

## February 2022 Newsletter

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### Shepherd's Voice

*A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us....  
The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly what was said by Paul. Acts 16:14*

Dear God's beloved,

On Tuesday mornings at 10am we gather for Bible Study at church. We read a few chapters from the Bible (We started from Genesis, the first book of the Bible.), and just have frank conversations. We are very casual group. Our conversation can go from scripture to visiting cats, pharmacy pick-ups, how to freeze milk, and gardening. Each week we laugh and pray together. It is a holy time.

This Bible Study Group came about in God's timing. I was talking to a member in 2020, and she expressed interest in joining a Bible Study. And nothing really happened until Spring 2021. Another member and I were chatting one afternoon. When she said, "Can we have a Bible Study? And maybe we can pray too," I immediately said, "I know one person who will be interested!" It was strange that all the sudden, things came together.

When God's spirit is at work, things just come together like pieces of a puzzle. It happens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it happened in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The Book of Acts tells many stories like this. For instance, the Apostle Paul and his co-worker Timothy were on a mission trip planning to go to Bithynia, but for some reason it was not happening. One night Paul had a dream: a man of Macedonia pleaded with him to come to help them. (Acts 16:9) So they sailed to Macedonia instead. On a Sabbath day, Paul and Timothy went outside the town near a river, a place of prayer where they met Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. Mysteriously God opened her heart at that moment, and she and her whole household were baptized.

Sometimes I think of God as one who likes to put a puzzle together. God finds a piece which connects to another piece. Some pieces may not fit anywhere immediately but eventually each piece comes together. And our lives are part of God's puzzle. Isn't it amazing?

May the Spirit of God be with you!

Pr. Miho

#### Treasurer's Report Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2021	\$ 20,642.98
Expenses December 2021	\$ 15,807.01
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 4,835.97
Income, Year to Date 2021	\$120,055.08
Expenses, Year to Date 2021	\$136,021.86
Net Income (Loss)	\$(15,966.78)

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



## Highlights from December Council Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church council was called to order by President Wayne Kurth at 6:30 pm on December 16, 2021.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report was reviewed. The Secretary's Report was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jay Andrews reported that the weekly offering is still not keeping up with the current budget causing a deficit.  
Electric Bill \$159.81. Heat/Gas \$293.64  
Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Miho Yasukawa reported that Ron Cross had passed away. She also reported that the Lena Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to work on December 23 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. The Friendship Club will not be meeting for the rest of the winter, it will resume their meetings in the spring. The Pastor's Report was approved.

### Committee Reports:

- **Learning and Youth Committee:** The committee is working on the Congregational Christmas Program which is to be posted on the church You Tube and Facebook pages on December 24, 2021 for everyone to view. The committee is also working on Confirmation Sunday sometime in the spring.
- **Service Committee:** Looking for Food Pantry volunteers.
- **Property Committee:** The elevator repairs are making progress. The squirrel hole has been repaired, but a new one has been found on the Washington Street side of the church.

Having no other committee reports to review, the committee reports as presented were approved.

**Old Business:** There was no Old Business requiring Council attention.

### New Business:

- **Budget:** Wayne Kurth and Jay Andrews presented the Proposed Church Budget for 2022. It was noted that the new budget has a (\$30,055.51) deficit for the new year. After discussion, a motion was made to present the Proposed Church for 2022 from the Finance Committee to the Congregation to get approval of the budget at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The motion was approved.
- **Annual Congregational Meeting:** The matter of when to hold the Annual Congregational Meeting was discussed. A motion was made to hold the meeting on January 30, 2022 following the morning Worship Service. The motion was approved.

Having no other business for the Church Council, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on January 20, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Janis Kurth  
Church Council Secretary

**Annual Congregational Meeting is rescheduled to**

**Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 10:45am.**

You may join the meeting in-person or zoom.

Annual report is available at church.

Zoom link will be e-mailed on Wednesday February 9. Thank you!

Stewardship Committee will invite you to  
**Potluck Luncheon!**

Date: **February 13 (Sunday)**

Time: **around noon**

Bring a dish to pass if you'd like or just show up for fellowship, fun, and conversation. Questions? Talk to Cora or Virgil.

**Congregational Resourcing Event  
Saturday, March 12, 2022 via zoom  
8:30am-2:15pm**

**CRE is the annual synod-wide-event which provides workshops on various areas of ministry. Register online at the synod website: [www.nisynod.org](http://www.nisynod.org)**

*The Confirmation class has had a busy couple of years. The Confirmation class has had the opportunity to learn more about the Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, The Ten Commandments, Baptism, The Lord's Prayer and several different characters in the Bible and what is unique about them. Some of the fun things we learned, were that Thomas the train was a favorite toy, while another favorite song was "Bad to the Bone" and another favorite song was Pink Floyd's "The Wall".*

*Please join us as Lucas, Jared, Jacob, Nakoha and Brianna reaffirm their baptism on Confirmation Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. Please pray for us in the upcoming month as we prepare for Confirmation Sunday.*

*We hope to see you there!  
Kristy*



**ATTENTION!!!!**

Join Bishop Jeff Clements for weekly casual conversations on topics important to the life of the church. This new video series with Bishop Jeffrey Clements, **Talking Together** starts on **Sunday, February 6, at 10:00 am.**



Check the synod Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/nisynod>

*Life rough?  
Don't complain  
Be like a robin,  
Singing in the rain.*



*I was looking through some of my older cookbooks for a recipe. I noticed the “robin” quote first, then I started looking for others in this cookbook. My grandparents, and aunt, uncle and family lived in Beardstown, Il. area back in the 70s and that is how I came by this cookbook. My grandma, aunt and cousins all belonged to this extension group.*

*Rene' Johnson.*

To be complimented on my smile makes the trip to the dentist worth-while.



Don't be afraid to try new recipes, the worst that can happen is—you'll have to eat them yourself. Experience is what causes a person to make a new mistakes instead of repeating old ones.

A smile is a curve that can straighten out a lot of things.



Thank God for dirty dishes, they have a tale to tell: while others may go hungry, we're eating well. This home and health and happiness, I shouldn't want to fuss; by the stack of evidence, God's been very good to us.

Why is a cookbook exciting? Because it has many stirring events.

When things go wrong through all the day long.  
Mother tells me there's no use in crying.  
She'll open a new bag of patience tomorrow.  
And I'll start a new day of trying.



An adult is someone who has stopped growing, except in the middle,

I always work hard in my garden, but the only thing I ever grow— is tired.

Confucius say: A bird in the hand feels funny.



Two-thirds of our nations now live in or near big cities.  
The other third is on the expressway looking for the exit.

Did you hear about the man who went on and onion diet? He lost five pounds and all his friends.  
Modern girl-one who dresses to kill and cooks that way too!

One good reason why a little boy gets so dirty, he's closer to the ground.

The only exercise some people get is jumping to conclusions.

Happiness adds and multiplies as we divide it with others.

Give others a piece of your heart, not a piece of your mind.

A man remains wise as long as he seeks wisdom.  
The minute he thinks he has found it, he becomes a fool.

To be a good neighbor is one of life's richest joys.

Physical fitness and good nutrition go hand in hand.

Friendship is the only cement that will hold the world together.

Happiness is a habit-cultivate it.



*We lift up our prayers*

*Lynn Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B., Nina Mueller, Curt, Sharon, Denny Bergmann, Willie Kayser, 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, Kay, Sue, Shanna, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Jonathan, Cindy, Amber, Chris, Ron, Vicki, Sophia, Abby and her triplets, Brenda, Abby Schick, Brenda, Jack, Gretchen, Kay, Roger, Tina, Dan, Bryan, Shane, Joe, Dan Kempel, Kevin, and Bruce Miller. Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the families and friends of Ray Kumar, Joyce Huttenlocher, Terry Scheider. May the mercy of God surround us this day.*

Dear Good Shepherd and WELCA,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$100.00 to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center.

My people really appreciate it!

May God richly bless all of you!

Jamie Pacer,  
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Employee

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent donation in memory of Ellen Kyles. Your donation of \$100.00 to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center is greatly appreciated.

We have many areas of ministry. We have the Kid's Time Children. We also have the Homeless Program and the Energy Match.

We are so blessed to have generous donors like you all!

Jamie Pacer,  
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Employee

*Gather Magazine*

January-February issue of Gather Magazine are available now. There are wonderful, Bible study lessons feature articles and short stories. Take one home today!

**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 Good Shepherd ,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$1000.00 to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center!

May God richly bless your entire congregation.

Jamie Pacer  
Nick, Calen, Christina,  
Marly, Edith, and Pastor Dan

Did you know, Martin Luther died following a stroke on February 18, 1546, at the age of 62 during a trip to his hometown of Eisleben. He was buried in All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, the city he had helped turn into an intellectual center.



## **Never Too Young**

There will be a "Never Too Young" gathering in February during the *Fellowship time* on the **20th of February** rather than in the evening.

Topic for the February Never Too Young will be that of **Memories / History of Good Shepherd.**



Staples has discontinued taking empty cartridges. Good Shepherd will no longer be accepting empty ink-toner cartridges from personal printers.

Thank you to all who have donated cartridges in the past for the Staples Rewards Program.

## **Lena Area Church Coop**

Good Shepherd Church,

The Lena Area Church Co-op would like to thank you for your holiday donation. This past year has been tough on everyone, some struggling a lot more than others. It has been a privilege for us to help them through your support.

God bless you for your donation to help others.  
L.A.C.C



**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

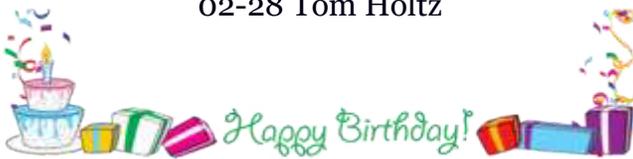
## **Personal Care Kits Bring Hope and Comfort During Covid**

Sabina Sevilla has lived with constant abdominal pain for over a year, but she says her appointment with a doctor for tests was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Her village in San Jose, Honduras, was hit hard by an outbreak of the virus several months ago, and she was terrified due to her age and limited access to medical care. She felt trapped by the virus on one side and her pain on the other. "I'm afraid if I even try to travel to the doctor, I'll get coronavirus," she said. Her village received a delivery of Personal Care Kits from Lutheran World Relief, assembled with love by our generous supporters, to help families like Sabina's have access to soap and supplies for handwashing and general hygiene. Local health officials hope the kits will help to curb another outbreak, but Sabina says just the thought of having the kit brings her comfort. "It means so much to have this," she says holding the items close.

Source: LWR, God's Love in Action

## 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 Tessendorf  
02-09 Angie Brinker  
02-10 Paige Tessendorf  
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 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!

We are looking for volunteers at the  
Le-Win Food Pantry  
for February 26th

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 as well  
for the upcoming months (April  
23<sup>rd</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup>, August 27<sup>th</sup>,  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 24<sup>th</sup>)  
If you are interested, put your  
name on the sign up sheet at the  
ramp or contact the church  
office .

## The Piece Corps

The Piece Corps has free yarn  
available until February 15th, after  
that date the yarn will be  
taken to the Thrift Shop.

**LAST CHANCE!!!**



## 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.



## February 2022 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<b>1</b> <i>10:00 am Bible Study Group</i>	<b>2</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters  10:00am Pr. Miho at Rostered Minister's zoom meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30am Worship Service— (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>10:00 am Bible Study Group</i>	<b>9</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters  9:00am Pr. Miho at NW Conference zoom meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Annual Meeting 12:00pm Potluck Lunch 5:00pm Chime Practice	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> <i>10:00 am Bible Study Group</i>  News Letter Deadline	<b>16</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters  10:00am Pr. Miho at Rostered Minister's zoom meeting	<b>17</b>  6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship & Never to Young group 11:00am Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>10:00 am Bible Study Group</i>	<b>23</b> 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry  4:30pm Men's Group
<b>27</b> 9:30am Worship Service-- Transfiguration Sunday 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	<b>28</b>					

## February Worship Volunteer Schedule

*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*

### Greeter

February 6 Michelle Andrews/Wayne Kurth  
February 13 Tim Gordon/ Anna Patterson  
February 20 Suz Diddgens/ Tim Gordon  
February 27 Darsi Meier/Anna Patterson



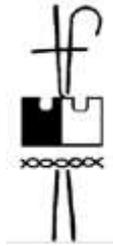
### Lectors

February 6 Tena Raekow  
February 13 Karen Nigmeier  
February 20 Coralyn Hudik  
February 27 Wayne Kurth

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We are still looking for volunteers for **Elevator Operator** and **Live Stream**. If you are interested or have questions, please contact the church office.

**GOD'S WORD**  
Transforms Lives



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

*Email: [goodshepherdlena@outlook.com](mailto:goodshepherdlena@outlook.com)  
Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";  
Website: [www.GoodShepherdLena.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLena.org)*

## *Martin Luther's Small Catechism*

### *The Sacrament of the Altar*

*What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?*

*The words "given for you" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin" show us that forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament through these words, because where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation.*

*How can bodily eating and drinking do such a great thing?*

*Eating and drinking certainly do not do it, but rather the words that are recorded: "given for you" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin." These words, when accompanied by the physical eating and drinking, are the essential thing in the sacrament, and whoever believes these very words has what they declare and state, namely, "forgiveness of sin."*