

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 8

August 2015

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Column 1

Preschool 5

Council 5

Financial 4

Calendar insert

Dear friends in Christ,

In last month's newsletter, I put out a plea for workers to help "spruce up" the church! Well, people responded and the work has begun! We have a newly formed Decorating Committee with Amy Kellogg, Laurie Pellant, Sherry Scheider, Candy Wolf and I serving on it. The group has been busy going through the church, room by room, and making a list of improvements we'd like to see accomplished.

The first priority, this group decided, is updating Shepherd Hall. Chalkboards and bulletin boards were taken down by Chad Farris this past week and now once the adhesive cement is scraped off the walls, they will get a fresh coat of paint.

The room will have a whole new look once it gets finished. We're also hoping to install a big screen TV on the east wall that will get used for Adult Forums, Confirmation classes, and possibly Vacation Bible School.

Giving our Sunday School classrooms a "lift" is another high priority. Some members of the congregation have already been volunteering their time to sort through the clutter that has accumulated over the years. With fresh coats of paint in the classrooms, they will look bright and cheerful for the beginning of the new school year. The pastor's office will also receive a new coat of paint and we've had some discussions about making a small Conference Room out of one of the rooms on the east side of the building. As you can imagine, the brainstorming is fun ... and we trust that when the work is done ... the clean new look will give us all a renewed energy to move into the future and invite others to join us here in worshipping Christ and sharing his love with our community.

Shepherd of the Valley will be voting on a pastoral candidate, Reverent-elect Scott Benolkin, at a specially called meeting of the congregation on Sunday, August 9, 10:45 a.m. in Moline Hall. This is a meeting you won't want to miss! Please keep our candidate, his family and this congregation in your daily prayers as we seek God's guidance in this important decision before us!

God's blessings,

Pastor Marilyn Hanson

† 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, Don Abel, Neva Abel, 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), Mildred Anderson (mother of Cheryl Erdmann), Luella Larson (sister of Graydon & Ruth Anderson), Nancy Lund (sister-in-law of Bob & Patte Lund), Mary Larson (mother of Judi Fields), Robert Kibble (brother of Vee Kerley), and our homebound church members.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, August 9, 10:45 am in Moline Hall to meet our pastoral candidate. A ballot vote will be taken after the meet & greet to decide whether or not to extend a call to our candidate to be pastor of Shepherd of the Valley. This is a very important decision in the life of our church. Please plan to attend.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

August 16, 2015

at Shepherd of the Valley

11:00 am - 2:00 pm (Food served at 11:30)

Meat, lemonade, ice tea, & water provided

Bring a dish to pass (sign up in the Narthex)

Bring your own bag chair.

Games:

Bocce Ball

Water balloon volleyball (bring your own towel)

Bean Bag Toss

Sign up if you are interested in playing Bingo.

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.

RALMstock
in Capron

Music, Food, and Fellowship

A fundraiser for God's Work Our Hands
Food Packaging Event

11-2: Saturday 8.8.2015

445 East Grove Street, Capron
Rainsite: Capron Lions Club

A fundraiser for God's Work Our Hands
Food Packaging Event

For more info call Amy at 815-962-4279

Get a carwash too!
Bring your own meat.

Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries
815-962-4279
www.RALMmail@aol.com

**Employee Appreciation Day
for
Tabatha Sheider, Peggy Wenstrom & Lynn McWhirter
Sunday, August 2**

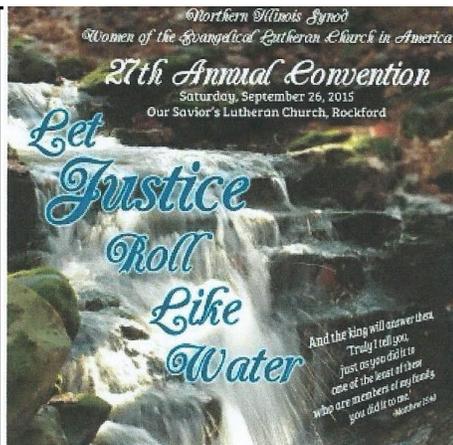
During our worship service on Sunday, August 2 we will be honoring Tabatha, Peggy & Lynn for their many years of faithful service to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

Tabatha Scheider has served as a Nursery Attendant for our young children every other week for the past fourteen years. Since our congregation no longer has young children who regularly use our church nursery, the Church Council decided not to staff the nursery as we enter the fall season. We hope Tabatha will be ready to return to her position as the need arises.

Peggy Wenstrom has served as a Nursery Attendant on alternating Sundays with Tabatha since 2009. She resigned from that position at the end of May this year.

Lynn McWhirter has served as our Choir Accompanist for the past three years. She resigned July 1, deciding it was time to join a congregation closer to where she and her husband Kevin live. They will both be greatly missed in the choir.

Come and join us in saying thanks to these three outstanding women who have served faithfully and well in their positions!



***And the king will answer them,
"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who
are members of my family, you did it to me."
Matthew 25:40***

The Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA's 27th Annual Convention will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rockford, on Saturday, September 26, 2015. The theme is "Let Justice Roll Like Water," The morning message will be by the Reverend Gary Erickson, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission. Download a registration form at www.nisynod.org/let-justice-roll-like-water.

Workshops:

- Presenter Jeannie Burke on nutrition with Representative of Bread for the World
- Interactive Bible lesson from Tanzania by Sharon Wadle
- India update from Esther Prabhaker and Tanzania update by Ron and Deb Gustafson
- Faith Rooted Efforts and Services for Survivors of Trafficking by Dawnya Underwood of Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services
- Walk the Labyrinth with Three Stations

Registration Fee: \$35.00

Registrations and Requests for Scholarships are due by August 26

Cost includes morning coffee w/coffee Cakes & fruit and lunch.

8:00 am – Coffee and Registration

9:00 am – Opening of Convention and Worship Service

Business Session: CWO Lois Bylund, Churchwide Representative Update

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

Your contribution statements for January - June 2015 are now available on the resource table in the Narthex. Please pick yours up.



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 bring your kids. It promises to be a great week for everyone!

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of June 30 , 2015 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B Yr td Actual	C & B Yr td Budget
Income	\$11,432.69	\$11,839.59	\$88,323.56	\$85,537.50
Expense	\$15,157.33	\$15,110.88	\$103,880.35	\$99,003.00
Inc/exp	-\$3,724.64	-\$3,271.29	-\$15,556.79	-\$13,465.50
plus offsets	\$602.87	\$550.00	\$7,072.65	\$1,850.00
plus interest	\$0.68	\$0.67	\$4.19	\$4.00
Net income	-\$3,121.09	-\$2,720.62	-\$8,479.95	-\$11,611.50

	6/30/15	5/31/15		
C&B balance				
	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld Yr TD Actual	Bld Yr TD Budget
Income	\$1,840.00	\$1,870.00	\$12,747.50	\$13,580.00
Expense	\$2,207.40	\$2,257.40	13,494.40	13,544.40
Net inc/exp	-\$367.40	-\$387.40	-\$746.90	\$35.60

	6/30/15	5/31/15
Building fund balance	\$19,067.95	\$19,435.35

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
 Also note: The second installment cost \$4600 and we have paid \$1444 of this bill as of 5/31/15.
 Balance on our mortgage - \$312820.97



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.

Attendance statistics are based on the 5 weeks

June 28 - July 26

Average weekly worship attendance: 73

Contributions are based on the 5 weeks

June 28 - July 26

Average weekly contributions:

Current & Benevolence - \$ 3,249.00

Building Fund - \$ 550.00

LIBRARY NEWS

There will be no library work day in August . Please continue to check out the books in the library. There's some really good ones.

SENIOR NEWS

Save Tuesday, September 29, for an "End of Summer" picnic. Details coming soon.

Confirmands and parents, please stop by the church office to pick up your confirmation pictures and gift.



During the months of August and September we will be collecting donations for Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

Items needed per kit:

- 4 70-sheet spiral notebooks of wide or college ruled paper
- 1 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 2½" eraser

There is a collection box in the Narthex for these items.

Donations are also needed to purchase backpacks (\$2.25 plus shipping), and to cover the cost of shipping the backpacks to Lutheran World Relief.

Katie's Choice Book Club - August

All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr

Marie Laure lives with her father in Paris within walking distance of the Museum of Natural History where he works as the master of the locks. When she is six, she goes blind, and her father builds her a model of their neighborhood, every house, every manhole, so she can memorize it with her fingers and navigate the real streets with her feet and cane. When the Germans occupy Paris in June of 1940, father and daughter flee to Saint-Malo on the Brittany coast. In another world in Germany, an orphan boy, Werner, grows up with his younger sister, Jutta, both enchanted by a crude radio Werner finds. He becomes a master at building and fixing radios, a talent that wins him a place at an elite and brutal military academy and, ultimately, makes him a highly specialized tracker of the Resistance. Werner travels through the heart of Hitler Youth to the far-flung outskirts of Russia, and finally into Saint-Malo, where his path converges with Marie-Laure's.

July Church Council Highlights

- Approved the minutes of the June 16 Council meeting & the July 12 Special Council meeting.
- Set Sunday, August 9, 2015, 10:45 a.m. as the date/time for a Special Meeting of Congregation for the purpose of voting on the recommendation of the Call Committee & Church Council to call a pastoral candidate.
- Approved a salary package for our pastoral candidate.
- Affirmed the appointments of Mary Alice Peterson & Peggy Wenstrom to serve on the Personnel Committee.
- Received, with regret, the resignation of Lynn McWhirter as our Choir Accompanist, effective July 1, 2015.
- Adopted, after further edits, a Child/Youth Protection Policy for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. This policy, required by our insurance provider, means we will now need to conduct background checks on all staff and volunteers who will be working with our children and youth.
- Reviewed our membership roster and placed on the "inactive list" those who have not contributed or participated in the life of the church for at least two years.
- Decided that we will not staff our nursery in the fall. However, plans are being made to install a speaker system in the nursery so that if a child becomes disruptive at worship, a parent can take a child to the nursery and still hear the worship service.



BREAD MINISTRY

Our bread delivery ministry is appreciated by our visitors.

If you would like to be part of this ministry please sign up on the attendance sheet. The bread, directions, and any other information will be supplied by the church office.

BENEFIT FOR KELSEY DOLAN

August 8, 2:00 - 8:00 pm

American Legion

1011 S. Alpine Rd.

Spaghetti Dinner(\$10 donation)

Raffle Baskets

50/50 Raffle

Silent Auction

Kelsey is a 25 year old "Super Mom" who put herself through nursing school which then landed her her dream job as a NICU nurse at Rockford Memorial Hospital...all while raising a family. Three little ones call her "Mom": Roman (7), Dominique (6), & Ario (2). Kelsey also works simultaneously at Walter Lawson Children's Home where she takes care of non-ambulatory individuals with severe and profound developmental disabilities – this will be her ninth year. On December 24, 2014, Kelsey was diagnosed with Typical Carcinoid Cancer in her left lung. This cancer has a very low metastasis and growth rate so on January 15, 2015, she bravely underwent surgery to remove the cancer. However, after pathology results came back, she quickly found out that the first diagnosis was incorrect and that the margins were positive for atumor meaning doctors would have to go back in to remove the rest of her lower lobe. Kelsey was then diagnosed with Intermediate Stage Neuroendocrine Carcinoma, also known as Atypical Carcinoid Cancer. At this time Kelsey & Daniel also found out they're expecting their fourth child. Kelsey then underwent a second surgery on May 8th at University of Iowa where they proceeded to remove the rest of the lower lobe of her lung. Surgery went well; however, she will need yearly scans the next 10 years to ensure no reoccurrence or growth in new places. Kelsey is one of the most unselfish individuals you'll ever meet and is as positive as ever throughout this journey. She will go above & beyond for anyone in need, and now it's our turn to go above and beyond for her.

100% of proceeds raised will help fund Kelsey's medical bills

Job Opening



With the recent resignation of Lynn McWhirter, we are seeking to hire a choir accompanist to begin September 1st. If interested in applying, please stop by the church office to pick up an application form.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who worked on sprucing up the outside of the church grounds. It looks great.

Thank you to the bulletin and newsletter assemblers: Ron Hunt, Linda DeGroff, Linda Longardner, Kay Brindle, Carol Dahl, and Sherry Scheider.

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.

Highlights of the ELCA Youth Gathering



Two weeks ago I attended the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI. During the gathering, its underlying theme was "Rise Up Together and Proclaim Justice." For the five days I was there, each day had a specific focus.

The first day was to welcome everyone to the Gathering. The second day was the Northern Illinois Synod day where we had a lesson about a paralyzed man (Mark 2) in which I had a speaking part. Afterwards, we had a worship service with Bishop Gary Wollersheim preaching.

The third day was community day where we were given the opportunity to stay in the Cobo Center. There were booths set up that pertained to youth ministry, faith and helping others. There were games and activities like zip lining and basketball. We could also go into the community and visit places like Greek town.

The fourth day was community service day where my group got to go to a neighborhood on the outer parts of Detroit and help clear out brush and overgrowth in vacant lots. We then went two streets over where we saw the stark difference in how clean and safe it looked. We did minor things like weeding there. The fifth and final day was the closing worship service of the gathering where Presiding Bishop Eaton preached.

Every evening there was a program at Ford Field which is where the Detroit Lions play. At these programs there were many speakers. Two of my favorites were Steve Jerbi and Natasha T. Miller. They spoke about important issues like immigration laws, feeding children, women's rights and how race is handled in America. There were also many performers like Rachel Kurtz and the Christian rock band Skillet. My favorite performance was that of Motown music which was founded in Detroit. The group had members from groups like the Temptations and the Capitols. All of the programs can now be watched on You Tube.

Altogether the Youth Gathering was a cool experience that I will remember for a long time. I hope that Shepherd of the Valley will be able to send kids to the 2018 Youth Gathering which will be held in Houston on June 27-July 1. I am grateful to the youth group at All Saints in Byron who let me go with them.

And thanks to all of you at Shepherd of the Valley for your prayers while I was there.

Meghan Hanson

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 August will be held on **Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m.** in Shepherd Hall. Women of all ages are welcome!

The August study, "God Loves a Cheerful Giver," will focus on some of the Apostle Paul's writings about giving to the congregations at Corinth and Rome. We'd love to have you join our group. Light refreshments will be served.



Handbells begin practice again on Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 6:00 pm. We are looking for more players. If you would have an interest, but would like to know more about it, please call Diane Kirkland at 815-621-3118, or speak to one of the handbell members at church. The only requirement is that you read at least the treble clef. We can teach you how to play the bells.



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)
2715 S. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61109
Phone: 815-399-5503 E-mail: svlcsecretary@att.net
On The Web: www.shep61.org.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 4261

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
Tabatha Scheider, Nursery Attendant
Anita Ralston, Custodian

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Summer Concert Series has started.

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

2 concerts remaining:

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.