



The SHEPHERD'S VOICE

April 2017

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." (Matthew 28:5-6)

On April 14 and 16 in 2016, my hometown was hit by separate, powerful earthquakes. I happened to be home and experienced the shaking of the ground. Both earthquakes happened at night. Our family has accumulated a lot of stuff over the years, especially books which my father loves. Books were stacked in the book shelves, hallways, and in any available storage spaces in our house. When the magnitude 7.3 quake hit on the 16th, we were sleeping. Alarmed by the great shaking I woke up and grabbed my shoes and emergency backpack which I prepared after the first earthquake. Fortunately my room door was open, and I walked on the piles of encyclopedias in the hallway to find the way out. My father shouted from downstairs for my sister and me to flee from the house immediately.

At that time we had two cats. One was an 8 year old mature cat who liked to catch birds and lizards. The other cat was a young one who sometimes had trouble returning from neighborhood explorations. The younger one was my father's favorite, and she slept on my father's blanket. When the earthquake happened, we had no idea where they were. Experiencing the constant aftershocks, we could not look for them but had to evacuate. My father expressed that the cats were probably dead under piles of books.

We returned to our house two days later and began picking up the mess. Moving one book at the time, we did not find the cats. The next day my sister exclaimed that our older cat came back. I called her name, and it was our cat. A few hours later, the younger cat came back. Our family was overjoyed. We thought they were dead, but they were alive and came back to our house.

In the Gospel of Matthew there was a great earthquake which rolled back the stone that covered the entrance to Jesus' tomb. The women who went to tomb must have been frightened by both the great earthquake and encountering a messenger of God wearing dazzling clothing. Nevertheless, they became the first witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus. With fear and great joy they ran to tell the other disciples about the good news—Jesus overcame death and was resurrected. May the joy of Easter be with you. Pr. Miho

Worship News

Lenten Dinner April 5th at 5:30pm hosted by Men's Group

Lenten Worship Service at 6:30pm

Procession of Palms—Palm Sunday April 9th (9:30am)

Maundy Thursday April 13th (7:00pm):

Good Friday April 14th (7:00)

Easter April 16th (7:00am and 9:30am): Join us for celebratory services as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Youth Sunday April 23rd

April Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday April 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th from 8:00 am to 11:30 am.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet April , 12th, 19th and 26th
From 6:30 pm to 8:00pm

LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING April 2nd at 11:45am after
Sunday School

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING April 4th at 6:30pm.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet April 6th at 9:00am in church
Fellowship Hall for “Potluck” and Bible Study.

LENTEN DINNER April 5th at 5:30pm hosted by Men’s Group
LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE at 6:30pm

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday,
April 11th at 9:45am

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP with Procession of Palms April 9th
at 9:30 am

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday,
April 11th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday April 11th at 6:30pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Thursday
April 13th at 7:00 pm

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday April 13th for a Potluck
Dinner & entertainment with *“Bobby Edler*

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE FRIDAY April 14th at
7:00 pm

PREPARATION FOR EASTER BREAKFAST Saturday
April 15th for all children and youth at 4:00 pm. A pizza party will
follow!

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES April 16th

Sunrise Service 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast 8:00 am

Easter Festival Service 9:30 am

YOUTH SUNDAY April 24^h

MEN’S GROUP MEETING Saturday April 29th at 4:30pm



April Birthdays

- 4/1 Troy Doubler
- 4/2 Wieland Kayser
- 4/3 Joshua Andrews
- 4/5 Delbert Scheider
- 4/5 James Swain
- 4/5 Cadie Wolfrom
- 4/6 Kurt Baldauf
- 4/7 Darren Aurand
- 4/7 Brody Diffenderfer
- 4/8 Betty Raders
- 4/8 Ruth Jacobs
- 4/8 Donna Christen
- 4/8 Lucas Fye
- 4/9 Erick Kurth
- 4/15 Kathy Graff
- 4/16 Ian Geiseman
- 4/17 Betty Koehn
- 4/21 Braden Diddens
- 4/22 Danielle Balbach
- 4/28 Helen Cross
- 4/30 Jacob Andrews
- 4/30 Gage Hancock

If we miss your birthday (or someone in your family) please call the office to update our records!

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is an important ministry of Good Shepherd. This is a way for some members of our congregation to pray for others who need healing, strength, courage, comfort, hope etc. This is for members and non-members. The process for using the prayer chain is to call the church office, Pastor Miho or Vivian Hesselbacher who will pass it on to the next person on the chain. When the last person has been called, they will notify Pastor or the church office that it is completed. The prayer chain can be done by phone or e-mail. It is a great joy to see prayers answered for those who were prayed for. If interested in being a person on the prayer chain, contact the church office of Vivian Hesselbacher at 815-369-4496.

We lift up the following loved ones in assisted-living facilities/nursing homes, homebound, etc. in prayer: Dorothy Weimer, Gladys Staderman, Verl Price, Steve Fahr, Lois Paulsen, Laura Derr, Ray Stamm, Carol Wybourn, Fern Harnish. They would love to hear from you, consider visiting, calling, or sending them a note Please call the church office if you are in need of an address.



Need of a ride to church on Sunday?

Call:

Troy Doubler 369-5117
Donna Gullickson 369-4708

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 @ 369-5552

Wednesdays During Lent

There are two devotion opportunities during Lent.

Lena area Lenten Luncheon and Devotion Schedule

Theme is “The Word Became Flesh: The Humanity and Divinity of Jesus in his Passion.” Each week we focus on divinity and humanity of Jesus through the Gospel of John.

Lunch starts at 12pm.

March 29 St. Joseph Catholic

April 5 Evangelical Free

April 12 Lena United Methodist (hosted by Salem UCC)

Mid-week Lenten Evening Service

We are going to learn about the Luther’s Small Catechism with puppets. Our youth will lead the service. Light supper starts at 5:30pm and the service starts at 6:30pm.

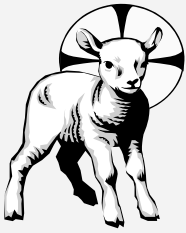
March 29 Baptism (meal is hosted by Council)

April 5 Holy Communion (meal is hosted by Men’s Group)

FAVORITE HYMNS



As the winter is ending and spring is near, it is also time to think of your favorite hymns for the summer months. Please fill out the form starting April 2. Think of your favorite hymn and write down the title and if possible the hymnal and page number so it can be found. We are limiting everyone to their three most favorite hymns. Please turn your hymns in by May 7 so that they may be organized and put into the hymn schedule starting in June this year.



**All Youth and Children of
Good Shepherd**
We will be meeting on
Saturday, April 15th at 4:00 pm
to prepare for the Easter Breakfast.
There will be Pizza after the set-up
Also, Sunday, April 16th
will meet at 7:30 am to
serve the Easter Breakfast together.



Summer Camp Information is Available.

It's time to start thinking about summer plans. We have summer camp information in the church office. Lutherdale (Elkhorn, WI), EWALU (Strawberry Point, IA), and LOMC (Oregon, IL) are offering various camps from K 2 up to parents and grandparents. If you are interested in, please check the church bulletin boards as well as their website (www.lutherdale.org; www.ewalu.org;))

God's Global Barnyard



Sunday School offerings this fall will go towards ELCA's God's Global Barnyard. All of the animals in God's Global Barnyard help families who are poor and hungry throughout the world. Sunday School children are also gathering coins and bills in their "barns" throughout the week. If you want to join in the fun with your own barn or ELCA World Hunger coin bank, contact the church office at 815-369-5552. God's Global Barnyard is a part of ELCA World Hunger.

Celebrating the First Communion

On March 26th we celebrated the first communion. We came together to taste and see the goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for the supports of the parents, family members, and Sunday school teachers.



Thank You to our Confirmation class and High School Youth for leading us every Wednesday evening during lent and for teaching us the Small Catechism with puppets

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 16th, 2017 at 8 am

The Good Shepherd youth group
will be serving Easter Breakfast
in the Fellowship Hall to raise funds for the youth.

Menu includes: Scrambled Eggs, Ham,
Rolls, Juice, Milk & Coffee.

Make your RESERVATION by
Monday, April 10th
by placing this reservation slip in the offering plate
or turning it in to the Church office.



Easter Breakfast Reservation

Name _____

Phone # _____

Number of People Attending _____

Story of a Cross

Years ago, men cursed my name, and looked at me with deepest shame.
My limbs were rough and dark and bare, and no one ever thought to wear
a cross.

I stood for death and hate and fear - a killer's scream - a mother's tear
Rightful end for a life of sin - a prize no man desired to win -
a cross.

And then, one day a young man came: another victim for my frame.
His face was strong, yet strangely soft - not the kind you see aloft
a cross.

I saw the crowd and heard the cries: " Crucify! Make sure he dies!"
Why this young man? Why now his turn? What had he done that he should
earn
a cross?

I heard them scream, "If you are God, come, save yourself - with just a nod.
Call your angels; prove you're He. God wouldn't hang upon a tree -
a cross."

His pain-filled eyes still spoke of love. And then he strained to look above:
"They don't know what they're doing, Lord; even now I bear their sins' re-
ward -
this cross!"

A smaller group stood near the base with tears of pain upon each face;
I saw His mother's stricken eyes, and thought how much she must despise
this cross.

But, in her eyes there was no hate. How could she accept her son's dire
fate?

He seemed so different from the rest of sinners who were sent to test
the cross.

And then, a cry of pain and fear: "My God! My God! Why aren't You
here?"

His breath came hard and short and fast - "It is finished!" He had finally
passed
the cross..

If this were all there was to tell, man's soul would still be doomed to hell.
But, this young man, we all have learned, took on Himself what mankind
earned. . -

the cross.

So, now I stand for hope and life - no longer symbol of Man's strife;
For Jesus Christ, God's only son, that fearful battle fought- and won!
the cross!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen

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Graduate Recognition

Will be held during the Sunday Worship Service in May at 9:30am. Be sure to send in your graduate information sheet to the office so we can include you in the program. Please let (Darlene), the church secretary, know by May 8th if you or a family member is graduating. Please turn in your Graduate Information Form by May 11th as well. Thank you! And Congratulations!

Graduate Information Form

Name: _____

What high school, college, or tech school are you graduating from:

What activities/groups have you been involved in?

Have you received any awards, recognitions, etc.? If so what are they?

Are you planning to continue your education? If so, where?

What are your interests?

What are your plans for the future?



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

can be picked up at the church office starting

April 1st

Applications must be filled out and returned by

April 30th



Pine Ridge Mission Trip

We are going back to Pine Ridge.

We leave from Lena on May 23 and returning on May 28. If you have not gone to our mission trip before, this will be a great opportunity for you.

Sign-up sheet is in the north hallway. As Jesus said, “you love one another. Just as

I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35). We hope you will join the mission trip.

“We are Thankful For” *From the Thankful Quilt*



Council Members for 2017

Dennis Luke—President Coralyn Hudik—Vice President

Secretary—Darci Meier, Youth Representative—Krista Keene

Council Members: , Karen Niemeier, Tim Gordon, Troy Keene, Troy Doubler, Eugene Hesselbacher, Kristy Patterson, Pastor Miho

Highlights from March Council Meetings

- The treasures report was presented by Jay Andrews. The electric bill for February was \$203.34 and the gas bill was \$702.39.
- The Learning Committee Report was reviewed and highlights were mentioned by Kristy Patterson. Upcoming events include the Easter Breakfast; Youth Sunday April 23; Graduation Recognition and Final Day of Sunday School May 7; and Teacher Recognition May 14.
- Members of the Property Committee said the new phone and internet service by Mediacom has been installed. Phone lines are operational and a switch box has been installed which will permit running internet to more areas of the church. The new email is not yet effective. The new address will be published in the newsletter and in other ways to keep members current.
- Estimates will be sought for reroofing the main sanctuary.
- Troy Doubler said the Mens Group will be working on interior painting and some refurbishing projects. Doubler said other groups are encouraged to paint or update more areas of the church.
- Tim Gordon reported on progress for the 160th Anniversary of the church. Former ministers will be invited to the festivities and Bishop Clements will offer a sermon.
- Coralyn Hudik reported on behalf of the Stewardship Committee. Among other projects, birthday cards will be sent to members who are mentioned in the monthly newsletter.
- Pastor Miho presented the Pastor's Report .In addition to many visits and functions she attended, she stated the mission trip to Pine Ridge is planned for May 23 – 28. Anyone interested in participating may speak with her.
- Nominations were offered for Synod Assembly delegates. Kristy Patterson was nominated as the female delegate and Anna Patterson was nominated as the Youth Representative.

A complete copy of March Councils Minutes is posted on the Bulletin Board.

Hannah Circle will meet on Thursday April 6, 2017 at 9:00am at church in Fellowship Hall. This is Potluck” we will not have a hostess. Rene’ Johnson is the Bible Study leader.



We will discuss “Galatians, Chapters 5 & 6—Session 4—”For Freedom Christ has set us free!” in the April 2017 “Gather” magazine.

All Women of the church and their quest are welcome to attend all circle functions.

Thank you to all who helped with the March 8, 2017—Wednesday Noon Lenten Lunch hosted by Good Shepherd. It was a great success and we couldn't have done it without all your help



Joyce Tessendorf, Ellen Kyles, Beth Martin, Donna Gullickson, Joanne Martin, Cindy Doubler, Darlene Aurand, Kelsey Albrecht, Vivian Hesselbacher and Shirley Fox for helping with the March Newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Incoming February 2017 | \$ 7,999.21 |
| Expenses February 2017 | \$11,402.41 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$(3,403.20) |
| Income, Year to Date 2016 | \$26,680.71 |
| Expenses, Year to Date 2016 | \$21,897.40 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$ 4,873.41 |

April 2017 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, IL

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 11:45 am Learning Committee meeting 5:00pm Chime Practice | 3 | 4 6:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting | 5 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 5:30 Lent Dinner-Men's Group 6:30 Lent Worship Service | 6 9:00am Hannah Circle "Potluck" - Bible Study in the Fellow- ship Hall | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:30 am Procession of Palms Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Choir Practice 5:00 Chime Practice | 10 | 11 9:45am Hymn Sing at the Lena Liv- ing Center 6:30pm Council Meeting | 12 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout | 13 12:00 pm Friendship Club Potluck/Bobby Edler 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service | 14 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service | 15 4:00 pm All children and Youth help with Preparations for Easter Breakfast |
| 16 Easter Sunday 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Worship Service 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Easter Festival Worship Service | 17 | 18 | 19 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 6:30pm-8:00pm Confirma- | 20 | 21 | 22 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry |
| 23 9:30 am Youth Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice | 24 | 25 Pastor Miho at first Call Theological Education Synod Office, Rockford | 26 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 6:30pm-8:00pm Confirma- tion Class | 27 NW Conference Pre Assembly Confer- ence Meeting at St. John's Pearl City, IL 6:00pm Meal 6:30pm Meeting | 28 | 29 4:30pm Men's Group |
| 30 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice | | | | | | |

April Communion Set-up/Clean up
Troy and Cindy Doubler

April Worship Volunteers

April 2

Lector Marybeth Brinker
Acolyte Braden Diddens
Assisting Minister Jay Andrews
Worship Assistant Vivian Hesselbacher
Communion Ushers Troy and Cindy Doubler
Communion Assistant Beth Martin, Tena Rackow
Sound System Wayne Kurth, Ashtyn Brinker
Greeters Chris and Angie Brinker, Sheridan and Marybeth Brinker
Ushers Claire and Helen Cross, Troy and Cindy Doubler
Elevator Operator Dennis Luke

April 9

Lector Janis Kurth
Acolyte Taylor Patterson
Assisting Minister Sheila Keene
Worship Assistant Cora Hudik
Communion Ushers Virgil Gordon, Tim Gordon
Communion Assistant Dennis Luke, Colton Brinker
Sound System Troy Doubler, Hanna Brinker
Greeters Gary and Cynthia Boeke, Paul and Shirley Fox
Ushers Virgil Gordon, Tim Gordon, Bill and Jean Engel
Elevator Operator Braden Diddens

April 16 (Sunrise Service)

Lector Shirley Fox
Acolyte Ashtyn Brinker, Hanna Brinker
Assisting Minister Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant Tena Rackow
Communion Ushers Troy Keene, Krista Keene
Communion Assistant Jay and Michelle Andrews
Sound System Troy Doubler
Greeters Dennis Luke, Donna Gullickson
Ushers Troy Keene, Krista Keene
Dana Diddens, Braden Diddens
Elevator Operator Chris Brinker

April 16 (Easter Festival Service)

Dennis Luke
Ethan Fye, Madilyn Diddens
Dennis Luke
Sue Diddens
Paul and Shirley Fox
Colton Brinker, Sheila Keene
Wayne Kurth
Tena Rackow, Willie Kayser
Paul and Shirley Fox, Virgil and Joanne Martin

Jean Engel

April 23

Lector Youth
Acolyte Youth
Assisting Minister Austin Andrews
Worship Assistant Sondra Winters
Communion Ushers Youth
Communion Assistant Youth
Sound System Troy Doubler
Greeters Youth
Ushers Youth
Elevator Operator Youth

April 30

Lector Marybeth Brinker
Acolyte Kayla Runkle
Assisting Minister Jay Andrews
Worship Assistant Sheila Keene
Communion Ushers Chris and Angie Brinker
Communion Assistant Troy and Cindy Doubler
Sound System Wayne, Kurth, Braden Diddens
Greeters Curt and Sue Diddens, Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
Ushers Chris and Angie Brinker, Bill and Jean Engel
Elevator Operator Donna Gullickson

Please mark your calendars for the dates that you have been assigned, if you cannot serve on the day that you have been assigned please switch with someone and /or call the church office by Tuesday of the week that you are to volunteer so that arrangements can be made.
Office Hours-Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
9:00am-2:00pm
Telephone: 815-369-5552

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 Pastor Miho Yasukawa

Church Secretary Darlene Barr

Month's Highlights!

April 5 Lenten Dinner 5:30pm, Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm

April 6 Hannah Circle Meeting 9:00am

April 9 Procession of Palms Sunday 9:30am

April 11 Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am

April 13 Friendship Club/Potluck 12:00pm

April 13 Maudy Thursday Worship Service 7:00pm,

April 14 Good Friday Worship Service 7:00pm

April 16 Easter Sunrise Worship Service 7:00am

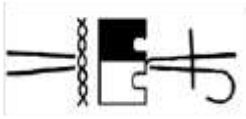
Easter Breakfast 8:00am

Easter Festival Worship Service 9:30am

April 24 Youth Sunday

April 29 Men's Group Meeting 4:30pm

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE for May 2017
Newsletter is April, 15th 2017.
Thank You!



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
118 East Mason St.
Lena, IL 61048
GoodShepherdLena@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.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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