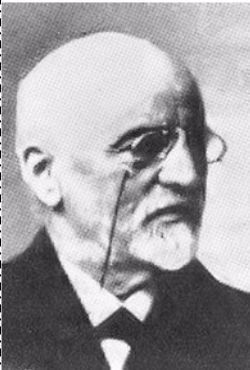

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 118 E. Mason Street
 Lena, Illinois 61048
 Email: goodshepherdlena@outlook.com
 Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";
 Website: www.GoodShepherdLena.org



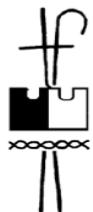
Edmond Louis Budry (August 30, 1854 – November 12, 1932) was a Swiss hymn writer famous for writing the lyrics to the hymn "**Thine Be the Glory**" ("À toi la gloire") to music from *Judas Maccabaeus* by George Frideric Handel.

The hymn was written in 1884 and appeared first in *Chants Evangeliques* (1885). A translation by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939) gave the hymn increased visibility, especially when it appeared in the first edition of the hymnal for the World Student Christian Federation, *Cantate Domino* (1924). *The Methodist Hymn Book* (1933) was the first European hymnal to include the hymn.

The inspiration for this hymn, according to Budry's friend Paul Laufer, came from the words of Friedrich-Heinrich Ranke (1798-1876), published to the tune, MACCABAEUS, by George Fredrick Handel (1685-1759). The tune was adapted from a processional song in Handel's oratorio Joshua (1747), as well as later versions of the more famous oratorio Judas Maccabaeus (1746). Budry freely adapted Ranke's Advent text and transformed it as an Easter hymn. As Gaely recognized, the Easter text "emphasized still more the triumphal nature of Handel's music." John Wesley, a contemporary of Handel, enjoyed this tune very much and cites it as one of his favorites in journal entries for March 29, 1774, and March 30, 1787.

Edmond Budry was born in Vevey, he studied theology in Lausanne and was a pastor at Cully and Sainte-Croix between 1881 and 1889. He then became pastor of the Free Church in Vevey for a further 35 years, retiring in 1923. Besides writing original hymns, he translated German, English, and Latin lyrics into French. Some of his work was translated into German by Johanna Meyer (1851–1921). He died in Vevey and is buried in Cully.

Source: *Wikipedia*; ; *Discipleship Ministries*



April 2025 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Thoughts from the Pastor

Greetings in Christ,

As we continue our Lenten journey during the first weeks of this month, we look forward to the day, the 20th of the month, when we no longer need to restrain ourselves and can burst out proclaiming:

Alleluia! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This isn't just a fun holiday when we can stop being gloomy and sing happy songs, though. It is the most important moment in all of history, both the world's history and our own. It is what makes everything in our lives possible and worthwhile. Without Jesus' resurrection, which enables our own resurrection, we would have no hope, no joy, no reason to live.

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." [I Corinthians 15:20] So our lives now are filled with his Holy Spirit, who is in us through our baptism into Jesus, and our eternal life in him is sure and certain.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." [II Corinthians 5:17] We are all changed, and so is the entire world, because Jesus is risen!

Now let the vault of heaven resound in praise of love that doth abound, "Christ hath triumphed, alleluia!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear, repeat their song of glory here, "Christ hath triumphed, he is risen!" 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 February 2025	\$13,539.00
Expenses March 2025	\$ 8,479.65
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 5,059.35
Income, Year to Date 2025	\$24,384.19
Expenses, Year to Date 2025	\$23,032.16
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 1,352.03

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...

It's learning to dance in the rain - Vivian Greene

Highlights from February 24, 2025

Church Council Meeting

Good Shepherd Council met February 24. Devotions and refreshments were provided. Following additions and corrections, the agenda was approved.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was presented and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report. Church books are in the black. The full report approved.

Pastor Mosbo's Report: Pastor noted that the Annual Meeting of the Congregation went well. Pastor Thomas also said that he has been working on the Ash Wednesday Service. Pastor's report was approved.

Committee Reports

Worship and Music Committee: Pastor Thomas noted that Karen Niemeier has been working with Theresa Woodbury and Kathy Clay to take over the position of changing the Paraments. The committee also worked out the Lenten Season services and music.

Learning Committee: Sunday School is going well.

Property Committee: The new church sign looks very nice. A new humidifier has been purchased for the church. The boiler is working well.

Having no other committee reports, the committee reports were approved.

Old Business

Constitution: The Constitution Committee had a meeting to look over the revisions that the Synod suggested. They made changes and the Constitution has been sent to the Synod for approval.

New Business:

Scholarship Distribution: The Scholarship Committee is requesting the Church Council approve the distribution of funds to Sarah Geiseman and Lucas Fye for completing the Scholarship requirements. Motion approved.

Global Missionary Support: Treasurer Jay Andrews noted that Ray Stamm had set up a fund for the church and that part of that fund was for Global Missionary Support. The church had been supporting the Stubbs Family in the past, but they are no longer doing missionary work. Jay Andrews has a list from the Synod of several other missionary's that need support. The council selected Dr. Steven and Bethany Friberg who are working in Tanzania to support. Motion to support the Friberg's mission ministry was approved.

Snow Removal: Discussion on the snow removal around the church was held. Property Committee will speak to Andrew Martin about the timing of snow removal for the church.

Funding Request: Anna Patterson sent a letter to the church requesting help in funding a mission trip thru CRU (a campus ministry) at Northern Illinois University. CRU is going to Panama Beach Florida for Spring Break to minister to other college students. She is requesting a donation from the church of \$500. Sponsorship for Anna was approved for \$500, to be taken from the Special Fund Endowment.

Continued on next page.

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March Meeting: As that there was a conflict with the February Council Meeting date it was suggested that the March meeting might be skipped. It was noted that the current Constitution states that there should be a monthly meeting of the Church Council. The March meeting will be held on it's regular meeting day.

Correspondence: President Kristy Patterson read a letter from the NICA Senior Citizen Services concerning the Golden Meals Program. They are looking to boost their funding. A motion was made to donate \$200 from the Special Funds Endowment to the Golden Meals Program. The motion was approved.

Other Correspondence was about the Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) to be held at Sauk Valley College on March 22, 2025. registration for the event is on March 10, 2025.

Having not other business before the Church Council, motion to adjourn was approved. The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Kurth,
Council Secretary

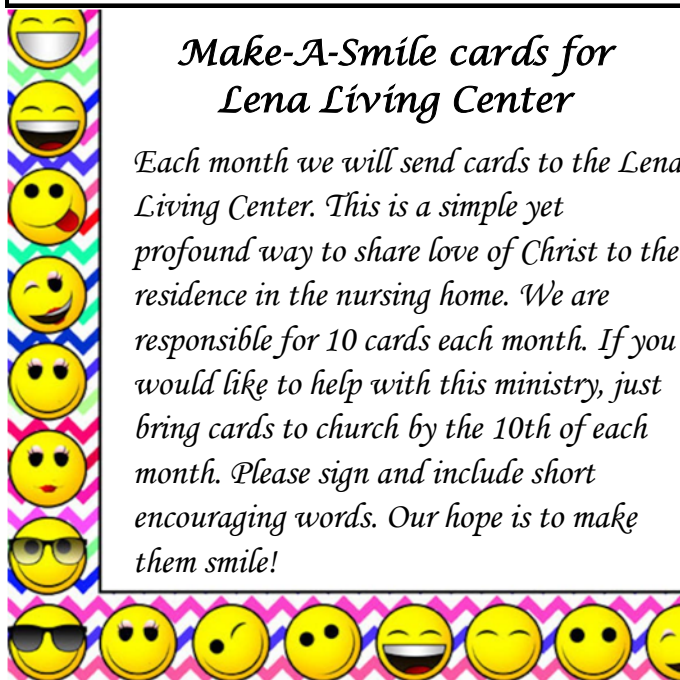
***We are looking for volunteers at the
Le-Win Food Pantry***

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 28th, August 30th, October 25th and December 27th. 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!



Le-Win Food Pantry

The following items are in short supply at the Le-Win Food Pantry;

**Chicken Noodle Soup
Cream of Chicken Soup
Fruit Cocktail
Boxed Potatoes; AuGratin, Cheesy Potatoes,
or Scalloped.
Hamburger Helper**

Donations are accepted on Saturdays from 8:30-11:30am. If you have a large donation and need to arrange a pickup, please contact Greg Andrews at 815-369-4557.





4/1 Troy Doubler
 4/3 Joshua Andrews
 4/5 Cadie 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 Danielle 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!



Friendship Club News

Friendship Club will resume meeting on April 10, 2025.

Tyger Johnson will provide entertainment.

Friendship Club meets—

WHEN: 2nd Thursday of each month

Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
in Fellowship Hall.

FOR: Fun & Fellowship

Potluck at 12:30pm

2025 Graduates

IF YOU OR YOU HAVE
A FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS
GRADUATING THIS SPRING, LET US
CELEBRATE WITH YOU!

PLEASE SHARE THE NAME OF THE
GRADUATE AND WHAT ARE
THEIR GOALS FOR THEIR
FUTURE.

WE WILL RECOGNIZE OUR GRADUATES
IN WORSHIP IN MAY.

THANKS AND CONGRATS!



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

The Women of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, WELCA,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$25.63 supporting the ministries of WELCA. Your gift makes a real difference to the organization and those we serve.

As the new Interim Executive Director of WELCA, it is a great joy to be part of this community in which members share their gifts of time, talent and financial resources in order to support each other in our callings, engage in real action and healing ministry, and promote love and justice in the church, society, and the world. Your gift helps the organization do it's work.

It is an honor to be part of an organization whose funding began with women over a hundred years ago, women who did not have the right to vote nor the ability to be ordained in the Lutheran church. These women knew they had great gifts and they could do great things. By coming together and pulling their resources, their faithful generosity continues to support women today and continues to inspire others to give.

Thank you for your generosity. Together we can do so much good in the world.

Jennifer Hockenbery
Interim Executive Director

We lift up our prayers

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Fern Harnish, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Virgil Martin, Caroline Jam, Curt Diddens, Cyndy Schumacher, Duane Tessendorf, Connor Stadermann, Brooke, 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, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Jack, Tina, Joe, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Jim DeMontigny Jr., Linda Kruger-Kleckler, Norman, Vivian, Tina Cheeney, Dennis Bokemeier, Brenda, Madilyn Yeager, Kara Allen, Christine Beyer, Judy, Bob Schulz, Kenny Frie, Steve Rothschadl, Nathan Lott, Gary L. Hartwig Josh and Ellie Joy, Hannah, Ray Phillips, Carlee R. and Allison Biddick,

Pray for the peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Marilyn Hardel, Mary Lou Otte, Tana Herman, Pete Grandstand, Susan Anderson, Howard Doubler and Bob Stufflebeam.

Feel Good About Who You Are A 4-year olds Letter to God

There is a kind soul working in the dead letter office of the U.S. Postal Service somewhere...

Our 14 year old dog, Abbey, died last month. The day after she died, my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God, so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could, so she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to play with balls and to swim. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love, Meredith.

(written by the mother of Meredith)

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to: God in Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office.

A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had. Yesterday there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, "To Meredith" in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers, titled, "When a Pet Dies." Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help. I recognized Abbey right away. Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in, so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I am wherever there is love.

"Love, God"



"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."

Hannah Circle will not be meeting in April.

Thanks to modern technology there are resources galore online. If you need help accessing them, contact Sheila. If a hardcopy is more your style, Gather magazine and Northern Highlights newsletter are available with a subscription. One could likely spend days on end reading, pondering and reflecting all that is available.

www.womenoftheelca.org This is the go-to place for all that is Women of the ELCA. Here you can learn about the ministries and actions churchwide. There are study resources available on a variety of subjects and well as a wide array of articles.

www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace Daily devotionals are listed under this tab. There is also a sign-up page to have them sent to your email. It only takes a few minutes to start your day with grace.

www.boldcafe.org This is touted as being for young adult women but in reality, the content is also relevant to women who may be on the upper end of young. Podcasts and a monthly newsletter are available. There is a monthly online "dinner" via Zoom. Sheila has joined several of these and can attest to how wonderful they are. One can choose to have their camera on or off or to phone in. The hosts are very intentional to stay within the one-hour time frame. One of the fun things about these events is being with women from Dodgeville, Wisconsin to Maine to Arizona and places in between.

www.gathermagazine.org This is the magazine that many Circles use for their monthly Bible studies. Digital and print subscriptions are available. One can subscribe online or by using the subscription cards on the WELCA bulletin board.

www.nisynod.org/ministries/nis-women The Synod maintains a page for NIS WELCA. The most recent newsletter and upcoming events are usually posted. If you'd like a quick summary of how WELCA works, you can find it here.

Northern Highlights is published four times a year with information specific to our synod. Hardcopy subscriptions are available for \$10.00. There is no cost to receive a copy via email. Subscription forms are on the WELCA bulletin board or can be accessed by using this link: <https://nis.elvanto.net/file/0a160aa2-acfa-4b6d-86f9-1c4906b07d5f/>

All women of the ELCA are members of WELCA and are welcome at all of our Good Shepherd, synod and churchwide activities.



April

*April is a rainbow month,
Of sudden springtime showers.
Bright with gold daffodils.
And lots of pretty flowers.*

Author unknown

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.

There's still time to order Easter Lilies

Lilies will be \$15.00 per plant and can be ordered by using the flower envelopes provided in the magazine rack by the entrance. Please place them in the offering plate or you can drop them off at the church office.

Orders must be in by April 6th.

Lilies may be picked up after the 9:30 am Easter Sunday Service.

Easter Day Breakfast at Good Shepherd

We invite you and your family to come and enjoy at 8:00am after Easter Sunrise Service on April 20th. Menu includes; egg casserole, coffee cake, coffee, or orange juice.

Reservations appreciated, sign-up forms available by Fellowship Hall or call the church by April 10th.

JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY

At Evangelical Free Church of Lena during Lent at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate with music!

April 2 Glenda Linneman

April 9 Brian/Sharon Lieb/Gone Fishin'

April 16 DELTA II

Service will be 45-60 minutes long.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule 2025

- 13 April, 9:30 am - *Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion* - Sunday worship with procession of palms and a reading of the Passion according to Luke
- 17 April, 7:00 pm - *Maundy Thursday* - Communion service
- 18 April, 7:00 pm - *Good Friday* - Tenebrae service
- 20 April, 7:00 am - *Easter Morning* - Sunrise service
- 20 April, 9:30 am - *Easter Day* - Festive celebration with Holy Communion