

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

*Email: goodshepherdlena@outlook.com
Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";
Website: www.GoodShepherdLena.org*

*Martin Luther's Small Catechism
The Lord's Prayer*

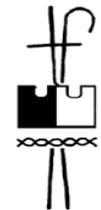
The First Petition Hallowed be your name.

What does this mean?

It is true that God's name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us.

How does this come about?

Whenever the word of God is taught clearly and purely and we, as God's children, also live holy lives according to it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven! However, whoever teaches and lives otherwise than the word of God teaches, dishonors the name of God among us. Preserve us from this, heavenly Father!



December 2020 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Shepherd's Voice

"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert, a highway for our God.'" Isaiah 40:3 .

Dear God's beloved,

One day I was taking a walk in a cemetery. As I strolled along the path, I looked up, and saw the horizon. It was bare. It is the time of the year that cornfield were harvested. Wide view was opened up in front of my eyes. I could see barns and farm houses and the horizon miles away. It was stunning view. I paused and gazed at the bare field and beautiful sunset. All of a sudden, the Bible verse came to my mind—"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert, a highway for our God."

We hear this (or a similar) passage every year in Advent. Preparing God's highway, every hill and mountain being made low. A voice appeared in the wilderness to call our attention to be ready for God's coming. Honestly I never liked this verse. It sounded like God was smoothing out pretty rolling hills and gorgeous mountain views. It sounded like God would drive a bulldozer and flatten any uneven surface. I grew up in the land of mountains and sea. This depiction of God's highway seemed violent. I thought it would take out the charms and beauty of life. But this time the verse spoke to me differently—when we are bare, God's presence comes straight.

This pandemic has been shaking and molding my views, the ways I live, how I read scripture, and even my faith in Christ. The pandemic pushed me out from familiarities and my comfort zone. It was not fun at all but it was necessary. I was worn out and became bare. I am no longer able to cover up or hide my vulnerabilities. Strangely God began speaking to me more straightforwardly than before. Scripture speaks differently than I had never imagined. God has come closer to me.

I think that this pandemic makes us re-imagine our thoughts and beliefs. When God's people were waiting for God to intervene, they were bare. They lost their sovereignty. Their relationships were disrupted. Every family carried pain and wounds. And God broke into their lives. God came down and born as a human child. This year we may feel bare. Our family Christmas tradition may be altered a little bit. And God continue to show up and bring us God's hope. Christ will born for you and me again. Merry Christmas to you and all your loved ones.

Pr Miho

Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming October 2020	\$5,648.25
Expenses October 2020	\$8,795.43
Net Income (Loss)	\$(3,147.18)
Income, Year to Date 2020	\$90,919.38
Expenses, Year to Date 2020	\$97,070.39
Net Income (Loss)	\$(6,151.01)

Highlights from November Council Meeting

Call to Order: 6:30

Wayne Kurth explained the purpose of the call meeting "Plans for future services" the topic of the evening. All other items were dismissed on the regular agenda.

In short, since Covid-19 started to rise in the area and the schools were in remote learning and the limit of only ten persons in a gathering was mandated, it just seemed that to heat the church, provide someone to be at the door to greet and take temps, have a organist, sound technician, then the number of persons allowed to attend service would be 5. The most feasible decision would be to go remote. Previously Council had decided that if the schools went remote then Good Shepherd would no longer have in-person service until the limit would go back up by the State of Illinois Mitigating Order. It would save the church money not having to have the heat as high and less electricity would be used.

The use of the FM radio for services, the use of streaming through Facebook would be utilized for future services, until the COVID-19 is under control. Council was in agreement on this point of discussion for future services.

The question was then should the use of the phone be another way to get the service out to those who do not have a computer/internet service to watch and listen to the service whether in real time or a few hours later. This was not tabled but that decision would be after a few more test runs.

The phone meeting was concluded by saying the Lord's Prayer over the phone together.

7:00 P.M.

Submitted by Secretary, Coralyn Hudik

Annual Reports Are Due December 15, 2020

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 GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com in Word format. Thank you..



The Piece Corps Quilters

Are you looking for yarn, or are you getting ready for those winter knitting or crochet projects? If you are, the Piece Corps Quilters has extra yarn available for you.

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.





Prayer Chain:

If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, please call the Church Office to submit your request at 815-369-5552. We are also looking for anyone who would like to join the prayer chain. We send prayer through the phone chain and e-mail. You pray your own and pass on to the next person in the prayer chain. God hears our prayers.

If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

What do you call a snowman party?



A Snowball

Source: Southern Living Magazine

Offering Notes

Please be sure that any contributions you would like credit for this year, is received prior to the end of worship on **Sunday, December 27, 2020**. Any contribution received after that will be credited in 2021. Thank you for your cooperation.

I apologize for any inconvenience but if it is possible that your offering envelope number may change again for next year. This is part of an ongoing effort to reduce the number of boxes we order, thereby reducing our expenses. If you have any questions, please contact Shzila at (815) 369-5101. Thank you.

If you have any offering envelopes that you have not used could you return them to use within the church?



Thank you to our church family for the cards and notes received for our 60th wedding anniversary. It was very much appreciated.

Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher

Food Pantry volunteer needed for December 26th

We are looking for 1 adult and 2 youth volunteers for our December serving date. Good Shepherd helps at the food pantry on the 4th Saturday of every other month from 8:20am-11:30am.



We lift up our prayers

Lynn Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Delbert Scheider, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B., Gene Hesselbacher, Lisa Wienand, Connor Stadermann, Jaden, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Deb Lindeman Harder, Paul Heller, Dave Heinkel, Cindy Tessendorf, the Heimann Family, Janet, Lori, J.T., Dan and Sue White, Ryse Stone, Harry Perra Jr, Nicole, Meghan, Kelly Thurman, Tom, Brian Gobeli, John, Jerred Bronwein, Matt and Julie, Susan Anderson, Chuck, Joyce, Marcia, Deb, Mary Gerbode, Terri, Carla, Tina, Julie, Karla, J.T., Annie, Jamie, Penny Day, and Crystal. We pray for those serving overseas, especially Kyle. Pray for love, peace, comfort, and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Bob Lyvers, Ben Mayer, and Faith Brookman.

Loving God, protect the vulnerable, heal the broken, strengthen the weary, embrace the lonely, comfort the grieving, and give peace to all call upon you; trusting in your mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Giving Tree

The Lena Business and Professional Association Giving Tree at the Lena Mercantile is full of ornaments for our area families. You can pick one at anytime by December 13. If you have any questions, contact Lena Mercantile at 815-369-9955.



Poinsettias

to feeding those in need.

This year the church is not going to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. Instead, we will feed those in need in our community. If you would like to give a monetary donation to the Le-Win Food Pantry in honor of or in memory of your loved ones or to give glory of God on Christmas, please contact the church office. We will include the names in Christmas bulletin like we usually do. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ to our neighbors this Christmas.



St. Nicholas Day, December 6th

Yes, there really was a Christian Saint Nicholas. He lived in the country of Greece, just a couple hundred years after the birth of Christ. This day is in honor of Saint Nicholas and his life.

Saint Nicholas became a priest, and later, a Bishop of the early Catholic Church. True to the Christian concept of giving up belongings and following Christ, St. Nicholas gave up all of his belongings. He was well known for giving to needy people, especially children. There are many stories and tales of him helping out children in need.

The practice of hanging up stockings originated with Saint Nicholas. As the ancient legend goes, Saint Nicholas was known to throw small bags of gold coins into the open windows of poor homes. After one bag of gold fell into the stocking of a child, news got around. Children soon began hanging their stocking by their chimneys "in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there".

It wasn't until the 1800's that the spirit of St. Nicholas' life evolved into the creation of Santa Claus. And, this happened in America. Santa Claus emerged (or evolved) from the stories and legends of St. Nicholas. Santa Claus was kind and generous to children. Unlike "St. Nick", Santa Claus is largely a non-religious character.

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 Chris 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 Schoenhard
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!

Congratulations

Congratulations to our students,

Le-Win Honor Roll

Principal's Honor Roll

*Freshman, Sarah Geiseman
Junior, Ethan Fye*

High Honor Roll

*Senior, Ashtyn Brinker
Senior, Hanna Brinker*

Freshman, Lucas Fye

Pearl City Honor Roll

High Honor Roll

Junior, Maddi Diddens

Eighth Grade, Jared Runkle

Honor Roll

Eighth Grad, Jacob Runkle

Le-Win Junior, Sarah Geiseman, has qualified for the Junior Mixed Chorus with Illinois Music Education Association (IMEA) Music Festival.

What's in a Name?



Find the names for Jesus that begin with the letters in MESSIAH. Here are clues: (M) 2 Peter 1:19; (E) Matthew 1:23; (S) Luke 2:00; (S) Luke 5:24; (I) John 8:58 (a little tricky); (A) Revelation 1:0; (H) Mark 1:24.

Answers are on page 9

No peeking



Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center
51 East Highway 18
PO Box 862
Pine Ridge, SD 57770
605-867-5262
www.pineridgeconciliationcenter.org

Greetings Good Shepherd Lutheran,

Happy Fall! Thought many aspects of life look different these days, the seasons continue to change and Mother Nature is reminding us that pandemic or not, winter is on the way. We got a little taste of winter in Pine Ridge last month with a day of snow on September 8th. At the Reconciliation Center, we are once again planning to provide a matching fund resource for the people living on the Pine Ridge Reservation this winter. We are writing to you in hopes that you will consider supporting the Energy Assistance Matching Fund again this year.

The winter months are beautiful in Pine Ridge, but they are also very cold with temperatures often reaching well below zero and wind chills making it even colder. Families are faced with the financial burden of heating their homes, many of which were not constructed with the intent to withstand South Dakota winters. The Energy Assistance Matching Fund will match families in their contribution up to \$200 to pay their heating bill. We hope to work with families to help ease the burden of high energy costs and keep them warm through the winter.

Because of the generosity of people like you, during the 2019-2020 heating season, 300 households (1,574 people) benefited from the Energy Assistance Matching Program. This year we are anticipating a greater need **due** to the loss of income from the lack of tourist season and the predictions of a more harsh winter. Would you consider a give of \$240, or a different amount as you are willing and able.

To make a donation, donate online at sdsynod.org/donate and choose Energy Assistance Matching Fund or make a check out to Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, write Energy Assistance in the memo, mail it to Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, P.O. Box 862, Pine Ridge, SD 57770.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we live and work with the Lakota people of Pine Ridge. We are very grateful for your continued partnership in this important ministry!

Pastor Dan Johnson
Director

Nicholas Breining
Children & Youth Coordinator

Lindsay Boehmer
Cultural Immersion Facilitator



**Send your
“preparing for Christmas”
photos to
the church office.**

**We will share them on Sunday morning
service during Advent.**

In the month of December we will collect coins for ELCA World Hunger **God’s Global Barnyard**. Pick up your barns or pigs from church and bring them back in January.



LSSI Foster Care Christmas

This year has been especially challenging for so many LSSI's clients. Currently our staff are working to provide a Christmas gift to each child served by our programs, as well as ensure that they have essential items such as coats and boots during the winter. We are doing things a little differently this year to keep everyone safe and to raise funds in a socially distant way. To do this we have set up an online fundraising campaign through Just Giving, where individuals can make a donation that will go directly to the Rockford LSSI program to help provide Christmas gifts for clients. Our goal is to raise \$4000 to meet the needs of 125 children served by LSSI's Foster Care program. Would you be willing to share this giving page link with your congregation;

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Christmasrockford>

On this page you just need to click the "donate" button to easily and securely make a gift to brighten a child's Christmas.

Kathy Hall

Assistant Vice President for Advancement
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

(815)284-7796 ext. 4118

Make-A-Smile cards for Lena Living Center

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. This is a new ministry to share love of Christ to the residence in the nursing home. We are responsible for 10 cards each month. If you would like to help with this ministry, just bring cards to church by the 10th of each month. Please sign and include short encouraging words. Our hope is to make them smile!

Questions? Contact the church office or Pr. Miho.



Lena Lions Club

The Lena Lions Club will be take your non-working or unused Christmas lights to be re-cycled.

A donation box will be available at the Washington Street entrance of Good Shepherd for your convenience. If you have any questions, please contact Tim.



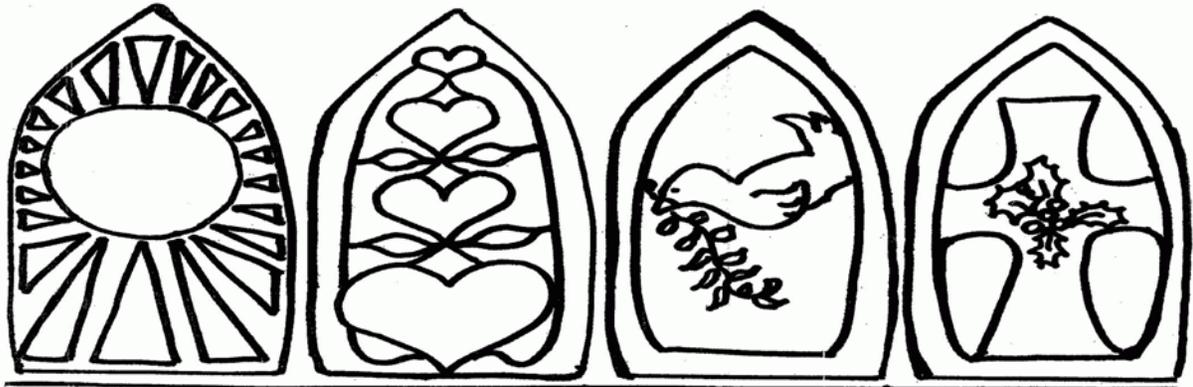
Share you Family Cookie Recipes

We are going to give out Christ in home Christmas bags to GS family and friends this year. We would like to include little booklet with Christmas carols and family cookie recipes. If you have special Christmas cookie recipes in your family, would you mind sharing it with us? Please send your recipe to the church office at;

goodshepherdlena@outlook.com

or bring it to Betty. We appreciate if you can submit it by December 13th.

Please keep eye on GS Facebook page and website for Christmas worship schedules. Thank you!



Hope

Peace

Joy

Love



All are welcome!
No exceptions.

**Grace Place Campus Ministry
at Northern Illinois University**

401 Normal Rd
DeKalb, IL 60115

A ministry of the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Grace Place is committed to be a place where students feel welcome just as they are; we are committed to helping meet the physical needs of our students with free weekly meals; we are committed to being a place where we boldly proclaim God's unending love for all people.

Will you commit to helping us make a difference in these young adult lives?

As we yearn for the chance to gather again as a community, you can ensure that we are able to hold activities in a safe, loving way. Consider making a donation either via check or via Facebook (@GracePlaceNIU). No matter the amount, please know your gift matters and makes a difference to this community. Your gift embodies the love of God and the grace with which we have been given. Thank you for making a difference in these student's lives and supporting the ministry in Grace Place!

With Gratitude
Rev. Mack Patrick
Campus Pastor
campuspastor@graceplaceniui.com
815-714-9610

Synod Office Update

The Rockford Synod office is no longer in operation. But Rock Island office is! Please contact the Rock Island office.

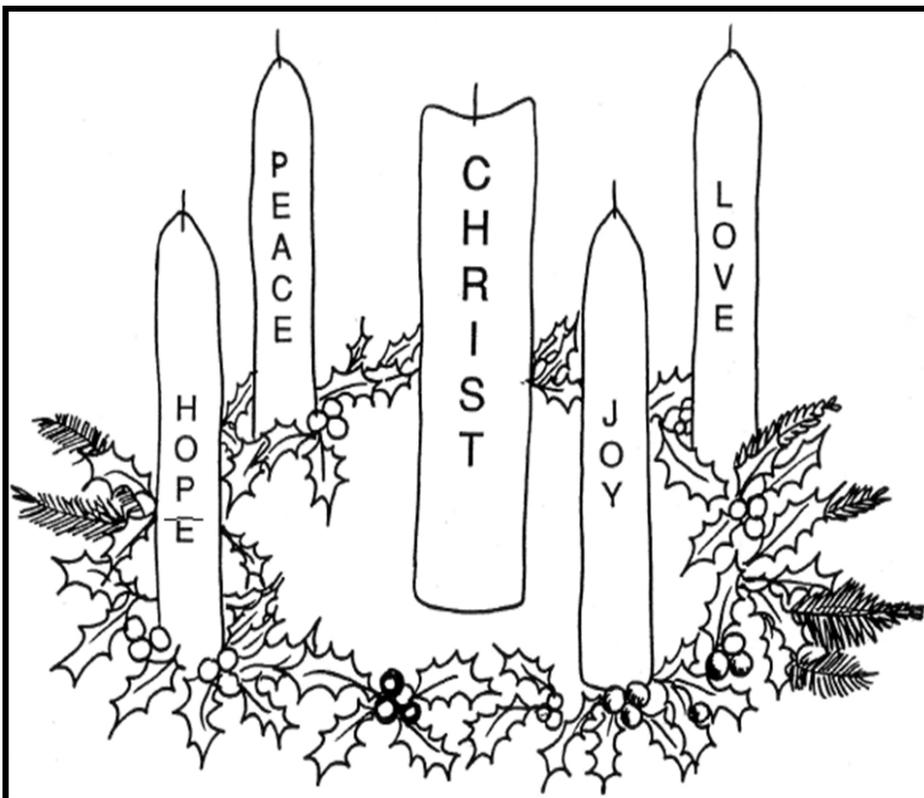
Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA
Augustana College-Sorensen Hall 322
639 38th Street Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Office Phone: (309)-794-4004

Answers from "What's in a Name"
quiz from page 6.

Morning Star
Emmanuel
Savior
Son of Man
I AM
Alpha and Omega
Holy One of God

The History of Advent

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Most know Advent today as a time of anticipation and expectation of the birth of Christ. However, Advent began as early as the 4th and 5th centuries as a time of fasting and prayer for new Christians. The first mention of Advent occurred in the 300's A.D at a meeting of church leaders called the Council of Sargossa. It gradually developed into a season that stretched across the month of December. Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The Advent season not only symbolizes the waiting for Christ's birth but also for his final return.



What is the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible.

Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. We will go further detail on the purpose and meaning behind each advent candle below. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins.

Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

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Advent begins November 29th.

Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation in hope. As darkness grows we look for Christ, the light of the world to come and born among us.

There are several ways to spend your Advent season.

-Advent Devotion

Our hope and expectation: Devotion for Advent & Christmas 2020-2021 is a daily devotion with scripture, to ponder, short reflection and prayer. You may use as individuals or as a group.

God With Us: Advent Study 2020 is a weekly devotion from ELCA World Hunger. Each reading goes along with lectionary with questions. A digital copy is also available on their website.

Families Celebrate 2020-2021 Advent & Christmas is a daily devotion and activity for all ages. Each card features a ritual, prayer, reflection, or activities for families with kids ages 3-12 (and older!) This includes lighting the advent wreath prayers for each week. This colorful deck of cards may be used in your family time.

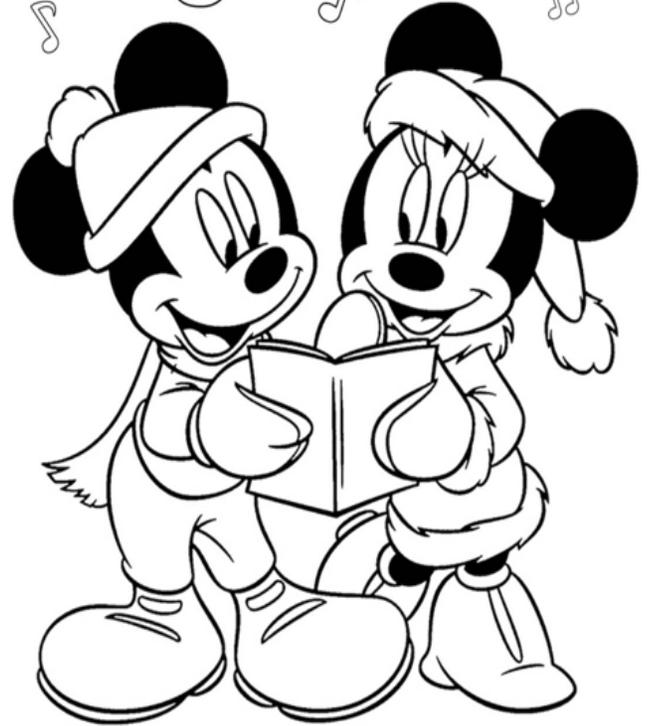
-Advent Calendar

ELCA World Hunger 2020 Advent Calendar has scripture verses, prayers, hymns, and information about God's Global Barnyard. Each day you open the window and learn about God and God's work.

All resources are available at church.



Jingle Bells



Christmas Nativity Word Search



S Q N Y V B E T H L E H E M W
 H Z I H L T L S T R A W M A L
 K H Y E N C J O E S R A A O S
 M H G W W P A X M F H G N I H
 C N O I O D U M D R E C G F I
 A A N S R V O E K L W S E V N
 M T T E S H O N B Q Y A R M I
 X I W M H I B A K B K V I M N
 A S M E I K T I Z E X I D L G
 P B R N P S J M C A Y O N A H
 H K X S P N E M A Q P U W G P
 G P A U E G S R G R N R L A S
 Z T W F D V U U M O Y V Q B L
 J O S E P H S V M C D N I I B
 W Z S B A B Y P G T Z S V O A

- Wise men Manger Shining Jesus Straw Gods
 Worshipped Bethlehem Saviour Mary Joseph
 Donkey Stable Angel Baby King



Here's a great idea for a Christmas gift for Mom, Dad, Grandma or Grandpa. Popsicle stick picture frame.

You will need popsicle sticks, paint or markers, glue, decorations such as beads, small pom poms, or felt shapes for a few ideas. And, a picture of yourself, your family, a fun activity or your pet.



Glue the sticks together in a square shape, leave them out to dry over night. Then you add the picture you have chosen.



Wishing you all the best that life can bring, Merry Christmas to you and a year full of blessings.