

Shepherd's Staff

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2014

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SHARING
GOD'S
LOVE

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Please see
the latest

council minutes lo-
cated on the bulletin
board in the church
library.

Dear Friends,

Thank you. The phrase seems so inadequate at times, doesn't it? Especially as I examine my emotions upon my departure as your pastor, "thank you" doesn't begin to cover it!

However inadequate it seems, "Thank you" is what I'll say. Thank you for your kind words, cards and gifts to me as I ended my ministry among you. Thank you for sharing your lives with me over the past 15 years – as I've said before, it is a rare privilege to be allowed into people's lives in the way that pastors are often welcomed. You have been generous with me in allowing me to walk with you when you were sick, when your loved one was dying, or difficulties presented themselves in your lives. You allowed me to rejoice with you when babies were born, jobs were found and illnesses were cured! Thank you!

Now I am no longer your pastor. What will that mean for our relationship with each other? People have asked if I can still help with a funeral, or visit someone when they are sick etc. The answer to that is no. In the constitution of the ELCA, clergy across the country are held to this mandate: **§14.14. Ordained ministers shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein.**

A good pastoral relationship is not coldly functional; it is personal as well, so it's not at all uncommon for people facing a wedding, funeral, or baptism to desire the presence of a pastor who has been personally important in their lives. However, since I will no longer be your pastor, the pastoral act of presiding in those moments belongs to the current (interim and ultimately permanent) pastor.

Byron is close enough to Rockford that I am certain we will occasionally see each other when grocery shopping etc. I welcome the opportunity to say "hello" and chat about things. However, keep in mind that since I will no longer be your pastor, you can't ask my opinion about things going on at Shepherd of the Valley. My love and concern for Shepherd of the Valley will not end the day I begin my new call – but the best thing for both of us is to set our hearts to the future and trust in God's presence through it all.

God has and will continue to bless this congregation with amazing people. Thank you for letting me be part of your history for the last 15 years!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Wold

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Our Prayers: Joyce Hunt, Nevagay Abel, Carissa Wenstrom (Peggy Wenstrom's daughter), and Stu Hoffman, undergoing treatment for cancer, Anne Teed (Pearson), Bruce Pearson's mother, under hospice care, Adolph Wacker's brother, Rudy, Nancy Landrove at Swedes, Ruth Anderson's nephew's son, Kyle, Lisa (friend of Mark & Laurie Pellant) and all of our homebound church members we name in our hearts.

We extend our sympathy to Laretta Stofferahn on the death of her brother-in-law, Jerry Soberg on August 11.

Wednesday morning Bible Study resumes September 3rd at 10 am in Shepherd Hall. We will again be studying the lectionary for the following Sunday.



IT'S PICNIC TIME!!!!

The annual church picnic will be held this year on Sunday,

September 7, 2014. The picnic will be held at Alpine Park in shelter #2, across from the playground. It will begin at noon and we will start serving food around 12:30 pm. Please bring a dish to pass. Hamburgers, brats, hotdog, lemonade, ice tea and tableware will be provided by the church. There will be a sign up for the picnic in the narthex. There will be general games provided along with Bingo and a Junk Food Walk (similar to a cake walk). If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Fellowship Committee. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS Sunday is September 7. This year we are collecting for Carpenters Place. Please bring any type of powdered drink mix and 33 or 39 gallon size garbage bags to the resource table. The items will be blessed on September 14 and RALM will pick them up and deliver the items to Carpenter' Place.



HOSPITALITY HOSTS NEEDED

Having a time of informal conversation so that long-time and new members can chat informally is invaluable to the life of congregation and a cup of coffee and a nibble or two makes it happen. Hosts make the coffee and hot water for tea, provide the simple goodies, set the service table and clean up afterwards. There are dates open in September and October for this ministry. We encourage members to partner and host together. Committees and fellowship groups can also host a Sunday. To sign up, please add your name to the sheet on the Hospitality Table.

NO SENIOR EVENT IN SEPTEMBER.

What's happening at **Katie's Cup** in September:

September 3: 2nd Annual Katie's Cup Open at Timber Pointe Golf Club, Poplar Grove. Registration starts at 7:30 and shotgun start at 8 am. Cost is \$100 per golfer which includes cart, fees, golf balls, tees, lunch & a gift bag. Contact Pastor Denver Bitner for more information 815-979-4245 or denve.bitner@gmail.com.

September 11: Katie's Choice Book Club September's book *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand.

"In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, he survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will."

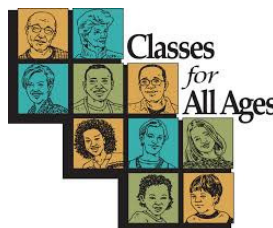
The **2014 DISCIPLESHIP GATHERING** for the North Conference will be Thursday, October 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rockford. Registration and a light supper begin at 6:30 pm. This year's theme is "Conversation as hospitality - Helping make the faith connection."

The Northern Illinois Synod Worship Team invites you to a worship workshop - **WORSHIP THAT BUILDS COMMUNITY**. Pastors, organists, pianists, praise band members, members of worship committees, anyone who cares deeply about worship should attend. Workshops will include: using your musical resources, worship planning, why we do what we do in worship, encouraging youth participation in worship leadership, and much more. The workshop will be held at St. John's in Mendota on September 20, and begins at 9:30 am. It will conclude by 3:00 pm. Mary Preus will be the keynote speaker.



Read a book from the church library. One of the new books is *I Am Malala*, written by Malala Yousazai with Christina Lamb. The story tells how ONE

PERSON can have the power to make a positive change in the world. Malala was fifteen years old when she was shot in the head while riding home in a bus from school in Pakistan. After her miraculous recovery she continued her fight for education of girls in her country. Malala is the youngest nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.



Classes for All Ages

RALLY DAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH - SUNDAY

SCHOOL RETURNS 9:30 - 10:30

DON'T MISS IT.

WORSHIP SERVICES RETURN TO 8:15 AND 10:45 AM. ADULT FORUM BEGINS SEPTEMBER 21.

MISSIONARY PRAYER LIST:



Please look at the Missionary Prayer chart on the mission table. Sign up for one or more days when you will remember our Stubbs

family with prayers. Remember to contribute to their support; envelopes are in your giving packets.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of July 31, 2014 and Year End totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B Yr End Actual	C & B Yr End Budget
Income	\$13,252.15	\$13,178.00	\$103,477.88	\$101,938.00
Expense	\$18,875.90	\$17,306.75	\$123,565.24	\$114,788.32
Inc/exp plus offsets	-\$5,623.75	-\$4,128.75	-\$20,087.36	-\$12,850.32
plus interest	\$2,777.89	\$370.00	\$12,549.32	\$2,555.00
Net income	\$0.78	\$0.42	\$5.23	\$2.91
	-\$2,845.08	-\$3,758.33	-\$7,532.81	-\$10,292.41

C&B balance 7/31/14 6/30/14
(\$1,641.79) \$1,203.29

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld Yr End Actual	Bld Yr End Budget
Income	\$1,950.00	\$2,160.00	\$14,630.00	\$14,112.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	15,776.80	15,801.80
Net inc/exp	-\$307.40	-\$97.40	-\$1,146.80	-\$1,689.80

Building fund balance 7/31/14 6/30/14
\$20,731.35 \$21,038.75

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
 Also note: The second installment cost \$4600 and we have paid \$1344 of this bill as of 7/31/14
 Balance on our mortgage - \$323747.56

Statistics based on the 4 weeks July 27 - August 17:

- Average weekly worship attendance: 80
- Average weekly contributions:
 - Current & Benevolence— \$ 3,225.13
 - Building Fund— \$ 490.75

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY PRESCHOOL



Registration for the 2014-2015 school

year at Shepherd of the Valley preschool is now open. The 3-year-olds meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30—11:00 am. Tuition is \$75 a month. The 4-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30—noon and tuition is \$120 per month. There is a \$65 non refundable deposit. A \$10 per month discount is offered for members of Shepherd of the Valley. For more information or to schedule a tour of our preschool, call 815-397-5880 or email preschool@shep61..org.

YOUTH: Upcoming Youth Connect Events:

September: Hayride
 October: Turkey Trot
 November: Mission and Music



HELPING HANDS CANCER BENEFIT UPDATE:

Over \$5500 was raised during the benefit from ticket sales, the silent auction, raffles, 50/50, and the bake sale. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way. A good time was had by all.



Dates for BINGO at Rosewood from 2-3pm:

September 14 October 12
 November 2 December 7

Please come and help if you can!



DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY CLASS will be offered again in September. We all need a plan for our money. **Financial Peace University** (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. Dave Ramsey will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend & save wisely, and much more! Cost is only \$93.00. Classes begin September 14 here at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and will run for 9 weeks. Classes begin at 6:00 pm and will end at 8:00 pm. For more information and to register please visit <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/org/45781/class/258108>



Prayer Square Ministry

Recently our congregation started making "Prayer Squares" for members and family in need of extra prayers.

These fifteen and a half inch beautiful square quilts have extra-long "ties" for people to tie a knot and say a prayer for the recipient, allowing the recipient to actually feel the prayers being said for him or her.

If you have experience with quilting, WE NEED YOUR HELP in making these prayer squares. Help is also needed to print on the fabric presentation labels and to hand-stitch a blanket stitch around the label to secure it to the back of the square. Contact Myrna Hagemann (815-229-0936) or Sherry Scheider (815-332-8281)

If you or someone you know in the congregation would like to receive a prayer square please let the church office know. Thank you.

PROVIDE A RIDE MINISTRY

Sometimes people cannot get to church on Sunday's because of their age or health who are unable to drive to church, but would very much like to attend worship. There are many ways we can reach out to help those who need assistance. Members who have an extra seat in their car could provide the wonderful gift of transportation to and from church for someone. Are you able to provide a ride to someone to attend worship? Sign up for this ministry on the Kiosk in the narthex.



Why not share your time or talents with your church. Our Hand bell Choir needs more members. Please consider joining our group. All you need is some knowledge of music and we'll train you how to play. Our group is getting too small, which makes it very difficult to select quality music. Call Diane Kirkland at 815-621-3118 or the church office for more information.

Practices begin September 3 at 6:00 pm.



If you have a key to the church please let the church office know what number you have.

PEW BIBLES are still available for \$15.00 each. See the display in the Narthex.



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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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
Vicki Nitz, Preschool
Outreach
Carol Dahl, Fin. Sec.
Janette Erickson, Fellowship
Lena Lund, Youth
Robert Maness, Finance
Bruce Pearson, Property
Sally Schrader, Christ. Ed.
Phil Smalley, Treasurer
Bruce Solko, Personnel
Soc. Min.
Bev Wacker, Worship/Music
John Wolf, Stewardship
Terri Woodcock, Sec.

Staff

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

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, Sept. 14 at 9:30 a.m.** (between worship services). The purposes of this meeting are:

1. Receive an update from the Mission Planning Committee and the Kitchen Committee
2. Discuss and decide whether or not same gender marriages can take place at Shepherd of the Valley. As you may know, on June 1st, same gender couples can now be legally married in the state of Illinois. No one has approached us about performing a same gender marriage, but it makes sense to make a decision about whether this congregation will allow same gender marriages to happen in our sanctuary or if the pastor will be allowed to perform same gender weddings offsite (like in a park etc.) or not at all. Each congregation makes their own decisions about this matter – sample wedding policies from other congregations are available in the church office, if you are interested in reading them before the meeting. This vote will be done by written ballots.
3. Explain the process of looking for a new pastor and identify members interested in being part of the call committee. The Church Council will then choose the members of the call committee.