

SHARING
GOD'S
LOVE

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

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Dear friends in Christ,

It is summer ... and I'm thinking it is about time to start some of the home improvement projects that have been on my "to do" list much longer than I'd care to admit. You know, all those things I'd like to get done but never seem to get done because I either can't do them myself or don't know who to call to help ... like getting the three stumps in my yard removed after the trees died and had to be cut down ... or getting my driveway resurfaced ... or repairing the rotting wood around the door frames of my garage. Or, the projects that take time to think through ... like what color carpet would really be best for the bedroom floors or what color paint would be the most striking on the walls of the computer room. Or, the projects that need to be done but I don't have one bit of energy for ... like cleaning out all the "junk" in the basement storeroom ... or reducing the excess clothes in our closets and taking them to Goodwill ... or cleaning out years and years of old work and personal files that I'll never use again. If you were me, which of these exciting projects would you begin with first?

I think that most professional organizers would say you have to prioritize your projects, putting the ones you really don't want to do or that you don't enjoy doing on the top of the list ... and working from there. It is probably pretty good advice ... but oh, where to even begin!

Sometimes when I look around the church I am struck also by the number of improvement projects that need to be done. And for most of us, we probably think that if we can't get our own home projects done, how can we volunteer to do the ones at church? However, what I have found over the years is that it is generally much more fun to work on someone else's "to do" list than my own. Why? I don't have the same kind of personal attachment to the stuff on someone else's list so I can look at it all much more objectively. It somehow makes it so much easier.

Where is all this leading? I'd like to invite you to volunteer a little extra time at the church this summer to help us spruce the place up. Chad Farris, our property chairperson, has been working on a list of projects that need doing ... some big ... some not so big. They are going to get listed on our "Communication sheet" in the church bulletin each week. Perhaps you'll see something there that you think you could do. Recruit someone else to join you in the project and it will be a whole lot more fun! The church can provide you with a cup of coffee and cookies for "break" time. Yes, we will even allow coffee breaks! And, just think of the amazing results! This beautiful church, Shepherd of the Valley, will look even better than it currently does with the help of many willing volunteers. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth? ***"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*** (1 Corinthians 12:4-7). What gifts of yours can you share this summer ... for the common good?



Working with you in ministry,

Pastor Marilyn

† IN OUR PRAYERS †

Nevagay Abel, Kelsey Dolan, and Stu Hoffman undergoing treatment for cancer, Anita Cupchack (sister-in-law of Bev Wacker), LeAnn Dahl, (Carol Dahl's daughter), Dyvone Freburg, Bev Wacker, Don Abel, Benny Frisella, Dan Webber (friend of Bruce Solko), Steve Osterberg (friend of John Romph), Marge Rhodes (friend of Don & Neva Abel), David Johnson (nephew of Dyvone Freburg) and our homebound church members.

PASTORAL ACTS:

Amelia Ann Adcock, daughter of Doug Adcock & Kara Carpenter-Adcock was baptized on June 21, 2015, at Shepherd of the Valley.



Amelia was born on May 18, 2015, and her sponsors were Mike & Monica Parrish. She is the granddaughter of Brian Carpenter.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Michael Nitz, son of Kevin and Vicki Nitz, and Tai Foster who were married on June 13 in St. Louis, MO.

They will reside in St. Peters, MO.

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS

Please be sure the church office has your winter address, phone number, when you are leaving and coming back.

It costs the church \$0.49 every time a newsletter is returned because we don't have a correct address. It only costs \$0.128 to mail the newsletters.

Thank you.

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.

LIBRARY NEWS



THE LIBRARY IS OPEN WHENEVER THE CHURCH IS OPEN. Come in and check out one of our recent additions.

If you haven't read the books in "The Walk" series, by Richard Paul Evans, this summer would be a good time.

This series tells the story of a man who walks across the country following a tragedy in his life. The series includes The Walk, Miles to Go, The Road to Grace, A Step of Faith and Walking on Water.

SENIOR NEWS

There will be no Senior lunches until September. Enjoy the summer.



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Summer Concert Series is has started.

Doors open at 6:30 pm and the concerts begin at 7:00 pm.

Here's the schedule:

July 1: 2nd City Chorus

Formed and chartered in 1996, and currently under the direction of Joe Tomecek, this chorus of 20 plus men is well known and respected within the Illinois District. They have been awarded Small Chorus Champions and Most Entertaining Chorus in several competitions, and they are consistently ranked in the top five. 2nd City Chorus has a wide variety of music in their repertoire: classic barbershop, sacred, gospel, pop, show tunes, oldies, and comedic-parody.

July 15: Acoustic Juice

The trio of Tim Austin, Doug Janicke & Tom Wilson embarked on this musical voyage during the summer of 2014. With vocal and instrumental styles as varied as their musical backgrounds, the result is a unique merger drawing inspiration from across the spectrum of musical genres: Jazz, R&B, reggae, folk & rock. From The Beatles to Dylan, from CSN&Y to the Grateful Dead – With admiration for the Singer/Songwriters of The Sixties, Seventies and beyond – Tim, Doug & Tom love to share their favorite tunes from their musical influences! Historic hits, rare gems and even some originals can be found in their ever-evolving set lists.

Have you had you're A J today?

July 29: River City Sound

River City Sound is Northwest Illinois' premier women's chorus. The chorus performs four-part a cappella harmony from many genres in the barbershop style. Having won its fourth regional competition in May 2015, River City Sound will be representing our area once again at Sweet Adelines International Competition in Las Vegas in October 2016. Membership is open to women singers of all ages who are interested in fellowship, fun, and creating an amazing musical sound. Visit us at www.rivercitysound.org for more information.

August 12: Patte Lund

Patte spent 22 years of her adult life honing her musical skills in Chicago. Ms. Lund fronted the big band sounds of The Ken Arlen Orchestra and Bob Johnson's Jazz Orchestra. In 2011 Patte, along with her good friend Mike McIntyre, performed for 7 months on Saturday nights at Gia's. She works with Mike Williamson's Music Production Company and had the honor of playing the lead character twice in the Artists Ensemble productions of *Radio Gals* and recently played a role in *Brooklyn Boy*. She is thrilled to be working with her dear friend Rise` Barker.

August 26: East Bank Commanders

The East Bank Commanders is a 13-member jazz band that performs music from the 40's and 50's. They are retired musicians led by Warren Reckmeyer and accompanied on piano by his wife, Carol. The band has performed at many locations throughout the Rockford and northern Illinois area.



ELCA Youth Gathering

Starting Wednesday, July 15 through Sunday, July 19, 2015, 30,000 youth and adult volunteers will "Rise Up Together" with the people of Detroit to create something new in Jesus' name. You can support the work of ELCA youth in Detroit by contributing toward the purchase of supplies for the service projects. Go to www.elca.org/gathering for giving opportunities. This is also the site for the live stream from the Youth Gathering starting Wednesday, July 15 through Sunday, July 19. Meghan Hanson will be attending the Youth Gathering with the youth of All Saints, Byron. Please remember all who are involved with the gathering in your prayers.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of May 31, 2015 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B Yr td Actual	C & B Yr td Budget
Income	\$17,638.42	\$17,674.58	\$76,890.87	\$73,697.91
Expense	\$18,062.83	\$17,022.81	\$88,723.02	\$83,892.12
Inc/exp plus offsets plus interest	-\$424.41 \$1,283.22 \$0.71	\$651.77 \$120.00 \$0.66	-\$11,832.15 \$6,469.78 \$3.51	-\$10,194.21 \$1,300.00 \$3.33
Net income	\$859.52	\$772.43	-\$5,358.86	-\$8,890.88

C&B balance 5/31/15 (\$3,050.96) 4/30/15 (\$3,910.48)

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld Yr TD Actual	Bld Yr TD Budget
Income	\$2,580.00	\$2,658.00	\$10,907.50	\$11,710.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	11,287.00	11,287.00
Net inc/exp	\$322.60	\$400.60	-\$379.50	\$423.00

Building fund balance 5/31/15 \$19,435.35 4/30/15 \$19,112.75

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 5/31/15
 Balance on our mortgage - \$312820.97



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. Cost is \$10.00 per child, \$40.00 family maximum. 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!

Attendance statistics are based on the 5 weeks

May 24 - June 21

Average weekly worship attendance: 87

Contributions are based on the 5 weeks

May 24 - June 21

Average weekly contributions:

Current & Benevolence - \$ 3,467.67

Building Fund - \$ 531.00





Social Ministry

Our Social Ministry project for July is to provide 70 sack lunches on Saturday, July 11

for the volunteers building Habitat for Humanity houses in Rockford. There will be a sign up board in the Narthex. We're looking for lunch makers, deliverers, and monetary donations to purchase additional food.

Laurie Pellant

Calling All Women ...

Give yourself a break ... come and join the monthly Bible study for women this summer! The study is held once a month and in July will be held on **Thursday, July 23 at 7:00 p.m.** in Shepherd Hall. Women of all ages are welcome.

The summer Bible study theme is "No Catchy Slogans," and we will look at scripture passages about giving. The author, former Women of the ELCA staff member Emma Crossen, writes in her introduction: "Giving money is an important topic for Christians to consider. All people need encouragement and guidance about their relationship to money. Few things affect our daily life more. It seems appropriate that the Bible gives so much attention to money and giving. Yet it's too common to see Bible passages taken out of context, turned into catchy slogans, and enforced as rules that Christians should follow."

The July study, "Be Like the Widow" will focus on the story of the widow's mite recorded in Luke 21. We'd love to have you join the group! Light refreshments will be served!

June Church Council Highlights

- Reviewed May meeting minutes and financial reports.
- Heard a report about the Rockford Lutheran Association annual meeting that Janette Erickson attended on behalf of Shepherd of the Valley.
- Reviewed the revisions to our Constitution & Bylaws as prepared by the Finance Committee. We will continue the review in July, and once approved by the council, the document will be presented to the congregation for final review and approval.
- Approved a Child/Youth Protection Policy as presented by Personnel for immediate use in our congregation.
- Heard that an interview has been scheduled with the first pastoral candidate for late June.
- Reviewed our membership list and approved sending a letter to those who have not actively participated in the life of the congregation in the last two years.



PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

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. Have a great summer.



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 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, Financial Secretary
 Janette Erickson, Vice President &
 Fellowship

Chad Farris, Property
 Amy Kellogg, Youth Ministry
 Lena Lund, Youth Representative
 Robert Maness, Finance
 Vicki Nitz, Preschool
 Laurie Pellant, Social Ministry
 Sally Schrader, Christian Education
 Phil Smalley, Treasurer
 Bruce Solko, Personnel
 Bev Wacker, Worship/Music
 John Wolf, Stewardship
 Terri Woodcock, Secretary

Staff

Pastor Marilyn Hanson, Interim Pastor
 Judi Fields, Secretary
 Linda Longardner, Organist
 Phil Smalley, Treasurer
 Susie Smalley, Music Director
 Diane Kirkland, Bell Director
 Patte Lund, Christian Education.
 Carol Dahl, Financial Secretary
 Peggy Wenstrom, Nursery Attendant
 Tabatha Scheider, Nursery Attendant
 Anita Ralston, Custodian

**CONFIRMED IN FAITH
 MAY 31, 2015**



Front Row: Kathryn Flygare, Zane Smalley, Julia Spangler
 Back Row: Gareth Persaud, Pastor Marilyn Hanson, Cassidy Purvis