



# SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

**Volume 58 Issue 5**

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In the coming weeks we'll be "resurrecting" Shepherd of the Valley's "Time and Talents" booklets, offering a fresh invitation to try new things together. Thinking of the many ways we can serve in worship and service, I'm reminded that the Apostle Paul was obsessed with diversity. I am not even talking about the kind of "diversity" you might think of in Galatians 3:28, where Paul writes, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Certainly Paul, like Jesus, sees the reign of God as removing all barriers that divide us. But I am thinking instead of all of those times when for Paul our individual differences are the church's great strength.

Next to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, nothing seems more central to Paul than the way God has gifted Christ's body, the church. To the Romans he writes, "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness" (Rom 12:5-8). To the Ephesians Paul proclaims "But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. . . . The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ . . ." (Eph 4:7, 11-12). Most famously of all, to the Corinthians Paul devotes all of what we know as 1 Corinthians 12 to a beautiful explanation of how, in the body of Christ, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Cor 12:4). To Paul it is essential that as each congregation lives together proclaiming Christ crucified and risen, it also recognizes, celebrates, and most of all *makes use of* the diversity of gifts that God has given it.

How to do that, of course, is an inexhaustible topic, but perhaps it starts with acknowledging that just as each one of us is a unique child of God, called by name in our baptisms, each one of us has a unique set of gifts that the church needs, yes, needs. And we have a duty to each other to help each other understand our gifts. When you perceive that someone has a particular gift, let them know what you see!

Perceiving and using gifts is challenging not only because each of us is unique, but because God doesn't just give us an unchanging set of gifts at birth. Even when we find ourselves losing gifts and abilities we used to rely on, we have gifts God calls us to use. It was a gift for me to know a leader in my home congregation named Dorothy. As Dorothy, who had organized and done so much in the church, found herself progressively losing ability and mobility, she reinvented herself, finding things she could do with her gifts at that time and "disciplining" new people how to do the things she used to do. Even when driving became a problem, she simply volunteered to make more phone calls. One ability Dorothy never lost was the ability to lead by example!

What I have found most amazing in the church is how even our experiences of pain and loss can also bring us new gifts. We tend to think of the emotional scars and worst experiences of our lives as impediments to success or even as things to be ashamed of. But especially in the church, the opposite is often true: the pain and suffering you have experienced can help you listen for other's feelings in the midst of suffering. Because of your unique experiences, you may be just the listener another person needs. As people reborn through the suffering of our Savior Jesus Christ, we have assurance not only that our trials in life are temporary, but also that the power of God may show through us even—especially—in our weakness (cf. 2 Cor 12:8-9).

**† IN OUR PRAYERS †**

. Nevagay Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Ron Bowes, Lois Johnson, Don Abel, Kevin Persaud, Mary Ann Hopper, Doris Kampfe, Roy Kloweit, Lisa Jones, Keith Talmadge, Mary Lofquist, Linda Severson, Linda DeGroff, Stu Hoffman, The Lund family, 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), Rick Banister (brother-in-law of Bev & Rod Bjerke), Lyle Solko, Stephanie Harris (Daughter-in-law of Kris & Bob Tukker), Dave Carlson (neighbor of Scott & Sue Francis), Don Johnson (friend of Lyle & Phyllis Nelson), Pastor Lynn Morrow and our homebound church members.

(Please review this list and let either Pastor Scott or the church office know when a name can be removed).



**Senior News**

MAY SENIOR LUNCHEON-Tuesday May 24 at 11:30 a.m.

Come and join your friends at Graystone Grill, the new restaurant at Aldeen Golf Course. The spring flowers should be beautiful. Friends are most welcome. Please sign up on the kiosk in the narthex.

**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.



**Library News**

A big "THANK YOU" to all those who purchased books/CD's at our book sale. Many of the items have been processed and are ready for you

to check out.

They are-

**Adult Fiction**

- The Photograph, Beverly Lewis
- Streams of Mercy, Lauraine Snelling
- The Miracle at the Higher Grounds Cafe,  
Max Lucado

**Non-Fiction**

- Killing Jesus, Bill O'Reilly
- The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis
- City of Thorns (Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp), Ben Lawlence

**Young Adult**

- Four (Prequel of Divergent Collection)
- Middle School Reader-House of Robots,  
James Patterson

**Children**

- Miracle Man, John Hendrix
- I'll Never Let You Go, Smriti Prasadam-Halls

**Stop by on Sunday morning and check us out.**

The next library work day is Tuesday, May 10 at 9:00 am.

**Rock House Kids**

Thanks from Rock House Kids!  
Rock House was very appreciative to the generous cooks, bakers and donors. We delivered enough food to serve the kids hot meals for three nights!

### Shepherd of the Valley's Rummage Sale.

The Church Council has heard from several church members that they are wondering if there will be a rummage sale this year. If you are willing to take charge of this endeavor, please speak to Pastor Scott or a council member.



Social Ministry

We are currently selling MELD cards, which are on sale in the Narthex through May 8th. The Mother's Day cards are \$5.00 each and the note cards (a package of 8 each featuring a different scene with envelopes included) are \$10.00. The artwork is by local artist Tom Heflin. All proceeds benefit MELD Programs for young families in our community.

Social Ministry and Outreach will be collecting items in May and June for The Northern Illinois Synod Social Ministry Committee, which will be brought to the Synod Assembly, June 16-18. Items to be collected include toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant and feminine hygiene products. Items collected will be distributed to food pantries through each of the conferences in the synod.

*Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, ...' 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 25:37,40)



### Geraniums

Order your geraniums today. The sign up board is in the Narthex. Cost is \$5.00 each and orders are due by May 8.

### 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.

### MEMORY GARDEN

The Garden needs a little TLC with spring clean up and later plantings. Call Candy Wolf or Carol Dahl if you would like to help.

Happy  Mother's Day





**2016 Lenten Project is**  
**"A Simple Water Well"**

**We have raised \$1,422.00**  
**as of 4/20/2016**

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**

***Katie's Choice***  
***Book Club***

Thursday  
**May 12**  
 10 am

**The Cuckoo's Calling**  
**By Robert Galbraith**  
**(pseudonym for J.K. Rowling)**

After losing his leg to a land mine in Afghanistan, Cormoran Strike is barely scraping by as a private investigator. Strike is down to one client, and creditors are calling. He has also just broken up with his longtime girlfriend and is living in his office.

Then John Bristow walks through his door with an amazing story: His sister, the legendary supermodel Lula Landry, known to her friends as the Cuckoo, famously fell to her death a few months earlier. The police ruled it a suicide, but John refuses to believe it. The case plunges Strike into the world of multimillionaire beauties, rock-star boyfriends, and desperate designers, and it introduces him to every variety of pleasure, enticement, seduction, and delusion known to man.

**Summer Concert Series**

- June 8 - Second City Chorus
- June 22 - River City Sound
- July 20 - Tom Wilson/Acoustic Juice
- August 3 - Alleluia Quartet
- August 17 - Patte Lund

Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Concerts start at 7:00 pm.

A free will offering will be taken.

**Piping Hot!**

You're invited to a fun-draising evening at  
 Katie's Cup  
 featuring  
 a smooth blend of coffee and other beverages,  
 appetizers, luscious little desserts,  
 and exciting musical offerings throughout the  
 evening.

**Friday, June 3**

6:30 - 9:30 pm

\$25 donation



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).  
Office Hours, Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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## **RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED**

### **Officers of the Congregation**

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

### **Congregation Council**

Carol Bailey, Christian Education  
Kay Brindle, Outreach  
Janette Erickson, Fellowship  
Chad Farris, Property  
Amy Kellogg, Youth Ministry  
Robert Maness, Finance  
Vicki Nitz, Preschool  
Laurie Pellant, Social Ministry  
Sherry Scheider, Worship/Music  
Bruce Solko, Personnel  
John Wolf, Stewardship

### **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



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.

