

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE January 2019

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Luke 2:17-20

Happy 2019 to all of you! I pray that God will bless you this new year and that you and I grow deeper relationships with God.

When are the times you feel or sense that God is present?

When I was glancing through the 2018 ELCA annual report cover online (Yes, it is about that time of the year to be ready for the annual congregational meeting), I saw questions on the last page. The questions made me pause and ponder: When did I last sense the presence of God? Where was I? What was I doing?

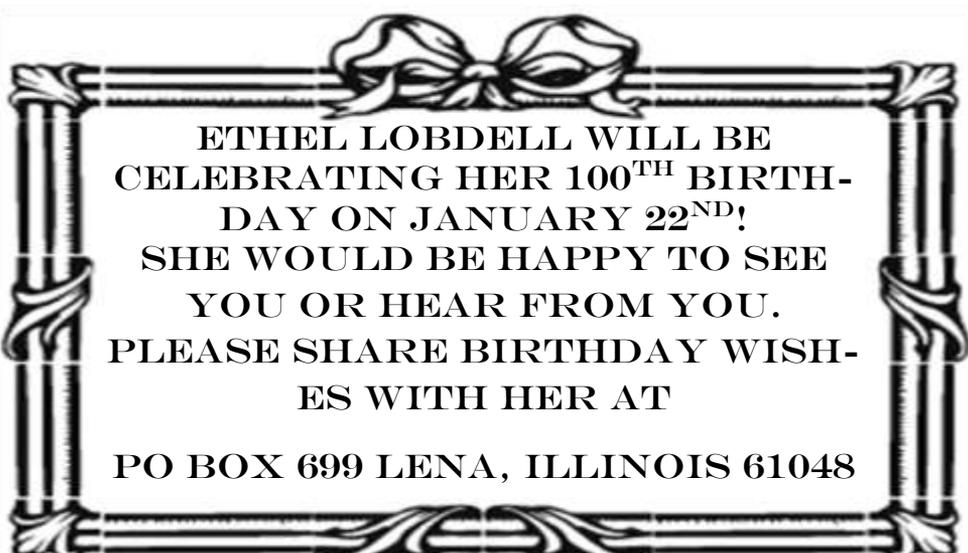
It brought me back the day when we went Christmas caroling. It was a sunny not-too-cold afternoon in December. Some of our Good Shepherd family stopped by members houses and the nursing home and sang Christmas carols. At the first house, a member requested his favorite carol, "Silent Night", and all of us sang it together. "Silent Night" is one of the hymns I could sing from my English memory, so instead of looking down at the music, I looked up and looked around. I saw our faces lighten up. It was a calm holiness surrounding the room.

We went to the next house, and we sang more Christmas carols. A home bound member said, "I like singing Christmas carols. Thank you for coming, but don't you have bigger print?" It made all of us laugh. Christmas caroling is not just singing old favorite Christmas hymns but also bringing joys and smiles. Each place which we stopped by, I felt the presence of God. I sensed God was singing and laughing with us. It made my heart warm and filled me with joy. Together we were tasting love.

When are the times you feel or sense God is present?

Do you have times when God shows up unexpectedly which makes you feel awe and wonder? I bet that the shepherds did, too. They were surprised when God's messenger showed up while they were working that night. And they told their sacred stories to Mary, Joseph, Jesus and all the guests at the stable. The shepherds shared their God moments so that more people would know about this special baby, Jesus, who is the savior. We are shepherds too because God comes to us and tells us that God cares for us. What are your stories? Tell me about your sacred stories because your stories help me to grow in my relationship with God. I love to hear your God moments. By sharing our sacred stories, we grow in faith together. May God guide us on our journey together.

Peace in Christ, Pr. Miho



**ETHEL LOBDELL WILL BE
CELEBRATING HER 100TH BIRTH-
DAY ON JANUARY 22ND!
SHE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE
YOU OR HEAR FROM YOU.
PLEASE SHARE BIRTHDAY WISH-
ES WITH HER AT
PO BOX 699 LENA, ILLINOIS 61048**

Would you like to start the new year with daily devotions?

New devotion books are here. Christ in our Home and The Word in Season offer short scripture readings, devotions and prayers for every day. Bread for the Day: Daily Bible Readings and Prayers 2019 contains prayers and scripture readings which go together with The Word in Season. For youth (and adults) Pockets is a monthly magazine with lessons from everyday life. It also has good recipes. We have extra copies of Gather magazine. Check our racks! If you would like us to mail devotion books to you, contact the church office.

January Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday January 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th.

HANNAH CIRCLE will not meet in January.

EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE will be Sunday January 6th, 2019 at 930am. We will take down Christmas ornaments together during the service. Come and join us.

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday, January 8th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meets on Tuesday January 8th at 6:30pm.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday, January 10th at noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment with “*Set Free*”.

ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION, Sunday, January 13th, after service. For more information about Rockford Rescue Mission, go to their web site under the “Give Help” tab or contact Sue Diddens. *Must be over 12 to volunteer.*

GOOD SHEPHERD AT FRIENDSHIP CENTER for Devotions & Dessert January 17th at 1:00pm.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the February 2019 Newsletter is January 15th, 2019. Thank You!

Annual Congregational Meeting January 27th, 2019 at 10:45am

annual report will be available for pick up at church from January 13th to the 20th. If you're not able to pick up, call the church office at 815-369-5552 and one can be mailed to you.



January Birthdays

1-01 Tim Gordon
1-02 Elizabeth Kurth
1-03 Brady Meier
1-03 Shayleigh Albright
1-08 Tena Rackow
1-10 Noah Schoaf
1-11 Tamara Albrecht
1-13 Heather Fye
1-14 Courtney Lawson
1-15 Isabelle Schoaf
1-16 JD Fye
1-16 Sarah Baker
1-17 Gary Meyers
1-17 Mike Koppean
1-18 Tim Aurand
1-21 Tyler Raders
1-22 Ethel Lobdell
1-23 Janis Kurth
1-27 Becky Huttenlocher
1-28 Jan Wybourn
1-28 Denise Flack
1-28 Heather Block
1-29 David Graff
1-29 Bailey Schoenhard
1-30 Marilyn Fulfs

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



Thank You

Beth Martin, Donna Gullickson, Joanne Martin, Cindy Doubler, Darlene Aurand, Kelsey Albrecht, Vivian Hesselbacher, Deb Hesselbacher and Shirley Fox for helping with the December Newsletter.



To the members of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

The Lena Lions club would like to express a heartfelt "Thank You" on behalf of the Northern Illinois Veterans in Need. We are humbled by the generous outpouring of donations to benefit these worthy individuals. The Winter Clothing Collection was a huge success along with other needed items that were donated.

We are only able to succeed in helping others because of the help we receive from our community. We would like to say how grateful we are to everyone who donated items to our local churches for being our collection sites. May you all have a Blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year.

On behalf of the Lena Lions Club

Billy Chrichton

Mary Anne Keith



Thanks to everyone who sent greetings to me on my 94th birthday on Thanksgiving this year, and to the congregation for the greetings with all the members names.

Blessings,
Leona Block

Look to the Star in the Eastern Sky

Above the dark of night and the cold of winter
It illumines dark corners and slides under closed doors
Piercing the silence and coaxing heartbeats from weary worlds

As wonder becomes reality and hope is revealed
Look to the Star and discover the glory of Epiphany
Eastern kings carrying treasures from afar
Gifts to lay at the feet of the Christ Child
Riches of gold, frankincense and myrrh
Glistening farther than the reach of fear, the depth
of despair

Lighting shadowed paths with holy light,
Speaking foreign tongues in a common voice
Singing majestic songs long hidden with clarity and
purpose

Fulfilling ancient prophesies and holding present promises
in virgin hands

Sending shepherds to their knees and angels to break
forth in song

Making mansions out of mangers and kings from
carpenters

Look to the Star of Epiphany rising
Bringing hope and salvation to all in His hands

(c) Susan D. Gordon

Highlights from December Council Meetings

- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed reflecting a November Gas bill of \$343.35 and electric bill of \$146.72. Kristy Patterson moved to approve the report and Gene Hesselbacher made the second. Council approved unanimously.
- The Pastor's Report included special mention of children's participation in recent events. Youth took part in the float for the Lena Christmas parade and they helped decorate the church and sanctuary. An OWL Night (overnight lock in) is planned for Dec. 21 – 22 and Pastor said adult assistance is needed especially for breakfast time.
- The church was one of four hosts for the Lena Christmas Tour of Homes and a generous donation of food and money was contributed by church members and guests.
- A sock drive is planned over the Christmas season ending Jan. 6. These gifts will be presented to the Lena-Winslow Elementary.
- Pastor also discussed the WELCA mission trip to Rocky Boy Indian Reservation, Montana, Aug. 24 – 31, 2019. Pastor plans to attend and has details for others who are interested. Kristy Patterson moved to accept Pastor's report and Virgil Gordon seconded. All approved.
- Kristy Patterson also spoke on youth activities which included the children's Christmas Program and participation in the Christmas Eve service. She also said the children were a big help in making many dozens of cookies for sharing.
- Dennis Luke said the ceiling on the main entry has been repaired and this work will help stop future flaking. Troy Doubler said all the exterior railings are now in place.
- It was also pointed out that nominations for the 2019 Council are being sought. Four positions will be open.
- All committee reports were approved with a motion by Gene Hesselbacher and second by Kristy Patterson.
- Funding for the proposed sound system was discussed and tabled until the January meeting. The proposal will be brought to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting Jan. 27, 2019. Individual donations from church members will also be accepted for the project.
-

Highlights from December Council Meetings

- Council approved an action to allow Good Shepherd to be used as an emergency shelter for Lena-Winslow Schools and the Lena Living Center. Upon a motion from Virgil Gordon and second by Kristy Patterson, Council fully approved. Should these services be needed, it is understood the church may not provide medical care or services for those in need.
- In new business, Dennis Luke presented the proposed 2019 budget. The document reflects budget reductions of approximately \$6,000 overall. This reduction includes decreasing amounts in accounts that had excess funds and cuts in other areas. Gene Hesselbacher moved to accept the budget and Bari Raymer made the second. Council unanimously approved. The budget will be brought to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting.
- Council also approved vacation days of Jan. 1-5, 2019, for Pastor Miho. Kristy Patterson made the motion and Krista Keene seconded. All approved.

The next meeting is planned for Jan. 8.

Complete minutes are on the bulletin board by the office.

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming November 2018	\$ 7,114.56
Expenses November 2018	\$ 10,783.35
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (3,668.79)
Income, Year to Date 2018	\$107,980.55
Expenses, Year to Date 2018	\$117,219.67
Net Income (Loss)	\$(9,239.12)

Annual Reports Are Due December 29, 2018

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. If possible, please type up the report and email it to goodshepherdlc@mediacommb.net or GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com in Word format.

Highlights from Lena Hometown Christmas Parade 2018



Good Shepherd Float

Advent Fun



Thank you

I would like to thank all of you for your help with the Christmas Parade, Advent Fun, and the Christmas Tour of Homes. Children helped a lot to decorate our church and bake cookies for Operation Good Fellow. Special thanks go to: Kenlee Price, Penelope Price, Lukas Price, Hunter Reynolds, Izzy Reynolds, Brianna Fye, Nakoah Cornwell, Lucas Fye, Ethan Fye, Anna Patterson, Kelsey Albrecht, Dena and Adam Price, Heather & Ryan Fye, Kristy Patterson, Lisa & Dan Wienand, Dale Gullickson, Tim Gordon, Bob and Sharon Schlachter, Angie Brinker, Shirley Fox, Janis & Wayne Kurth, Karla Fox, Mary Lloyd, Darci Meier, Terry Hart, and the Piece Corps quilters. Thank you so much. You made this year's Christmas very special. Pr. Miho

Advent Fun



Prayer Chain:

If you have a request for the Prayer Chain:

We lift up the following loved ones in assisted-living facilities/ nursing homes, those who are homebound, etc. in prayer: Verl Price, Steve Fahr, Lois Paulsen, Fern Harnish. They would love to hear from you. Consider visiting, calling, or sending them a note. Please call the Church Office at 815-369-5552, if you need an address.



Need of a ride to church on Sunday?

Call:

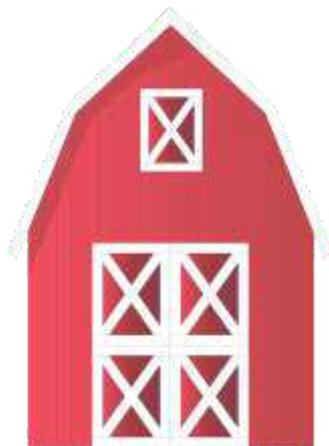
Donna Gullickson 369-4708

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



A big **THANK YOU** to all who collected coins for God's Global Barnyard. The Sunday School children had a great time looking through the catalog to make a difference in people's lives. These are what the Sunday School children chose: A pig, Bible, warm blanket, chicks, community vegetable garden, water filter, clinic visit for a child, vaccination for a child, school supplies, stocking a backpack with food, feeding a refugee family, solar-powered lantern, mosquito net, farming tools, honey bees, fruit tree, school fees, and a school uniform for a girl.

Thank you for your support.



New Babies

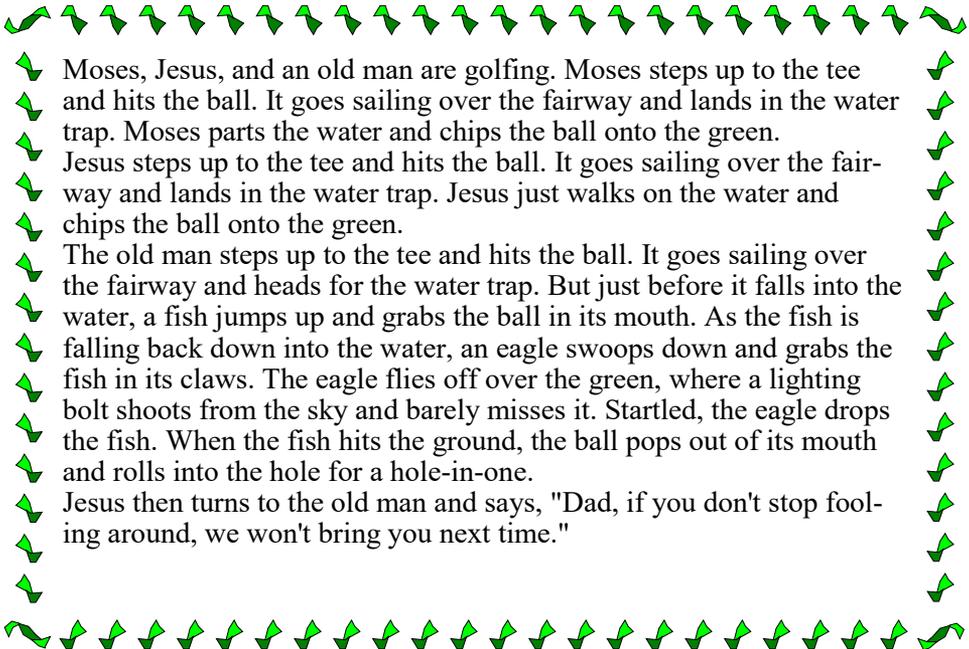
If there is a birth within the Good Shepherd church family, please call the church office at 815-369-5552 with all family information. We want to share in the celebration by placing a rose on the altar and announcing it in the bulletin.

Worship News

Christmas ends after twelve days. And the thirteenth day is called Epiphany.

Epiphany means "manifestation." On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst. (from *Sundays and Seasons*)

Our January worship brings us the revelation of Christ as Savior of the world (January 6), as God's beloved (January 13), through the first miracle (January 20), and through reading of scripture, from prophet Isaiah (January 27)



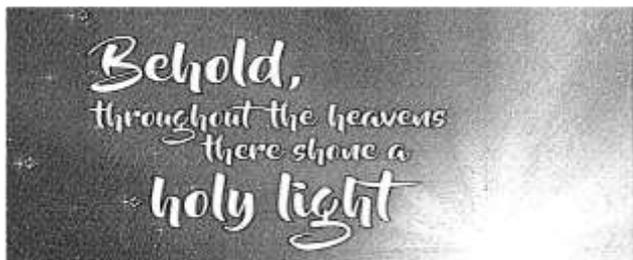
✔ Moses, Jesus, and an old man are golfing. Moses steps up to the tee and hits the ball. It goes sailing over the fairway and lands in the water trap. Moses parts the water and chips the ball onto the green. ✔
✔ Jesus steps up to the tee and hits the ball. It goes sailing over the fairway and lands in the water trap. Jesus just walks on the water and chips the ball onto the green. ✔
✔ The old man steps up to the tee and hits the ball. It goes sailing over the fairway and heads for the water trap. But just before it falls into the water, a fish jumps up and grabs the ball in its mouth. As the fish is falling back down into the water, an eagle swoops down and grabs the fish in its claws. The eagle flies off over the green, where a lightning bolt shoots from the sky and barely misses it. Startled, the eagle drops the fish. When the fish hits the ground, the ball pops out of its mouth and rolls into the hole for a hole-in-one. ✔
✔ Jesus then turns to the old man and says, "Dad, if you don't stop fooling around, we won't bring you next time." ✔

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I really appreciate all the hard work the Sunday School children and adults put in to make our Christmas Program such a success! I would also like to thank all who support our Christmas Program as the audience. I really hope you enjoyed it as much as we did performing it for you! Merry Christmas!

Kristy

Friends at Good Shepherd

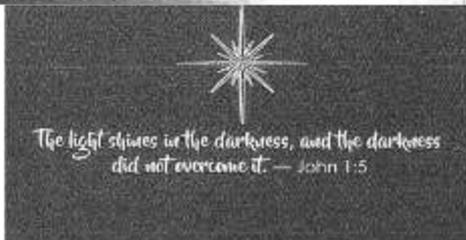


Lord of **light** and **life**, shine forth throughout the darkness and give us **hope**.

May Christ, the light of the world, fill you with **joy** and **peace** this season.

May you walk in his light and **love** today and always.

Merry Christmas,



Thank you for all you do for the church and the ministries of the ELCA.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
and the church wide staff

Hannah Circle will not meet in January or February, 2019. We will resume our Bible Study and meetings on Thursday, March 7, 2019.

Thank you to everyone who made cookies, provided music, and helped with the Lena Living Center December Birthday Party. Thank You!



*Rocky Boy Indian Reservation
Servant Immersion Trip*

Imagine learning and experiencing the history and culture of the Chippewa Cree including bead work, dancing and drumming. Imagine visiting and archeological dig and buffalo jump, a historical battlefield or a Lewis and Clark interpretative center. You can do this and more when participating in a cross-cultural exchange experience coordinated by Women of the ELCA.

The next cross-cultural servant/immersion experience will take place August 24th- 31st, 2019, on the Rocky Boy Reservation of the Chippewa Cree Tribe in Box Elder, Montana. The host congregation, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, has been working with the people of the Chippewa Cree Tribe since the early 1920's. Registration is \$375 and includes most meals, sleeping accommodations and activity fees. Men are also welcome to join the trip.

For additional information, contact the church office at 815- 369- 5552 or goodshepherdlc@mediacombb.net.

January 2019 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Office Closed</i> “Happy New Year”	2 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	3	4	5
Pr. Miho is on vacation						
6 Epiphany 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School/Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	7	8 9:45am Hymn Sing Lena Living Center 6:30pm Council Meeting	9 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	10 12:00pm Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment “Set Free”	11	12
13 Baptism of our Lord 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School/Confirmation Class 11:00am Volunteering at Rockford Rescue Mission 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	14	15 9:00am Pastor Miho Text Study New Letter Deadline	16 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	17 1:00pm Good Shepherd at Friendship Center Devotions & Dessert	18	19
20 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School/Confirmation Class 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	21	22 9:00am Pastor Miho Text Study	23 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	24	25	26
27 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Annual Meeting 5:00pm Chime Practice	28	29 9:00am Pastor Miho Text Study	30 8:00-11:30am Piece Corps Quilters	31	January Communion Set-up/Clean up Sheridan and Marybeth Brinker	

January Worship Volunteers

January 6th

Lector	
Acolyte	Ashtyn Brinker
Assisting Minister	Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant	Marybeth Brinker
Communion Assistants	Troy and Cindy Doubler
Communion Ushers	Mike and Kelly Geiseman
Sound System	Denny Luke and Hanna Brinker
Greeters	Marybeth Brinker, Sue Diddens, Jay and Michelle Andrews
Ushers	Mike Geiseman, Troy Keene, Andrew Martin and Larry Fulfs
Elevator Operators	Chris Brinker

January 13th

Lector	Marybeth Brinker
Acolyte	Ethan Fye
Assisting Minister	Brianna Andrews
Worship Assistant	Sue Diddens
Communion Assistants	Denny Luke and Beth Martin
Communion Ushers	Troy Keene and Andrew Martin
Sound System	Troy Doubler and Ashtyn Brinker
Greeters	Troy and Cindy Doubler, Bill and Jean Engel
Ushers	Virgil Gordon, Tim Gordon, Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher
Elevator Operators	Taylor and Kristy Patterson

January 20th

Lector	Marybeth Brinker
Acolyte	Hanna Brinker
Assisting Minister	Jay Andrews
Worship Assistant	Shirley Fox
Communion Assistants	Sue Diddens and Hanna Brinker
Communion Ushers	Larry Fulfs and Jim Swain
Sound System	Denny Luke and Ethan Fye
Greeters	Paul and Shirley Fox, Donna Gullickson, Willie Kayser
Ushers	Chris and Angie Brinker, Virgil and Joanne Martin
Elevator Operators	Jean Engel

January 27th

Lector	Shirley Fox
Acolyte	Jacob Runkle
Assisting Minister	Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant	Vivian Hesselbacher
Communion Assistants	Cora Hudik and Beth Martin
Communion Ushers	Virgil Gordon and Tim Gordon
Sound System	Troy Doubler and Hanna Brinker
Greeters	Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher, Troy and Sheila Keene
Ushers	Robert and Sharon Schlachter, Jerry and Beth Martin
Elevator Operators	Sue Diddens



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. 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 Betty Allen

Month's Highlights!

January 6 Epiphany Worship Service 9:30am

January 8 Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am

January 10 Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment 12:00pm

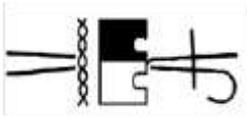
January 13 Volunteer at Rockford Rescue Mission 11:00am

January 17 Good Shepherd at Friendship Center for

Devotions & Dessert 1:00pm

January 27 Annual Meeting 10:45am

For More Good Shepherd
Pictures and highlights go to
Facebook: "GSLC Lena!"
Or www.GodShepherdLena.org



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.*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE for the February 2019
Newsletter is January 15, 2019
Thank You!