

March 2022 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Shepherd's Voice

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Joel 2:13

Dear God's beloved,

Are you ready? Are you ready for the Lenten season?

Lent is 40 days of learning and reflections to prepare ourselves for the feast of Easter. This year's Lent starts on March 2nd as we place ashes on our bodies. You are invited to join the joint Ash Wednesday service with Lena UMC this year. The first service will be at 2pm at the Lena Cemetery (If we have another ice storm, we will meet at Good Shepherd.), and the second service will be at 6:30pm at Lena UMC. At both services, we will read from Joel chapter 2, have time to lament our losses, and receive ashes to remember that we are dust and that we shall return to dust.

Historically Lent was the time for preparing for baptism. For 40 days, baptismal candidates learned about scripture, about who God is and what God did/does/will do, and about their new life in Christ after baptism. In other words, Lent is a time filled with excitements and anticipation of becoming a child of God. It is both serious and joyous. For many of us who have already been baptized, Lent can be used to remember the joy of God in our baptisms. In our baptisms God rejoiced, but in our busy life sometimes we forget that. So I'd like to invite you this Lent to return to your baptismal joy. There will be variety of Lenten devotion books (some are past years daily devotion books, but remember that Lent is always 40 days + Sundays), online weekly devotion which is focused on Lenten hymns (video will be released every Wednesday. Please check the church's website), and Sunday worship services. Lenten season is a journey. It is a season to return to our God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. God's love changes us. And on Easter Sunday we shall celebrate life come out from ashes. May God rejoice with you this Lent.

Pr. Miho

P.S. The Confirmation youth are affirming their baptisms on March 6th. Please join us in worship!

Treasurer's Report Jay Andrews

Incoming January 2022	\$ 4,670.54
Expenses January 2022	<u>\$10,215.12</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(5,544.58)
Income, Year to Date 2022	\$4,670.54
Expenses, Year to Date 2022	<u>\$10,215.12</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(5,544.58)

Devotion books/booklet for Lent

Lent is a 40 days of faith journey. If you would like to try Lenten devotion, we have several devotion books for you. You may borrow it and return to church after Easter or pass it on to somebody else! Check out the Lenten devotion basket on the bench.

Highlights from January Council Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Wayne Kurth.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was reviewed. After some discussion, the report was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews noted that the offering received in December helped the budget for December but that at the end of the year the budget was still \$15,000 behind. A question on what the line item "Evangelism Materials" covered. Treasurer Jay Andrews explained that items such as the cost of the Fall Festival Float, Fall Festival Booth, and Christmas Parade Float expenses are covered under that item.
Electric Bill \$179.76 Heat/Gas Bill \$269.49.
Treasurer's Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee: There was no meeting to report. There will be a church pot luck on February 13, 2022 after Worship Service and Choir Practice. Everyone is welcome.

Learning and Youth Committee: Working on possibly setting up a Youth Group after Confirmation students are confirmed. The committee is also working on the suggestion of a "Family Sunday School" in the future.

Finance Committee: There will be a special Council Meeting Saturday morning, January 22, at 10:00am with a guest speaker. The meeting will be on exploring going to a shared pastor.

Property Committee: There was an issue with the heating system. Wayne Kurth checked out the problem and was able to fix the problem so that now all the rooms are receiving heat.

Scholarship Committee: The Scholarship Committee the first semester grades from Ashtyn Brinker and Hanna Brinker. Both received passing grades and have fulfilled their final requirements to receive their Good Shepherd Scholarship. The Scholarship Committee is recommending that they both receive their Scholarship funds.

Nomination Committee: Coralyn Hudik has asked Virgil Gordon to run for Church Council. And he has agreed. Tim Gordon suggested making an announcement in church looking for volunteers to run for Church Council.

Trust Board: There are two members of the Trust Board whose term will be running out. There will need to be two people nominated for the Trust Board.

Men's Ministry: The Men's Ministry will be starting up regular monthly meeting on January 29, 2022 at 4:30 pm. All men are welcome to attend.

All Standing Committee Reports were approved.

Old Business

Constitution: President Wayne Kurth brought up the fact that in today's media style communication that the Church Constitution is out dated and needs to be updated. Currently the Constitution makes no allowances for using media for the Annual Meeting format; it requires an in person meeting. Also, it does not allow for the Annual Report to be emailed to the members, it should be mailed through the Post Office. Discussion followed. This will be brought up again at a later date.

Annual Meeting Agenda: The Agenda for the Annual Meeting was presented by Pastor Miho Yasukawa. It was suggested to add the Payroll Protection Plan Loan and that the loan had been forgiven. The Annual Meeting Agenda was approved.

(continued on next page.)

Highlights from January Council Meeting (continued from previous page.)

Having no other business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be on February 17, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary



Save the Date!!

March 13, Potluck 10:30am
after worship service in honor
of Good Shepherd's 165th
Anniversary.



Never Too Young

*There will be a "Never Too Young" gathering
in March during the Fellowship hour on the
20th of March. Come and join us.*

Lenten Season Special Services



Lent is a season of learning and growing in faith. Here are some worship opportunities for you.

March 2 (Wednesday)

Ash Wednesday services (joint with Lena UMC)

2:00pm at Lena Cemetery

(In case of bad weather, meet at Good Shepherd)

6:30pm at Lena UMC

April 10 (Sunday)

9:30am Whole Family Palm/Passion
Sunday service

We will read the story of the last week of Jesus.

April 14 (Thursday)

6:00pm Maundy Thursday service
start at Lena UMC and end at GS

April 15 (Friday)

6:00pm Good Friday service at Good
Shepherd

April 17 (Sunday)

7:00am Easter Sunrise service at Le-
na Cemetery

9:30am Easter Sunday worship at
Good Shepherd



It is time to order Easter Lilies

Lilies will be \$14.00 per plant and can be ordered by using the flower envelopes provided in the magazine rack by the entrance. Please place them in the offering plate or you can drop them off at the church office.

Orders must be in by April 3rd.

Lilies may be picked up after the 9:30 am Easter Sunday Service.





Sharing our Faith Stories

by Tiffany C. Chaney

The Bible records countless times crowds gathered around Jesus to learn from him and to be healed by him. How did they know to show up? They didn't read a post about Jesus that went viral on social media. They likely showed up because someone they knew shared their story.

Mark 1:21-28 tells the story of Jesus, early in his ministry, teaching on the sabbath in Capernaum. He encounters a man with an unclean spirit, which Jesus banishes from the man. And then, verse 28 says, "At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee." Jesus' fame spread because the people who had gathered that day in the synagogue shared the good news of the teacher, of the healer they had encountered. As a result, the people around them wanted to encounter Jesus too.

In Mark 5:24b-34, Jesus is on his way to save a young girl's life. As the crowd pressed in on him, a woman who had been hemorrhaging for twelve years took the risk of going into the crowd. According to the rules at the time, she knew she wasn't welcome. She did so because she believed Jesus could heal her.

When we tell our stories, we strengthen and encourage those around us, and I believe we strengthen ourselves too.

She had not watched a YouTube video of Jesus healing the man with the withered hand. The teachings of Jesus were not on a Kindle for her to read in her free time. How did she know to follow the crowd to see Jesus that day? Mark 5:27 said she had heard about Jesus. That's how she knew it was worth it for her to be among the crowd that day.

According to the Levitical standards of her time, this woman would have been ritually unclean, un-touchable. So who told her about Jesus?

Perhaps someone had been willing to put their concerns aside to share a word of hope with her. By sharing what they knew about Jesus, they participated in God's plan for healing this woman.

Sharing the story, one person at a time.

Once, I met with graduate students in a Christian fellowship group at a local university. One student talked about hearing from another student about some things they have been dealing with lately. He told the group that he could tell his classmate about his struggles and how his faith sustained him in the mist of them.

He said to his friends around the table, "We're not ordained or anything, but we do have a story to tell, and we can pray for each other, support each other."

He is right. We all have a story to tell about our encounters with Jesus.

Faith conversations are not limited to show who have been to seminary. When we tell our stories, we strengthen and encourage those around us, and I believe we strengthen ourselves too.

Have you ever shared with someone about God's love? Who would benefit from a word of hope from you today?

This post was adapted from, "Sharing our faith stories" by Tiffany C. Chaney from the December 2017 issue of Cafe (<http://boldcafe.org>).

The Rev. Tiffany C. Chaney is Pastor Developer of Gathered by Grace, a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving Montgomery, Alabama. A bivocational pastor, she also serves as Chief Diversity Officer for Baptist Health – Central Alabama

Source: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/post/sharing-our-faith-stories>

We lift up our prayers

Lynn Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B., Nina Mueller, 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, Bruce Miller, Tana, Ron Heckman and Randy Buisker. Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the families and friends of Mary Brown, Bill Hills, Jeff Hardel, and Gertie Brown. Thank you God for listening to our prayers.

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.



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

Dear Good Shepherd Church,
Thank you for your generous gift of \$50.00 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts.

*This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
("What Child Is This," ELW 296)*

This season we remember a time before Christ's birth, when humanity waited to be delivered from fear and sin. But we also remember the day the waiting ended. Our Savior arrived and now we live in a world transformed by God's grace. Through your gifts, you share the everlasting joy of that transformation with our neighbors around the world.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed. With seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, your equipping God's people - around the world and around the corner - what they need to live abundant lives.

Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you.

With Gratitude,
Rachael Wind
Executive for Philanthropy

Good Shepherd Scholarship

Applications for 2022

The criteria for eligibility are as follows:

- 1. Participating member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.*
- 2. Graduating senior presently enrolled in college, or a returning college student.*
- 3. Full time student with a minimum of 12 credit hours.*
- 4. Student entering an Associate or Bachelor degree program.*
- 5. Thorough completion and timely return of application.*
- 6. Adult student returning for courses toward certification, associates or bachelor degree.*

Since 1997, seventy-four scholarships have been awarded.

Applications for 2022 scholarships will be available April 1, 2022 at the church office. They must be returned to the church office by April 30, 2022.

Recipients may not reapply for additional scholarships.

Amount of scholarship is not to exceed \$1000, and may be less than this amount as demand requires. Also offered is a \$200 award for adults returning for class work.

Youth Corner

Stir up with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Affirmation of Baptism ELW page 236

Come and Celebrate as Lucas, Jared, Jacob, Nakoah, and Brianna are going to affirm their baptisms.

Confirmation Sunday March 6th, 2022.
Service starts at 9:30am.

Our youth will share their favorite Bible verse as their faith statement. We'll give you a sneak peak of their faith statements.

Nakoah chose Jeremiah 29:11-13. The words stand out to him are plans, future, hopes, search and heart. (Please ask him why.)

Jared chose Proverbs 30:5. This verse has something to do with his cross necklace. (please ask him why.)

Jacob chose 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. The words speaks to him especially what he is going through right now. (please ask him why.)

We had lots of fun, and our youth worked hard. They learned to pray in their own words and from their hearts. We hope you can come and join our youth and their parents to celebrate their faith milestone. And please pray for them as they prepare for this special day!



LUTHERDALE SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE When; Saturday, June 11

FULL WEEK & WEEKEND PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH GRADES K-11 AND FAMILIES

**2-HOUR TIME SLOTS ARE AVAILABLE BETWEEN 10 AM - 6 PM
40 PEOPLE MAXIMUM PER TIME SLOT**

WE INVITE YOU TO MEET OUR STAFF AND EXPERIENCE...

- Archery
- Waterfront Activities
- The Camp Store
- Climbing Tower
- Ga Ga Ball
- A Camp Tour
- The Farm
- Zipline

Climbing Tower & Zipline require participant to wear closed-toe shoes



THIS EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE

RSVP (262) 742-2352 or info@lutherdale.org



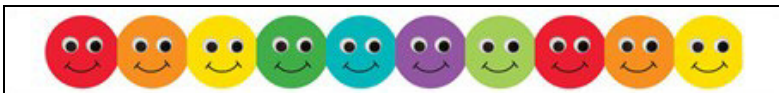
LUTHERDALE | N7891 US HIGHWAY 12, ELKHORN, WI 53121 | LUTHERDALE.ORG

March Birthdays

- 3/1 Cheryl Torkelson
- 3/3 Connor Kurth
- 3/3 Cindy Tessendorf
- 3/3 Duane Christen
- 3/3 Jessica Anderson
- 3/4 Jessica Alexander
- 3/6 Ryan Hastings
- 3/8 Raeger Sullivan
- 3/9 Michelle Andrews
- 3/11 Lois Paulsen
- 3/13 Bob Schlachter
- 3/13 Ella Wolf from
- 3/14 Don Wienand
- 3/15 Logan Fahr
- 3/15 Larynn Shumaker
- 3/16 Nakoah Cornwell
- 3/19 Barbara Price
- 3/20 Pr. Sarah Schaffner
- 3/23 Paige Hancock
- 3/23 Pr. Pat Esker
- 3/24 Chuck Kraft
- 3/27 Kristy Patterson
- 3/28 Matthew Huber
- 3/31 Caroline Jam

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

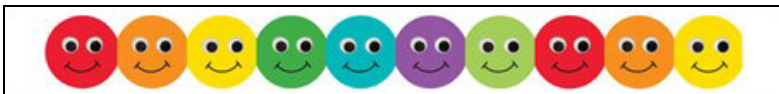
Gather Magazine
 March-April issue of *Gather Magazine* are available now. There are wonderful, Bible study lessons feature articles and short stories. Take one home today!



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!

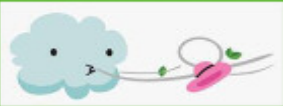
Questions? Contact the church office or Pr. Miho.



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





March 2022 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Mid-week online devotion schedule</p> <p>3/2 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 3/9 Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy 3/16 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross 3/23 What Wondrous Love Is This 3/30 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 4/6 Were You There 4/13 Go to Dark Gethsemane</p>		<p>1</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study Group</p>	<p>2 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p> <p>2:00pm Joint Ash Wednesday Service at Lena Cemetery</p> <p>6:30pm Joint Ash Wednesday Service at Lena UMC</p> <p>Mid-week devotion video</p>		<p>4</p> <p> Read and reflect on Isaiah 58:9-10</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>Lent 1 Confirmation Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study Group</p> <p>Pr Miho at Anti-Racism Training</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p> <p>Mid-week devotion video</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Pr. Miho at NW Conference zoom meeting</p> <p>National Popcorn Lovers Day </p>	<p>11</p> <p> Read and reflect on Deuteronomy 26:7-9</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am-2:15pm Congregational Resourcing Event via zoom <i>Turn your clocks ahead!</i> Daylight Savings Time</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Lent 2 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship with Potluck honoring Good Shepherd's 165th Anniversary 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Good Shepherd's 165th Anniversary</p> <p></p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study Group</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p> <p>10:00am Pr. Miho at Rostered Minister's zoom meeting</p> <p>Mid-week devotion video</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30pm Council Meeting Happy St. Patrick's Day</p> <p></p>	<p>18</p> <p> Read and reflect on Isaiah 55:1</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Lent 3 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship and Never Too Young 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p> <p>Mid-week devotion video</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p> Read and reflect on Psalm 63:1-3</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Men's Group 4:30pm</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Lent 4 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Weed Appreciation Day</p> <p></p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p> <p>Mid-week devotion video</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Note: Read and Reflect comes from ELCA World Hunger Lenten resource.</p>	

March Volunteer Schedule



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

Greeter

March 6 Tim Gordon and Anna Patterson
March 13 Sue Diddens and Darci Meier
March 20 Anna Patterson and Tim Gordon
March 27 Darci Meier and Tim Gordon



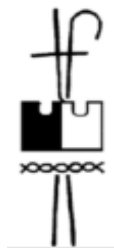
Lectors

March 6 Confirmation Class
March 13 Tena Rackow
March 20 Karen Niemeier
March 27 Coralyn Hudik



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.





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

Who, then, receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are in fact a fine external discipline, but a person who has faith in these words, "given for you" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin," is really worthy and well prepared. However, a person who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, because the words "for you" require truly believing hearts.

Small Catechism of Martin Luther ELW page 1166

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly. (2 Thessalonians 1:3)