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

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



“I Love to Tell the Story”

By Katherine (Kate) Hankey

compiled by Stephen Ross

Arabella Katherine (Kate) Hankey (1834-1911) was born in London, England in 1834, into a home of a wealthy English banker. Nothing is known of how or when Kate came to Christ, but early in her life, she developed a fervent evangelistic zeal and started a Bible class for the girls in her neighborhood. In her late teens, she began organizing Sunday schools for girls in London and not only taught each week, but wrote and published poems and Gospel tracts to hand out in her classes. She was also very supportive of foreign missions.

Kate and her father belonged to an influential group called "Clapham Sect." Most members of this group were prominent and wealthy evangelical Anglicans. A well known member of this group was William Wilberforce.

In her thirties, Kate became seriously ill and it was during the lengthy period of recovery that she wrote *The Old, Old Story*, a long poem about Jesus. The poem consisted of two main parts. The first part is titled, *The Story Wanted* and was written in January, 1866. The second part is titled *The Story Told*, and was written in November, 1866. The complete poem was first published in 1867. The author was not identified, nor was she noted as the author in the 1875 edition of this poem.

From this poem come two well-known hymns: "Tell Me the Old, Old Story" and "I Love To Tell the Story." "Tell Me The Old, Old Story" was taken from eight stanzas of four lines each in the first part of the poem. William H. Doane (1832-1915) composed the music for this hymn and first published it as no. 240 in his *Songs of Devotion*, 1870. Doane indicates the author as anonymous. A collection of Kate Hankey's hymns that she published in 1870, including "Tell me The Old, Old Story," titled *Heart to Heart: Hymns by the Author of "The Old, Old Story,"* also does not identify Hankey specifically.

"I Love to Tell the Story" was adapted from the words of the second part of Hankey's poem with the music composed by William G. Fischer (1835-1912), and first published in *Joyful Songs*, 1869.

Compiled by Stephen Ross from various sources 2011, rev. 2024.
Source©1996-2026 WholesomeWords.org

January 2026 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



If you are in my house any time of the year, you might notice it. But this time of the year, it gets moved right by the tree. It's a small Tanzanian basket filled with stars. Ornaments, carvings, Moravian stars, Swedish stars, St. Nicholas stars, glass, everything possible. All shapes and colors and textures. I've accumulated them over the years. Started when I was a much younger person, and I went to those Day after Christmas sales. Where they flung open the doors early and put everything 75% off. Then I would get them on trips. And gradually people started to give them to me.

I first fell in love with stars because of the story of the wise men in Matthew 2. Those men from the east looked up, saw a star, and took off on a journey. An absurd journey, really. Through the night, they followed this star in what had to be a wandering and sometimes aimless path. But they went, and light guided them the whole way. And light, when you think about it, permeates our entire Christmas and Advent story. Someone extends the gift of hospitality to Mary and Joseph. A gift of light in the night for them. Angels light up the night sky. All of that darkness was shown to be brilliant as the shepherds looked up and heard about the coming of Christ. The manager, the birth of the child is usually depicted with light coming out from it.

And as we prepare during the season of Advent, we mark the days and weeks with candles until the explosion of light on the fullness of Christmas. Stars and light guide our way. Glimpses of light during this season are glimpses of hope until that hope fills our spirits. But more than that, light is part of what we are called to out of baptism. We get to be stars. Because of that child in a manger, as we are baptized, we are sent out to the world to be light for others who forget that God is at work.

We get to be those glimpses of hope and promise and love to those who might have forgotten that they are in the world. You and I get to be the piece of hope that might just change someone's life. Because when we reflect the light of that child in our lives, it can stop people in their tracks. That love and that light bring hope. That love and that light show people what God is up to in this world. And when we live that light together, it changes the world and brings light in ways that we cannot even imagine.

As you gather in this season, may you get to see those glimpses of the kingdom of heaven and light all around you, just as the shepherds did.

And may you, as you go forth from this season, be a star, that glimpses where others see the kingdom of God shining through you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, knowing you never go alone. Amen.

Highlights from Good Shepherd's November Council Meeting

Agenda Review: Additions to the Agenda: Snow removal, Letter from Anna Patterson, Food Pantry rent, donation of sign, and transfer of funds.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was reviewed. Having no additions or corrections, the report was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews talked about the Church's financial status. It was stated, "We will seek reimbursement for the Lena Food Pantry for their portion of the property insurance in the amount of $1602.00

Electric Bill $241.21 Gas Bill Credit $124.37

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee: It was discussed that the committee plans to exist as a group without a chair for the time being.

Property Committee: The Property Committee reported that they met on October 27, 2025 to discuss the current standing of the painting of the Fellowship Hall and agreed to add a bit of gloss to certain areas. It was also discussed to continue painting the rampway and handicap bathroom with the remaining paint. Shane will be doing the painting again.

Old Business:

Constitution: It was reported that the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Constitution is still in the process of being amended.

New Business:

Snow Removal: Tabled

Sign Donation: Mike Welton would like to donate a sign to advertise our Christmas Services. Tabled.

Letter from Anna Patterson: Kristy Patterson read a letter from Anna Patterson. Anna wrote asking Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to sponsor her on her mission to Latin America March 7th-13th, 2026. She is asking for $2,000 to cover her costs. She will be going with a group called Crew where she attends in DeKalb, Illinois while continuing her studies at Northern Illinois University.

Food Pantry Rent: A motion to approve the payment of $600 for our portion of the Food Pantry rent to be taken from the Lucille Baker Endowment Fund. The motion was approved.

Transferring Funds: A motion to transfer $4,000 from the Special Funds BMI interest to the current account for Pastor Thomas' housing allowance. The motion was approved.

Continued on next page.

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!

Continued from previous page.

Highlights from Good Shepherd's November Council Meeting

Endowment Fund: Mission Support Distributions
A move to make endowment distributions from the Special Funds Endowment interest for the following:

Piece Corp--$2,500
Lena Food Pantry--$300
Tyler's Justice Center for Children--$1,000
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center--$700
Madonna Renewal Center--$300
Pine Ridge Retreat Center--$700
ELCA Disaster Relief--$600
Voices of Stephenson County--$1,000
Anna Patterson Mission Trip to Latin America in March 2026--$2,000

Having no other business before the Church Council, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.
Next meeting will be on December 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
for Janice Kurth by Dale Gullickson

Good Shepherd's Annual Meeting

Will be held on January 25th, 2026 at 10:30am following service.

Treasurer's Report
Jay Andrews

Incoming November 2025	$6,428.00
Expenses November 2025	$6,091.94
Net Income (Loss)	$ 336.06
Income, Year to Date 2025	$85,009.57
Expenses, Year to Date 2025	$97,432.09
Net Income (Loss)	$(12,422.52)

Hmmm, interesting;
The months of January and February were not originally in the ancient Roman calendar as the winter months were considered dormant, both in terms of agriculture and also in terms of making war. This was a time of peace. Until 450 BCE, the Roman calendar was 10 months, beginning in March *(Martius)*, due to the March Equinox. Remember, March was named for "Mars," the god of War who was also an agricultural guardian.

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

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

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."

Join us at the 2026 Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa!
July 16-19, 2026

The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is "I Am Worthy," based on Psalm 139:19: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This statement serves as a reminder of God's promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division by repeating the phrased "I am worthy," we can recognize the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in our lives. This practice of self-affirmation opens up opportunities for healing and restoration within ourselves, our church, society and the world. When we declare, "I am worthy," we align ourselves with God's promises. There is great power in our resolve.



Experience electrifying worship

- Connect and build relationships with women of all ages from your church and beyond
- Be inspired by messages from speakers who remind you that you are a miracle
- Learn about and live out the ministry and mission of WELCA
- Participate in service and advocacy
- Run, Walk and Roll with our 5K Fun Run to raise money for women and girls

Learn more & Register: WELCATG.ORG

https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/TG-Bulletin-5.5.8.5.pdf

The Old Farmer's Almanac

Long ago, Ben Franklin said, "some of us are weather-wise and some are otherwise," and our fascination with weather continues to this day. Weather folklore is far from infallible in its predictions, but it is entertaining!

We lift our prayers for

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Fern Harnish, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Marilyn Fulfs, Gary Hudik, Virgil Martin, Caroline Jam, Darlene Aurand, Cyndy Schumacher, Virgil Gordon, Jerry Martin, Donna Christen, Richard Frietag, Waylon Andrews, Connor Stadermann, Diane, Randy, Brian, Paul Heller, Janet, 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 Rothschadl, Gary L. Hartwig, Josh, Hannah, Ray Phillips, Susan, Allison Biddick, Brad Rackow, Kim Choin, Jeannie, Dianne, Nancy, Pat McCluskey, Jim Briggs, Sandi, Tina, Jim and Ronald Schrader.

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.

We are blessed by everyone who purchased poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. There beauty brings peace, joy and warm memories of loved ones. Their beauty is matched only by the thoughtfulness of your gesture.

Thank you to Dale Gullickson, and all her elves,

Thank you for organizing the Christmas Program for 2025.

That was incredibly thoughtful gesture from everyone who took time out of their day for rehearsal to learn their rolls in the production.

Your talents and creativity sparkle like tinsel. Thank you for your hard work.



Good Shepherd Congregation,

As we celebrate this Christmas season, the Lena Winslow Food Pantry would like to express our sincere gratitude for your support, kindness, and generosity throughout the year. Your contributions (monetary, food donations, and service support have made a significant difference to feed and support our hungry neighbors in the Lena-Winslow and Orangeville School District communities

We have been blessed in serving the challenges of 2025, and 2026 looks to be no different. Our needy families have continued to grow to almost 90 per month from 80 in 2024. Northern Illinois Food Bank will be increasing the Mobile Pantry from 9 to 12 dates between Lena and Orangeville in 2026. We are also looking to be OPEN, one night a month from 4-7pm to better serve our neighbors, we are always looking for more volunteers to help us. If you would like to know more information about the Lena Winslow Food Pantry activities, please let me know.

Sincerely
Greg Andrews
Lena-Winslow Food Pantry Director
(815)541-4840

Make-A-Smile cards for Lena Living Center

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. This ministry was started 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!

My Friends Closet Volunteers needed.

If you are interested for a place to socialize, meet new people and a place to serve God, contact Chris at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena at 815-369-4035.

The Le-Win Food Pantry is a member of Northern Illinois Food Bank, associated with Feeding America, Emergency Food Program Food Pantry and USDA Commodities programs.

The Pantry leases the building at 130 ½ Main Street, Lena, IL with the entrance from the alley.

Pantry hours are Saturdays, 8:30-11:30am.

In 2025 the Le-Win Food Pantry averaged 87 families per month.

Le-Win Food Pantry. is looking for volunteers

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 upcoming even numbered months If you are interested, put your name on the sign up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January Birthdays

1-01 Tim Gordon
1-02 Elizabeth Kurth
1-03 Brady Meier
1-03 Shayleigh Albright
1-08 Tena Rackow
1-10 Noah Schoaf
1-11 Tamara Albrecht
1-13 Heather Fye
1-14 Courtney Lawson
1-15 Isabelle Schoaf
1-16 Sarah Baker
1-17 Gary Meyers
1-17 Owen Martin
1-18 Tim Aurand
1-21 Tyler Raders
1-27 Becky Huttenlocher
1-28 Jan Wybourn
1-28 Denise Flack
1-28 Heather Block
1-29 Bailey Schoenhard
1-30 Marilyn Fulfs
1-31 Lisa Wienand



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

If you want happiness for an hour-take a nap.
If you want happiness for a day-go fishing
If you want happiness for a year-inherit a fortune.
If you want happiness for a lifetime-help someone else.
Chinese Proverb



Secret Message

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25	26	8	13	22	6	19	24	23	21	5	15	7	16	4	2	12	1	11	17	14	3	10	9	20	18

Use the above key to find out which number matches each letter.

When Jesus went to the temple, what question was he asked by the priests and the elders? Hint: Read Matthew 21:23

" 26 20 10 24 25 17 25 14 17 24 4 1 23 17 20 25 1 22 20 4 14 13 4 23 16 19 17 24 22 11 22 17 24 23 16 19 11 ? " 17 24 22 20

" 25 11 5 22 13 25 16 13 10 24 4 19 25 3 22 20 4 14 17 24 23 11 25 14 17 24 4 1 23 17 20 ? "