



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

Email: [goodshepherdlena@outlook.com](mailto:goodshepherdlena@outlook.com)  
Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";  
Website: [www.GoodShepherdLena.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLena.org)  
Phone: 815-369-5552



### *John Mason Neale* *"All Glory, Laud and Honour"*

*Neale was born in London on 24 January 1818, his parents being the clergyman Cornelius Neale and Susanna Neale, daughter of John Mason Good. A younger sister Elizabeth Neale (1822–1901) founded the Community of the Holy Cross. He was educated at Sherborne School, Dorset, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where (despite being said to be the best classical scholar in his year) his lack of ability in mathematics prevented him taking an honours degree. Neale was named after the Puritan cleric and hymn writer John Mason (1645–94), of whom his mother Susanna was a descendant.*

*More than anyone else, he made English-speaking congregations aware of the centuries-old tradition of Latin, Greek, Russian, and Syrian hymns. The 1875 edition of the Hymns Ancient and Modern contains 58 of his translated hymns; The English Hymnal (1906) contains 63 of his translated hymns and six original hymns by Neale.*

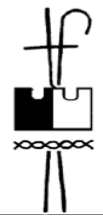
*His translations include:*

*"All Glory, Laud and Honour"*

*"O come, O come, Emmanuel"*

*Since Neale died on 6 August 1866, the Feast of the Transfiguration, he is commemorated by the Anglican churches on the following day, 7 August. Neale is honoured in the Church of England and in the Episcopal Church that day.*

*Neale and Catherine Winkworth are commemorated together in the Calendar of Saints of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on 1 July, the anniversary of Winkworth's death. Neale was buried in St Swithun's churchyard, East Grinstead.*



March 2026 Newsletter

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

**“THEY’RE JUST GONE”**

Lutherans respond to floods in western Alaska

By: Lisa A. Smith

November 24, 2025

In her 17 years of flying to the coastal village of Kipnuk, Alaska, to serve as its primary care provider, Anne Komulainen had never seen it like this.

“The debris started to appear miles from the village,” Komulainen remembered. “I was in complete shock and worried for the residents.” On Oct. 12, 2025, the remnants of Typhoon Halong had decimated Kipnuk, accessible only by air and water, and caused damage in several other villages along the western coast of Alaska. Komulainen and two nurses arrived by U.S. Coast Guard helicopter 12 hours after the storm hit.

Komulainen—a physician’s assistant and a member of Table of Grace Lutheran Church in Bethel, Alaska—travels to Kipnuk twice a year. She has become part of the community, both during her visits there and when residents travel to Bethel for medical care. “I’ve been going there for so long that I have a close relationship with the elders from doing home visits,” she said. When Komulainen landed in October, ready to provide medical and logistical assistance, she saw these people’s houses crushed or floating away.

More than 700 residents sheltered at the school—30 people per classroom, sleeping on the floor. Kipnuk occupies a spongelike tundra; the school was built on pilings, and pedestrians navigate the town on boardwalks. With the boardwalks washed away, Komulainen had to crawl under one tipped-over house, then walk through another lying on its side, to reach the school from the airport.

Once there, Komulainen and the nurses treated minor injuries such as cuts and scrapes and provided triage for those who needed to be evacuated for further medical treatment. There were no deaths or serious injuries, but the property damage was severe. Houses were ripped from their foundations; others had collapsed in rows like fallen dominos; still others floated away, one traveling more than 7 miles. Occupants had to be airlifted out in rescue buckets by Coast Guard helicopters. Almost every home in Kipnuk is now unfit for habitation due to flood damage, debris or spillage from the fuel oil tanks residents use to heat their homes.

According to Komulainen, the damage runs deeper than property and possessions. Kipnuk is the homeland for many [Yupik](#) people who trace their ancestry back generations in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, yet the floods washed away all the graves in the local cemetery. People who live a subsistence lifestyle lost freezers full of painstakingly harvested and preserved fish, berries, walrus and seal. Residents lost precious traditional items such as woven baskets and kuspuks, or hooded parkas.

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

“It’s so heartbreaking because I’ve been in so many people’s homes,” Komulainen said. “People have things on their walls: photos, plaques, their grandpa’s Army photo. There are so many memories and historical things. They’re just gone.”

The experience, she said, has increased her gratitude and given her new perspective. “The Yupik people know what’s important, and that’s family. They know their family is safe. It really made me think: Why am I so attached to stuff?”

Amid such brokenness, Komulainen found moments of God’s grace in the faith of the people of Kipnuk and the way they helped each other.

Shortly after Komulainen left Kipnuk, the entire village was evacuated to Bethel; many residents later flew to Anchorage. In Bethel, Table of Grace’s church building housed volunteers who had arrived to help relief efforts. Church member Elizabeth Roll volunteered at the local armory, handing out food, water and supplies to people arriving by plane from Kipnuk and other villages impacted by the flooding. Many of them arrived with little more than the clothes they were wearing. Roll also volunteered with the nonprofit Bethel Friends of Canines, helping to haul and document dogs rescued from the villages so that they could be reunited with their owners.

Though Kipnuk residents are served primarily by a local Moravian church, Table of Grace members continue to collect supplies to distribute to those impacted by flooding. The congregation recently distributed jackets, snow pants, boots, sheets and towels purchased by the ELCA Alaska Synod with funds from synods in Texas and North Carolina.

Table of Grace also operates a feeding ministry that distributes grocery bags full of shelf-stable food to local schools. Roll said this operation will be even more crucial as time goes on, and Table of Grace plans to expand it if possible. Relief efforts are being supported by Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) and Lutheran Social Services of Alaska (LSSA).

“The response has been overwhelming from the Lutheran congregations in Alaska and other Lutheran congregations across the country,” said Alan Budahl, executive director of LSSA. Budahl used funds to purchase extra food and supplies, such as diapers, for the LSSA food pantry in Anchorage, to serve residents from western Alaska who are now temporarily living in the state’s largest city.

Budahl, who works with LDR and other partners to support recovery and rebuilding efforts in villages, said that homes are still being assessed and that rebuilding will not be possible until spring 2026. Families who lost everything will need help reestablishing their households, Budahl said, and Lutherans are in it for the long haul.

“There’s going to be a long-term need,” Budahl said. “Lutheran Disaster Response is for long-term recovery.”

Source: Living Lutheran Magazine

### **We are looking for volunteers 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. Needs are high and we are looking for 2 volunteers for the upcoming months (April 25<sup>th</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup> August 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 24<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup>). If you are interested, put your name on the sign up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office.

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes**  
**January 8, 2026**

**Agenda Review:** President Kristy Patterson had a request from the Property Committee to add updating of the banner that goes on the church float from 150 years to 170 years. Having no other additions or corrections, the Agenda was approved.

**Secretary's Report:** Treasurer Jay Andrews noted that the amount for the December 11, 2025 current account should read \$9,636.00 behind instead of \$963.60. a decimal point was in the wrong place. Having no other additions or corrections, the Secretary's Report was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The December offerings were very good. The Current Account is about \$10,000.00 behind while the budget is about \$3,750.00 behind for the year.

Gas Bill - \$193.36    Electric Bill - \$225.21.

Having no questions for the Treasurer, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Thomas Mosbo noted that Advent and Christmas services were very successful and also the Sunday School Pageant held on December 14, 2025. It was especially happy with the Christmas Morning Worship Service which was attended by approximately twice as many people as the year before. Pastor Thomas noted that on January 11, 2026 Lucy Fahr would be baptized on the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. Pastor is also excited to be his third year here at Good Shepherd. The Pastor's Report was approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Men's Group:** The Men's Group made a donation to WELCA of \$100.00 for kitchen supplies. They also made a donation of \$599.09 to the Current Accounts for Current Expenses.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Constitution:** Still waiting on Synod.

**New Business:**

**Property Committee:** Property Committee suggested updating the banner used on the Church float from 150 years to 170 years. The Council discussed the matter and decided to table the project to the January 2027 meeting.

Having no other business before the Church Council, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be on February 11, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted by  
Janis Kurth  
Church Council Secretary

**Treasurer's Report**  
**Jay Andrews**

Incoming January 2026	\$4,539.15
Expenses January 2026	<u>\$7,542.43</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(3,003.28)
Income, Year to Date 2026	\$4,539.15
Expenses, Year to Date 2026	<u>\$7,542.43</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(3,003.28)

**MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR**  
**LENA LIVING CENTER**

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. This is a new ministry 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!

*Questions? Contact the church office.*

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting Highlights  
January 25, 2026**

Following the Annual Meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church the newly elected Council met to elect officers and set the meeting time for the Church Council.

Those selected or volunteering for a position were:

President:	Kristy Patterson
Vice President:	Michelle Andrews
Secretary	Janis Kurth

A The Council will continue to meet on the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Janis Kurth  
Church Council Secretary

***We lift up our prayers***


*Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Marilyn Fulfs, Gary Hudik, Virgil Martin, Caroline Jam, Darlene Aurand, Cyndy Schumacher, Virgil Gordon, Jerry Martin, Donna Christen, Richard Freitag, Waylon Andrews, Connor Stadermann, Ryse Stone, Nicole, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Jim DeMontigny Jr., Linda Kruger-Kleckler, Norman, Vivian, Tina Cheeney, Brenda, Kara Allen, Christine Beyer, Bob Schulz, Kenny Frie, Steve Rothschild, Gary L. Hartwig, Josh, Hannah, Ray Phillips, Susan, Allison Biddick, Brad Rackow, Kim Choin, Jeannie, Dianne, Nancy, Pat McCluskey, Jim Briggs, Sandi, Tina, Jim, Ronald Schrader, Christine S. and Deanna Jordan. Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Fern Harnish.*

**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.*

On March 23, 1965,  will forever live on as the day astronaut John Young smuggled a corned beef on rye into space on Gemini 3, sharing the sandwich with fellow astronaut Gus Grissom.

Source: History.com



## 2026 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!

## Good Shepherd Scholarship Applications for 2026

### I. Criteria for eligibility:

- 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 certifications, associates or bachelor degrees.

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).

VI. Decision of Scholarship Committee is final.

Application information will remain confidential.



On March 3, 2007, some 170 Swiss soldiers accidentally "invaded" Liechtenstein during a training mission when they got lost in the rain, prompting an official apology from Swiss authorities. Liechtenstein, a small and peaceful country with neutral neighbors, wasn't troubled by the incident, noting such occurrences have happened before.

Source: History.com



## 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."*



## **"Raising Our Voices: Proclaiming the Gospel When the World is Loud"**

*Proclamation isn't shouting louder than hate...it's speaking, living and standing in love, truth, and justice as people claimed in Christ.*

### **WELCA SPRING RETREAT 2026**

"Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ."

*1 Peter 4:11*

**APRIL 25, 2026**

**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**LOMC Oregon, IL**

**\$30 per person**

*Scholarships are available*

**Program and Worship led by  
Pr. Laurie Hensley, Bethany ELCA, Woodhull, IL**



Northern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



According to folklore, folks wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because the saint used its three leaves to explain the Trinity.

Northern Illinois Synod Women of the WELCA

**Retreat Registration Form-2026**

**“Raising Our Voices: Proclaiming the Gospel When the World is Loud”**

**Saturday, April 26, 2026 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**

Program and worship led by Pastor Laurie Hensley, Bethany ELCA, Woodhull, Ill.

Use this form to register for the Retreat—please note the deadline for registration. Include a check for \$30.00, 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 we 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 Women’s Department, India-Arcot Women’s Desk, and “Dollars for our Daughters.” Be sure to note these additions below on your registration form. Send this form and your check to **NIS WELCA to Kay Johnson-6043 E. Skinner Rd., Stillman Valley, IL 61084. The registration deadline is April 1, 2026.**

**LOMC, 1834 S.IL Rt. 2, Oregon, IL 61061**

Registration and coffee: 8:30-9:00 AM

...cut here.....

**Please Print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Registration Fee: \$30.00**

Special needs (diet, physical, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

I have applied for a 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars for our Daughters \_\_\_\_\_

Office use only: Check Received \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation Sent \_\_\_\_\_

## Deeps

These brightly colored, sugar-coated, chick-shaped marshmallows were invented in 1953 and quickly became a staple in Easter baskets. Here's a fun fact: It takes just six minutes to make a batch of Deeps. Talk about "fast food"

**Northern Illinois Synod  
Women of the ELCA Spring Retreat  
Saturday, April 25, 2026**

**“Raising Our Voices: Proclaiming the Gospel When the World is Loud”**

**Half Scholarship Application**

Program and worship led by Pastor Laurie Hensley, Bethany ELCA, Woodhull, IL.

**Deadline for Half Scholarship Application: March 25, 2026**

The retreat is at LOMC, 1834 S. Il Rt 2, Oregon, Ill 61061

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of ELCA Congregation in which you are a member \_\_\_\_\_

Your Pastor's name/church phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

What is your involvement with the Women of the ELCA? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is attending this event important to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received a retreat Scholarship before? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Your age: 20-35 \_\_\_\_\_ 36-50 \_\_\_\_\_ 51-75 \_\_\_\_\_ over 75 \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship Registration Fee: \$15.00**

**Please complete this form as well as the registration form**

**Please return the two completed forms to:** Christine Beyer-5713 S. Derinda Rd., Elizabeth, IL.61028 by March 25, 2026. You will be notified of the scholarship decision by March 30, 2026. If you have any questions, please call Christine at 815-858-4555.

Office use only: Date received \_\_\_\_\_ Reply \_\_\_\_\_

## March Birthdays

3/1	Cheryl Torkelson	3/15	Larynn Schumaker
3/3	Connor Kurth	3/16	Nakoah Cornwell
3/3	Cindy Tessendorf	3/19	Barbara Price
3/3	Duane Christen	3/20	Pr. Sarah Schaffner
3/4	Jessica Alexander	3/23	Paige Hancock
3/8	Raegeer Sullivan	3/23	Pr. Pat Esker
3/9	Michelle Andrews	3/24	Chuck Kraft
3/13	Bob Schlachter	3/27	Kristy Patterson
3/13	Ella Wolfrop	3/28	Matthew Huber
3/14	Don Wienand	3/31	Caroline Jam

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

### It is time to order Easter Lilies

Each year, Good Shepherd's chancel is decorated with Easter Lilies for the Easter Season. Please use Flower Offering envelopes, place them in the offering plate or you can drop them off at the church office. Orders must be in by **March 15th**. Price of the plants are \$16.00 each.

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



## Holy Week and Easter Schedule 2026



29 March, 9:30 am -  
*Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion* -  
Sunday worship with  
procession of palms and a reading  
of the Passion according to  
Luke

2 April, 7:00 pm -  
*Maundy Thursday* -  
Communion service



3 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



### 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 20<sup>th</sup>. Menu includes; egg casserole, coffee cake, coffee, or orange juice.

### Easter Breakfast Reservation Form

Please fill out this reservation form and drop it off at the church office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_