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

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

History of "Shine, Jesus, Shine"
Text and Music by Graham Kendrick

Graham Kendrick (born 2 August 1950) is a British Christian singer, songwriter and worship leader. He is the son of Baptist pastor M. D. Kendrick and grew up in Laindon, Essex, and Putney. He now lives in Tunbridge Wells and is a member of Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells. He was a member of Ichthus Christian Fellowship. Together with Roger Forster, Gerald Coates and Lynn Green, he was a founder of March for Jesus.

Kendrick, began his songwriting career in the late 1960s. His most successful accomplishment is his authorship of the lyrics and music for the song, "Shine, Jesus, Shine", which is among the most widely heard songs in contemporary Christian worship worldwide. His other songs have been primarily used by worshippers in Britain. Kendrick is a co-founder of the March for Jesus. He received a Dove Award in 1995 for his international work. In 2000, London School of Theology and Brunel University awarded Kendrick an honorary doctorate in Divinity ('DD') in "recognition of his contribution to the worship life of the Church". He was awarded another DD in May 2008, from Wycliffe College in Toronto, Canada.

Although now best known as a worship leader and writer of worship songs, Kendrick began his career as a member of the Christian beat group Whispers of Truth (formerly the "Forerunners"). Later, he began working as a solo concert performer and recording artist in the singer-songwriter tradition. He was closely associated with the organisation Musical Gospel Outreach and recorded several albums for their record labels. On the first, *Footsteps on the Sea*, released in 1972, he worked with the virtuoso guitarist Gordon Giltrap.

Kendrick worked for a time as a member of "In the Name of Jesus", a mission team led by Clive Calver. He was based at St Michael le Belfrey, York in the late 1970s and was involved in student and university ministry with British Youth for Christ. At this time he recorded the albums *Triumph in the Air* and *Cresta Run*. Calver went on to run British Youth for Christ and the Evangelical Alliance, and then left the United Kingdom for the Evangelical Church in the United States.

In more recent years Kendrick has developed the concept of "Psalm Surfing".

Source: Wikipedia

February 2026 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our 2026 Lent series, **Going Deeper: Conversations with Jesus,** is now available on the Northern Illinois Synod website. This series connects with the theme that we will be centered on over the next three years, **Going Deeper – Naming, Claiming, Proclaiming.** We are inviting you, as congregations and individuals, to explore the why behind what you do in response to God's call in an ever-changing world.

We will join the conversation between Jesus and his partners from Sunday's gospel readings as we think about naming, claiming, and proclaiming our why. Beginning in the wilderness, we name the voices and temptations that shape us. With Nicodemus, we claim our identity as people born of the Spirit. At the well, we recognize our deepest thirst and receive Christ's living water. In community, we are challenged to see ourselves and others in new ways. At the tomb of Lazarus, we hold grief and hope together as we trust God's promise of resurrection. Across these stories, we are called to name our realities truthfully, claim God's life-giving presence among us, and proclaim that hope through word and deed as we follow Jesus more deeply.

In place of a meditation, congregations are invited to participate in holy conversations. These holy conversations will be asking questions that invite us to go deeper with both the scripture lesson for the day, and as we think about naming, claiming, and proclaiming our why. You may choose to have time for silent reflection, for group sharing, or for sharing with a neighbor. By adapting these holy conversations to your context, we hope that they invite you to go deeper as we live into who we are called to be.

On our website, you will find completed bulletins that include music and text, an overview sheet with important information, and graphics that you might need. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, there will be daily social media posts on the Northern Illinois Synod channels that will tie into this series that you are welcome to share on your personal and congregational pages. Weekly written reflections will be posted to our website and social media on Sunday that you are welcome to share and use in your midweek services. To access the resources, please go to; https://nisynod.org/resources/worship-resources#block-1626

If you have any questions or need any assistance with the resources, please contact Pastor Mack Patrick via email or by calling the Northern Illinois Synod Office at 309-794-4004

+Bishop Stacie Fidlar

The Rev. Stacie Fidlar

Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA
Email: bishopstacie@nisynod.org

Highlights from December Council Meeting
December 11, 2025

Agenda Review: Added to the Agenda: Sunday morning snow removal.

Secretary's Report: Thank you to Dale Gullickson for stepping in last month to take minutes for the Council Meeting. There was one note of a spelling error which was corrected.

Treasure's Report: The November offerings were low. The Current Account is $9636.00 behind. The yearly Budget is about $12,000.00 behind.

Electric Bill - $171.86 Gas Bill - $193.36.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Thomas Mosbo noted that he presided at Anna Andersen's Funeral. He also noted that Christmas plans are coming along. Lucy Fahr will be Baptized on January 11, 2026 at morning worship.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music Committee: Had to cancel their meeting due to conflicts. Meeting will be rescheduled soon.

Learning Committee: Christmas Program will be on December 14, 2025 during morning worship.

Finance Committee: The Finance committee met on Monday December 8, 2025 to work on the 2026 Budget. The Committee has worked out a new Budget.

Nomination Committee: The Nomination Committee has three (3) members that are interested in being on the next Church Council. They are: Coralyn Hudik, Coral Mosbo and Theresa Woodbury.

Old Business:

Constitution: Still working on the Constitution and waiting for Synod approval.

New Business:

Snow Plowing: The Council discussed the problem of snowfall before worship service on Sunday morning. What is the best way to be sure our members are safe.

Cancellation Procedures: Discussion was held on the best way to inform members if the weather is so bad that Church must be canceled. A telephone tree was discussed as well as getting information on the Radio and Television stations.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting date was set for January 25, 2026 following Worship Service. The backup date will be February 8, 2026.

Review of 2026 Budget: The proposed 2026 Budget was presented to the Council. Jay Andrews explained the Finance Committees thought process behind formulating the new Budget. Due to the current economy, giving is down and expenses are up. To that point the Finance committee cut where it could and left other expenses alone. That means that there will be a negative Budget presented to the Congregation.

Having no other business before the Church Council, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary

Good Shepherd Scholarship Applications for 2026

Applications for 2026 scholarships will be available March 1,2026 at the church office. They must be returned to the church office by March 31, 2026. Since 1997, seventy-eight 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.

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 28th.

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!

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."

Since 2005, Women of the ELCA has been actively working to end human trafficking. Some work on education and awareness. Others provide support to agencies helping women to leave or who have left human trafficking. Others still are working to change laws that criminalize the victims of trafficking.

At the Eleventh Triennial Convention (2021), 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.

Source: https://www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice/human-trafficking

Prayer by the Rev. Staci Stought:

God of Justice and Mercy, We lift before you prayers for our world, your church, and your people, especially those who are suffering under the harm of human trafficking.

Lead your church, O Lord, to break the silence around human trafficking. Give us courage to name this sin in our prayers, Bible studies, and missions. Let Your people be known for truth-telling and compassion. Empower Your church to proclaim the good news of Your freedom and restoration. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Teach us, O Lord, to be good stewards of Your land and waters. Move us to protect and care for all that you have made, so that future generations can flourish. Your bounty is set all around us-help us to rejoice in it, care for it, and praise You as the Giver of all creation. Lord, in Your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Encourage the leaders of all nations, O Lord, towards cooperation with one another. Give insight to see the global connections of harm in human trafficking. Grant them compassion to dismantle systems of oppression through fairer wages and equitable education for all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

O Lord, provide for those bound by trafficking. Hold them close and send them protection. Protect children betrayed by those meant to love them; who wander unsafe streets. Bring healing to the sick, and comfort for all who mourn. Watch over those forced to flee their homes because of war or persecution, and guard them of what is typical throughout their journeys: of hunger, sexual violence, and exploitation. Lord, in Your mercy. Hear our prayer.

O Lord, grant peace to those who feel unseen, who suffer silently. Heal bodies, minds, and spirits. Surround the oppressed with safer communities of care and love. Grant protection whose bodies are weary. Lord, in Your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Grant peace to all in our community burdened by life's troubles, O Lord. We pray especially this morning for those in our own faith community who are affected by violence, grief, and oppression. Lord, in Your mercy. Hear our prayer.

(continued on next page)

We give thanks, O Lord, for the saints who have gone before us, in our own families and faith communities-whose lives have strengthened our own faith. May their example inspire us to trust in your promises. Lord, in Your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Faithful God, we give thanks for all who work to end human trafficking: advocates, social workers, medical staff, and law enforcement. Bless their work with wisdom and perseverance. Strengthen organizations that provide safety, education, and opportunity. Let Your spirit guide all efforts toward the liberation of Your people. We pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Staci is the founder of Unnamed No More, a non-profit ministry that helps churches to address gender-based violence through dialogue and actionable steps. She is a retired Sexual Assault Police Officer with specialized forensic expertise in Child Abuse. She currently serves as the Pastoral Care Minister at Messiah Lutheran Church in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, while pursuing her Master of Divinity at Luther Seminary. Staci has been endorsed for Word and Sacrament Ordination for the ELCA. www.safechurchinitiative.com

Source: https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Worship-Service-Prayer-Human-trafficking-v.2.pdf

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

We lift up our prayers

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, 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, Ronald Schrader and Deanna Jordan. Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Roxann Schultz.

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.

Lena Lions Club
P.O. Box 311
Lena, IL 61048

The Lena Lions Club, along with the Veterans Assistance of Stephenson County and the Winnebago County Veterans Drop in Center would like to say "Thank You Very Much" for your participation again this year in our annual collection.

This year's collections of socks, gloves, personal care items and other things showed once again, the caring hearts of the people in our area and their desire to help our veterans.

The Lions Club greatly appreciates working with you on this event. This year we had nine area churches as well as My Friends Closet and Stateline Solar participated in our efforts. I look forward to working with you again next year, as we need to continue to remember those whom have serviced our country to assure our freedoms.

Thank you again,
Lena Lion Co-Chairs
Bill Crichton and Gary Meyers

"Serving Lena Since 1949"

Veterans' Assistance Commission of Stephenson County

15 N. Galena Avenue
P. O. Box 695
Freeport, Illinois 61032
Telephone: 815-233-7282
Fax: 815-616-8334
Email: vacsc@stephensoncountyil.gov

Good Shepherd Congregation,

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your participation as a collection point for the Lena Lions Club Veterans Collection. We were overwhelmed with the amount of donations received.

Your generosity means everything to our commission and the veterans in this community in which we serve. Thank you for choosing to donate to support the veterans and the footlocker.

We were beyond blessed with your overwhelming generosity.

God Bless,
Jacob Wagner, Superintendent
Deb Holmes, Executive Assistant/Transportation Coordinator

Treasurer's Report
Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2025	$17,333.10
Expenses December 2025	$14,748.08
Net Income (Loss)	$ 2,585.02
Income, Year to Date 2025	$102,342.67
Expenses, Year to Date 2025	$112,180.17
Net Income (Loss)	$ (9,837.50)

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 Serenity Estates of Lena (formerly 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!

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Source: Sundays and Seasons



02-01 Allyson Kraft
02-01 Caleb Mammoser
02-02 Robert Kurth
02-03 Larry Fulfs
02-05 Jerry Martin
02-08 Denise Balbach
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!