

Shepherd's Staff

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 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,

Hope you're keeping warm in these cold days we've been having! I know I'm not alone in wishing for spring to come...a day in the 40's even sounds like a treat to me!

We've just completed our annual meeting here at Shepherd of the Valley. Thanks, once again, to our outgoing church council members and to those who are continuing their council terms (Kay Brindle and Bob Maness) and to those who said "yes" to accepting a term on our council (Rhoda Fox, Vicki Nitz and Lena Lund). We approved a budget for 2014 and also approved entering into a time of discerning what God wants us to do as a congregation. For those who weren't there at the annual meeting, I want to summarize that process. (Thank you to our synod web site – www.nisynod.com – where I was able to find this process developed by Robin & John McCulloch-Bade and Rev. Joseph Chu and Rev. Kurt Nordby)

- First we ask that *everyone* begin to pray for our congregation and this process.
- Secondly, we're forming a Mission Planning Committee (MPC) to oversee this process. Bob Maness has agreed to head up this committee – if you are interested in learning more about this or being a part of the committee, please talk to Bob.
- Soon we will be announcing an invitation for all members to participate in 3 small-group Bible study sessions on:
 - What is the purpose of the church?
 - Blessings and Confessions
 - Setting Goals
- The small group Bible studies should be no more than 10-12 people, some will be held in members' homes
- The MPC will tally the comments and suggestions from the Bible study participants.
- Small groups will be formed again to discuss how our church can serve both our members and the community.
- The MPC will once again tally comments and suggestions from those small groups and a Mission Statement, goals and action plans will be developed.
- Throughout this process, the congregation as a whole will be asked to come together for comments, revisions and approval of these plans.
- Then we'll put this plan into action!

Obviously, there is more to this process than can be easily summarized here, but I wanted to give you a sweeping overview of the process approved. I am excited about seeing where God is calling us to go! This process will only work if many of our members are a part of it. Please begin to pray for this and please plan on becoming part of the discussion. If you have questions, please speak to me or to Bob Maness.

In Christ, Pastor Wold

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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: Joyce Hunt, Pete Ferguson and Stu Hoffman, undergoing treatment for cancer, Kay Eagleson, Peg Hoffman, Don Abel, and Vernon Brendon at home, Char Winkelspecht, Phil Smalley's Mom, under hospice care in AZ, Jim Longardner, Linda's husband, at Nelson Debes, Pastor Wold's sister, Kathy Miller, and all of our homebound church members we name in our hearts.



SOCIAL MINISTRY AND OUT-REACH

Monthly Collection will be Kid Friendly Food Bag Items for Rock House Kids. Items needed are box dry cereal (usually around one ounce), breakfast bars, nutrition bars, peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, fruit roll ups, raisins, cookies, chips and Capri Sun drinks. They accept items that are nonperishable and can be eaten with fingers. Please no refrigerated items as well as items that need to be cooked. Items must be individually wrapped and sized. Rock House kids serve 200+ at risk children (Pre-K through 6th grade) on Monday and Wednesday nights. After lesson time is over, they send home with the children bags full of kid friendly single serving nonperishable items to have throughout the week to help with their nutritional needs.

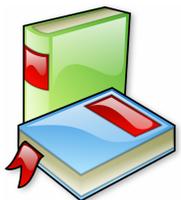
Social Ministry Meeting will be Sunday, February 9th between services in the church library. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be discussing items for our monthly collections throughout the year. Questions call Rhoda Fox, 815-520-3308.

Thank you to those who purchased, cut, and tied the fleece for blankets. 16 fleece blankets were taken to Rock House Kids.

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

- Proverbs 19:17

VISIT THE LIBRARY



What can you do during these COLD WINTER DAYS? Come into the church library and choose a good book. We have many new fiction items, biographies and devotional books. Keep warm with a good book and let it snow!

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum meets Sunday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. and has begun a new study 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 Shepherd Hall -- all are welcome!

FLOWER CHART

The 2014 Flower chart is hanging on the wall by the office door. Please sign up for your special Sunday. The cost remains \$30.

SENIOR NEWS



The next senior meeting will be Tuesday, February 25 at 1:00 PM (Note the time change and

this is NOT a luncheon meeting. Come and hear our special guest, Deputy Donny Parham, from the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Parham will talk about safety issues for seniors, including identity theft and current scams. Guests are invited. Following the program, we will have coffee, tea, and desserts. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex (on the kiosk).

ROCKFORD AREA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

**Becca's Closet Walks the Runway
and you are invited!**

Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries invites members of your congregation to a community fashion show featuring dresses and accessories donated to Becca's Closet and modeled by area high school girls. The fashion show, entitled "Becca's Closet Walks the Runway" will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2013 in the Centre Court at Cherryvale Mall. The event is free and will highlight the mission and purpose of Becca's Closet, while raising awareness in the community of this resource. Dresses and accessories that are modeled will include formalwear donated by our Lutheran churches, members of the community, and the stores of Cherryvale Mall.

Becca's Closet is located inside Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 North Rockton Avenue, situated directly across from West Middle School. Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries, your partnership organization of 19 area ELCA congregations, including our congregation has accepted responsibility for oversight and continued operations of the chapter.

The first Becca's Closet was the brainchild of Rebecca Kitman, a 16 year old Florida high school sophomore. Becca recognized that there were many girls in her community who were unable to attend their high school proms and homecomings because they could not afford to purchase formalwear for the dances. She launched a dress drive to provide prom dresses and accessories free of charge so that no girl would have to miss these special events. Becca was tragically killed in an automobile accident shortly after starting her "closet." Her friends and family continued the mission by forming a national "Becca's Closet" program, with 90 chapters to-date. Rockford is the only city in the state of Illinois with an active Becca's Closet chapter. The Rockford chapter serves as a boutique that collects and distributes formalwear to hundreds of young women of Rockford and the surrounding communities. More than 500 dresses are given away annually in Rockford.

For more information about Becca's Closet, "Becca's Closet Walks the Runway" fashion show, or to donate dresses and accessories to Becca's Closet, contact Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries at 815.962.4279 or RALMmail@aol.com.



A Pairing of Wine and Chocolate
Friday, February 14, 7 - 9 pm
Katie's Cup
502 Seventh Street, Rockford
Tickets: \$20

Reservations can be made, and tickets available,
at Katie's Cup 815.986.0628 &
from Seventh Street Coffee, Inc.
board members
Wines from



paired with chocolates from



DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE COURSE

The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace course here at SVLC. Continues through March 13 The classes are held on Thursday evenings. Deb and Bruce Solko are leading the course. To sign up, please use the following link::
<http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/org/45781/class/245498>

RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING

Mark your calendars for May 9-10. You may start bringing appliances, books, collectables, CD's, DVD's, clothes, electronics, kitchen items, furniture, jewelry, nic knacks, outdoor items, and tools to Moline Hall after April 21st.

YOUTH

Youth will help with bingo at Rosewood on February 2, March 2, April 6, and May 4 at 2 p.m. Youth Group meetings will take place on the first scheduled Sunday School day of each month in the youth room

Your 2013 statements of contribution are ready for pick up. They are on the table in the narthex along with any offering envelopes not yet picked up. You can help us out by taking either the statements and or the envelopes to our shut-ins should you visit them or take them communion.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of December 31, 2013 and Year End totals				
	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B Yr End Actual	C & B Yr End Budget
Income	\$27,432.46	\$25,939.50	\$198,416.76	\$200,110.00
Expense	\$20,620.99	\$19,067.24	\$232,098.16	\$210,078.00
Inc/exp	\$6,811.47	\$6,872.26	-\$33,681.40	-\$9,968.00
plus offsets	\$5,918.27	\$3,000.00	\$30,187.97	\$6,975.00
plus interest	\$0.72	\$0.42	\$8.82	\$5.00
Net income	\$12,730.46	\$9,872.68	-\$3,484.61	-\$2,988.00

	12/31/13	11/30/13
C&B balance	\$5,891.02	(\$6,839.44)

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld Yr End Actual	Bld Yr End Budget
Income	\$2,876.00	\$2,612.00	\$30,051.50	\$26,124.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	32,370.50	27,088.80
Net inc/exp	\$618.60	\$354.60	-\$2,319.00	-\$964.80

Year end income includes \$3396.50 of capital improvement offsets
 Year end expenses include \$5281.70 of capital improvements

	12/31/13	11/30/13
Building fund balance	\$21,878.15	\$21,259.55

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
 Also note: The second installment cost \$4600 and we have paid \$1319 of this bill as of December 31, 2013.
 Balance on our mortgage - \$328188.43

January 2014 statistics (based on the 4 weeks):

- Average weekly worship attendance: 104
- Average weekly contributions:
 - Current & Benevolence—\$3,054.96
 - Building Fund—\$480.00



Do you have some extra keys that you don't know what they open? Perhaps there is a pink or blue cover on the top of the key? If this fits you please return these keys to the church office.



Church Basement Ladies are coming to Rockford area. The story is about the ladies that work in the church basement cooking meals for church functions. Church Basement Ladies is a humorous "scrapbook of memories" of what it was like to grow up Lutheran in the Midwest in the 1950's.

In A Mighty Fortress is our Basement they're cookin' again at East Cornucopia Lutheran! It's 1960, and a reformation is underway. Beverly's getting her first high heels, Mrs. Engelson's getting her driver's license. Through it all, these "bulwarks never failing" stand strong in their faith and in their friendships. With great songs and more lessons reluctantly learned, the Church Basement Ladies are at it again in their new musical comedy. General Admission seating. There is a 2pm show and a 7pm show. Tickets are \$25 each, with a discount for groups of 20 or more. For more information, call Amy at 815-962-4279.

We are getting a group together from Shepherd of the Valley. If you're interested please see Kay Brindle. The group discount rate is \$22,



MEET THE McWHIRTERS

Kevin & Lynn McWhirter were born and raised in Kansas. Both are graduates of Wichita State University where they met. They lived in Wichita until 1980 when they came to Rockford.

Lynn's step-father, Dr. Pieratt Johnson, asked them to come to Rockford and take care of a farm he owned. Lynn & Kevin still live in the house on the farm. Kevin works at Woodard Governor and Lynn is a retired teacher. She taught and was librarian in several Rockford middle schools. She also used her talents as a pianist to accompany school programs and students who went to contest. Lynn is busy now helping and taking care of her mother.

The McWhirters are members of 3 dance clubs. They love to dance and enjoy ballroom, Latin, and swing. They are the parents of two children, Matthew and Sarah. Matthew lives near Milwaukee and Sarah in Carter County Tennessee.

Linda accompanies the Shepherd of the Valley Choir. She and Kevin came to Shepherd of the Valley because they knew Mike McIntyre and loved to dance to his band.



SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY PRESCHOOL

Registration for members of Shepherd of the Valley has begun. Registration for the public begins February 3, 2014 and will continue until classes are full. The Preschool Open House will be February 12, from 6-8 pm. Tuition is \$75 a month for the 3-year-olds and \$120 per month for the 4-year-olds with a \$65 non-refundable deposit. There is a \$10 per month discount for members of Shepherd of the Valley.

With all the snow in January the 3 & 4 year-olds enjoyed playing in the sensory table making snowmen and snowballs with snow brought in from outdoors.



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)
 2715 S. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61109
 Phone: 815-399-5503 E-mail: svlcsecretary@att.net

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Office Hours:

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

Church Council

Nevagay Abel, Youth
 Vicki Nitz, 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
 Rhoda Fox 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

The **Augustana Choir**, from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, will tour the Midwest from Feb. 21-March 1, and will be performing at First Lutheran Church, at 7:30 pm on February 24. Admission is free to all concerts, but a freewill offering will be accepted.

Katie's Choice Book Club—Thursday, February 13, 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. This months choice: Hold Fast by Blue Balliett. "A missing father...A lost home...A dangerous mystery." Come join the conversation.

The March Book Club Selection will be "Selected Stories" by Alice Munro. The March meeting will be Thursday, March 13, at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.