

#### The SHEPHERD'S VOICE December 2019

Come Lord Jesus be our Guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. And may there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen (table blessing)

Do you know this table prayer? The first time I heard this prayer was at family meal at my husband's parents' house. Once food was placed on the table, his family bowed their heads and prayed in unison. Since I came to Good Shepherd, I have heard this prayer or some version of this simple table player multiple times. One time it was a high school youth who led this prayer before the Lenten supper. The Men's Group also prayed this prayer for their after work meal and steak fry. It must be a popular prayer, and this simple prayer is growing on me these days.

It was a Hannah Circle meeting. As you know the Circle meets every first Thursday of the month for a Bible study and breakfast. Women of all walks of life gather at Dick & Rene's dining table drinking coffee, munching warm breakfast casserole, fruit, muffins, coffee cakes, cheese, and treats which everyone brought to, and of course chocolate. The Bible study and conversation are insightful (thank you to Rene for her leadership), and I enjoy exploring voices in scripture; but be honest, the best part is the breakfast. Food is good. Conversation over a meal is awesome. We talk about food, recipes, cats, family members, and adventures in life. We eat and laugh and laugh. Our last meeting was especially joyous. I do not remember what we were talking about and laughed about so much, but surely I went home with a warm heart. I bet Jesus was at our table laughing with us.

Meal fellowship was a vital part of Jesus' ministry. You probably remember that Jesus ate with sinners, tax collectors, religious leaders, and his followers. Some unhappy people called him "a glutton and a drunkard" (see Matthew 11:19). Over the meal Jesus shared his love. Thousands of years later, Jesus continues his ministry through meal fellowship. Jesus comes and eats with us at the communion table every Sunday. We eat with Jesus, and it makes our hearts rejoice.

As you gather at family Thanksgiving tables, Christmas dinners, holiday meals, or even weeknight supper tables, I pray that Jesus joins your table and shares his laughter, his life, and his love.

Oh, by the way, Merry Christmas to you all.

Pr. Miho

S Come and worship, worship Christ the new born king S
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# "GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD"



An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. It provides food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops, and milk, honey or eggs to sell at the market. God's Global Barnyard is a way to raise money through ELCA Good Gifts. Take your piggy bank or barn from the church today!

#### **December Meetings at Good Shepherd**

**PIECE CORPS QUILTERS** will meet Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet on Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will meet Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the home of Rene' Johnson.

**HYMN SING** at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets on Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> at6:30pm.

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB** will meet Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> at noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment. "*Bobby Edler and John Waelti*".

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHERSAL** will be Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am –11:00am.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

**LENA LIVING CENTER,** December birthday party is Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:00pm hosted by Hannah Circle.

**YOUTH OWL NIGHT** will be December 20<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm-9:00am December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**GOOD SHEPHERD** at Lena Food Pantry Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Tour of Homes Friday December 13th 4:30pm-7:00pm Saturday December 14th 10:00am-2:00pm



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	Čhris 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	Paula Šchoenhard
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!



#### Thank you

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

Greetings Friends,

A reminder from Mother Nature that winter is on the way came in the form of six inches of snow on October 9<sup>th</sup> in Pine Ridge. We are partnering with AMEND to provide a



matching fund resource for the people living on the Pine Ridge Reservation. As families are faced with the difficulty of keeping their loved ones warm during the winter months we are called by the loved of Christ to assist in this important ministry.

Because of the generosity of people like you, during the 2018-19 heating season, 320 households benefited from this program. Those households included 1,248 people. We have already begun receiving inquiries about when the energy assistance matching program will begin and anticipate greater need this year due to all the severe weather we have been experiencing. Please consider partnering with us to help provide heating fuel for families this year. If you want to make a financial contribution to the Energy Assistance Matching Fund, please:

Make you check out to: "Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center" Designate your donation to: Energy Assistance Send your contribution to :

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center PO Box 862

Pine Ridge, SD 57770

On behalf of all of us in Pine Ridge, and our partner AMEND, we ask for your prayers as we continue to live and work among the Lakota people of Pine Ridge. We are very grateful for your partnership in this important ministry. Servants Together, Pastor Kay Ressel Director, Native American ministries, SD Synod of the ELCA

# Lena Area Church Cooperative

A bia thank vou to all who donated for the Thanksaivina food baskets! Baskets were delivered on November 25<sup>th</sup> 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



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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 Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Remember on we cannot return your containers! **New this** year is that the Lions Club has requested. íthat the number of cookies be put'on each package.

Monetary donations are always accepted for all projects. Checks can be made payable to the Lena Area Church Coop-erative or LACC. Checks can be given to either Shirley Fox or Mary Lloyd. Thank you!



Weather Folklore; "Halo around the sun or moon, Rain or snow soon."

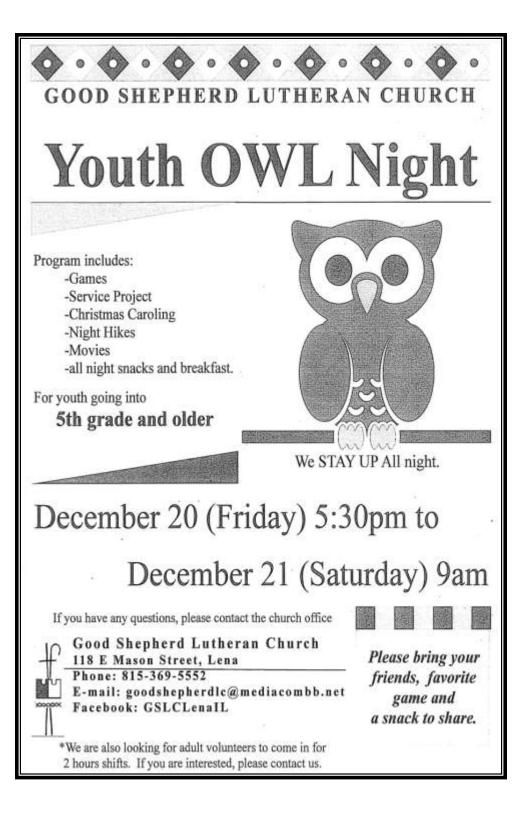
Halos are caused by sunlight and moonlight refracting off of ice crystals in <u>cirrus clouds</u> (the cloud type that precedes an approaching warm front). Seeing high-level moisture is a good

sign that moisture will soon also be moving in at increasingly lower levels. So the association between a halo and rain or snow is one bit of folklore that rings scientifically true.





GOODIE BAGS For Christmas Program participants. Please consider donating by signing up on bulletin board at end of ramp. We need them by December 8th. Questions? Contact Marybeth. THANK YOU SOMUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!





#### Love to sing Christmas carols? Join us for Christmas Caroling during the Christmas Walk.

If you are so moved, let's meet at the corner by Citizens State Bank by 5:15pm on Friday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, and we'll sing carols downtown until the parade time. Then we will sing again after the parade. Costumes will be available for those who would like.

Questions? Talk to Pr. Miho





# **ELCA World Hunger**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

From ELCA World Hunger Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ELCAworldhunger/

Veteran homelessness decreased by 5.4% in 2018 according to HUD, with 64 communities and 3 states having ended veteran homelessness by creating systems to ensure that a veteran's homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time.

Veterans like Robyn are supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger through the work of ministries like Cathedral in the Night, a 2019 Domestic Hunger Grant recipient. Thank you to all veterans, and the communities that suppol them.

#### Ways to support

-Pray for people who are struggling, those who work to alleviate hunger -Give to ELCA World Hunger or Good Gift -Lean about works of ELCA World Hunger By Watching videos from ELCA World Hunger (go to ELCA World Hunger Facebook page) And reading stories in <u>LifeLines</u> UNTIL ALL ARE FED, we work together. Dear Good Shepherd Church Members,

We are writing to thank you for your very generous donation of food and personal items to the Lena Winslow Food Pantry. Your generous support enables us to further our outreach effort to provide assistance in order to feed and take care of 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

#### **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, Lois Paulsen and 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



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## Annual Reports Are Due December 10, 2019

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 <u>goodshepherdlc@mediacombb.net</u> or <u>GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com</u> in Word format.



#### Hannah Circle

will meet on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:00am at the home of Rene' Johnson, 621 Deer Trail Drive, Lena (815) 369-2818. Rene' is the Bible Study leader.

We will look at several features in the December 2019 issue of "Gather" magazine that focus on Advent: "The Waiting Place" - God Promises to meet us in the inbetween. "One Will Be Left" - There is space for grief at Christmas. And "In The Kitchen With God" - We each add our own flavors to God's recipe.

**LENA LIVING CENTER DECEMBER BIRTHDAY PARTY** is Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 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 1:45pm 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. Thank offerings show gratitude for God's blessings. In both significant and ordinary moments, we say

#### **Highlights from November Council Meeting**

- Following several additions, the agenda was approved with a motion by V. Gordon and second by K. Patterson. The Secretary's Report was reviewed and accepted. Making the motion was T. Gordon and K. Patterson gave the second.
- Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report which reflected an October electric bill of \$142.96 and gas bill of \$156.03. The report was approved following a motion by K. Patterson and second by B. Raymer.
- Pr. Miho also reviewed past and upcoming events. The upcoming calendar includes; Christ the King Hat Sunday, Nov. 24; Hometown Christmas Parade Dec. 6 with a Good Shepherd entry in the parade. Anyone wanting to join a group of carolers can speak with Pastor. Volunteers are needed to create and ride on the float.
- The Christmas Tour of Homes is Dec. 13 and 14. This event is cosponsored by Lena Business and Professional Association and benefits the local food pantry. More hosts are needed to open their homes. Contact Darci Meier 815-275-7977 for details. December 15 will be Memorial Gift Sunday. K/Patterson motioned approval of Pastor's report and V. Gordon seconded.
- Committee reports were also approved with a motion by V. Gordon and second by K. Patterson. K. Patterson said youths volunteered at the local food pantry, attended the LOMC Autumn Festival in Oregon, and they are working on the Christmas program. Nomination will be sought for outgoing council members: D. Luke, D. Meier, K. Patterson and C. Hudik.
- Council discussed cost saving measures for distribution of the monthly newsletter. Mailing costs can be reduced by approximately \$100 per month if newsletters are emailed or made available in the church. The publication will be mailed to members upon request. Costs will be saved in the paper, copier use and elimination of the bulk mailing fee. The decision was tabled until the December meeting.
- Council also approved the leasing of a copier for Neighborhood Office Solutions, McConnell. The current copier is failing and some of the parts are not available. The copier chosen will copy in black and white and color, scan, staple and collate. Costs will go up from 12 cents to 15 cents per copy. Cost of operating the current machine is \$86 per month and the new unit will run \$107 per month. V. Gordon made the motion to lease the new copier and B. Raymer made the second. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Highlights from November Council Meeting Cont.**

- D. Meier suggested an announcement be made prior to the beginning of the prelude so the congregation can enjoy this time and music in quiet reflection.
- D. Luke signed a contract with Fabry Piano and Organ, Antioch, IL for annual Organ tuning at a cost of \$300. the tuning will take place Nov. 21. The representative also noted a new blower is needed at a cost of \$4,648 and rectifier needs and update for \$985. A humidifier should also be considered at a cost of \$200-\$300. The updates were tabled until later.
- In another matter, Pastor suggested sending invitations to the Christmas services to members who have not attended recently. The invitation will be signed by Council members. The distribution of endowment funds was also discussed.
- Council gave J. Andrews permission to pay \$600 rent payment to the Lena Food Pantry. This payment is made twice yearly. Finds will come from the Lucille Baker Endowment Fund. Other distributions to come from the Bequest Account include: ELCA Disaster Relief \$1000; ELCA Global Missionary Sponsorship \$1500; ELCA Good Gifts \$500; Grace Place Campus Ministry Center \$500; Lena Area Church Cooperative \$500; Lena Food Pantry \$750; Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center \$500; Pine Ridge Retreat Center \$1000; and Piece Corps \$2000. These donations remain unchanged from the prior year.

Treasurer's Report from	n Treasurer Jay Andrews
Incoming October 2019	\$9,819.24
Expenses October 2019	\$9,095.27
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (723.97)
Income, Year to Date 2019	\$109,826.64
Expenses, Year to Date 2019	\$117,408.95
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (7,582.31)

To facilitate the year end closing of the church books and statements of contributions, it would be appreciated if any year end contributions could be received by the last Sunday of December. All contributions received after December 29, 2019 will be applied to 2020 year. This will greatly help our congregational treasurer and financial secretary.

Thanks, Jay Andrews Sheila Keene



# na, IL December 2019 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

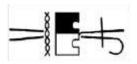
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1Advent 19:30am Worship Service Advent Fun10:30am Fellowship10:45am Sunday School11:00am Confirmation Class11:00am Choir Practice5:00pm Chime Practice	2 Go & Cheer Jr. High Boys basketball game @ Pearl City, 5:30pm/ 6:30pm 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	<b>3</b> 8:00am Pr Miho at Lena Ministerial Breakfast	4 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters National Cookie Day	5 9:00am Hannah Circle 1:30pm Pr. Miho at DE- ITF meeting, Immanuel, Rock Falls	6 Lena's Magical Home Town Christmas Parade 6:00pm	7
8 Advent 2 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice Go & Cheer! HCC Holiday Concert @Highland, 2:00pm 5:00pm Chime Practice	9	<ul> <li>10</li> <li>9:45am Hymn Sing Lena Living Center</li> <li>Annual Reports Due</li> <li>6:30pm Council Meeting</li> </ul>	11 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	1212:00 pmFriendship ClubPotluck/Entertainment"Bobby Edler andJohn Waelti"Full Moon	13 January Newsletter Deadline Christmas To 4:30pm-7:00pm	14 9:00am -11:00am Christmas Program Rehearsal our of Homes 10:00am-2:00pm
15 Advent 3 9:30am Worship Service Christmas Program Memorial Dedication 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	16 National Cnocolate Covered anything day	17	<b>18</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	<b>19</b> 1:00pm Good Shepherd at Friendship Center Devotions & Dessert	20 Hannah Circle Lena Living Center Birthday Party 2:00pm-3:00pm Youth Owl N Caroling 5:00	21 Winter Solstice light and Opm -9:00am
22 Advent 4 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship No Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	23	24 5:00pm Family Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm Candlelight Service	25 9:30am Christmas Day Worship Service Office Closed Merry Christmas	26	27	28 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry
29 9:30am Blue Christmas Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship No Sunday School	30	31 New Year's Eve	D	ecember Communion S Beth Marir		

#### December Worship Volunteers





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 January 2020 Newsletter is December 13, 2019 Thank You!

<u>Month's Highlights!</u> Hannah Circle 9:00am Lena's Magical Home Town Christmas Parade, 6:00pm Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment 12:00pm Christmas Tour of Homes Fr. 4:30-7:00pm, Sa.10:00am-2:00pm Sunday School Christmas Program 9:30am Youth Owl Night 5:00pm-9:00am Family Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30pm Christmas Day Service 9:30am Blue Christmas Service 9:30am	<u>Month's Highlights!</u> <u>Month's Highlights!</u> December 5Hannah Circle 9:00amDecember 6Lena's Magical Home Town Christmas Parade, 6:00pnDecember 10Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45amDecember 12Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment 12:00pmDecember 13 & 14 Christmas Tour of Homes Fr. 4:30-7:00pm, Sa.10:00aDecember 15Sunday School Christmas Program 9:30amDecember 20-21Youth Owl Night 5:00pm-9:00amDecember 24Family Christmas Eve Service 5:00pmDecember 25Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30pmDecember 29Blue Christmas Service 9:30am	December 5 December 6 December 10 December 12 December 13 &14 December 20-21 December 24 December 24 December 24 December 24 December 25 December 29
For More Good Shepherd to Pictures and highlights go to Pictures and highlights go to cr www.GoodShepherdLena.org	WORSHIP SCHEDULESunday Worship Service9:30 amPre-K & K Sunday School after Children's MessageFellowship Hour10:30 amSunday School10:45 amCHURCH OFFICE815-369-5552PastorPastor Miho YasukawaChurch SecretaryBetty Allen	WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sunday Worship Service Pre-K & K Sunday School Fellowship Hour Sunday School CHURCH OFFICE Pastor Church Secretary