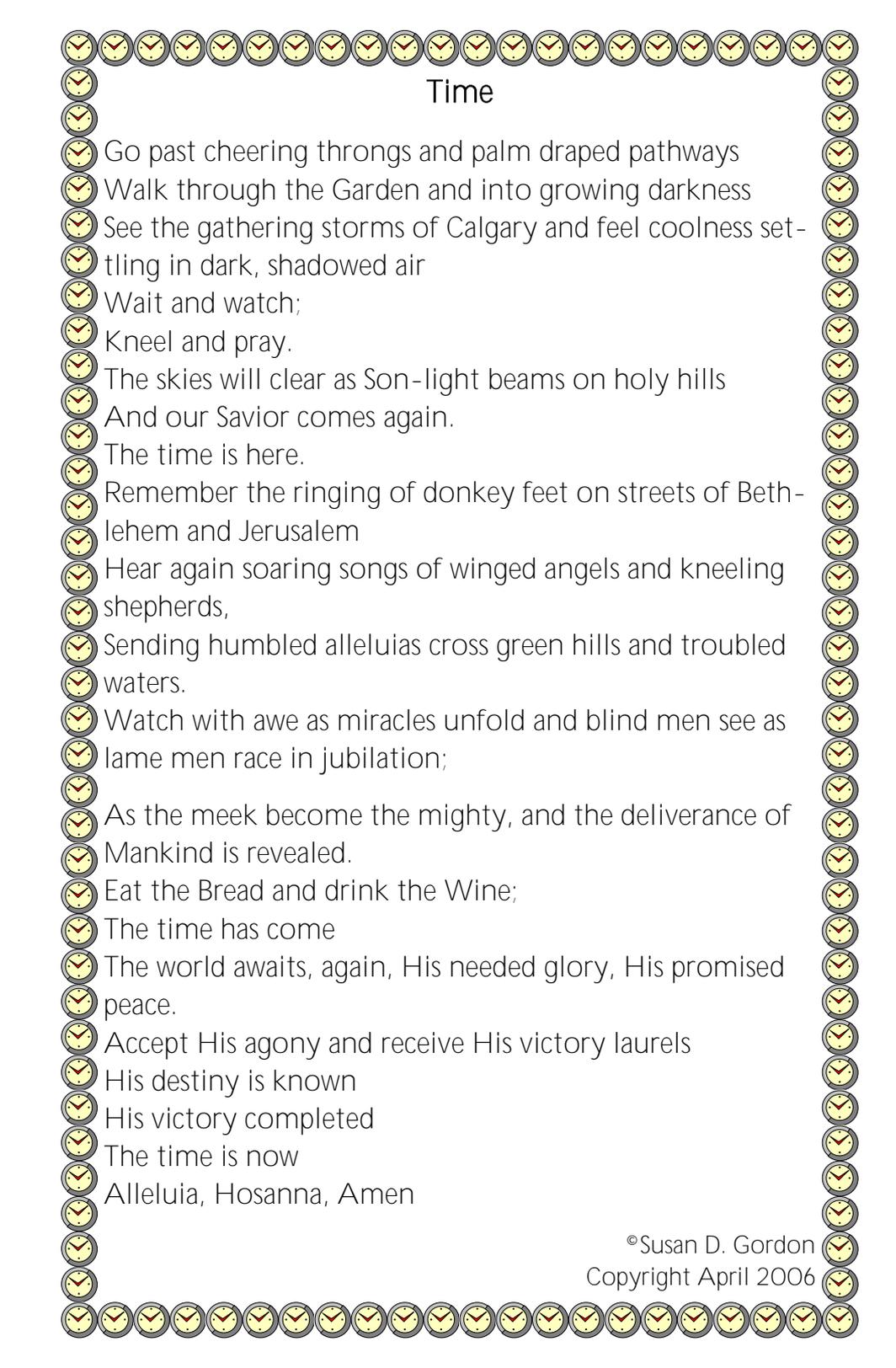
02-21 Jesse Klosterboer

02-21 Taylor Bastian

02-27 Kayla Runkle

02-27 Brady Broshous

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



Time

Go past cheering throngs and palm draped pathways

Walk through the Garden and into growing darkness

See the gathering storms of Calgary and feel coolness settling in dark, shadowed air

Wait and watch;

Kneel and pray.

The skies will clear as Sun-light beams on holy hills

And our Savior comes again.

The time is here.

Remember the ringing of donkey feet on streets of Bethlehem and Jerusalem

Hear again soaring songs of winged angels and kneeling shepherds,

Sending humbled alleluias cross green hills and troubled waters.

Watch with awe as miracles unfold and blind men see as lame men race in jubilation;

As the meek become the mighty, and the deliverance of Mankind is revealed.

Eat the Bread and drink the Wine;

The time has come

The world awaits, again, His needed glory, His promised peace.

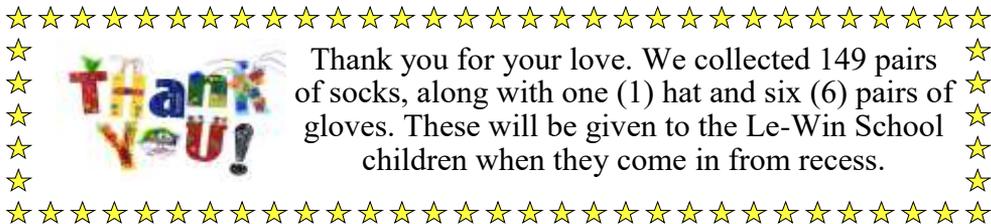
Accept His agony and receive His victory laurels

His destiny is known

His victory completed

The time is now

Alleluia, Hosanna, Amen



Thank you for your love. We collected 149 pairs of socks, along with one (1) hat and six (6) pairs of gloves. These will be given to the Le-Win School children when they come in from recess.

Worship Volunteers

We are setting up the Worship Volunteer schedule for the new year starting February 2019. 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 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!



You might be Lutheran if....

You think anyone who says "casserole" instead of "hotdish" is trying to be uppity (or maybe even Episcopalian!)



"Souper Bowl of Caring"

Sunday Feb 3rd at Good Shepherd

Do you know more than one in nine Americans live in households struggling against hunger in 2017?

(from FRAC Website)

The Youth Group of Good Shepherd are asking worshippers on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 3rd 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 Hunger.

Let's tackle hunger together.



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: 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.

Thank you Pastor and Good Shepherd Church for all the visits, gifts and prayers to my Dad, Verl Price. It means so much. Verl and Barb Price

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 @



Beth Martin, Donna Gullickson, Cindy Doubler, Darlene Aurand, Deb Hesselbacher, Kelsey Albrecht, Vivian Hesselbacher and Shirley Fox for helping with the January Newsletter

Hannah Circle will not meet in February, 2019. We will resume our Bible Study and meetings on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 9:00 am.



Our first Bible Study for 2019 is from the Gospel of John—”Meetings with Jesus” by Julie A Kanarr in our January “Gather Magazine”.

Session One: **COME AND SEE: SEEKING AND FINDING FAITH.**

The first question our study asks is” **How do you describe the beginning of your faith story?** My simplest answer is through WELCA and the Bible Studies in our magazine. Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or WELCA for short, has been a very important part of my life; especially in Lena. Marge Wenzel invited to **COME AND SEE** a Bible Study gathering. Hannah Circle was studying the Book of Revelation and meeting at Leona Block’s home. From Bible Study, I went on to attend retreats, assemblies, conventions, leadership sessions and women’s gathers at other churches in our conference and synod; which lead to my being elected to the board of the NISWO (Northern Illinois Synodical Women’s Organization) for the Northwest Conference.

This summer you can **COME AND SEE** the work of God in action at Rocky Boy in Montana. You can also read the “Thank You” notes and letters from the groups that received your gifts this past year. Please take time to look at the WELCA bulletin board and read about the important work your gifts have contributed to God’s Work. **COME AND SEE, AND THEN TELL YOUR FAITH STORY.**

We have extra magazines; we’d love to send a subscription to your home if you can’t come to our meetings. Please contact me or Pastor Miho for more information.
Rene’ Johnson, (815) 369-2818

Highlights from January Council Meetings

- Jay Andrews reviewed the Treasurers Report. The December gas bill was \$632.56 and the electric bill was \$194.76. Kristy Patterson moved to approve the report and Krista Keene made the second. Motion passed.
- Pastor Miho provided her monthly report which included her upcoming attendance at the Professional Woman's Retreat in Rockford Jan. 28-29. She will be out of the office those days. Pastor also suggested planning a confirmation class reunion to coincide with the church's anniversary annually in March. Former pastors would be invited to attend and respective confirmads would be invited to share the worship service. Kristy Patterson moved to accept Pastor's report and Don Wienand seconded. All approved.
- Committee reports were received. Council learned youth were very busy during the month of December with Christmas events and the OWL Night (an overnight lock-in) which was well-attended.
- On behalf of the Property Committee, Denny Luke and Troy Doubler reported they are seeking a technician to inspect the elevator which is not working.
- Council learned two memorial gifts were received to be used for an eternal light. Property Committee members are researching an electrical eternal light for the sanctuary.
- Council also approved distribution of a \$1000 scholarship to Anna Patterson. Anna has successfully completed her first semester at Highland Community College and has submitted her grades which met with Scholarship Committee approval.
- Two distributions were made from Memorial funds: one toward elevator repair and the other for installation of exterior railings.
- Additional nominees for Council positions are being sought.
- Committee reports were unanimously approved with Kristy Patterson making a motion and Virgil Gordon make a second.

Highlights from January Council Meetings Cont.

- Council discussed a proposal to fund and install a sound and Power Point system in the sanctuary.
- A bid for \$10,800 for the sound system was received from Advanced Technologies Inc., Freeport, for the system. The bid includes installation assistance from the congregation. In addition, two audio sound desks will need to be purchased to store and support equipment. Cost for the desks is estimated at \$3,700. The system would be installed in the back of the sanctuary in the place of two rows of pews. Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$14,500.
- Funds for the project can be taken from the SF2 – BMI Interest fund (\$2,600); SF4- Endowment Interest Fund (\$11,500); and the SW10-Memorial Fund (\$400). Donations from the congregation are also invited.
- Making the motion to bring the project and funding proposal to the congregation for approval at the Jan 27 annual meeting was Gene Hesselbacher and Virgil Gordon provided the second. Council full approved.

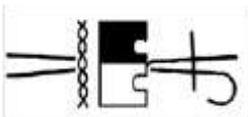
Council adjourned by standing and reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Darci Meier, Secretary

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2018	\$ 25,238.29
Expenses December 2018	<u>\$ 19,194.12</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 6,044.17
Income, Year to Date 2018	\$135,622.01
Expenses, Year to Date 2018	<u>\$136,413.79</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (791.78)



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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NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE for the March 2019
Newsletter is February 15, 2019
Thank You!

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!

February 3
February 10
February 12
February 14
February 21
February 23

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
Annual Meeting 10:45am
Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am
Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment
Good Shepherd at Friendship Center for Devotions & Dessert 1:00pm
Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry

For More Good Shepherd
Pictures and highlights go to
Facebook: "GSLC Lena!"
Or www.GodShepherdLena.org