

SHARING
GOD'S
LOVE

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
A MEMBER OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Volume 59 Issue 3

MARCH 2017

Reorientation

Lent can be a time for reorientation. A clue to what that means is hidden in the word itself. To "reorient" is to move back ("re-") toward the east ("orient"). From the beginning, the tradition developed that Christians worshiped facing east. For centuries churches were built with this *orientation*, so that in worship the people face the east wall of the church. Even now, we sometimes talk about "liturgical east" to denote the back of the sanctuary (and liturgical north, south, and west correspondingly) no matter what direction it really is.

Why east? We all know east is the direction of the rising sun, but it is also where we look for the return of Christ, "the dawn from on high" (Luke 1:78 NRSV). As the men in white told the apostles, "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Act 1:11 NRSV). For centuries, Christians have faced east for worship and prayer guided by the promise of Christ's coming again.

So Lenten reorientation could include literally facing east, but even more it is about which way our hope faces. To a culture of self-improvement, Lent might seem like New Year's Day, a time for making resolutions that will improve our lives in some way. However, we are not here to better ourselves, but to live into the story of our baptism, the story of a God who became human, died and rose again to usher in a new heaven and a new earth. When you examine your sins, give them to your crucified Savior. When you read Scripture and pray, listen for Christ's promise given for you. When you give to the poor, give generously in anticipation of God's just reign, which has drawn near and will be completed in Jesus. To be reoriented to the promise of the one whom "you will see . . . coming on the clouds of heaven" (Matthew 26:64 NRSV) is what Lent—and life itself—is all about.

† IN OUR PRAYERS †



Nevagay Abel, Don Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Stu Hoffman, Lois Johnson, Lisa Jones, Doris Kampfe, Roy Kloweit, Kevin Persaud, Carline & Keith Talmadge, Ruby Watson, Ron Hunt, Alice Kundo, Dan Webber (friend of Bruce Solko), **David Johnson** (nephew of Dyvone Freburg), **Mildred Anderson** (mother of Cheryl Erdmann), **Pr. Paul Garchow** (friend of the Lund family), **Lyle Solko, Don Johnson** (friend of Lyle & Phyllis Nelson), **Kristin Haren** (daughter of Adolph Wacker), **Janet** (Cheryl Erdmann's deaconess sister), **Carol Triplett** (friend of the Smalley and Wacker families), **LeAnn Dahl** (daughter of Carol Dahl), **family of Deb Zandonatti, David Harris** (nephew of Kris Tukker), **Caleb Wood** (grandson of Al and Phyllis Johnson, serving in the military in Iraq), **Charlotte** (mother of Kay Brindle), **Steve Welter** (brother of Susie Smalley), **Mackenzie & Jake** (friends of Laurie Pellant), **Stacey Holder** (Sally Schrader's daughter), **Jordan Horvath** (daughter and grandson of Ann & Martin Honer), **Sally and Marcie Ramsey** (friends of Helen Swanson), **Pastor Jane McChesney, Ilse** (sister of Adolph Wacker), **Nancy Brandt** (sister of Kay Brindle), **family of Joann Vote** (sister of Brian Carpenter), **Jim & Katie Fields** (Judi's son & daughter-in-law), **family of Alice Bederka** (mother of Craig), and **the Stubbs family** (missionaries in Tanzania).

(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 at Easter.



The 3 & 4 year old classes enjoyed decorating valentine bags and passing their valentines out to all their friends!

 **Senior News**

There will be no Senior Luncheons during Lent.

Save the date

Vacation Bible school

June 19th - 23rd.

Mark your calendars.



May you never forget what is worth remembering nor ever remember what is best forgotten.



Lenten Schedule

Join us Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. for Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes. On the subsequent Wednesdays of Lent we will share in simple suppers at 6 p.m. followed by 7 p.m. Evening Prayer, including a series based on Luther's Small Catechism.

Sign up in the Narthex to bring something for the meal.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 9, will be our regular worship service with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 13, Worship with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. and stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, April 14, service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15, Service with Holy Communion at 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16, worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. with Easter breakfast between the services.

Make your plans now to join the journey to the cross and celebrate our risen Lord with us.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of January 31, 2017 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$15,662.57	\$15,325.00	\$15,662.57	\$15,325.00
Expense	\$14,049.04	\$14,479.70	\$14,049.04	\$14,479.70
Inc/exp	\$1,613.53	\$845.30	\$1,613.53	\$845.30
plus offsets	\$372.00	\$380.00	\$372.00	\$380.00
plus interest	\$0.72	\$0.66	\$0.72	\$0.66
Net income	\$1,986.25	\$1,225.96	\$1,986.25	\$1,225.96

C&B balance	1/31/17	12/31/16
	\$8,981.82	\$6,995.57

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Year End Actual	Year End Budget
Income	\$2,034.00	\$2,234.00	\$2,034.00	\$2,234.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40
Net inc/exp	-\$223.40	-\$23.40	-\$223.40	-\$23.40

Building fund balance	1/31/17	12/31/16
	\$17,941.85	\$18,165.25

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
Balance on our mortgage - \$293,450.25

I would like to challenge everyone to up your weekly giving by \$5. This is an increase from what I challenged at the Annual Meeting. We have had some changes to pledged giving. Your increased giving will help to cover the cost of our expected expenses

Attendance statistics average are based on the 4 weeks

January 29 - February 19
Average attendance - 79

Contributions average are based on the 4 weeks

January 29 - February 19
Average weekly contributions:
Current & Benevolence - \$ 2,209.00
Building Fund - \$ 488.50



AROUND THE TOWN

NIS Women of the ELCA Spring Retreat

8:15am - 3pm, Sat., April 22, 2017

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

*Making a
Difference...
Leaving a Legacy*

Special Guests:
Pr. Lisa Burbank
Esther Prabhakar
Louise Owen
Lynn Cook Hansen

It's Back Again — Trinity's Garage Sale



SAVE THE
DATE

Saturday,
April 8th

2017 Congregational Resourcing Event Workshops

The 2017 event will focus on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Keynote presenter will be **the Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud**, Wartburg Theological Seminary Professor of Systematic Theology, The Kent S. Knutson & UELC Professor in Theology & Mission Director of the Center for Global Theologies. His keynote will be titled: "Christian Witness in a Pluralistic World – Cross Cultural Challenges," which will bring insights from our Lutheran heritage and discuss ways in which we may respond to the contemporary crisis of defining and confessing the Gospel.

In addition to workshops from the keynote speaker and NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements, other workshops feature topics including: Administration/Council/Treasurers, Education, Evangelism/Outreach/Hospitality, Global/Inter-Faith, Leadership, Social Justice, Spirituality/Prayer/Health & Wellness, Stewardship, and Youth/Young Adult/Family Ministry.

Sponsored by the Northern Illinois Synod Congregational Life Committee, the Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) is one of this synod's finest yearly events. Church council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers, and leaders – just about everyone in a congregation – can take advantage of this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries. Come, experience and bring home new ministry tools.

The Congregational Resourcing Event offers many varied educational workshop selections for you, your key congregational leaders, and other interested congregation members. Many groups, agencies, and institutions have displays. Check out the flyer on the kiosk.

Call the church office to register. Cost is \$25.00 per person (after February 25th).



Library News

During March books by and about women will be featured in the library in honor of Women's History Month.

During Lent we will feature books for Lenten/Easter reading.

The next library work day is Tuesday, March 14, at 9:30 a.m.

The Reformation 500 Bookstore is back!

The first sale was successful with eighteen books being purchased. One book that several of our members have really enjoyed is "Day by Day We Magnify You", daily readings for the entire year, by Martin Luther. These are meaningful, easy to understand "gems" taken from the many writings of Luther. You will want a copy for your daily devotions! All the books will be sold at a 50% discount.

Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles.

The display will be set up in the Narthex Between March 5 – 19th

Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like *Luther the Reformer* as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from The Annotated Luther series.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



Social Ministry

Thanks from Rock House Kids! A special thank you to all who helped provide a meal for Rock House Kids on

February 13th.... the cooks, bakers and donors! We are told the kids loved it and were able to go back for seconds!!! It takes all of us to make it happen!!

The month of March we will be collecting 8 oz disposable coffee cups for Carpenter's Place. They would prefer bio-degradable/paper ones but will accept all.



Game night Friday, March 24th, starting 7p.m. in Moline Hall. Join us for a night of fun for all ages. Look for the sign up posted in narthex. Please bring a dessert or a snack to share. Brought to you by Fellowship & Youth committees.

An Irish Prayer:

May God give you, For every storm, A rainbow,
 For every tear, A smile,
 For every care, A promise,
 And a blessing in each trial.
 For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share,
 For every sigh, A sweet song,
 And an answer for each prayer.





Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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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

Officers of the Congregation

President - Carol Bailey
Vice-President - Sherry Scheider
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

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