



July 2023 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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2023 Northern Illinois Synod Synod Assembly Recap

These words ushered in the 2023 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, held June 16-17, 2023, at Augustana College in Rock Island. The Assembly's theme, "Be the Body," guided the hard, hope-filled, and holy work of this synod. Bishop Stacie Fidlar of the Northern Illinois Synod took the stage, inviting Rostered Ministers, lay voting members, and visitors of the assembly to rediscover what it means to be the body of Christ in the now and not yet.

The assembly was gathered as the body of Christ and conducted the business of the assembly, including passing the 2024 Northern Illinois Synod budget and electing members to Synod Council and various committees. The assembly passed two resolutions: R-1: Growing in Faith: The diakoniatm Program for 2023 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly and R-2: Memorialize Churchwide to update the Social Statement on Abortion. The assembly also approved updated Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and approved synod constitution changes from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

Over the course of our assembly, those gathered engaged in worship experiences cultivated with congregations in mind, with the intent and hope that these worship services will be resources congregations can use throughout the year. Friday afternoon, Bishop Stacie Fidlar proclaimed the word during our Festival Worship, "Beloved ones, can you see it? God is about to, is always, doing a new thing. God was not done with Eli or the people of Israel. God was not done with the work of Jesus or the disciples. And God is definitely not done with us." Bishop Fidlar's sermon was a powerful reminder that God is at work in the here and now—we are being called to be open to where and how God is working in the now and not yet.

Outside of worship, the assembly engaged with our guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Char Rachuy Cox. Rev. Cox is the Director of the Nourishing Vocation Project through the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at St. Olaf College. Rev. Cox is a familiar face in our synod as our presenter at the Congregational Resourcing Event in March. Rev. Cox, and colleague Rev. Peter Carlson Schattauer, Associate Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at St. Olaf College, led the gathering through two breakout sessions. These breakout sessions explored each person's vocation and how we might live into our role in the body of Christ. The conversations also guided congregations to discern how our church is called to Be the Body, together.

New to this year's assembly was the Ministry Fair on Friday evening. This time together in Gavle Hall was a wonderful celebration of the various ministries throughout and connected with the synod. Those gathered celebrated milestones and ministries of Rostered Ministers and congregations. We capped off the evening with Augustana College's noteworthy strawberry shortcake. Prior to ending the Synod Assembly, Bishop Stacie Fidlar installed the called staff of the synod. The Rev. Jennifer Beamsley, the Rev. Josh Ebener, the Rev. Julie Monnard, and the Rev. Mack Patrick were welcomed and installed as Assistants to the Bishop. These leaders were called with a particular set of gifts that help the synod enter into a new era of ministry under Bishop Fidlar's leadership. Also, the entire assembly, from pastors and deacons to lay members, received the following blessing: "God bless your openness to a process of becoming together. For these are gifts of God. And so are you."

To view recordings of the plenaries and worship services, along with reports from committees, officers, agencies, and institutions please visit www.nisynod.org/assembly

To view a summary of actions taken at the 2023 Synod Assembly, please click here or visit www.nisynod.org/assembly

Source: News/2023 Northern Illinois Synod, Synod Assembly Recap

Treasurer's Report
Jay Andrews

Incoming May 2023	\$ 4,133.78
Expenses May 2023	<u>\$10,629.83</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (6,496.05)
Income, Year to Date 2023	\$63,216.36
Expenses, Year to Date 2023	<u>\$51,036.77</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$12,179.59

Join us for **Friendship Club** on July 13th (Thursday) 12:30pm for Potluck, music, devotion, fun, and fellowship! No reservation needed. Just show up! Bring along a friend! Bobby Edler and John W. will provide afternoon entertainment.

Men's Group

On July 29th the Men's Group will meet at 4:30pm. Plans are to work on garden shed. All men are welcome to come and help.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Yes, Adult Vacation Bible School!

Remember those Old Testament stories we heard when we were kids, like David and Goliath or Daniel in the Lions Den? Wouldn't it be fun to hear them again with new ears? Or should I say with older and wiser ears?

Join us for a series of evenings later this summer to explore those old familiar stories, sing some songs, do some projects, and just hang out together.

We will be meeting three evenings a week for three weeks: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, beginning July 31st and ending on August 16th, from 6:30 to about 8:00 each evening. Come to as many sessions as you can, but don't worry if you miss some. We'll be reading a different story each evening.

So mark your calendars and join us here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

Special Thank You
to our vocal choir, chime and brass musicians

Karen Neimeier, Tena Rackow, Janis Kurth, Wayne Kurth, Billie Jo Runkle, Dan Kurth, Darci Meier, Michelle Andrews, Jay Andrews, Nakoah Cornwell, Kristy Patterson, Sue Diddens, Sheila Keene.

The Good Shepherd family is forever thankful for the wonderful music you have played for us during the year. You have made an unforgettable difference.

Highlights from the May 18th Council Meeting

Agenda: The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed. Having no additions or corrections, the Agenda was approved.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was presented to the Church Council for review. Having no additions or corrections. The Secretary's Report was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented his report to the Council. The May offerings to date have been low and the current account is running behind.
Gas Bill: \$914.81 Electric Bill \$206.21

Vicar's Report: Vicar Thomas Mosbo reported that he is continuing to visit members, prepare Worship Service and attend meetings and gatherings. He also noted that he is half way through his Internship and that the Internship Committee met with Rev. James Mehlretter and Vicar Thomas Mosbo to do a mid-term evaluation. Vicar Thomas also noted that he would be focusing on the areas of adult education, stewardship and working with other churches in the community as part of his internship duties.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: The Worship and Music Committee met on May 1, 2023. Highlights of the meeting include: Recognizing graduates from the congregation.

Summer Liturgy will be ELW Setting 10.

Request favorite hymns from the congregation for the summer.

Summer Service at Darci Meier's home sometime in August.

Chime and Vocal Choir practice will begin in September.

Communion will continue on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Property Committee: The Property Committee met on April 24, 2023. Wayne Kurth reported that Pearl City Seamless Gutters were waiting for warmer weather when they would have a full crew to finish the gutters. Molitor Plumbing still needs to replace a valve on the boiler, but the motor is working. Discussed adding a new sign at the front of the church to the Memorial List. Looking into the cost of an electronic sign. Stump Busters were at the church to remove the stump from the tree that was taken down.

Scholarship Committee: The Scholarship Committee reported that they had no applications this year.

Memorial Committee: The Memorial Committee has received a memorial designated for the choir.

Men's Group: The Men's Group will be working on the shed.

Having no other Committee Reports, the Committee Reports were approved.

Old Business:

Constitution: Still a work in progress.

New Business: There was no new business before the Council.

Having no other business before the Church Council, The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary



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.”

Let's think about the community of women at Good Shepherd. There are the individual friendships that have formed over time; the devoted participants in the Piece Corp; the women who have bonded through Circle meetings; the cooks, servers and clean-up crew who work together to provide funeral luncheons as well as the prayers that are said privately for each other. What is your vision for the future community of women at Good Shepherd? What is the Holy Spirit moving you to do? Are there additional ways we can share our gifts? Rene' and Sheila are interested in hearing your ideas.



Coffee With Pastor Kelly

Coffee with Pastor Kelly is a new LSSI weekly video series featuring The Rev. Kelly Nieman Anderson, Manager of Church and Community Engagement. Pastor Kelly shares information about LSSI's programs while reflecting on connections to our Lutheran faith. Episodes are released on [LSSI's YouTube channel](#) and [LSSI's Facebook page](#) every Sunday morning. We encourage you to like, share, and comment on the posts and let us know if you are enjoying this series. For churches and groups willing to promote the series on coffee tables, bulletin boards, and other gathering spaces, you can [print this PDF flyer](#).

About Pastor Kelly,

The Rev. Kelly Nieman Anderson is an experienced educator, youth minister, and ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). As the Manager of Church and Community Engagement for LSSI, Pastor Kelly is passionate about sharing God's healing, justice, and wholeness with everyone she meet.

Pastor Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Prior to joining LSSI, she was a congregational pastor at Christ the King, Living Hope, and Resurrection Lutheran Churches in the Milwaukee area.

“My greatest passion is connecting more people to God's vision of healing, justice, and wholeness for the world—and LSSI lives out that vision every day,” said Pastor Kelly. “I am so excited to invite even more people to learn about LSSI's programs and participate in our ministry across the state.”

*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, Sue Rush, Coral Mosbo, 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, Sharon Janicke, and Ethan.*

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 en-
couraging words. Our hope is to make them
smile!*

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.

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, August 20th.



9:30AM Outdoor Worship Service,
At Darci Meier's home
picnic/ potluck following service.
Please bring a dish to pass.



Diakonia Summer Sampler

You are invited to in a FREE three-session study of "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr on Thursdays in July (6, 13, 20) from 6:00-9:00pm via Zoom. Sign up by contacting Doug Wood: dwood1955@hotmail.com.

Youth Corner

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves;

You say: I can't figure things out.

God Says: I will direct your steps.

Proverbs 3:56-6 (NRSV)

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Congratulations to Anna and Maddi

Anna Patterson has been named to the Dean's List at Northern Illinois University

Maddi Diddens has been named to the Highest Honors list at Highland Community College. The Highest Honors are awarded to students with a perfect 4.0 GPA.



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE

P O M F S L J I W K G P F B G O J W O I
 I T W B F P G P K V C B X N H D P G Z I
 C B U U L C P V R L I E Y P M R I V G J
 Y Q X F F O X K Q A I P B H Z R H C R M
 W T G F V P L R O M E E E C X F F Z A O
 D U N A L S S T W B S L N R Z Q C Y S U
 X R V L L S S S R N N E K D S E M E S S
 O T V O O E P M G G G J B D M P V V H E
 P L W E H I V X C C G N R V P Y E V O K
 E E M O Y Y C I H E L F H O R S E I P I
 A D U M L H Q K A Q A H L A F N Q Q P W
 C O B O L F H R O T G P T I O U B K E H
 O V M T S X E I J X H X Y E A P D C R J
 C E Z C D J B B L G W A S F M F R O G Q
 K E J A O J J F O R O A N L K J I L D V
 K E Q L Q Z Q L R T A T J N X O G N P S
 E L I F Q G M W I R N M T D O N K E Y C
 Q U A I L Z T Y D O V Y K N N A O X V L
 Y W K P L E D M U K N N A J V D K H X T
 F E R R E T C Q H E I F E R W X O R R X

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|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| LION | FROG | FERRET |
| MOUSE | RAM | DONKEY |
| GRASSHOPPER | WOLF | QUAIL |
| PEACOCK | TURTLE-DOVE | LEVIATHAN |
| VIPER | LAMB | BUFFALO |
| HEIFER | HORSE | CALF |



Source: www.biblepathwaysadventures.com

July 4th Trivia

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Riddle Me This!!

How did Moses make his coffee?



Hebrews it.

John Adams & Thomas Jefferson died on July 4th, 1831.
 4th, 1826 James Monroe passed away on July 4th,

Trivia Answer





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

Good Shepherd helps 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 25th, October 27nd and December 23rd If you are interested, put your name on the sign up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office. We appreciate you!



Fourth of July:

Remembering America as Nation Under God

America became a free country on July 4, 1776, however, what many may not know - or forgot - is that America is also a nation under God founded on Christian principles.

54 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Christians, 27 held theology degrees. Many went on to form Bible societies.

The signers intended the document to officiate the separation between America and Great Britain. However, they based the Declaration which has served as a foundation to the beginnings of the American nation upon a greater foundational belief that God, or as written in the Declaration "Creator", was the source for men's irrevocable rights.

Two of the Continental Congress' first actions were to hire military chaplains to purchase 20,000 Bibles to remedy a national shortage.

Source: Excerpts from Christian Today, July 6, 2004

July 3rd marks the beginning of the "Dog Days of Summer." Spanning from July 3rd to August 11th, this period marks when the Sun aligns with Sirius, the Dog Star. In ancient times, people believed that this celestial event resulted in scorching hot weather when Sirius and the Sun worked together.



July Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 7/1 Billie Jo Runkle | 7/11 Joanna Esker |
| 7/2 Connie Kraft | 7/12 Austin Andrews |
| 7/2 Joe Green | 7/13 Tana Herman |
| 7/4 Craig Raders | 7/14 Danica Balbach |
| 7/6 Lori Timms | 7/14 Andrew Drye |
| 7/6 Linda Heidenreich | 7/20 Shirley Fox |
| 7/6 Ben Huber | 7/20 Bob Roettger |
| 7/6 Sondra Winters | 7/25 Dale Gullickson |
| 7/7 Alan Esker | 7/27 Tara Wolfrom |
| 7/8 Brenda Pathmann | 7/27 Heather Clifton |
| 7/9 Alicia Gross | |
| 7/11 Jace Schlichting | |

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

July Volunteer Schedule

Lectors

July 2	Karen Neimeier
July 9	Tena Rackow
July 16	Sue Diddens
July 23	Wayne Kurth
July 30	Dale Gullickson

Greeter


July 2	Anna Patterson and Darci Meier
July 9	Michelle Andrews and Tim Gordon
July 16	Darci Meier and Wayne Kurth
July 23	Virgil Gordon and Anna Patterson
July 30	Michelle Andrews and Sue Diddens

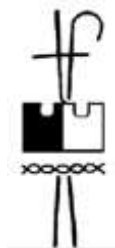
Communion Assistant

July 2	Sue Diddens
July 16	Beth Martin

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.

JULY 2023 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship	3 <i>St. Thomas Day</i>	4 Independence Day  Office Closed	5 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	6	7	8
9 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	10	11	12 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	13 Friendship Club 12:30 potluck 1:00 entertainment by Bobby Edler and John W.	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship	17	18	19 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	20 6:30pm Council Meeting	21	22
23 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	24	25	26 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	27	28	29 4:30pm Men's Group Meeting,
30 9:30am Favorite Hymn Sing Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	31 Adult VBS 6:30-8:00pm	St. Thomas Day fact. Thomas didn't believe the apostles when they saw Jesus the first time after the resurrection. He saw Jesus himself during his second appearance, and touched the wounds on his hands and side (John 20:24-29). Source: WinCalendar				



*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Email: goodshepherdlena@outlook.com
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Website: www.GoodShepherdLena.org

St. Thomas Day, July 3rd

Saint Thomas Day commemorates the life and works of Saint Thomas the Apostle, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. The day honors the saint's devotion to spreading the Gospel and his missionary trips to various parts of the world, including India. The day is significant to both the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches and is observed by numerous cultural and religious communities worldwide.

The observance of Saint Thomas Day has its roots in early Christian tradition, where St. Thomas was revered as one of the original apostles. In the United States, the day holds special significance for American Christians, particularly those of Indian descent, as Saint Thomas is regarded as the founder of Christianity in India. Saint Thomas' missionary work in India led to the establishment of the Syrian Christian community, which has over time grown and flourished in the United States and other countries.

In America, Saint Thomas Day is observed through various religious activities such as prayer meetings, church services, and spiritual gatherings. Members of Christian communities come together to remember and honor the saint's commitment to promoting Christianity around the world. Saint Thomas Day is generally celebrated on December 21st in the Western tradition, which includes the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. The Eastern Orthodox Church, on the other hand, commemorates the day on October 6th.