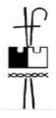
January 2022 Newsletter



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Shepherd's Voice

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22

Dear God's Beloved,

Happy New Year! May the joy and peace of God be with you in the year 2022!

New Year's Day is a special holiday for me. In Japan it's the time for family to gather, to exchange gifts and wishes, to eat a New Years feast (yum! yum!), and to take time off from busy everyday life. It sounds like Christmas for you, doesn't it?

For the New Year's holiday I have to do cleaning. This is deep cleaning that includes washing windows, scrubbing the bathtub and bathroom ceiling, wiping the stove top, dusting the corners, and sweeping the entire floor. Every year after Christmas services are over, I grab my cleaning kits and clean my apartment. (In fact, in the past, I took vacation to clean my office before New Year's Day.) It is a ritual. To welcome the New Year, I clean my space as much as possible so that I start the New Year with cleanliness: new year, new clothing, new tea, and a renewed (clean) place.

In our Christian tradition, once the Christmas season is over, we move to the season of Epiphany, a season of light. The first Sunday of Epiphany is known as the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. Every year we read the story of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptizer in the River Jordan. This year we will read the story from the Gospel of Luke. Baptism is a new birth. We Lutherans understand baptism as our dying in sin and rising with Christ. Baptism marks our new identities as children of God. It is very special. And the good news is that God renews us every day. So for this new year, I suggest that we do a little ritual—to remember our baptism every day (if possible). Martin Luther encouraged all baptized Christians, that when you are washing your face or taking a shower, to make a sign of the cross and say "I am a beloved child of God" to remind ourselves of our baptisms. As you know, after living through 2 years of a global pandemic I really don't know what this year will bring, but it is certain that God claims us as God's beloved, and as the voice spoke at Jesus' baptism, God is well pleased with us.

Have a blessed Year of the Tiger! Pr. Miho

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> <u>Jay Andrews</u>

Incoming November 2021 Expenses November 2021 Net Income (Loss)

Income, Year to Date 2021 Expenses, Year to Date 2021 Net Income (Loss) \$9,823.49 \$10,771.44 \$(947.95) \$99,412.10 \$120,214.85 \$(20,802.75)

Offering Note Please remember to <u>write</u> your name on your offering envelope as some numbers have changed. Thank you!

Highlights from November Council Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Wayne Kurth at 6:30pm on November 18, 2021.

- Secretary's report: The Secretary's report was reviewed, Kristy Patterson made motion to approve the October 21, 2021 meeting minuets, motion approved.
- **Treasure's Report:** Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report. The budget for the year is still running behind but he noted that the weekly offerings have been showing a small improvement, which needs to continue into the future to help out the budget short fall.

Heating: \$278.26 Electric: \$126.6 Treasures report was approved.

- **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Miho noted that on November 2nd, the Mobile Food Pantry was so busy that it ran out of food. In October, the Lena Food Pantry served 70 families. The date of the December Food Pantry is being determined as the Food Pantry will be closed on December 25. A question was asked about the upcoming ELCA National Youth Gathering. At this time they are waiting for further information on this event with all the restrictions that are still in effect and how it might affect the Youth Gathering. Pastor's report was approved.
- Committee Reports:
- Worship and Music Committee: The Advent and Christmas Schedule for services was highlighted. Advent starts on November 28th. Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00pm, Christmas Day Service will be at 9:30am, First Sunday of Christ will be December 26th at 9:30am and a service of Carols and Stories will be at 9:30am on January 2nd, 2022.
- Stewardship Committee: The Stewardship Committee will be sending out cards to the congregation to stress our current financial needs. Also with that card will be current statement of giving. The committee would also like to stress that in order to have any contributions count towards your 2021 giving, they must be into the church before December 31, 2021.
- Learning and Youth Committee: Confirmation is still moving along. The youth will be raking some leaves for several people yet this fall. The Children's Christmas Program will again be a video program. It is in process.
- Service Committee: Good Shepherd is to help with the Food Pantry in December. Date to be determines. The Lena Area Church Cooperative is looking for monetary donations for their Thanksgiving Drive.
- Finance Committee: The Committee will be meeting in early December to start work on the 2022 budget.
- **Property Committee:** Precision Drive & Control of Monroe is still waiting on the switch to fix the elevator motor. The hole that the squirrel was coming in has been fixed.
- Audit Committee: An audit of the Church Finances was performed by looking over the books from 2017-2020. a final report will be presented to council at a later date.
- Men's Ministry: A good time was had by all at the Men's Steak Fry. All the monetary donations for the meal were given to the church to help with expenses. The Men's Choir will be singing on the first Sunday in December.

All Committee Reports were approved.

(Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous page)

Highlights from November Council Meeting

- Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.
- New Business:
- Distribution of Endowment Funds: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented a printout of all the projects or organizations that have been helped by Good Shepherd with the Distribution of Funds from the Endowment interest. After discussion, Billie Jo Runkle made a motion to take \$3,500 out of the Special Funds Endowment, portion to be distributed as follows.
 - \$500. Lena Area Church Cooperative
 - \$1,000 Lena Food Pantry
 - \$1,000 Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center
 - \$500 Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center
 - \$250 Grace Place Ministries
 - \$250 ECLA Good Gifts.

Coralyn Hudik seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- **Christmas Parade:** There was discussion on participation in the Lena Christmas Parade. The idea was discussed and it was approved that Good Shepherd Church will participate in the Christmas Parade.
- Wayne Kurth received a letter from the Synod stating that there is Synod grand money available for congregations wishing to start a new program with their church.
- Virgil and Tim Gordon would like to put some items from Susie Gordon out in the Fellowship Hall for others to buy as they wish. All proceeds from the sale of these items would go to the Piece Corp Quilters.

Having no other business, the meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be on December 16, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by, Janis Kurth

Annual Congregational Meeting January 30th, 2022.

Annual report will be available for pick up at church from after January 23rd. If you're not able to pick up, call the church office at 815-369-5552 and one can be mailed to you.

Did you know, Martin Luther Trivia;

Luther was a prolific hymnodist, authoring hymns such as "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" ("<u>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</u>"), based on Psalm 46, and "Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her" ("From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"), based on Luke 2:11–12. Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This is one of my favorite Christmas stories. It took place in the early 1900s I first shared it in church for the 2016 Christmas Day Service. Rene' Johnson.

My Indian Doll, by Esther Donnelly

My Indian doll is my oldest possession she was made for me by Alice Short Bull, a friend of our family, and was given to me when I was four years old. The occasion was a Christmas Eve celebration at a mission church at a Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

We were the only non-Indian family attending the service and had been seated in a pew not far from the big Christmas tree. From my perch on Mama's lap, I could see laden branches stretching out in every direction. Tall candles flickered on the alter. The delightful fragrance of the newly cut pine tree permeated the air, hiding the kerosene odor of the lanterns which hung from the ceiling.

My little sister, Rose, sat next to me on Papa's lap. We whispered to each other during the singing of the hymns, calling attention to the many unwrapped gifts hanging on the tree. Yards of calico and glistening hair ribbons were draped in graceful fashion on the branches. Bags of tobacco hung suspended at the tips of the branches, and moccasins, make by the Indian mothers, hung closer to the tree's trunk.

"Look up high," I whispered. "There's a doll we asked Santa to bring!"

I was trembling with anticipation. The doll was even more beautiful than her picture, which we had circled in the catalog. Her hair was blonde and curly. Her sheer pink dress had a border of lace. Mama had explained that we would get our presents later at home. But apparently Santa Claus had decided to surprise us by putting the pink beauty on the church Christmas tree.

It seemed that the songs and prayers, most in the Dacotah Indian language, went on for a very long time. At last came the final carol, "Silent Night," sung in English by the pupils of the day school where Papa and Mama taught.

Suddenly there was a blast of cold air across our faces, and Rose and I were instantly awake. There was a jingling of bells, and Santa himself came running down the church aisle. He had on a red suit and a stocking cap with a bell at the very end.

With almost uncontainable excitement, we watched while Santa and his helpers handed out gifts from the tree. Finally, Santa took the big doll out of the branches and lifted it high for everyone to see. Then, still holding the doll he walked on past our pew and called out the name of Victoria Red Bird, a blind girl who lived in a log hut near Buckle Creek. The congregation, which had been silent for a moment, took up a low humming sound of approval as Santa place the doll in her arms.

I buried my face in the soft folds of Mama's blouse so my tears wouldn't show. Mama patted my back and said, "Look, Esther, here is a present for you." Ellis Poor Bear, one of Santa's helpers, stood in the aisle with an Indian doll in each hand—one for me and one for Rose.

(Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

My Indian Doll, by Esther Donnelly

The doll was dressed in buckskin, heavily fringed on the sleeves and hem. She wore amber beads at her throat. I looked under her skirt hoping to find her tiny moccasins. To my horror, she had no legs or feet at all—and neither did she have arms or hands. How could she look so happy without hands and feet?

As we went out into the cold night, I held her close to keep her warm and wrapped her in my own wool scarf. With my free hand I clung to Mama's coat as our family walked slowly home.

In the childhood days that followed I tried to fit the little doll into my playhouse family. But somehow she didn't seem to fit in. I didn't even give her a name. Finally, I put her in a box on the closet shelf and brought her out only to show off her peculiarities.

All of this happened more that half a century ago.

The other day I brought her into the light again. Her face, made of a soft expanse of unbleached muslin with a few ink-drawn lines for features, still bears an expression of peaceful tranquility. And her black horsehair braids are still tied with leather strings.

She has out waited my childish disappointments—waited until I am old enough to realize that pity, no matter in what degree of concern, is a pathetic substitute for acceptance. Perhaps I, not she, had been the orphan, shutting off the flow of understanding I might have shared earlier of her people's traditions and virtues of acceptance.

This story is from, "We Were Children Then" Volume II. Stories from the *Yarns of Yesteryear Project*. Edited by Clarice Dunn & Gen Lewis. Stanton & Lee Publishers, Inc. Copyright 1982

We lift up our prayers

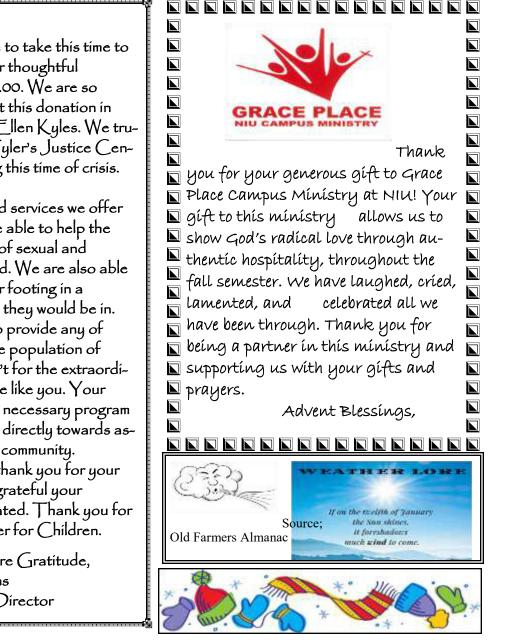
Lynn Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B., Nina Mueller, Curt, Sharon, Denny Bergmann, Connor Stadermann, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Deb Lindeman Harder, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, Harry Perra Jr, Nicole, Meghan, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, J.T., Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Jim DeMontigny, Kay, Sue, Shanna, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Jonathan, Cindy, Amber, Chris, *Ron, Vicki, Sophia, Abby and her triplets, Brenda, Abby* Schick, Brenda, Jack, Gretchen, Kav, Roger, Tina, Dan, Bryan, Shane, Joe, Dan Kempel, and Kevin. Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the families and friends of Ron Cross, Dennis Brown, Kim, and Jean Watson. May the peace of Christ be with us all.

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.





Dear Friends, I would like to take this time to thank you for your thoughtful donation of \$ 100.00. We are so USTICE CENTER honored to accept this donation in loving memory of Ellen Kyles. We tru-

ly appreciate your support of Tyler's Justice Center for Children, especially during this time of crisis. We are so sorry for your loss.

Because of the specialized services we offer at Tyler's Justice Center, we are able to help the voices of children who are victims of sexual and serious physical abuse to be heard. We are also able to help that child's family find their footing in a situation that many never thought they would be in. However, we would not be able to provide any of these services to such a vulnerable population of victims and their families, if it wasn't for the extraordinary community support by people like you. Your donation will be used to purchase necessary program supplies and materials, and will go directly towards assisting children and families in our community.

Again, I would like to say thank you for your amazing contribution. We are so grateful your kindness, and you are so appreciated. Thank you for thinking of Tyler's Justice Center for Children.

> With Sincere Gratitude, Missy Lyons Executive Director

Lena Lions Club P.O. Box 311 Lena, 1L 61048

Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Veterans Assistance of Stephenson County, The Drop In Center in Winnebago County and the Lena Lions Club, I would like to say a big Thank You for your willingness to collect gloves, hats, socks and other items to be handed out to our veterans in need.

To say this year's collection was a success, would be an understatement as we collected 306 pairs of gloves, 459 hats, 279 pairs of socks, 61 scarves, 21 lap blankets or quilts and a few coats, shirts and personal items.

I can't tell you how much the Lions Club appreciate working with you on this event. This year we had 8 area churches as collections points, and also had 2 local businesses donate. And with the success of our annual collection, I look forward to working with you again next year. As we need to continue to remember those whom have served our country to assure our freedoms.

Thank you again, Lena Lion's Co-Chairs **Bill Crichton and Gary Meyers**

	A	- + +
~~ ·	HI/	PPY .
	PAP	
JA R	D	
· P 🛛		HDAY
2		and Distribution
22	Janu	ary Bírthdays
5 5	1-01	Tim Gordon
6	1-02	Elizabeth Kurth
•	1-03	Brady Meier
. ?	1-03	Shayleigh Albright
-	1-08	Tena Rackow
2.	1–10	Noah Schoaf
1	1–11	Tamara Albrecht
1	1-13	Heather Fye
3*	1–14	Courtney Lawson
17	1–15	Isabelle Schoaf
1	1–16	JD Fye
	1–16	Sarah Baker
× 5	1–17	Gary Meyers
1	1–17	Mike Koppean
5 *	1–17	Owen Martin
6	1–18	Tim Aurand
	1-21	Tyler Raders
· -	1-27	Becky Huttenlocher
1	1-28	Jan Wybourn
	1-28	Denise Flack
	1-28	Heather Block
1,	1-29	David Graff
1	1-29	Bailey Schoenhard
5	1-30	Marilyn Fulfs
	1–31	Lisa Wienand

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

We are looking for volunteers at the Le-Win Food Pantry.

e da 1 1 1 1 da e e

Good Shepherd helps with Le-Win Food Pantry on the 4th Saturday of even numbered months from 8:20am -11:30am. Needs are high and we are looking for 2 volunteers for upcoming months (February 26, 2022, April 23rd, June 25th, August 27th, October 22nd and December 24th) If you are interested, put your name on the sign up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office .

Christmas BIG THANK YOU.

Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas in memory of your loved ones whom we hold dear. The flowers brought beauty and joy which made the Christmas season extra special. And Thanks to our Worship Team and Musicians for your wonderful music for Christmas services. Another thank you goes to those who helped with Christmas Parade. Your generosity made this year's Christmas so special.

Thank you!

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 <u>10 cards</u> 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





Epiphany

ISYRAUNAJFNJIIGKW w X R EER H I YADSGN I к TGNUC Ε S Ν E тн REEK I NG S C Α K £ H ٧ R N T V YSFGV R YMQ V Μ W T U Ε L 0 0 EENJEVHOPGMEFHRLGI 0 T RYAEASBOZOHOGCAJNT D T SNHSSCEIUTF I HTVCIUE A WAPUTNOHFSNS T BAY GR H N Ι HOS D U K 0 C Η Е 0 C RO Y N G T Ŧ М P EC A C Т S T RN В N RX L I I G M VOUA LCBB Y F SC IHH T 2 C М - 24 Ĩ P TRSJL I F 0 THEEUEMA T N I ME CGK I DW CPS NES 0 Y L Ē GRVSWEOE OBH T. T INI 8 OA Ð DB N N p 0 SOTS N G х Y R P EM A v R н Ε S S EHC U C N R T AE E H D H x D L 1 Н CTS I RHCU RMRN TA C L С STIANSMOTSUC ISNW HRI D P L P L O U G H M O N D A Y J O R E Y CELEBRATESIOQUBLBNE W

CELEBRATES CHRIST CHILD CRURCH SERVICES DENOMINATIONS EPIPHANY FEASTDAY INCARNATION JESUS CHRIST PLOUGH MONDAY SINGING THREE KINGS CARE TWELFTH NIGHT WESTERN CHURCHES CHALKING THE DOOR CHRISTIAN CUSTOMS EASTERN CHURCHES EPIPHANY EVE HOUSE BLESSED JANUARY SIX LITURGICAL REVELATION OF GOD THEOPHANY THREE KINGS DAY VISIT OF THE MAGI WINTER SWIMMING





Books of the Bible Puzzle



Unscramble the name of each book of the Bible and write it correctly in the blank. Then write the letter from each numbered position in the corresponding blank at the bottom of the page. You'll spell a phrase that's used to describe the word of God.

17

We've done the first one for you as an example.

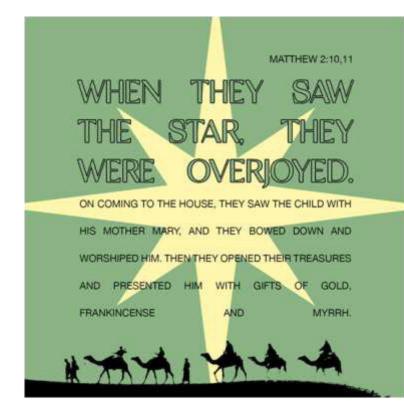
1. UTRH	Ruth	(3)		
2. TWAMHET		(5)		
3. BOPERRSV		(5)		
4. SUBNEMR		(7)		
5. WRESHBE		(6)		
6.USAJHO		(2)		
7. MORASN		(1)		
8.GEJDSU		(3)		
9. STREEH		(3)		
10. HMOLIPEN		(2)		
11. LINEDA		(5)		
12. SEESING		(5)		
13. SHEEPISAN		(2)		
14. CLAIMHA		(7)		
15. HARMEEJI		(3)		
16. AGHAIG		(6)		
17. SNAGILATA		(5)		
The Bible is also known as	the			
T	7 8 0		12 13 14	4 15 16
- A -	01110007-0		100000000000	1 12 12



Epiphany of Our Lord January 6th, 2022



Thank you to all who participated in our first congregational Christmas Program. I hope you enjoyed participating as well as watching in on YouTube or Facebook. Your participation means a lot and hopefully you will agree to participate again next year. Thank you again! Happy New Year! Kristy



Devotion Books

January-March issues of <u>Christ in Our</u> <u>Homes</u> and <u>The Word in Season</u> are available now. These devotion books are helpful ways to keep growing our faith. Start a new year with

word of God every day!

Take one home today!

January 6th, Epiphany of Our Lord Matthew 2:1-12

"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we…have come to pay him homage. (v.2)

January 6th is Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning :appearance." This day is called Epiphany because we celebrate that God was revealed in Jesus to the worldnot only to the Jewish nation but to all the nations of the world. We celebrate today that God reached out to the magi in lands far east of Jerusalem. From the beginning Jesus was God's revelation and God's gift for the world.

In his ministry Jesus reached out to Gentiles multiple times, including a Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21-28) and a Samaritan woman (John 4:4-26). But in this reading and on this day we are told that even as a child Christ Jesus was revealed to peoples from all nations as God's promise for the world. Epiphany reminds us that we who have beheld God's glory in Christ are sent to share Christ with the world (Matthew 28:19-20).

Source:

" The Word in Season, January-March 2022"

January 2022 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL										
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
2 9:30am Carols & Stories Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	3	4 10:00 am Bible Study Group	5 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 10:00am Pr. Miho at Rostered Minister's zoom meeting	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7 Full Moon, called Wolf Moon.	8				
9 Baptism of our Lord 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	10	11 10:00 am Bible Study Group	12 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 9:00am Pr. Miho at NW Conference zoom meeting	13	14 Newsletter Deadline	15				
16 2 Epiphany 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	17	18 10:00 am Bible Study Group Confession of Peter	19 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 10:00am Pr. Miho at Rostered Minister's zoom meeting	20 6:30pm Council Meeting	21	22				
23 3 Epiphany 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 11:00am Confirmation Class 5:00pm Chime Practice Annual Report will be available for pick up.	24	25 10:00 am Bible Study Group Conversion of Paul	26 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	27	28	29 National Puzzle Day				
30 4 Epiphany 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Annual Congregational Meeting 5:00pm Chime Practice	31 National Hot Chocolate Day									

January Volunteer Schedule



Greeter

January 9 Darci Meier/Anna Patterson January 16 Tim Gordon/ Sue Diddens January 23 Anna Patterson/ Tim Gordon January 30 Michelle Andrews/Wayne Kurth

Gectors

January 9 Tena Rackow January 16 Karen Niemeier January 23 Wayne Kurth January 30 Coralyn Hudik



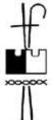
We are still looking for volunteers for **Elevator Operator** and **Live Stream**. If you are interested or have questions, please contact the church office. <u>WENEED YOUR HELP!</u>

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



This vintage image by Justin Pierce features the Baptism of Jesus Christ. Published in 1836

Copyright, Living Lutheran.com



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 Sacrament of the Altar

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and St. Paul write thus: "In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Small Catechism of Martin Luther ELW page 1166