

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE April 2020

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Matthew 28:10)

Dear God's beloved,

As I write this article, we are facing the COVID-19 crisis. Everyday there are new guidelines from the CDC and the state. Schools are closed, restaurants are offering only carry-out-orders, and more cases are reported. Our congregation decided to cancel all activities until Palm Sunday on April 5. We are living in times of uncertainty. Plans are constantly changing. We do not know what will happen next. It is a stressful time.

When I feel overwhelmed and stressed out, I try to breathe deep and connect with the words of God. These can be in hymns (like "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"), devotion books, or the Japanese Bible to calm down my troubled soul. I was reading the March issue of <u>Gather</u> magazine. <u>Gather</u> is a magazine published by Women of the ELCA, and it has thought provoking, heartwarming, and faith growing articles. I like <u>Gather</u> and enjoy reading it. The March issue has an article by Anna Madsen about our call as Christians in times of crisis. Since I was constantly hearing news about COVID-19, I was drawn to the article.

She talks about her life, her vocation as a "single mama" for her two children, one "who is vulnerable on any number of fronts" due to an accident that devastated her family. Her family moved to Minnesota for better support from the state but she recognized those who cannot or have a difficult time relocating their lives. She asks "What, then, was the right thing to do?" I would like to encourage you to read the article ("Our Responsibility: What is our vocation in time of crisis or need?" <u>Gather</u>, March 2020 pp. 11-13). She concludes with reaffirming trust in Jesus. She writes, "We are all dying, all the time. We have much to feat, all the time. But as Christians, we believe that Jesus is risen from the dead. This faith knowledge of resurrection does no good if it isn't trusted." (p.13)

We face crises. It can be global pandemic or war or natural disaster or health decline or an accident. But we know that Jesus is risen from the dead. The risen Jesus meets us in our troubled times. The risen Jesus reminds us that he is with us always to the end of age. (The Shepherds Voice, continued)

Friends, I pray for you. so please pray for those who are vulnerable, those who are working at hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes, those who provide care for children, and those who are ill. May God protect all God's beloved from danger. God be with you always.

Pr. Miho



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 who are homebound 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 a ride to church on Sunday? Call: Donna Gullickson at 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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Volunteers Needed

Sign up to bring treats for Fellowship after Sunday Church Service. The sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Thank you

April Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

HANNAH CIRCLE meeting for April has been cancelled.

PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP will not meet in April or May.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY worship service April 5th at 9:30am.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet on Thursday, April 9th at noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment with *"Take Two"*.

MAUNDY THURSDAY worship service April 9th at 5:00pm at GS, and 7:00pm at UMC, Lena.

GOOD FRIDAY worship service April 10th at 3:00pm at UMC, Lena, and 7:00pm at GS.

EASTER SUNDAY worship services April 12th Gravesite Sunrise Service, Lena Burial Park at 6:15am Sunrise Service at 7:00am Easter Festival Service at 9:30am

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the May 2020 Newsletter is April 15th, 2020. Thank You!

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday April 16th at 6:30pm. **CHRIST IS RISEN! POLKA** service April 19th at 9:30am.

> Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, schedule is subject to change. Please call church the office, 369-5552, or check our facebook page for an updated schedule. Thank You





April Birthdays

- 4/1 Troy Doubler
- 4/2 Wieland Kayser
- 4/3 Joshua Andrews
- 4/5 Delbert Scheider
- 4/5 James Swain
- 4/5 Cadie Wolfrom

4/6 Kurt Bal-

dauf

- 4/7 Darren Aurand
- 4/7 Brody Diffenderfer
- 4/8 Betty Raders
- 4/8 Donna Christen
- 4/8 Lucas Fye
- 4/9 Erick Kurth
- 4/15 Kathy Graff
- 4/16 Ian Geiseman
- 4/21 Braden Diddens
- 4/22 Danielle Balbach
- 4/28 Helen Cross
- 4/30 Jacob Andrews
- 4/30 Gage Hancock



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





Lutheran Social Services of Illinois February 27, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,000.00 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). Your congregation is investing in the wellbeing of all Illinois Citizens, offering people the opportunity to reach their full, God-given potential.

Just as God sees each person in their entirety, LSSI seeks to provide whole person care to those receiving our services. The faithfulness of congregations like Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is critically important in this work.

For more than 150 years, LSSI has made the love of God tangible for those in need. We could not have served this long without dear friends like you. Please know how much we value your support and partnership in this ministry.

WOW! What a beautiful gift.

Peace and prayers David P. Novak, JD 

The staff would like to thank you for your contribution towards the Job Corp. Thank you, Edith Clifford

Thank you, Marty Hoings

Thank you so much for all you help, it is greatly appreciated. Austin P.

Thank you for the income, it does help out a lot! Mona L Lovel-Hoak



March 4th, 2020

Hi Pastor Miho and Good Shepherd Friends, We are in Foley AL. until this Friday, Saw a lot of good gospel music concerts the last 2 months at Golf Shores Methodist Church. Going to High Springs, FL. Next (near Gainesville) our son Warren and grandson Mike meeting us so we can attend Gatornational Drag Races. Hope you are feeling better Pastor, we have been lucky so far-no illness.

See you around the end of March. Take Care, Larry & Marilyn Fulfs

Devotion Books April, May, June <u>Christ in Our Home</u> and <u>The Word in Season</u> are available at church.

Highlights from March Council Meetings

Treasurer's Report: Jay Andrews gave the monthly report for February. There is still a need for more financial support to improve our finances. Heating Bill \$ 843.08 Electric Bill \$ 232.97 Bari Raymer made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and a seconded was made by Don Wienand the report was approved by a voice vote. Pastor's Report: Pastor made suggestion that prayer and calls go a long way for the shut ins. Easter cards will be going out to many the week before Easter with a personal touch. Bari Raymer made the motion to accept the Pastor's Report and Virgil Gordon made the second and a voice vote approved the report. **Committee Reports:** Worship: Holy Week Service is set. Stewardship: Confirmation Reunion sometime in May or June depending upon availability of one of the former pastors. Learning: Youth Sunday will be Palm Sunday. The confirmation class is doing well. Service/ Barnabas: Food Pantry / the Parkinson Support group is being guided by FHN. Finance: Wayne Kurth will go back on as the finance chair. **Property:** Tim Gordon chair brought up the need for gutter guards on the Washington Street. In the future a survey will be going out about what the congregation feels need to prioritize. The issue of repairing the curb on Mason Street was raised. There is need for defibrillator training again.. Scholarship: The forms will go out in April 1st. Women of the ELCA: no report Building Trust Fund Board; Jay stated that the board met with Delbert Scheider. Men's Ministry: Men's group will be singing on the 5th Sunday of March. Suggestion for appointed council members: Billie Jo Runkle. Highlights continued on next page.

Confirmation Reunion Sunday: Suggested date is 14 June and the following pastor's to be asked Pastor Paul Carlson, Pastor Samuelson and Pastor Bailey will be asked to attend. New Business: Kristy Patterson made a presentation for fund raising for the National Youth Gathering in 2021. First fund raising will be the Ester Breakfast, and Silent Auction will be after Easter. Discussion on various means of fund raising ideas included, Applebee's Breakfast/ AJ's/Cub Foods Stand. Bari made the motion to approve the Youth Fund Raising project for the Youth Gathering a second was made by Tim Gordon voice vote was taken and passed. Pastor brought up the idea of a Suggestion Box of Best Ideas to Save Money for Good Shepherd to be placed up stairs in the center front sound system and another by the heater on way to the Fellowship Hall. Bari Raymer made the motion to have a suggestion box and a second was by Virgil Gordon voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

A complete copy of the minutes will be posted on the bulletin board.

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming February 2020 Expenses February 2020 Net Income (Loss) Income, Year to Date 2020 Expenses, Year to Date 2020 Net Income (Loss) \$ 8993.20 \$ 9908.75 \$ (915.55) \$ 14,534.20 \$ 19,964.50 \$ (5,430.30)

Happy Thoughts

Our **thoughts** are often full of positive or negative emotions and are rarely neutral. If you want good things in your life, think positive and be thankful. Feel the joy, peace, and happiness. Keep your mind free from worry and fear. Do not waste mental energy on negative thinking.

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Jeffrey Clements

Source: https://nisynod.org/

March 17, 2020

Dear siblings in Christ:

Hear the words of the Psalmist:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Psalm 46:1-3 (NRSV)

There is something about these days that is simply disorienting. The world we know has been upended and is not feeling very comfortable. In fact, it is just kind of scary. As we face the COVID-19 virus, allow me to remind you that God is with us. Everywhere and always. God is our refuge and strength. So, this is a time when we must intentionally stay connected to God.

It is difficult to stay connected to God while we are distancing ourselves from each other. We depend so much on our corporate worship for both connecting to God and to each other. If your congregation has not yet done so, I am recommending that all congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod suspend worship for the remainder of March. Our local, state and federal officials have asked for our cooperation. Now is not the time to think that you are the exception. "Social distancing" is meant to protect all of us. In recent days, I have also suggested to your pastor, interim pastor, vicar or Synodically Authorized Minister, to prepare for the possibility of not being together for Holy Week or Easter worship. I am not sure that you can understand how hard it is for me to even imagine that. I am, however, asking congregations to remain nimble enough to resume worship quickly when it becomes safer.

I am encouraging congregations to find ways to stay connected, using technology when it is possible. I have asked pastors to stay in communication with you and tend to your spiritual needs. The Internet has made many options available to us that we have not had in the past.

Here are three things we can do to keep the church strong in these difficult days:

1. JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER. I am calling this synod to pray together at noon each day. Please stop and take a moment to pray for your congregation, the Northern Illinois Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pray for your members. Pray for yourself. Pray for the ill, the frightened, the vulnerable, and the poor. Pray for the dying. Pray for world leaders and our own elected leaders. Pray for our healthcare workers. Pray for researchers. Pray for the unemployed, underemployed and laid off. Pray for all students from college to kindergarten who have been forced away from school. Pray for your pastor or whomever leads your congregation. Will you join me in prayer at noon beginning tomorrow and continuing through May 13?

2. PRACTICE SOUND FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP. Your congregation is probably not prepared for a financial crisis. The church's ability to do ministry is dependent upon your regular gifts. The synod and churchwide expressions of the church are dependent upon the generosity of congregations. We will remain strong only if we continue to practice first fruits, proportionate giving. While we are away from corporate worship, please give electronically or mail a check to your congregation. Your pastor and the staff of your congregation is still working hard. Let's not make them worry about their paychecks. Let's maintain our gifts to food pantries, Lutheran Social Services, Grace Place, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center and the many other ministries we support. Will you join me in supporting the work of your congregation on a weekly basis?

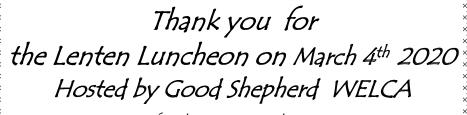
3. DON'T LET SOCIAL DISTANCING BECOME SOCIAL ISOLA-TION. My heart has been broken by some of the stories that I have heard. Continue to extend the ministries of the church to the homebound. Take all the precautions to prevent the spread of illness, but check on your neighbors. If you head to the grocery store, shop for someone who cannot. A crisis such as this quickly exposes those who are the most vulnerable. That is who the church is called to serve. Be a source of encouragement. **Will you join me in loving our neighbors and encouraging others?**

It feels like the ground is shaking beneath us. These days are disorienting. But, we are in this together. We are church together. We are stronger together. Even when we cannot be together physically.

Thank you for your faithfulness. God bless and keep you.

Walking with you,

Bishop Jeffry Clemente



Friends and family were served home made chicken noodle soup, ham salad sandwiches, Rice Krispie Treats and coffee or water. We had a wonderful meal, and wonderful time together. Thank you to Hannah Circle and Piece Corps members for cooking, setting up and serving.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS can be picked up at the church office starting April 1st

Applications must be filled out and returned by April 30th

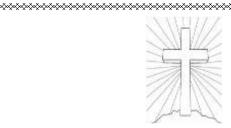


Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm/Passion Sunday (April 5) 9:30am Maundy Thursday (April 9) 5pm GS, 7:00pm

Lena UMC

Good Friday (April 10) 3pm at Lena UMC, 7:00pm GS Easter Sunday (April 12) 6:15am at Lena Cemetery, 7:00am & 9:30am at Good Shepherd Christ Is Risen! Polka service (April 19) 9:30am.



Hannah Circle Will <u>NOT BE MEETING</u> on Thursday, April 4, 2020



Thank you, to all who helped with the March 4th, 2020 Wednesday Noon Lenten Luncheon hosted by Good Shepherd. It was a great success and we couldn't have done it without all your help. We served 72 at noon, at our noon luncheon, for the evening meal we served 9.

Due to current health concerns with the spread of the Coronavirus, NISWO has decided to cancel the Spring Retreat that was to be held April 18th at LOMC. If anyone has sent in their registration, your check will be re-

turned to you. If anyone has already made purchases for the personal care kits we were planning to assemble that day, please contact Monica Groezinger from Trinty-Derinda, NW Conference Rep or Pennie Miller from Prince of Peace in Freeport (NISWO Treasurer), or Nancy Rice from Christ Lutheran in Stockton (NISWO Vice President). The NISWO Board members will follow thru with that effort for Lutheran World Relief.

Monica Groezinger

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10

Merciful God, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you are near us, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then take us by the hand into each day that lies ahead, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. From Sundays and Seasons

Our Ministry Partner Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Source: March 2020 Inspired (LSSI newsletter)

Building a Foundation for Families

"Two are better than one, because they have good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other..." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Janie Murphy struggled with depression during her pregnancy. Doctors prescribed several



medications, and she became addicted to pain medication, which spiraled into other problems that threatened not only her but also her three other children as well. "Drugs became a huge part of my every day," she said of an addiction that lasted over 5 years.

Murphy found help with LSSI's Intact Family Recovery Program, which provides parents with needed support such as case management, referrals to treatment programs, and guidance from caseworkers-all while keeping the family together, thus minimizing trauma for children.

When she enrolled in the Intact Family Recovery Program at LSSI, Murphy was terrified. "And then I met my caseworkers," she said. "They were amazing."

Murphy's primary caseworker, Child Welfare Specialist Lee Taylor, met with Murphy and her kids regularly. He accompanied Murphy to her oldest daughter's school to help her connect her with a counselor, so she could get the help she needed but was afraid to ask for.

"I love my job, because I'm able to connect with the families," Taylor said. "I'm able to understand how they function on a daily basis and offer support."

Murphy's outlook changed dramatically in the three years she's been sober. "Since I've been a part of the LSSI program, it has not only helped me to have confidence but also pushed me to get back out there," she said. Helping other people is what I love to do. I found my passion."

Taylor is proud of Murphy's progress and noted she has successfully completed the program. She also secured a job and recently got a promotion. "Janie is doing everything possible to build a foundation. Her loving environment for her children is present and not she's giving back to the community," he said.

"It doesn't matter how many times you fall," Murphy said. "It matters what you do and how you get back up. "

Mark Your Calendar

Good Shepherd Sunday—May 3, 2020

On Good Shepherd Sunday we will lift LSSI in our worship service. We are planning to have a guest speaker from LSSI, and sell LSSI kettle corn.



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DAY CAMP (K-5th Grade)

Throughout summer from Monday-Friday

GRADES 1-2 (Half-Weeks)

Exploring . Party in the USA . Marvelous Creatures . Wet N' Wild

GRADES 3-5

Classic I • Experiencing (Half-Week) • Explore Creation Marvelous Creatures • Party in the USA (Half-Week) Wet n' Wild (Half-Week)

GRADES 6-8

Classic II • Explore Creation • Hammock City • LEAD I Marvelous Creatures • Night Owls I • Party in the USA (Sun.-Tue.) Thrive Worship! (Sun.-Sun.)

GRADES 9-12

Classic III • Explore Creation • Hammock City • LEAD II Marvelous Creatures • Night Owls II • Party in the USA (Sun.-Tue.) THEKA (2 weeks) • Thrive Worship! (Sun.-Sun.)

FAMILY CAMPS THEMES (Half-Weeks) Explore Creation • Party in the USA • Thrive Worship!

CONGREGATIONS: Team Camp! for grades 3-5 & 6-8



VISIT LOMC.org TO REGISTER

April 2020 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
t he is risen	April Communion S Troy and Cind		1 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon at St. Joseph	2 Hannah Circle April meeting has been cancelled.	3	4	
5 Palm/Passion 9:30am Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	6	7	8 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon at Lena UMC	9 Maundy Thursday 12:00pm Friendship Club/Potluck Entertainment by " <i>Take Two</i> " <i>Worship Service</i> 5:00 pm (at GS) 7:00pm (at UMC)	10 Good Friday Worship Service 3:00pm (at UMC) 7:00 pm (at GS)	11 Holy Saturday	
12 Easter Sunday 6:15am Gravesite Sunrise Service, Lena Burial Park 7:00am Easter Sunrise Worship Service 9:30am Easter Festival Worship Service	13 Parkinson Support Group Cancelled for April and May	14 Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center	15 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16 1:00pm Devotions & Desserts at Friendship Center 6:30pm Council Meeting	17	18	
19 9:30am Christ is Risen! Pol- ka Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 11:00am Confirmation Class 5:00pm Chime Practice	20	21	22 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	23 6:30-8:00pm NW Conference Pre-Assembly meeting Prince of Peace, Freeport	24	25 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry	
26 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 3:30pm LLC Worship Service 5:00pm Chime Practice	27	28	29 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	30 National Raisin Day	Due to COVID-19 outbreak schedule is subject to change. Please call the church office for updated schedule.		



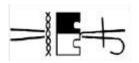
April Worshin Voluntaars



April Worship Volunteers					
April 5th Palm/Passion Sunday	April12 th Caster Sunrise Service 7:00am				
LectorShirley FoxAcolyteJacob RunkleAssisting MinisterWayne KurthWorship AssistantShirley FoxCommunion AssistantsJay and MichelleAndrewsCommunion UshersCommunion UshersVirgil and Joanne MartinSound SystemDenny Luke and openGreetersBari Raymer and Tim GordonUshersBill and Jean EngelVirgil and Joanne MartinClevator OperatorDonna Gulliekson	LgetorJanis KurthAcolytgJargd Runkle and Kayla RunkleAssisting MinisterSheila KeengAssisting MinisterSheila KeengWorship AssistantJanis KurthCommunion AssistantsBeth Martin andDenny LukgDenny LukgCommunion UshersLarry Fulfs andVirgil GordonSound System Tim Gordon and openGreetersJerry and Beth MartinUshersDon and Lisa Wignand Larry Fulfs and Virgil GordonClevator OperatorAnna Patterson				
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Christ is Risen Polka Service Assisting Minister Krista Keene Ushers Virgil Gordon, Tim Gordon Bari Raymer, Denny Luke Sound System Troy Doubler and open Clevator Operator Chris Brinker April 26 th	April 12 st Caster Festival Service 9:30am Lector Anna Patterson Acolyte Ethan Fye and Maddi Diddens Assisting Minister Jay Andrews Worship Assistant Vivian Hesselbacher Communion Assistants Cora Hudik and				
Læetor Cora Hudik Acolytæ Ethan Fyæ Assisting Ministær Jay Andrews Worship Assistant Cora Hudik Communion Assistants Marybeth Brinkær and Shirley Fox Communion Ushærs Gary and Cynthia Boekæ Sound System Wayne Kurth and open Greeters Chris and Angie Brinkær	Sue Diddens Sue Diddens Communion Ushers Bari Raymer, Denny Luke Sound System Troy Doubler and open Greeters Virgil and Joanne Martin Ushers Paul and Shirley Fox Bari Raymer, Denny Luk Clevator Operator Jean Engel				
Ushers Troy and Cindy Doubler Gary and Cynthia Boeke Clevator Operator Sue Diddens					

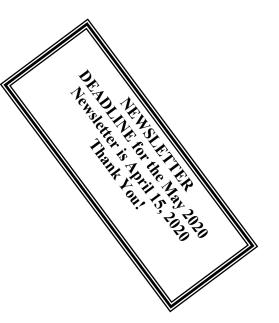
Please mark your calendars for the dates that you have been assigned, if you cannot serve on that day that you have been assigned please switch with someone and /or call the church office by Tuesday of the week that you are to volunteer so that arrangements can be made. 815-369-5552





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.



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