



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

Email: [goodshepherdlena@outlook.com](mailto:goodshepherdlena@outlook.com)  
Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL";  
Website: [www.GoodShepherdLena.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLena.org)

## **History of Hymns**

### **"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"**

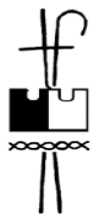
#### **ELW 888**

In 1892, the United States celebrated the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus discovery of America. Also that year, Chicago sponsored a world's Fair which carried over to the next year. In the early summer of 1893, a group of professors from Wellesley Collage attended the exposition on their way to teach summer school in Colorado. The women later compared the wonders of he man-made fair with the glory of God's handiwork in the Rockies.

When the women were done with their teaching duties, they decided to visit Pike's Peak. One of them, Katherine Lee Bates, later wrote, "We hired a prairie wagon. Near the top we had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. When I saw the view, I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there with the sea-like expanse..."it was there that the opening lines of the hymn floated into her mind and by the time the group left Colorado Springs, Katherine had four stanzas written in her notebook. After returning to her collage duties, she forgot about the notebook and the four stanzas she had written. In 1985 Katharine revisited the notebook and what she had written. After recopying it, she sent it to *The Congregationalist*, where it first appeared in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, November 19, 1904.

The melody was written by Samuel A. Ward originally for a hymn entitled, "O Mother Dear, Jerusalem". Ward's son-in-law said that the tune was composted in memory of Ward's oldest daughter. Although one of Ward's employees insists that he composed the tune in 1882 while crossing New York Harbor after spending time at Coney Island. The notes came so quickly to him, that he wrote them on the cuff of his shirt.

Source: "From Then Sings My Soul" by Robert Morgan



July 2024 Newsletter

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### **Thoughts from the Pastor**

The school year is over and the summer holidays have come. And even for those of us who are not directly involved in school life, summer may feel like a time to “get away from it all”, go on vacation, loosen our busy routines, and just relax.

In the church year we have also entered a time of “relaxing” our schedule. Easter and Pentecost have come and gone and we are now in that long green time of the year, our liturgical green echoing the green grass and green fields of summer. It is the “time of the church” or “ordinary time”. No major days of celebration, just ordinary life at a more relaxed pace.

But God is still with us, even in relaxed or ordinary times. Although we often turn to God only at spectacular times or critical moments, we can still feel God’s presence with us in times of relative peace and quiet as we simply sit back and enjoy the sounds of birds singing, the wind rustling in the leaves, or in gentle rains on our window panes. Elijah found that he heard God’s voice not in earthquakes, violent storms, or fires, but in a low whisper, almost silence, in a still small voice. (You can read all about it in I Kings 19.)

So as we go about our leisurely summer activities, we can always be aware of God’s continuing presence, for in him we “live and move and have our being”, as Paul reminds us in Acts 17.

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Thomas

### **Meditative Worship Service**

For years Sunday worship had felt more routine than restorative for Ellen Flanders, a lifelong member of Christ United Church in DeWitt, Mich. Then Alex Aivars, pastor of the ELCA-Episcopal congregation, introduced a meditative worship series for Lent 2023.

“I’m a stressed person every day,” she said. “Going to meditation [at church] has been an awesome thing for me. It just takes me to another place. I feel really close to God and Jesus.”

Aivars is glad that the service has a soothing effect. “It seems like everyone is very stressed and very busy,” he said, “and this service is a way to slow down and have some space to be calm.”

The pastor himself began meditating seven years ago while at seminary. His inspiration for meditative worship, however, came from scrolling through Facebook and seeing advertisements and friends’ posts on the benefits of meditation and mindfulness. He wondered if he could introduce this practice to members of Christ United.

To read more, go to; [ECLA.org](http://ECLA.org), Living Lutheran, Congregational Life.

**Treasurer's Report**

**Jay Andrews**

Incoming May 2024	\$ 4,136.09
Expenses May 2024	<u>\$ 8,895.10</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(4,759.01)
Income, Year to Date 2024	\$39,956.99
Expenses, Year to Date 2024	<u>\$54,986.86</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$15,029.89

**Men's Group**

On July 27<sup>th</sup> the Men's Group will meet at 4:30pm.

**Friendship Club**

Join us on July 11<sup>h</sup> (Thursday)  
12:30pm for Potluck, music,  
devotion, fun, and fellowship!  
No reservation needed. Just  
show up! Bring along a friend,  
and make new friends.  
Steve Sheffey will provide  
afternoon entertainment at  
1:00pm.

**Favorite Hymns**

During the month of April a request was sent out requests in the monthly newsletter asking for suggestions to have favorite hymns sung during the summer months. These are the requested hymns for the month of July.

July 7<sup>th</sup>—"Lead Me, Guide Me" a favorite of Sue Diddens.

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" a favorite of Sue Diddens.

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" a favorite of Virgil Gordon.

July 14<sup>th</sup>—"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" a favorite of Tena Rackow.

July 21<sup>st</sup>—"Because He Lives" a favorite of Kathy Clay.

**CHOIR NOTES**

The choir will be singing for worship service on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Practice on July 14<sup>th</sup> immediately after church service.

**Bible Question:**

**True or False: David wrote the entire book of Psalms.**

## Highlights from the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Council Meeting

**Agenda:** The Agenda for the meeting was approved as written

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Andrews detailed the Treasurers Report which showed an electric bill of \$162.13 and a gas bill: \$813.81

### Committee Reports:

**Stewardship Committee;** On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, Hudik stated that Good Shepherd brochures have been placed at the KOA. Gordon said plans are underway, for the Ice Cream Sundae Sunday and the date of July 7 was chosen. Gordon also discussed plans for the picnic to be held on church grounds Aug. 11. The menu will include meat prepared by The Mens Group – hamburgers, bratwurst and hot dogs, plus a potluck compiled by the congregation.

**Learning Committee;** events included Graduate Sunday and the distribution of Bibles to 5th grade students.

**Property Committee;** Under Property Committee items, Jay Andrews stated former janitor Christa Wichman has cashed her January check but the February and March checks remain outstanding.

The Committee Reports were approved as presented.

### Old Business:

Under Old Business, a discussion was held regarding budget billing for gas and electric bills. The request will be passed on to the Property Committee for further research.

Future plans for cleaning the church drew suggestions from several members. The church is currently without a janitor.

Four Good Shepherd women organized a volunteer cleaning day covering the Fellowship Hall, bathrooms and hallways. The project took two hours. A task list was compiled for future reference.

The general consensus is to contract a cleaning service rather than hiring an employee. A church volunteer cleaning day may also be arranged on a twice yearly basis. Further planning for that arrangement will be added to the July Council agenda.

The matter will be turned over to the Property Committee for continued action.

**New Business:** There was no new business before the Council.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was received.

Council closed by reciting The Lord's Prayer,

Respectfully Submitted  
Darci Meier  
Church Council Secretary

### Did you know?? On July 4, 1918: Esther Lederer and Pauline Phillips were born.

Twin sisters Esther Lederer and Pauline Phillips (born Friedman) went on to pen the Ann Landers and Dear Abby advice columns, respectively. Phillips wrote Dear Abby under the name Abigail Van Buren.

Source: mentalfloss.com



### Our 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.”

### WELCA PRESIDENT’S REPORT

On Mothers’ Day, I wrote in my sermon notes, WWJP not WWJD. What would Jesus Pray. We act like we must micromanage every task so God will know what’s important. I’m certain the only time Jesus was even close to that was when He was praying aloud so his followers would understand what was happening. We pray aloud at multiple points during worship, including prayers of intercession, where we remember our members and friends who are suffering, our companion synods and churches, our Synod Council and NISWO board members, those celebrating special events, and ask blessings for Bishop Fiddler and Bishop Eaton. In May, we celebrated Pentecost and Holy Trinity, both days where the Holy Spirit has the spotlight. As per Romans 8:26 NLT, the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. The Paraclete comes to us to cure our unbelief or half -belief and to intercede or advocate or help us. Our prayers are heard even when we cannot fully express our thoughts. This is something in which we can rejoice. The prayers we lift for our families, church, and world are understood before they are fully formed upon our lips. Our lists of those in need and those we love don’t have to feel like a to-do list. The Spirit is always with us and ready to intercede.

Grace & Peace,  
Jeana Fors,

**Save The Date**

*NIS Women’s Convention  
Saturday, September 21, 2024  
Zion Lutheran Church—Kewanee*

Mark your calendars for the NIS Women of the ELCA Convention on Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 10am to noon via Zoom.

Find out more at <https://nisynod.org/events/2021-welca-convention>.

*We lift our prayers for*

*Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Fern Harnish, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Brady Meier, Virgil Martin, Tena Rackow, Marilyn Fulfs, Richard Freitag, 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, Hanna, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Jeri, Allie, Al, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Howard D., Christine, Michelle, Maci Diffenderfer, Madilyn Yeager, Jim DeMontigny Jr., Anita, Eric, Roger, Larry, Linda Kruger-Kleckler and Libby Wuethrich.*

**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.

*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 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 encouraging words. Our hope is to make them smile!*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Sunday, August 11th.



**Good Shepherd  
Church Picnic**

Outdoor Worship Service,  
**10:30am**  
picnic/potluck following  
service.  
*Please bring a dish to pass.*

**Animal Trivia Question**

Which has the thickest fur of  
any mammal?

Answer on page 7.

# Word Search



**Daniel In The Lion's Den**  
Daniel Ch. 6

Daniel prayed everyday three times a day to God. There were some men that did not like Daniel because King Darius was going to put Daniel in charge over them. These bad men looked for a way to get Daniel thrown into the den of lions. They couldn't find any fault in him. They knew he prayed to God so they used that as a way to have him killed. The men went to the king, and had a decree signed that if any man asked something from any God or man in 30 days that he would be thrown in the den of lions. Daniel got caught by the men and was thrown in the den. The angel shut the lions mouths, and they didn't eat him. The Lord protected Daniel.

## Pentecost

Acts 2

V	T	L	K	Q	T	Y	M	H	J	X	C	J	J	T	S	A	M	W	X
H	K	R	D	P	G	I	Q	S	L	E	K	M	N	P	X	H	T	K	P
C	S	E	U	G	N	O	T	J	J	P	M	T	I	U	H	Y	R	N	D
S	U	S	E	J	V	F	P	B	E	E	I	R	I	T	M	F	O	X	O
J	U	U	L	X	V	O	J	E	Y	K	I	F	S	T	E	R	Z	S	E
B	F	R	N	M	O	E	T	X	T	T	C	U	D	U	L	K	P	P	E
V	H	R	R	C	K	Q	Q	L	W	E	S	O	K	F	A	H	D	D	D
N	C	E	F	K	X	E	P	G	U	W	R	G	K	J	S	P	M	Z	M
P	R	C	V	P	V	C	U	I	C	L	U	A	D	O	U	D	Y	A	U
H	U	T	K	Z	S	G	B	G	Y	G	O	R	E	Y	R	A	T	X	L
L	H	I	G	Q	R	L	I	Z	V	P	I	S	J	F	E	Q	C	O	Z
B	C	O	U	S	S	X	O	G	H	Q	Y	F	O	Q	J	W	Q	Q	Q
E	V	N	R	O	V	U	S	F	J	T	T	F	S	G	C	X	J	Y	K
X	U	H	X	D	I	H	U	F	F	F	J	H	E	X	E	N	C	I	J
B	R	P	E	Z	Y	F	Q	I	T	I	L	M	G	A	W	L	R	O	L
R	C	H	Y	O	Q	E	F	Q	Z	S	R	M	U	Q	S	P	Y	W	V
H	A	Q	L	T	L	G	A	Q	C	E	M	E	R	N	G	T	Y	S	W
S	E	L	O	C	J	L	V	V	J	I	A	K	R	Z	V	F	M	B	N
C	B	W	H	R	C	A	O	R	R	W	D	I	S	Y	A	D	L	X	F
U	B	P	S	W	W	B	P	W	U	Z	D	H	R	N	D	B	C	P	Z

JESUS	RESURRECTION	FIFTY
DAYS	FEAST	HOLY
SPIRIT	PETER	JERUSALEM
TONGUES	FIRE	CHURCH

Source: [wordmint.com/public\\_puzzles/262523](http://wordmint.com/public_puzzles/262523)

**Daniel 6:27- He delivereth and rescueth and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.**

**Trivia answer from page 6.**

## Sea Otter

*Its fur is the densest of any animal on Earth—an estimated 1 million hairs per square inch. That's because, unlike its fellow marine mammals, it has no blubber to keep it warm. Also the sea otter can live its entire life without leaving the water.*



## Le-Win Food Pantry

We are looking for volunteers

Good Shepherd helps at the Le-Win Food Pantry every 4th Saturday of even numbered months from 8:20am-11:30am. Needs are high and we are looking for Volunteers. Upcoming months are: August 24<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup> If you are interested, put your name on the sign up sheet at the ramp by Fellowship Hall or contact the church office. We appreciate you!

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1	BILLIE JO RUNKLE	7/11	JACE SCHLICHTING
7/2	CONNIE KRAFT	7/11	JOANNA ESKER
7/2	JOE GREEN	7/12	AUSTIN ANDREWS
7/4	CRAIG RADERS	7/13	TANA HERMAN
7/6	LORI TIMMS	7/14	DANICA BALBACH
7/6	LINDA HEIDENREICH	7/14	ANDREW DRYE
7/6	BEN HUBER	7/20	SHIRLEY FOX
7/6	SONDRA WINTERS	7/20	BOB ROETTGER
7/7	ALAN ESKER	7/25	DALE GULLICKSON
7/9	ALICIA GROSS	7/27	TARA WOLFROM
		7/27	HEATHER CLIFTON

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

## PRAISE IN THE PARK 2024 SUMMER SEASON

Praise in the Park is held on Friday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm at the Krape Park Band Shell.

*In case of inclement weather, tune into WFEN 88.3*

July 5	Grace Fellowship Church
July 12	St. Thomas Aquinas Church
July 19	Justin Bachman
July 26	Steve Sheffey
August 2	RUGGED – Beloved Church
August 9	Inglesia Jehova Nissi
August 16	The Father's House
August 23	No Worries Band
August 30	GRAND FINALE

Answer from Bible Question on page 3

False: The Psalms are a collection by many writers, but David contributed the most.