

April 2022 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Shepherd's Voice

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:24

Dear God's beloved,

Do you like science experiments? My mother loved science experiments. She started her career as a middle school home economics teacher. When she was assigned to a small fishing village, she also taught science. (In those days, small school teachers had to teach more than one subject.) She loved science, so she did science experiments at home—in the kitchen and in the refrigerator. Our family often discovered unexpected potato patches growing in the grocery bag, onion fields on the floor, and carrot gardens on the kitchen counter. Sometimes she had food fly experiments in the bag, which smelled bad. (Needless to say, refrigerator experiments involved different colors like red, green, black, blue, and white.) Home science experiments taught me a lot about how things grow.

Once Grandma Mary told me that in order for plants to produce seeds, they had to change colors; in other words, they had to mature in order for the seeds to produce anything for the next year. Green peppers have to turn red or yellow or orange in order for its seeds to mature. We need to let them spoil and be buried. I remember one summer while I was walking, Richard was out in the garden and he offered me his delicious tomatoes. He pointed out his garden and said, "Do you know volunteers? Volunteers were tomatoes that fell on the ground last year. And this year they voluntarily came up and bear fruit for us!"

Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. His life, death, and resurrection was not a science experiment, yet, I think of life emerging from dying is similar to what we see in plants. One grain dies and is buried voluntarily, and that single grain produces many new lives. The death of Jesus brought life for you and me. God's work is mysterious.

This year we are going to walk through Holy Week, starting with Palm/Passion Sunday on April 10th. At the Palm/Passion Sunday worship we will walk through the story of Jesus and his disciples using story eggs. Our members will tell the stories and we will place something symbolizing the story in an egg. I hope your whole family can come. We will have joint Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services with Lena UMC (please see the Holy Week schedule in this newsletter or the April calendar for times and locations), and on Saturday, April 16th from 10am to 12pm, we will create chalk art of many kinds all over our church's sidewalks to share the joy of Easter with anyone who walks the path. If you remember or feel like it, just show up during that time. We have plenty of chalk for you. And on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the new life Christ brought to all humanity. Easter Sunrise service will be 7am at Lena Burial Park (joint with Lena UMC), and 9:30am at Good Shepherd. There will be special music with brass, choir, and handbells at the 9:30am service. We will have sweets and coffee and juice and milk before and after the 9:30am service.

Through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, we receive life. May the life of Christ shine in your heart this season. Pr. Miho

Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming February 2022	\$15,125.49
Expenses February 2022	<u>\$11,588.54</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 3536.95
Income, Year to Date 2022	\$19,796.03
Expenses, Year to Date 2022	<u>\$21,803.66</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(2007.63)

Devotion books

April, May, June copies of **"The Word In Season"** and **"Christ in Our Home"** are now available. Copies are located in the magazine racks by Mason Street and Washington Street entrances.

Highlights from February 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. Having no additions or corrections, the report was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews reported that January offerings were good, but the budget is still running behind. Electric Bill: \$200.18 Gas/Heat Bill: \$660.14

Pastor's Report: Pastor Miho Yasukawa highlighted upcoming events. The Congregational Resourcing Event will be held on Saturday March 12, 2022. This will be a zoom meeting. Synod Assemble will be in person on June 17-18, 2022 at Augustana College. There will be a number of zoom meetings earlier in June to look over the resolutions, budget and Bishop Candidates. Confirmation Sunday will be on March 6, 2022 during Worship service. The January Food Pantry served 72 families.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music Committee: The Worship and Music Committee held a meeting on February 6, 2022. Highlights of the meeting were: working with Pastor Keri of the Methodist Church for joint services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunrise Service possibly at the cemetery. Other items included March 6, 2022 Confirmation Sunday; March 13, 165th Anniversary Recognition of Good Shepherd; April 10, Palm/Passion Sunday; April 17, Easter Sunday; the changing of the Liturgy for the Lenten Season. Midweek Lenten Services will be offered online. The next meeting will be after Easter to discuss the Summer Worship services.

Stewardship Committee: The pot luck dinner on February 13 seemed to go well. Virgil Gordon suggested that there be another pot luck dinner to celebrate the 165th Anniversary of the Church on March 13, 2022. The Council thought this would be a good idea.

Learning and Youth Committee: Preparations for Confirmation Sunday are in progress. Valentine Care Packages have been mailed out for the Collage Students and Young Adults.

Service Committee: There is a signup sheet at the ramp for volunteers to word at the Food Pantry. A question was asked about if youth members could also help. Answer: Yes, as long as there is some adult supervision.

Property Committee: Will be having a meeting in the next couple of months when the weather warms up.

Scholarship Committee: Treasurer Jay Andrews reported that the Scholarship money has been sent out to Ashtyn Brinker and Hanna Brinker.

Men's Group: The next meeting will be on February 26, 2022.

Old Business

Constitution: It was noted that Pastor Karen Tews has had experience with updating a constitution. It was suggested that she be asked if she could help with updating our current constitution. Pastor Miho will contact Pastor Karen to see if she could help.

(continued on next page.)

Bible Trivia

What was another name for the Apostle Paul?

Answer on page 6

(continued from previous page.)

New Business:

The list of Committee Assignments and Devotion/Snack List were looked over. Since there were several Council Members missing, it was decided to look at this next month.

Shared Ministry: After talking with Rev. Bitner, he noted that there were a couple of other congregations in our area that would consider joining in a joint ministry. The next step would be to get together with other likeminded congregations to explore the possibilities and the process to continue on.

Membership: A question about the number of people considered members of Good Shepherd was brought up at the Annual Meeting. The Council will be considering this matter and have it ready for the next scheduled Congregational Meeting.

CPR Class: Trying to coordinate with Louise Laymeier.

Having no other business before the Council, the meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next Church Council Meeting will be on March 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary

There is time to order Easter Lilies
Orders must be in by April 3rd.

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.

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



NEW!!!

Good Shepherd Little Care Bag contains a prayer/Bible verse and a tiny gift. These bags are for YOU to give to your friends to share God's care. Little Care bags will be available at church during Easter season. Let's spread God's love to our neighbors!

Holy Week Services

April 10 (Sunday)

9:30am Whole Family Palm/Passion Sunday service
Invite the whole family to join to walk through the story of Jesus and his disciples in Jerusalem.

April 14 (Thursday)

6:00pm Maundy Thursday service start at Lena UMC and end at Good Shepherd.
Holy Communion will be celebrated in this service.

April 15 (Friday)

6:00pm Good Friday service at Good Shepherd

April 17 (Sunday)

7:00am Easter Sunrise service at Lena Cemetery
9:30am Easter Sunday worship at Good Shepherd.
With special music by the choir, hand bells and brass.
Holy Communion will be celebrated in both services.



Easter Day Fellowship

We invite you and your family to come and enjoy Easter Day Fellowship breakfast at Good Shepherd, before or after our 9:30am service. Coffee, Juice and Danish will be served.



A Family Affair

By Brenda Meier Kimaro

Harriet Morris is passionate about quilting for Lutheran World Relief, and she wants others to feel the same way. She's quick to invite newcomers to her quilting group at Clairemont Lutheran Church in San

Diego, CA.

I'll say, "just stop by and see what we're doing. The coffee pot is always on—you know how Lutherans are. Have a cup of coffee or have lunch with us," Harriet says.

People tell me they don't know how to quilt so I ask them, "Can you count to three? Then you can come and quilt," she says, explaining that the group uses triple knots when tying the quilt layers together.

Harriet's welcoming persistence has paid off, too. One woman stopped by to see what the quilting group was doing and was impressed by their work. An experienced sewist, she went home, looked up the quilt-making instructions on LWR's website and started sewing quilt tops for the group to tie.

Now in their tenth year, up to six quilters meet weekly to work on their LWR Mission Quilts. They're lucky to have a designated area in the church building for quilting so the quilters also stop by other times during the week to work when they can. Last year they made 187 quilts—30 more than the year before.

Harriet's recruitment efforts don't stop with just members of her congregation, though. Quilting has become a family affair as she's also brought in her daughter, Michelle, and her 8-year-old granddaughter Aspen.

Michelle and Aspen actually live in Colorado Springs, CO, but pitching in with the quilting when they visit Harriet once or twice a year has become a regular activity.

I'll say to them, "It's quilting day today so that's what we're doing. It's almost not an option," Harriet laughs.

As Harriet recalls, Aspen was probably about five or so when she made her first visit to the quilting group. "She was old enough to tie a knot," Michelle says. "The quilters asked Aspen if she knew how to tie a knot and she did so they got her started on that." Aspen also helps with the trimming the excess strings after the knots are tied. Michelle helps out with the tying too, and also folding the finished quilts.

Aspen aspires to take on other duties in the quilt assembly process as well. She'd love to learn to sew, says Michelle. They picked up a bag of fabric scraps from an estate sale and Aspen uses the scraps to practice her hand sewing. Michelle bought a sewing machine but hasn't set it up for Aspen to try machine sewing yet. "Maybe I can teach her when I come out to visit next summer," offers Harriet.

A highlight of attending the quilting sessions for Aspen is the time spend with her grandmother. "I like spending time with Nana," she says. Michelle also points out that the quilting has inspired Aspen to serve in other ways, too. She's always eager to join her two older brothers in activities at church, and she's an active Girl Scout as well, participating in several service projects.

Back home in Colorado, Michelle and Aspen help with the quilting efforts as Harriet's church by donating bed sheets for quilt filler. When they moved houses recently, they took their moving boxes to California for Harriet's group to pack their quilts in.

Harriet, Michelle and Aspen all look forward to future visits when they can continue to quilt together. *"It's become a passion of mine to do this and I get excited to share it. It's fun and it gives us something that we can do together,"* Harriet says.

We lift up our prayers

Lynn Lyvers, 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, 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, Bruce Miller, Tana, Justin Yeager Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the families and friends of Dick Johnson, Harry Perra Jr, Dennis Nolan, Dwight Klitzke, Ron Heckman, Randy Buisker and Lyle Fulfs. Merciful God, give us your grace in time of need. Amen.



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.



Make-A-Smile cards for Lena Living Center

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. This is a simple yet profound way 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!

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.

Trivia Answers;
Answer to Question from page 3, Saul of Tarsus

Youth Corner

Join us for Easter Sidewalk Chalk Art



On Saturday, April 16th just show up anytime between 10am-12pm.

Questions? Talk to Kristy.

Confirmation Class of 2022



*From left Nakoah, Brianna, Lucas, Jacob, and Jared.
Congratulations to our youth.
We are so proud of you!*

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?



Samson – he brought the house down (Judges 16:30)

Faith Statement shared

Lucas chose Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” because it reminds me that any situation I’m faced with, I can respond with the strength of God.

Brianna chose Isaiah 41:10. She writes: the verse “I am with you, do not be afraid” sticks out to me because there isn’t a point being scared when God is beside you guiding you through your struggles.”

LOMC Work Day

Date: Saturday, May 7.

We may be doing...

Tear down of the old Gaga Ball pit and installation of new one.; and Spreading mulch at team building course and garden areas; or Landscaping and tree trimming; and Trail maintenance; or Window washing; and Various small fix-it projects.

We will leave the church at 9:00am
ANYONE IS WELCOME!



If you or your family member is graduating this Spring, let us celebration with you!

Please share the name of the graduate, what their next path, and one of their bucket lists. We will recognize our graduate in worship in May.

Thanks and congrats!



- 4/1 Troy Doubler
- 4/2 Wieland Kayser
- 4/3 Joshua Andrews
- 4/5 James Swain
- 4/5 Cadie Wolfrom
- 4/6 Kurt Baldauf
- 4/7 Darren Aurand
- 4/7 Brody Diffenderfer
- 4/8 Betty Raders
- 4/8 Donna Christen
- 4/8 Lucas Fye
- 4/15 Kathy Graff
- 4/16 Ian Geiseman
- 4/21 Braden Diddens
- 4/22 Danielle Balbach
- 4/30 Jacob Andrews
- 4/30 Gage Hancock



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



Spring Fling
 Buzzin in the Kitchen
 May 12, 2022 from 6-8pm

A Virtual event presented by the Women's Network of LSSI
 Benefiting LSSI's Therapeutic Foster Care Program

Join Global Chef Jessica Dawson - Cooking Instructor and Former America's Test Kitchen Host for a virtual cooking class. Chef Jessica will teach you how to make a four-course meal with impressive, delicious dishes worth knowing and sharing.

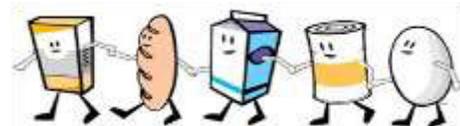
This is a cook-along class and once registered you will receive the ingredient list a week before the event as well as a special key ingredient sent to your home.

Visit LSSI.org/Fling to register and learn more. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds from the event will benefit LSSI's Therapeutic Foster Care Program. Questions? Contact Mariah Heinz at Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org or phone 847-635-4656



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

Good Shepherd will be at the Le-Win Food Pantry every 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 (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.



Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center
 Thank you

*Thank you for your recent donation!
 We are so blessed to have your support!
 May God richly bless each and everyone of you!*

Jamie Pacer



April 2022 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			GSLC Scholarships forms are available.		 1 Read and Reflect 2 Corinthians 5:17-18	2
3 Lent 5 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship Chime Practice 11:00am Choir Practice <u>Last day to order Easter Lilies</u>	4	5 9:00am Pr. Miho at Lena Ministerial meeting 10:00am Bible Study Group 3:00-4:00pm Mobile Food Pantry at Jane Adams Trail Parking Lot, Orangeville, IL	6 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 10:00am Pr. Miho at Rostered Ministers zoom meeting <i>Mid-week devotion video,</i>	7	8 Read and Reflect Isaiah 43:19	9
10 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:30am Whole Family Palm/Passion Sunday Service 10:30am Fellowship Chime Practice 11:00am Choir Practice 12:00pm Learning Committee Meeting	11	12 10:00am Bible Study Group	13 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 9:00am-10:00am Pr. Miho at NW Conference zoom meeting Newsletter Deadline <i>Mid-week devotion video,</i>	14 Maundy Thursday 1:00pm Friendship Club Entertainment by Tyger Johnson-One Man Band 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Joint Service at Lena UMC	15 Good Friday 6:00pm Good Friday Joint Service at GS Read and Reflect Hebrews 4:16, 5:7	16 Holy Saturday 10:00am-12:00pm Sidewalk Easter Chalk Art
17 Easter 7:00am Easter Sunrise Sunday Worship at Lena Cemetery 9:30am Easter Sunday Worship at GS (Communion Sunday) Easter Day Fellowship before and after 9:30am worship.	18	19 10:00am Bible Study Group	20 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 10:00am Pr Miho at Rosterd Ministers zoom meeting.	21 12:45pm GS At Friendship Center 6:30pm Council Meeting	22	23 8:20am-11:30am Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry
24 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	25	26 10:00am Bible Study Group Pr. Miho at anti-racism training	27 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	28 7:00pm Constitution Team Meeting	29	30 9:00am-3:00pm NIS WELCA Spring Retreat at LOMC 4:30pm Men's Group

April Volunteer Schedule



Greeter

April 3 Michelle Andrews and Sue Diddens

April 10 Darci Meier and Anna Patterson

April 17 9:30am service Anna Patterson and Jim Gordon

April 24 Wayne Kurth and Sue Diddens

Lectors

April 3 Karen Niemeier

April 10 Courts of God's Angels

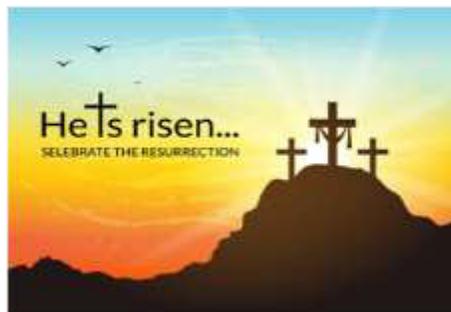
April 17 9:30am service Tena Rackow

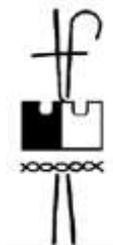
April 24 Coralyn Kudik

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.

*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!





*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

Luther's Flood Prayer

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Source: Holy Baptism ELW page 230