

# The SHEPHERD'S VOICE

January 2014

Wow! We just finished up with this year's Christmas Program led by our children and youth, and they did an AMAZING job! As we watched the "Fumbly Bumbly Angels", we got to see and hear the story of Jesus' birth, of the "Son of God sent to take away the sins of the world...the greatest gift... the greatest event... God's gift of Love." A HUGE thank you to all of the kids, volunteers, youth, and families that helped to share the message of Jesus' birth! Our Preschool and Kindergarteners shared the meaning of Christmas right at the beginning of the program, "Christmas is Jesus come down from above, sent by the Father to show us His love." What powerful words from such courageous small voices!

Our Men's Chorus inspired us with their singing of "This Little Light of Mine" as well. What powerful words from such a strong gathering of men! "I'm gonna let it shine, every day, every day, every day. I'm gonna let my little light shine!" As we head into this new calendar year, I thought we could let the words that the men shared with us challenge us and encourage us! The men did indeed let their light shine as they sang in front of families, neighbors, children, spouses, and brothers and sisters in Christ! "Every Day," they encouraged us.

As we head into this New Year, how might we let our light shine "Every Day"? On Monday share the gift of love with classmates and neighbors and those we work with. On Tuesday share the gift of peace with those we live alongside and shop from and serve. On Wednesday share our faith

with our families and friends. On Thursday share grace and forgiveness. On Friday share the gift of prayer by praying with and for others. On Saturday share the words, questions, and promises of our faith. On Sunday, on a day of Sabbath, share in times of worship, hearing the Word of God, and spending time in fellowship with family and friends—receiving the strength and grace to let our light shine “Every Day”.

The Season that begins in January is called Epiphany, meaning “revelation”. We celebrate that Jesus reveals who the Lord God is! That Jesus is indeed God! Because of this “revealing”, Epiphany is often associated with light; for in the light we can see and things are revealed. Let us let our lights shine; revealing who God is, who Jesus is, in our daily “Every Day” lives. At work, at play, in setting up our schedules, in putting together our priorities of time and relationships, in love; in all these things, let us let our little lights shine!

It is a new year. Sometimes people make New Year’s resolutions. As you think about your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ, a follower of Jesus. What commitments (new or renewed) might you make in the life of discipleship? How might you help your family, your neighbors, your friends, or even yourself come to know Jesus more? What commitments or reestablishing of priorities of time or relationships might you make? Let’s all stand up boldly, using our voices and our lives whether small and courageous (like our preschool and kindergarteners) or tall and courageous (like our Men’s Chorus) and let our light shine, revealing the love and grace of Jesus in our lives and in the way we love God and love others.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Pastor Miranda



**KIDS SING IN WORSHIP ON JANUARY 5th**  
**We will sing "We Three Kings"**



**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.

**Fun, Worship, Team Building, Hiking,**

**Games:**

**at LOMC's Winter Retreat for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders**

Dates: Friday and Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>.

Time: Begins Friday at 7 PM and ends Saturday at 4 PM. We will meet to drive to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) at 5:45pm and return by 5pm Saturday. Cost is \$67.00 per person which includes snack on Friday, two meals on Saturday and lodging in our retreat villages. Good Shepherd will pay \$22.00 of the registration fee. A sign-up sheet and release forms are available.



**Please sign up by January 5<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in going.**

**JH and HS Ski Trip to Chestnut Mt in Galena Jan 17th**

**Calling all 6th-12th graders!** We are teaming up with the Lena UMC Youth Group for an awesome winter night in the snow on Friday January 17th from 3-10pm. Cost is \$41 plus \$ for dinner. Cost includes lift ticket, rental, and lesson. Bring a sack supper or \$ for supper! We will meet at Lena UMC at 3pm. Feel free to invite friends. **Sign up by January 10th.**



Need of a ride to church on Sunday?

Call:

Troy Doubler	369-5117
Donna Gullickson	369-4708
Jean Wenzel	369-2777
Willie Kayser	369-2215
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

### 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, and Kathleen Shumaker. They would love to hear from you, consider visiting, calling, or sending them a note. Call the church office for their address or check out your Picture Directory :)

**Request for Prayer Chain:** Please call Pastor Miranda @ 651-895-2879 or the Church Office @ 815-369-5552.

### Pastoral Care

If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, has had a baby, or is in need of pastoral care; please call me, Pastor Miranda, at 651-895-2879. With changes to rules about confidentiality at many of our healthcare institutions, I will not know that you or your family member is sick or in need unless you call. It is a joy and an honor to journey with you to pray with and for you.

Thank you!  
Pastor Miranda

## **January Meetings at Good Shepherd**

**PIECE CORPS** will meet every Wednesday from 8:00 am to 11:30 am for the month of January, except for January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**LOMC Winter Retreat** for **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders** Dates: Friday and Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation** Tuesday January 7<sup>th</sup> and January 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm

**FAITH CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday January 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the Lena Living Center (LLC). Bible Study leader is Rene' Johnson.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will meet Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 at 9:00 at good Shepherd in the Fellowship Hall. Rene' Johnson is the Bible Study leader.

**HYMN SING** at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 9:45 am.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

**SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY** will meet on Wednesday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Men's Group at Good Shepherd** will meet on Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB** will meet for a pot-luck dinner at noon on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in the church Fellowship Hall. The entertainment will be BINGO.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for the February 2014 Newsletter is January 15, 2014. Thank You!

# Happy Birthday

## January Birthdays

- 1-01 Tim Gordon
- 1-02 Elizabeth Kurth
- 1-03 Brady Meier
- 1-03 Shayleigh Albright
- 1-05 Kathleen Shumaker
- 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 Eugene Becker
- 1-27 Becky Huttenlocher
- 1-28 Jan Wybourn
- 1-28 Denise Flack
- 1-28 Heather Block
- 1-29 David Graff
- 1-30 Marilyn Fulfs
- 1-31 Gladys Staderman (Turning 101!)**

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

## **Men's Group at Good Shepherd:**

All men of Good Shepherd Lutheran are members of the Men's Group, but all men are welcome.

- **Our Next Men's Group Meeting will be January 18th at 4:30 pm.**
  - We will meet for Bible distribution and Bible study using our new Master Builders Bibles (an NIV Bible specifically designed for men.)
  - We will work on a small work project following a light meal.
- **Save the Date for the One Year to Live Retreat at EWALU Bible Camp February 7th-9th, 2014.**
- Contact Troy Doubler (815-369-5117) with any questions.



## **Wednesday Evening** **Small Group Bible Study**

We will join together on Wednesday **January 15th** at 6:30pm for discussion, study, prayer, and connecting with one another more deeply in faith and life. There is no preparation necessary. We will look at the texts coming up the next Sunday. We will study them through context, application, and maybe even some video clips. Join us as we connect with God and one another!

All are welcome. See you soon!

## **Your Church Council:**

*President:* Willie Kayser

*Vice-President:* Chris Brinker

*Secretary:* Jean Wenzel

*Youth Representative:* Brianna Andrews

*Members:* Michelle Andrews, Nick Baker, Troy Keene, Pastor Miranda Klosterboer, Mary Lloyd, Rita Lobdell.

### **Highlights from December 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Minutes**

Nick Baker and Brianna Andrews were absent.

- Rita Lobdell had devotions; she read a poem entitled ‘The Shepherds Had An Angel.’
  - Jean Wenzel in her report announced her resignation as chairperson of Worship/Music committee. Dennis Luke has accepted the chairmanship for 2014.
  - Rita Lobdell, as chairperson of Stewardship Committee, was happy with the response to the stewardship letter, and she felt it was a step of faith for the congregation.
  - Mary Lloyd, from the Service Committee, was very happy to the response of Thanksgiving baskets (around 35 baskets) and reported cookies for the Lions Club doing great as well as the angel tree. Good Shepherd in a giving mode. We thank you for all of your efforts.
  - Wayne Kurth from Finance proposed to the council that BMI investments could offer some help towards pastor’s housing furnished by the congregation. Motion made to transfer \$6,000 from special fund trust BMI interest to the revolving cash fund. Motion carried.
  - Pastor’s Report— Written report submitted. Funeral on Dec. 7th for Kathryn Gerber and did pastoral care for family and friends. Will lead worship service at LLC on Dec.15th. Christmas program planning and leadership. 2 youth nights for 7th -12th graders. Received a grant from NI synod that goes toward educational loans from seminary. Will serve on the board for Grace Place Campus Ministry @NIU. Presentation made on Discipleship Gathering/wider church.
  - A motion for software totaling \$350.00, motion carried.
  - Motion made by Chris Brinker to give Pastor Miranda 5% increase of salary and 2% increase in retirement contribution. Jean Wenzel seconded and motion carried.
  - Remainder of staff was given a slight raise for 2014. Chris Brinker moved to accept these figures, motion carried.
  - Council adjourned meeting by praying the Lord’s Prayer
- Respectfully submitted ~ Jean Wenzel, Secretary



## Treasurer's Report

Incoming November 2013	\$8,498.43
Expenses November 2013	\$13,370.44
Net Income (Loss)	(\$-4,872.01)
Income, Year to Date 2013	\$118,983.13
Expenses, Year to Date 2013	\$128,923.81
Net Income (Loss)	(\$-9,940.68)

## Worship Volunteers

We are setting up the Worship Volunteer schedule for the new year starting February 2014. 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 for the new screens. We would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped in the past. You make this church work and we really appreciate it!

## Sound System Training

**Join the Sound Team on Monday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for a special training for any new or interested Sound, Video, and Power Point volunteers. Come join the fun!**

# Annual Congregational Meeting February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 10:45 am

## Annual Reports are Due January 6, 2014

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 6, 2014. If possible, please type up the report and email it to [gslchurch@aeroinc.net](mailto:gslchurch@aeroinc.net) in Word format.

**The 2013 ANNUAL REPORT** will be available for you to pick up at church Sunday January 26th. It will also be available at the annual meeting on February 9th. However, if you would like a copy mailed to you please call the church office at 815-369-5552.

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## 2014 Flower Calendar

The flower calendar for 2014 is now posted by the north entryway to the sanctuary. Please sign up for the Sunday of your choice. If you are providing flowers for a special occasion or in memory of someone, please indicate that on the calendar or call the church office the week prior to the occasion so that it might be noted in the bulletin.

The Children and Youth did an **AMAZING** job with the Christmas Program on December 22nd. Thank you for sharing the Good News of Jesus' birth with us!



**We had a great group 26 Carolers head out to sing carols throughout Lena! Friends and family members of all ages joined in the fun and outreach that warmed the hearts of many.**



**The 6th-8th Grade Confirmation Retreat at LOMC this fall was a fun time as we learned about Taking up our Cross and following Jesus.**



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

**Thank you Carolers!**

The afternoon of caroling and fellowship was a fun and meaningful time! It was great to have members invite friends and family to join the group as they went caroling! The group of 26 carolers visited 24 people and many more neighbors at the Lena Living Center and Lena Retreat. Thank you for sharing joy and music with so many!

**Thank You! to Janis Kurth, property team, and many helpers for decorating the Sanctuary so beautifully for the Christmas Season.** The greenery, window decorations, flowers, Advent wreath, Christmas trees, and Nativity scene were wonderful additions to our worship and fellowship spaces. Thank you!!

**Lena Area Church Cooperative**

A heartfelt thank you goes to all who have supported the LACC projects the past few months. The Thanksgiving baskets and Angel tree touched the lives of many in our community in need.

**Pastoral Home Visits:**

It is a joy and an honor to come alongside you as your pastor. If you would like to set up a pastoral visit in your home or here at Good Shepherd, know that I always look forward to those opportunities to get to know you and your family more. You may call me directly at 651-895-2879 in order to find a time that will work well.

- Pastor Miranda

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will meet on Thursday, January 2, 2014 at 9:00 am at Church in the Fellowship Hall. There is no one assigned as hostess; we will have a "Potluck." Rene' Johnson is the Bible Study leader.



**FAITH CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 1:00 pm at LLC. The Bible Study leader is Rene' Johnson.

Please join us as we continue our 9-month Bible Study: ***"In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women"*** by Dr. Kay Ward. Session Four "Miriam, A Loving Protector" is in the December 2013 "Gather" magazine. Our lesson will be on Psalm 149, Exodus 2:1-10, Exodus 15:20-21, and Luke 1:46-55, 2:1-20.

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

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

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**Women of the ELCA Board Meeting** - Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 10:30 am, at Church in Fellowship Hall.

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**Thank you to everyone who helped with the December Birthday Party at the Lena Living Center on December 19, 2013. Thank you for the cookies and your gift of time. These events are very special to the residents, and they look forward to them and the shared fellowship.**

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**January 2014**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, IL**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>	2 9:00 am Hannah Circle in Fellowship Hall	3	4
Communion Set up/Clean up: Sheridan & Marybeth Brinker						
5 <b>Celebration of the Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 9:30 am Communion Service <b>KIDS SING for Worship</b> 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School Opening 11:00 Choir Practice 5:00 Chime Practice	6 <i>Annual Reports Are Due</i>	7 1:00 pm Faith Circle at LLC  3:30 Confirmation	8 8am-1:30 pm Pastor Miranda at NW Conference Mtg 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps 3:15-5:00pm After School Program at the Hang-Out 7:00 Youth Group Night	9 12:00 pm Friendship Club Potluck and BINGO	10 <b>Winter Retreat at LOMC</b> for 3rd-5th Graders. Meet at 5:45pm Friday and return by 5pm Saturday. Sign up by Jan 5th.	
12 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School Opening 11:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Mutual Ministry Meeting 5:00 Chime Practice	13 <b>6:00pm Sound System Training for Sound, Power Point, &amp; Video Volunteers.</b>	14 9am -3pm Pastor Miranda at FCTE 9:45am -Hymn Sing at LLC 3:30 Confirmation 6:00pm-Council Meeting	15 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps 3:15-5:00pm After School Program at the Hang-Out 6:30pm Small Group Bible Study <i>January Newsletter Deadline</i>	16	17 <b>JH and HS Ski Trip to Chestnut Mt.</b> with the GSLC & Lena UMC youth groups. 3-10pm	18 <b>4:30 Men's Group</b>
19 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School Opening 11:00 Choir Practice 5:00 Chime Practice	20  Pastor Miranda on vacation January 20th- 30th	21	22 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps  3:15-5:00pm After School Program at the Hang-Out	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 Choir Practice 5:00 Chime Practice	27  Secretary Hours Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday Thursday-Friday	28  9:00am-2:00pm Office Closed	29 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps 3:15-5:00pm After School Program at the Hang-Out	30  Pastor Miranda at ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza 2014 for Continuing Education in St. Louis Jan 31st to Feb 4th	31	

## January Worship Volunteers

### Duties

### Volunteers

#### January 5

Lector	Tena Rackow
Acolyte	Kayla Runkle
Assisting Minister	Brianna Andrews
Worship Assistant	Sondra Winters
Communion Ushers	Bill and Jean Engel
Communion Assistant	Denny Luke, Eugene Hesselbacher
Friendly Mugger	Ed Wenzel
Sound System	Jay Andrews, Austin Andrews
Greeters	Lee Wenzel, Sue Koppean
Ushers	Bill and Jean Engel, Jerry and Beth Martin,

#### January 12

Lector	Tena Rackow
Acolyte	Braden Diddens
Assisting Minister	Austin Andrews
Worship Assistant	Vivian Hesselbacher
Communion Ushers	Mike and Kelly Geiseman,
Communion Assistant	Sue Diddens, Marybeth Brinker
Friendly Mugger	Joyce Tessendorf
Sound System	Troy Doubler, Jon Hudik
Greeters	Ed and Jean Wenzel, Bob and Lynn Lyvers
Ushers	Richard Freitag, Wayne Kurth, Jim Swain, Willie Kayser

#### January 19

Lector	Janis Kurth
Acolyte	Coltin Coonts
Assisting Minister	Sheila Keene
Worship Assistant	Marybeth Brinker
Communion Ushers	Darlene Aurand, Donna Gullickson
Communion Assistant	Jay Andrews, Austin Andrews
Friendly Mugger	Sharon Schlachter
Sound System	Jon Hudik, Troy Doubler
Greeters	Sheridan and Marybeth Brinker, Neal and Cyndy Shumaker
Ushers	Virgil Gordon, Tim Gordon, Darlene Aurand, Donna Gullickson

#### January 26

Lector	Marybeth Brinker
Acolyte	Krista Keene
Assisting Minister	Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant	Sheila Keene
Communion Ushers	Rita Lobdell, Ed Wenzel
Communion Assistant	Beth Martin, Brianna Andrews
Friendly Mugger	Jean Wenzel
Sound System	Wayne Kurth, Jon Hudik
Greeters	Eugene and Vivian Hesselbacher, Deb Hesselbacher
Ushers	Andrew Martin, Rita Lobdell, Ed Wenzel, Dana Diddens



## **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!**

January 2 Hannah Circle at GSLC 9:00am

January 7 Faith Circle at LLC 1:00pm

January 8 Youth Night for 7th-12th graders 7pm

January 9 Friendship Club Potluck 12:00pm

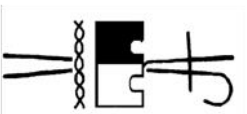
January 10-11 3rd-5th Grade Winter Retreat at LOMC

January 14 Hymn Sing at LLC 9:45am

January 15 Small Group Bible Study 6:30pm

January 17 JH and HS Ski Trip at Chestnut Mt 3-10pm

January 18 Men's Group at Good Shepherd at 4:30pm



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
118 East Mason St.  
Lena, IL 61048  
[gslchurch@aeroinc.net](mailto:gslchurch@aeroinc.net)

*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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