

## “Doing” Relationship

Is there anything more important in life than our relationships? Among family and friends we become who we are and vice versa. Other relationships matter too: to the people we work with in common purpose; to the body of Christ, of course, in our congregation and in all places; to our fellow Americans (and Illinoisans and Rockfordians) as citizens; to our fellow human beings around the world, created in God's image; to all of our fellow creatures great and small. You might even say that without all of our relationships, there wouldn't be any context to delineate who “you” are in the first place.

Of course, a relationship isn't just something you have or someone you are, it's also something you *do*. When you pick up the phone to talk to a friend or family member, you're enacting, renewing, reinforcing your relationship with that person. When you vote and work in other ways for the well-being of your city, state, nation, or planet, that's enacting your relationship with your fellow citizens (we call it “being” a good citizen, but you could just as well call it “doing citizenship”). I may always *be* a child, spouse, parent, sibling, citizen, Christian, etc., but *being* in those relationships implies putting them into action in concrete ways, too.

What about our relationship with God? How do we put that relationship into action? Note that we don't *establish* our relationship with God. God has created us and redeemed us through Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection. In your baptism, the Holy Spirit came to dwell in you, to connect you with Christ and his benefits. The good news is always that God is in relationship with us despite sin's alienation and rebellion.

But having heard that good news, how do we live out that relationship? First we give ourselves the opportunity to be reminded of that relationship—of God's love—as often as possible. For Lutherans, that begins with weekly hearing the gospel preached and receiving the sacraments. Subsequently, we take the opportunity to read the Holy Scriptures.

And then there's prayer. Prayer is *doing* our relationship with God in many ways. The most obvious way is by petitioning and praising God: just as a child fundamentally depends on her parent, so we are fundamentally reinforcing our relationship with God when we share with God our heart's desires for ourselves and the world.

But prayer can also recall who *God* is. Look at the Lord's Prayer, for instance. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, on one level we are asking God for a series of things, but each of those things is also something God has promised already. We pray for God's kingdom to come knowing that in Christ it has already drawn near; we pray for our daily bread knowing that God has promised to sustain us throughout our lives; we pray for forgiveness knowing that God forgives us for Christ's sake and commands us to forgive others. In this way prayer is not just a laundry list of petitions, but also a recounting of God's promises, the promises that form our relationship with God and give us life (one of those promises being the Holy Spirit who causes us to pray in the first place). To pray is to “do” relationship with God. What a gift to be able to do it anytime, anywhere!

### † IN OUR PRAYERS †

Nevagay Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Bob Fritz, Don Abel, Kevin Persaud, Mary Ann Hopper, Doris Kampfe, Roy Kloweit, Lisa Jones, Keith Talmadge, Mary Lofquist, Stu Hoffman, The Lund family, Dyvone Freburg, 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), Lyle Solko, Don Johnson (friend of Lyle & Phyllis Nelson), Pastor Nord Swanstrom. Petie (Janet Hermanson's sister-in-law), Janet Hermanson's daughter, John Schrouck (friend of Don & Neva Abel, and Hugh & Linda DeGross), Courtney Stevens (neighbor of Don & Neva Abel's), Chuck (friend of Rhoda Fox's, Vanna Turner (sister of Graydon Anderson), 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).

### SAVE THE DATES

- August 2 - National Night Out, Keye-Mallquist Park
- August 3 - Summer Concert - Alleluia Quartet
- August 4 - Bonfire Worship @ Christ, Belvidere
- August 7 - 2:00-4:00 Ice Cream Social @ Our Masters Center
- August 8-13 Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans
- August 10 - Salem's Coin Boil @ Sundstrand Park, Belvidere
- August 11 - Katie's Choice book Club @ Katie's Cup
- August 13 - 2:00-6:00 Unity Picnic @ Camp Winnebago
- August 17 - Summer Concert - Patte Lund
- August 20 - Open house in Moline Hall for Myrna Hagemann's birthday
- August 21 - Music & Worship Workshop with Jonathan Rundman at Our Savior's Lutheran Church
- September 17 - WELCA Annual Convention @ Immanuel, Yorkville
- September 27 - 10:00 am Installation of Bishop Jeff Clements. @ First Lutheran  
Reception to follow @ OSLC
- October 16 - CROP Walk
- October 30 - Trunk or Treat



### ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14TH AT  
SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX  
TO BRING A DISH TO PASS**

**FRIED CHICKEN, HOT DOGS AND BRATS,  
LEMONADE, WATER & PAPER PRODUCTS  
PROVIDED**



*Come celebrate Myrna Hagemann's 80th  
birthday at an Open House in Moline Hall  
August 20th from 2 - 4 pm.*



Social Ministry will be making fleece blankets during the month of August. We invite all members of our congregation to assist us by taking home blankets to cut and/or tie. We will have prepared blankets ready to be tied in Moline Hall during our coffee hour after service each Sunday in August. The blankets will be delivered to Rock House Kids in September.

We are also collecting money to purchase fleece materials. \$15 will purchase enough material for the small blankets or \$20 will purchase enough material for the large blankets.



Shepherd of the Valley Preschool will be starting soon. The 3 year olds return on Tuesday, September 6 and the 4 year olds return on Wednesday, September 7.

We are looking forward to another GREAT school year.



### Church Directory

Our church council has determined it is time for a new pictorial church directory. Anyone interested in being part of the Church Directory Committee, please contact Pastor Scott for more information.

## Property and Grounds Repairs and Maintenance

We are in need of volunteers to help with basic work, maintenance and repairs.

Please check the box(s) of the task you would like to help with or would like more information about and someone on the property committee will be in contact with you.

- ◇ (PRIORITY) Carpet cleaning in the preschool room and adjacent corridor with stairs, this cleaning is completed prior to the start of the new school year during the summer break.
- ◇ Replace furnace filters: Four filters in NE basement under restrooms changed annually. Three filters in SE basement changed change every 3 months.
- ◇ Pull weeds in rock areas around the building and clean out twigs/leaves including the fenced in area on the West side of the building.
- ◇ Pull weeds and clean fenced-in areas in the courtyard.
- ◇ Paint the NE exterior door leading to the courtyard, use oil based paint.
- ◇ Update all handicap parking signs. (Completed)
- ◇ Repaint yellow on handicap sign posts.
- ◇ Paint the exterior windows including courtyard windows.
- ◇ Clean outside of windows including courtyard windows.
- ◇ Clean gutters and downspouts.
- ◇ completed prior to the start of the new school year during the summer break.
- ◇ Replace the concrete cap on the septic tank.
- ◇ Clean up sticks behind the dumpster and haul away.
- ◇ Install cover plate over wall opening next to new TV in Moline hall.
- ◇ Vacuum the smoke detectors covers in the new addition including the basement.
- ◇ Clean organize the basement of the new addition, new shelving may be needed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUTH CONNECT**

# BONFIRE WORSHIP

ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE AGED YOUNG ADULTS ARE INVITED! FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

**DATES: JUNE 23 | JULY 14 | AUGUST 4**

**FROM: 7PM - 9PM**

The Bonfire is an informal young adult worship experience, held in the labyrinth at Christ Lutheran Church. Each month highlights different worship leaders from across the Rockford area, including messages from your friends and classmates about the challenges, blessings, and gifts of being a young Christian today.

**Join us for this fun and relaxed summer worship!**

Christ Lutheran  
WHERE FAITH MAKES FAMILY

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of June 30, 2016 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$12,818.44	\$11,916.66	\$94,233.38	\$91,834.99
Expense	\$17,932.13	\$16,460.87	\$99,283.77	\$95,009.17
Inc/exp	-\$5,113.69	-\$4,544.21	-\$5,050.39	-\$3,174.18
plus offsets	\$2,426.25	\$1,070.00	\$10,057.71	\$3,270.00
plus interest	\$0.68	\$0.66	\$3.92	\$4.00
Net income	-\$2,686.76	-\$3,473.55	\$5,011.24	\$99.82

	6/30/16	5/31/16
C&B balance	\$1,510.74	\$4,197.50

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld YTD Actual	Bld YTD Budget
Income	\$1,680.00	\$2,289.00	\$12,510.50	\$13,569.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$13,534.40	\$13,544.40
Net inc/exp	-\$577.40	\$31.60	-\$1,023.90	\$24.60

	6/30/16	5/31/16
Building fund balance	\$19,537.15	\$20,114.55

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin  
 Also note: The second installment cost \$4600 and we have paid \$1504 of this bill as of 6/30/2016  
 Balance on our mortgage - \$300411.64

Attendance statistics average are based on the 4 weeks  
 July 3 - July 24:  
 Average attendance - 74

Contributions average are based on the 4 weeks  
 June 26 - July 17:  
 Average weekly contributions:  
 Current & Benevolence - \$ 12,933  
 Building Fund - \$ 1,780

**Ice Cream Social**

Join our neighbors at Our Master's Center at Christ United Methodist Church for an Ice Cram Social on Sunday, August 7th from 2 - 4 pm. Treat will be provided by Kroozin' Kooler.

- Salem Lutheran's Coin Boil, August 10, 6:30 pm @ Sundstrand Park, Belvidere;** \$6 donation. Along with delicious sweet corn, there will be ham, tomatoes, French bread, beverages and great fellowship.
- Katie's Choice Book Club, August 11. 10am @ Katie's Cup;** "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger
- National Night Out, August 2, 5:00 - 8:00 @ Keye-Mallquist Park, 1702 11th St.**

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** when the new bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod, **The Rev. Jeffrey Clements** will be installed at First Lutheran Church in Rockford. The service will be at 10 am, followed by a reception at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

**Parking** for the event and a **reception** after the service will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 3300 Rural Street, Rockford, IL (815-399-0531). Shuttles will transport guests to and from the service at First. **Handicap parking** will be available in the parking lot at First Lutheran Church, 225 S. Third St. This will be a very important event for our synod, and it is hoped that many from the synod will be able to be a part of this historical event. Therefore please save this date and make plans to attend.



Jonathan  
Rundman

Music & Worship  
**WORKSHOP**  
Sunday, August 21  
2:30-5:30 PM  
Our Savior's/Rockford  
Free & open to all musicians, pastors,  
sound techs & lay leaders

A Free Workshop with Jonathan Rundman – Lutheran singer/songwriter and liturgical composer Sunday, August 21, 2:30 - 5:30 – Our Savior's (Rockford)

Get fresh perspectives on folk/rock worship music, revitalizing liturgy, effective use of technology and encouraging congregational singing! Pastor, musician, sound tech or lay leader — bring your instrument, your voice, your curiosity and your enthusiasm for energizing worship to this free workshop.

“Rundman has built an unlikely career as a scruffy Lutheran rocker, tackling scripture and spirituality with finesse that transcends the vapid Christian rock scene.” — The Christian Century

“Jonathan Rundman has developed a very specific niche: indie but earnest instead of ironic; Christian but expansive; devout but terribly smart; Evangelical but respectful of others' traditions. He is clever without being precious.” — Anthony Easton, Heartland Liturgy

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 3300 Rural Street Rockford, IL 61107 815.399.0531  
OSLCrockford.com



### Trunk and treat

Shepherd of the Valley wants to do Trunk and Treat for members and the surrounding community again. If you are interested in being on the Trunk & Treat committee please contact Janette Erickson from the Fellowship committee. The first time we held this event was 2 years ago and it was successful. Lets make it bigger and better in 2016. The Trunk and Treat event is schedule for Sunday October 30.

2ND QUARTER STATEMENTS  
AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

### ELCA members to gather in New Orleans for 2016 Churchwide Assembly

CHICAGO (*July 13, 2016*) – Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will gather Aug. 8-13 in assembly at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Meeting under the theme **“Freed and Renewed in Christ: 500 Years of God’s Grace in Action,”** the assembly’s business will include preparations for observing the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

The assembly – the highest legislative body of the ELCA – will be comprised of 980 voting members serving on behalf of the 3.7 million members of the ELCA. The ELCA’s 65 synods elect voting members to serve at churchwide assemblies.

“Churchwide assemblies are a combination of legislative sessions, worship, Bible study, theological reflection and fellowship,” said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop. “We deliberate and discuss and vote. Some would say that it is a messy way to do the work of the church, but [it] is a wonderfully open process.”

As part of planning for the Reformation observance, non-voting members are invited to attend the Grace Gathering, Aug. 10-13. Participants will experience the assembly proceedings and also prepare for 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary observances within their congregations and synods. “God’s Grace in Action Afternoon” will offer experiential learning on several topics to inspire participants to take action back home, including: Music, Justice and Peace; From the Doctrine of Discovery to #BlackLivesMatter; Human Trafficking; Care of Creation; and Food Security.

“Often members of congregations are not aware of the scope of the wider church,” said Eaton. The Grace Gathering will give even more of our people the opportunity to see the whole church at work. We can do a lot more together than we can do separately. And, close to 2,000 Lutherans singing is a heavenly sound.”

Key action items at the assembly include:

- Electing an ELCA vice president. Carlos Peña, the current vice president, is stepping down after serving for 13 years.
- Considering the Word and Service task force recommendations that the three rosters of church lay leadership be unified into a single body known as deacons.
- Voting on the recommendations for the ELCA Strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO).
- Considering the “Declaration on the Way,” a document that draws on 50 years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in preparation for the Reformation anniversary.

Voting members will also receive:

- An update on the ELCA’s first major fundraising campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Approved by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the campaign seeks to raise \$198 million to help extend the ministries of this church.
- A report from the presiding bishop and officers of the ELCA.
- Reports on ELCA churchwide ministries, including ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response.
- Proposals (known as memorials) from the ELCA’s 65 synods, which include: repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; deepening of relationships with historic black churches; a responsible energy future; supporting military personnel, veterans and their families; and peace with justice in the Holy Land.
- Budget proposals for 2017 to 2019.
- Greetings from ecumenical guests, global partners and others.

Along with voting members, hundreds more will participate in the assembly as ELCA congregational observers, special ecumenical guests and global leaders, presidents of the eight ELCA seminaries and 26 college and universities, advisory and resource members, staff and others.

ELCA members and others not attending the assembly can access live video of plenary sessions at [ELCA.org/ChurchwideAssembly](http://ELCA.org/ChurchwideAssembly).

**Rockford Christian Unity Group**  
**CORDIALLY INVITES YOU**  
**Second Annual Unity Picnic**  
**FREE FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL**



**Saturday, August 13, 2016 ~ 2:00 p.m. ~ 6:00 p.m.**

**HOST: ROCKFORD YMCA AT CAMP WINNEBAGO**

**MISSION**

**Promote relationships among  
 people from all ethnic  
 backgrounds in the Christian  
 Community within the Rockford  
 Region.**

**Archery**

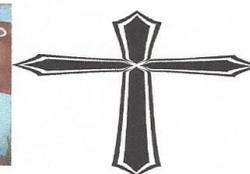
**Bingo/Card games (adults)**

**Bean Bag**

**Food**

**Mobile computer lab**

**Wall Climbing**



This is a joint event of the Rockford Ministers Fellowship, the Evangelical Ministers Fellowship and the Greater Rockford Clergy Association.

It will be **an afternoon jam-packed with all kinds of free fun & food, and most importantly the chance to get to know some of our fellow Christians with whom we don't often interact.** There will be specific activities for children and seniors as well.

The praise team of St. Luke's Missionary Baptist is organizing an **all-church praise choir**. If interested in joining this choir get details from the church office.



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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Rockford, IL  
Permit No. 4261

**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  
Patte Lund, Christian Education.  
Carol Dahl, Financial Secretary  
Anita Ralston, Custodian

## *Summer Concert Series 2016*

*Aug. 3 - Alleluia Quartet*

*Aug. 17 - Patte Lund*



*Concerts are free and begin at 7pm*

*Doors open at 6:30pm*

*(there will be a free will offering)*

*Cookies and Coffee will be served after the concert*