Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"
John Mason Neale

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" is a hymn composed by John Mason Neale in 1851.

John Mason Neale (24 January 1818 – 6 August 1866) was an English Anglican priest, scholar, and hymn writer. He worked on and wrote a wide range of holy Christian texts, including obscure medieval hymns, both Western and Eastern. Among his most famous hymns is the 1853 *Good King Wenceslas*, set on St. Stephen's day, known as Boxing Day in the UK. An Anglo-Catholic, Neale's works have found positive reception in high-church Anglicanism and Western Rite Orthodoxy.

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.

John's life is a study in contrasts: born into an evangelical home, he had sympathies toward Rome; in perpetual ill health, he was incredibly productive; of scholarly temperament, he devoted much time to improving social conditions in his area; often ignored or despised by his contemporaries, he is lauded today for his contributions to the church and hymnody.

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.

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia and hymnary.org

May 2026 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Thoughts from the Pastor

Greetings in Christ,

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. - Habakkuk 3:17-19

We don't read from the prophet Habakkuk's little book very often, but this particular passage is one of my favorites in the entire Old Testament.

Habakkuk speaks about one of the worst possible natural disasters that could befall us – having no food to sustain us for the coming year. Living in the Midwest we know have serious such a situation is. Recovering from a tornado is also just as devastating a disaster, and one which we also know about here in the Midwest.

God does not promise that he will prevent disasters from happening, but he does promise to be with us as we live through those disasters. And he proved it to us by living, and dying, here with us. Yet, as we know in this Easter season, he showed his triumph over death, disease, and disaster by rising from the tomb, and promises us eternal life with him.

He also gives us each other to help us through such times. "God's work, our hands" is not only the "slogan" of the ELCA, it is a way of life we experience every day. All of the help we give to our neighbors and our neighbors give to us is one of the ways in which God does help us through such times. And so we can join with Habakkuk in rejoicing the Lord, the God of our salvation, our strength and our life.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Thomas

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 the love of Christ and to put a smile on their faces to the residents in the nursing home. We are responsible for 10 cards each month If you would like to make more that would be great too. 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!

Highlights Good Shepherd Church Council Minutes
March 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.

Secretary's Report: The Council reviewed the Secretary's Report. Having no additions or corrections, a motion to approve the Secretary's Report at presented, the Secretary's Report was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented his report. The checkbook is in good shape and the Current Account is behind $7,229.50. The Budget is currently $2,747.29 to the good. a $9,000.00 check came in from the Ray Stamm trust.

Gas bill - $1,247.71 Electric bill - $214.87 A

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report at presented. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Pastor's Report: A quote from the Pastor's Report: "On behalf of Coral and myself, I want to thank everyone at Good Shepherd, and especially the Council, for your concern, care, and great generosity during the last few weeks as we said goodbye 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 are a testament to your faith and faithfulness to our Lord, and we are grateful for your continued support and prayers." Pastor also preformed his regular duties for the church during this very difficult time. A move to accept the Pastor's Report as presented, and approved.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee: Committee Chairperson Coralyn Hudik presented the report. The Stewardship Committee is working on several things.

They are planning:
- Ice Cream Sundae day in June
- Manning the AJ's Brat stand on June 26 and July 10 from 10am to 2pm
- Spreading the Church brochure around the community
- Participate at the Fall Festival
- Trivia about all the Church and Lena
- Up dating the signage for the Church at points coming into town
- Have a Confirmation Sunday and invite former confirmads back

Learning Committee: There are two Gradates this year, Anna Patterson from college and Nakoah Cornwell from Le-Win High School. They will plan a Graduation Sunday for them.

Service Committee: There was a long discussion about the Lena Food Pantry. There are some concerns about it going forward and there is an upcoming meeting with others in the community to discuss things. Jay Andrews went over how the Food Pantry got started and that it falls under our Tax Exempt status.

Property Committee: The church is no longer using Santana as a gas provider. Nicor gas is now the provider for the church.

Scholarship Committee: The Scholarship Committee reported that they have received the necessary documentation form Jared Runkel and Jacob Runkel to receive their scholarship funds. The committee is requesting the Church Council approve the distribution of $1,000.00 each to Jared Runkel and Jacob Runkel. Council moved to have Treasurer Jay Andrews write a check to Jared Runkel and Jacob Runkel from the Special Funds Scholarship Interest Account for $1,000.00 each. Motion was approved.

Men's Group: The Men's Group is working on having a Live Nativity for the church and community this year. They are in the planning stages to ascertain if this project would be possible.

A motion to accept all Committee Reports as presented. The Committee Reports were approved.

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Highlights Good Shepherd Church Council Minutes

Unfinished Business:

Constitution: The Constitution is being worked on to get it in the format that the Synod wishes.

New Business:

There was no New Business at this time before the Council.

Having no other business before the Church Council, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. The meeting closed at 8:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: April 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm Michelle Andrews will have snack and devotions.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary

Le-Win Food Pantry For June 27th

Good Shepherd will be at the Le-Win Food Pantry June 27th, thank you to the volunteers who have signed up for June's Food Pantry.

The needs in are high and we are looking always looking for volunteers.

Treasurer's Report
Jay Andrews

Incoming March 2026	$6,884.35	
Expenses March 2026	$9,054.43	
Net Income (Loss)	$(2,170.08	
Income, Year to Date 2026		$25,263.50
Expenses, Year to Date 2026		$24,689.89
Net Income (Loss)		$ 573.61

Thank you

Thanks to the Men's Group, Choir and Chime Members for providing the congregation with beautiful music throughout the year and taking the time needed for practice.

Thanks to the musician's who played during the year.

Thanks to Karen Niemeier and Tena Rackow for playing beautiful music to us weekly.

Thanks to Janis Kurth for being music director along with all the time needed for practice and choosing all of the beautiful hymns. .



Thank you

Many Thanks to Pastor Thomas and Coral, Wayne and Janis Kurth Eleanor Stadler, Darlene Barr and Family, Sue Diddens, Kristy Patterson, Anna and Taylor,, Troy and Sheila Keene, Karen Niemeier, Kathy Clay, Tena Rackow and Theresa Woodbury for your kind donations for Easter lilies decorating the church.

A special thanks to Janis Kurth for decorating the sanctuary for all

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 prayers 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.



National Day of Prayer

National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day of observance is designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."

The history of National Prayer Day began in the early 1950's, an evangelical movement called for Congress and the President to proclaim a National Day of Prayer. The movement grew and a young leader, Evangelist Billy Graham, led services for approximately 20,000 on the steps of the Capitol on February 3, 1952.

We lift our prayers for

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, Christine S., Carol Lartz, Jamie Meier and Amy.

Women of the ELCA

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."

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

Please join Hannah Circle for a book discussion on Sunday, June 28! Kent Terry, a member of Immanuel Lutheran in Marseilles, Illinois is the author of "Adventures in Faith, Faith in Adventures". Kent was formerly a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) in the Northern Illinois Synod. His wife, Ann Terry, is the stewardship advocate on the NIS WELCA board. They are active in their church and community in addition to being proud parents and grandparents.

"Adventures in Faith, Faith in Adventures" is an inspiring collection of true stories blending thrilling outdoor adventures with profound moments of spiritual insight. From mountain peaks and icy lakes to the heart of Mexico City's poverty, Kent Terry takes readers on a journey where every experience is a reflection of God's grace and presence. Whether narrowly escaping death, witnessing answered prayers, or discovering divine purpose in the most unexpected places, each story affirms the enduring power of faith. This book is perfect for readers seeking encouragement, deeper connection with God, and the courage to embrace life's journey with trust and joy.

Please let Sheila know by May 10 if you would like to purchase a book. There is also a sign-up sheet at the bottom of the ramp. Books are $20 each and proceeds benefit ELCA World Hunger.

SAVE THE DATE
WELCA Triennial Gathering



WHEN: July 16-19, 2026

WHERE: Des Moines, Iowa

The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is "I Am Worthy," based on Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This statement serves a a reminder of God's promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division.

To register go to;



Congratulations 2026 Graduates!

This new beginning is one you'll always remember. So much possibility, so much excitement, so much opportunity for you to shine! Graduating means you've taken your first steps toward making your dream come true.

***Nakoah Cornwell**-Nakoah will be graduating from Le-Win H.S, his goal is to become a strength and conditioning coach or a personal trainer.*

There are seven days of the week and someday isn't one of them...
Erma Bomeck

A Special THANK YOU to Janis Kurth and Leesa Gereke for preparing a wonderful Easter Breakfast. Your thoughtfulness in preparing this meal has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for taking the time to create something so wonderful.



12th May, 1820

British nurse and public health activist Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy. She volunteered to aid British troops in Turkey, where she helped to significantly reduce the death rate for wounded and sick soldiers by improving hospital sanitary conditions.

Florence Nightingale became acclaimed worldwide for her selfless devotion to nursing, her contributions to the development of modern nursing procedures, and for highlighting the dignity of nursing as a profession for women.

May Birthdays

5/1 Shannon Albright
5/1 Coralyn Hudik
5/1 Dennis Luke
5/1 Chloe Kurth
5/3 Angie Jones
5/19 Sarah Geiseman
5/21 Faye Fulfs
5/23 Susan Koppean
5/23 Sheila Keene
5/24 Deb Hesselbacher

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

"May" is likely named after the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. Alternatively, the name might have come from the Latin *maiores*, "elders".

May Birth Flowers: Lily of the Valley and Hawthorn.
May Birthstone; Emerald.

Volunteers are people with kind hearts and souls.

Thank you to all the volunteers, who helped with the clean-up after the tornado, to the firemen, EMT and sheriff's department, to those who donated food and the cooks who helped prepare the meals, to all who donated items, many, many, thanks The compassion shown to the citizens of Lena helped calm so many during such a emergency.

Volunteers Thank you for your time, we appreciate you.

Thanks to all our volunteers, all the worship assistants, all the kitchen help, all the committee members and Piece Corps. Our sincerest gratitude for all of the extraordinary volunteers in our lives. We are infinitely grateful for these selfless volunteers who constantly strive to make an impact in our world.



"May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope."
– Emily Brontë