

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 9

September 2015

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Dear friends in Christ,

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

So writes the author of the book of Ecclesiastes. The author first complains that nothing ever changes and then speaks of how life is constantly changing. He even provides us with a rather extensive list of all the changes that are evident. Here at Shepherd of the Valley, life is about to change as well. I will be completing my ministry among and with you at the end of August. Therefore, this will be my last "pastor's page" while serving as your interim pastor.

As you know, a congregational meeting was held on Sunday, August 9 to vote to extend a Letter of Call to Scott Benolkin, a recent Trinity Lutheran Seminary graduate, to serve as pastor at Shepherd of the Valley. The vote was very favorable and with God's leading, Reverend-elect Scott has accepted the Call to serve here. I am excited for this congregation as it prepares to embark on a new beginning.

That being said, I will certainly miss all of you. I will miss my daily trek to and from DeKalb each day. It has been such a blessing to serve in ministry with all of you. You welcomed me with open arms when I came in September of 2014 and walked alongside me and supported me throughout the many seasons of ministry here at Shepherd of the Valley. Together, we have accomplished some good things and we have also dreamed and visioned about the direction this congregation could head in the future. I believe that the future of Shepherd of the Valley is very bright. We have a capable staff in place here and an amazing group of lay volunteers to do the work of ministry in this congregation and throughout the community.

It is my hope and prayer that you will warmly welcome Reverend-elect Scott and his wife Monica and daughter Claire when they arrive. Pray for them in this time of transition in their lives as I am certain they are already praying for each of you. Take time to get to know them. Invite them into your hearts and homes. Offer to assist them in their transition in any way that you can.

Please accept my deepest gratitude for the joy of serving as your pastor during these months of transition in your congregation. Many of you have asked what I'll be doing next. I do not know the answer to that at this time. I do hope to continue to do interim work so I await my next appointment from the bishop. I know I will have at least a month or two off between assignments. In the meantime, my daughter Meghan, who attends worship regularly with me, will be starting her junior year at DeKalb High School. She plays piccolo in the marching band and also plays tennis. My older daughter Breanna will be moving to Kenosha, WI in early September to attend Carthage College, one of the colleges of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her major will be Graphic Design.

Please know that the Shepherd of the Valley congregation with all of its many wonderful members will always hold a very special place in my heart.

In thanksgiving for each of you,

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), Dylene Freburg, Don Abel, Neva Abel, Sherry Scheider, Dan Webber (friend of Bruce Solko), Marge Rhodes (friend of Don & Neva Abel), David Johnson (nephew of Dylene 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.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION



Confirmation orientation for all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and their parents will be held on Wednesday evening, **September 16 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM** in Shepherd Hall. Pastor Scott Benolkin will be on hand to introduce the Confirmation curriculum that will be used, as well as lay out his hopes and expectations for the program. You will have the opportunity to ask questions as well.

If you know of any students who are in 6th, 7th or 8th grade that do not have a church home, please invite them to attend Shepherd of the Valley's Confirmation program.

Guest Pastor

On Sunday, September 6, Pr. Frank Lay of Mt. Morris will be our guest pastor. He has recently completed an interim position at St. Paul's in Dixon.



We have received word that our pastoral candidate, Scott Benolkin, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. He will begin his ministry on Tuesday, September 8th.

A celebration of Pastor Marilyn's service to our congregation was held on August 30.

It is time to Pack Meals for Kids in Tanzania!!

September 19th at Cherryvale Mall



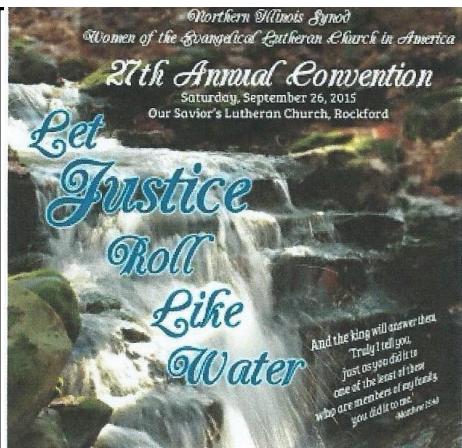
10:00am to 12:00 (noon)
Shepherd of the Valley raised \$825.00 (during Lent) to help "Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries" and "Kids Around the World" purchase ingredients for Mobile Food Meal Packs for kids to eat in Tanzania, Africa. It is now time to **Pack the Meals**. The whole family can participate and join other Rockford ELCA families to package meals in an assembly line style for this fun and educational event.

Help is also needed to take the materials (rice, packaging, etc) into the mall before the assembly of the meals can begin. Time for set up is 8:30am to 10:00am.

Sign up in the narthex or contact Kay Brindle (815-979-0490) for more information .



ADULT CHOIR BEGINS PRACTICE AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 2 AT 7:15 PM IN SHEPHERD HALL. WE'D LOVE TO HAVE SOME NEW VOICES. IF YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING THE CHOIR COME SEE HOW MUCH FUN WE HAVE.



*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



A new look ...

A transformation is taking place at the church. Painters and decorators have been hard at work. In Shepherd Hall, the old chalkboards and bulletin boards have been taken down and the room has been given a fresh coat of paint. The pastor's and the secretary's offices have also both been painted.

The three classrooms we use for Sunday School are in the process of receiving a fresh coat of paint as well. Everything should look fresh and clean for the start of the new school year. Stop by and take a look!

Special thanks to those who have painted so far ... **Don Wiese, Bob & Kris Tukker, Candy Wolf, Meghan Hanson, Ron Hunt & Rod Bjerke.** Thanks also to Chad Farris for keeping the workers stocked with paint and supplies. We appreciate the hard work of each one of you!

Thanks to our mowers ...

We rely on a number of volunteers to do the summer mowing at Shepherd of the Valley. It is a big job to keep the grounds looking good. A big thank you to all those who have been mowing this summer – **Rod Bjerke, David Flygare, Don Kilroy, Bob Lund, Charlie Mann, Bob Maness, Gary Zandotti, Dennis Scheider, Hal McCabe, Bob Tukker, Don Wiese, and Chad Farris.** Your efforts have not gone



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of July 31 , 2015 and Year to date totals				
	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B Yr td Actual	C & B Yr td Budget
Income	\$14,484.78	\$12,664.58	\$102,808.34	\$98,202.08
Expense	\$15,971.44	\$15,030.31	\$119,851.79	\$114,033.31
Inc/exp	-\$1,486.66	-\$2,365.73	-\$17,043.45	-\$15,831.23
plus offsets	\$1,489.90	\$470.00	\$8,562.55	\$2,320.00
plus interest	\$0.67	\$0.66	\$4.86	\$4.66
Net income	\$3.91	-\$1,895.07	-\$8,476.04	-\$13,506.57

	7/31/15	6/30/15
C&B balance	(\$6,168.14)	(\$6,210.05)

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld Yr TD Actual	Bld Yr TD Budget
Income	\$2,425.00	\$2,086.00	\$15,172.50	\$15,666.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	15,751.80	15,801.80
Net inc/exp	\$167.60	-\$171.40	-\$579.30	-\$135.80

	7/31/15	6/30/15
Building fund balance	\$19,235.55	\$19,067.95

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 7/31/15.
Balance on our mortgage - \$310,952.41.

Attendance statistics are based on the 4 weeks

August 2 - 23

Average weekly worship attendance: 92

Contributions are based on the 4 weeks

August 2 - 23

Average weekly contributions:

Current & Benevolence - \$ 3,249.00

Building Fund - \$ 550.00



During the months of August and September we are 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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ " eraser

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

Donations are also needed to purchase backpacks . Each backpack will cost approximately \$2.25 and we will need donations to cover the cost of shipping the backpacks to Lutheran World Relief.



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.



LIBRARY NEWS

There will be a library work day on Tuesday, September 9 beginning at 9:00 am.

Be sure to check out the great books we have in our library.

August Church Council Highlights

- Heard that our pastoral candidate, Scott Benolkin, is accepting the call to Shepherd of the Valley. His start date will be September 8, 2015.
- Affirmed that Pastor Marilyn's final Sunday with us will be August 30, 2015.
- Approved the hiring of Linda Longardner as our new choir accompanist.
- Reviewed the proposed schedule for the fall stewardship emphasis, with the target date for our Celebration & Commitment Sunday to be November 15.
- Discussed the logistics of implementing our newly adopted Child/Youth Protection Policy.
- Heard that our congregation will be hosting one of the Northern Illinois Synod's Fall Discipleship Gatherings on Thursday evening, September 17. We have been asked to provide a light supper prior to the event for all participants.
- Discussed the possibility of including 6th graders in our Confirmation program.
- Accepted the pre-school budget as presented for the 2015-2016 school year.
- Received word that Shepherd of the Valley is signed up to package meals for kids in Tanzania on Saturday, September 19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Cherry Valley Mall. The whole family can participate in this worthwhile event.
- Heard that the Social Ministry Committee is collecting school supplies through September for Lutheran World Relief.
- Approved minutes of the July council meeting and the August 9th special meeting, as well as reviewed the financial reports that were presented.



Senior News

Save Tuesday, September 29, for an "End of Summer" picnic. We'll meet in Shepherd Hall at noon. Watch the Kiosk for details.



College Bound Young Adults

It is that time of year when many of our young people go away to college. If you have a young adult who is leaving for college or attending a college in town, please send their address to the church, email our church secretary at svlcsecretary@att.net or drop it off in the church office. We send our college students encouraging cards and care packages throughout the year. We also include their names in the prayers during worship on the first Sunday of the month. Contact Kay Brindle (815-979-0490) for more information.

This fall, eleven young adults from Shepherd of the Valley are heading to college to further their education. Those who were able to attend worship on Sunday, August 16 were recognized. All eleven were prayed for by the congregation. We wish each of them God's richest blessings as they enter the classroom and pursue their studies this fall.

Margo Cortright

Rock Valley College

Max Cortright

Southern Illinois University

Brooke Dolan

Carthage College

Rachel Fox

University of Illinois

Nicholas Frisella

Northern Illinois University
College of Law

Breanna Hanson

Carthage College

Ariel Gillam

Western Illinois University

Kaitlyn Owens

Heartland Community College

Alexa Smalley

Ohio Northern University

Axandra Smalley

Valparaiso University

Melissa Trites

Drake University

Jr. High Night Owls

October 9-10,
2015



7:00 pm - 8:00 am
@LOMC

Join other Junior High Lutherans at LOMC in Oregon for a fun-filled night! We will have games, sports, food, fun AND a service project!



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 will be hosting the Discipleship Gathering for the North Conference on Thursday, September 17. This is a very important gathering for all leaders in the congregation.



Fall Discipleship Gatherings

Each fall, everyone in the Northern Illinois Synod is encouraged to attend one of the Discipleship Gatherings which are held in each of our eight geographical conferences.

The 2015 Gatherings will focus on church leadership and the election of a new synod bishop, which will happen for us in 2016 with the retirement of Bishop Wollersheim.

Registration will begin at 6:15 pm. A light supper will be served from 6:30-7 pm. Devotions will begin at 7 pm, followed by the program. The evening will end by 8:45 pm. Topics will include congregational leadership, the constitutional responsibilities as well as the joys and challenges of a bishop, and the election process for a bishop.



Find out more at nisynod.org/gatherings

SAVE THE DATES

September 26 - The 27th Annual NISWELCA Convention @ Our Savior's, Rockford.

September 26 - NIS Congregational Treasurers & Bookkeepers Workshop - @ Faith, Rochelle. 8:30—2:00 pm

September 27 - RALM Annual Meeting @ Grace, Loves Park.

October, 3 @ Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd a gathering of Lutheran Churches in the area discussing how we can help each other.

October 9-10 Junior High Night Owls at LOMC

October 9-10 - Vibrant faith - A two day training for church leaders of children, youth, and family ministries.

October 17 - St. Luke's Bottle Bank @ First Lutheran, Rockford, @ 3:00 pm.

October 25 - Reformation/Ordination Service @ St. Mark, Rockford. (Pastor Scott Benolkin will be ordained) @ 4:00 pm

November 6 - RALM Trivia Night @ Our Savior's, Rockford, @ 6:00 pm

Calling All Women ...

Give yourself a break ... come and join the monthly Bible study for women this fall!

The study is held once a month and in September will be held on **Thursday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m.** in Shepherd Hall. Women of all ages are welcome.

The fall Bible study theme is "Slow Faith," and is *Gather* magazine's three-month Bible study written by Rev. Liv Larson Andres, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA. Liv is married with two children and dreams some day of hosting a lectionary-based cooking show.

The first study in the series is titled, "Sabbath Keeping" and will focus on the third commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." The author's goal for this study is that it will "open us to seeing how all of us dearly need God to bring us into healthy rhythms in life." We'd love to have you join the group in September. Light refreshments will be served!

Note: For those planning to attend the study, please consider subscribing to the *Gather* magazine from which our study is taken each month. The magazine is filled with inspirational articles written by women for women that focus on the study theme for the month. The cost for a one-year subscription (10 issues) is \$15.00 and can be made by calling the *Gather* Subscription Order Center at 1-800-328-4648 or online at subscriptions@augsburgfortress.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 Pellatt, 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
Pattie Lund, Christian Education
Carol Dahl, Financial Secretary
Anita Ralston, Custodian



*Kick off for this year's Sunday school is
September 13 at 10:45 am for preschoolers
through 12th graders Please join us.*