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

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



Benjamin Schmolck

21 December 1672 – 12 February 1737

He was a German Lutheran writer of hymns.

"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"

ELW# 433

Benjamin, was the son of Martin Schmolck, or Schmolcke, Lutheran pastor at Brauchitschdorf (now Chróstnik) near Liegnitz in Silesia (now Poland) was born at Brauchitschdorf, Dec. 21, 1672. He entered the Gymnasium at Lauban in 1688, and spent five years there. After his return home he preached for his father a sermon which so struck the patron of the living that he made Benjamin an allowance for three years to enable him to study theology. He matriculated, at Michaelmas, 1693, at the University of Leipzig, where he came under the influence of J. Olearius, J. B. Carpzov, and others, and throughout his life retained the character of their teaching, viz. a warm and living practical Christianity, but Churchly in tone and not Pietistic. In the autumn of 1697, after completing his studies at Leipzig (during his last year there he supported himself mainly by the proceeds of occasional poems written for wealthy citizens, for which he was also, crowned as a poet), he returned to Brauchitzchdorf to help his father, and, in 1701, was ordained as his assistant.

On Feb. 12, 1702, he married Anna Rosina, daughter of Christoph Rehwald, merchant in Lauban and in the end of the same year was appointed diaconus of the Friedenskirche at Schweidnitz in Silesia.

Source: Hymnary.org

July 2026 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Synod Assembly

June 12-13, 2026 at Augustana College Rock Island

Nearly 380 lay leaders and rostered ministers gathered at Augustana College in Rock Island for the 2026 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly on June 12 - 13, 2026. Our time together was grounded in worship, beginning with Festival Worship on Friday and concluding with a Service of Sending on Saturday. Throughout the assembly, those gathered faithfully discerned various motions, engaged with our keynote speaker and special guests, and went deeper in naming, claiming, and proclaiming who we are as the church.

Synod Assembly Highlights

June 12-13, 2026 • Augustana College, Rock Island

KEYNOTE

Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson

"A future focused church is living our baptismal promises in daily life. A future focused church is humbler, simpler, and bolder. A future focused church is wondering about God's will, hopeful about the future, courageous, and curious about God's will."

OFFERING

Festival Worship

Supported our Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities: Iglesia San José Obrero and Becoming

In-Kind Offering

Supported Lutheran Social Services of Illinois with gift cards and wish list items

APPROVED

- FY28 Synod Budget
- 2027 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines
- New Synod Constitution

WORSHIP

- Festival Worship
- Service of Remembrance and Recognition
- Service of Sending

ANNOUNCED Crossroads

A program designed to help congregations as they discern their next faithful steps for ministry. Information Webinar is on August 4 at 6:30 p.m.
nisynod.org/crossroads

ELECTED

22 LAY LEADERS AND ROSTERED MINISTERS TO SYNOD COMMITTEES AND SYNOD COUNCIL

Synod Council Vice President
Mr. Bill Wescott

Synod Council
Mrs. Rhonda Copeland, Mr. Brandon Graves, Mrs. Christina King-Secor, Ms. Taylor Robshaw, Mx. Finley Snyder, Rev. Bree Truax

Congregational Life Committee
Rev. Bill Callister, Mr. Danny Gaddis, Ms. Kelly Van Fleet

Global Mission Committee
Mrs. Jeanne Berg, Rev. Rachel Perkins-Gama, Mr. David Schumann

Ministry Support Committee
Dr. Randy Mullin, Rev. Tom Rogers Jr., Deacon Shari Simon

Outreach Committee
Rev. Hope Johnson, Mrs. Lynn Zalon

Social Ministry Committee
Mr. Larry Cording, Rev. Jeff Greathouse, Ms. Donna Kelly, Rev. JoAnna Patterson

Source: Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We lift our prayers for

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Virgil Martin, Caroline Jam, Cyndy Schumacher, Virgil Gordon, Jerry Martin, Donna Christen, Richard Freitag, Sherry Freitag, 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, Connie, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Jim DeMontigny Jr., 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, Amy, and Leta Toelke

Prayer Chain

If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, please call or email the Church Office to submit your request , phone at 815-369-5552 or email at; goodshepherdlena@outlook.com.

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.

thank you

The Family of Marilyn Tulfs would like to give a heartfelt thanks to everyone for everything you've done, Thank you Pastor Thomas for your beautiful sermon in memory of Marilyn. Thank you to the everyone who brought gifts of food and assisted in serving for Marilyn's farewell luncheon.

During a time like this we realize how much our friends really mean. Your prayers and support will always be remembered.

Thank you,

Larry Tulfs and Family

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
May 14, 2026

All members of the Good Shepherd Council were present. Also attending the meeting was Greg Andrews, to updated the Council on the proposed changes for the administration of the Food Pantry. Mr. Andrews gave all the members a handout on the operation of the Lena Food Pantry and the current operations of the Food Pantry. Currently the Food Pantry is managed under the Lena Ministeruim. The Ministeruim will be disbanding at the end of the year and will no longer oversee the Food Pantry. Mr. Andrews explained the operatons of the Food Pantry. Where funds came from, when and where food comes in, the different organizations, churches and businesses that support the Food Pantry and the weekly workings of the Good Pantry. Mr. Andrews is working on organizing an Administrative Bord for the Food Pantry tha twill oversee any problems that may come up in the future. The main question is, does Good Shepherd wish to continue to let the Food Pantry use the church's tax exempt status to continue their good work. Since that is hwo the food Pantry originally started.

Council discussed what the next steps might be moving forward.

Agenda: Food Pantry Rent was added to the Agenda. Agenda approved.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented his report. He noted that the monthly offierins is down, but the bills are still coming. There is only about $9,000.00 in the checking account and payroll is due to be paid out shortly. Secretary Janis Kurth will be sure to get the draft of the Annual Minutes to Jay so he may transfer the money into the accounts that the Congregation approved to be transferred. Gas Bill: $1,611.49. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Thomas presented his report. It was a busy April with Holy Week, Easter, the tornado, Bible Study and meetings. He also continued doing his weekly duties getting ready for Sunday Worship Service and meeting and talking with members. The Pastor's Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee: The Stewardship Committee is planning to have a Ice Cream Sundae, Sunday after worship on June 7, 2026. There will be a sign-up sheet to bring things and the notification will go out on Face Book and be in the newsletter and bulletin. Coralyn will see that the Church Secretary will get the information.

Learning Committee: Graduate Recognition will be Sunday on May 17, 2026. There is a cake ordered as well as flowers. There are four graduates. Nakoah Cornwell, Maddi Diddens, Ethan Fye and Anna Patterson.

Property Committee: Property Committee reported they had a meeting following the tornado to access any damages to the church. There is a broken window in the Fellowship Hass, and a storm window in the boiler room is broken. The wooden louver on the bell tower was broken. They are currently looking to find a contactor to fix things. They also had Molitor Plumbing out to replace a pump motor on the boiler. While working on the motor it was discovered that a bleeder was not working properly. The cost to replace one bleeder would be $400.00, while to replace all four would be approximately $750.00. The Committee decided to replace all four bleeders at a cost of approximately $750.00. The Council directed the Treasurer to pay the Molitor Plumbing bill out of the BMI account.

Having no other Committee Reports, a motion was presented to accept all Committee Reports as presented. Motion approved.

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

Unfinished Business:

Constitution: Continuing working on.

New Business:

New Road Signs: Coralyn Hudik is looking into what it would cost to get four road signs for the church to post at the entrances to Lena. She has decided to give these to the church as a gift.

Food Pantry Rent: Good shepherd's share of the Food Pantry rent of $600.00 is due. Motion to pay the rent out of the Lucille Baker Special Funds was approved.

Having no other business before the Council, the meeting was moved to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be on June 11, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report
Jay Andrews

Incoming May 2026	$ 6,594.00
Expenses May 2026	$10,926.21
Net Income (Loss)	$(4,332.21)
Income, Year to Date 2026	$39,632.08
Expenses, Year to Date 2026	$43,318.87
Net Income (Loss)	$(3,686.79)

MEN'S GROUP

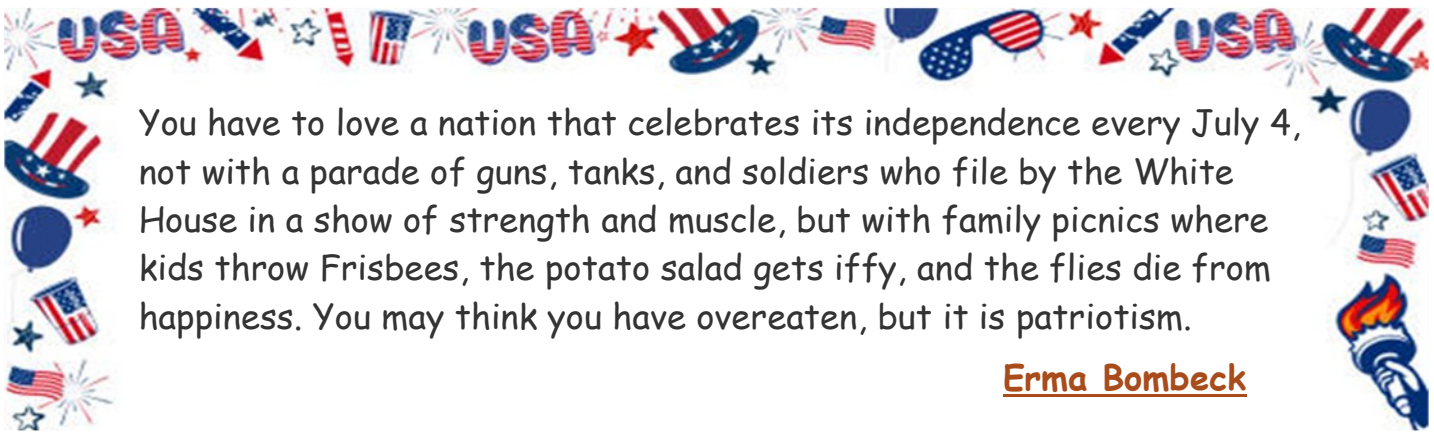
Will meet on July 25th the Men's Group will meet at 4:30pm.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Join us on July 9th (Thursday) 12:30pm at Good Shepherd for Potluck, music, fun, devotion, and fellowship!

No reservation needed. Just show up! Bring along a friend, and make new friends.

Deb Heim will provide afternoon entertainment at 1:00pm.



You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.

Erma Bombeck

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 all of our Good Shepherd, synod and churchwide activities.

From Northern Highlights a publication of Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA, Spring 2026—Volume 29, Number 2

If you have never been to the Congregational Resourcing Event put on by our Northern Illinois Synod Board each Spring, you've really missed something. I'm proud to say that your NISWO Board was well represented and engaged. The speaker was The Reverend Laurie Skow-Anderson, her subject Going Deeper Spiritual Curiosity. Definition of Spiritual Curiosity: The process of paying prayerful attention to be clearer about and more cooperative with God's activity. It's like Spiritual Discernment, but it's a broader, more general approach to our journey of faith. An exercise we all did under a time constraint was to answer the question, "What difference does Jesus make in my life?" This was to be answered in 24 words or less! It was terribly challenging and most of us failed. But it was definitely food for thought. When preparing this report, I took a little more time to answer and was much happier with what I came up with. "Because Jesus is in my life, I realize I was intentionally created to love and serve those around me." Treat yourself to this exercise and share it with those around you.

If you were able to attend our WELCA Retreat at LOMC, you were certainly engaged and nourished. Pastor Laurie Hensley from Bethany, Woodhull, led our program "Raising Our Voices: Proclaiming the Gospel When the World is Loud." We were reminded that Proclamation isn't shouting louder than hate, it's speaking, living and standing in love, truth and justice as people claimed in Christ. We reviewed stories in the Bible where people proclaimed their faith when those around them were being loud. We were encouraged that our statements of faith need not be complicated or eloquent, they need to be the facts as we experienced them. For instance, the woman at the well proclaimed, "I met a man who told me everything I did." The man who was born blind witnessed, "He put mud in my eyes and told me to go wash." We were encouraged to develop our own statements of faith to witness to the world. My own was, "God spoke to me when the man who could not speak told me I LOVE YOU."

My Sisters, let us go deeper together. Answer the question, "What difference does Jesus make in my life?" Find your faith statement and proclaim. We know deep down that "I am Worthy" for God made us in his image.

Grace & Peace,

Jeana Fors, WELCA President

PUZZLE PAGE WORD SEARCH



When Paul was arrested in Jerusalem, the people that stirred up the crowd against him were Jews from what geographical area?

(answer on page 8)

July Birthdays

7/1	Billie Jo Runkle	7/9	Alicia Gross
7/2	Coral Mosbo	7/11	Joanna Esker
7/2	Joe Green	7/12	Austin Andrews
7/6	Lori Timms	7/14	Danica Balbach
7/6	Linda Heidenreich	7/20	Shirley Fox
7/6	Ben Huber	7/20	Bob Roettger
7/6	Sondra Winters	7/25	Dale Gullickson
7/7	Alan Esker		

Happy Birthday!

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

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 to the residents 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!

I	R	M	I	Z	L	U	A	S	I	S	A	I	A	H
D	E	J	O	E	L	I	J	A	H	A	C	I	M	E
A	L	E	I	K	E	Z	E	D	E	K	I	A	H	R
V	I	N	H	A	I	S	O	J	E	H	O	R	A	M
I	A	K	U	K	K	A	B	A	H	B	A	Z	M	J
D	E	M	N	A	D	A	B	E	O	M	A	H	J	O
H	S	M	A	A	M	J	Z	H	O	R	O	A	E	T
I	O	A	B	E	I	E	E	N	I	S	M	M	H	H
A	H	L	I	L	K	R	P	A	H	O	J	E	O	A
G	A	A	J	I	A	O	H	E	S	S	A	N	A	M
G	I	C	A	S	I	B	A	M	A	Z	I	A	H	U
A	D	H	H	H	O	O	N	B	A	A	S	H	A	H
H	A	I	Z	A	H	A	I	R	A	H	C	E	Z	A
B	B	H	A	L	E	M	A	S	O	L	O	M	O	N
J	O	R	A	M	J	E	H	O	I	A	C	H	I	N

Abijah, Ahab, Ahaziah, Amaziah, Amon, Amos, Azariah, Baasha, Daniel, David, Elah, Elijah, Elisha, Ezekiel, Habakkuk, Haggai, Hezekiah, Hosea, Hoshea, Isaiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiachin, Jehoiakim, Jehoram, Jeroboam, Joel, Joram, Josiah, Jotham, Malachi, Manasseh, Menahem, Micah, Nadab, Nahum, Obadiah, Omri, Rehoboam, Saul, Solomon, Zechariah, Zedekiah, Zephaniah, Zimri

The hippopotamus is a vegetarian and looks like a wall. Lions who eat only red meat are sleek and slim. Are nutritionists on the wrong track?

Erma Bombeck

Northern Illinois Food Bank
Mobile Market Pantry Schedule
Hours: 3:00pm-4:30pm

July 2, 2026 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 625 Country Lane, Lena, IL.

August 4, 2026 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 625 Country Lane, Lena, IL.



Unsolved Mysteries in the Bible
Did Dinosaurs Exist?



Modern science has proven dinosaurs to have once existed, but the Bible does not talk about dinosaurs in the way education teaches.

There are two creatures mentioned in the Bible that seem not only monstrous in size but have almost supernatural characteristics when compared to animals today.

> Look at Behemoth, which I made along with you. He eats grass like cattle. Look at the strength of his back and the power in the muscles of his belly. He stiffens his tail like a cedar tree; the tendons of his thighs are woven firmly together. His bones are bronze tubes; his limbs are like iron rods. He is the foremost of God's works; only his Maker can draw the sword against him. – Job 40:15-19

The passage describes the creature in grand detail. This beast is to be respected and feared; especially considering only God's sword can harm the creature. Is this creature a dinosaur, an elephant, or something else?

If this were a dinosaur, why is there only one? Where are the other dinosaurs? Dinosaurs and the birth of Jesus are separated by **hundreds of millions of years** — not the few centuries often imagined in popular culture. Dinosaurs dominated Earth during the **Mesozoic Era**, which lasted from about **252 million years ago to 66 million years ago** wonderlearning.blog. **Birth of Jesus** Historical and biblical sources place the birth of Jesus of Nazareth in the **1st century CE**. This is roughly **2,000 years ago** wonderlearning.blog.

Source: www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/unsolved-mysteries-in-the-bible.

Answer from page 7

Asia: **Acts 21:27**When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, (ESV)

Source: www.biblestudytools.com