

SHARING
GOD'S
LOVE

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 57 Issue 5

May 2015

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

Dear friends in Christ,

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

These words come as comfort in these unsettling times in which we live. In the aftermath of the tornados that swept through Northern Illinois on April 9th, we are reminded once again of the fragility of human life and the reality that in the blink of an eye, our lives can change drastically. It can be frightening indeed.

I think of those first disciples of Jesus and how after the crucifixion of Jesus, they huddled together behind locked doors in that Upper Room in Jerusalem. Not only were they deeply grieving the death of their leader, they were also very much afraid for their lives, wondering if what happened to Jesus would be their fate as well. After his resurrection, Jesus made several appearances to that frightened little group of followers. What did he offer them? Peace. ***"Peace be with you,"*** he said. He then showed them his hands and his side ... and the disciples rejoiced. They rejoiced because now they knew for certain that Jesus was alive! It helped to eliminate their fears.

Like those disciples of old, we sometimes choose to live behind locked doors out of our fear of the unknown. We are afraid to move out of our comfort zones, to move away from that which is familiar to us. We may be afraid of not succeeding at work, at school, or in relationships. We may be anxious about the future and the decisions facing us. We may be anxious about paying the bills or being engaged in meaningful work. We may even be afraid of death and dying, so that we can't enjoy the day that is ours.

If fear has ever gripped you and stifled your ability to function well, then be reminded of Jesus' words of comfort to his disciples. ***"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you ... Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*** On Sunday, May 24, we will be observing the Day of Pentecost in our congregation. This is the day we remember how the Spirit of God descended on those first disciples and empowered them to be the bold, courageous disciples they came to be.

This same Holy Spirit was given to each of us on the day of our baptism. This Spirit gives us peace ... not the kind the world can give to us ... but comes to calm our fears and ease our burdens. This Spirit comes to breathe new life into us and to fill us to overflowing. This Spirit also gives us our marching orders ... to leave rooms locked by fear ... and go out into the community to tell others that Christ is alive, sin is forgiven, and that death has met its match. Yes, the Spirit reminds us that we have work to do, being the church, but we do not go the way alone. Christ is with us. His peace will give us strength.

Peace be with you

Pastor Marilyn

† IN OUR PRAYERS †

Nevagay Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Rod Bjerke, and Stu Hoffman undergoing treatment for cancer, Gil Dohlen, Mike, (nephew of Anita Ralston our custodian), Gina Dowsey (granddaughter of Myrna Hagemann), LeAnn Dahl, (Carol Dahl's daughter), Dennis Eagelson, Al Jackson, and our homebound church members.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Joyce Hunt who passed away Thursday, April 9. A memorial service was held May 2.

Tornado Relief Fund

In response to the destructive tornados that swept through northern Illinois on April 9, people have asked how they can best help those in need. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, in partnership with Lutheran Disaster Response and the Northern Illinois Synod, have created a "Tornado Relief Fund" to be administered through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Your generous support for this fund will provide direct assistance to survivors as well as long term assistance as people rebuild their lives, homes, and businesses. If you would like to donate to this fund, you may send a check directly to the Northern Illinois Synod Tornado Relief Fund (103 W. State Street, Rockford, IL 61101) or write a check to Shepherd of the Valley and clearly mark it "Tornado relief Fund" and we'll send it in with other donations that are made.

Outreach Project

Our congregation is partnering with "Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries" and "Kids Around the World" to purchase ingredients for and pack Mobile Food Meal Packs for kids to eat in Tanzania, Africa. Every minute 12 children die from starvation.

Here's how you can be a part of the solution to world hunger:

On September 19, your family can participate with other Rockford ELCA families on "God's Work Our Hands" Day to package the Food Packs at Cherry Vale Mall in an assembly line style for a fun and educational event. These meals will then be shipped to our companion synod in Tanzania, Africa. Contact Kay Brindle (815-979-0490) for more information. A sample food packet has been placed on the Mission Table.

Did you know you can also go to www.thehungersite.com everyday and click on the gold bar to help provide food for people around the world?

And it's free!!! You can click the bar once a day.

Adult Forums for May

We've just begun a new DVD series in the Sunday morning Adult Forum. Come, check it out! We meet each Sunday morning in Shepherd Hall from 10:45 am – 11:30 am. The series, "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat," was written by author, John Ortberg, who invites us to consider the incredible potential that awaits us all outside of our comfort zones. He will teach us how to move beyond fear to discovering God's unique calling in our lives. Forum topics for May are as follows:

May 3 – Find Your Calling & Get Your Feet Wet!

May 10 – Facing Our Challenges, Conquering Our Fears

May 17 – Good News for Cave Dwellers

May 24 – Learning to Wait on Our Big God

The forum is open to adults of all ages. You are welcome to pick up a cup of coffee at the snack table and bring it Shepherd Hall with you when you come!

Come, join the Sunset Bible Study!

A group of women of the church are meeting for Bible Study one evening a month. We meet on the 4th Thursday evening at 7:00 pm in Shepherd Hall. The May study will focus on the topic, "The Church Transforming and Reforming." We'll take a look at Acts 15 and discover how the Jewish and Gentile Christians became the church when they learned to join together as one body by transforming themselves for the sake of the gospel. Their example just might offer some inspiration for our church today. Please join us for an evening of friendly conversation and delving into God's Word.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee met with Pastor Jeff Clements Monday night to begin the interview processes for calling a new pastor. Our congregation's survey was accepted by the Synod and is now posted to accept applications for Shepherd of the Valley's vacancy. Pastor Clements informed the committee of the process by which the synod will screen incoming applications for compatibility and then recommend pastors to our committee. The committee ask the congregation to keep the committee in your thoughts and prayers as we enter this next stage of our journey.

Sincerely,
John Wolf



Confirmation Day is May 31

Confirmation Day for our 8th graders who are nearing the end of their two years of instruction in the Christian faith will be held on Trinity Sunday, May 31 at our 9:30 am worship service. Those making public affirmation of their faith that day will be **Katie Flygare, Gareth Persaud, Cassidy Purvis, Zane Smalley & Julia Spangler**. Please pray for these young people as they prepare for this very important day in their lives.

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS



The 3 & 4 year olds are watching the caterpillars go from small caterpillars to the chrysalides stage and are waiting for them to come out as butterflies.

They are also getting ready for the Bike-A-thon for St. Jude's.

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year at Shepherd of the Valley preschool is open. The 3-year-olds meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30—noon. Tuition is \$80 a month. The 4-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30—noon and tuition is \$120 per month. There is a \$70 non refundable deposit. A 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.

GERANIUMS

Order you Pentecost Geraniums
\$5.00
Sign up board is in the Narthex



YOUTH CONNECT

Fun, Faith, Games,
Open Gym, Pizza

MAY 3rd, 5:30-7:30 pm,
\$12 cash

GYMNASTICS
ACADEMY SOUTH
TRAMPOLINE PARK
1949 South Bell School Rd.
Cherry Valley
(815)580-8461

6th-12th Youth AND Friends
ONLY 100 Spots! To
reserve space for you or
your youth group:
[facebook.com/GPSFaith](https://www.facebook.com/GPSFaith),
events

Electronic waiver must be
filled
out for ALL participants
by parent/guardian
<http://bit.ly/1DvLLYN>

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of March 31, 2015 and Year to date totals				
	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B Yr td Actual	C & B Yr td Budget
Income	\$17,639.81	\$16,009.59	\$43,691.99	\$40,788.75
Expense	\$21,771.32	\$18,839.88	\$54,248.78	\$50,880.50
Inc/exp	-\$4,131.51	-\$2,830.29	-\$10,556.79	-\$10,091.75
plus offsets	\$3,814.44	\$350.00	\$4,568.29	\$680.00
plus interest	\$0.71	\$0.67	\$2.11	\$2.00
Net income	-\$316.36	-\$2,479.62	-\$5,986.39	-\$9,409.75
C&B balance				
		3/31/15	2/28/15	
		(\$3,705.99)	(\$3,389.63)	
	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld Yr TD Actual	Bld Yr TD Budget
Income	\$2,620.00	\$2,523.00	\$6,280.00	\$6,750.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	6,772.20	6,772.20
Net inc/exp	\$362.60	\$265.60	-\$492.20	-\$22.20
Building fund balance				
		3/31/15	2/28/15	
		\$19,322.65	\$18,960.05	
Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin Also note: The second installment cost \$4600 and we have paid \$1394 of this bill as of 3/31/15 Balance on our mortgage - \$314673.42				

Attendance statistics are based on the 4 weeks
March 29-April 19
Average weekly worship attendance: 121
Contributions are based on the 4 weeks
March 29-April 19
Average weekly contributions:
Current & Benevolence— \$ 3,832.25
Building Fund— \$ 308.88

2015 Summer Camp Opportunities

What are your kids going to do all summer?

Have they ever spent time at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC), our Bible camp located just outside of Oregon, IL? If not, you'll want to stop by the church and check out the variety of summer camps that are offered for 3rd through 12 graders this summer. There are camps for those interested in drama, art, ecology, horseback riding or Harry Potter. There are also Mission Impossible camps, Survivor camps, Voyageur camps, mystery camps or sports camps. In addition, there is a week (July 12-17) when the whole family can spend time together at the camp and stay in their beautiful Freedom Tree Village.

LOMC really **does** offer something for everyone. What better place for having a lot of fun in the great outdoors, growing spiritually and making some lasting memories?

A love that never ends.



May Church Council Highlights

- Elected Amy Kellogg as the youth chairperson to Church Council until the Annual Meeting in January of 2016, when she will be eligible to be elected to a full 3-year term.
- Approved a new job description for the Nursery Attendant position.
- Decided to enroll in a church envelope mail plan for 2016 so offering envelopes will be mailed directly into the homes of our members on a quarterly basis by Augsburg Fortress, our church publishing house.
- Heard that the Call Committee met with Pr. Jeff Clements of the Northern Illinois Synod office on April 20 to discuss the process for interviewing pastoral candidates.
- Approved inviting a representative of the Gideon's to give a temple talk at worship this summer so we can hear of their work in distributing Bibles. A free-will offering will be taken that day.
- Approved the minutes of the March meeting of Church Council as presented by Terri Woodcock, secretary, and reviewed the financial reports for March as presented by Phil Smalley, treasurer.
- Received an update from our council representatives of the wide variety of work their committees are doing to help fulfill our mission as a congregation.

BELOIT SNAPPERS FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT



COME OUT TO THE BALLPARK FOR A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP AND BASEBALL!

Saturday, May 9th at 2:00 pm

Ticket Cost \$7.75

Includes:

- General Admission ticket to the game (groups sit together)
 - Voucher for hot dog, soda, and chips
- Night out with your church to promote fellowship
 - Testimonials with Snappers Players
 - Live Music after the game

TICKETS MUST BE PRE-ORDERED BY MAY 1st IN ORDER TO GET THIS

TICKET PRICE AND EVERYTHING IT INCLUDES!

Name: _____ Phone #: () _____
 Church Name: _____ E-mail: _____
 # of Tickets: _____ X \$7.75 Total \$: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
 Method of Payment: Visa MC Discover
 Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Check #: _____

Please call Crystal Bowen at 608-362-2272 OR mail the form to the address below.
 Mail to: Beloit Snappers, Attn: Crystal Bowen
 2301 Skyline Drive, Beloit, WI 53511



LIBRARY NEWS



Thank you to all who helped purchase 25 new books for our library. Now take the next step and check one out soon. We are especially excited about adding new Bible story books for children. Parents, your children will love these beautifully embellished books.

The next Library work day is April 12 at 9:00 am.

SENIOR NEWS

Senior Lunch-Tuesday, May 26 at Ned's Restaurant, 2132 Business Hwy. 20 near Belvidere. Following lunch we will visit the Boone County Historical Museum in Belvidere. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex.

New Church Council Member

Shepherd of the Valley welcomes new Church Council member, Amy Kellogg. Amy will serve as our youth ministry representative on council. She will also chair the youth ministry board. Amy recently joined Shepherd of the Valley after attending here for 1 1/2 years. She has a son Holden, 15, who is a freshman at Rockford Lutheran High School and will be attending the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly at Augustana College in June as a youth voting member. Her daughter, Madeleine, is a freshman at Greenville College pursuing a BS in music.



Social Ministry

During the month of **May** Social Ministry will be accepting donations for MELD babies. Items needed are: baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby wash, baby wipes, disposable diapers (all sizes) and Pull-ups (all sizes).

If anyone has large baby items such as cribs, carseats, high chairs or strollers, please call Laurie Pellant at 815-218-0652 to arrange for a pick up.

2015 MELD CARDS & NOTE CARDS

This year's cards feature photographer Bradley Nordlof and the verse for the card is a general verse that can be used for Mother's Day, birthday, or any occasion.

The cards are \$5.00 each and a package of 8 note cards are \$10.00. The note cards feature 8 different scenes and come with eight envelopes. All proceeds will benefit MELD programs for young families in our community. The cards are on the counter next to the missionary table and will be available through Mother's Day, May 10th.

Job Opening – Nursery Attendant

Shepherd of the Valley is seeking to hire a Nursery Attendant who will staff our church nursery every other Sunday morning from 9:15 AM until approximately 10:45 AM. All applicants must be at least 16 years old, have a love for children, and be willing to undergo a background check. To apply, please stop by the church office and pick up an application form.

A LETTER FROM BISHOP GARY WOLLERSHEIM

April 10, 2015

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; [2 Corinthians 4:7-8]

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last evening a powerful storm unleashed tornados across Lee, Ogle, DeKalb, Winnebago, Boone, and McHenry counties. The tornados did great damage in communities that are a significant part of our synod – “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed.”

The latest news reports two deaths from the destructive tornados, a number of injuries, and a great deal of property damage – “...we have this treasure in clay jars.” As people of faith we may be “perplexed, but not driven to despair,” we gather with our partners and seek out the best ways to bring hope and healing in the aftermath of the storm.

Thank you for your prayers for the victims of this disaster.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois in partnership with Lutheran Disaster Response and the Northern Illinois Synod have created a “Tornado Relief Fund” to be administered through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Your generous support for this fund will provide direct assistance to survivors as well as long term assistance as people rebuild their lives, homes, and businesses. Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift to this fund.

Individual and congregational donations can be sent to the:

Northern Illinois Synod
Tornado Relief Fund
103 W. State St.
Rockford, IL 61101

We are Church together, our partnership in the Gospel is made real when we live out our baptismal calling “to proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.”

In Christ,

Bishop Gary Wollersheim



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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Phone: 815-399-5503 E-mail: svlcsecretary@att.net
On The Web: www.shep61.org.

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

2015 Church Council

Kay Brindle, Outreach
Carol Dahl, Fin. Sec.
Janette Erickson, Vice President &
Fellowship

Chad Farris, Property
Amy Kellogg, Youth Ministry
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.

Staff

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

Teacher Appreciation- May 17

We've had a great teaching staff for Sunday School this year. Each week our teachers faithfully & joyfully share the stories of the faith with our children.

A big thanks to each of them for sharing their gifts and investing their time in the faith development of our children. Those who were part of our teaching staff this year include:

Jodi Bjerke (pre-k & Kindergarten students)

Sally Schrader (1st & 2nd graders)

Carol Bailey (3rd, 4th, & 5th graders)

Phil Smalley (6th - 12th graders)

Linda Longardner (music)

Vicki Nitz (substitute teacher)

Patte Lund (Director of Christian Education)

Save the Date!

This year's Vacation Bible School at Shepherd of the Valley will be held the week of August 3-7 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. It's a new time and a new format. We hope you'll save the date on your calendars now so that your children can attend. It promises to be a great week for everyone!