



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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History of "Jesus Shall Reign"

While living on the Abney estate, Isaac Watts devoted himself to a massive project, adapting the Book of Psalms for Christian worship. In it, Watts worked his way through most of the 150 Psalms, paraphrasing them, injecting them with New Testament truth, and framing them in singing form.

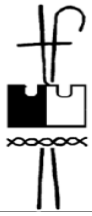
He explained his approach with these words: "Where the Psalmist describes religion by the fear of God, I have often joined faith and love to it. Where he speaks of the pardon of sin through the mercies of God, I have added the merits of a Savior. Where he talks of sacrificing goats and bullocks, I rather choose to mention the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God. Where He promises abundance of wealth, honor, and long life, I have changed some of these typical blessings for grace, glory, and life eternal, which are brought to light by the gospel, and promised in the New Testament."

Several of these have become favorites that have withstood the ages. His rendition of Psalm 72 has been called the first missions hymn: "Jesus Shall reign Whereve'er The Sun." This hymn played a role in the life of Eric Liddell, Scottish Olympic hero of the 1924 games in Paris, who became a missionary to China with the London Missionary Society. His departure from Edinburgh was never-to-be-forgotten. His friends escorted him in a festooned carriage from Scottish Congregational Church to Waverly Station where multitudes had gathered. Before boarding the train, Eric spoke to the crowds, saying he was going abroad to endeavor to do his part in trying to unify the countries of the world under Christ. 'Let our motto be "Christ for the world, for the World Needs Christ,"' he shouted. He then led in two verses of "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun." If on that memorable day, Eric had sung all the verses of "Jesus Shall Reign," he would have come to this one:

*The saints shall flourish in His days,
Dressed in the robes of joy and praise;
Peace, like a river; from His throne
Shall flow to nations yet unknown*

Erick Liddell served courageously in China until his death in 1945 in a Japanese internment camp.

Source: "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan



February 2025 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Devotional: New Changes and Unwavering Promises

by Joey Chin, Hunger Advocacy Fellow – ELCA Advocacy Communications

A remarkably powerful windstorm known as a bomb cyclone devastated parts of the Pacific Northwest and Northern California about a week before Thanksgiving this past year. As I saw videos on the news of trees falling and power lines collapsing in the area I call home, I contacted family and friends to see if they were safe. Many people I knew were without power for almost a week but thankfully did not experience anything worse. Nevertheless, many homes, families and communities had to contend with the irreversible damage of the powerful storm. Hearing about this weather-related event drew my thoughts to a passage in Isaiah [43:1-3].

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

In the book of Isaiah, the prophet mentions such storms when writing about the rivers, waters and flames of life. For individuals in our communities and across the globe, these storms are not metaphorical troubles but literal disasters. For the region I grew up in, the bomb cyclone was just one of many unexpected weather-related incidents that have occurred over the last few years.

PROMISES IN STORMS

Isaiah offers us a guide for how to approach these issues as people informed and guided by faith. To begin, Isaiah names that there are waters, rivers and flames to pass through. We cannot confront the most pressing problems of our time if we fail to acknowledge they exist. Secondly, Isaiah says that as we enter into a season of taking on such challenges, God will be with us. This is a promise that should ground our work and keep us rooted in an abiding ethic of love and justice. It is a promise that provides comfort and hope while propelling us into meaningful action and change-making.

EXPERIENCES AND VALUES SHARED WITH ELECTED LEADERS

Two weeks after the bomb cyclone subsided, a group of young adults taking part in an ELCA organized climate summit visited a series of federal congressional offices to discuss the importance of addressing climate change. I had the privilege of getting to sit in at one of the meetings with a staffer from Washington state. During our time together, a few of us discussed the recent effects of the cyclone. The staffer asked how our families were doing and listened to us describe the ways in which climate change has affected our local and global communities. Everyone shared their invaluable insights, and we ended the meeting in prayer. The experience was incredibly refreshing as I watched the foundation for further work being built and established by young adult activists of faith.

SEEKING THE COMMON GOOD FOR COMMUNITIES

Last month as I flew home to Seattle to be with family for the holidays, I looked out the window of my plane amazed at the vast ocean of greenery covering the sacred ground we call home. As we enter into a new year with new changes, may we consider how our advocacy can contribute to the common good of our communities while remaining firmly rooted in the promise of a God who is with us always.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Joey Chin (he/him) is the Hunger Advocacy Fellow – Advocacy Communications with the [ELCA advocacy](#) staff in Washington, D.C. He grew up in the greater Seattle area and earned a degree from The University of Washington in communication and political science. Most recently Chin began pursuing Master of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Highlights from December Council Meeting January 9, 2025

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council met on January 9, 2025 at 6:30pm. Council President, Kristy Patterson called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's report was reviewed and accepted.

Treasure's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews reviewed the December report and it was accepted.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Thomas provided his December report which noted a Christmas Eve attendance of 75. The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee: Coralyn Hudik reviewed her Stewardship Committee Report which will be submitted for the annual meeting report.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee had a meeting to work on the 2024 budget. It was noted that Larry Fulfs has also joined the Finance Committee.

Learning Committee: Kristy Patterson stated the Christmas program went well and that Sunday School continues.

Property Committee: Jay Andrews stated that the boiler had gone down, but following cleaning of the burners, it is now functioning.

Nomination Committee: It was noted that three vacancies for church council are open for election at the annual meeting. Those completing their term are Virgil Gordon, Coralyn Hudik and Darci Meier.

Memorial Committee: Funds in the Memorial fund include \$3,747.27 in undesignated funds and \$5,526.11 for designated items.

A motion was made to approve committee reports, motion approved.

New Business: The annual meeting is slated for Jan. 16 and back up dates of Feb. 2 and Feb. 9 were approved with a motion .

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the council meeting was presented and seconded. The meeting closed with all members reciting The Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting is set for Feb. 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Darci Meier, Secretary

Treasurer's Report Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2024	\$48,164.60
Expenses December 2024	<u>\$ 9,541.28</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$38,623.32
Income, Year to Date 2024	\$148,684.71
Expenses, Year to Date 2024	<u>\$103,883.10</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 44,801.61

Good Shepherd Scholarship Applications for 2025

Applications for 2025 scholarships will be available March 1, 2025 at the church office. They must be returned to the church office by March 31, 2025. Since 1997, seventy-six scholarships have been awarded.

I. The criteria for eligibility are as follows:

A) Participating member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

1. Membership involves having been baptized and/or confirmed and attending worship at Good Shepherd.

2. Participation involves attending worship at Good Shepherd as often as possible and showing a willingness to help with church programs and activities.

B) Graduating senior presently enrolled in college, or a returning college student.

C) Full time student with a minimum of 12 credit hours.

D) Student entering an Associate or Bachelor degree program.

E) Thorough completion and timely return of application.

F) Adult student returning for courses toward certification, associates or bachelor degree.

II. Applications may be picked up at the church beginning March 1. They must be returned to the church office by March 31. Place applications in a sealed envelope marked "GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION".

III. Amount of scholarship depends on number of applicants. Scholarship not to exceed \$1000.00.

IV. Recipients of scholarship may not reapply.

V. Scholarship recipients will be awarded.

A) A certificate on Graduation Recognition Sunday.

B. Money will be distributed at the end of first semester upon verification of passing grades (end of January).

Decision of Scholarship Committee is final.

Application information will remain confidential.

The Friendship Center is looking for individuals to ride the bus as an aide, individuals to come in and participate in activities with clients. RN for fill in/back up. Please call the Friendship Center for additional information on how to volunteer, 815-369-2690



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

January was recognized as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month by not only the US Department of the Interior but also by community partners and advocates such as The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Human trafficking is a devastating form of inhumane abuse and exploitation that affects not only the survivor but also their family and friends. Human trafficking, as defined by the U.S. Department of State, refers to sex trafficking as well as compelled labor. Human trafficking may include "involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, or forced labor."

Presenters at a Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA convention several years ago spoke on the effects that being trafficked had on their lives. These women were not “someplace” else they were right here in northern Illinois. Speak with Sheila if you would like to hear the details that stuck with her after attending this heartbreaking presentation.

Women of the ELCA have been working since at least 2005 to raise awareness, change laws and provide support for victims. In 2021 at the Eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA the voting members adopted a resolution setting the four weeks prior to the annual NFL Super Bowl as a time of prayer to end human trafficking and called on women of this organization to engage in prayer. Daily prayers that were available for use between January 13 and February 9, 2025 are available on the WELCA bulletin board as well as online at www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice/human-trafficking. No matter where you are, the time of day or what the weather is like, you can pray for all those affected by human trafficking.

Hannah Circle gathered together in January to watch and reflect on the Blue Christmas service that the churchwide Women of the ELCA presented online in December. The music, scripture and reflections provided were not only touching but also a reminder that Christmas is not necessarily a joyful season for everyone. We continue to meet the first Sunday of the month.

Sources: www.doi.gov; www.elca.org; www.womenoftheelca.org

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, April 26, 2025.

The WELCA Retreat will be held at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) near Oregon, Illinois.

Watch for more details coming soon!

Bible Trivia

Who was instructed by God to lead the people after Moses' death?

A) Jacob

B) Aaron

C) Reuben

D) Joshua

Answer page 8.

We lift up our prayers

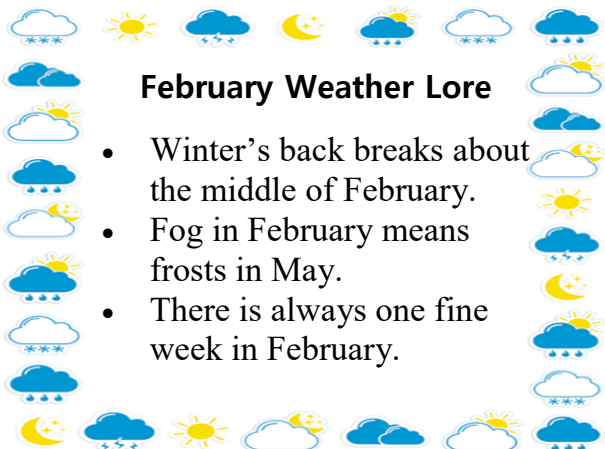
Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Fern Harnish, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Brady Meier, Virgil Martin, Tena Rackow, Marilyn Fulfs, Caroline Jam, Curt Diddens, Cyndy Schumacher, Duane Tessendorf, Connor Stadermann, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, 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, Hanna, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Jeri, Allie, Al, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Howard D., Jim DeMontigny Jr., Anita, Eric, Roger, Larry, Linda Kruger-Kleckler, Norman, Vivian, Tina Cheeney, Dennis Bokemeier, Susan Anderson, Brenda, Sylvia Jones, Madilyn Yeager, Kara Allen, Christine Beyer, Judy, Bob Schulz, prayers for stroke patients, Kenny Frie, Pete Grandstad, Steve Rothschadl, Nathan Lott, Gary L. Hartwig Josh and Hannah(4 yr. old), Ellie Joy, Hannah (4 months old) and Ray Phillips.

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.



Volunteers Needed
at the **Le-Win Food Pantry**

Good Shepherd helps with Le-Win Food Pantry on the 4th Saturday of even numbered months from 8:20am-11:30am. If you are interested, add your name to the sign up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office, 815-369-5552. The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers for February 22nd. Thank you for your time, thank you for your effort, but mostly thank you for helping those less fortunate than yourself. Volunteering is an extraordinary gift that not everyone can give. You have blessed the Le-Win Food Pantry with that gift today!



Dear Friends of Good Shepherd,

I would like to take time to thank you for your thoughtful donations to Tyler's Justice Center for Children. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and we are so honored to accept this donation.

Because of the specialized services we offer at Tyler's Justice Center, we are able to help the voices of children who are victims of sexual and serious physical abuse to be heard. We are also able to help that child's family find their footing in a situation that many never thought they would be in. However, we would not be able to provide any of these services (free of charge) to such a vulnerable population of victims and their families, if it wasn't for the extraordinary community support by people like you. Your donations will be used to purchase necessary program supplies, materials, and will go directly towards assisting children and families in our community.

Each year we are so blessed to have experienced the changes in the lives of these children and families towards hope, healing and happiness. We feel so fortunate to be able to continue providing support to every child who has suffered sexual and serious physical abuse, in our community. We offer our most profound thanks and gratitude for sharing your compassion with children and families of Tyler's Justice Center for Children.

We are so grateful for your kindness and you are so appreciated.

Warmest regards,

Alegra Koser

Executive Director

Tyler's Justice Center for Children

Members of Good Shepherd,

With 2025 near, all of us at VOICES thank you for the impact you have made on survivors of domestic and sexual violence this year. Thank you for the gift that arrived on December 18, 2024. It bridges the gaps and meets the needs for survivors who are rebuilding their lives. We use your donation to provide essential survivors services like:



- Buying gas cards so survivors can travel to court for orders of protection.
- Purchasing food for survivors who are fleeing to a safe place after violence has occurred.
- Replacing work clothing when someone is forced to leave their home with the next to nothing.
- Ordering a birth certificate online for a survivor trying to secure their identification after leaving quickly.
- Changing locks for someone in danger.
- Purchasing travel vouchers for a survivor fleeing out of state for safety.

Your support enables our survivors to move forward, knowing that others care about them. For that, we and they—are grateful. We also remain committed to standing by our survivors' sides to help in any way we can.

May 2025 bring you good health, the continued spirit of giving, and most of all, peace.

Thank you,

Beth Maskell

Executive Director

VOICES of Stephenson County

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

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. If you know of anyone who enjoys creating cards, the residents of Lena Living Center appreciate your warm thoughts.

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! Questions? Contact the church office.



February Birthdays

- 02-01 Allyson Kraft
- 02-01 Caleb Mammoser
- 02-02 Robert Kurth
- 02-03 Larry Fulfs
- 02-05 Jerry Martin
- 02-08 Denise Ballbach
- 02-08 Jonathon Kurth
- 02-09 Duane Tessendorf
- 02-09 Angie Brinker
- 02-10 Paige Tessendorf
- 02-12 Bentley Euler
- 02-14 Doug Mueller
- 02-15 Corey Luke
- 02-15 Michelle Meyers
- 02-16 Whitney Shumaker
- 02-16 Andrew Wenzel
- 02-20 Millie Koppean
- 02-21 Jesse Klosterboer
- 02-21 Taylor Bastian
- 02-27 Kayla Runkle
- 02-27 Brady Broshous

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

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

To the members of Good Shepherd,

Thank you for your support and prayers as we live and work with the Lakota People of Pine Ridge. We are very grateful for your continued partnership in this important ministry!

Because of the generosity of people like you, during the 2023-2024 heating season, 325 households (1,851 people) benefited from the Energy Assistance Matching Program.

Additionally, we are needing help to keep the Job Corp going. All the employees, except Pastor Dan, work for the Job Corp. it is a ministry of its own. The people do hard work of keeping the center going, the kids engaged and they feed hundreds of meals every week. We go through 7000 cups of coffee each week. And they are able to support themselves and their families.

To make a donation:

Donate online at; sdsynod.org/donate and choose

Energy Matching Fund or Job Corp.

*Giving help and hope,
Pastor Dan*

**Bible Trivia
Answer**

D) Joshua, Moses took Joshua, laid his hands on him, presented him to Eleazer the priest and told him he would lead Israel. Numbers 27:18-23.

Source:

www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Trivia-Questions/answers