



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

Email: goodshepherdlena@outlook.com
Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";
Website: www.GoodShepherdLena.org

ELW LESSER FESTIVALS AND COMMEMORATIONS

April 25

Mark, Evangelist

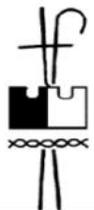
Born c. 12AD -Died c. 68AD (aged c. 56)

Though Mark himself was not an apostle, it is likely that he was a member of one of the early Christian communities. It is possible that he is the John Mark of Acts 12 whose mother owned the house where the apostles gathered. The gospel attributed to him is brief and direct. It is considered by many to be the earliest gospel.

Mark the Evangelist, also known as **John Mark** or **Saint Mark**, is the person who is traditionally ascribed to be the author of the Gospel of Mark. Modern Bible scholars have concluded that the Gospel of Mark was written by an anonymous author rather than an identifiable historical figure. According to Church tradition, Mark founded the Episcopal see of Alexandria, which was one of the five most important sees of early Christianity.

Tradition has it that Mark went to preach in Alexandria, Egypt, became the first bishop there, and was martyred. His feast day is celebrated on April 25, and his symbol is the winged lion.

Source: Wikipedia; Sundays and Seasons.com



April 2024 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Thoughts from the Pastor

Now all the vault of heaven resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia!
Eternal is the gift he brings,
therefore our heart with rapture sings:
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia!

I'm not sure I know of another hymn that has quite so many exclamation marks! But how else can we emphasize the most important event in the history of the universe? The impact of the resurrection of Jesus does indeed resound throughout the entire cosmos. Although God created the whole universe, now his very life and presence fills it in a new and remarkable way. Everything has changed. Everything is new. And that new life is within each of us as well. And yet we don't always seem to be aware of it. Our daily lives go on, filled with duties, worries, responsibilities, sorrows, confusion. Perhaps it is a good time to pause for a moment, let go of our worries and remember that the living presence of our Lord Jesus is always with us, even in the midst of our busy lives, and will be with us forever, in this life and the next. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Thomas

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.



Treasurer's Report

Jay Andrews

Incoming March 2024	\$13,395.25
Expenses March 2024	<u>\$10,578.97</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 2,816.97
Income, Year to Date 2024	\$18,493.25
Expenses, Year to Date 2024	<u>\$20,986.51</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,493.26)

Highlights from March 14, 2023

Church Council Meeting

Good Shepherd Council met March 14. Devotions and refreshments were provided. Following additions and corrections, the agenda was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report. The full report approved.

Gas Bill \$959.23

Electric Bill \$230.33

Pastor Mosbo's Report: The church website is now live. The full report was approved.

Committee Reports

Stewardship Committee: Discussion was held regarding the repainting and repair of the church sign which stands on Stagecoach Trail across from Coach's Golf and Grill. Trees surrounding the sign also need trimming. The committee also had post cards designed announcing the Holy Week schedule and they will be mailed. Discussion was given to a potential Health Check Day to be held in the church.

Property Committee: submitted two recommendations for approval.

First was the topic of releasing the current janitor, Christa Wichman, from her position due to lack of service. Coralyn Hudik motioned to have Tim Gordon, president of the Property Committee, and Patterson, Council President, have a conversation with Wichman regarding discontinuing the position along with expected quality of work before making the release final.

Council also approved the Committee's suggestion to accept the lower of two bids to update the electrical system. The current insurance carrier requested an inspection of the system which determined the fuse box needs to be updated to a circuit breaker system. The proposed bid from Electric Guys of \$1995.45 for a 200 amp box was approved. Funds are to be taken from the Special Funds BMI Interest Fund. The higher bid had been submitted from Pro Source Electric for \$2,350 for a 100 amp box.

The full slate of committee reports was approved.

Old Business

In Old Business: The Jim Swain Bequest, which was below \$10,000, was discussed. A motioned to designate the money to the Special Funds Trust – Enduring Gifts Interest passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Darci Meier,

Council Secretary

Bible Trivia

Who was the first martyr of Christianity?

Source: Bible Trivia.com



Dear women of the Northern Illinois Synod,

This letter is to inform you of our annual one-day retreat to be held on Saturday, April 27th at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC). The accompanying attachments include our annual one-day retreat invitation flier, to be held on Saturday, April 27 at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL. In addition to the retreat information, you will find attachments for the half scholarship and the registration for the retreat. Emotional Health - Wellbeing and Faith, is the theme of our day! The Bible study and worship will be led by Pastor Jennifer Ohman-Rodriguez from St. John's Lutheran Church in Rock Island, IL.

The cost of the retreat is \$25.00. As we have done in the past, if you would like to contribute to one or more of our missions (these are located at the bottom of the registration form), we certainly appreciate these gifts.

If you would like to apply for a half scholarship for the retreat, please complete the scholarship form and mail it to our Vice President, Ruth Anne Hartman as directed on the form. Two half scholarships will be granted for each Conference. You will be contacted whether or not you have received the scholarship. At that time, please complete the registration form with the appropriate amount of money and send as directed on the form.

In addition to our Spring Retreat there is an upcoming Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) on March 16th at Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon, IL. Our Northern Illinois Synod WELCA will present display boards to show what your Synodical Women's Organization has been doing in Discipleship, Justice, and Stewardship. Stop by to see and learn all about the work that is being done, in our synod and congregational units. You will find additional information in regards to the CRE at your Northern Illinois Synod website. The Web address is; nisynod.org

May God bless you as you continue to be Bold Women in our world, with the love of our Lord.

Jana Fors,
President, NIS WELC

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 adult volunteers for the upcoming months of June 22nd, August 24th, October 26th and December 28th. If you are interested, put your name on the sign up sheet at the ramp by Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 815-369-5552.



*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!

Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA Retreat Registration Form-2024

Emotional Health Well-being and Faith, Creating calm in a world full of chaos Genesis 1:1-2
 Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Bible study and worship led by Pastor Jennifer Ohman-Rodriguez, St. John's Lutheran, Rock Island, IL Use this form to register for the Retreat—please note the deadline for registration. Include a check for \$25.00, made payable to “NIS WELCA” for your registration fee which includes coffee, snacks, lunch and materials. If you would like to contribute to any of our mission fields support, we would appreciate that as well. They are LSSI Prison Ministry Story Book Program, Our Savior's Lutheran Church located on Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana, Tanzania North Central Diocese Women's Department, India-Arcot Women's Desk, Grace Place (NIU Campus Ministry), and “Dollars For Our Daughters”, a fund to assist and encourage young women to participate in WELCA. Be sure to note these additions below on your registration form. Send this form and your check payable to NIS WELCA to Kim Choin 7400 East Oakwood Drive, Wonder Lake, IL 60097. The registration deadline is 4/5/24. LOMC, 1834 S IL Route 2, Oregon, IL 61061 Registration and coffee: 8:30-9:00 AM

cut here

Please Print

Name _____ Conference _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ E-Mail _____ Church Name/

Address _____

Do you have a Companion Parish? _____ If so, where is it? _____

Registration Fee: \$25.00 Special needs (diet, physical, etc.) _____

I have applied for a half scholarship: Yes _____ No _____ (please check one)

I wish to contribute the shown amount to the below mission(s):

LSSI Story Book _____ Tanzania Women's Department _____

OSLC at Rocky Boy _____ India-Arcot Women's Desk _____

NIU Campus Ministry _____ Dollars For Our Daughters _____

Office use only: Check Received _____ Confirmation Sent _____

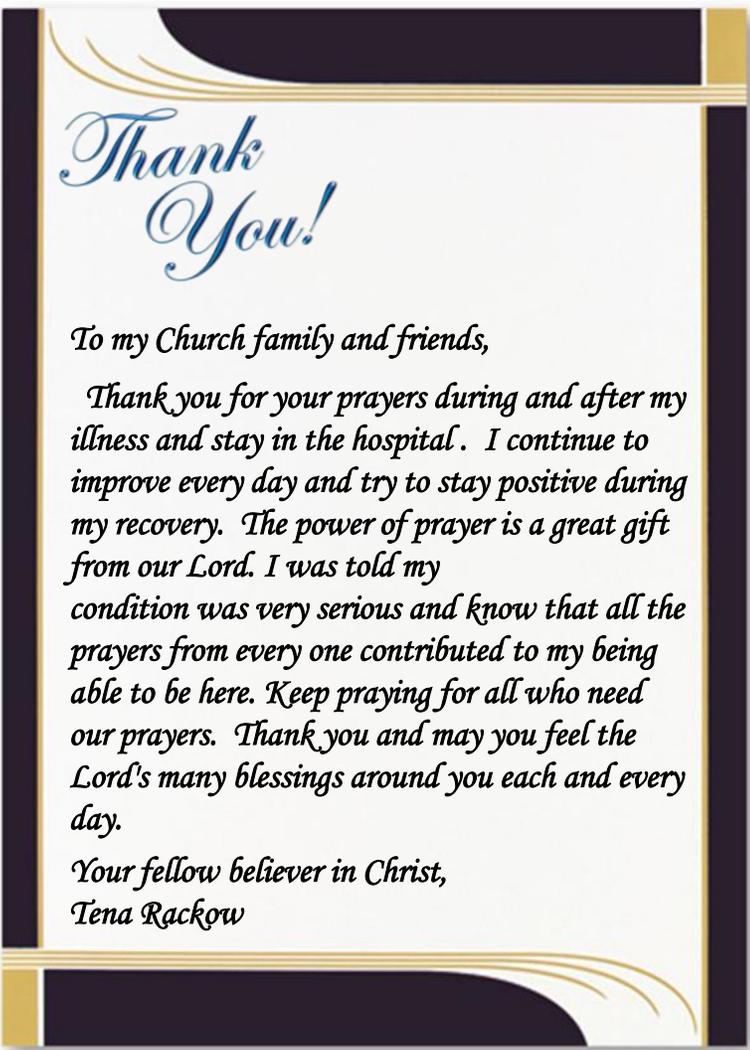


We lift up our prayers

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Fern Harnish, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Brady Meier, Leona Block, Virgil Martin, Tena Rackow, 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, Tina, Joe, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Ethan, Hanna, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Jeri, Allie, Al, Glen Hagemann, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Howard D., Christine, Michelle and Maci Diffenderfer.

Pray for the peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Willie Kayser.

Merciful God, give us your grace in time of need. Amen.



Thank You!

To my Church family and friends,

Thank you for your prayers during and after my illness and stay in the hospital. I continue to improve every day and try to stay positive during my recovery. The power of prayer is a great gift from our Lord. I was told my condition was very serious and know that all the prayers from every one contributed to my being able to be here. Keep praying for all who need our prayers. Thank you and may you feel the Lord's many blessings around you each and every day.

*Your fellow believer in Christ,
Tena Rackow*

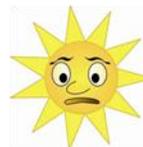


Prayer Chain:

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.



Weather Lore

When March has April weather, April will have March weather.

Friendship Club News

Friendship Club will resume meeting on April 11, 2024. Tyger Johnson will provide entertainment.

Blood Pressure checks will be offered from 11:30-12:30

Friendship Club meets—

WHEN: 2nd Thursday of each month

Where: Good Shepherd Church
in Fellowship Hall.

FOR: Fun & Fellowship

Potluck at 12:30pm

Meeting at 1:00 pm

The Golden Rule

Luke 6:27-38

Word Search Puzzle

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



Luke 6:31 "Do unto others as you would have them do to you."

FATHER
ENEMIES
REWARD

BLESS
SINNERS
CURSE

WICKED
HATE
MISTREAT

GREAT
LOVE
MERCIFUL

Trivia Answer from page 3

Stephen was mentioned for the first time in Act 6:5 of the Bible.

He was a deacon and is introduced in the Bible as a faithful man of God. Stephen is known for being the first Christian martyr.

One of the seven men chosen by the early Church, Stephen was responsible for distributing food to the Grecian widows, who had been overlooked by the church. He had the power of healing people, which is a gift bestowed upon him by the Holy Spirit. Only a few people were known to possess charismatic powers like the Lord Jesus Christ and Saint Stephen was one of them.

Stephen was a Greek-speaking Jew, called a Hellenist, and had ample knowledge about the Scriptures. According to Act seven where he is seen to apologize to the Jewish Council, the Sanhedrin, his Hellenistic dialect also had a Hebrew note to it, which gives us the idea that he was raised out of Jerusalem and was a foreign-born Jew just like many others.

The Jews of the Roman empire always questioned God's grace in terms of Christianity and whenever they failed to produce an argument, oppositions and false claims were put forth by them. Stephen stood by the words of Jesus Christ, and so he was opposed by the Synagogue of the Freedmen, which involved the Alexandrians and the Cyrenians. As they couldn't fabricate any counterargument to Stephen's vision, they produced false witnesses against him.

Stephen provided a point-by-point explanation following the Old Testament and put forth the various examples angering those who condemned Jesus. Stephen's death sentence was rolled out by the Sanhedrin members, who couldn't tolerate the words of this gifted preacher.



- 4/1 Troy Doublar
- 4/3 Joshua Andrews
- 4/5 Cadiz Wolfrom
- 4/7 Darren Aurand
- 4/7 Brody Diffenderfer
- 4/8 Donna Christen
- 4/8 Lucas Fye
- 4/15 Kathy Graff
- 4/16 Ian Geiseman
- 4/21 Braden Diddens
- 4/22 Daniellè 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!



Thanks to all those great cooks that made the many dishes to pass for our previous funerals.

To the set-up and clean-up group., setting the tables and chairs. To the group that cleaned the church. We cannot do this without you!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

We need you. There is always something you can help with. Please call the church at 815-369-5552, we will gladly add you to our list of faithful volunteers.

Summer Favorite Hymns

If you or someone you know has a special hymn you would like to hear, please write your suggestions on the form below and put them in the office or give them to Janis Kurth.

Good Shepherd's Summer Favorite Hymns
Submit your favorite hymns!
Last Day to submit: Sunday, April 28th.

My Favorite Hymn

Your Name: _____

Hymn Title: _____

And/or Hymn # _____

Because _____.