

Shepherd's Staff

VOLUME 55 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER, 2013

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SHARING
GOD'S
LOVE

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,
Here we are again in the midst of our busy getting-ready-for-



Christmas season, known in the church as the season of Advent. The other day I was with a group of people and I asked them what images came to mind when they heard the word "Advent". Predominantly the answer was "Christmas is coming". And indeed, that is a part of Advent...getting ready for Christmas. My hope is that our focus can be on getting our *hearts* ready as well as our homes. Advent is a beautiful season of the church year – the royal blue paraments that adorn the altar, the Advent wreath that brings more light to the season as the weeks progress, and the beautiful Advent hymns that are a part of our worship this time of year.

I read the following story (*thanks to Sundays and Seasons.com!*) that seems appropriate to this season:

Scott Joplin was a composer of ragtime music, catchy little tunes with a syncopated beat, played on a piano. Joplin was invited to perform at the St. Louis World's Fair. He had a falling out with the fair organizers. They put him in a small room right next to a large hall in which John Philip Sousa was directing his brass band. Needless to say Joplin and his music were overwhelmed.

The music we play in our sanctuary in this season is likewise overwhelmed. The music here is plaintive and largely in a minor key. The words are filled with yearning, "Savior of the nations, come." Or they hold promise, "The king shall come when morning dawns." When the songs are in a major key there is an edge to them and a warning, "Wake, awake for night is flying." This Advent music and message are in danger of being drowned out. From all quarters we hear Christmas carols casting visions in reggae, don't-worry-be-happy.

In the busy-ness of this season, my prayer is that we will not lose focus on the reason we are celebrating and we will take the time we need to prepare for the Lord's coming. None were ready on the night when God became fully human, except God. Yet God came in Christ Jesus for the homeless, the outcast, the unprepared – for sinners. God came in human flesh and comes now in Word and sacraments to each of us.

That wonderful good news is cause for great joy! God has come, is coming, and promises to come whether we are ready or not. Thanks be to God for that great gift!

In Christ,

Pastor Wold

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Column

Page 1

Outreach/Social Ministry

Pages 2-3

Announcements

Pages 2-5

Financial Information

Page 4

Preschool

Page 6

Church Calendar

insert



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Please see the latest council minutes located on the bulletin board in the church library.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Our Prayers: Gil Dohlen recovering at home, Pete Ferguson and Stu Hoffman, undergoing treatment for cancer, Kay Eagleson and Peg Hoffman at home, and all of our homebound church members we name in our hearts.

We extend our sympathy to Bob Maness upon the death of his wife, Karen, on November 19.

SOUP KITCHEN EMMANUEL LUTHERAN SOUP KITCHEN

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church will serve meals at Emmanuel's Soup Kitchen on **Feb. 2, 2014** and **May 25, 2014**. Please check the kiosk for sign up sheet. Any questions, please contact Rhoda Fox at 815-520-3308.



SOCIAL MINISTRY AND OUTREACH

The Giving Tree

Please help the less fortunate children of Rockford. The Giving Tree is set up in the narthex adorned with names of children that you can buy a gift for. Instructions will be with the tag. Please have all gifts delivered to the church by December 15th. If you have any questions please call Carol Bailey 815-222-4935

Food Drive

We have 2 barrels set up in the narthex. The food will go to the Salvation Army. Some of the items needed are canned or dry soups, hamburger helper, canned meats, spaghetti and other pastas, noodles, rice, canned sauces, pork and beans, stuffing, boxed potatoes, baking mixes, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, juice in plastic containers. Please no glass jars or bottles. Thank you for your generosity.

**Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will repay him for his deed.**

- Proverbs 19:17

VISIT THE LIBRARY



The Library Committee will host the Fellowship Table after both services. There will be a display of Advent/Christmas books in Moline Hall. Please look them over and check one out for your Advent/Christmas reading. If you are homebound and unable to visit our library, we would be happy to select books for you and deliver them. Please call Ruth Anderson (398-3421) for more information.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Come for the fun and fellowship!!!

ADULT FORUM

Join us on "The Journey- Walking the Road to Bethlehem" We will journey



with Adam Hamilton (the same author who produced the DVD series we did last year on Sunday night, "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White"), as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Hamilton uses historical information, archaeological data and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding Jesus' birth. Pastor Wold will tie in some of her experiences traveling that same road a year ago. This study will conclude on Dec. 15.

Youth activities

YOUTH

Youth will help with bingo at Rosewood Bingo at 2pm on December 1st. Youth Group meetings will take place on the first scheduled Sunday School day of each month in the youth room.



SENIOR NEWS

The Senior Christmas Potluck will be Tuesday, December 10 at noon.



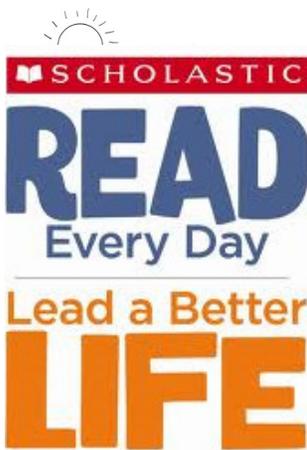
**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Meets **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.** in Shepherd's Hall. Studying the appointed scripture for the upcoming Sunday using "Light on the Lessons" prepared by Lutheran Bible Ministries. We'll not only learn a bit more about the each appointed scripture, but we'll also look at ways these scriptures speak to our lives today.



Need a gift idea?



PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UN- CLES, AND/OR FRIENDS:

Get great affordable books and help our preschool at the same time. The preschool receives free books and equipment (for example a CD player) for their classroom when scholastic books are ordered through them.

Two ways to order books: One way is to fill out an order form found in the narthex. Turn in the order form and your check made payable to "Scholastic" to Patti Wiese (Preschool Director). These books are for kids pre-K through 6th grade. The second way is to go online at www.scholastic.com/readingclub and enter the Class Activation Code: HDKYK. On-line books can be ordered from birth to 13 years and up.

Disaster Relief



Recently tornados ravaged southern Illinois and a typhoon destroyed much of the Philippines. Have you said "I wish I could help"? Here's a couple of ways. Bishop John Roth from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod said the damage in the Washington, IL area is terrible. There is little damage to church buildings but many residents have lost their home. Donations can be send to the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, 524 S. 5th Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1822.

Lutheran Disaster Response (part of the ELCA) is accepting donations for the Philippines. They can be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response, 3933 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694 or go online to www.elca.org/ldr.

Donations may also be made directly to our church. Please specify "tornado", "typhoon" or "where needed" in the memo section. Make your check out to Shepherd of the Valley.



2ND CITY CHORUS

The popular and award-winning 2nd City Chorus will present its annual Christmas show entitled "The Stories of Christmas" at the Second Congregational/First Presbyterian Church, 318 N. Church St., Rockford, IL, on Saturday, December 14th, 2013, at 3:00pm. 2nd City's two quartets, "Second Opinion" and "Up North Four," will also sing some holiday favorites. Their special guest performers will be the multi-award winning Sweet Adeline chorus—"River City Sound". These two acappella groups will sing, individually and together, a variety of sacred and secular Christmas melodies that are guaranteed to get you into the Christmas spirit. The Second Congregational Church's "The Belles" bell choir will add their festive sound to the concert as will the church's organist, Valerie Blair. There will be a free-will offering. For further information, call Doug Phillips at 815-494-0112.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financial results as of October 31, 2013 and Year To Date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$12,456.37	\$15,509.50	\$154,704.38	\$157,863.00
Expense	\$17,598.99	\$15,957.92	\$194,348.28	\$173,725.10
Inc/exp	-\$5,142.62	-\$448.42	-\$39,643.90	-\$15,862.10
plus offsets	\$1,962.08	\$310.00	\$23,900.53	\$3,725.00
plus interest	\$0.70	\$0.42	\$7.43	\$4.17
Net income	-\$3,179.84	-\$138.00	-\$15,735.94	-\$12,132.93

C&B balance 10/31/13 9/30/13
(\$6,360.31) (\$3,310.50)

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld YTD Actual	Bld YTD Budget
Income	1,773.00	2,012.00	21,461.00	21,444.00
Expense	\$2,232.40	\$2,257.40	24,409.20	22,574.00
Net inc/exp	-\$459.40	-\$245.40	-\$2,948.20	-\$1,130.00

Building fund balance 10/31/13 9/30/13
\$21,248.95 \$21,708.35

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
 Also note: The First phase of our AC/Heat replacement is paid in full.
 The second installment cost \$4600 and we have paid \$769 of this bill as of October 31, 2013
 Balance on our mortgage - \$329911.75

November 2013 statistics (based on the 4 weeks):

- Average weekly worship attendance: 118
- Average weekly contributions:
 - Current & Benevolence—\$4,121.72
 - Building Fund—\$567.00

Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Party

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church will be hosting a 'Hanging of the Greens' decorating night on **Friday, December 6** beginning at **6:15pm**, followed by our Annual Christmas Party.

This will be a night of Caroling as we decorate the Sanctuary and Narthex, followed by our Christmas Party which includes a DJ, beverages and appetizers.

We encourage all members to invite a friend or more to join us. None are too young nor too old. If you are not able to help decorate, you CAN help, by singing!

The Fellowship and Worship & Music Committees are teaming up to hosting this evening of fun, if you have any questions please contact Council Chairs:
Bev Walker or Janette Erickson.

We are
looking
forward
to a great
night of
singing
and
fellowship!



MEET THE TALMADGE'S



Keith & Carline Talmadge are the newest members of Shepherd of the Valley. You will usually see them at the 10:45 worship service. November 25 they will be leaving for a 2 months stay in Florida. Thanksgiving will be spent in Tennessee with their guardian son and his family. Then it is on to Florida. While there they will be visiting several cities, spend some time at the beach, and

have a visit with Keith's brother.

Keith worked for the Rockford School District in several capacities. He did some teaching at Guilford, was assistant principal at Roosevelt and Eisenhower. Carline worked as a secretary at Rockford University.

The Talmadges live at The Cloisters. They enjoy playing cards once a month with long time friends. Keith likes woodworking and intarsia.

Along with their guardian son, they have a son and daughter and 3 grandsons.



GPS Faith Community invites the public to a free Open House to view the traveling exhibition

of the Art of He Qi, Christian contemporary artist, and hear Dr. Qi speak on his experiences as a Christian artist from China. The Open House will be on Sunday, December 8th, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, at GPS Faith Community, 10714 N. 2nd Street, Machesney Park. Dr. Qi will speak at 5:00 pm and will have signed posters and books available for sale. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information about the art exhibit or the church contact the GPS Faith Community office at (779) 221-8491 or Info@GPSFaith.com.



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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 Phone: 815-399-5503 E-mail: svlcsecretary@att.net

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.SHEP61.ORG

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Church Council

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 Carol Bailey, Preschool
 Kay Brindle, Outreach
 Carol Dahl, Fin. Sec.
 Janette Erickson, Fellowship
 Bruce Pearson, Property
 Robert Maness, Finance
 Sally Schrader, Christ. Ed.
 Axandra Smalley, Youth
 Phil Smalley, Treasurer
 Bruce Solko, Personnel
 Denise Stillman, Soc. Min.
 Bev Wacker, Worship/Music
 John Wolf, Stewardship
 Terri Woodcock, Sec.
 Pastor Janet Wold, President

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 Judi Fields, Sec.
 Lynn McWhirter, Accomp.
 Linda Longardner, Accomp.
 Phil Smalley, Treasurer
 Susie Smalley, Music Director
 Diane Kirkland, Bell Dir.
 Patte Lund, Christ. Ed.
 Carol Dahl, Fin. Sec.
 Peggy Wenstrom, Nursery Attendant
 Tabatha Scheider, Nursery Attendant
 Custodian



SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY PRESCHOOL

The children enjoyed spending time with their Mom on Mom's Day.

The three year olds also enjoyed a fruit feast and a Thanksgiving party.

The four year olds went in costume to Rosewood to sing for the residents. This was enjoyed by all. They also dressed as pilgrims and Indians, like the first Thanksgiving, and performed a play and sang for their families during the Thanksgiving feast.