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

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

History of Hymns
'Light Dawns on a Weary World'

Dr. Mary Louise "Mel" Bringle is Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Chair of Humanities at Brevard College in Brevard, North Carolina. She began writing hymn texts in 1999, and her work has been featured in hymnals of multiple denominations. She is an award-winning hymnist, acclaimed by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, and was named a Fellow of the Hymn Society in 2020.

In her article for *The Hymn* in 2006, Mary Louise (Mel) Bringle (b. 1953) tells the story of how "Light Dawns on a Weary World" came to be. Sometimes going through the back door works out better. Mel Bringle and tune writer William Rowan began by shaping the music, and the music shaped the words.

Rowan introduced his tune to Bringle after a plenary session on interfaith cooperation and bridge-building between Christians, Muslims, and Jews, which both had attended. When everyone had left the building, Rowan played his tune on the piano for Bringle and asked her if she might write some lyrics for it. Bringle returned to her hotel room and spent that night in creative contemplation. The accompaniment of the hymn melody reminded Bringle of "a watered garden," so she turned to the Gideon Bible in her hotel room for Scriptural references on that theme. She came upon Isaiah 58:11:

Bringle then found another passage from Isaiah that inspired the refrain:
For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands (Isaiah 55:12).

Source: The United Methodist Church ; Discipleship Ministries

April 2026 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Thanks from the Pastor.

Greetings in Christ,

On behalf of Coral and myself I want to thank everyone at Good Shepherd, for your concern, care, and great generosity during the past few months as we said good-bye to our daughter Rachel, first as we were privileged to care for her during her last days at our home, and then formally at her funeral. The Christian love which you expressed to us in numerous ways is a testament to your faith and faithfulness to our Lord, and we are grateful for your continued support and prayers.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Thomas & Coral

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 27th, August 22nd, October 24th and December 26th. 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.



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 2026	$13,840.00
Expenses March 2026	$ 8,093.03
Net Income (Loss)	$ 5,746.97
Income, Year to Date 2026	$18,379.15
Expenses, Year to Date 2026	$15,635.46
Net Income (Loss)	$ 2,743.69

"If you see someone without a smile, give 'em yours!"

Highlights Church Council Minutes
February 12, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Kristy Patterson at 6:30 pm on February 12, 2026.

Secretary's Report: There were (2) Secretary's Reports to review. There were a couple of spelling errors noted in the January 8, 2026 which were corrected. The Special Church Council Meeting held on January 25, 2026 had no additions or corrections. Both minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented his report and explained how his reports are presented and how to read them. He also explained that January was the beginning of the fiscal year for the church. Currently the January Current Account is behind by $3,000.00 and the checkbook is in good standing. Jay had a letter concerning the use of CCI which has to do with the use of hymns and copy rights. It was determined that we use other means to stay within copy right laws and that we do not need CCI. The Treasurer had also sent a check to ELCA Disaster Relief and it came back. It was suggested to send the check to the Northwest Illinois Synod with a note in the memo section denoting it was for Disaster Relief. Jay will reissue the check and send it to the Synod Office.

Gas Bill -$1,070.75 Electric Bill-$230.30

Pastor's Report: Pastor Thomas presented his report. He noted that he celebrated three milestones in January. On January 6 was the second anniversary of his ordination and he is starting his third year as our Pastor. On January 11 was the baptism of Lucy Fahr and on January 25 the Annual Meeting was held, affirming that our ministry as a congregation in the ELCA continues in service to our Lord.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: The Worship and Music Committee met on February 1, 2026.

Upcoming: Using Pastor's Liturgy during Lent
Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm
Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 with procession of palms
Maundy Thursday Service April 2, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Good Friday Service April 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday; 2 services at 7:00 am and 9:30 am
Easter Breakfast at 8:00 am
Liturgy for summer will be God Give Us Life

Stewardship Committee: Coralyn Hudik has volunteered to be the Chairperson for the committee.

Property Committee: Having issues with the gas bill. They are working on it.

Old Business: t was brought up that it was more appropriate to say Unfinished Business instead of Old Business. This will be changed from now on.

Constitution: The Constitution is still in progress. Coralyn Hudik noted that the Congregational Resourcing Event was having a class on the Constitution. She is going to try to attend this meeting.

New Business:

Installation: After some discussion, Installation of the Church Council will be on February 22, 2026.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Kurth,
Council Secretary

Continued on next page.



SAVE THE DATE
NORTHWEST ILLINOIS
F-4 JET MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Northwest Illinois F-4 Jet Memorial Committee will be holding a dedication ceremony of the Northwest Illinois Aerial Combat Memorial on Saturday, May 23, at 2pm. The memorial will serve to Honor, Educate, and Inspire for many generations.

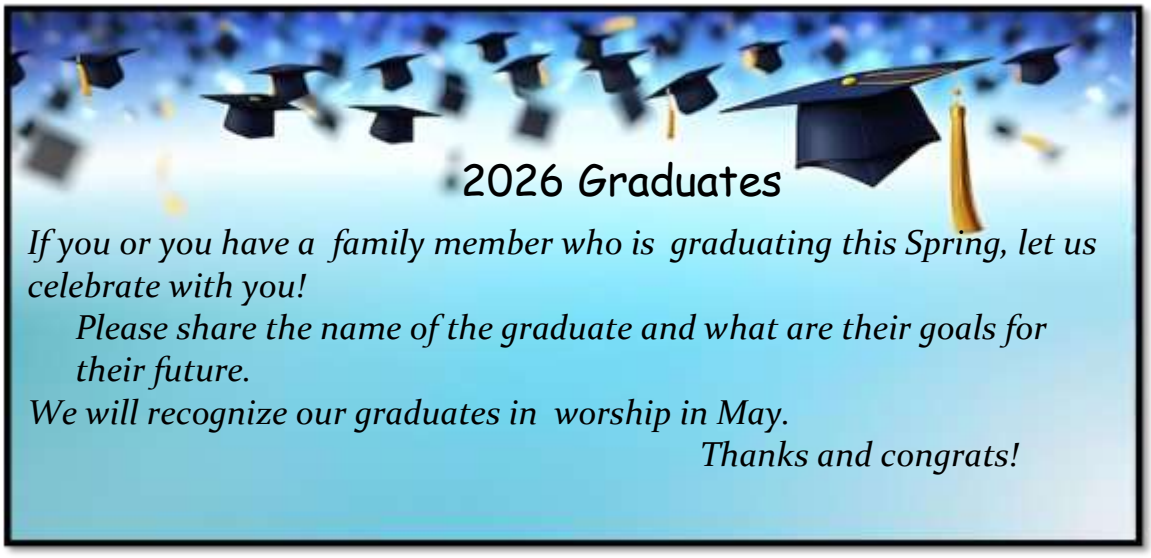
. The ceremony will be on West Main Street in Lena between the Memorial site and the American Legion Home. Handicapped parking will be available on Vernon Street, south of Main Street. Seating will be limited, so you are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

Guest speaker will be retired Maj. Gen. John Borling. He is retired from the United States Air Force and his military career spanned 33 years. He has piloted many aircraft including the F-4, F-15, F-16, SR-71 Blackbird, and the U-2, B-1 and B-52 Bombers. During the Vietnam War, his aircraft was shot down and he spent 6 and ½ years as a P.O.W. in Hanoi. His book "Taps on the Wall", a collection of poems that he wrote while in captivity will be available for purchase

Following the ceremony a reception with light refreshments will be held in the American Legion Home. In case of inclement weather the ceremony will be held in the Lena-Winslow High School Gymnasium.

The Northwest Illinois F-4 Jet Memorial Committee,

Robert (Bing) Wells, Richard Gambrel, Julia Moore, Dennis Bergman, Dennis Luke, Gary Buss, Henry Saavedra, Michael Brose, Tim Schoeny, Marsha Tessendorf, and Terry Yount





Where does the Easter egg hunt tradition come from??

The first Easter egg hunt is believed to have taken place in Germany around the 17th century. Martin Luther, a Protestant reformer, is said to have organized egg hunts for his congregation, with men hiding eggs for women and children to find, according to English Heritage.

Egg rolling also became a popular children's activity, and the White House held its first Easter egg roll in 1878 during Rutherford Hayes' presidency.

Source: https://www.nbcchicago.com



Northwest Conference WELCA

2026 Spring Gathering



Trinity Lutheran Church
312 S. High Street
Lanark, Illinois
Thursday, April 20, 2026
Continental Breakfast and registration at 9:00am
Program 10:15-11am



Door Prized at 11:00am
Cost: $10.00

Program:

Yellow Creek Quilt Designs Through the Years
Presented by Jill Shaulis

Free will offering taken
Open to all women of the ELCA & guest

Return to: Nancy Rice 815-275-0303

11751 E. Greenvale Rd
Stockton, IL 61085

Name:_____ Phone:_____

Address:_____ City &Zip_____

Congregation Unit:_____

(Return lower portion of flier to registrar by April 17, 2026)

We lift up our prayers

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, 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, 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 Christine S.

Pray for the peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Rachael Collins, Fern Harnish, and Marilyn Fulfs.

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.

The greatest gift of Easter is





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!

Women of the ELCA

"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."

Easter Means New Beginnings

By: *Patti Austin, past president of the Women of the ELCA Executive Board*

I woke up last week with Easter on my mind and thought about a new dress and an Easter bonnet. My family wasn't religious, but my mother always wanted me and my sisters to have new clothes for Easter, right down to our underwear. She always said that Easter was a new beginning, a time to start over, and we must dress in all things new.

My mother never went to church on Easter, so I wondered where she got her theology, but looking back on her words; I can't help but think that she was on to something.

I wish that I could talk with her today about how right she was and share with her all the blessings that Easter brings into my life; a time to remember when Christ came into my heart, a time of forgiveness, joy and, most of all, peace. She was baptized at 95, and I held her hand as tears rolled down her face. When she was 97, I saw her smile as a young pastor offered her Holy Communion in the nursing home.

Yes, my mother was buried in new underwear for her journey home to meet her Savior.

I am sure that each family has its own Easter traditions with dinner and fellowship. I think of my mom and the wonderful meal she would prepare as we all sat around the table in our new clothes and she would warn us not to get food on ourselves before someone could take a picture.

Easter season is a time when we celebrate that our Lord and Savior is alive, a time when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, a time for new life and new beginnings.

We continue in the Christian life the same way we begin, by believing in Jesus. The more we learn of Christ, the more we place our trust in him. The more we place our trust in Jesus, the more we receive. The more we receive, the more we can share for the glory of God, believing that through the cross we will also find resurrection and new life.

This year, I bought and wore red underwear for Easter in memory of my mother. Red was her favorite color, and I bet it will bring a smile to her face knowing that all things are

Trivia answer from page 4

Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs.

Data gathered from both DoorDash and Instacart indicate that Reese's eggs are easily the most purchased Easter candy nationwide

Source https://www.thetakeout.com/most-popular-Eastercandy.



Holy Week and Easter Schedule 2026

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

3 April, 7:00 pm - *Good Friday* - Tenebrae service

5 April, 7:00 am - *Easter Morning* - Sunrise service

5 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 5th. Menu includes; egg casserole, cinnamon rolls, coffee, or orange juice.



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 9, 2026.
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
Meeting at 1:00 pm

Le-Win Food Pantry

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

Any apple or cranberry juice
Cream of Chicken Soup
Carrots

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.