

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 4

APRIL 2017

Not. Yet!

As Christians, we traffic a lot in five-letter words: Jesus; grace; peace; faith. We also have some powerful four-letter words in our vocabulary, including love and hope.

But a three-letter word is looming large for me this Lent: "yet." This three-letter word carries within it the power of transformation. For example, take a sentence like, "We can't do that." It's an honest appraisal, albeit an appraisal of finality and limitation. Yet with the addition of that three-letter word, the same statement becomes, "We can't do this yet." No less honest, but suddenly open to the future, hopeful, even expecting change.

In this year's Triduum (a.k.a. "the Three Days" spanning our Lord's passion and resurrection) we will begin with what is "not." The cross of Good Friday represents death, crushed hopes, pain and loss, forsakenness. God, to those mocking the crucified, is not there and certainly not there to save. But to what appears "not" we add that "yet." It appears yet on Good Friday when we meditate on the life-giving mystery of the cross (the "good" in "Good Friday"). It blooms fully on Easter, as on Saturday night and Sunday morning we recognize that God's "yet" is resurrection.

And so it remains in our life together. There is death within us and among us. This is an honest appraisal. And yet we are in the Spirit that raised Jesus and someday will raise us, too. That Spirit has yet more in store for you in your life and for God's people at Harrison and Mulford. For almost two thousand Easters, that Spirit has kept adding "yet" to the end of our honest appraisals, keeping us and all of God's church open to the future, hopeful, even expecting change.

How will that happen for you, for us, this year? How do we reconnect to our "yet"? As always, we will worship together, hearing again the old, old story and receiving God's grace anew. Yet I believe the Spirit is also calling us this year to see ourselves anew in the first generation of Christians in the Spirit. In May I'm inviting us to read and pray through the book of Acts together in groups of three (cf. Matthew 18). When we do that we will experience in God's Word together how the Spirit added "yet" after "yet" to the experience of the first Christians. And in the process, we might even start noticing how that Spirit is working in our lives and calling us into the future together. As Jesus reminds us in John 3, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." We do not know where the Spirit's leading us. Yet.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 9, will be our regular worship service with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. Service begins in the memory garden.

Easter egg hunt after worship.

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 with Holy Communion 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 | \$12,617.96 | \$13,325.00 | \$28,280.53 | \$28,650.00 |
| Expense | \$15,404.73 | \$15,538.00 | \$29,453.77 | \$30,017.70 |
| Inc/exp | -\$2,786.77 | -\$2,213.00 | -\$1,173.24 | -\$1,367.70 |
| plus offsets | \$484.91 | \$487.50 | \$856.91 | \$867.50 |
| plus interest | \$0.67 | \$0.67 | \$1.39 | \$1.33 |
| Net income | -\$2,301.19 | -\$1,724.83 | -\$314.94 | -\$498.87 |

| | 2/28/17 | 1/31/17 |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| C&B balance | \$6,680.63 | \$8,981.82 |

| | Building Actual | Building Budget | BLD YTD Actual | BLD YTD Budget |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income | \$2,184.00 | \$2,233.00 | \$4,218.00 | \$4,467.00 |
| Expense | \$2,257.40 | \$2,257.40 | \$4,524.80 | \$4,514.80 |
| Net inc/exp | -\$73.40 | -\$24.40 | -\$306.80 | -\$47.80 |

| | 2/28/17 | 1/31/17 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Building fund balance | \$17,868.45 | \$17,941.85 |

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
Balance on our mortgage - \$292,374.94

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
February 26 - March 19 (includes Ash Wednesday)

Average attendance - 78

Contributions average are based on
the 4 weeks

February 26 - March 19

Average weekly contributions:

Current & Benevolence - \$ 3,190.25

Building Fund - \$ 644.75



Easter Garden

Order your Easter flowers and Palm branches by April 2.

Palms are \$9.00 a bunch.

Daffodils & Tulips are \$10.00 each.

You can call Sherry Scheider (815-332-8281) to order.



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Through March and into April we are collecting 8 ounce biodegradable disposable coffee cups for Carpenter's Place.

We will also continued to support of Rock House Kids with meals and other collections.

On April 22nd we will be helping at RALM'S Becca's Closet.



The Easter bunny has hidden eggs outside Moline Hall. There will be areas set up for the under 4 year old group, the 5-7 year olds, and the 8-11 year olds. Adults

can grab coffee and a treat while the kids hunt for eggs.

The Fellowship Committee will be accepting items to fill the eggs; candy, tattoos, rings, small toys, etc.



Library News-The library is expanding its collection of audio books and music for comfort or enjoyment. We hope you will stop by and see the new titles soon.

There will be no Library work day in April.



Easter Breakfast will once again be served on Sunday, April 16, between services.

- Pancakes
- Scrambled Eggs
- Sausage
- Fruit & Rolls
- Coffee, juice, milk

Suggested donation is \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family. Kids under 5 are free. Sign up in the Narthex.

Come and enjoy breakfast with old and new friends.

Senior News

On Tuesday, April 25, we will meet at church at 9:30 a.m. and carpool to visit Nicholas Conservatory. There will be a \$3.00 entry fee to the conservatory.

We have reservations for lunch at The Rathskeller. Be sure to sign up on the kiosk.

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

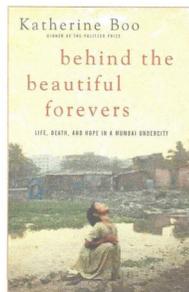


**Katie's Choice
Book Club**

Thursday
April 13
10 am

Behind the beautiful forevers

by Katherine Boo



A bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. Abdul, an enterprising teenager, sees "a fortune beyond counting" in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Meanwhile Asha, a woman of formidable ambition, has identified a shadier route to the middle class and with a little luck, her beautiful daughter might become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest children, like the young thief Kalu, feel themselves inching closer to their dreams. Based on years of uncompromising reporting, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* carries the reader headlong into one of the twenty-first century's hidden worlds—and into the hearts of families impossible to forget.

"Inspiring, and irresistible... Boo's extraordinary achievement is twofold. She shows us how people in the most desperate circumstances can find the resilience to hang on to their humanity. Just as important, she makes us care." — *People*

"Reported like Watergate, written like *Great Expectations*, and handily the best international nonfiction in years." — *New York*

"A book of extraordinary intelligence [and] humanity... beyond groundbreaking." — *The New York Times Book Review*

Katie's Cup coffeabar

Corner of 4th Avenue and 7th Street

No reservations necessary.

All are invited as we engage in conversations about books of interest to you! Books available for purchase at Katie's Cup or bring your own copy.

Next: *A Dog's Purpose* by Bruce Cameron • Thursday, May 11, 10 am

**It's Back Again —
Trinity's Garage Sale**



**SAVE THE
DATE**

**Saturday,
April 8th**

A Time for Confessing

A Reformation 500 Book Discussion

Martin Luther's Reformation was a time of bold truth-telling, "confessing" for the sake of the gospel. What lessons does this movement and others like it have for us now, 500 years later?

Theologian Robert W. Bertram's *A Time for Confessing*, published in print and e-book by Fortress Press, addresses this question, putting Lutheran theology to use to show God at work liberating people and resisting injustice from 1517 to 2017.

All are welcome to join in a stimulating discussion group, led by Pastor Scott K. Benolkin (pastorscott@shep61.org) of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, that will meet **Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. at Katie's Cup, 502 7th St. in Rockford.** The 90-minute discussions will follow the chapters of the book:

- **April 25** Augsburg: A Modern "Time for Confessing"
- **May 2** *Confessio*: Self-Defense Becomes Subversive
- **May 9** **in lieu of discussion: Lutheran Day in Springfield**
- **May 16** Black Churches in the Civil Rights Movement as a Confessing Movement: *Confessio* as Disencumbering the Gospel
- **May 23** "Confession" against Apartheid: When Faith Is Ethos
- **May 30** Bonhoeffer's "Battle(s) for Christendom": His "Responsible Interpretation" of Barmen
- **June 6** A Philippine Revolution: From Patients to Agents
- **June 13** A Time for Confessing; or, When Is the Church a Confessional Movement?

Adopt a Park Player
Teaching Teens Violence Prevention & Job Skills

The Park Players teaches important lessons about anger, conflict, communication, avoiding fights, making healthy choices & personal responsibility.

Teens gain leadership training, basic job preparation, and life-building, lifelong future skills.

NEW 2017 Providing Free Lunch to our teens and all children of the area this summer.

Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries
115 N. Wymen Street
Rockford, IL 61101
815-962-4279
www.RocktheGood.com

First Lutheran Church invites the women of North Conference to a brunch on Saturday, April 1st at First Lutheran Church, 9:30-noon.

The speaker will be Rev. Karla Garcia, an AME pastor serving a congregation in Madison, who is an inspirational speaker and author, as well as a regular voice on SOAR Radio, "Radiant Life" on Saturdays. The focus will be on women and our leadership in the community as we help to raise the children of our community in healthy relationships, faith development, and responsible living.

The Park Players will be serving the brunch and sharing their experiences as Park Players and how that has enriched their lives.

There will be a free will offering received, as well as an opportunity to support the Park Players program through adopting a Park Players for this summer's programming. It will be helpful for meal planning to have rsvp's from our congregations.

You may do that by calling First Lutheran Church, 815/962-6691 or emailing Raye Stone, rdstone68@comcast.net.

Registration is at 9:30, with brunch at 9:45, followed by music and our speaker.

500 REFORMATION 1517 ✠ 2017
Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

American Guild of Organists – Rockford Chapter and Our Savior's Lutheran Church present

The Lutheran Chorale and its Organ Literature

Naomi Rowley Organist

*The Chorales:
A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Savior of the Nations, Come
Our Father, God in Heaven Above
Out of the Depths I Cry to You
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
All Glory, Laud and Honor
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
If You but Trust in God to Guide You
Now Thank We All Our God*

Sunday April 23, 2017 at 3:00 P.M.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
3300 Rural Street
Rockford, IL 61107

Katie's CUP Presents: Second Thursday Winter/Spring Concerts
coffee conversation community

Music on Thursdays . . . on Seventh!

Kelly Zullo
Thursday, April 13

Two opportunities to meet the ELCA's Presiding Bishop



26th Annual Spring Banquet & Silent Auction

"Dreams of the Past, Visions of the Future"
Celebrating 35 years in the Midtown District



SAVE THE DATE Tuesday April 18th

Guest Speaker:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

5:30 PM Silent Auction
7:00 PM Dinner

Giovanni's Restaurant & Convention Center
610 N Bell School Rd, Rockford Illinois 61107

ZION Development Corporation is a faith-based, non-profit neighborhood development organization formed as a result of outreach programs at Zion Lutheran Church, from which it draws its vision and values. ZION is dedicated to serving Rockford's Midtown neighborhood-creating jobs, developing and managing housing, creating new businesses, cleaning up properties, organizing neighborhood residents and encouraging the emergence of neighborhood leaders.

Did you know...

- ZION has invested more than \$27 million in Midtown for housing and economic development
- ZION serves between 250 and 300 Midtown residents each year
- ZION pays over \$55,000 a year in real estate taxes
- More than 1/3 of Longwood Gardens' senior residents participate in our rigorous Wellness Program, with documented reductions in cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure levels
- 33 percent of Grand Apartments' formerly homeless residents are employed or attend school
- ZION has developed 2 Strong Neighborhood Houses on behalf of the United Way



Individual Tickets

Individuals can buy tickets for \$60 through the following URL or by mailing your payment and the completed form below to PO Box 4387 Rockford IL 61110-0887.
<https://goo.gl/zLJG12>

Table Sponsorship

Churches can sponsor a table for \$600, this includes 8 tickets and your church's name will be included as a sponsor during the presentation.

We ask that you mail us your table sponsorship payment, and the completed form below to:
PO Box 4387 Rockford IL 61110-0887.

Contact us at 815-964-8280 ext 1 or mail@ziondevelopment.com
Or visit us at our website: ziondevelopment.org

| Name & Meal Choice: | Chicken | Vegetarian | Note: table seats eight |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> I/we regret we are unable to attend but wish to make the enclosed gift to ZION Development in the amount of \$ _____ |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Name: _____ |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Please reserve _____ places @ \$60/ person |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> I/we Would like to sponsor a table |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Name: _____ |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ |

RSVP by April 11th



ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

KATIE'S CUP CONVERSATION

TUESDAY APRIL 18, 2017

NOON-2PM

PRESENTER: PRESIDING BISHOP
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

TOPIC: "REFORMATION: THEN AND NOW"



COST: \$14 - Program & lunch
Space is limited
(Sandwich, pasta salad, chips, cookie & drink)
Reservation only by April 14

502 Seventh Street - Rockford, IL
Corner of 7th Street & 4th Avenue
www.katiescup.com

Make your reservations by contacting Zion Church
815-964-4609 or katiescuprockford@gmail.com
(Sandwich option: Turkey, Ham, Beef or Veggie)

North Conference Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the North Conference Northern Illinois Synod will be April 23, 2017 at GPS Faith Community, 10714 N 2nd St, Machesney Park Illinois beginning at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)
2715 S. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61109
Phone: 815-399-5503 E-mail: svlcsecretary@att.net
On The Web: www.shep61.org.
Office Hours, Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 4261

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
Janette Erickson, Fellowship
Chad Farris, Property
Amy Kellogg, Youth Ministry
Vicki Nitz, Preschool
Sherry Scheider, Worship/Music
Kris Tukker, Social Ministry
Peggy Wenstrom, Personnel
Don Wiese, Finance
John Wolf, Stewardship
Deb Zandonatti, Outreach

Staff

The Rev. Scott Benolkin, Pastor
Judi Fields, Secretary
Linda Longardner, Organist
Phil Smalley, Treasurer
Susie Smalley, Music Coordinator
Patte Lund, Christian Education
Carol Dahl, Financial Secretary
Anita Ralston, Custodian



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 9, worship service with Holy Communion will begin in the Memory Garden 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 with Holy Communion 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.