

The SHEPHERD'S VOICE February 2018

In the morning, while it was still dark, [Jesus] got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35

Lately I have been thinking about prayer. My seminary professor suggested to me that I start every day with prayer. She said that daily morning prayer had been making a huge difference in her life, even with how she responded to e-mail messages. So I've been trying to take time in the morning to read a devotion and to pray. Honestly speaking, morning prayers are challenging to me since I am often running late. Yet the morning prayers have been making a difference with how I spend the rest of that day. It helps me to center my thoughts and actions on Christ as the day goes on.

We often say that prayer is a conversation with God. We cry out our concerns and even anger to God when we feel helpless and surroundings seem out of our control. We ask for God's protection and guidance when we are facing afflictions. We also give thanks to God especially when we acknowledge answered prayers. Prayer is powerful and I am sure that you have experienced prayer giving strength and courage to go through the days.

Prayer is important but why does prayer matter?

One member told me that prayer helped in her recovery. Another member expressed that prayers assured him that he was not alone walking through his illness. We also have received appreciation for prayers from family members of those who are ill. Praying for others seems simple and a small thing but these testimonies remind us that prayers touch hearts and grow our hearts in love. I think that praying is the heart and soul of being a Christian community.

We pray because Jesus prayed a lot in his life He prayed over five loaves of bread and two fish to thank God's abundant blessings. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane before his betrayal and arrest that God's will would be done. He prayed and healed those who were possessed with unclean spirits. Jesus prayed persistently in his ministry. Prayers make a difference because through prayers we witness God's presence in our lives and in our neighbors' lives. I thank you for your prayers, which mean a lot to me. Your prayers assure me of your loving care and God's presence. Thank you, and I am praying for you. May God be with you today. Pr. Miho

*Thank
You*

Thank you for all your help and support for our Advent and Christmas season. Children's Christmas Program went very well, and choirs and chimes enhanced the Christmas message. Beautiful poinsettias and angels provided colorful touch in our sanctuary. Thank you for worship committee members to arrange nice services. Praise the Lord!

*Thank
You*

Many thanks to our Good Shepherd family for all the prayers and compassion during our son Mark's illness and passing. It has helped us thru a very difficult time. Anyone with a special memory of Mark can Email it to Warren Fulfs at: WB_1986@yahoo.com or give to a family member. These will be read at the memorial service on March 10th.

Sincerely
Larry and Marilyn Fulfs

Good Shepherd Choir will be singing at Mark's memorial service. If you would like to sing with the choir for Mark's memorial service please come and join them as all are welcome.

February Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday
February 7th, 14th, 28th.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet Wednesday
February 7th.

HANNAH CIRCLE will not meet in February.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday, February 8th at
noon for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment with
“Music with Steve”

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday,
February 13th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday February 13th at
6:30pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE February 14th
at 7:00pm

GOOD SHEPHERD AT FRIENDSHIP CENTER for
Devotions & Dessert February 15th at 1:30pm.

WEDNESDAY NOON LENTEN LUNCH February 21st
hosted by Good Shepherd. Hannah Circle

LENTEN DINNER February 21st at 5:30pm

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE at 6:30pm.

GOOD SHEPHERD AT LENA FOOD PANTRY
February 24th.

LENTEN DINNER February 28th at 5:30pm **LENTEN
WORSHIP SERVICE** at 6:30pm.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the March 2018
Newsletter is February 15th, 2018. Thank You!



February Birthdays

02-01 Allyson Kraft
02-01 Caleb Mammoser
02-02 Robert Kurth
02-03 Larry Fulfs
02-05 Jerry Martin
02-08 Denise Balbach
02-08 Jonathon Kurth
02-09 Duane Tessendorf
02-09 Angie Brinker
02-10 Paige Tessendorf
02-11 Tammy Freitag
02-12 Jeanine Raders
02-12 Bentley Euler
02-14 Doug Mueller
02-15 Laura Derr
02-15 Corey Luke
02-15 Michelle Meyers
02-16 Whitney Shumaker
02-16 Andrew Wenzel
02-19 Jason Broege
02-19 Ryan Becker
02-20 Millie Koppean
02-21 Jesse Klosterboer
02-21 Taylor Bastian
02-27 Kayla Runkle
02-27 Brady Broshous

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

Time

Go past cheering throngs and palm draped pathways
Walk through the Garden and into growing darkness
See the gathering storms of Calgary and feel coolness settling
in dark, shadowed air
Wait and watch;
Kneel and pray.
The skies will clear as Son-light beams on holy hills
And our Savior comes again.
The time is here.
Remember the ringing of donkey feet on streets of Bethlehem
and Jerusalem
Hear again soaring songs of winged angels and kneeling
shepherds,
Sending humbled alleluias cross green hills and troubled wa-
ters.
Watch with awe as miracles unfold and blind men see as
lame men race in jubilation;
As the meek become the mighty, and the deliverance of Man-
kind is revealed.
Eat the Bread and drink the Wine;
The time has come
The world awaits, again, His needed glory, His promised
peace.
Accept His agony and receive His victory laurels
His destiny is known
His victory completed
The time is now
Alleluia, Hosanna, Amen

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Worship Volunteers

We are setting up the Worship Volunteer schedule for the new year starting February 2018. 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!



Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday Feb 4th at Good Shepherd

The Youth Group of Good Shepherd are asking worshippers on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 4th to place a monetary donation in a large soup pot held by youth at each sanctuary exit. We will deliver 50% of the funds directly to the Lena-Win Food Pantry and 50% to the ELCA World Hunger. None of the money collected on Souper Bowl Sunday is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters. 100% of the offering goes directly to the agencies designated. More than \$90 million has been collected since the movement began in 1990! Help us grow this movement and tackle hunger in America!

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.

Prayer Chain:

If you have a request for the Prayer Chain:

Please call the Church Office at 815-369-5552. 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, Laura Derr, 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 need 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



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

Highlights from January Council Meetings

- The Treasurer's Report was also presented with December electric bill of \$182.33 and gas bill of \$443.43. Gene Hesselbacher moved to accept and Troy Keene made the second. The report was unanimously approved.
- The Pastor's Report was discussed with highlights of the OWL Night which went well. Eleven youth and chaperones attended.
- Pastor will teach one class at the Diakonia program on five nights between Feb. 15 and March 15. This will be held in Stockton.
- The Northern Illinois Assembly is slated for June 15-16 at Augustana College, Rock Island. There will be one female and one male delegate plus one youth.
- Pastor spoke on the power of prayer in daily life and how prayers make a difference in all walks of life.
- Outgoing Council members Karen Niemeier, Tim Gordon and Carolyn Hudik were thanked for their service. They will act as the nominating committee for the election at the upcoming annual meeting
- Committee reports by Coralyn Hudik, Stewardship; Karen Niemeier, Service; Kristy Patterson, Learning; plus Finance and Property committee reports were heard. Patterson said \$800 in donations were designated for God's Global Barnyard projects. Purchases included a wide variety of useful items including meals for 50 people, school supplies, Bibles, water filters and children vaccines
- Troy Doubler, Property Committee, said adjustments are being made to the outdoor railings.
- Nominating Committee member Cora Hudik, said Council nominees are being sought for the upcoming term. Outgoing members are Cora Hudik, Tim Gordon and Karen Niemeier.

Highlights from January Council Meetings Cont.

- The Budget for 2018 was presented to the Council. It was reviewed and approved by all. Tim Gordon made the motion to accept and Coralyn Hudik made the second. The budget will be put before the congregation for approval at the annual meeting.
- Council adjourned to executive session. Council reconvened to open session and accepted the resignation of church secretary Darlene Barr with regrets and appreciation. Making the motion to accept was Gene Hesselbacher. Coralyn Hudik made the second and all approved. Barr will retire Feb. 28 and a replacement will be sought. This is a 20 hour per week position. Barr has been the secretary since Dec. 2011.
- In other business, Krista Patterson presented fund-raising plans for the 2018 National Youth Gathering. Good Shepherd will join participants from St. John's in Pearl City and Prince of Peace in Freeport.
- The Council agreed to waive the 6% return of fund-raising amounts for attendees. Troy Doubler made the motion and Karen Niemeier made the second. Motion passed unanimously. Fund-raising events will be held with members of St. Johns, Pearl City. Approximate cost for each youth attending the gathering is \$1500.
- A complete copy of minutes will be posted on the bulletin board.

Hannah Circle will not meet in February, 2018. We will resume our Bible Study and meetings on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 9:00 am at church in the Fellowship Hall.



February 21, 2018 is the Wednesday Noon Lenten Lunch hosted by Good Shepherd. Hannah Circle is coordinating the soup and sandwich meal. We will meet at 9:00am on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 to set-up and prepare the meal. If you would like to help with set-up and preparation before, or clean-up after, or both, please contact Rene' Johnson at 815-369-2818 or just show up. We welcome all who would like to participate. Come and enjoy a Lenten message along with soup and sandwich.

Stewardship

Happy Birthday to all that did not receive a Birthday Wish from me and the names were in the Newsletter. Some names I had no addresses to, or the cards came back due to the addresses were not current. So please make sure when names are placed on the birthday list that the correct addresses are in the Church Office. Thank you for understanding.

Coralyn Hudik

Retiring Council Member/ Stewardship Chair.

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming December 2017	\$ 33,386.27
Expenses December 2017	<u>\$ 18,451.58</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 14,934.69
Income, Year to Date 2017	\$165,361.57
Expenses, Year to Date 2017	<u>\$144,111.04</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 21,250.53

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 Miho Yasukawa

Church Secretary

Darlene Barr

Month's Highlights!

February 8 Friendship Club Potluck/Entertainment 12:00pm

February 13 Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am

February 14 Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:00pm

February 15 Good Shepherd at Friendship Center for Devotions & Dessert 1:30pm

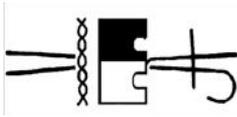
February 21 Wednesday Noon Lenten Lunch at Good Shepherd-by Hannah Circle

February 21 Lenten Dinner 5:30pm, Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm

February 24 Good Shepherd at Lena Food Pantry

February 28 Wednesday Lenten Dinner 5:30pm, Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm

For More Good Shepherd
Pictures and highlights go to
Facebook: "GSLClenall"
or www.GodShepherdLena.org



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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*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 March 2018
Newsletter is February 15, 2018
Thank You!