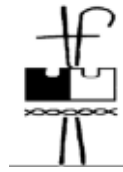


Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
118 East Mason St.
Lena, IL 61048
GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com

*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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The SHEPHERD'S VOICE March 2017

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope
(Psalm 130:5)*

Do you do anything special for Lent? Are you fasting or giving up something for forty days? In our church worship, we will fast from singing and saying "Alleluia" during Lent. We spend more time with silence, reflection, and pondering the mystery of God's salvation.

Lent was not my favorite season of the church year because the Lenten season eventually leads to the death of Jesus. If I chose a color for Lent, I would choose gray. It used to be a sad depressing season for me. Last year, my forty days were miserable. I caught a cold which lingered throughout Lent, and I missed Sunday services and Holy Week services. In addition, I was mourning of the loss of my mother. She died in May and following cultural custom, all our family members formally mourned for a year. We had no celebrations, no New Year's greetings, nothing festive. Last March was especially hard because it brought back all the memories about what our family did together with my mother. I was depressed. I did not see any hope in those days. Lent was hard. I began folding origami papers to make Easter cards as my Lenten discipline. I cut the papers into squares and folded them one by one. Every paper I folded with a prayer. I asked God to give me peace, and I prayed for those who were grieving. I have been folding papers and making cards for years, but last year's Easter cards became special. They were the signs of God's blessing, the sign of new life in Christ Jesus. Last year's Lenten journey felt long but it deepened my relationship with God.

Lent is a good opportunity to spend time with God through prayers, devotions, worship, and serving others. What would you like to do this year? At church, there are mid-week worship opportunities, the offering of thanks to God through the Thankful Quilt, and special devotion books.

May God of grace journey with you during Lent. Pr. Miho

Worship News

We are entering the season of Lent, a time to reflect on our mortality and the meanings of the cross and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This year we will read stories from the Gospel of John of Jesus' giving second chances. The stories will tell us who Jesus is. Come and hear the message of Christ.

Ash Wednesday Service: March 1, 7 pm

First Communion Sunday: March 26

Mid-week Lenten Luncheon: Wednesdays, 12 pm (check the location)

Wednesday Lenten Evening Services: 5:30 pm (light meal), 6:30 pm (service)

Wednesday Lenten Evening Services: 5:30 pm (light meal), 6:30 pm (service)

Reformation Bookstore at Good Shepherd:

During March, Good Shepherd is hosting the Reformation Bookstore. All the books are 50% off and shipping is free. We will display sample copies of some of the books in the Fellowship Hall, and you can fill out order forms there. Payments will be made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We will collect orders until March 31. Books will come in April. Please check it out!

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!

March 1 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
March 2 Hannah Circle Meeting 9:00am
March 8 Lenten Noon Lunch at Good Shepherd 12:00pm hosted by WELCA
March 8 Lenten Dinner 5:30pm, Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm
March 9 Friendship Club 12:00pm
March 14 Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center 9:45am
March 15 Lenten Dinner 5:30pm, Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm
March 22 Lenten Dinner 5:30pm, Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm
March 26 First Communion
March 29 Lenten Dinner 5:30pm, Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm

Hannah Circle will meet on Thursday March 2, 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 "Not Just Like Us. **"Extending the church family"** by Chtista von Zychlin, an article in the March 2017 – pages 22-25, of the "Gather" magazine.

March 8, 2017 is the Wednesday Noon Lenten Lunch hosted by Good Shepherd. Hannah Circle is coordinating the soup and sandwich meal. We will meet at 9:00 am on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 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 a sandwich.

Northwest Conference Spring Assembly will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton on **March 11, 2017**, beginning at 9:00 am to noon. Program: Brunch with Martin (Renewer of the Church) and Katie Luther. Cost is \$8.00/person. Free will offering will be taken. Reservations due by Friday, March 3, 2017. See Flyer and reservation form on Bulletin Board.

NISWO-WELCA 2017 Spring Retreat **"Making a Difference – Leaving a Legacy"** is Saturday, **April 22, 2017** at LOMC, in Oregon. IL. Registration and Coffee from 8:15-9:00am. Cost is \$35.00/person, which includes morning coffee, lunch, snacks and materials (please bring a Bible). Registration Deadline is March 20, 2017. Look for information flyer. Registration and Scholarship forms on bulletin board.

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

March Meetings at Good Shepherd

PIECE CORPS QUILTERS will meet Wednesday March 1st 15th, 22nd and 29th from 8:00 am to 11:30 am.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will not meet March, the Confirmation class will be a part of the Lent Service

ASH WEDNESDAY Service March 1st at 7:00pm.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet March 2nd at 9:00am in church Fellowship Hall for "Potluck" and Bible Study.

WEDNESDAY NOON LENTEN LUNCH March 8th hosted by Good Shepherd. WELCA

LENTEN DINNER March 8th at 5:30pm hosted by WELCA
LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE at 6:30pm

FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet Thursday March 9th for a Potluck Dinner & entertainment with **"Take Two."**

HYMN SING at the Lena Living Center will be Tuesday, March 14th at 9:45am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday March 14th at 6:00pm.

LENTEN DINNER March 15th at 5:30pm hosted by the Worship Team Committee
LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE at 6:30pm

LENTEN DINNER March 22nd at 5:30pm hosted by the Learning Committee
LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE at 6:30pm.

FIRST COMMUNION March 29th 9:30am

LENTEN DINNER March 29th at 5:30pm hosted by Council
LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE at 6:30pm

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

Wednesdays During Lent

There are two devotion opportunities during Lent.



Council Members for 2017

Dennis Luke—President Coralyn Hudik—Vice President
Secretary—Darci Meyers, Youth Representative—Krista Keene
Council Members: , Karen Niemeier, Tim Gordon, Troy Keene, Troy Doubler,
Eugene Hesselbacher, Kristy Patterson, Pastor Miho

March Birthdays

3/1 Cheryl Torkelson
3/1 Chloe Flack
3/3 Cindy Tessendorf
3/3 Duane Christen
3/3 Jessica Anderson
3/4 Jessica Tessendorf
3/5 Jarret Winder
3/6 Ryan Hastings
3/8 Raeger Sullivan
3/9 Michelle Andrews
3/11 Lois Paulsen
3/13 Bob Schlachter
3/13 Ella Wolfrom
3/15 Larynn Shumaker
3/18 Connie DeWilde
3/19 Barbara Hermann
3/20 Pastor Sarah Schaffner
3/24 Chuck Kraft
3/25 Verl Price
3/26 Dorothy Weimer
3/28 Matthew Huber
3/30 Carol Wybourn
3/31 Caroline Jam

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

Highlights from February Council Meetings

- Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report. January's electric bill was \$216.13 and the gas bill was \$896.03. With a voice vote, the Council unanimously accepted the report.
- Good Shepherd will host the Lenten Luncheon March 8 and WELCA will serve. Midweek evening services will be held March 8, 15, 22 and 29th
- Denny Luke said Dodd's Park has been reserved Aug. 6 for the annual outdoor service..
- Coralyn Hudik said several updates were made on the mailing list for the Stewardship Committee. Also, the list was increased to include people who were baptized or had family members baptized at Good Shepherd but had not been previously included.
- On behalf of the property committee, Denny Luke, Tim Gordon and Troy Doubler spoke on the condition of the sound system.
- Troy Doubler also spoke for the Men's Ministry. He said paint has been purchased for the upstairs classrooms and suggestions were heard for getting the painting completed. Doubler also said the radio tubes have been sent out and finishing the garden shed project will be scheduled as weather allows.
- The Men's Ministry will assist the upcoming Lock-In by preparing pizza for the group.
- Pastor Miho described the Reformation 500 Bookstore Program. A display and order sheets for books available for purchase will be set up during Lent. Books will be relevant to a variety of ages and interests. There is no minimum order required to participate.
- Tim Gordon reviewed progress for the 160th Anniversary celebration and pointed out updates that will be made to the banner. Denny Luke said that Bishop Clements will be at Good Shepherd July 16th in honor of the anniversary.
- A remedy for ongoing problems with the telephone system may be available through a new carrier. Mediacom has now been contracted to supply the service at a monthly savings to Good Shepherd.
- On behalf of the Property Committee, Denny Luke presented a list of building concerns.
- A complete copy of February Councils Minutes is posted on the Bulletin Board.

Thank you notes will continue to be sent out throughout the year.

Celebration Notes will be sent out by Pastor Miho pertaining to baptism dates

Thankfulness is the theme for 2017. The stewardship committee will be assisting the thankful quilt.

As a congregation there is strength in the many ways generosity is shown presently and into the future of Good Shepherd's ministry to the members and to the community that it serves.

Stewardship Team thanks all! Shirley Fox, Gene Hesselbacher, Cora Hudik, Marion Fahr and Jon Hudik



The Thankful Quilt

During lent the youth and the congregation will be participating in creating a
THANKFUL QUILT

There will be cloth squares and fabric paints at the church entrances for thoughts of thank-

fulness to be placed upon the squares. (Thankful for parents)

(Thankful to be able to worship) to give as examples. The

squares can be taken home to do and then brought back and placed in the offering plate or in the bulletin baskets.

The squares will be placed on a poster to start with as a hanging

from the banister above the East entrance steps. Later these

squares will be sewn to form a quilt that will be displayed from

that banister. ** Everyone is encouraged to participate.

All have something to be thankful for.



Sunday School History

Sunday School has changed over the years. The classroom was a glassed in room on the north wall of fellowship room. All classes met there 1-6 grades. There were usually 6 teachers to take the job of leading the Sunday School. We had little wooden chairs (you may have one) around the tables. The great deal was get the lesson done so you could play at the sand table at the end of the room.

Our lessons were on 8x8 papers that folded in a book shape. It always had a picture on it and a different story each Sunday. During class time the Pastor would come and give a short message. We had some great teachers. I had Ruby Tullshe was a great teacher and a favorite. There was a piano in the room where we learned to sing "Jesus Loves Me."

Everyone was afraid to use the bathroom, located by the kitchen. When you sat down the toilet began to flush and you thought you were going down the drain.

The 7 & 8 grade met in a corner of fellowship hall. The high school met in the Kat a Kom a place under the steps. The other group met in what now is the sound room. The adult men met in the center of fellowship hall. The ladies met in Janice's music room. One of the great Sunday School leaders was Jasper Berhenke.

We always had Christmas programs and children programs each year. Everyone took part and even the adults had a play they performed.

At one time we had five choirs. Each Sunday a different choir would perform. It always was good and everyone was proud of them.

We had Luther League for the high school youth. They would meet one Sunday night a month a topic would be discuss and fellowship would follow.

Then came the problem: it was like the woman that had so many children she didn't know what to do - that was the problem we had. So the congregation decided to add an education building on to the church. Work was quickly done and completed in 1964. We now had a place for everyone in Sunday School. All the rooms were filled and new curriculum was introduced. With Immanuel merging with Amity we had spare room for everyone.

In the summer we have a great Vacation Bible School. There were many dedicated teachers and helpers to make a great week, Bible work, crafts, playtime and refreshments.

We still have Sunday School, Confirmation and First Communion class. Our numbers right now are low but with prayer and hope we will again have a large group. Our teachers are very dedicated and are waiting with open arms.

Submitted by Joyce Tessendorf

Thank you for your participation in International Heritage Luncheon. It was a blast. Thank you for our cooks the foods were delicious. We have a copy of Gary's presentation if you are interested in it, talk to Pr Miho.

Stewardship Committee

Conclusion of the third year of the three year stewardship plan for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

As we come to the conclusion of the Giving in Generosity, the third of the three year Stewardship Plan of Good Shepherd Church the members shared what they thought was a form of being generous. The children put pictures into the Generosity Jar during a church service for the children's sermon. Then the adults were asked to place a note of what they felt was a form of being generous. Some told of their blessings when someone else gave blood, food shelter and many prayers without asking for any thanks or Kudos.

We started out the third year with Paul telling of the Macedonian Christians and their generosity. We too here at Good Shepherd give of ourselves, as living disciples and growing in giving with joy and delight for the gifts that have been bestowed up on us by the Word of Grace or some other blessing that fills the heart with gladness. The gift of Jesus Christ which provides the foundation of delight in our giving.

There was the review of the time and Abilities returns and a list was compiled of those interested in volunteering for assisting in helping keep Good Shepherd Church a healthy Church.

Letters were sent to persons who had not been in attendance for a while with a note from Pastor Miho.

We do miss them.

What is in store for 2017?

Continuation of the mailing of cards to members of the congregation

Thank you notes will continue to be sent out throughout the year.

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 1 Lena United Methodist (hosted by Methodist churches from McConnell)
- March 8 Good Shepherd
- March 15 St. John's (hosted by Beloved Church)
- March 22 Lena United Methodist
- 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 8 Ten Commandments (meal is hosted by WELCA)
- March 15 Creed (meal is hosted by Worship Team)
- March 22 Lord's Prayer (meal is hosted by Learning Committee)
- March 29 Baptism (meal is hosted by Council)
- April 5 Holy Communion (meal is hosted by Men's Group)

It is time to order Easter Lilies

Lilies will be \$10.00 per plant and can be ordered by using the envelopes provided in the pews. Please place them in the offering plate or you can drop them off at the church office.

Orders must be in by April 2nd. Lilies may be picked up after 9:30 am Easter Sunday Service.



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, 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

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.





Thank You for your support and Monetary Contributions to the Lena Area Church Cooperative. Your generosity is a blessing to those in need from our community.

With much appreciation.

Mary Lloyd

Treasurer Lena Area Church Cooperative



“Souper Bowl of Caring”

The Youth Group of Good Shepherd would like to thank all worshippers who donated to the Super Bowl Sunday, on Feb 5th, \$233.40 was collected .

100% of the offering goes directly to the agencies designated.

50% of the funds directly to the Lena-Win Food Pantry and 50% to the ELCA World Disaster Relief. Thank You!



Pastor Karen Ressel from Pine Ridge Retreat Center in Pine Ridge South Dakota visited Good Shepherd Church on February 1, at 6:30. She gave a wonderful presentation about American Indians and the work that she does at the retreat center. Thank you to everyone that provide desserts for the fellowship, attended the presentation and donated to the next mission trip to Pine Ridge.

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 February Newsletter.



Treasurer’s Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming January 2017	\$18,681.00
Expenses January 2017	\$10,404.99
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 8,276.51
Income, Year to Date 2016	\$18,681.50
Expenses, Year to Date 2016	\$10,404.99
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 8,276.51

**Thrivent Financial
CONGRATULATIONS!**

We’re excited to share that in 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members chose to direct Choice Dollars® to more than 32,000 churches, schools and other nonprofits, including Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, through Thrivent Choice®. **Based on member recommendations, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church received \$150 in charitable outreach funding in 2016.** The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities.

First Communion Class



First Communion preparation for Third Graders and older will be offered on March 5, 12, and 19, with celebration on the 26th, 2017. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour led by Marybeth Brinker.



March 2017 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> March Communion Set-up/Clean up Bob and Sharon Schlachter </div>			1 Ash Wednesday 8:00-11:30 am Piece Corps Quilters 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	2 9:00 Hannah Circle "Potluck" - Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	6	7 6:30pm Stewardship Meeting	8 12:00 Lenten Lunch at GS 3:30-5:00pm After School Program for 4th-8th graders at the Hangout 5:30 Lent Dinner-WELCA 6:30 Lent Worship Service	9 12:00 pm Friendship Club Potluck/Take Two	10	11 8:30-4:00pm NIS Congrega- tional Resource Event at Kish- waukee College
12 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	13	14 9:45am Hymn Sing at the Lena Living Cen- ter 6:00pm Council Meeting	15 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-Worship Committee 6:30 Lent Worship Service	16 10:00am-2:00pm Pastor Miho at First Call Theological Education 10:00am Good Shepherd Devotions at Friendship Center	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	20	21	22 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-Learning Committee 6:30 Lent Worship Service	23	24	25 Good Shep- herd at Lena food Pantry 4:30pm Men's Group
26 9:30 am Worship Service First Communion 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00am Choir Practice 5:00pm Chime Practice	27	28	29 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-Council 6:30 Lent Worship Service	30	31	

March Worship Volunteers

March 5

Lector	Dennis Luke
Acolyte	Hanna Brinker
Assisting Minister	Dennis Luke
Worship Assistant	Krista Keene
Communion Ushers	Bob and Sharon Schlachter
Communion Assistant	Troy and Cindy Doubler
Sound System	Wayne Kurth, Taylor Bastian
Greeters	Willie Kayser, Troy, Sheila and Krista Keene
Ushers	Bob and Sharon Schlachter, Mike Geiseman, Andrew Martin
Elevator Operator	Donna Gullickson

March 12

Lector	Dennis Luke
Acolyte	Kayla Runkle
Assisting Minister	Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant	Colton Brinker
Communion Ushers	Bob and Sharon Schlachter
Communion Assistant	Shirley Fox, Eugene Hesselbacher
Sound System	Troy Doubler, Hanna Brinker
Greeters	Dennis Luke, Jerry and Beth Martin
Ushers	Bob and Sharon Schlachter, Mike Geiseman, Andrew Martin
Elevator Operator	Anna Patterson, Kristy Patterson

March 19

Lector	Karen Niemeier
Acolyte	Madilyn Diddens
Assisting Minister	Taylor Bastian
Worship Assistant	Sue Diddens
Communion Ushers	Troy Keene, Krista Keene
Communion Assistant	Beth Martin, Dennis Luke
Sound System	Wayne Kurth, Hanna Brinker
Greeters	Tena Rackow, Virgil and Joanne Martin
Ushers	Troy Keene, Krista Keene, Jerry and Beth Martin
Elevator Operator	Willie Kayser

March 26

Lector	Sue Diddens
Acolyte	Ethan Fye
Assisting Minister	Austin Andrews
Worship Assistant	Shirley Fox
Communion Ushers	Troy Keene, Krista Keene
Communion Assistant	Cora Hudik, Wayne Kurth
Sound System	Troy Doubler, Ashtyn Brinker
Greeters	Jay and Michelle Andrews, Darlene Aurand
Ushers	Troy Keene, Krista Keene, Jerry and Beth Martin
Elevator Operator	Taylor Patterson, Kristy Patterson

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 call the church office with the change by Wednesday AM of the week that you have been assigned. If you cannot switch with anyone please 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