

## November 2023 Newsletter

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### *Thoughts from the Vicar*

Greetings in Christ,

In November we make a point of pausing the busyness of our lives to give thanks for all the blessings God has given us. This year I am especially thankful for two milestones in my own personal life as a Christian.

The first is that it is 50 years this autumn since I met Coral and we became engaged to be married. She has been the most wonderful blessing of my entire life – my best friend, helper, wife, mother of my children, grandmother of my grandchildren, my inspiration and my greatest joy. Her unswerving dedication to our Lord Jesus Christ, her creative spirit, her perseverance no matter what obstacles have her are remarkable, and I pray that we still have many years of life together in this world.

The second is that I have now been approved by the ELCA for ordination into the ministry of Word and Sacrament. I am not only thankful to God for this, but I want to thank each and every member of the Good Shepherd family for your support, encouragement, advice, and good will throughout this process, and I look forward to serving you in an even deeper way as we continue our life together.

I hope that each of you has good reason to give thanks to God this year, even in the midst of struggles, for our God has promised us that “all shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well” in the end for those who trust in Jesus, the Son of God.

Blessings in Christ,  
Vicar Thomas

#### **September Treasurer's Report** **Jay Andrews**

Incoming September 2023	\$4,568.09
Expenses September 2023	\$6,798.95
Net Income (Loss)	\$(2,230.86)
Income, Year to Date 2023	\$86,913.36
Expenses, Year to Date 2023	\$79,568.40
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 7,344.96

#### *All Saints Sunday—November 5<sup>th</sup>* *Worship with all saints*

*This year's All Saints Sunday we will remember them with a carnation on the altar and also by lifting their names during prayer of the people. We will worship together with all saints.*

## Council Meeting Highlights

**September 21, 2023**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council met on September 21, 2023 for their regular monthly meeting. President Jonathon Kurth called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.

**Secretary's Report:** . Secretary's report having no additions or corrections the secretary's report was approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jay Andrews gave the monthly Treasurer's Report. The offerings are still far behind meeting the current budget. In August it was noted that there is a \$1500. deficit in the current accounts and an over all budget deficit of \$11,000.

Electric Bill - \$153-47      Gas Bill - \$166.30

Treasurers report was approved.

**Vicar's Report:** Vicar Thomas Mosbo was not at the September Council meeting, but did turn in a report to be reviewed. The report noted that a major focus for September was the Lena Fall Festival. September also marks the end of Vicar's official internship. Evaluations have been handed in, and interviews have been scheduled for October with faculty from the seminary, the Bishop, and the Synod Candidacy Committee in anticipation of Vicar's ordination. Vicar's Report approved as presented.

### **Committee Reports**

**Worship and Music Committee:** The Worship and Music Committee met on September 10, 2023 to set up the fall worship services and work into the Easter season. The Fall liturgy was changed to WOV setting 5. **All Saints Sunday** will be celebrated on November 5. Church Secretary Betty Allen will send out cards to the families and will also put a notice in the October newsletter if anyone wants to add someone to the list. Thanksgiving will be incorporated into the November 19th worship service. **Advent** starts on December 3. the liturgy will be setting 3 in the ELW until Ash Wednesday. **Christmas Service** will be held on December 24, 9:30am Worship Service and a Christmas Eve service at 7:00pm. December 25 will have a 9:30am Worship Service. **Ash Wednesday** service will be at 7:00pm with ashes and communion. Palm Sunday is March 24 with the procession of the palms. Maundy Thursday, March 28 service will be at 7:00pm as well as the Good Friday service will be at 7:00pm. Easter Sunday services are still being planned.

**Stewardship Committee:** The Stewardship Committee will be doing pledge cards this year. They will be putting on the cards several different options as to how church members may make their offerings to the church. More to come as things are worked out.

**Finance Committee:** There will be a meeting Finance Committee meeting in the near future.

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**Trust Board:** The Trust Board has an upcoming meeting scheduled.

**Property Committee:** The Property Committee revised their Proposal that the Council had questions on and wanted clarification on a couple of points before voting on the proposal. The new proposal reads: “The Property Committee recommends accepting a bid from Molitor Plumbing to install a new sump pump in the elevator pit with the discharge going to the street and storm sewer. This would include a new pump, new pit liner and all necessary plumbing. This would be for a cost of \$3000. this project would be in accordance with the Village of Lena ordinances.” Motion to approve the Property Committees proposal and to direct the Church Treasurer to pay for the cost of \$3,000. for the project from the Special Funds BMI interest. The motion was approved.

**Memorial Committee:** Planning on having a Memorial Dedication along with All Saints Sunday on November 5, 2023.

**Men’s Group:** The Men’s Group will be helping Karen Niemeier remove a tree that fell on her garage. They will do this on September 23, 2023

Having no other Committee Reports, reports were approved as presented.

#### **New Business**

**Devotion and Snack List:** The Devotion and Snack list has to be filled out to January 2024.

**Vicar Thomas Mosbo Contract:** Vicar Thomas Contract will be ending soon. Following discussion by the Council, it was decided to extend Vicar’s contract to the end of the year. Motion approved.

**Vicar’s Insurance:** Treasurer Jay Andrews presented the Council with several options for Vicar’s insurance options. We have been suing the Gold + plan for insurance. After discussion the motion was approved.

Having no other business before the Church Council. Meeting was adjourned. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Next meeting will be on October 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janis Kurth  
Church Council Secretary

#### **Attention: Committee Chairpersons,**

*It won't be long and we will be into 2024. Chairpersons please start to look at your committee work for 2023 and write up your year-end report and turn it in to Betty in the secretary's office. We need to put these into the Annual Report folder. Please submit your reports to the office by December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

*Any suggestions from Committee Members regarding distribution of Endowment Funds for end of year contributions would be appreciated.*

*Thanks to everyone serving on the numerous committees that we have here at Good Shepherd. Using your time and talents help to keep all of our programs going to do God's work.*



## Men's Group Helping Others

*I sincerely appreciate every member of the Men's Group who came out to help remove a large limb from my garage on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Wayne Kurth, Troy Doubler, Jay Andrews and Larry Fulfs, I want to offer you my sincerest gratitude and thanks for your work and your commitment to the church.*

*Thank you,  
Karen Niemeier*



### *Friends in Christ,*

*As we prepare to begin a new Church year with the season of Advent and preparing to celebrate the Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ at Christmas; we at Good Shepherd invite each and everyone of you to do a person evaluation of your own spiritual life. If it has been one week, one month, or one year or even longer we at Good Shepherd would like to Welcome you with open arms to join us at Worship next Sunday*

*Your Friends at  
Good Shepherd Lutheran*

### **Make-A-Smile cards for Lena Living Center**

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. This ministry has been created to share love of Christ to the residence in the nursing home. We are responsible for 20 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.

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

Sheridan and I want to thank you so very much for your continuing prayers. We definitely feel your comfort and support everyday. Sheridan is doing well on Hospice. It has helped me too. Miss worshiping in person, but we watch and listen on line.

Love and hugs,  
Sheridan and Marybeth

### Fellowship Hour Treats

Hello Everyone,

Please join us for Fellowship Hour held each Sunday, directly after Worship Service at Good Shepherd in Fellowship Hall. We are looking for weekly volunteers to bring cookies, snacks or other finger foods. Please join us for a snacks and coffee as we visit with one another and our Clergy.

### The Piece Corps Quilters Group

WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR ANGELS WHO HAVE HELPED BY TRIMMING THE FABRIC AT HOME AND WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED MATERIAL TO MAKE QUILTS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.

Thank you for your donations.

## November Birthdays

11-03 Brian Albrecht	11-10 Martin Luther
11-03 Brianna Lynn Fye	11-15 Sarah (Huber) Andrews
11-04 Kathy Andrews	11-18 Deanna Drye
11-04 Ashtyn Brinker	11-19 Lukas Price
11-04 Hanna Brinker	11-22 Leona Block
11-06 Lorene Solace	11-22 Sue Diddens
11-06 Neal Shumaker	11-23 Peggy Roettger
11-06 Dale Andrews	11-28 John Huneke
11-07 Amanda Lessman	11-30 Taylor Patterson
11-07 Cameron Baker	11-30 Alex White

**Happy**

**birthday**

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

### LE-WIN FOOD PANTRY

We are thankful for all our volunteers who offered their time and donations to the Le-Win Food Pantry this year. **THANK YOU!** Our last volunteer date will be in December .

### Devotion Books

October-December issue of *Christ in Our Homes* and *The Word in Season* are available now. These devotion books are helpful way to keep growing our faith. Take one home today!



## 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.”*

September and October were busy months for the Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA.

During the 12<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention held September 18-21 in Phoenix, Arizona there were more than 251 Women of the ELCA voting members who worshiped together, conducted business and elected new officers and churchwide executive board members. Highlights of the business meeting were to encourage participation in the Truth and Healing Movement and for congregations to develop land acknowledgment statements; recommended engagement in *Now Is the Time: A Study Guide for ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent*; rejected two attempts to reduce future triennial convention costs and adopted a 2024 churchwide budget of \$1.9 million. Then the Women of the ELCA’s 2023 Just Love Gathering was held September 21-24 at the Phoenix Convention Center. Nearly 800 women from across the country came together to learn, grow, worship and serve. Workshops, Bible studies and plenaries covered a range of topics, including immigration, human trafficking, climate change, the Truth and Healing Movement and allyship. Servant events included donating blood, making quilts for LWR, participating in a 5K to benefit Women of the ELCA’s Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls initiative, donating in-kind gifts for Phoenix-area non-profits, and knitting and crocheting “Knitted Knockers” breast prostheses. The NIS WELCA was able to provide funds for Faustina Nillan, National Director for Women and Children, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania to attend the Convention and the Gathering.

Our Good Shepherd WELCA treasurer, Sheila Keene, who is also the NIS WELCA board secretary was a voting member at the Triennial Convention and attended the Gathering. It was a learning experience for Sheila on many different levels. Some of the highlights were being able to participate in the business meeting and hearing many articulate, passionate women speak; meeting Pastor Janet (Wenzel) Lepp, former member of Amity; learning about the many amazing works of the Women of the ELCA both domestically and internationally; meeting the current Pastor at the church in Puerto Rico that Krista sent a monetary donation to several years ago (many of you contributed by purchasing baked goods from her). And after a long day of traveling home, the week’s theme of “**Just Love**” meant even more to Sheila as she looked directly in the tired, frightened eyes of migrants being processed at O’Hare.

1 Corinthians 12:13, 26 *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-if any member suffers all suffer together; if one member is honored all rejoice together.”*

That was the theme verse for the NIS WELCA 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention held October 7 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Peru, Illinois. It was rejuvenating to again come together with women from across our synod for worship and fellowship, to conduct the election of board members, to bring not only our offerings but also in-kind gifts.

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There were items for purchase from The Good Book bookstore in Dixon and displays and literature available from LSSI, Mosaic and other entities. Workshops were presented by DeKalb County CASA-Court Appointed Special Advocates and LSSI Addiction Treatment Center–Sterling. Later in the day, Sheila asked one of the workshop presenters if he knew what the theme of the day was. He did not. For several years he has been utilizing the services at the LSSI Addiction Treatment Center in Sterling. As he finished telling his story he said, “Before I didn’t have hope. Now I have so much hope, I’m giving it away.” The theme was **“Be the Body of Hope”**.

*Excerpts above from:*

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/news/elections-support-for-antiracism-and-healing-work-feature-large> and <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/post/2023-triennial-gathering-focuses-on-just-love?fbclid=IwAR3RqvBQ8Wn5DVP5-gZop9npbPire1eF0IO3mxN7xZqllJgLupfz4p7Yldk>

*Please remember your WELCA*

***Thankofferings***  
*during November.*

Women’s offerings: a brief history The idea of collecting donations in small offering boxes goes back to the very early 1800s, when women formed “mite” or “cent” societies to raise money.

### *Lena Area Church Cooperative*

The Lena Area Church Cooperative will be giving gift certificates for meat and groceries to those in need this upcoming holiday season. If you would like to donate monetarily to the Lena Area Church Cooperative you can either put the money in the earmarked basket in the Fellowship Hall, or you can put it in the offering being sure to designate that it should go to the Lena Area Church Cooperative or LACC. The Lena Business and Professional Association will be doing the Giving Tree again this year at the Lena Mercantile. Please contact the Mercantile if you have questions concerning the Giving Tree.

Thank you,  
Shirley Fox and Mary Lloyd

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

*We lift up our prayers*

*Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Willie Kayser, Rene', Sue Kraft, Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Sue Rush, Leona Block, 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, Justin Yeager, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Jim Clay, Sharon Janicke, Ethan Hanna,*

*Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family of Debra Mick, Larry Nelson and Brett Kaiser*



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

**2023 Annual Collection**

*As part of my/our commitment to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church I/we pledge;*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per Year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Twice a month

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer Chain:

If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, please call the Church Office at 815-369-5552. We are also looking for anyone who would like to join the prayer chain team. 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.

*Each year, Good Shepherd's chancel is decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Services. You may order poinsettias in memory or in honor of a loved one or in celebration of the birth of Jesus!*

Orders must be placed by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Price has not been determined at this time.

*Please complete the form below and mail it or drop it off at the church office. **Thank you!***

### Poinsettia Order

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

phone # : \_\_\_\_\_

**Given (check one)**

\_\_\_ in memory of... \_\_\_ in honor of...

**Name (s)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# November 2023 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters 	2	3	4 Daylight Savings Time Ends, Fall Back 
5 All Saints Sunday 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 10:45-11:15am Chime Practice 10:45-11:15am Choir Practice	6	7	8 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	9 Friendship Club 12:30pm Entertainment by Mississippi Man and Debra K.	10	11  Veterans Day
12 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45-11:15am Chime Practice 10:45-11:15am Choir Practice	13 World Kindness Day 	14	15 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters Newsletter Deadline, please send, email or leave a note to have your meeting dates included on the calendar. Thank you.	16 6:30pm Council Meeting	17	18
19 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 10:45-11:15am Chime Practice 10:45-11:15am Choir Practice	20	21	22 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	23 Thanksgiving Office Closed 	24	25
26 Christ the King Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45-11:15am Chime Practice 10:45-11:15am Choir Practice	27 Full Moon 	28	29 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	30		



## Greeters

November 3  
Michelle Andrews and Wayne Kurth

November 12  
Virgil Gordon and Darcie Meier

November 19  
Suz Diddens and Tim Gordon

November 26  
Virgil Gordon and Tim Gordon

## Lector

November 3 Tena Rackow

November 12 Cora Hudik

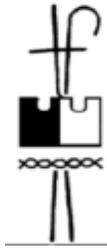
November 19 Karen Niemeier

November 26 Suz Diddens

## Communion Assistant

November 3 Beth Martin

November 19 Suz Diddens



*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
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### **Lesser known Commemorations**

*John Christian Frederick Heyer  
July 10, 1793 - November 7, 1873*

*Fr. John Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans. After teaching at Gettysburg College and Seminary he was assigned to the Andhra region of India. He founded the Guntur Mission in Andhra Pradesh, India. "Father Heyer" is commemorated as a missionary in the Calendar of Saints of the Lutheran Church on November 7, along with Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg and Ludwig Ingwer Nommensen.*

Source: Sundays and Seasons