

# Shepherd's Staff

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2015

## 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 in Christ,

As I sit at my desk at mid-morning, I glance outside and see that the sky is still gray and overcast. I keep hoping for the sun to peek out from behind all these clouds. Sunshine seems rare these days, but whenever it does poke its beautiful head out, I feel my spirits begin to lift and new energy start to fill my very being. It is amazing, isn't it, what a little extra sunlight can do?

We will soon be turning the corner into February ... and with it comes the observance of the Transfiguration of our Lord on February 15. Three of Jesus' disciples, Peter, James and John, were eyewitnesses to this dramatic scene high up on the mountaintop. Scripture records it this way: ***"And he (Jesus) was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them ... then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'"*** (Mark 9:2,7)

What an unforgettable moment for those close friends of Jesus to witness. For some time, Jesus had been trying to prepare his disciples for his upcoming death, but it was as if they did not have ears to hear it. That is, until those daunting words from the cloud overpowers them, ***"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"***

I have to believe that not only did this moment in time affirm for Jesus that he was on the right path and following God's will for his life, but also that it allowed Peter, James and John to receive new strength for their journey as well. It was affirmed for them that Jesus truly was God's Son ... and worth paying attention to. And they did. After the glory of being on the mountaintop with Jesus, they headed back down to the valley ... and back into the routine of daily life. Their lives, however had been changed by the experience. Their faith had been renewed. They were more determined than ever to walk with Jesus.

As the Lenten season approaches, let us also seek to involve ourselves in faith practices that will help us walk more closely with Jesus. Gather with your Shepherd of the Valley family for worship. Join a Bible study group. Commit yourself to spend more time in prayer. Involve yourself in some service project in the community. Allow the light of Christ to lead you on into Lent and beyond.

God's blessings,

*Pastor Marilyn*

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY****† IN OUR PRAYERS †**

Joyce Hunt, Nevagay Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Rod Bjerke, and Stu Hoffman undergoing treatment for cancer, Gil Dohlen, Don Abel, Lisa & Litzey (friends of Laurie & Mark Pellant), Mike, nephew of Anita Ralston (our custodian), Layne Knight (friend of Carol Bailey), Ruby Watson, Gina Dowsey (granddaughter of Myrna Hagemann), Bob Tukker, Harry Grueneberg, Hugh DeGroff, and all of our homebound church members.

We extend sympathy to the family and friends of Bill Anderson whose memorial service was held on January 24 at the church.

**READ A BOOK-BUILD A SNOW PILE**

Every time you read a book, your name and title of the book will be put on a snowball. It will be added to the bulletin board across from Pastor's office. Let's see how tall the pile can get. Audio visuals (DVD's, etc.) will also count.

Parents-get your kids into the library for a good book AND check one out yourself!  
The library work day is February 10.

**FEBRUARY SENIOR LUNCHEON** will be on Tuesday, February 24 at noon. Bring a can of soup-either beef or chicken-we will use them to make a chicken soup and a beef soup. In addition, we will need bread or crackers and dessert. Beverage and table ware will be provided. Following lunch, we will play Bunco.  
Please sign up on the kiosk in the narthex.

**OUTREACH****Tutoring and Reading****Opportunities**

Rolling Green Elementary School , at 3615 West Gate Parkway, is in great need of adults willing to help their students in Reading (the kids read to you and you help out with sounding out words) and/or Math. Sessions can be any time during the day and typically run 45 minutes. If anyone interested in helping with math, training could/would be provided since the way they learn math now can be different from what was taught in the past. For more information contact Terri Woodcock or Kay Brindle.

**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY  
PRESCHOOL**

Preschool registration opens to the public on February 2, 2015. For information and a tour call the preschool at 815-37-5880. Tuition is \$80 per month for the 3-year olds and \$120 per month for the 4-year olds. A \$70 non-refundable deposit is due with the registration form. There is a monthly discount for members of Shepherd of the Valley.

**A new look in Moline Hall ...**

Stop by and take a look at the beautiful new curtains that now adorn Moline Hall. These golden curtains were donated by Denny & Sherry Scheider and Bob & Kris Tukker and hung with the assistance of Chad Farris. Many thanks to all of you for this wonderful new gift for our church!

### Thrivent Financial Members

If you are an eligible Thrivent member, you likely are aware of this easy, convenient way to help make a difference for organizations you care about. The Thrivent Choice program offers a way for eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable grant funds each year.

Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> that they can direct, thereby recommending charitable grant funding for their choice among thousands of enrolled congregations and nonprofit organizations.

**To date, Shepherd of the Valley has received Choice Dollars grant funds totaling \$ 667.00.**

If you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, or are uncertain about your eligibility, visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.

**Choice Dollars designated to eligible benefit members in 2014 must be directed by March 31, 2015.**

### CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Each Sunday morning at 10:45 am you are invited to the youth room for a forum led by Phil Smalley. Each week's topic takes a current event from the news & applies it to the scripture readings for the day. It's a great way to see how faith connects with daily life. Come join the conversation!

### Highlights of the January Council Meeting

- Approved the November & December council minutes.
- Decided to waive the rehearsal rental fee for 2<sup>nd</sup> City Chorus in 2015 as a goodwill effort after hearing that they would be leaving SVLC at the end of January.
- Renewed Pastor Marilyn's interim contract and approved her requested designation of salary and housing for 2015.
- Decided to continue using coin folders for Lent and taking an offering at the mid-week Lenten services. The offering collected in the coin folders will be designated for our Current & Benevolence fund. Offerings taken at the mid-week worship services will support this year's RALM project, Kids Around the World, which will provide mobile food packs for children in the Arusha Diocese of Tanzania, Africa.
- Determined that our various committees will be asked to host the soup suppers during Lent.
- Adopted a new Easter schedule, with worship at 7:30 AM & 9:30 AM, with a breakfast served from 8:15 AM – 9:00 AM.
- Adopted a proposed budget for 2015 that will be forwarded to the Annual Meeting for final approval.



## Highlights of the Annual Meeting January 25, 2015

- Heard the report of the Nominating Committee as presented by Karl Anderson and elected the following to serve in positions of leadership:
  - Laurie Pellant to a 3-year term on Church Council
  - Bruce Solko to a second 3-year on council
  - Lena Lund (youth rep) to a second 1-year term on council
  - Carol Bailey, Ann Honer & Bob Lund to a 1-year term on the Nominating Committee
  - Neva Abel to a second 3-year term on the Auditing Committee
  - Don Kilroy, Peggy Wenstrom and Holden Kellog (youth) to serve as voting members at the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly held at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL on June 19-20, 2015.
- Requested that the Nominating Committee & Church Council continue the search to fill the 3-year Youth Ministry position on Church Council.
- Heard Pastor Marilyn's report, reflecting on the congregation's best assets and some of her hopes for the congregation in the year ahead. She also recognized the staff members she works with and gave thanks for the service of outgoing church council member, Nevagay Abel.
- Received an update on the Call process from Ted Woodcock, chairperson, & John Wolf, committee member.
- Heard the 2014 Treasurer's report as presented by Phil Smalley.
- Adopted a budget of \$200,966 for 2015, but presented a challenge to all members to consider increasing their pledge for the year ahead, if possible, since we adopted a \$16,086 deficit budget. (Challenge pledge cards are available in the church office for those who would like to increase their 2015 pledge).

**Note:** Extra copies of the 2014 Annual Report of the congregation are available in the church office for those who were not able to attend the Annual Meeting.

### Coffee Hour Ministry

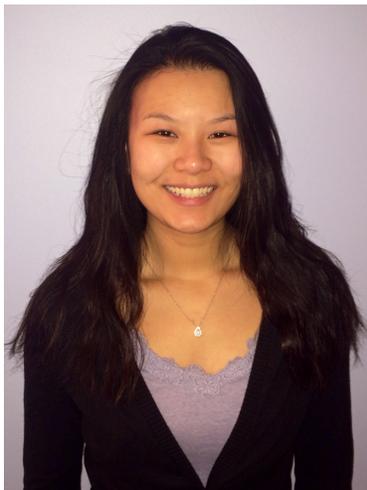
Coffee Hour is an important ministry at Shepherd of Valley where we welcome newcomers, meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. Host the Coffee Hour in remembrance of a loved one, for family health, in celebration of a birthday or small event, or just out of the goodness of your heart. The coffee and hot water are ready to go when hosts arrive. Hosts bring simple sweet or savory snacks and juice or other beverages. Minimal set-up and cleanup are required. It couldn't be easier. Make it even more fun by finding a partner to co-host with you. We are grateful to our members and friends who in the past have graciously volunteered to host coffee hour. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex or call Kay Brindle (815/979-0490).

## WELCOME

We welcomed the following new members into the fellowship of our congregation on Sunday, January 25 at the morning worship service:



Pastor Marilyn Hanson & Meghan



Breanna Hanson



Amy Kellogg & Holden

### Sunset Bible Study (for women) begins in February

It's going to happen! I now have a commitment from at least six women to attend an evening Bible study at Shepherd of the Valley. So, we're going to get started on Thursday evening, February 26, beginning at 7:00 pm in Shepherd Hall. Please check your schedules ... I'd love to have a few more of you join the group.

The ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) publishes a wonderful resource magazine for women called "*Gather*." The magazine has many good articles written by women for women. It also has a monthly Bible study in it. This year's theme is on "Transforming Life and Faith." Each month we will have the opportunity to consider how our lives and our faith journeys are transformed by the events we experience and the people we meet. We will look at Biblical stories that tell of people who have life-changing experiences. February's study will take a look at Philip and his encounter with an Ethiopian official.

If you think you might like to attend this new study, please send me an e-mail at ([marilynhanson@yahoo.com](mailto:marilynhanson@yahoo.com)) or give me a call at the church and let me know.

### CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING EVENT

**Saturday, March 14, 2015**

**Kishwaukee Community College, Malta, IL**

The Congregational Resourcing Event is one of this synod's finest yearly events. Church council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers, and leaders--just about everyone in a congregation--can benefit from this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries. The day begins with worship, followed by a keynote address by Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to our Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. Participants will then have the opportunity to attend three workshops of their choice. Brochures of the event are available on the Welcome Table in the narthex.

Happiness is  
the return of  
Laugh-In

# You're a Good Lutheran, Charlie Brown

FEATURING:

the amazing talents of our own pastors and church members!

**Friday, March 6 7 pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**200 North 1st Street, Rockford**

Tickets cost peanuts: \$10 advance ticket, \$12 at the door, Children 12 & under \$5  
(Includes entertainment, dessert & coffee)

Tickets available through the RALM office: 815.962.4279 or RALMmail@aol.com



Rockford

Area Lutheran

Ministries

815-962-4279

www.RALMmail@aol.com



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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

**WE'RE ON THE WEB**

[WWW.SHEP61.ORG](http://WWW.SHEP61.ORG)

**Office Hours:**

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

**2015 Church Council**

Kay Brindle, Outreach  
 Carol Dahl, Fin. Sec.  
 Janette Erickson, Fellowship  
 Chad Farris, Property  
 Lena Lund, Youth Rep.  
 Robert Maness, Finance  
 Vicki Nitz, Preschool  
 Laurie Pellant, Social Ministry  
 Sally Schrader, Christ. Ed.  
 Phil Smalley, Treasurer  
 Bruce Solko, Personnel  
 Bev Wacker, Worship/Music  
 John Wolf, Stewardship  
 Terri Woodcock, Sec.  
 Youth Ministry, to be filled

**Staff**

Pastor Marilyn Hanson, Interim 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

**2015 LENTEN SCHEDULE**

**February 18 - Ash Wednesday**

Coffee & Hot Cross Buns (9:30 am)  
 Bible Study (10:00 am)

Worship with Communion & Imposition of Ashes (7:00 pm)

**Wednesday, February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

Bible Study – 10:00 am  
 Simple Soup Supper – 6:00 pm  
 Mid-week Worship – 7:00 pm

**March 29 – Palm Sunday – 9:30 am**

Worship with Communion & Procession of Palms

**April 2 – Maundy Thursday – 7:00 pm**

Worship with Communion & Stripping of the Altar

**April 3 – Good Friday – 7:00 pm**

A Service of Tenebrae

**April 5 – Easter Festival Worship**

7:30 am & 9:30 am

**Easter Breakfast** (Serving from 8:15 am – 9:00 am)