

January 2024 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Good Shepherd's Annual Meeting

Will be held on January 28th, 2024 at 10:30am following service.

Committee Chairs, please get your reports to the church secretary by January 9th.

Thank You

Members of Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church.

The Lena Lions Club, along with the Veterans Assistance of Stephenson County and the Winnebago County Veterans Drop in Center would like to say "Thank You Very Much" for your participation again this year in our annual collection.

This year's collections of socks, gloves, personal care items and other things showed once again, the caring hearts of the people in our area and their desire to help our veterans.

The Lions Club greatly appreciates working with you on this event. This year we had seven area churches as well as My Friends Closet participate in our efforts. I look forward to working with you again next year, as we need to continue to remember those whom have serviced our country to assure our freedoms.

Thank you again,
Lena Lion Co-Chairs
Bill Crichton and
Gary Meyers



Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming November 2023	\$6,387.88
Expenses November 2023	<u>\$6,978.71</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (590.83)
Income, Year to Date 2023	\$101,911.61
Expenses, Year to Date 2023	<u>\$ 96,296.54</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 5,615.07

Thank You

We are so thankful to, the Good Shepherd musical director Janis Kurth, to pianist and organist Karen Niemeier and Tena Rackow, along with Choir and Chimes group and for the Men's Group for providing your musical services throughout the year. .

Thank you for volunteering your time and sharing your beautiful gift of music with us.

Highlights from Special Congregational Meeting

On December 17, 2023 at 10:45am, a special Congregational Meeting was called to order by Church Council President Jonathon Kurth.

Rev. Julie Monnard, Assistant to the Bishop, opened the meeting with prayer.

Council President Jonathon Kurth stated that with forty-one (41) members present at the meeting, there was a quorum present for the meeting.

The purpose of the Special Congregational Meeting was to:

- 1) Extend a call to Vicar Thomas Mosbo to become the part time Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, IL.
- 2) To approve the Pastoral Pay Package for a new Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, IL.

Call Committee Chairman, Wayne Kurth stated that the Call Committee was recommending that the Congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church extend a call to Vicar Thomas Mosbo to be part time Pastor for the church. There was a time of discussion following the recommendations of the Call Committee.

Call Committee Chairman, Wayne Kurth made a motion: Be it resolved; as chair and representative of the Call Committee, I hereby move to extend a formal call to Thomas Mosbo to become the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, Illinois on a half time basis. A time of discussion and questions for Thomas Mosbo followed.

The question was called for to extend a formal call to Thomas Mosbo to become the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, Illinois on a half time basis. A paper ballot was taken. There were two (2) tellers appointed to count the votes. To extend the call to Thomas Mosbo, a two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the congregations is needed.

The results were read to the congregation: Voting results, Yes—41 No—0. The formal call will be extended to Thomas Mosbo.

Finance Chairman Wayne Kurth presented to the Congregation the Pastoral Pay Package. He explained how the dollar amounts for each item in the pay pack were determined. After questions and discussion, Church Council member Coralyn Hudik made a motions: Be it resolved, as a member of the Church Council I here by move to approve the Pastoral Pay Package as presented by the Congregational Council. Virgil Gordon seconded the motions. A paper ballot was taken. The tellers collected and counted the ballots. A simple majority is needed to approve the motion. Voting results, Yes—41 No—0. The Pastoral pay package was approved.

Having no other business for this Congregational Meeting, Virgil Gordon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry Fulfs seconded the motion. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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.”

A new year brings new projects. When Pastor Julie Monnard, Assistant to the Bishop, Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA joined us at our special congregational meeting in December, she spoke about an upcoming project to create new synod paraments. She also shared information in the November 2023 edition of Northern Highlights which is shared here:

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD NEW PARAMENT PROJECT

Northern Illinois Synod staff are looking to create a new banner and new paraments to use at Synod Assembly. These will become beautiful pieces of collaborative art – a sign of us working together to share God’s love. I have three projects in mind with unique ways you can participate:

- The green paraments will be designed by a local quilt shop owner, and we would like church quilt groups to volunteer to sew the parament tops together.
- To volunteer to sew, please contact me at jmonnard@nisynod.org, or 563-505-9045.
- The red paraments are designed as Swedish weaving patterns so that people can help weave the pattern in yarn on monk’s cloth at synod events.
- Look for these paraments at upcoming Congregational Resourcing Events (CRE) and Synod Assemblies so that you can weave in a few stitches!
- The new synod banner will have the ELCA logo pieced together with fabric donated by congregations.
- Each conference is assigned a color of the ELCA logo:
 - Northwest and Central: Red
 - West and Southwest: Green
 - North and Northeast: Blue
 - East and South: Yellow
- Please donate a piece of quilting cotton fabric in your assigned color. This could be a layer cake square (10” x 10”), a jelly roll strip (2.5” x 42”), or four charm squares (5” x 5”).

To donate funds for all these projects, which will cover the cost of the design, fabric, and quilting, please mail a check to the synod office with the keyword “Worship” written on the memo -- address: Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA, P.O. Box 443 Moline, IL 61266.

Fabric can be mailed to the synod office or hand-delivered at CRE next spring. You can also have your rostered minister hand deliver the fabric to synod staff at a conference meeting.

For all three of these projects, I hope that you will be able to look at the finished pieces and see your contributions. Please plan to participate! I can’t wait to see what we can create together!

Peace,
Pastor Julie Monnard,
Assistant to the Bishop,
Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA

Devotion Books

January-March issues of *Christ in Our Homes* and *The Word in Season* are available now. These devotion books are helpful ways to keep growing our faith. Start a new year with word of God every day! Take one home today!

We lift up our prayers

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Fern Harnish, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Willie Kayser, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Brady Meier, 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, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Jeri, Allie, Al Glen Hagemann, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Betty Tina D., Howard D., Christine, and Michelle. Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Jim Swain, Lee Bramlet and Sheridan Brinker.

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.

Thank You

We are blessed by everyone who purchased poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Their beauty brings peace, joy and warm memories of loved ones. Thank you.

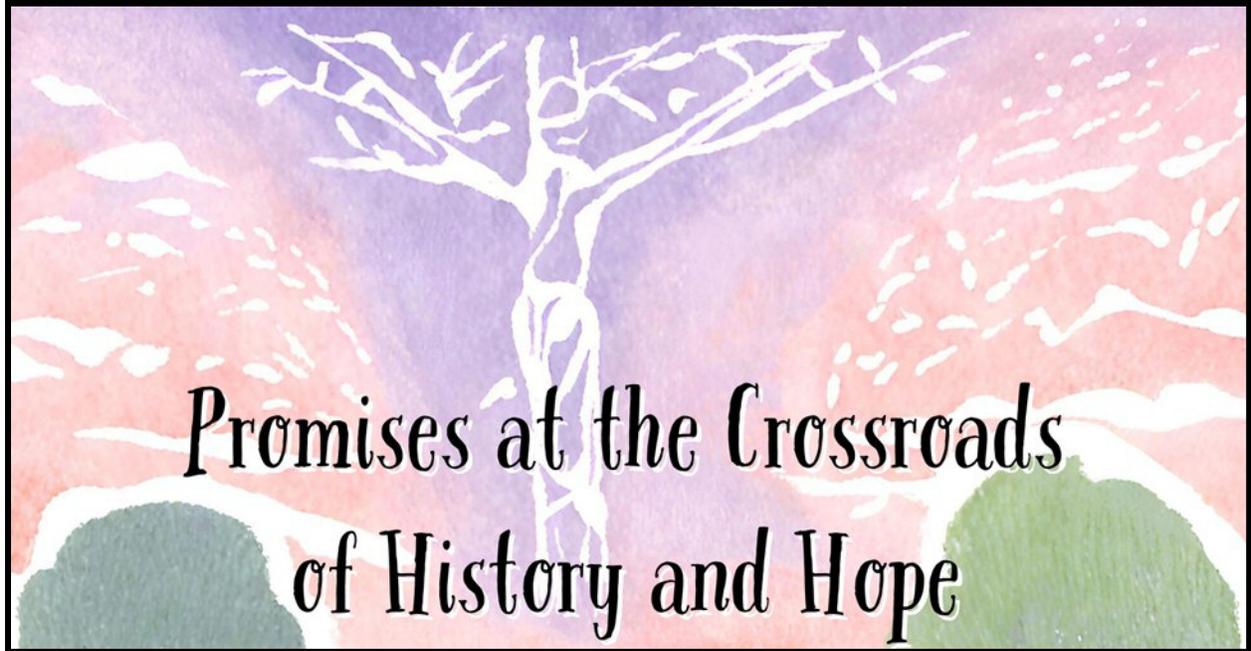
Bible Trivia

Which Jewish feast would be celebrated once the produce of the winepress was gathered in?

- A) Feast of the Tabernacles B) Passover C) Hannukah D) Purim

Answer on page 8

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD



LENT 2024

Join us in a synod-wide Lent series entitled, “Promises at the Crossroads of History and Hope,” written by the Rev. Dr. Charlene Rauchy Cox. This resource is provided free for congregations to use.

At the crossroads of history and hope, we live our lives. The season of Lent affords a unique opportunity to prayerfully consider this *crossroads of history and hope*. We are invited to reflect upon who and what we have been while also pointing to Christ - promise fulfilled, love incarnate, and hope embodied for the sake of the whole world. Throughout Lent, we will be immersed in the history and hope of the Abrahamic family - Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, and Isaac. We will remember we are a people and a story with a past and future with innumerable experiences, both life-giving and lifedenying. Our series invites us to proclaim and embody a sure and certain hope. LENT 2024 Resources will be available on the Northern Illinois Synod Website beginning January 5, 2024, including:

- Midrash-type monologue for each Abrahamic character
- Intergenerational study resources for each week
- Preaching resources
- Liturgy for each service using the VOCARE framework
- Original Hymn, “The God of Promise Praise”
- RCL based liturgies and study resources

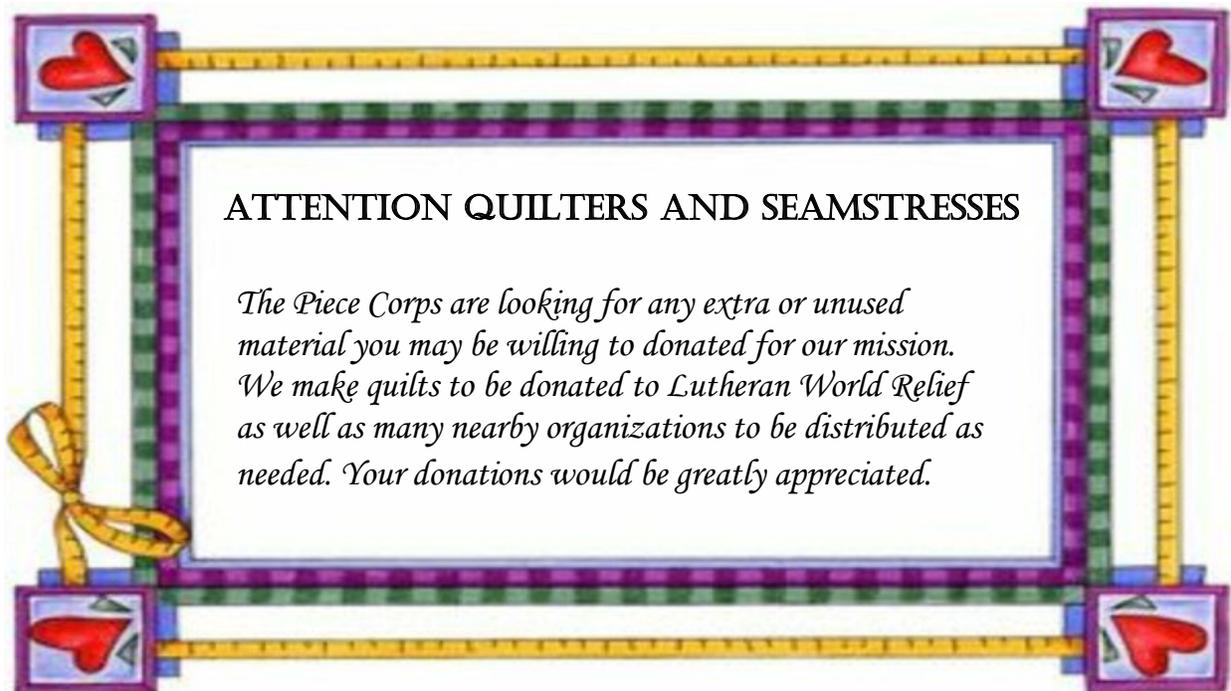


SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2024

We are looking forward to the 2024 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly held June 14-15, 2024 at Augustana College in Rock Island.

Information continues to be posted to www.nisynod.org/assembly as it becomes available. Interested in running for a committee or serving on Synod Council? Check out information about nominations on our website.

Information on resolutions can also be found on our website. Resolutions are due by April 15, 2024



ATTENTION QUILTERS AND SEAMSTRESSES

The Piece Corps are looking for any extra or unused material you may be willing to donate for our mission. We make quilts to be donated to Lutheran World Relief as well as many nearby organizations to be distributed as needed. Your donations would be greatly appreciated.

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

Are you going to join the 142 youth and 65 adults heading to New Orleans in July 2024? Not signed up yet? There is still time to join us for a faith experience unlike anything else out there.

Still on the fence about signing up? Contact our Synod Champion Melinda at 815-871-0390 with your questions. Are you interested in joining with other small groups heading to New Orleans to go through the Getting Ready materials? Want to get to know other groups heading before being in the bayou? Let Melinda know if you are interested in joining in some experiences that help get you and your group ready!

Do you know of a young adult who would like to experience the Gathering next summer and help serve this life-changing ministry? Servant Companions walk alongside congregations as they experience their Accompaniment Day. With projects fostering awareness, action, and advocacy, Servant Companions should be comfortable leading a group, thinking on their feet, and speaking about their faith. (Did we mention that we cover your housing and food, and provide a travel stipend to those accepted?) To learn more, visit: <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/volunteers>

January 2024 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	4	5	6 Ordination of Thomas Mosbo at St. Marks, 675 N Mulford Road, Rockford, IL at 2:00pm Epiphany
7 9:30am Baptism of Our Lord (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice Reception for Reverend Thomas Mosbo during Fellowship Hour.	8 Annual Reports due from Committee Chairpersons.	9	10 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	11	12	13
14 2 Epiphany 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	18 6:30pm Council Meeting	19	20
21 3 Epiphany 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am-11:15am Chime Practice 11:15am-11:45am Choir Practice <i>Annual Report will be available for pick up.</i>	22	23	24 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	25	26	27
28 4 Epiphany 9:30am Worship Service (Communion Sunday) 10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting	29	30	31 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters			

January Volunteer Schedule

Greeter

January 7 Darci Meier/Virgil Gordon
January 14 Tim Gordon/ Sue Diddens
January 21 Cindy Fahr/ Anna Patterson
January 28 Michelle Andrews/Wayne Kurth

Lectors

January 7 Karen Niemeier
January 14 Wayne Kurth
January 21 Coralyn Hudik
January 28 Sue Diddens

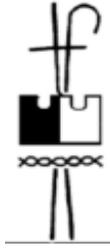


Communion Assistant

January 7 Beth Martin
January 14 Shirley Fox



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

Commemorations

January 1 Name of Jesus

The observance of the octave (eighth day) of Christmas has roots in the sixth century. Until the recent past, Lutheran calendars called this day "The Circumcision and Name of Jesus." The emphasis on circumcision is the older emphasis. Every Jewish boy was circumcised and formally named on the eighth day of his life. Already in his youth, Jesus bears the mark of a covenant that he makes new through the shedding of his blood on the cross. That covenant, like Jesus' name, is a gift that marks the children of God. Baptized into Christ, the church begins a new year in Jesus' name.

Source: Sundays and Season, ELW Lesser Festivals and Commemorations