

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE

December 2014

In this season of Thanks-Giving and Thanks-Living, I thank our Lord for all of God's provision, for the overwhelming, life-changing, life-giving love and grace of God; and I thank the Lord for you, the congregation of Good Shepherd. I thank God for the love and grace that I experience through the people of Good Shepherd as we serve, worship, and reach out together!

Let us come before the
Lord with thanksgiving
Psalm 95: 2a

We venture from this season of Thanks-Giving to the season of Advent: a time of hoping, preparing, and watching. I want to encourage you to watch for the ways God is present with you and those around you in your preparing. How is God present there with you in the midst of the joy, the anticipation, the grief, and the needs of this season. We prepare to celebrate the Christ that came to Bethlehem to save the world; and we celebrate the Christ that will come again. Even as we prepare and wait, we look for Christ's presence with us now in the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the bread and wine, in the fellowship of the body of Christ (the church here on earth), and in the midst of the suffering and the need of this world (Matthew 25). God entered into humanity... into the joyous, painful, physical life that we know. God entered in, in Jesus Christ, walked the life of healing, teaching, and welcoming; and walked the road to the cross to save and redeem this world. God continues to come in the midst of joy and sorrow. Let us watch. Let us see. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.
Revelation 22:20b

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Miranda



Join us for Christmas Eve Worship Services

Join us on Wednesday December 24th at Good Shepherd as we celebrate Christmas Eve Candlelight worship with Holy Communion at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Christmas Eve worship will include special music, choir anthems, the singing of beloved Christmas hymns, children's message, brass choir, readings from the Gospel of Luke, and Pastor Miranda Klosterboer will share the evening message.

Volunteers Needed

**For All positions at the 5:00pm and 7:30pm
Christmas Eve Services**

**If you can assist please call the church office
at 815-369-5552 or email at
gslchurch@aeroinc.net or
GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com**

Thank You!

Annual Reports Are Due January 5, 2015

Annual reports are required for each committee and organization of the congregation. These reports are assembled and made available to the congregation members prior to the meeting. The reports are the responsibility of the chairperson or offices. We will be sending out the reports from last year for you to update your reports and turn them into the office by Monday, January 5, 2015. If possible, please type up the report and email it to gslchurch@aeroinc.net or GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com in Word format.



Christmas Program at Good Shepherd
Sunday December 14th 2014 at 9:30am

Join us for a festive worship service led by our children and youth! We will hear the life-changing story of Jesus' birth, of God coming to earth. The children will lead us in song and actions. There will be special music from our children and youth. We will have congregational hymns, and we will hear and see the story unfold.

Join us on December 14th!

Attention Families and volunteers: The Christmas Program full rehearsals will be on Dec. 7th from 11am-2pm (with lunch) and on Dec 13th from 2pm-4pm

Christmas Caroling, December 7th

Meet at the church at 1:30 pm, dress warmly, to bring the Joyful sounds of the Christmas Season to others in our community. After Caroling, enjoy a hot bowl of soup back at Good Shepherd. Bring finger foods to share.

Ordering Poinsettias



Each year, Good Shepherd's chancel is decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Services. You may order poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one; or in celebration of the birth of Jesus!

Orders must be placed by December 7th. (Cost will be \$10.00). Please complete the form below and mail it or drop it off at the church office.

Thank you!

Poinsettia Order

Given by: _____

phone # _____

Given (check one) in memory of... in honor of...

Name (s) _____



Kids Corner at Good Shepherd



Sunday School

Join us for fun, learning, and worship
at Sunday School!

The Preschoolers and Kindergarteners will gather
for their small group Sunday School time during
worship following the Children's Message.

Following the service Sunday School opening for all
children will be in the Sanctuary at 10:45am, and
the children in 1st-6th grades will gather as small
groups with their teachers following the opening.

Save the date for:

- **Christmas Program Practices:** Youth are learning music for the Christmas Program during Sunday School Openings with full rehearsals on Dec 7th from 11am-2pm (with lunch) and on Dec 13th from 2pm-4pm
 - **Christmas Caroling:** Dec 7th at 1:30 pm (soup supper when we return to church!)
- **Christmas Program: December 14th** at 9:30am
 - No Sunday School on December 28th
 - No Confirmation on Dec 24th or Dec 31st

Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Events, Family Fun and Service events, Summer Ministries

**Mission: to team with families in the growth of their
child's faith by providing a fun, loving, and safe
community where children meet, love, and serve the
Lord Jesus Christ.**

More events for kids and youth!

JH and HS Youth Night & Christmas Party

7th-12th graders, come join in the Fun and Connection on Wednesday night December 17th at 6:30pm! Prayer, Games, Food!

Feel free to invite friends! Who will you invite?

- **Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange:** 6:30 pm December 17th.
- Bring a snack to share and a small wrapped gift (something you have that you don't want anymore... **or** something less than \$2)



Kids Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14th 1:00 – 3:00 pm

All students in grades 1-5 are invited to come hang out at Lena UMC for a special Christmas party to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We'll decorate cookies, make a Christmas craft, and go on a treasure hunt to find the baby Jesus! There is no charge for this event and friends are always welcome! To RSVP or if you have any questions please contact Lena United Methodist Youth Ministry Director Christin Flucke at (920) 273-5963 or cflucke12@gmail.com

The After School Program for 4th to 8th graders will meet at the Hangout downtown on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30pm-5:00pm. Each day there is devotions; pizza; music; homework help; & lots of time for all sorts of games, challenges & play. No ASP on 12/24 & 12/31.

Confirmation: The Good Shepherd Confirmation Program for 7th-8th grade youth will meet at Good Shepherd on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm-8pm for connection, learning, fun, and growing in relationship with Jesus. No Confirmation on Dec 24th or Dec 31st.

You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21b

They will call him Immanuel”, which means “God with us”.

Matthew 1:23b



She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.

Luke 2:7 (NIV)

Word Search

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

SAVIOR	CENSUS	MARY	MANGER	BORN
CAESAR	SON	JOSEPH	MESSIAH	ROOM
CHILD	SHEPHERDS	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY

December Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS will meet every Wednesday from 8:00 am to 11:30 am for the month of December, except for December 24 Christmas Eve.

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday December 2, 2014 at 1:00pm at the LLC. Bible Study leader is Rene' Johnson

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet Thursday December 4, 2014 at 9:00am at Good Shepherd in the Fellowship Hall. The hostess and Bible Study leader is Rene Johnson.

MEN'S GROUP will meet December 6, 2014 at 4:30pm

CHRISTMAS CAROLING will be December 7, 2014 at 1:30pm.

HYMN SING at the Lena Nursing Home will be Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 9:45 am.

COUNCIL meets on Tuesday, December 6, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet for a pot-luck dinner at noon on Thursday, December 11, 2014 in the church Fellowship Hall.

LLC CHRISTMAS PARTY is Thursday December 18, 2014 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm, hosted by Faith and Hannah Circles.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Full Rehearsal will be on Dec. 7th from 11am-2pm (with lunch) and on Dec 13th from 2pm-4pm

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be December 14th at 9:30 worship.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
Wednesday December 24th at 5:00pm and 7:30pm.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the January 2015 Newsletter is December 15, 2014 Thank You!

Happy Birthday

December Birthdays

12-01 Jacob Doyle
12-01 Daniel Kurth
12-01 Noah Wenzel
12-08 Marybeth Brinker
12-10 Sharon Schlachter
12-10 Ron Cross
12-10 Jarod Timms
12-11 Ryan Fye
12-14 Chris Fahr
12-16 Dan Lawson
12-16 Cali Smith
12-16 Mary Freitag
12-17 Jim Kurth
12-18 Ray Stamm
12-18 Jean Engel
12-20 Cyndy Shumaker
12-21 Brian Kurth
12-22 Richard Johnson
12-22 Wayne Kurth
12-23 Paul Fahr
12-23 Abigail Brinker
12-24 Paul Hardel
12-24 Paula Schoenhard
12-27 Tom Brinker
12-29 Joyce Tessendorf
12-30 Lynn Lyvers

Worship Volunteers

We are setting up the Worship Volunteer schedule for the new year starting February 2015. If you are interested in assisting in any capacity with the services, please contact the office or put a note in with your offering. New volunteers are welcome! If you have been signed up to do something in the past, you will stay on the list unless you request to be taken off. We are looking for people to do all tasks, such as: Lector, Assisting Minister, Worship Assistant, Communion Ushers, Communion Set-up and Clean-up, Communion Assistants, Greeters, Ushers, Special Music, Sound System, Video Camera Operators, and Power Point Operators. We would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped in the past. You make this church work and we really appreciate it! **Watch for special worship volunteer updates coming in the January Newsletter.**



Thank you Men's Group for sponsoring such a wonderful Benefit Concert for Debbie Hesselbacher filled with beautiful music and the encouraging love and support of the body of Christ! Praise be to God!



Lena Area Church Cooperative LACC

The Lena Area Church Cooperative, LACC, is organizing an “Angel Tree” this Christmas. Angels will be displayed and available to you on 11/24/14 at the church in the fellowship hall. Each angel represents a child from a family in need this holiday season and contains their wish list for Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a child, please take an angel (top card), fill out the information card attached (leave that here), and return your gift(s) to the church by December 14th, with the top angel attached to it. Please make sure that if you have multiple packages, that they are all marked or tied together. Another project is that the Lena Lions Club has asked the LACC to donate 200 dozen cookies for their Operation Good Fellow. Good Shepherd has been asked to donate 30 dozen cookies. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board down the ramp for you to indicate how many dozen you can donate. Cookies will be due to Good Shepherd at the end of the day, December 10th. The LACC will gather all the cookies on December 11th. Any questions can be directed to Mary Lloyd, Good Shepherd’s representative to the LACC. Thank you for your generosity.

To see an angel, you must see another’s soul. To feel an angel, you must touch another’s heart. To hear an angel, you must listen to both. –Unknown.

Consider Alternative Giving this Christmas Celebrate Giving with ELCA GOOD GIFTS



Make a difference in the world as you give gifts to loved ones this Christmas. In lieu of traditional gifts, consider supporting meaningful projects of the ELCA in honor of friends and loved ones through **ELCA Good Gifts, ELCA Disaster Relief, or God’s Global Barnyard.** Honor friends and loved ones with gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. You can buy a chicken that will provide eggs and income, you can support a missionary, support a church plant, buy a well or a portion of a well, and so much more. Consider creating a new family tradition! Maybe you can decide to go in together and choose together what would be meaningful to do. **Check out the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall for more ideas!**

Treasurer's Report

Incoming October 2014	\$ 12,371.84
Expenses October 2014	\$ 11,359.78
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 1,012.06
Income, Year to Date 2014	\$112,422.85
Expenses, Year to Date 2014	\$119,005.36
Net Income (Loss)	(\$6,582.51)

Your 2014 Church Council:

President: Wayne Kurth *Vice-President:* Mary Lloyd

Secretary: Nick Baker *Youth Representative:* Brianna Andrews

Members: Michelle Andrews, Troy Doubler, Jean Wenzel,

Pastor Miranda Klosterboer, Shirley Fox, Jon Hudik.

November 11, 2014 Church Council Minutes Highlights

Treasurer's report was submitted by Jay Andrews.

Pastor's written report was submitted.

- Motion made by Nick Baker to send a letter to Synod to inform them that we may not meet our financial statement of intent. Motion passed.
- Pastor made the motion to add to next month's agenda a discussion about fundraising here at GSLC. Seconded by Nick Baker. Motion passed.
- Stewardship. Written reports submitted.
- Learning and Youth. Written report submitted.
- Service. Written report submitted.
- Property. Cards from the members with things they like about GSC and suggestions for improving GSC.
- Website. Jon Hudik will be stepping up as chair of the committee. Troy Doubler will be stepping down in January.

Old business items.

- Memorial List items added: Automatic defibrillator and new windows and stained glass to the memorial list. Motion passed.

New Business Items.

- Recommendations from committees for benevolence money. Motion made to send the following amounts to the groups listed by Troy Doubler.
 - \$1000 to the Lena Area food pantry.
 - \$250 to the Grace Place Campus Ministry at NIU.
 - \$250 to the After School Program at The Hangout.
 - \$500 to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center
 - \$500 to the Stubb Family ELCA missionaries
 - \$500 to the Lena Area Church Cooperative.

Seconded by Shirley Fox. Motion passed.



Need of a ride to church on Sunday? Call:

Troy Doubler	369-5117
Donna Gullickson	369-4708
Jean Wenzel	369-2777
Leland Wenzel	369-4337

We love worshipping with you, and we want to help make sure you can get here to join us! If you are interested in being added to this list of available drivers, please contact the church office at 369-5552

A HUGE thank you to everyone who filled out the survey that we sent out in last month's newsletter. It has been very helpful to begin to process your insights and feedback. Thank you for your taking time to prayerfully fill it out as you reflected on what you love most about Good Shepherd and about what you hope to see now and in the future! Your ideas and feedback will help our committees and church council make informed, mission-led decisions in the weeks and months to come as we listen together as to where God is calling Good Shepherd. Watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for continued updates and invitations for participation in this process.

Request for Prayer Chain: Please call Pastor Miranda @ 815-291-5793 or the Church Office @ 815-369-5552.

PRAYER CHAIN

We lift up the following loved ones in assisted-living facilities/nursing homes, homebound, etc. in prayer. Eugene Becker, Ruth Pieper, Alice Price, Dorothy Weimer, Gladys Staderman, Esther Bergman, Verl Price, Steve Fahr, Dorothy Wagner, Evelyn Hutmacher, Margie Swain, Lois Paulsen, Laura Derr. They would love to hear from you, consider visiting, calling, or sending them a note. Call the church office if you are in need of an address.



Thank You! to Joyce Tessendorf, Beth Martin, Ellen Kyles, Donna Gullickson, Joanne Martin, Shirley Fox for helping with the November Newsletter.

Dear Members of Good Shepherd

Thank You so much for the beautiful peace lily that you sent to honor the memory of Richard Boye. Your church was so precious to Dad & he spoke frequently & fondly of their time there & the people. The planet reminds us that Dad is now at peace, no longer suffering, as he celebrates life in Heaven with our Heavenly Father.

*Many thanks, The Boye Family,
Carol Russo, Leanne Buckley, Erik Boye, Kristen Herman*

Thank You to my church family for your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits while I was a patient at U.W. Hospital in Madison. A special Thank You for your support at the Fundraiser by the Lena Living Center and for the Benefit Concert sponsored by Good Shepherd Lutheran Men's Chorus. Also a special thank you to Pastor Miranda for her prayers and visits. It is greatly appreciated and overwhelming.

God Bless each of You!!

Debbie Hesselbacher

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at **1:00 pm** at LLC. The Bible Study leader is Rene' Johnson.



HANNAH CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at **9:00 am** at the home of Rene' Johnson - 621 Deer Trail Drive, (815) 369-2818. The hostess and Bible Study leader is Rene' Johnson.

Please join us as we continue our 9-month Bible Study: ***“Transforming Life and Faith”*** by Carol Schersten LaHurd. Session four “Faith in the Family” is in the December 2014 “Gather” magazine. In this session we will explore “Faith that is formed in the Family” - especially our own.

Thankofferings: If you would like, please bring your Women of the ELCA Thankoffering for 2014 to this meeting.

For information about our Circle Groups, Women of the ELCA, and/or our Bible Study material please contact Rene' Johnson (815) 369-2818.

LENA LIVING CENTER (LLC)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY PARTY - is -

Thursday, December 18, 2014 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm,

hosted by Faith and Hannah Circles. We will provide birthday gifts, bring treats and wish Happy Birthday to some very special people. As our program will be singing Christmas Songs accompanied by Marion Fahr. Please join us for fun and fellowship in sharing Christ's love.

Circle members are asked to bring 2 dozen cookies to share with the residents. Contact Rene' Johnson at (815) 369-2818 if you have any questions, need a ride, or to have your cookie donation picked-up. We will meet at 1:45 pm in the LLC Dining Room to set-up for the party.

All women of the church and their guests are welcome to attend all circle functions.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am

Pre-K & K Sunday School after Children's Message

Fellowship Hour 10:30 am

Sunday School 10:45 am

CHURCH OFFICE 815-369-5552

Pastor Miranda Klosterboer

Church Secretary Darlene Barr

Month's Highlights!

December 2 Faith Circle at LLC 1:00pm

December 4 Hannah Circle at GSLC 9:00am

December 6 Men's Group 4:30pm

December 7 Christmas Caroling 1:30pm at GSLC

December 7 Christmas Program full rehearsal 11am-2pm

December 9 Hymn Sing at LLC 9:45am

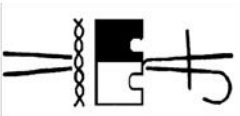
December 9 Friendship Club Potluck 12:00pm

December 11 Christmas Program Rehearsal 2pm-4pm

December 14 Christmas Program 9:30am

December 18 LLC Christmas party 2:00pm

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 5pm and 7:30pm



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
118 East Mason St.
Lena, IL 61048
GoodSheperdLena@outlook.com

*The Good Shepherd cares for us.
He gives His Life for us and to us.
We give and use our lives in love,
care and service of one another.*

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