

February 2021 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Shepherd's Voice

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. 1 Corinthians 12:26

I went to a clinic in town for the first time. I burnt my hand with boiling water during my morning tea. It was an accident. I put an icepack on my hand the whole day but the blister was scary big. I took the advice of our secretary (Moms know about these kinds of injury.), and I saw a nurse practitioner. He was very pleasant and saw my hand and assured me that there was no infection and my hand would heal in a week or two. (He was right. New skin is coming.) During my visit the nurse practitioner told me that when one part of the body is hurt, other parts of body try to balance that out. I pondered his remark. My injury requires me to ask my husband to step in to do more chores like wash pots and dishes. Mothers among our members gave me advice about how to take care, and a number of our members prayed for me and my husband. The body of Christ has come together.

Our church calendar is coming to a new season called Lent. Lent is a season when we often take time for scripture reading, devotion, and prayer. While Pr. Keri down the street and I discussed Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services, we came to a plan to offer mid-week devotions starting Ash Wednesday. These will be do-it-at-home Lenten devotions using dirt. Please check details in this newsletter. Speaking of doing things together, I would like to invite you to join me in a once a week phone Lenten devotion. I am thinking about reading from the Lenten devotion book [A Story to Tell: Devotions for Lent 2021](#). It has scripture, points to ponder, short reflections, and prayers. (Copies should be available in church soon. We ordered last week.) I'd like to try to read with you this year. Let's try starting on Thursday mornings at 8:15am-8:30am. We will use conference calls. If you are interested, contact the church office to get the phone number and conference code. Doing this together we will grow together. May our loving God be with you.

Pr. Miho

There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage. ~Martin Luther

Source: Chicken Soup for the Soul.com

Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2020	\$18,267.71
Expenses December 2020	\$16,237.93
Net Income (Loss)	\$(2,029.78)
Income, Year to Date 2020	\$113,491.99
Expenses, Year to Date 2020	\$122,800.01
Net Income (Loss)	\$(9,308.02)

Highlights from January Council Meeting

Call to Order: 7:05pm, the meeting was scheduled to begin at 6:30pm, however due to attempting to set up a Zoom/virtual meeting there were issues to overcome.

Minutes were read by President Wayne Kurth, since he was near the webcam of the December 10th council meetings.

- Jay Andrews gave the report, Jay stated that no more money had been taken out of the revolving account but most likely would be used at the end of the month. There is a small amount left in the revolving account.
Heating: \$301.82 Electric: \$142.60
- Pastor's Report: Members present had a printed copy of her report, those on phone and zoom would be able to have a copy in their mailbox. Key points that Pastor Miho stressed: Reflection of the Christmas Eve worship service, 120 views for the Whole Family Service and 55 at the Midnight Service. Seemed to go well. Council members to continue to reach out to the person that are on their calling list to find out if there are any changes as to how to contact the members and if they have access to the internet. The second concern was that of creating of finding short 7 minute or less videos for the younger generation as they would learn about a character in the Bible.
- Committee Reports: Due to the late start the committee reports were given by Wayne who read off the printed copy to those on phone and zoom. (Worship, Learning, Service/Barnabas (need volunteers for the Food Pantry on the 4th Saturday of every other month from 8:20 am to 11:30 am. 2 adults and 2 youth are needed).

Wayne read the letter that Pat Esker sent to Pastor Miho Yasukawa regarding the Annual Congregational Meeting:

In a short version it means that if the meeting is not set for a Sunday in January as stated in the By-laws of Good Shepherd the following could happen potentially lose non-profit status making the church to pay property taxes and corporate income taxes and any member of the church could sue the congregation for breach of the constitution to hold the annual congregational meeting in January as prescribed by the bylaws of Good Shepherd.

During Discussion it was suggested that on the 17th of January Pastor Miho made the announcement in the live stream service and that would be the first of the two weeks before the holding of the meeting.

Cora Hudik made a motion to hold the Annual Congregational meeting on the 31st of January which would give time to make the announcement two weeks prior. Bari Raymer made the second. Voice vote was taken and passed.

Discussion as to how to notify the eligible voting members of Good Shepherd Lena

Motion was made by Bari Raymer to use every possible means to notify members of the meeting which included: Postcards, official letter from Good Shepherd, Facebook, web page, newspaper, and calls. Tim Gordon made a second to the motion which passed.

Voice vote to adjourn passed and was followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: 11th of February 2021 at 6:30PM

Submitted by Coralyn Hudik
Secretary of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Advancement
1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 50
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
LSSI.org
PHONE 847.635.4600
FAX 847.635.6764

Dear Friends in Christ,

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe, (John 20:29).

that You may not have seen all the good your generosity makes possible, yet you have come to believe you can change lives through the work of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). That is exactly what you have done with your gift of \$150.00 designated to support our foster care program our LSSI's Natchusa site.

Thank you for sharing your blessings with those served by LSSI. Your donation will be put to work immediately, giving people the opportunity to reach their full, God-given potential in life.

LSSI offers whole person care in all of our programs, recognizing that our constituents have full lives beyond whatever challenges they may face. We consider you a part of this ministry and appreciate your support more than you know.

Thank you again for remembering LSSI with your gift. It is an honor and pleasure to serve alongside you.

Peace and prayers,
Mark A. Stutrud
President and CEO

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, Tina, Julie, Karla, J.T., Jamie, Penny Day, Crystal, Jesse Becke, Sue, Pastor Art Stees, Carl Watson, Tina Diddens, Tana, Katie, Christian, and Anna. We pray for those serving overseas, especially Kyle. Pray for love, peace, comfort, and hope of resurrection for the families and friends of Verla Lobdell, Annie Patterson and Byron Smith.

Faithful God,, you have promised to be with us. We entrust ourselves and all our prayer to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trivia Time

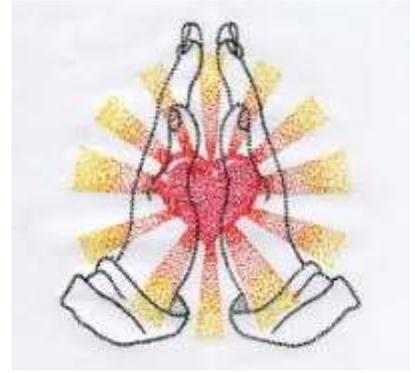
Who are NOT on the mountain top with Jesus when his appearance was transfigured?

A) Peter B) Moses C) Elijah D) Abraham Answer on page 11.

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 individually and pass it 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.



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 the love of Christ to the residents 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.

Evening Prayer



Dear Jesus, as a hen covers her chicks with her wings to keep them safe, protect us this night under your golden wings; for your mercy's sake. Amen

source: ELW page 86

Devotion Books

January-March issues of Christ in Our Homes and The Word in Season are available now. These devotion books are helpful ways to keep growing our faith. Take one home today and start your day with the Word of God.



Faith

A living, daring confidence in God's grace.

When Lutherans talk about faith, we are talking about the relationship God's Holy Spirit creates with us. It's a relationship where God's promise of steadfast love and mercy in Jesus opens us to a life of bold trust in God and joyful, generous service to everyone we know and meet in daily life.

Martin Luther was exuberant when he described the freedom of "a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times." He once wrote, "Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good things unceasingly."

Faith convictions expressed as statements of belief flow from this confident trust in God. ELCA Lutherans share in the faith expressed in the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, in the Lutheran confessional writings (collected as the Book of Concord), and in the ELCA Confession of Faith.

At the same time faith does not close our minds to the world and our hearts to others. We continue to listen to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. We listen to the witness of others and we watch for the ways God is active in the world around us. Faith opens a place for engaging others in conversation, for seeking the truth, for asking questions and speaking love in word and deed.

Faith is a full life, liberated for a living, daring confidence in God's grace.



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



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.

We are in need of sheets, blankets or other sewing materials. If you have any of these items you can drop them off at the church office or Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your donations.



February Birthdays

02-01 Allyson Kraft
02-01 Caleb Mammoser
02-02 Robert Kurth
02-03 Larry Fulfs
02-05 Jerry Martin
02-08 Denise Balbach
02-08 Jonathon Kurth
02-09 Duane Tessororf
02-09 Angie Brinker
02-10 Paige Tessororf
02-11 Tammy Freitag
02-12 Jeanine Raders
02-12 Bentley Euler
02-14 Doug Mueller
02-15 Corey Luke
02-15 Michelle Meyers
02-16 Whitney Shumaker
02-16 Andrew Wenzel
02-19 Jason Broege
02-19 Ryan Becker
02-20 Millie Koppean
02-21 Jesse Klosterboer
02-21 Taylor Bastian
02-27 Kayla Runkle
02-27 Brady Broshous
02-28 Tom Holtz

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

Save the Date

**Congregational Resourcing Event
2021 will be held Saturday,
March 13, 2021, via zoom
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

3 workshop sessions and
worship. Please go to the syn-
od website for details.

<https://nisynod.org/programs/cre>

According to the Guinness World
Records, the largest snowflake in
the world was 15 inches wide and
8 inches thick. This was recorded
on [January 28, 1887](#) by Matt
Coleman at Fort Keogh, Montana.
He said that the snowflake was
"larger than milk pans".

Source: "the Fact Site"

Worship Volunteers needed!

We are looking for those who can help
with Sunday worship.

- Temperature check person
- Elevator operator
- Sound system
- Ushers
- Lector (who will read scripture
and prayer)

If you can help, please let
the church office know. We appreciate
your help!

We are looking for volunteers at the Le-Win Food Pantry for February 27th
from 8:20am-11:30am

We need 2 adults and 2 youth volunteers. If you can help, please let the church office
know.

If you are interested in volunteer at Food Pantry, here are upcoming dates: February 27,
2021, April 24th, June 26th, August 28th, October 23rd, December 25th. *Your help will be
appreciated.*

HELPING HAND





A New Look

There is a lot of work happening at the center to be ready for the kid's return and our immersion guests. Work continues on the church's basement to make it an inviting and warm space for the kids, the center is getting a facelift inside and out.

With full control of the church building, we began remodeling the basement for Kid's Time. New paint and new furnishing await the kids. We received a grant to cover most of the cost of the remodel. The room is looking great. The kitchen is updated, and a new bathroom is in the works. Nicholas now has an office in the basement, and a storage area was created. We received a gift of a **Buffalo robe** (the buffalowoolco.com), which will hang on the wall along with some star quilts and a couple of murals.

The entrances to the church were redone to remove leaks and to make them secure. Remodeling of the sanctuary will continue through the winter with the hope of hosting support groups, Bible studies, and worship.

The most obvious change at the center is the Mural created by Artist Focus Smith outside the building. A new roof helped to complete the transformation of the outside of the building. Inside the center, the kitchen was completely gutted and expanded. The upper sleeping rooms are scheduled to be refreshed this winter.

The buildings are showing their age and we will have to plan for the replacement of systems soon. The furnace in the Church has been replaced since it no longer works.

How can you help?

Pray: Pray for our staff, the children and youth, and all ministries of the Reconciliation Center and the people of Pine Ridge whose lives we intersect with every day.

Educate Yourself: Visit us at the Reconciliation Center, or find opportunities to learn about the Indigenous people in your neighborhood.

Become an Ally: Listen, learn, and stand up.

Contribute Financially: Share your gifts to support the ministries of the Reconciliation Center. Lutheran/Lakota Job Corps; Energy Assistance Matching Fund; Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church; Children and Youth Ministries; Common Basket Ministries; Professional Staff Salaries.



Artist Focus Smith transformed the front of the center.

Checks can be made out to Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center and mailed to:

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center
PO Box 862
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Source: Pine Ridge Reservation Newsletter

Good Shepherd,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$250.00 toward the Energy Fund this year. You are keeping people warm this winter.

*Blessings
Pastor Dan*



Lena Winslow Food Pantry
130 1/2 West Main St, Lena IL 61048

Dear Good Shepherd Women,

We appreciate your generous donation of \$250.00 to the Lena Winslow Food Pantry. Your support enables us to further our outreach effort to provide assistance in order to feed out hungry neighbors.

We thank you for helping to strengthen our outreach effort. Your donation will continue to make a difference in the Lena-Winslow and Orangeville School District communities.

Sincerely,
Larry Buchenau
Food Pantry Director.



Congratulations to our students,
Le-Win Honor Roll

Principal's Honor Roll

Senior, Ashtyn Brinker
Freshman, Sarah Geiseman

High Honor Roll

Senior, Hanna Brinker
Junior, Ethan Fye

Pearl City Honor Roll

High Honor Roll

Junior, Maddi Diddens

Honor Roll

Eighth Grade, Jacob Runkle

Eighth Grade, Jared Runkle

Do you have extra flower pots and potting soil?
We are in need of pots and soil for do-it-at-home mid-week Lenten devotion. If you have extra to share, please bring them to church. Thank you.



Shrove Monday

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A Christian observance falling on the Monday before Ash Wednesday every year
Shrove Monday and other named days and day ranges around Lent and Easter in Western Christianity, with the fasting days of Lent numbered

Shrove Monday, sometimes known as Collop Monday, Rose Monday, Merry Monday or Hall Monday, is a Christian observance falling on the Monday before Ash Wednesday every year. A part of the English traditional Shrovetide celebrations of the week before Lent, the Monday precedes Shrove Tuesday. As the Monday before Ash Wednesday, it is part of diverse Carnival celebrations which take place in many parts of the Christian world, from Greece, to Germany, to the Mardi Gras and Carnival of the Americas.



Fun Page



ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



- | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash | Holy Week | Palm Branch |
| Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days |
| Sacrifice | Good Friday | Jesus |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover |
| Prayer | Easter | Foot Washing |
| Fasting | Palm Sunday | Resurrection |
| Lent | Purple | Love |



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Ash Wednesday Trivia



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday in both the Eastern and Western Church.

True or False

The correct answer is **False**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Western Christian calendar. The Eastern Orthodox church, however, typically does not observe Ash Wednesday and begins Lent instead on "Clean Monday."

What day does Ash Wednesday immediately follow?

Holy Tuesday

or

Mardi Gras

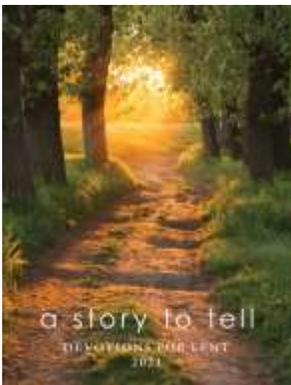
The correct answer is **Mardi Gras**

Mardi Gras, which is French for "Fat Tuesday," is the last night for eating richer, fattier foods before the Lenten ritual of fasting begins. The day is also sometimes called Shrove Tuesday, because worshippers are expected to shrive themselves (i.e. make confession) before Lent begins. Holy Tuesday occurs after Ash Wednesday, during the last week of Lent.

Join Us on a Lenten Journey

Lent is a 40 days + Sundays invitation to journey from dust to new life. Many Christians often take this time for spiritual disciplines of reading scripture, prayer, fasting, and alms giving. This year we will expand our mid-week service by offering a joint Lenten devotion with Lena UMC. Starting on Ash Wednesday, each week there will be a theme, scripture, spiritual exercise, and prayer. You will do these at home. There will be a booklet and in addition, every Wednesday, devotional videos will be released. You will need dirt, paper, pencil, Bible, booklet, pot, and your heart.

These are the themes for each week: Feb 17 Anger, Feb 24 Grief, Mar 3 Upsetting, Mar 10 Despair, Mar 17 Longing, Mar 24 Fear. You may try all the themes or whichever ones interest you. We will conclude with special devotions during Holy Week. Interested or have questions? Contact the church office or Pr. Keri or Pr. Miho.



Lenten Devotion Book

A Story to Tell: Devotions for Lent 2021

by David L. Miller, Harvard Stephens Jr., Lydia Posselt, and
Rebekkah Lohrmann

A Story to Tell focuses on texts from the Gospel of Mark that show Jesus' journey from baptism to the cross. The gospel writer has a story to tell, moving quickly from one scene to the next. The urgent tone of the story grabs us and pulls us in, but all the action comes to a halt when those who see the empty tomb tell no one about this. Is this the end of the story?

Large Print and regular size will be available at church.

*If you would like to read it together with Pr. Miho once a week, join the phone group on Thursdays from 8:15am-8:30am. Ask the church office for the phone number and passcode.



Thank you for your generous gift to Grace Place Campus Ministry. Our ministry this fall has looked different but we are ensuring that our students know that they are loved even when we are physically distant. Your gift to this ministry allows us to reach out and welcome all who seek an authentic community. Thank you for supporting these young adults and the ministry we do at NIU, we are grateful!

In Christ's Love

Pastor Mack

If you chose D) Abraham, you were correct.



Crisis Hotline

Calls on the rise.

With all the negative news from ongoing COVID issues to what is happening at the nation's Capitol, it can get overwhelming and a lot to process mentally. Throw in the fact it's after Christmas when many families couldn't spend time together and it's the middle of winter doldrums, it's no wonder the CONTACT crisis telephone line has been busy.

"We're still running a couple hundred calls over normal from last year at this time," said Pam Wertz, executive director for CONTACT.

CONTACT of Northern Illinois is a 24-hour crisis helpline where trained certified line specialists are available by phone for those people who are in crisis, looking for services or just need someone to talk with and a listening ear by calling 815-233-4357.

While some of the calls are from people who are in crisis situations there are several others from people who need the services local social service agencies provide but they don't know where to start. Wertz said CONTACT is a one-stop source for that information.

She said CONTACT works with the Community Organized Assistance in Disasters (COAD) to coordinate all of the local social service agencies and the services they provide into one central database. That makes it easier to send the callers in the right directions for the services they need.

Source: Freeport Journal Standard January 12, 2021



Navigating A Mental Health Crisis

We are seeing an increase in calls and needs from the community around suicide. I thought it would be helpful to share with you some messaging that we are pushing out through our social media channels as something you all can post too, or use.

Suggested messaging:

- If you or anyone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, please reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline @800273TALK (8255). Help is available. You are not alone.
- We know how hard it can be to ask for help. Calling a number and being connected to a stranger can seem a bit impersonal. But we want to remind you: the people on the other end of the line care. Talk to someone. Call the Lifeline. You are important to us.
- The Lifeline can also be a resource and support for family and friends worried about someone who may be at risk or people who have lost a loved one to suicide. People can also reach out to the Crisis Text Line – the free, 24/7, confidential text message service for people in crisis. Text HOME to 741741 in the United States. It's also important to know warning signs and risk factors for suicide, that way you can better support others. Be sure to review these so you know what to look out for if you ever need to encourage someone to seek help. <https://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-Conditions/Related-Conditions/Risk-of-Suicide>

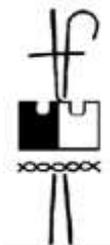
Crisis episodes related to #mentalhealth conditions can feel incredibly overwhelming.

There's the initial shock, followed by a flood of questions—the most prominent of which is: "What can we do?" Start by downloading our free crisis guide: <https://www.nami.org/crisisguide>

In the pages of our guide, you'll find:

- Understanding mental health crises
- Preparing for a crisis
- What to do during a crisis
- What to do following a crisis
- A sample crisis plan





*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 Third Petition Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

What does this mean?

In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

How does this come about?

Whenever God breaks and hinders every evil scheme and will—as are present in the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh—that would not allow us to hallow God's name and would prevent the coming of his kingdom, and instead whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his word and in faith until the end of our lives. This is God's gracious and good will.