



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

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Leaving the Silo

Did you know that the first modern grain silo, which now appears as an iconic tall cylinder on every farm, was invented just over in McHenry County here in Illinois? The silo is one of those unassuming inventions that nonetheless makes a big difference. It's an efficient way to preserve grain until it is needed for milling or trade.

It was another rural Illinoisan, Phil S. Ensor, who in 1988 coined another use of the word "silo," describing organizations that get divided into groups rather than being connected "horizontally" one to another. "Silos" have been bemoaned in areas from corporate customer service to government ever since. The very efficiency and inertia of these "silos" can keep them in place even when the disadvantages outweigh the gains.

What does this have to do with the church? In this season of Easter, we will hear every week stories from Acts of how the first Christians came together, how they perceived God's mission to continue what Jesus had begun, how they got organized and got along (and what happened when they didn't), and how they adapted to changing circumstances. They are in many ways a mirror for us, and their passion, flexibility, and mutual love an inspiration to us. Their example challenges us, for instance, to rethink and talk about "silos" in our midst.

For example, many congregations are realizing that "siloing" ourselves into age groups—Sunday school, youth, young adults, seniors—can mean missed opportunities for fellowship and formation together in the faith. I'm excited about an upcoming chance to join this conversation on Saturday 16 April at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center. There faith formation expert Rich Melheim will lead a workshop about "cross-generational ministry," all of us being together and growing together irrespective of age. If you'd like to know more about this or would like to join a number of us from Shepherd of the Valley who will be part of this, please give me a call. (Note that Mr. Melheim will also be hosting a free "Pillow Fight and Comedy Night" at Rockford Lutheran for all families the evening before.)

Things like "silos" can change in a changing world because our risen Lord and our baptism into his death and resurrection do not change. The one who sowed the seed of faith in us wishes to use us, to take us out of silos and sow us among each other and among our neighbors for the sake of the world. In that light, the light of the risen Christ, even the changes we grieve are not reason for fear or despair; they are God our creator, Jesus our living Savior, at work in his field. Alleluia!

† IN OUR PRAYERS †

Nevagay Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Lois Johnson, Don & Neva Abel, Kevin Persaud, Mary Ann Hopper, Doris Kampfe, Roy Kloweit, Keith Talmadge, Lisa Jones, Mary Lofquist, Linda Severson, Ron Bowes, Linda DeGroff, Betty (Ferguson) Hart, Dan Webber (friend of Bruce Solko), David Johnson (nephew of Dyvone Freburg), Mildred Anderson (mother of Cheryl Erdmann), Robert Kibble (brother of Vee Kerley), Pastor Paul Garchow (friend of the Lund family), Barb Schafer (friend of Phil & Susie Smalley), Carl Every (friend of Susie Smalley), Rita Swenson (sister of Graydon Anderson), Donna Koster (friend of Nevagay Abel), Bunny Alexander (friend of Linda Severson & Janette Erickson), Rick Banister (brother-in-law of Bev & Rod Bjerke), Christina Hallman (Karl Anderson's daughter), Judi Fields, Lyle Solko, Stephanie Harris (Daughter-in-law of Kris & Bob Tukker), Gloria Krypel (friend of Bev & Rod Bjerke), Dave Carlson (neighbor of Scott and Sue Francis), Don Johnson (friend of Lyle and Phyllis Nelson) and our homebound church members.

LIBRARY NEWS



In honor of National Library Week we will have a Book Sale on Sundays, April 10 and April 17.

Thrivent will provide seed money to purchase books to be sold on those Sundays. Money received from the book sale will allow us to purchase more books and needed library supplies such as paper, ink, card pockets and other processing items. This sale will allow us to update and add to our collection. Items will include books and DVD's for children, youth and adults.

Handbells

Reminder to all hand bell players, practice begins again on Wednesday, March 30th. Any new people care to join us? Show up at 6 pm for practice.

Thanks,
Diane Kirkland
(Hand Bell Choir Director)

Rock House Kids

We are looking for Cooks, Bakers and Donations for Monday, April 4th. Sign up in the Narthex or see Kris Tukker.

Communion Supplies

Communion Supply List is on the Kiosk in the Narthex. Sign up to help provide wine, wafers, communion cups and/or candles for our worship services.



Senior Luncheon

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Watch for more information

KATIE'S CHOICE BOOK CLUB

"The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street"

by Susan Jane Gilman

Thursday, April 14th

10:00 am

Free and open to ALL!!

Katie's Cup

502 - 7th Street

Rockford, IL 61104



Social Ministry

**In April we will be collecting
new and gently used
dresses, jewelry, shoes, and
purses for Becca's Closet.**

The Rockford chapter of Becca's Closet serves as a boutique to collect and distribute formal wear free of charge to hundreds of young women each year from Rockford and surrounding communities who would not otherwise be able to attend proms, homecomings, and other special events. The Rockford chapter—overseen and operated by Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries since March of 2011—gives away an average of 550 dresses each year. The Closet is located at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 North Rockton Avenue, situated directly across from West Middle School.

The first Becca's Closet was created by Rebecca Kitman, a 16 year old Florida high school sophomore. Becca recognized that there were many girls in her community who were unable to attend their high school proms and homecomings because they could not afford to purchase formal wear for the dances. She launched a dress drive to provide prom dresses and accessories free of charge so that no girl would have to miss these special events. Becca was tragically killed in an automobile accident shortly after starting her "closet." Her friends and family continued her mission by forming a national "Becca's Closet" program, with 90 chapters to date. Rockford is the only city in the state of Illinois with an active Becca's Closet chapter.

March Newsletter

If you are looking for your March Newsletter, it is available on our church website, www.Shep61.org. We apologize to our members and friends for this inconvenience.

Watch for

Pentecost GERANIUMS sign up poster in the Narthex at the end of April.

Pentecost is May 15th

Coffee Hour Ministry

Coffee Hour is an important ministry at Shepherd of the Valley. We welcome newcomers, meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. Host the Coffee Hour in remembrance of a loved one, in celebration of a birthday or event, for family health or just out of the goodness of your heart. The coffee and hot water are ready to go when hosts arrive. Hosts bring simple sweet or savory snacks and juice or other beverages. Minimal set-up and clean-up are required. It couldn't be easier. Make it even more fun by finding a partner to co-host with you. We are grateful to our members and friends, who in the past, have graciously volunteered to host the coffee hour. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex or see Kay Brindle.



2016 Lenten Project is
"A Simple Water Well"

We have raised \$960.00
as of 3/20/2016

Our Goal is to raise \$2,500.00 from money at the Lenten Soup Suppers and Lenten worship offerings. To give a donation on Sundays, look for the water well. Over 1 billion people in the world lack access to safe drinking water, and approximately one-third of deaths in the developing world are caused by contaminated water. With each working well, 500 families gain access to safe clean water. Clean water is one of the most powerful ways to create change in the world. **With the installation of a water well, or spring box, as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water.** When a community gains access to clean water, everything changes. Communities are healthier. People can work, farm and go to school. And together, they build stronger economies and a future filled with hope.



SAVE THE DATES

Revitalizing Faith invites **ALL** collaborative parents & Kids to a

Free Family Fun Pillow Fight & Comedy Night

Friday, April 15, 2016
 at Rockford Lutheran School
 5:30-8:30pm

There will be stand-up comedy, practical parenting advice, and faith formation. It'll be 100% FUN or your money back! (Oh yeah. It's free.)

BRING A PILLOW!

lomc.org 1834 S IL Rt 2 Oregon, IL 815-732-2220 Find out more at lomc.org

Register at ls.gd/pillowfight or scan the code below

Revitalizing Faith invites **YOU** to collaborative

Cross+Gen Training with Rich Melheim

Saturday, April 16
 Cross-Generational Training for Pastors, youth workers, Christian educators, and volunteers including **FAITH5** and Cross+Gen Faith Formation at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Rich shares different models for moving toward Cross+Gen faith formation and step-by-step strategies to involve parents in family ministry from cradle to graduation.

Schedule:
 8am breakfast
 8:30am Faith Five
 noon Lunch
 1-5pm Cross+Gen

Only \$15/person! Meals included!

lomc.org 1834 S IL Rt 2 Oregon, IL 815-732-2220 find out more at lomc.org

Register at ls.gd/youthleaders or scan the code above



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On The Web: www.shep61.org.
Office Hours, Monday—Thursday, 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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Vice-President - Kay Brindle
Secretary - Vicki Nitz
Treasurer - Phil Smalley

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Kay Brindle, Outreach
Janette Erickson, Fellowship
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Amy Kellogg, Youth Ministry
Robert Maness, Finance
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Laurie Pellant, Social Ministry
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Bruce Solko, Personnel
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Phil Smalley, Treasurer
Susie Smalley, Music Director
Diane Kirkland, Bell Director
Patte Lund, Christian Education.
Carol Dahl, Financial Secretary
Anita Ralston, Custodian



Save the Date

June 20-24

8:30-11:30 a.m.

VBS "The Quest for Christ"

a medieval themed week of fun.

Ages 4- 11 (12 and older are helpers)

\$10.00 for the first child \$5.00 for each
additional sibling.

