

June 2023 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Thoughts from the Vicar

We've been saying these words as part of the Eucharistic Prayer recently, as we thank God for the sacrament of Holy Communion, especially during the festive season of Easter as we have rejoiced in the resurrection of Jesus, and in the promise of our own resurrection through him.

Now, as we celebrate Pentecost, these words are even more appropriate. The Holy Spirit did come to the Church at Pentecost, and to each one of us individually at our baptism. But the coming of the Holy Spirit is not just a one-time event, and now it's over. The Holy Spirit continues to come to us each and every day as we pray and live out our lives as Christians, dedicated to giving God's love to all those around us. And indeed, it is that Holy Spirit who gives us the power and the ability to live as God's people.

We have celebrated the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the feasts of the liturgical year, but now we begin to celebrate the life of the Church in response to all that Jesus has done for us during the long "Green" season that will last from now until the end of November.

During this time, it is important for us to worship together as a community of faith. We all need the love and the encouragement we give to each other through the Holy Spirit. Paul tells us that "there are varieties of gifts, but... it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good". [I Corinthians 12:4-7]

Even though the COVID "emergency" is officially over, we do still need to be careful and attentive about taking the chance of spreading this or other diseases, but there is no longer a need to remain isolated. Our time of worship as a unified community within the Church is so important, and we all benefit from the presence of each other on Sunday mornings. So I encourage all of you to share your gifts with the rest of us as we worship together at Good Shepherd. We need you and appreciate how the Holy Spirit works through each one of you.

*Blessings in Christ,
Vicar Thomas*

Pentecost Quiz

What did the disciples do when the Holy Spirit entered them?

Answer on page 7

Highlights from April 20, 2023 Council Meeting

The April 20, 2023 regular monthly meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Jonathon Kurth at 6:35pm.

- **Agenda:** The Agenda was reviewed. The Lena Food Pantry distribution (rent) was added to the Agenda. The Agenda was approved.
- **Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report was reviewed. There was a typing error found and corrected in the report. The Secretary's report was approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** The offering for March was around \$4,000 and the budget is currently \$4,500 in the hole. Currently, the main problem is the gas bill. With the current price of the gas and the cold weather, it is high. There is also the fact that the Church is considered a Commercial Account which means there is a large service charge on the bill every month. There was a question of if the Church could go on a budget plan. This will have to be checked.
Gas Bill: \$1,319.56 Electric Bill \$223.57
The Treasurer's report was approved.
- **Vicar's Report:** Vicar Thomas Mosbo presented his Vicar's Report. With the events of Palm Sunday and Holy Week he was unable to do as much visiting with the shut-ins and others of the congregation in late March and early April. Between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday he prepared five Worship Service opportunities for the congregation to worship. Vicar Thomas also officiated at Paul Fox's funeral and provided pastoral care for the family. He also other church functions, attended several meetings, and preached at Sunday morning service. Vicar Thomas also commented that there were quite a number of children at the regular Easter Sunday worship service. Vicar's Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

- **Stewardship Committee:** There will be an Ice Cream Social on May 28, 2023 during the Fellowship Hour.
- **Property Committee:** Still waiting for Molitor Plumbing to finish the job on the boiler and also checking on when the Gutter Guards could be finished. The Committee will be having a meeting on Monday April 24, 2023.
- **Scholarship Committee:** The Scholarship Applications are available to be filled out and returned to the Scholarship Committee.
- **Memorial Committee:** An explanation of what the Enduring Gift Fund was and how it was to be used. Treasurer Jay Andrews explained the principals of the fund.
Men's Group: The Men's Group is planning to work on the storage shed out back of the church. The Cub Scout Bear Den is planning to help as needed.

Continued on next page.

Highlights from April 20, 2023 Council Meeting

Continued from previous page.

Old Business:

- **Constitution:** Still a work in progress. A suggestion was asking Pastor Pat Esker if she would be able to help the Committee with the work. The report was approved as presented.

New Business:

- **Lena Food Pantry:** The Lena Food Pantry rent of \$600 is due. The motion was approved.

Having no other business before the Church Council, The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming April 2023	\$ 7,547.00
Expenses April 2023	\$ 8,202.94
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (622.94)
Income, Year to Date 2023	\$59,082.58
Expenses, Year to Date 2023	\$40,406.94
Net Income (Loss)	\$18,675.64

Join us for Friendship Club on June 8 (Thursday) 1pm for music by Ruter Ministries, devotion, fun, and fellowship! No reservation needed. Have a wonderful afternoon with old friends and new friends.



Vacation Bible School. For Adults

Why should kids have all the fun?

We are tentatively planning to hold VBS for Adults at the church three evenings a week for three weeks in the first part of August, nine sessions altogether.

- We will begin at 6:30 each evening and go no later than 8:00pm
- We will be re-reading favorite Old Testament stories and exploring what they have to say to us again - a different story each week.
- There will be snacks provided in a semi-informal setting.
- Fun activities planned to complement the stories.
- We hope, there will be music for all to sing.

So plan to join us for an enjoyable time of fellowship and reflection!

Men's Group Steak Fry Saturday, June 24th

More information and sign up sheet will become available after Men's Group meeting in May.





Our Purpose Statement

“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”

The Twelfth Triennial Convention is currently scheduled for September 19-21, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona. The convention, the highest legislative authority in Women of the ELCA, will be held at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown. Voting members, elected in the 64 synodical women’s organizations, will conduct the business of the organization. They will elect leaders for the 2023-2026 triennium, act on memorials from synodical organizations and resolutions from the floor, approve a budget and much more. Voting members at the Eleventh Triennial Convention (2021), the organization’s first online convention, called women into action in areas such as human trafficking, immigration reform, the #METOO movement and more.

The 2023 Gathering is currently scheduled for September 21-24, 2023. The leaders will be: Krish O’Mara Vignarajah, Speaker; Bishop Deborah K. Hutterer, Worship Leader; Dr. Kelly Glow, Artist in Residence; The Rev. Angela T. !Khabeb, Speaker and The Rev. Tiffany Chaney, Preacher.

Source: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/events>

At the Northern Illinois Synod (NIS) Women of the ELCA (WELCA) convention held last September, Sheila Keene was elected to be one of the voting delegates to represent our synod at the Triennial Convention. She will also be attending the 2023 Gathering. If you are interested in attending one or both events, please complete the scholarship application(s) found in this newsletter. The deadline for both is June 30, 2023.

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 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!



We are
looking for volunteers
at the Le-Win Food Pantry
For June 24th
We are in need of volunteers



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 Volunteers. Upcoming months are :August 26th, October 28th and December 23rd If you are interested, put your name on the sign up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office.

Northern Illinois Synod

Women of the ELCA

Scholarship for a woman under 40 to go to the Triennial Gathering

Triennial Theme: Just Love

Triennial Scholarship Application

Deadline for Scholarship Application: June 30, 2023

NIS WELCA is offering a scholarship to a woman under 40 to participate in the Triennial Gathering September 20-24, 2023 in Phoenix, AZ. The Gathering registration fee is being donated by Twila Simler. Dollars For Our Daughters fund will donate \$600 toward the participant's expenses. (Airfare, motel room, meals and extra events are additional costs to participants).

Applicants will be an active member of an ELCA church and submit a scholarship form.

Applications will be reviewed, and one applicant will be rewarded with this scholarship.

Recipient of this scholarship will give a report at the NIS WELCA Convention October 7, 2023.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of ELCA Congregation in which you are a member: _____

Your Pastor's name and phone: _____

Your Conference: _____

1. What is your involvement with the Women of the ELCA?

2. Why is attending this event important to you?

We lift our prayers for.

*Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Taylor B.,
Denny Bergmann, Willie Kayser, Rene', Sue Kraft, Paul Fahr, Gary
Hudik, Connor Stadermann, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy,
Brian, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, Nicole, Meghan and her baby,
John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie,
Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon,
Kay, Shanna, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Jack, Gretchen, Tina, Joe, Dan
Kempel, Ron Heckman, Justin Yeager, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar
Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Jim Clay, and Sharon Janicke.*

Youth Corner

Answer to Pentecost Quiz From page 2

The spoke in languages that were not their own to the crowd gathered from throughout the Roman world, so that every person could hear them in his or her own language.

Congratulations to the 2023 Graduates



Nathaniel Clyde Baker, graduated Monroe H.S. He will go on to Advanced Welding School in Eagle River, WI.

Krista Keene, graduated from Highland Community College with an Associate of Arts degree. She plans to work in an office setting.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD WOMEN OF THE ELCA

2023 Triennial Scholarship Application (\$150.00 to each of the 8 conferences)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____ Conference _____

Name and town of your ELCA Congregation _____

1. What is your involvement with the Women of the ELCA? _____

2. Why is attending this event important to you? _____

3. Have you received a Triennial Scholarship before? _____

When? _____

Your age: 20-35 _____ 36-50 _____ 51-75 _____ 76-? _____

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Deadline: June 30, 2023

Please return the completed scholarship form to:

Ruth Anne Hartman, 6522 95th Ave Ct. W, Taylor Ridge, IL 61284-9395

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

June Birthday's



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

06/02 Aaron Smith

06/03 Jay Andrews

06/06 Kevin Huttenlocher

06/06 Madi Diddens

06/06 Jerry Cross

06/09 Sarah Andrews

06/10 Sue Holtz

06/10 Tammy Baldauf

06/10 Jase Baldauf

06/12 Maci Diffenderfer

06/13 Richard Rutter

06/14 Seth Cory

06/14 Autumn Ockerman

06/19 Corey Wybourn

06/20 Darlene Aurand

06/20 Karen Niemeier

06/21 Sue Kraft

06/25 Deb Mammoser

06/25 Kelsey Albrecht

06/25 Jessica Koning

06/29 Kelly Derr

06/29 Jacob Runkle

06/29 Jared Runkle

06/29 Darci Meier

06/29 Katie Jo Huber

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

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

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 prayers 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.



Pentecost Word Search



- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| AMAZED | LANGUAGES |
| APOSTLES | MULTITUDE |
| DAY OF PENTECOST | SITTING |
| HEAVEN | SPEAKING IN TONGUES |
| HOLY SPIRIT | TONGUES OF FIRE |
| HOUSE | WIND |

June 2023 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>June is Dairy Month, take time to go enjoy your favorite dairy product.</p> 				1	2	<p>3 National Egg Day</p> 
<p>4 Holy Trinity Sunday 9:30am Worship Service First Sunday after Pentecost (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship</p>	<p>5 Cub Scout Meeting, Lion Den 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>6 Cub Scout Meeting, Bear Den 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>7 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p>	<p>8 Friendship Club 12:30pm Potluck/meeting 1:00pm entertainment by Ruter Ministries</p>	9	10
<p>11 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship</p>	12	13	<p>14 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters Flag Day</p> 	15	<p>16 17 NIS Synod Assembly at Augstana College</p>	
<p>18 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship</p> 	19	20	<p>21 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p>  <p>SUMMER SOLSTICE Let the summer fun begin!</p>	<p>22 6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	23	<p>24 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry 4:30pm Men's Group, Steak Fry</p>
<p>25 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship</p>	26	27	<p>28 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters</p>	29	30	

June Volunteer Schedule

Greeter

June 4 Michelle Andrews and Darci Meier
June 11 Tim Gordon and Virgil Gordon
June 18 Sue Diddens and Anna Patterson
June 25 Wayne Kurth and Michelle Andrews

Lectors

June 5 Karen Niemeier
June 12 Wayne Kurth
June 19 Dale Gullickson
June 26 Tena Rackow

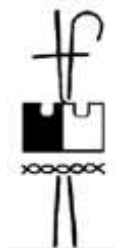
*The summer night is like a perfection of
thought.*

Wallace Stevens

Communion Assistants

June 5 Wayne Kurth
June 19 Sue Diddens

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

The History of Pentecost

In the Hebrew Scripture, the Jewish people celebrated a holiday known as the "Festival of Weeks" (see Exodus 32 and Deuteronomy 16). This was a harvest festival, a time when the Israelites celebrate the generosity of God, shown in a successful harvest of grain.

While the Temple stood in Jerusalem, each farmer would bring their *first fruits* – the first ripe samples from their fields – and give them as an offering of thanksgiving in the Temple. This meant that many Jews from all across the countryside would gather in Jerusalem in order to present their offering at the Temple.

The Festival of Weeks happened fifty days after the Passover. For this reason, the Greek-speaking Jews of the first century called the festival "Pentecost" – from the Greek word meaning "fiftieth day."

It was during the Festival of Weeks, fifty days after Passover, that the disciples of Jesus were gathered in Jerusalem. They had spent the last fifty days making sense of their experiences of the resurrection of their teacher, Jesus, and the fact that he had just ascended into heaven (for this whole account, see the book of Acts, chapters 1 and 2).

While the disciples were gathered, the Holy Spirit filled them. They began to tell to the pilgrims who were gathered in Jerusalem about Jesus. As they preached they were amazed to discover that all the pilgrims – regardless of what language they spoke – were able to understand them.