

Shepherd's Staff

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2014

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SHARING
GOD'S
LOVE

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over...all the hub-

bub of that season will be behind us. As I'm writing this, it's still to come and my list of "to-dos" is lengthy (including writing a newsletter article!). I preached recently about all the expectations we place on ourselves this time of year – decorating, making those special dishes/treats, getting cards out, writing thank you notes, traveling to family or preparing for guests. It can seem overwhelming at times.

As we now look to a new year (can you believe it's 2014?) we can place a whole new set of expectations on us. THIS will be the year I lose weight...stop smoking...spend less...get organized...become more patient. That list can go on and on because we are daily reminded of what we are not: we are not perfect. The good news is that no one else is either! Does this mean we give up on trying to better ourselves? No, of



course not – progress isn't made by doing the same thing over and over. We try – and can succeed at some changes – which is a good thing!

But whether we succeed at our goals (resolutions) or fail miserably, the best news of all is that God loves us just the way we are: full of imperfections! God's grace, love and forgiveness envelop each of us. God sees the truth about each of us and declares each of us as his beloved child! Come hear that good news when we come to praise and worship God every Sunday morning. Perfect we're not – but loved we are!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Wold

WORK DAY IN WASHINGTON, IL:

Would you be interested in spending a day in Washington, Il, helping to clean up after the devastating tornado? If so please contact Judi in the church office (svlcsecretary@att.net) or Craig Bederka (815-399-4925) or Rhoda Fox (815-520-3308) . Youth 14-17 will need an adult to accompany them. No date has been set yet.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

We extend our sympathy to the family of Helen Jar-motz, Bob Maness' mother-in-law, on her passing

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 OUT-REACH

Join us in tying fleece blankets on Sun-day, January 19th during the Sunday school hour. There will be blankets ready for tying, but if you wish to purchase fleece then join us on January 19th, you will find directions on the Mission table . The blankets will be given to **Rock House Kids and Shelter Care Ministries**. The blankets will be blessed on January 26th.

Thank you to all our members who baked cookies and to those who delivered the cookies to our shut in members during the Christmas season.

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

• Proverbs 19:17



VISIT THE LIBRARY

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. There will be no library work day in January.



SENIOR NEWS

There will be no Senior luncheon in January.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum meets Sunday morning begin-ning at 9:30 a.m. and will begin a new study on January 5 entitled **"Animate Bible"**. This class is similar to the "Animate Faith" DVD series that was enjoyed by all this past fall. In each Animate Bible session, the group will watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and share ideas with the group. The curriculum is intended to help adults to have an engaging, positive relationship with the sacred texts of the Bible. We meet in Shep-herd Hall -- all are welcome!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets Sun-day morning from 9:30am— 10:30am. Come for the fun and fellowship!!!

Youth activities

YOUTH

Youth will help with bingo at Rose-wood Bingo at 2pm on January 5th. Youth Group meetings will take place on the first scheduled Sun-day School day of each month in the youth room.

THANK YOU

Thank you from Ann Honer for the generous support to "Warm Feet Mission". With the socks donated and the money collected 567 pairs of socks from Shepherd of the Valley were donated to various local missions. So far a total of 2,287 pairs of socks have been donated.



DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE COURSE

We will once again be offering the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace course here at SVLC. The classes will be held on Thursday evenings starting January 16th. Deb and Bruce Solko will lead the course. To sign up, please use the following link:
<http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/or/45781/class/245498>

MEET THE NEW SECRETARY



Meet Judi Fields, the new secretary at Shepherd of the Valley. Judi started here the middle of November.

She previously was employed at the synod office as receptionist and administrative assistant. Judi was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan but grew up in Loves Park. Her father, Warren Anderson, was the TV news anchor at WREX TV for many years. Judi received an associate's degree in accounting from Milwaukee Area Technical College. She lived in Milwaukee for 20 years and then decided to move back to the Rockford area to be closer to her family. She is the mother of twin sons, Jim and Ted, and has 6 grandchildren. Grace Lutheran was her home church as a child. She is now a member of Trinity Lutheran. We are happy to have Judi as a member of our staff.

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	\$16,279.92	\$16,307.50	\$170,984.30	\$174,170.50
Expense	\$17,128.89	\$17,285.56	\$211,477.17	\$191,010.76
Inc/exp	-\$848.97	-\$978.06	-\$40,492.87	-\$16,840.26
plus offsets	\$369.17	\$250.00	\$24,269.70	\$3,975.00
plus interest	\$0.67	\$0.41	\$8.10	\$4.58
Net income	-\$3,179.84	-\$138.00	-\$15,735.94	-\$12,132.93

C&B balance 11/30/13 10/31/13
(\$6,839.44) (\$6,360.31)

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld YTD Actual	Bld YTD Budget
Income	2,268.00	2,068.00	23,729.00	23,512.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	26,666.60	24,831.40
Net inc/exp	\$10.60	-\$189.40	-\$2,937.60	-\$1,319.40

Building fund balance 11/30/13 10/31/13
\$21,259.55 \$21,248.95

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 November 30, 2013
 Balance on our mortgage - \$329074.80

December 2013 statistics (based on the 4 weeks through 12/22/13):

- Average weekly worship attendance: 93
- Average weekly contributions:
 - Current & Benevolence—\$2,933.15
 - Building Fund—\$317.00



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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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

Nevagay Abel, Youth
 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

Staff

Rev. Janet Wold, Pastor
 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
 Anita Ralston Custodian



SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY PRESCHOOL

The children enjoyed making and decorating cookies then eating them for their snack. They then had a gift exchange with their classmates.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Shepherd of the Valley Preschool.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for January 26 from 9:30—10:30.

What does God want Shepherd of the Valley to do?

- Our church council voted at its December meeting to propose entering into a time of discernment of our goals for our congregation.
- At our January congregational meeting (January 26), we will learn more about this process and vote on whether or not to accept this exciting challenge.
- Throughout the coming year (if approved) we will be anticipating the input and prayers of all members as we determine how God is seeking to use our congregation to serve our community and our members.