

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE January 2020

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)

Last fall I had opportunities to watch our young members play volleyball, football, basketball, and flag football. It is a part of our ministry, "Go & Cheer-we are your grandparents," that we pick a game to go to and cheer our members. I tell you, I really enjoyed it. Watching sports is fun, but watching someone whom I know made it more fun and exciting! I thank the parents who shared their schedules with the church office. I had a blast!

While I was watching 5th grade girls volleyball games, I noticed that when they got a point, all the girls gathered around and celebrated. When a player missed a serve, all the players went to her and patted her back. It was a kind gesture to let her know that team was with her, the team had her back. As I watched other sports like boys basketball, football, and high school volleyball, I saw the same thing. Teammates went to the player who committed a foul or missed a pass or a made mistake, and gave a gentle pat on their shoulders (for football it was on their helmet). They were a team. They support each other, covering each other's back. It was neat to witness young ones caring for one another.

Have you experienced a pat from God? As you are well aware God has our back and front and sides all the time. And God's loving pat comes in surprising ways. One time it came as a cat rubbing my legs when I felt lonely. Another time it came as a container filled with tasty chili when I felt exhausted without any energy left. It can be a hug, or a text message, or listening ears, or lunch-bunch chatting, or a kiss, or a smile. Lately, I've been surprised by God's caring pat. I hope you also encounter loving pats of Christ in your everyday lives because God is good all the time, and God's grace is everywhere! May you have a blessed 2020!

Pr. Miho



Christmas ends after twelve days.

And the season of Epiphany begins.

What is Epiphany? Epiphany is a church festival celebrating the visit of the Magi

on January 6th. Following an eastern European tradition, some Christians inscribe a visual blessing with white chalk on the main door of their house. For instance for the year of 2020 would be 20 + C M B + 20. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing "Christe mansionem benedicat," which means, "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar). You may try it with your family and bless your house for this new year.

Prayer for the blessing of the home on Epiphany:

God of light, bless our home. Make it a place of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. We mark our door with symbols of the magi: 20 + C + M + B + 20.

May all who enter find love and light,
for Christ has come to dwell here. Amen.



Newsletter Update

Thank you to those who gave us your e-mail addresses. We are hoping to send newsletter to you by e-mail starting next month. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office, 815-639-5552. Thank you for your support and understanding.

January Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday
January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet Sunday, January 5th
and 19th at 11:00am.

HANNAH CIRCLE will not meet in January.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday, January 9th at noon
for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment with “*No Worries
Band*”.

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday,
January 14th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday January 14th at
6:30pm.

GOOD SHEPHERD AT FRIENDSHIP CENTER for
Devotions & Dessert January 16th at 1:00pm.

GUEST SPEAKER from Rockford Rescue Mission will be
on Sunday, January 19th, 9:30am

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the February 2020
Newsletter is January 15th, 2020. Thank You!

Annual Congregational Meeting

February 2, 2020 at 10:45am

*Annual report will be available for pick up at church
from January 23rd to February 1st. If you are not able to
pick up, call the church office at 815-369-5552,
we will mail a copy to you.*



JANUARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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*
- 1-17 Owen Martin*
- 1-18 Tim Aurand*
- 1-21 Tyler Raders*
- 1-23 Janis Kurth*
- 1-27 Becky Huttenlocher*
- 1-28 Jan Wybourn*
- 1-28 Denise Flack*
- 1-28 Heather Block*
- 1-29 David Graff*
- 1-29 Bailey Schoenhard*
- 1-30 Marilyn Fulfs*
- 1-31 Lisa Wienand*

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

Help Collecting Items for Rockford Rescue Mission

“Rockford Rescue Mission shares hope and help in Jesus’ name to move people from homelessness and despair toward personal and spiritual wholeness.” (taken from their website) It provides shelter, meals, job training, life recovery programs, free healthcare in Rock Valley area. Church coordinator Ms. Char-mel Jacobs will come to Good Shepherd and share their ministries on January 19th during Sunday worship.

We will collect items for their ministry.
These are current and urgent needs. Consider picking up a few items next time you shop and bring to the church.
Thank you for sharing your love.

Programs: Face Towels, Large Bathroom trash cans, Long Johns, T-shirts, Shower Curtains,

14-Gallon Rubbermaid Bins

Clinic: Aleve, Vicks Vapor Rub, Probiotic, Tylenol, Alka Seltzer Cold, B12 Tablets

Works Center: Steel-toed boots (men and women), Non-slip black shoes (men and women, headphones, Earbuds

Kitchen: 8oz. Foam cups, coffee, French onion canned soup, cheese –all types, butter/margarine, Milk, Spic-

es.

Lena Area Church Cooperative

We cannot thank everyone 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

Greetings from Pine Ridge Reconciling Center

(Excerpt from Fall 2019 newsletter)

The Holy Spirit is moving mightily in Pine Ridge! We have seen transitions through new staff, improving and expanding ministries, and evolving ministries. Your partnership has been an integral part of the ministry and work we have we do in Pine Ridge. Thank you for your partnership, you have blessed us.

Children & Youth ministry has grown. Kid's Time attendance has been steadily growing, and Pre-Teen Time is for the 9-12 years meets weekly. Takoje Wachi Oyate (Grandchildren's Dance Society) continue to grow with younger children are eager to learn.

One important thing to note that our name has changed from "Retreat" to "Reconciliation" Center. As we imagined the possibilities of the ministry here in Pine Ridge, it became clear that the word "retreat" is not representative of the ministry we have been called to do. The desired overarching outcome of all our ministry efforts is one of reconciliation. It is our aspiration and hope that everything we do will help to build trust, respect, and understanding among all people so that through love we may be reconciled to God and each other.

Read the newsletter on the bulletin board . Also check their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PineRidgeReconciliationCenter/>

Highlights from December Council Meetings

- The Treasurer's Report was distributed by J. Andrews. Noted was the November gas bill of \$387.97 and gas bill of \$152.62. Council approved unanimously.
- Secretary's Report was also reviewed and approved.
- Pastor Miho presented her November report with highlights of the church's participation in the upcoming Christmas Tour of Homes, Blue Christmas with the blessing for First Responders on Dec. 29. Invitations will be sent to local responders. The church office will be closed on Dec 25 and Jan. 1. Council approved.
- Committee Reports were also accepted. C. Hudik have a year end summary of Stewardship Committee involvements. K. Patterson commented on ongoing confirmation classes as well as youth participation in the Martin Luther's birthday celebration and their help decorating the church for the tour of homes.
- Property Committee met recently and T. Gordon stated discussion was held on possibly painting Fellowship Hall. Quotes will be obtained for consideration. He also said updating the placement of the bulletin boards in the entryway is under study and a sudden repair for the motor in the ventilator at the bottom of the stairs was needed. The new copier in the office is operating and staff is learning the new operations.
- Nominees are still needed to fill upcoming vacancies on the Council prior to the Congregational Meeting in February.
- In new business, Council approved a wage increase for church secretary Betty Allen. Beginning in January 2020 her hourly wage will increase from \$10.05 to \$10.25 per hour to meet minimum wage requirements for the State of Illinois. Council approved unanimously.
- Discussion continued on newsletter distribution options. The deadline to submit the bulk mailing application is January 26, 2020 and consideration is being given to eliminating the cost by e-mailing the newsletters and making some newsletters available for pick up at the church for members choosing these options.
- It was also pointed out that nominations for the 2019 Council are being sought. Four positions will be open.
- All committee reports were approved with a motion by Gene Hesselbacher and second by Kristy Patterson.

Highlights from December Council Meetings

- D. Luke said the Finance Committee worked diligently and reviewed the budget line by line before submitting their finished product for the upcoming year. The suggested 2020 budget of \$129,048.43 shows a \$373.20 increase over the 2019 figures. Council fully approved the recommendation with a motion by C. Hudik and second by K. Patterson. The budget will next be brought for congregational approval at the annual meeting.
- In other business, Pastor was given approval for vacation days, Dec. 30, 2019—Jan. 3, 2020. All approved.

The next meeting is planned for Jan. 14, 2020.

Complete minutes are on the bulletin board by the office.

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming November 2019	\$ 8,993.00
Expenses November 2019	\$ 11,587.47
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,594.47)
Income, Year to Date 2019	\$118,819.64
Expenses, Year to Date 2019	\$128,996.42
Net Income (Loss)	\$(10,176.78)

Prayer with Martin Luther

Lord God, heavenly Father, you know that because of our human weakness we are not able to stand fast in so many and great dangers. Grant us strength both in body and soul, that by your help we may overcome whatever troubles us because of our sins; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In the foyer of a church, a young boy was looking at a plaque with the names of men and women who had died in various wars. He asked the pastor, "Who are these people?" The pastor said, "Those are members from our church who died in the service." The boy asked, "The early service or the second service?"



*Youth OWL
Night*





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🌲
🌲 "The Wonder"
🌲 Christmas program
🌲 2019
🌲🌲🌲🌲🌲🌲🌲🌲🌲🌲



More photo's on our Facebook page at [GSLCLenall](#)

Prayer Chain:
If you have a request for the Prayer Chain:



We lift up the following loved ones in assisted-living facilities/ nursing homes and those who are 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 at 815-369-5552 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



Come and Join—Friendship Club

Lena Friendship Club is a non-denominational club which meets every 2nd Thursday of the month for potluck lunch and entertainment at Good Shepherd since 1959. Bring a friend or make a new one. Potluck lunch starts at 12pm. It's about Fun, Food, & Fellowship with Friends. If you are free on the 2nd Thursday, come and join us.

**When Good Friends Walk beside us
On the trails that we must keep,
Our burdens seems less heavy.
And the hills are not so steep.
The weary miles pass swiftly.
Taken in a joyous stride.
And all the World seems brighter,
When Friends walk by your side.**



God's Global Barnyard



If there's a superhero of the barnyard, it just might be the goat. Why? Because **goats can go where other animals can't**, surviving in some of the world's harshest environments—rocky terrain, drought-prone areas, small plots of land, you name it. Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families.

And what's more, offspring can rapidly transform a community when shared with other families in need.

Source: ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts

A big **THANK YOU** to all who collected coins for God's Global Barnyard. The Sunday School children had a great time looking through the catalog to make a difference in people's lives. These are what the Sunday School children chose: Family Farm (which includes a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training), portion of an irrigation project, school fees and uniform for a girl, vaccinations for a child, clinic visit for two children, seeds and gardening tools, a rooster, and three chicks.

Thank you for your support.





Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I really appreciate all the hard work the Sunday School children and adults put in to make our Christmas Program such a success! I would also like to thank all who support our Christmas Program as the audience. I really hope you enjoyed it as much

as we did performing it for you! Merry Christmas! Kristy

Chuckle a day



A: Did you know that these days there is new kind of communion wafer. I think it is low-fat.

B: Really?

A: Yeah, "I can't believe it's not Jesus."

Anonymous

Thank you

I would like to thank all of you for your help with Advent and Christmas season. This is the time of the year it's get hectic but it's the time to notice how much help I have received. My special thanks go to : Kenlee, Penelope, Bailey, Lukas , Hunter, Izzy, Brianna, Ian, Nakoah, Jacob, Jared, Lucas, Sarah, Cierra, Ethan, Madi, Kayla, Taylor, Krista, Anna, Kelsey, Dena, Heather & Ryan, Kristy, Dale, Tim, Chris, Shirley, Janis & Wayne, Mary, Darci, Marilyn & Larry, Piece Corps quilters, Sheila, Tena, Michelle, Karen, Sue, Marybeth, Mike, Don & Lisa, Cora, Denny, Willie, Troy, Terry, Karla, and those whom I am forgetting right now.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers.

You are God's angels. Pr. Miho



Hannah Circle will not meet in January or February, 2020. We will resume our Bible Study and meetings on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Thank you to everyone who made cookies, provided music, and helped with the Lena Living Center December birthday party. December Birthday Party. Thank You!



Thank you for the donation of \$500.00. It will go to help with the expenses. Food Baskets at Thanksgiving and also for some people that are struggling to pay bills.

Lena Area Church Co-op

January 2020 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed "Happy New Year"	2	3	4 National Spaghetti Day 
Pr. Miho is on vacation						
5 9:30am Sing Out! Christmas Lessons & Carols Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7	8 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 9:00am-12:00pm Pr. Miho at NW Conference meeting, Good Shepherd, Lena	9 12:00pm Friendship Club Potluck/ Entertainment "No Worries Band"	10 Full Moon 	11
12 Baptism of our Lord 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	13	14 9:45am Hymn Sing Lena Living Center 6:30pm Council Meeting	15 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters New Letter Deadline	16 1:00pm Good Shepherd at Friendship Center Devotions & Dessert	17	18 National Winnie the Pooh Day! 
19 9:30am Worship Service Guest speaker from Rockford Rescue Mission 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	20	21	22 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	23	24	25
26 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	27	28 9:30am -11:30am Pr. Mi- ho at DIETF meeting, First, Galesburg	29 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	30	31	
January Communion Set-up/Clean up Sheridan and Marybeth Brinker						

January Worship Volunteers

January 5th

Lector Marybeth Brinker
 Acolyte Jared Runkle
 Assisting Minister Jay Andrews
 Worship Assistant Kayla Runkle
 Communion Assistants Wayne Kurth and Beth Martin
 Communion Ushers Virgil and Joanne Martin
 Sound System Denny Luke
 Greeters Chris and Angie Brinker
 Troy and Cindy Doubler
 Ushers Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
 Virgil Gordon, Tim Gordon
 Elevator Operator Troy Keene

January 12th

Lector Shirley Fox
 Acolyte Maddi Diddens
 Assisting Minister Sheila Keene
 Worship Assistant Marybeth Brinker
 Communion Assistants Cora Hudik and Shirley Fox
 Communion Ushers Chris and Angie Brinker
 Sound System Tim Gordon
 Greeters Donna Gullickson, Willie Kayser
 Bill and Jean Engel
 Ushers Jerry and Beth Martin
 Jim Swain, Denny Luke
 Elevator Operator Anna Patterson

January 19th

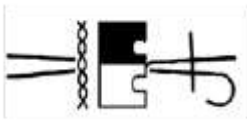
Lector Wayne Kurth
 Acolyte Ethan Fye
 Assisting Minister Wayne Kurth
 Worship Assistant Sue Diddens
 Communion Assistants Beth Martin and Tena Rackow
 Communion Ushers Virgil Gordon and Tim Gordon
 Sound System Troy Doubler
 Greeters Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
 Troy and Sheila Keene
 Ushers Paul and Shirley Fox
 Virgil and Joanne Martin
 Elevator Operators Taylor and Kristy Patterson

January 26th

Lector Shirley Fox
 Acolyte Jacob Runkle
 Assisting Minister Jay Andrews
 Worship Assistant Vivian Hesselbacher
 Communion Assistants Sheila Keene and
 Marybeth Brinker
 Communion Ushers Troy and Cindy Doubler
 Sound System Tim Gordon
 Greeters Denny Luke, Sue Diddens
 Jerry and Beth Martin
 Bill and Jean Engel,
 Troy and Sheila Keene
 Elevator Operator Chris Brinker



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.*

NON-PROFIT ORG
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE for the February 2020
Newsletter is January 15, 2020
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!

January 5 Sing Out! Christmas Lessons & Carols 9:30am

January 9 Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment 12:00pm

January 14 Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am

January 16 Good Shepherd at Friendship Center for Devotions and Dessert 1:00pm

January 19 Guest Speaker from Rockford Rescue Mission during 9:30am

worship service.

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