Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Lena, Illinois 61048

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"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Cecil Francis Alexander, 1818-1895

Cecil Frances Alexander (April 1818 – 12 October 1895)was an Anglo-Irish hymn writer and poet. Amongst other works, she wrote "All Things Bright and Beautiful", "There is a Green Hill Far Away" and the Christmas carol "Once in Royal David's City".

Cecil was born at 25 Eccles Street, Dublin, the third child and second daughter of Major John Humphreys of Norfolk and his wife Elizabeth (née Reed). She was known by family and friends as Fanny. She began writing verse in her childhood, being strongly influenced by Dr Walter Hook, Dean of Chichester. Her subsequent religious work was strongly influenced by her contacts with the Oxford Movement, and in particular with John Keble, who edited *Hymns for Little Children*, one of her anthologies.

By the 1840s she was already known as a hymn writer and her compositions were soon included in Church of Ireland hymnbooks. She also contributed lyric poems, narrative poems, and translations of French poetry to *Dublin University Magazine* under various pseudonyms. In 1833, Alexander went to live at Milltown House in Strabane. While living there, she published a number of Christian books: *Verses for Holy Seasons* (1846), *The Lord of the Forest and His Vassals* (1848) – a children's allegory – and *Hymns for Little Children* (1848). By the close of the 19th century, *Hymns for Little Children* reached its 69th edition.

In Strabane in October 1850 she married the Anglican clergyman William Alexander, afterwards Bishop of Derry and Archbishop of Armagh. Her husband also wrote several books of poetry.

Alexander was involved in charitable work for much of her life. Money from her first publications had helped build the Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which was founded in Strabane in 1846. The profits from *Hymns for Little Children* were also donated to the school. She was involved with the Derry Home for Fallen Women, and worked to develop a district nurses service. She was an "indefatigable visitor to poor and sick".

Alexander died at the Bishop's Palace in Derry and was buried in Derry City Cemetery. Her husband (who died in 1911) is buried beside her in a grave which was restored by the Friends of St Columb's Cathedral in 2006.

Source: Wikipedia, modified

October 2026Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118E. Mason, Lena, IL 61048 Phone # (815) 369-5552

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Because of your generous hearts, we expanded our Quilt & Kit Ministry to serve neighbors in crisis here in the United States — because sometimes the hardest-to-reach are right in our own backyard.

Just weeks after that expansion, Hurricanes devastated the Southeast. Even before the storms made landfall, your love was already on the way, bringing comfort and relief to neighbors who had lost everything.

— your love reaches neighbors in crisis faster and stays with them longer.

With every quilt you stitch and every kit you assemble, you remind the most vulnerable — veterans, the unhoused, children, and the elderly — that they do not walk this journey alone.

This is faith in action. This is God working through your hands.

Thank you for loving your neighbors.

Joy & Blessings,

Martha Piedrasanta
Senior Manager
Quilt & Kit Ministry

Save the DATE

Good Shepherd will be holding a

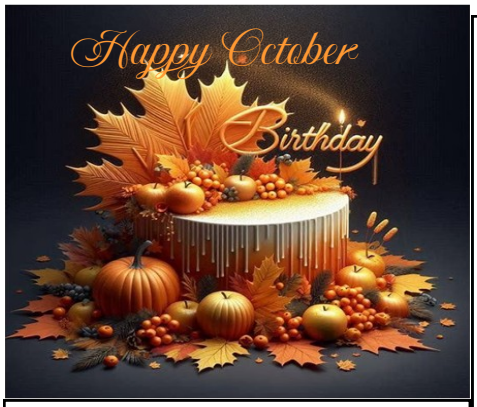
Special Congregational Meeting

on *Sunday, October18th*, after Worship Service.

To approve the new constitution.

Copies of the updated GSLC Constitution are available as you enter the sanctuary, or you may review the document on line at:

https://www.goodshepherdlena.org/gslcconstitution.php



10-03 Chase Huneke
10-04 Doug Wybourn
10-05 Vivian Hesselbacher
10-06 Beth Fahr
10-06 Cindy Fahr
10-07 Rene' Johnson
10-09 Krista Keene
10-15 Steve Wybourn
10-15 Troy Keene
10-16 Jeff Raders
10-17 Leesa Gerke
10-18 Sherry Freitag
10-22 Dennis Bergman
10-26 Joanne Martin
10-26 Duane Torkelson
10-27 Jonathan Hudik
10-27 Danielle Koning
10-30 Jason Huneke
10-30 Lance Mueller

October babies are like caramel apples-sweet with a little edge.

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

All Saint's Sunday, November 1, 2026

We will remember each "Saint" or loved one who has died since November 2025. We will honor them with a carnation on the altar and also by lifting their names during prayer of the people. If you would like your loved ones who died 2025-2026 to be included this year's All Saints Sunday, please contact the church office at 815-369-5552 by ***October 26th.***

Devotion Books

October-December issues of Christ in Our Homes and The Word in Season are available now. These devotion books are helpful way to keep growing our faith.

Take one home today and enjoy.

MEETING CANCELLED!

Men's Group has cancelled their meeting for October, meetings will resume when repairs on the church begin.

MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR LENA LIVING CENTER

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center, to share the love of Christ to the residents in the nursing home.

We are responsible for 10 cards each month. *If you would like to help with this ministry, just bring cards to church* ***by the 10th of each month****. Please sign and include short note of encouraging words. Our hope is to make them smile!*

Questions? Contact the church office, 815-369-5552.

Thank you to all who help make cards.

A Quilt Ministry
is an expression of God's Love!

Piece Corps—Good Shepherd Quilt Ministry-Thank You

To all the angels of Good Shepherd and the Piece Corps
When we needed you most you were all here to lend a helping hand.

To those compassionate volunteers who helped load our quilts to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Troy and Cindy Doubler, Donna Gullickson, Genise and Duane Tessendorf, Allie Martin, Tom Staderman, Shirley Fox for arranging the use of the U-Haul Truck, and Wayne Kurth for helping load the quilts and driving the truck up to First English Lutheran Church in Platteville, WI.

The Piece Corps want to acknowledge your hard work and give you a special thanks. We appreciate you for volunteering; Your support has been amazing!

Thanks to those that have helped to get the items from the motels. We hope to continue this great mission. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated.

The Piece Corps meets every Wednesday from 8-11:30am , stop by any Wednesday, we would love to see you.

Shirley Fox
Piece Corps Quilters

Where did our quilts go??

This year the Piece Corps made 570quilts in 2026. Most quilts go to Lutheran World Relief, some quilts are donated locally;. Quilts have beendonated to Rockford, Freeport and area veterans, Salvation Army, Lutherdale , SSM Health E.R in Monroe, WI, families who have been displaced. Several have been purchased and 2 were raffled off during Lena Fall Festival.

A heartfelt expression of gratitude to Shirley Fox for her blessings on our Quilt Sunday, September 13th. Thank you Shirley for all that you do!

Many Thanks,
Good Shepherd and the Piece Corps

Winners of the 2026
Lena Fall Festival Quilt Raffle
Ruth Werkheiser
And
Monica Skain

Lutheran World Relief
History and Core Values

Lutheran World Relief was born out of a desire to assist those affected by the aftermath of World War II. The organization was initially established as an expression of American Lutherans' commitment to help their brothers and sisters in need around the globe. Over time, LWR expanded its reach beyond immediate emergency response efforts to include long-term development programs.

Piece Corps

The Piece Corps Quilters we would like to thank all of our angels who have donated material, yarn, or thread for our cause. Your all wonderful.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

The 37th Annual Convention of the Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA was recently held at New Life Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook. New Life is a Reconciling in Christ congregation and the building layout worked perfectly for the event.

Worship was led by Pastor Lindsay Fertig-Johnson, Associate Pastor at New Life and Synod Generosity Director at the NIS office, and Pastor Julie Monnard, Assistant to the Bishop at the NIS office. Pastor Julie's telling of the Gospel and Pastor Lindsay's sermon were especially engaging and meaningful.

Business of the convention was conducted including passing the proposed budget for 2027-2028 and electing board members. The secretary position remains unfilled; please prayerfully consider whether you or someone you know are being called to service in this capacity.

Jean Schmidt, member of St. John, Massbach, was elected Northwest Conference Board Representative. She is quite active in her congregation and a graduate of the Diakonia program. Jean's statement of faith is "Preach always, when necessary, use words."

Nancy Garcia from Southwest Suburban Immigration Project in Bolingbrook gave a presentation on the organization which is non-partisan and focuses on issues rather than candidates.

Yenny Muñoz-Swaninger spoke about Community Cultivation Project and the inspiration they provide. Yenny has championed for academic and social success of multilingual learners.

Pastor Patrick Fish is co-pastor at Becoming Church, Oswego. This congregation is a Synod Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC). Pastor Fish is passionate about building community, engaging the unmet and creating safe spaces for marginalized neighbors.

As always, it was a productive, exciting and inspiring day of ELCA women coming together for worship, fellowship, learning and sharing ideas. Next year's convention will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dixon. Attending this is also something to prayerfully consider.

All women of the ELCA are members of WELCA and are welcome at Good Shepherd, synod and churchwide WELCA activities.

Fire Prevention Week 2026 runs from October 4 through October 10, and this year's theme is **"Charge into** Fire Safety™**: Safe Charging Is a Superpower"**, announced by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The message is timely and practical. More homes than ever rely on rechargeable devices, power tools, e-bikes, scooters, and battery-powered toys. That convenience comes with a simple truth firefighters already know well: when lithium-ion batteries fail, the fire problem can escalate fast.

This year's campaign focuses on the everyday charging habits that reduce the risk of overheating, smoke, fire, and battery failure. Most preventable battery-fire problems do not begin with dramatic abuse. They begin with shortcuts: the wrong charger, a damaged cable, charging on a bed, leaving large battery-powered equipment plugged in near an exit, or ignoring early warning signs like swelling, heat, or a strange odor.

Highlights
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Council Minutes August 13th, 2026

Agenda Review: The Agenda was reviewed. Having no additions or corrections to the Agenda, the Agenda was approved.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was presented to the Council. Having no additions or corrections, The Secretary's Report was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented his report. The Current Account is still behind by $2,452.00. The checking account is in the black and the Budget is in the black by $19,572.96.

The Electric Bill: $184.15, The Gas Bill currently has a credit balance of $400.00 The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Thomas Mosbo presented his report. Along with Pastor's regular monthly duties, July was a busy month with meetings, the food pantry, contractors bids and funerals. He has worked hard on the Constitution and has it ready to be submitted again.On October 4, 2026 the Andrews' grandchildren, Misaka and Waylon, will be Baptized. The Pastor's Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Property Committee: Property Committee Chairperson Tim Gordon came to the Council Meeting to report that the committee had chosen a contractor. The committee voted 3 to 2 to hire Pro Restoration from Machesney Park to do the work needed on the church. At this time, the contractor is working with the insurance company to determine what the payout from the insurance company will be to cover all the repairs. The Property Committee will continue to work with Pro Restoration to get the church repaired.

Worship and Music Committee: Pastor Thomas Mosbo noted that he is receiving lots of positive feedback about the Liturgy that is currently being used.

Stewardship Committee: The ice cream Sundae Sunday went well. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day. The committee hosted the AJ's cookout stand on June 25 and July 10. Coralyn Hudik is looking for direction from the Council as to what to do with the proceeds. The committee is still looking into new road signs for the church.

Learning Committee: The committee is working on Sunday School and looking for ideas.

Having no other Committee Reports, The Committee Reports were approved as presented.

Unfinished Business:

Fall Festival: Tim Gordon is willing to drive his Bronco through the Fall Festival Parade again this year. The Hospitality Tent was also discussed. It was decided to again have the Hospitality Tent uptown and to ask for volunteers to sit in the tent. Coralyn Hudik moved to participate in the Fall Festival Parade and to have the Hospitality Tent again this year.

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Highlights from August 13th Church Council Meeting

Constitution: Pastor Thomas Mosbo has been working on the Constitution. The Committee and Pastor are getting very close to having it completed and submitted to Synod. He will keep the Council updated.

New Business:

Letter to the Lena Ministerium: The Council looked over the letter to be sent to the Lena Ministerium. Finding a couple of typing errors, the Council wanted them corrected and to have the letter retyped. Council Secretary Janis Kurth will get the information to the church secretary so she can make the corrections. The Council will sign the letter at a later date. Motion to have the letter corrected and to have the Council sign the letter at a letter date . The motion was approved.

Having no other business before the Church Council, The Council adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be on September 10, 2026 at 6:30.

Respectfully Submitted by
Janis Kurth
Church Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report
Jay Andrews

Income August 2025	$3,451.10
Expenses August 2025	$6,359.51
Net Income (Loss)	$(2,908.41)
Income, Year to Date 2025	$60,271.53
Expenses, Year to Date 2025	$62,464.98
Net Income (Loss)	$ (2,193.45)

Thank you and Congratulations!

The collection on Friday, September 11th to First English Lutheran Church in Platteville, Wisconsin added up to 879 boxes containing 2,753 quilts, 1574 school kits, 767 personal care kits, 49 fabric kits and 567 baby care kits to send to Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work volunteering your time, talent and labor to make this gathering possible. We hope to see you again next year.

LE-WIN FOOD PANTRY

Good Shepherd will be at Lena-Winslow-Orangeville Food Pantry on October 24th.

Thank you for supporting the feeding ministry.

The Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantry

The Mobile Food Pantry will be at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena, IL on Tuesday, October 6th from 3:00-4: 30pm and in Orangeville at the Jane Adams Trail on Tuesday, October 27th from 3:00-4:30pm.

Prayer Chain

If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, please call the Church Office to submit your request at 815-369-5552. *We are also looking for anyone who would like to join the prayer chain. We send prayer through phone chain and e-mail. You pray individually and pass it on to the next person in the prayer chain. God hears our Prayers. If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.*

We lift our prayers for

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Virgil Martin, Caroline Jam, Cyndy Schumacher, Virgil Gordon, Jerry Martin, Donna Christen, Richard Freitag, Sherry Freitag, Connor Stadermann, Ryse Stone, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Connie, Pam, Caroline, Tina D.,Jim DeMontigny Jr., Norman, Vivian, Tina Cheeney, Brenda, Christine Beyer, Bob Schulz, Kenny Frie, Steve Rothschadl, Gary L. Hartwig, Josh, Hannah, Ray Phillips, Susan, Allison Biddick, Brad Rackow, Kim Choin, Jeannie, Dianne, Nancy, Pat McCluskey, Jim Briggs, Sandi, Tina, Jim, Ronald Schrader, Christine S., Carol Lartz, Amy, Leta Toelke and Pr. Paul Carlson.

Fall Festival Thanks

Big Thank You, to all the stewards who helped with the setting-up and taking down the Hospitality Booth, and to those that helped greet people at the booth. Thanks to those who helped decorate the car for the parade and special thanks to the driver of the car.

Thank you all.