

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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## PRAYING TOGETHER

What are your first memories of prayer? Raised in the church, I remember Sunday worship, of course, but “saying prayers” also brings to mind the simple rhyming prayers my parents taught me to say with them before eating dinner or going to bed. While the prayers themselves could hardly have been simpler, they gave me the sense that thanking God and asking for God’s help were important enough to do daily, together with others, even when it meant waiting a little longer to eat a delicious meal.

It’s no accident most of us learned to pray long before we learned very much about the one to whom we were praying. The church’s ancient adage, *lex orandi, lex credendi* (“the rule of praying is the rule of believing”) describes not only the many times in church history when theology was derived from worship practice but also the development of each of us in the faith. Baptized into a community of believers who preceded us, we learn from others the life of prayer and worship even as we learn more about the good news. Prayer and worship are essential parts of the faith we pass on. Similarly, author Diana Butler Bass proposes that joining the church begins rightly with “belonging” to a congregation, then “behaving” in certain ways as part of it, and only after that “believing” the content of the faith. This flips on its head the common notion of belief as prerequisite to church membership, but it seems to fit how most of us form relationships with the church.

Undoubtedly, however we come to faith, prayer is central to how we live in it together. As the great Lutheran theologian Regin Prenter put it, “Prayer is the most fundamental expression of faith.” It deepens our connections to the world for which we pray and to each other as we pray for and with each other. And Christian prayer, of course, involves the Triune God: we pray by the power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts (Galatians 4:6), to the Father, in the name of the Son, who is present both with the church at prayer and interceding for us at the right hand of the Father (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25).

And contrary to popular notions of prayer as an expression of individual spirituality, a Christian never prays alone (cf. Matthew 18:20). As we are united with Christ in one baptism and one church, so our prayers, even our most individual, personal prayers, are united in him as well. Prenter writes, “All Christian prayer is prayer in fellowship—also that prayer which is prayed in the closet. For the place where those who pray meet is in Jesus’ name.”

Of course, it’s one thing to profess unity and another to work at living in unity. As we approach the start of a new church year, I invite you to join me in finding new ways to encourage and build up our congregation’s vocation of prayer. Let’s spread the word about the Circle of Prayer and Prayer Squares, which have already shaped this congregation in wonderful ways. And let’s look for more opportunities to intentionally pray together, that we may grow closer in our relationships, learn from each other, and discern together the future God holds for us here at Shepherd of the Valley.

Pastor Scott

† IN OUR PRAYERS †

Nevagay Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Don Abel, Kevin Persaud, Don Gillingham, Dan Webber (friend of Bruce Solko), Marge Rhodes (friend of Don & Neva Abel), David Johnson (nephew of Dyvone Freburg), Mildred Anderson (mother of Cheryl Erdmann), Nancy Lund (sister-in-law of Bob & Patte Lund), Robert Kibble (brother of Vee Kerley), Pastor Paul Garchow (friend of the Lund family), Lisa Jones, Barb Rose, & Julaine Lofquist-Birch (Jerry Lofquist's sisters) Barb Schafer (friend of Phil & Susie Smalley), Carl Every (friend of Susie Smalley), and our homebound church members.

Please let either Pastor Scott or the church office know when a name can be removed from the prayer list).

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

If you have a prayer request that you would like the "Circle of Prayer" members to pray for, please let the church office know or mark it on your attendance sheet. If you would like to become a member of the circle of prayer, please let Judi in the church office know.

Senior News

SENIOR LUNCH
Tuesday,
November 17
at noon.

Please bring your own lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided. Following lunch, we will play Patriotic Bingo. Please sign up on the kiosk in the narthex.

Looking ahead--The Senior Christmas Potluck will be held on Tuesday, December 8 at Noon. Fourth grade children from Rockford Lutheran Academy will present the program. Please sign up on the Kiosk in the narthex.



Handbells:

We have lost more handbell players and really need more to play better pieces. Wouldn't you like to join our group.? You just have to have the basic knowledge of reading music. We'll teach you how to play. We practice every Wednesday evening from 6 - 7:15 pm, and we play in church the third Sunday of each month, plus Christmas Eve. Please consider joining us. We could use your help. Call Diane at 815-621-3118 or talk to any handbell member. Diane Kirkland



CLICK "SHARE"

Do you use Facebook? If so, have you liked our church Facebook page? Facebook has changed how posts are spread, we love your likes, but by clicking "share" you greatly influence our ability to have others see us and whatever we post that you want others to know about. The more people we get who like our page the more that circle of influence grows!



dreamstime.com

*Prelude to  
Christmas*



*Our third annual Prelude to Christmas will be held this year on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm. This is a program put on by the Worship and Music committee in which we decorate the sanctuary and Christmas tree, all while singing Christmas Carols.*

*This year, after we are finished decorating, we will go into Moline Hall for 'Coffee, Cocoa and Cookies' and for fellowship with Christmas music playing softly in the background.*

*Please look for the sign up poster in the narthex beginning Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. Ask a friend or neighbor if they would like to come and share in the celebration of the Christmas season. This has become a fun evening for our young and young at heart!*

**CROP Hunger Walk Results**

Thanks to congregations like ours the 2015 CROP Hunger Walk has reached \$35,000 so far. If you still have contributions for the Walk please give them to Pastor Scott or take them to JustGoods at 201 Seventh St. or mail them to:  
Jan Marlow  
3224 Ruth St.  
Rockford, IL 61103



**Tying Fleece Blankets**

Join us in tying fleece blankets on Sunday, December 6th in Moline Hall during fellowship after worship. All ages are welcome to help. The fleece blankets will be blessed on December 13<sup>th</sup> and given Rock House Kids. Rock House Kids an Outreach program that cares for at-risk children (ages 5 – 18) providing a safe, warm, and nurturing environment in the Rockford's inner City. Thank you to Dennis and Sherry Scheider as members of Thrivent Financial for leading the Thrivent Action Team "Fleece Blankets For Kids." Thrivent Financial gave Dennis and Sherry \$250.00 to purchase fleece material for this project.



For many of us the holidays are a joyful time to enjoy our blessings. The Food for the Needy Drive is one way to share those blessings with families who really need our assistance to have a happy holiday. This year, can you help? We will again be partnering with the Salvation Army's "Food for the Needy Drive" throughout the month of November. Food items most needed are **Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables** and **Canned Meats**. The barrel will be delivered the first week of November and collection will run through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please no glass jars or bottles. Thank you for your generosity.



**THRIVENT FINANCIAL®**

*Connecting faith & finances for good.®*

**Are you a Thrivent Member?**

Thrivent has two opportunities for members to contribute funds to Shepherd of the Valley and our ministries. One way is through Thrivent's new **Action Teams** program that can contribute \$250.00 toward the expenses of special events. Thrivent has given our church \$250.00 for the LWR School Bags and \$250.00 for the Warm Feet Ministry so far this year.

Another is through Thrivent members' allocation of **Choice dollars**. The Thrivent Choice Dollar program offers a way for eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes portions of its charitable grant funds each year including to Shepherd of the Valley.

If you are a Thrivent member through any of their product purchases, please contact Kay Brindle or Phil Smalley so we can start a list of Thrivent members who might be able to help through these programs. If you don't know how to access these programs, we can help you do that. It's easy.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Financial results as of September 30 2015

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B Yr td Actual	C & B Yr td Budget
Income	\$14,499.78	\$14,514.59	\$135,741.73	\$128,551.25
Expense	\$22,075.18	\$19,853.88	\$160,386.69	\$150,220.00
Inc/exp plus offsets	-\$7,575.40	-\$5,339.29	-\$24,644.96	-\$21,668.75
plus interest	\$3,155.31	\$530.00	\$13,848.28	\$3,570.00
Net income	\$0.63	\$0.67	\$6.17	\$6.00
Net income	-\$4,419.46	-\$4,808.62	-\$10,790.51	-\$18,092.75

C&B balance 9/30/15 8/31/15  
(\$8,482.61) (\$4,063.15)

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld Yr TD Actual	Bld Yr TD Budget
Income	\$2,437.50	\$2,055.00	\$20,010.00	\$20,186.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	20,266.60	20,316.60
Net inc/exp	\$180.10	-\$202.40	-\$256.60	-\$130.60

Building fund balance 9/30/15 8/31/15  
\$19,558.25 \$19,378.15

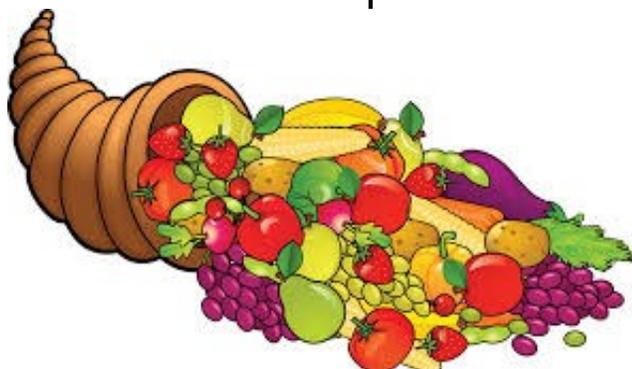
Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin  
 Also note: The second installment cost \$4600 and we have paid \$1444 of this bill as of 9/30/15.

Balance on our mortgage - \$309,111.42

Attendance statistics are based on the 4 weeks  
 September 27 - October 18  
 Average weekly worship attendance:: 76

Contributions are based on the 4 weeks  
 September 27 - October 18

Average weekly contributions:  
 Current & Benevolence - \$ 2,977.75  
 Building Fund - \$ 686.38



**Patte Armato Lund** accompanied by pianist Rise' Barker will be performing at **Alpine Lutheran Church**, 5001 Forest View Avenue, on Wednesday, November 11. The performance will be a "Salute to America" featuring patriotic songs to celebrate our armed forces and jazz songs. The evening will begin at 6:30 with refreshments in the church's gathering area followed by the performance in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend

**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.



**WARM FEET MISSION**

Warm Feet Mission is a Rockford based mission that was started in 2008 with the help of the church, family, and friends. We will be collecting socks through the middle of December. The socks will be donated to Rock House Kids, Rockford Rescue Mission, and Carpenter's Place. Socks will be available for purchase November 1 for \$1.00 per pair. If you would like to purchase your own socks, there will be a box in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you in advance for your support.  
Ann Honer

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Shepherd of the Valley's annual Commitment Sunday will be the third Sunday in November this year, November 15th. The Stewardship Committee will be hosting an expanded Fellowship Table followed by the opportunity to submit your financial planning commitment for our church in Moline Hall along with a congregational meeting to review our church's proposed constitution update. We hope that you will be able to join fellow members for this time of renewing our yearly commitments and constitutional changes.



This month is designated as "Picture Book Month" by the American Association of School Librarians. Our church library has a wonderful collection of picture books. Check one out today!

Read a book and add a pumpkin to our bulletin board. Include the name of the book and your name on the pumpkin.





## YOUTH

November 8 -03 - 6:00 pm Turkey Trot at St. Mark Lutheran Church. Middle/high school youth are welcome. Food, Fun, Friends, and a challenge!!! Join us.

SVLC Youth will be holding a **Movie & Pizza Night** on Friday, November 13th from 7-10pm in Moline Hall at SLVC. All 6th-12th graders are invited to bring friends for Pizza, Pop, Popcorn and Root Beer Floats while watching the movie "God's Not Dead" (PG). Please RSVP to Amy Kellogg at (815) 608-9589 by Wed, Nov 11th.

Save the Date - SVLC Youth is sponsoring a **"Parents' Night Out"** on Friday, December 11th from 6-10 PM at SVLC. An opportunity for parents to drop off children (6 months to 5th grade) for babysitting and dinner while giving them the chance to shop, dine out or relax for the evening. SVLC Youth are encouraged to volunteer to help supervise. More details to follow.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS



The 4 year old class will be going to Rosewood Care Center in costumes to sing some songs for the residents.

The 3 year old class will be singing songs in their costumes for parents and grandparents. They are all looking forward to Halloween.

## SAVE THE DATES

- **November 6** - RALM Trivia Night @ Our Savior's, Rockford, @ 6:00 pm
- **November 8** - 3:00 pm Pastor Scott's installation at Shepherd of the Valley
- **November 13** - 7-10:00 pm Youth Movie Night
- **November 13** - 5:00 pm Turkey Bingo @ Tabor Lutheran Church
- **November 13** - 7:00 pm Brewing Opera on Tap @ Katie's Cup
- **November 15** - Commitment Sunday and Congregational Meeting.

## Earn money for Shepherd of the Valley

The more you shop, the more you earn. 3 easy ways by using your Schnucks Grocery Card. Merchants deposit earned money directly to the church.

1. Swiping your Schnucks Card when purchasing Schnucks groceries.
2. Shopping online with your credit card and/or debit card. What could be better than shopping from the comfort of your own home while earning money for Shepherd of the Valley with each purchase! The eScrip Online Mall program has over 800 stores to choose from. Here is a small sampling business that will give money to Shepherd of the Valley through the eScrip's Online Mall:

Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Bergner's, Best Buy, ebay, Home Depot, Kohls, Old Navy, Target, and Shutterfly,

1. Dining out. Use your registered credit and/debit cards at participating restaurants across the country. Restaurants currently in Rockford are: Gene's Place, 4412 Manchester Dr. and Lone Star Steakhouse, 6690 E State St.

To participate *contact Kay Brindle.*



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 pm for the fall Bible study. "Slow Faith" 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 third study in the series is titled, "Tempo giusto" and will focus on the study of speed and slowness, examining how the Kingdom of God moves slowly, yet we are asked to move with ever greater speed. 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. 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@augsborgfortress.org](mailto:subscriptions@augsborgfortress.org).

Women of all ages are welcome.



The Installation of Pastor Scott Benolkin will be on Sunday, November 8, 2015, at 3:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Immediately following the service will be a potluck dinner in Moline Hall. Ham, roast beef, dinner rolls and beverages will be provided. We are asking our church members to participate in this special event for Shepherd of the Valley by contributing a dish to share for the potluck meal. Please sign up for a salad, potato/vegetable, or dessert at church or call the church office at 815-399-5503.





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

The Rev. Scott Benolkin, 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  
Anita Ralston, Custodian



The congregation of  
Shepherd of the valley  
Lutheran Church  
invites you to the  
installation of  
the Reverend Scott  
Benolkin.

2715 S. Mulford Rd.

Rockford, IL

Sunday, November 8th

3:00 pm

Dinner/Reception to follow in Moline Hall  
Rostered Leaders are invited to participate  
in the service by vesting and processing.  
The color for the day is green.