



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
118 E. Mason Street
Lena, Illinois 61048

Email: goodshepherdlena@outlook.com
Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";
Website: www.GoodShepherdLena.org



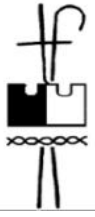
Howard Milton "Rusty" Edwards

Hymn writer

Born in Dixon, IL., January 22, 1955

He received the Doctor of Divinity degree from Lutheran Southern Seminary at Lenoir-Rhyne University. Dozens of his hymns have been published in 100 books in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, England, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Scotland, and USA. He has published six collections of hymns, including *The Yes of the Heart* (with a foreword by Chick Corea), *Grateful Praise*, *As Sunshine to a Garden*, *Each Breath Every Heartbeat* (Abingdon Nashville) and *Bidden, Unbidden*. His sixth book is entitled *Uncommon Mercy* with co-writers from fifteen countries. Dave Brubeck wrote a tune for his song "As the Moon is to the Sun", which is included in the 2008 book, *Dave Brubeck at the Piano*. His best-known songs so far are: "We All are one in Mission", "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness", "Now it is Evening", "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph", and "Each Breath, Every Heartbeat" and "Grace, Point Us Toward God (co-written by Jen Butler.) He was a 2009 Visiting Fellow at Yale University Institute of Sacred Music and Africa University in Zimbabwe in 2012. He has also led workshops in Brazil, Russia, England, and Sweden. He co-wrote ELW #464 with Ray Makeever.

Source: Sunday's and Season and Wikipedia



May 2024 Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Thoughts from the Pastor

This month marks a transition in our focus in the church year from looking at Jesus' life and all that he has done for us to considering how all that he has done affects our own personal lives. Christ is risen! (He is risen indeed!), and now he ascends to the Father. Ascension Day is Thursday, May 9th. But that isn't the end of the story, because on May 19th we celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Not only does the Holy Spirit come to the church to enliven it, but she comes to each one of us individually in the water of our baptism, in the Word of God (the Bible) and through the bread and wine of communion.

The Holy Spirit, the Counsellor, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, is in each one of us, giving us life, hope, faith, and love, helping us and guiding us as we live out our Christian lives. How wonderful! How amazing!

So as we enjoy the bursting of life in our world – green leaves on the trees, green grass beneath our feet, and May flowers in abundance – we are assured that we can experience an even more abundant outpouring of life into our hearts and minds from the Holy Spirit.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. So now all the sorrows and death we see around us and within us have died with Christ, our own souls and spirits have been resurrected through Christ and we will live eternally with him.

But that eternal life is already within us because the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, is in us and among us.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Thomas

May 6 National Nurses Week

We pray for faith community nurses, who nurture and care for the whole person—body, mind and spirit—and promote wellness in Lutheran congregations, ministries and agencies; other denominations; and our communities. We give thanks for the ministry of the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association, which promotes health and well-being in faith communities and supports nurses serving in a variety of roles across the country.

Source: Living Lutheran/Prayer ventures

Highlights from Council Meeting April 11, 2024

Good Shepherd Council met April 11th, with full Council in attendance.
Devotions and refreshments were provided
The agenda was approved with additions.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer's Report, which included on payment revision to Electric Guys for updating the fuse box to circuit breaker, to increased by \$1., from 1995.45 to 1996.45. Motion passed on invoice adjustment.
Gas Bill \$1,324.99 Electric Bill \$211.92

Pastor Mosbo's Report: Pastor Thomas reported that Lenten services were well-attended. The full report was approved.

Committee Reports

Stewardship Committee: Coralyn Hudik reported three new members have joined the congregation. It was reported that blood pressure checks offered during Friendship Club was well attended, suggestion for continuing blood pressure checks. It was also suggested that post cards should be sent to inactive members inviting them to join us at church.

Other Committee Reports: Discussion was held on the repair of church signs on both ends of the village along with placing additional advertising in local businesses. Graduation Recognition will be held May 19. The Scholarship Committee will meet to review guidelines for scholarship applications. Motion passed to approve committee reports.

New Business: Releasing current janitor was discussed as she has not been cleaning the church since January. President Patterson reported that an effort to contact her by Tim Gordon, Property Committee Chairman, was not successful. Motion was passed to terminate janitor due to lack of attendance. The Executive Committee will send a formal letter of release.

New Business: Pastor Mosbo brought up the topic of applause following musical performances during the service, such as chimes or choir. No action was taken. President Patterson also mentioned that she was approached by a church member suggesting that every Council member serve on at least one committee. No formal action was taken.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,
Darci Meier,
Council Secretary

*
* *May Day was also celebrated by some early European settlers of the American continent. In some* *
* *parts of the United States, May baskets are made. These are small baskets usually filled with flowers* *
* *or treats and left at someone's doorstep. The giver rings the bell and runs away.* *
*



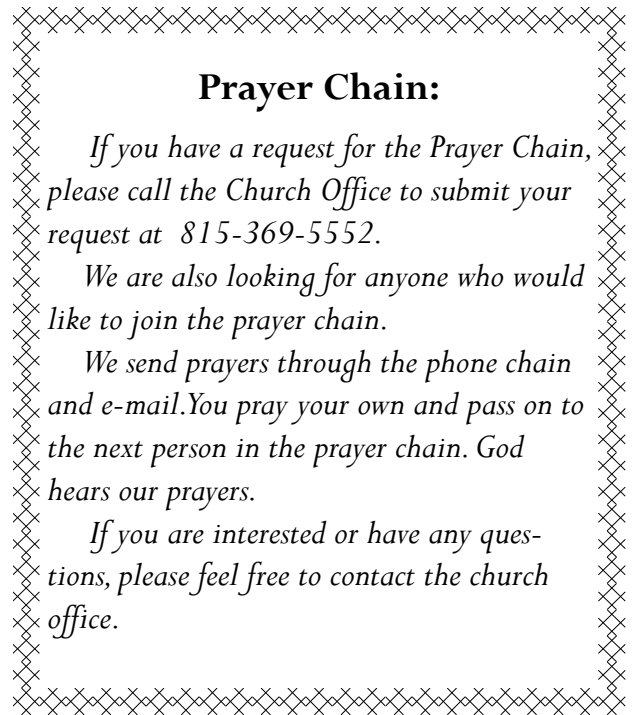
Thank you

Thanks to the Men's Group, Choir Members for providing the congregation with beautiful music throughout the year.

Thanks to the musician's who played during the year.

Thanks to Karen Niemeyer and Tena Rackow for playing beautiful music to us weekly.

Thanks to Janis Kurth for being choir and chime director.



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 prayers through the phone chain and e-mail. You pray your own and pass 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

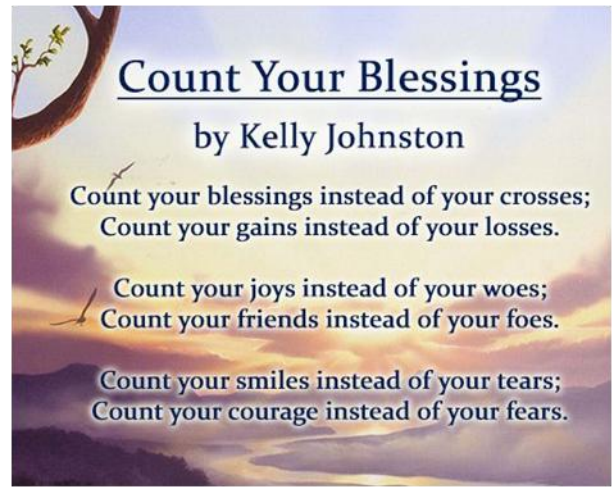
Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Fern Harnish, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Brady Meier, Leona Block, Virgil Martin, Tena Rackow, Marilyn Fulfs, Connor Stadermann, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, Nicole, Meghan and her baby, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kay, Shanna, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Jack, Tina, Joe, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Ethan, Hanna, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Jeri, Allie, Al, Glen Hagemann, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Howard D., Christine, Michelle, Maci Diffenderfer, Jim DeMontigny Jr. and Madilyn Yeager.



Thanks to our volunteers, all the worship assistants, kitchen help, committee members and Piece Corps. Our sincerest gratitude for all of the extraordinary volunteers in our lives. We are infinitely grateful for these selfless volunteers who constantly strive to make an impact in our world.

Treasurer's Report
Jay Andrews

Incoming March 2024	\$ 7,905.37
Expenses March 2024	<u>\$13,686.12</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(5,782.75)
Income, Year to Date 2024	\$26,396.32
Expenses, Year to Date 2024	<u>\$34,672.63</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(8,276.01)



Many Thanks to Pastor Thomas & Coral, Karen Niemeier, The Patterson family, Cindy Fahr, Katherine Clay, The Family of Bill & Laura Derr, Sue Rush, Eleanor Stalder, Sue & Curt Diddens, Tena Rackow and Vivian Hesselbacher and The Keene Family. Thank you again for the donations for Easter Lilies— they truly made the sanctuary look beautiful for the Easter Celebration. Many thanks to Janis Kurth for decorating he sanctuary for all seasons



SUMMER CAMP 2024



Lutherdale Summer Camp

Has over 75 years of experience in running summer camps. We follow over 300 standards established by the American Camp Association in order to provide a safe space for your children. Full week youth camps begin with a Sunday Arrival (between 2 - 4 pm) and conclude on Friday with Closing Worship (11 am) followed by Departure (12 pm). Campers are housed by gender & grade level completed. Registration NOW OPEN! For additional information go to; www.lutherdale.org

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM WITH AGE/GRADE COMPLETED
1	JUNE 16-21	Confirmation Week (Grades 6-9)
		High School Week (Grades 9-11)
		L.E.A.P. 1 and 2 Week 1 (Grades 10-11)
1.5	June 22-23	Camp 24 Family Weekend
2	JUNE 23-28	Camp Odayin (specialty camp for kids with Heart Disease)
		L.E.A.P. 1 Week 2 Option (Grades 10-12)
3	JULY 1-5	Team USA (Adult 18+ with Disabilities)
		On-site Day Camp (Grades K-5)
4	JULY 7-12	Adventure Week (Grades 3-8)
		Young Pioneers (Grades 1-2) *2 Sessions with Special Dates*
		L.E.A.P. 1 Week 2 Option (Grades 10-12)
5	JULY 14-19	Night Owls (Grades 6-8)
		Fireflies (Grade 4-5)
		On-site Day Camp (Grades K-5)
		L.E.A.P. 1 Week 2 Option (Grades 10-12)
6	JULY 21-26	Camp Oasis (specialty camp for kids with Crohn's and Colitis diseases)
		L.E.A.P. 1 Week 2 Option (Grades 10-12)
7	JULY 28-AUG 2	Water Week (Grades 3-8)
		High School Week (Grades 9-11)
8	AUG 4-7 *SPECIAL DATES	Young Pioneers (Grade 1-2)
		Mini Mashup (Grades 3-8)
9	AUG 14-17	Family Camp



“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.”

When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. This ancient proverb means that the weak get hurt in conflicts between the powerful. We, adult humans, are the elephants – in conflict between the powerful. Our children are the grass.

What is Rachel’s Day?

In 1994, one woman urged her congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church on the west side of Chicago, to support children facing violence. They began by clearing a vacant lot and turning it into a garden—Rachel’s Garden. It became a place where folks—mostly mothers—could come to mourn children killed by gun violence in the past year. They also planted a white cross and flowers in remembrance of these young ones. Two years later, the Metro Chicago Synodical Women’s Organization brought a memorial to the Third Triennial Convention (1996) of Women of the ELCA to broaden awareness of the violence children face and actions to address it. The convention passed the memorial, resolving “That ELCA women encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as Rachel’s Day, based on Jeremiah 31:15–17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.”

Is Rachel’s Day still needed?

Mass shootings are not the only exposure children have to gun violence, certainly, and so we still need a Rachel’s Day focus. Violence is embedded into many a child’s life. Twenty years ago, the emphasis was the loss of inner-city children to gang gun violence. Drugs, abuse, neglect, poor education, health and hunger also contributed to the death of children. Today, children are also threatened with death by suicide, often a result of being bullied. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people, according to the United States Center for Disease Control. For every suicide among young people, there are at least 100 suicide attempts. More than 14 percent of high school students have considered suicide, and almost 7 percent have attempted it. Bully victims are between two to nine times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims, according to studies by Yale University. Ending violence seems a difficult challenge today because our children’s forms of play—violent online and video games, for example—create a dangerous environment and a formidable opponent for adults who want to protect them.

No group of children is safe until all children are safe.

The next Women of the ELCA Rachel’s Day is May 5.

The above is excerpted from “How can women of the ELCA begin to act more like elephants?” by Valora K. Starr from the April 12, 2021 blog of the Women of the ELCA and from www.womenoftheelca.org, Resources tab.



2024 GRADUATES



Congratulations Graduates on your well-deserved success,

As you graduate, remember;

The past is my heritage, the present - my responsibility, the future - my challenge.

Congratulations on your well-deserved success.

The community, the church, and your family could not be prouder of you."

You worked hard and got it done.

Sarah Geiseman

Will be graduating from Le-Win, she will be attending Indiana University at Indianapolis to study Forensic Science and Investigative Sciences.

Lucas Fye

He is graduating from Le-Win, he is planning on going to Marquette University in Milwaukee. Majoring in Business.

Kayla Runkle

Kayla has earned her Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. She is currently working as a CNA to save for graduate school and plans to obtain her Doctorate of Physical Therapy.

Colton Brinker

Is graduating from Augsburg University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with his Masters in Social Work.

We will recognize our graduates during the May 19th Sunday Worship Service.

Reception following Church Service

Please join us in congratulating them!



Good Shepherd's Scholarship recipients for 2024

Congratulations to Sarah Geiseman and Lucas Fye will each receive a \$1000 scholarship after they complete their first semester in college.

May Birthdays

5/1 Shannon Albright

5/1 Coralyn Hudik

5/1 Dennis Luke

5/1 Chloe Kurth

5/2 Lynn Meyers

5/2 Laurie Meyers

5/3 Angie Jones

5/5 Dawn Diffenderfer

5/7 Krystal Schlichting

5/8 Degan Euler

5/10 Marcia Meyers

5/14 Nicole Sullivan

5/17 Mark Raders

5/19 Sarah Geiseman

5/20 Nathan Lones

5/21 Faye Fulls

5/23 Susan Koppean

5/23 Sheila Keene

5/24 Deb Hesselbacher

5/24 Quinten Green

5/24 Nathaniel Baker

5/25 Elizabeth Martin

5/26 Drew Solace

5/27 Chris Brinker

5/28 Brad Boeke

5/30 Nick Baker

5/31 Scott Luke

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



Good Shepherd's outdoor worship is scheduled for August 11th, weather permitting.

MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR LENA LIVING CENTER

Each month we will send cards to the Lena Living Center. This is a simple yet profound way to share the love of Christ and to put a smile on their faces to the residents in the nursing home. We are responsible for 10 cards each month. If you would like to make more that would be great too. 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 encouraging words. Our hope is to make them smile!

Le-Win Food Pantry For June 24th

Good Shepherd will be at the Le-Win Food Pantry June 24th, thank you to the volunteers who have signed up for June's Food Pantry.

The needs in are high and we are looking always looking for volunteers.

Upcoming months are : August 24th, October 26th and December 28th. If you are interested, put your name on the sign-up sheet at the ramp or contact the church office.