

## You Are Christ's Steward!

Sunday 20 November is this year's Stewardship Sunday, when we'll each have a chance to pledge our commitment to God's mission for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. And so it's a good time to ask, what is stewardship? Stewardship, of course, is what a steward does. But then what is a steward?

Some biblical images are much more obvious to us than that of a steward. For example, this year November 20 also happens to be Christ the King Sunday, and from an early age we all know what a king is, even though we don't have one and, in the United States, never have. From King David to Christ himself, the Bible (and fairy tales) give plenty of examples. Likewise, I've heard people argue that calling Jesus "Lord" doesn't resonate with people of today, but I'd bet most of us would do pretty well explaining what "Lord" means: that Jesus is in charge of us as Christians, directing our lives and taking care of us as we live in obedience and loyalty to him.

So Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but do any *stewards* in the Bible come immediately to mind? And without examples, what does our concept of stewardship fall back on? Maybe it's about money (that's why Stewardship Sunday comes right before the new budget year). Or maybe it's about taking care of stuff; our liturgy addresses God about "the care and redemption of all that you have made" and uses the phrase "Stewardship of Creation."

But what about finding a clear example of a steward? Actually, a lot of us saw someone with the title "Steward" on a movie screen a few years (okay, 13 to 15 years!) ago, when *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy came out. In J. R. R. Tolkien's fictional world it was a big deal that Denethor, the man running things in the Kingdom of Gondor, was not a king but a *steward*. After all, that's why the third movie was titled *Return of the King*. The Steward of Gondor's job was to administer—rule—the kingdom until the King of Gondor returned.

So, finally, we have an example of what a steward does: take care of the kingdom on behalf of the king. But that's a lot more than putting your tithes and offerings into the plate on Sunday, isn't it? Our Lord entrusts us not just with money and not just with "stuff," as though stewardship were like returning library books the way you received them. Rather, you have been handed the keys to the kingdom until Christ returns, entrusted not just with "stuff" but with people—relationships—and with all that Christ cares about, like spreading the good news of God's reconciliation with us (see 2 Corinthians 5:16–21). As you pray about your pledge to God for next year, keep in mind that your checkbook is only one part of the awesome job of being Christ's Steward.

## † IN OUR PRAYERS †



Nevagay Abel, Don Abel, Kelsey Dolan, LaVon Downing, Bob Fritz, Stu Hoffman, Lisa Jones, Doris Kampfe, Roy Kloweit, The Lund family, Kevin Persaud, Carline Talmadge, Ruby Watson, 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), Lyle Solko, Don Johnson (friend of Lyle & Phyllis Nelson), Cortney Stevens (neighbor of Don & Neva Abel), Kristin Haren (daughter of Adolph Wacker), Golda (friend of Bev & Adolph Wacker), Janet (Cheryl Erdmann's deaconess sister), Carol Triplett (Friend of the Smalley and Wacker families), Judi Fields 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).

Want to be a member of the body of Christ here at Shepherd of the Valley? Please speak with Pastor Scott after worship if you would like to be received into our community of faith on the Baptism of Our Lord, Sunday, January 8, 2017.



## Senior News

### Seniors-Lunch

Edwards Apple Orchard

Tuesday, November 8th

We will carpool from church at 10:00 a.m. and will eat lunch upon arrival at the apple orchard.

Following lunch we will shop, browse or sit and enjoy the day!

Please sign up on the poster on the kiosk!

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Join us at Shepherd of the Valley  
Wednesday, November 23  
Thanksgiving worship  
With Alpine Lutheran Church  
7:00 pm

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Shepherd of the Valley's annual Commitment Sunday will be the third Sunday in November this year, November 20th.

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.

We hope that you will be able to join fellow members for this time of renewing our yearly commitments.

## Warm Feet Mission

"Warm Feet Mission" will be accepting donation for socks (\$1.00/pair) before and after the service on Sunday, November 20th. All socks will be donated to local charities.

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. For more information contact Ann Honer.

(Warm Feet Mission is a Rockford based mission that was started in 2008 with the help of the church, family, and friends).



**REMINDER**  
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6.**



**Statements of Giving Now Available**

Look for your third-quarter giving statement on the narthex table to the left of the sanctuary doors.

**Library News**

We are processing the books from the Reformation collection that were on display in the narthex during October. To those of you who purchased books for yourself we hope you are enjoying them. If you did not purchase any for yourself, we invite you to check them out from our church library. We thank Augsburg-Fortress Press for making these available to you at a 50% discount and for letting us keep the samples for our library at no cost.

**MISSING BOOKS**

Please look through your bookshelves, closets, etc. at home for books you may have checked out from the church library. We are happy when materials are checked out but hope they make their way home after you have finished reading them.

**Library Work Day**

Tuesday, November 15 at 9:00 a.m.



**Thank you to everyone who ordered books through our Reformation 500 Bookstore**

When the books arrive at church, the Library Committee will call those who ordered books.

**Discipleship Gathering November 9**

Bishop Clements invites you to be part of an important conversation at St. Mark Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 9th.

"Loving Your Neighbor: The Challenges of a Changing Community."

This year's Discipleship Gathering will "consider what message Jesus has for us in the face of your changing communities and in this time of racial division and misunderstanding."

Dinner for all who attends begins at 6:15 p.m. with the program following from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**Preschool News**

The 3-year-olds enjoyed dressing up in their Halloween costumes for our Halloween Party at school and making Cotton Ball Ghosts.

The 4-year-olds went to Rosewood Care Center to sing for the residents in their Halloween costumes and enjoyed eating snacks with them after singing.

**Church Directory**

**Be Included**

Sign up after Sunday worship or through the link on Shepherd of the Valley's website—  
shep61.org

**Picture Dates**

Friday, November 11  
Saturday, November 12  
Monday, November 14  
Tuesday, November 15



**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$16,476.69	\$15,346.66	\$139,155.71	\$134,514.99
Expense	\$16,880.17	\$17,998.19	\$147,485.16	\$143,468.59
Inc/exp	-\$403.48	-\$2,651.53	-\$8,329.45	-\$8,953.60
plus offsets	\$903.23	\$220.00	\$14,217.05	\$4,940.00
plus interest	\$0.66	\$0.66	\$5.88	\$6.00
Net income	\$500.41	-\$2,430.87	\$5,893.48	-\$4,007.60

C&B balance 9/30/16 8/31/16  
\$2,393.48 \$1,893.07

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld YTD Actual	Bld YTD Budget
Income	\$2,260.00	\$2,456.00	\$18,898.00	\$20,909.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$20,306.60	\$20,316.60
Net inc/exp	\$2.60	\$198.60	-\$1,408.60	\$592.40

Building fund balance 9/30/16 8/31/16  
\$19,152.45 \$19,149.45

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 9/30/2016  
 Balance on our mortgage - \$297465.06

**Election Day Polling Place at Shepherd of the Valley**



Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

Help is needed to provide cookies for the hospitality table to give out to our voting neighbors at Shepherd of the Valley on Election Day.

Please indicate on the signup sheet in the narthex if you can bring in cookies.

Cookies can be brought in Sunday, November 6th through Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, labeled "election" and put in kitchen off the library.

Give an hour (or two) for this chance to welcome people in the area to our church. Thank you in advance to help make this a successful outreach day to our neighbors.

Attendance statistics average are based on the 5 weeks

October 2—October 23:  
Average attendance - 72

Contributions average are based on the 4 weeks

September 25 - October : 23  
Average weekly contributions:  
Current & Benevolence - \$ 3394.40  
Building Fund - \$ 398.00

### **PA Peterson Service of Remembrance**

Loved ones who have passed away at The Villa at PA Peterson will be remembered on Sunday November 6th, 3 p.m. at our All Saints' Service of Remembrance.

Know someone who had a loved one pass away at The Villa?

Please do invite them to come. Light Refreshments will be served after.

For more information contact Chaplain Chuck Olson at 815-342-6064

### **Youth Connect Rec Night**

Pizza, large-group games, basketball, volleyball, music, and more. This event is for area youth groups to join together for a night of worship and fun. Come November 4, from 8-11:30 pm with 5th-8th graders to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. Cost is \$3 per youth. To learn more, contact Amy at the RALM office.

### **Fish Bowl Frenzy -- For Jr. High and Grandparent aged adults**

Ever wish you could tell your grandparents what life is really like? Would you like to understand your grandkids and their friends? This is the chance. Come and take a turn in the fishbowl, ask questions you'd like to hear another generations answers to. Lots of food, fun, and fellowship. For more information contact Tyler Parks at Our Saviors. 815-399-0531. November 13, 4-6pm.

### **Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries Trivia Night**

Friday November 4

6 pm doors open, 7 pm play begins  
\$ 15.00 per person

Sign up as a table of 8 or individually  
(See kiosk for more information)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
3300 Rural Street, Rockford

Trivia night supports these  
RALM ministries:  
Beccas's Closet & The Park Players.

### **Youth Leader Training**

Revitalizing Faith Collaborative is hosting a great event for everyone who works with youth.

In the past year, RFC has hosted 3 great events"

- Vibrant Faith :Do What Matters"
- Rich Melheim "FAITH 5 and Cross+Gen"
- Vibrant Faith "Engaging Adults."

Now it's time to put all that that learning to work! Whether you were at all 3 events or none, grab your team or come by yourself! A quick recap from our RFC team on each event before getting hands on and practical help to bring it to your community.

November 5, 2016.  
9:00am—3:00pm  
Christ United Methodist, Rockford  
Alpine Dining Room

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<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="https://cdn.evbstatic.com/s3-build/21828-rc2016-10-19_12.04-d6e847f/django/css/images/grunticons/styles/icons.fallback.css" />
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<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="https://cdn.evbstatic.com/s3-build/21828-rc2016-10-19_12.04-d6e847f/django/css/images/grunticons/styles/icons.fallback.css" />
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**REMINDER**  
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6.**





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

In honor of Veteran's Day on Friday, November 11th, we will recognize the Shepherd of the Valley veterans and those who continue to serve our country. We are asking our SVLC veterans and present military members to send in pictures of themselves in their military uniforms along with information about their time of service. We will display these pictures and stories at church.

We will be collecting donations for our local VA office and clinic: new or gently used puzzles, games, DVD movies, adult coloring books, recent magazines, paperback books, and new men and women's socks, underwear, sweatpants and sweatshirts.

Thank you to the SVLC members and friends who participated in and gave monetary donations to the CROP Walk. We are waiting to hear the final amount of our donations but it is near \$300.00. Thank you!



Social Ministry