

## September 2020 Newsletter

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 E. Mason, Lena, IL 61048 Phone # (815) 369-5552

#### Shepherd's Voice

*Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! For great is his steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord! (Psalm 117)*

Dear God's beloved,

My husband and I recently moved and we are currently living in an apartment in downtown, Lena. These days I hear all the things happening downtown, especially sirens and trains. They are loud. I've already been awakened at 3am when the siren went on twice. I turned the TV up when a train was swinging by during my evening news time. I asked Allie for advice how to survive living so close to trains and sirens. (She suggested having good ear plugs.) I used to live in a decently quiet areas in Lena and am learning to live in a new environment. It's both good and bad. The commute to church is closer, and even I can go back for lunch and come back to work, but at the same time I lost my daily exercise. I am gradually noticing that living downtown is different.

Many of us are learning to live in COVID-19 pandemic time. It's different. It's a new way of living. We are getting familiar with social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, using sanitizers, and air hugs. Many people utilize phone, texting, snail mails, Facebook, Facetime, Zoom, Google Hangout, and other social media platforms to stay connected to one another. It has been a challenge for many of us yet I think that our love and care for one another has increased because we have to be intentional. Some of us became very creative to survive this uncertain time. We are using God's gift of creativity to love and to protect each other.

I am happy to announce that our council members held a special meeting to decide to resume in-person worship. Please read the letter from council on page 4 in this newsletter. Our council members prayed and took steps to come to this decision. I give thanks to their hard work along with task force members who came up with the recommendation. The service will be different. You may sit in different pews, and worship will be short in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. The liturgy and style of worship may not be the same as we remember, but God's presence and experiencing God's love will remain the same. It is God who serves us in every worship, and God never stops showering us with unconditional love. God is faithful and God's steadfast love endures forever.

May faithful God be with us always,

Pr. Miho

#### **Good Shepherd's NEW E-mail address**

Please note our updated email addresses—  
**goodshepherdlena@outlook.com** (office)  
**gslpastor@outlook.com** (pastor Miho)

### Highlights from July Council Meetings

**Treasure's Report:** Jay Andrews gave the report from the last meeting on the June 18<sup>th</sup>. He reported that he did not have to take any funds out of the revolving cash fund and that many of the members of the congregation were sending in their donations.

Heating: \$296.72

Electric: \$114.33

**Pastor's Report:** Friendship Club canceled all activities for the year due to COVID-19.

Pastor's e-mail is now with Outlook.

### **Committee Reports:**

Learning Committee is making Summer Activity boxes for the children in our congregation.

Property Report: Given by Tim Gordon, that painting the Fellowship Hall was put on hold due to COVID-19. On Monday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of July there will be a work day they will be starting at 5:30pm.

The switch from Mediacom to Aero will be before the August Council meeting according to Tim.

Taylor Paterson is helping monitoring church's YouTube channel.

Next Meeting: 13, August 2020 at 6:30PM

Submitted by Coralyn Hudik, Secretary

The complete copy of the minutes are posted on the bulletin board.

### July Treasurers Report

#### Jay Andrews

Incoming July 2020	\$8295.00
Expenses July 2020	\$9331.97
Net Income (Loss)	\$(1,036.97)
Income, Year to Date 2020	\$63,859.24
Expenses, Year to Date 2020	\$66,690.57
Net Income (Loss)	\$(2,831.33)



Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to apply for the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Scholarship. I was extremely excited when I found out I was a recipient, and I was so very thankful and grateful. The scholarship will definitely help me with my future endeavors.

Thank you so very much,  
Kayla Runkle

Dear Good Shepherd Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for awarding me with a \$1000. scholarship. I appreciate it very much I will use it for my schooling at Highland.

Thank you so much!  
Krista Keene



The Piece Corps Quilters are requesting the following items;

- Sheets
- Fabric
- Blankets
- Sewing thread



Clothing is not needed at this time. If you have any of these items you can drop them off at the church office or Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your donations.



## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 E. Mason, Lena, IL 61048 Church Office: Phone # (815) 369-5552

August 25, 2020

*Dear Good Shepherd family,*

*After much discussion and prayer, the church council has decided to resume in-person worship service starting September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We will meet at 9:30am and worship will not be the same as it was before the pandemic and shutdown in March. The worship service will be short and we ask you to follow guidelines to protect the most vulnerable and each other.*

*There will be several options. You may worship in the sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall or you may worship in your car. The service will be transmitted by FM 90.5. We will continue to provide online worship (recorded Sunday worship service) and Sunday reading and prayer through our website and Facebook pages. To those who will worship inside the building these are guidelines we ask you to follow.*

- Wear face masks or face coverings while you are inside the building.*
- Keep social distancing (6 feet).*
- Entry will be only at the Washington Street door.*
- Before entry temperature will be checked. If you have a fever, we will ask you to go home.*
- Please use hand sanitizer which will be located at the stairs and the Fellowship Hall.*
- You will be ushered in and out. Ushers will escort persons from the front to the back.*  
*Families can sit together.*
- No Fellowship Hour at this time. You may converse outside.*
- Offering plates will be at the top of the stairs. You also can mail your offering to the church.*
- Services will be shown on screen.*
- No singing, no walking around to share the peace, no nursery and Children's Message at this time.*
- No communion at this time. Home communion will be offered upon request.*
- Restrooms will be used one person at a time. They will be disinfected frequently.*
- The elevator will be used for one person and his/her caregiver if needed.*
- If you become ill during the week after attending worship or find out you have been exposed to COVID-19, please notify the church office immediately.*

*We are trying our best to protect each other and ask your patience and prayers as we resume in-person worship. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the council members. We appreciate your understanding.*

*Thank you and God bless us,  
Good Shepherd Church Council*

We lift up our prayers

Compassionate God, tend all in need of your love. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit, especially Bob and Lynn Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Delbert Scheider, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Gene Hesselbacher, Lois Paulsen, Fern Harnish, Taylor B., Cynthia Boeke, Kyle, Lisa, Connor Stadermann, Jaden, Jon Forsythe, Brooke, Diane, Deb Lindeman Harder, Cindy Tessendorf, Randy, Brian, the Heimann family, Dave Heinkel, Janet, Paul Heller, Lori, J.T., Dan and Sue White, Ryse Stone, Harry Perra Jr., Nicole, Meghan, Hailey Bettenhauser, Kelly Thurman, Tom, Brian Gobeli, John, Jerred, Bronwein, Matt and Julie, Sally R., Susan Andersen, Ben, Linnea, Chuck, Joyce, Marcia, and Deb. Pray for love, peace, comfort and resurrection hope for the families and friends of Wendy Pickard, Mark Jensen, Leonard Schulz Sr., Ellen Kyles, Nick Patterson, Kyle Griffen Thurman, Becky Mansoor, Elvin Evans, Ben Strohecker, Marilyn Holmes, Gary Miller and Brian Krug. In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love. All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Virtual Race Benefits Foster Care

LSSI is looking for participants for a 140-mile virtual race-walk, run or bike-between now and September 4th to raise awareness and funds for LSSI's Foster Care Programs.

Compete as a walker, runner or biker. Prizes will be awarded in each category and everyone who finishes receives a t-shirt. Join LSSI 's online community to compete with other racers and track individual progress.

The 140-mile goal represents the 140 weeks that children in Illinois spend in foster care, 60 weeks or longer than the national average. With its 153-year history as a child welfare leader, LSSI is working closely with the Department of Children and Family Service to help reduce the time children spend in care. Participants in the race can be a part of the solution too!

Complete the race registration by creating a fundraising page to share. All funds raised support LSSI's programs to serve children their families and their foster families. Participants can start the race at any time but the deadline remains the same.

Learn more and register at this link: https://www.lssi.org/140mi-race.php or email Mariah Heinz@LSSI.org with any questions.

Please remember to check our website; www.goodshepherdlena.org for Sunday Bulletins and monthly Newsletter.



We need your help with CHRISTMAS season!!!

Christmas is only 3 months away. We need your help with start preparation for the Christmas season. There are 2 ways you can help:

Make God's Eye crafts

We are thinking about decorating the hallway with God's Eye crafts. It's easy to make. Supplies are available at church.



Adopt a room to decorate

We have 5 rooms for you to adopt for Christmas decoration. If you are interested, contact Kristy.

Thank you!



## September Birthdays

09-01 Tim Tessendorf  
09-01 Marcy Schwartz  
09-02 Marilyn Hardel  
09-03 Joshua Proehl  
09-04 Colton Brinker  
09-09 Elizabeth Reed  
09-09 Cynthia Boeke  
09-10 Brianna Andrews  
09-11 Nina Mueller  
09-11 Michael Geiseman  
09-14 Eric Runkle  
09-15 Jennifer Huneke  
09-16 Duane Fox  
09-17 Alexis Martin  
09-21 Sydney Fox  
09-24 Sally Huber  
09-27 Andrew Martin  
09-28 Makenzie Meier  
09-30 Cody Shumaker  
09-30 Ryan Huttenlocher  
09-30 Grayson Albright

## September 5<sup>th</sup>, International Day of Charity

### Facts & Quotes

- Any charity donations that are made are tax deductible in many countries the year they are made. Meaning, that if you donate in 2015, you can claim that charity donation as a tax deductible!
- According to Giving USA, Americans Gave \$410.02 Billion to Charity in 2017, Breaking the \$400 Billion Mark for the First Time.
- The annual average US household charitable donation is \$2,974.
- 98.4% of high earning households give to charity and 63% say that a major motivation for their donations is to give back to the community.

Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love. – Mother Teresa, world-renowned nun and missionary.

Source: <https://www.wincalendar.com/International-Day-of-Charity>

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



## National Coffee Day is celebrated annually on September 29th.

National Coffee Day celebrates one of the world's most popular beverages: coffee! Coffee beans are native to tropical parts of Africa and were discovered in the 11th century.

tury.

National Coffee Day Top Events and Things to Do

Ever wanted to learn how people have their coffee around the world? Watch the 2014 documentary “A Film About Coffee” to learn more about the unique ways coffee is brewed and consumed globally.

Slow down and enjoy a fika. It is a type of coffee break originating from Sweden. Fika focuses on slowing down and enjoying coffee with friends and colleagues.

Tell your friends and colleagues and try a fika this upcoming coffee day.

Source: <https://www.wincalendar.com/Coffee-Day>

We are looking for Youth volunteers at the Food Pantry.

Good Shepherd helps at the food pantry on the 4th Saturday of every other month from 8:20am-11:30am. Needs are high and we are looking for 2 youth (junior high and older) volunteers for upcoming months (October 24, December 26, February 27, 2021, and April 24., 2021) If you are interested, contact the church office or Pr Miho.

*Your help will be appreciated.*



## Quilt Sunday Message for 2020

<sup>23</sup>For I (Paul) received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NRSV)

In the Words of Institution, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) Jesus asks his disciples to remember more than just this final meal with him; in my opinion, Jesus is asking them all and all of us to remember his whole life and ministry and all that he has taught us. This is the theme for this year's Quilt Sunday Newsletter Message. "Remember Me" and by doing so, remember the whole ministry of our quilt group-The Piece Corps-and all it represents. Also, remember its members, past and present and all the lives they have touched with all their work. Remember, also, all the many people who have donated time, materials and money to make these 46 years of ministry possible here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena, Illinois.

Jesus' words come from the Passover Meal he shared with his disciple family before his death and resurrection. In Luke 22:7-23 we read this story, and verse 19 gives us Jesus' command to his disciples and to us also: <sup>19</sup> ***Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."***

So what does weekly Sunday church communion have to do with Quilt Sunday and our Wednesday weekly quilt gathering meetings, you ask? To me-Plenty! Jesus said, "Remember Me!" To me, that means more than wine, wafers and forgiveness of sins. To me, it means modeling our lives as Jesus lived and showed us what it means to be a Christian and a Child of God. Jesus told us first love God and then to love our neighbors as ourselves. (For reference see: Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:36-40, Mark 12:28-34, and Luke 10:25-28—<sup>25</sup>***Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*** <sup>26</sup>***He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"*** <sup>27</sup>***He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."*** <sup>28</sup>***And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."*** Jesus then tells us-The Parable of the Good Samaritan.)

There is no limit set by Jesus on that love. No boundary, no particular place or persons are mentioned—it is universal, unlimited, and can only be constrained by the limit of heart, hands, mind and soul. God says the days are surely coming, He will make a new covenant: Jeremiah 31:33-34 (NRSV) - <sup>33</sup>***But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*** <sup>34</sup>***No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "K now the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.***

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I think it is relevant to look at communion, something done each week as part of our service, and look at our Quilt Ministry which is also a weekly event at church. The serving of Communion has changed over time, from kneeling at the altar in small groups, being given an individual glass of wine, to coming forward in two steady lines and receiving a wafer for the intinction of it in a Chalice of wine or grape juice.

The old method was time consuming and usually done on a special occasions and special Sundays. Today, we practice Open Communion-Christ invites us to the table. All baptized Christians are welcome to partake in the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

So too has our quilt making changed over the years from quilts pinned to quilt frames and using wool clothes, to quilts made of cotton and cotton blends to laying and layering them on tables to be tied. We have also been upgraded to a vital church activity and we publicize our mission. What good does it do if no one knows we exist and what we can offer our community in times of need if we don't tell them?!! What has not changed is the very dedicated group of individuals who come to Fellowship Hall each Wednesday morning to do God's Work. As I've also told you in the past, this work goes on throughout the week. In-between each Wednesday we have members of Piece Corps that work all week long, as their schedule allows, to do God's Work. Many cut blocks and sew quilt tops at home. Others come into Fellowship Hall on their day off to work on quilts. Others take material and/or blocks to people's homes and pick up quilt tops. And still others, like to hit the re-sale shops or garage sales, always looking for supplies. You never know who will drop off a bog or box of usable items at church. Here's a familiar phrase, "I saw it on sale, or it was just a quarter, and it was too good to pass up." God is so busy with us—and it's just part of our life and daily routine. We have many volunteers who help in this Mission and we thank all of you for your support, so does God: He remembers all we do for each other. "As you have done if for the least of these, you have done if for me." Matthew 25:40 (NSRV) <sup>40</sup> *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."* This is the Holy Spirit praying with us as we march through our day! Our lives are so much richer and infinitely more satisfying when our focus is on others-loving our neighbor and also loving ourselves, as God has commanded us to do.

Thanks be to God and this wonderful ministry-The Piece Corps-that God so richly blesses!

So this is our 2020 quilt summary-a very different year for the Piece Corps Quilt Ministry at Good Shepherd. Could we have a drum roll please!

708 quilts were made this year.

Where do our quilts go? The majority of our quilts are sent to LWR, (Lutheran World Relief) for distribution around the world. Each Fall a semi-trailer is positioned in Monroe, WI., and is loaded with all our area churches' donations. The semi is taken to Baltimore, MD., where the quilts and kits are packed for shipping all over the world. These items specifically requested, so the groups receiving our donations, have been identified and an agency in that country receives the shipment and then distributes it to those groups needing them. The bulletin board in Fellowship Hall has a detailed poster with all this information on it. You can also check out the LWR website.

(Continued on next page)

We have also sent quilts and other materials to the following this year:

Maddy's Pantry:

4 Children's quilts

6 large quilts-some kids

Bed & Biscuit:

25 large towels

15 bath mats

12 hand towels

Veterans:

24 towels

20 blankets

Barb Daul-Lena Community:

12 towels

21 large quilts

5 kid's quilts

3 baby quilts

Delbert Scheider:

1 child's quilt

Other items distributed to various people or groups:

18 large towels

6 shower curtains

12 bath mats

10 blue & white towels

12 quilts

10 pillows

25 pillow cases

10 plastic place mats

Purchased Quilts:

5 quilts

We get requests from individuals to purchase quilts they see on display that they really like. Please contact Shirley Fox or the church office (815-369-5552), or come in any Wednesday morning to church and get more information.

So in conclusion-here's our 46 year re-cap of our Quilt Ministry at Good Shepherd: Our Quilt Ministry and Piece Corps had another very successful year. 708 quilts were made this year. Since 1974 (46 years) a total of 17,424 quilts have been made and sent. We do keep score! Thank you to everyone for your help and support. None of this would be possible without the help of many, many hands, lots of donations, and God's Love and Prayers. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

If you would like to help with sending our quilts overseas, you can indicate on your Offering Envelope the amount and write in -"Quilt Shipping Fund." It takes \$2.25 to ship one quilt overseas. For someone who has lost everything in a disaster, like a flood, earthquake, or war-your donation to the shipping fund sends them an uplifting and necessary resource.

Even in the darkest times, Quilts and Care Kits send a message that the world has not forgotten families and children in need. Your gift delivers renewed hope and helps change the lives of many. Thanks to friends like us, Quilts and Care kits have an ever-growing impact in their communities as a source of much-needed supplies.

Thank you for letting us share this story with you, again, on Quilt Newsletter Sunday!

The Piece Corps members & Rene' Johnson

*Quilt Sunday Blessing (excerpt from the Quilt Sunday)*

*(prayer written by Joci Post and adapted for our Quilt Sunday Service)*

*We thank you for the many gifts you have bestowed upon us and now ask to bless the work of our hands, that it might become a blessing to others. Lord we know that these quilts alone are only ordinary things, but through your power and love they become extraordinary.*

*Bless these gifts we lay before you, that they would not be from our own hearts and hands but from yours. Let each quilt be your unfailing arms of comfort and your trusted means of hope; assurance to those who despair, and light to those who live in darkness. Transform us Creator, from idle beings into those who do your work. Help us to recognize our own limitations and acknowledge our need for your strength. Motivate us Lord to fulfill your desire to feed the hungry, give water to those who thirst, and clothe those with nothing.*

*Let these humble offerings become tools of your service, bringing love into the lives of those in need around the world. Bless these quilts Lord, and the work of the Lutheran World Relief and our Piece Corps Ministry in answering you call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you. Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we ask all these things. Amen.*



# Fun Page

It is good to be here  
Matthew 10:40-42


Color the things you see, do hear of feel today. Use the picture clues on the right side of this page for hints.



Use the picture clues to help you fill in the blanks and complete the sentences. What word do you find when all of the blanks are filled.?

-  \_\_\_\_\_ater in the baptismal font welcomes us into God's family.
-  Pray\_\_\_\_r welcomes us to talk to God.
-  \_\_\_\_\_ove in our church family welcomes us to worship together.
-  \_\_\_\_\_andles welcome us to think of the light of Jesus.
-  God's W\_\_\_\_rd teaches us about God's welcoming love.
-  \_\_\_\_\_usic welcomes us to sing to God.
-  W\_\_\_\_ are all welcome in God's church!

\_\_\_\_\_

 Thank you, God, for welcoming me into your family.

## gather

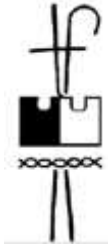
Welcome to worship. Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me." God's welcoming love is for everyone!



Draw someone who helped you feel welcome when you arrived today.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>**, is Holy Cross Day  
Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.  
Source: *Sundays and Seasons* v.20200325.1254, Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

This Week  
Practice welcoming people. Welcome others to play with you, read with you, or visit you.



*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*  
*118 E. Mason Street*  
*Lena, Illinois 61048*

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Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";  
Website: [www.GoodShepherdLena.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLena.org)

## Martin Luther's Small Catechism

### THE CREED

#### **The Second Article:** *On Redemption*

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead [*or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use*]. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

#### *What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Source: Small Catechism of Martin Luther ELW page 116z