

Re-formation Now

Christ is risen! In our gospel reading from the Second Sunday of Easter the risen Jesus comes to his disciples and says to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:21–22 NRSV).

From that day until today we trust in that Spirit's continual presence in the church, in each of us, as we die and rise every day in our baptism into Christ. As Luther Small Catechism reminds us, baptism "signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and dies through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

Especially during this 500th year since the start of the reformation, we know that this dying and rising is also for us together as the church. The Lutheran church's slogan is *semper reformanda*, "always reforming." In other words, we confess that God, the Holy Spirit, has not finished with us yet, but will continue to work among us, through us, and on us.

Taking this slogan to heart, our congregation is at a crossroads (pun intended!) in our life in the Spirit, challenged again in this Reformation year to be re-formed as a church by the Spirit that gathers us, to be re-formed as a church through the Word of God, to be re-formed as a church into the story of the Spirit's first forming of the church—the story written in the book of Acts.

Here are three first steps for our congregation's re-formation in that story:

1. After worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, we'll form small groups of 3–4 men (if you're a man) or women (if you're a woman).
2. After that, we'll read 2 chapters at a time from the book of Acts (e.g., 1–2 the first time, 3–4 the second time, etc.).
3. Meet for 30–45 minutes with your group each week or so to check in with each other's lives, to discuss what you've read and how it relates to us now, and to pray together for each other, for the congregation, for our neighbors.

In that story of the Spirit's forming the church we will find the Spirit re-forming us as well. We come to this story already knowing that the Spirit has called us and promises to guide us to deeper trust in Christ and love for one another. We come to this story already knowing we are here for the sake of the world God loves, because of Christ who gave himself for the world. We come to this story already knowing that he is risen, and that his Spirit is not finished with us yet, but is re-forming us even now.

† IN OUR PRAYERS †



Nevagay Abel, Don Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Stu Hoffman, Lois Johnson, Lisa Jones, Doris Kampfe, Kevin Persaud, Carline Talmadge, Ruby Watson, Ron Hunt, Alice Kundo, 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), **Charlotte** (mother of Kay Brindle), **Steve Welter** (brother of Susie Smalley), **Stacey & Kevin Holder** (Sally Schrader's daughter and son-in-law), **Sally and Marcie Ramsey** (friends of Helen Swanson), **Pastor Jane McChesney, Ilse** (sister of Adolph Wacker), **Nancy Brandt** (sister of Kay Brindle), **Bill Wolf** (father of John Wolf), **Don Stinson** (friend of Don & Neva Abel), **Myron Peterson** (Mary Alice Peterson's father), **Rick** (Craig Bederka's son-in-law), **Bill and CJ Johnson**, 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).



The 3 & 4 year-olds are enjoying the worms and watching the caterpillars change into butterflies.

The end of April they participated in St. Jude's trike-a-thon in the church parking lot.

The last day of pre-school will be May 24th & 25th with the annual picnic at Bauman Park.

Registrations for the next school year are being taken. A non-refundable registration fee of \$75 is due at the time of enrollment. Tuition for the three year-old session (Tuesday & Thursday) is \$85 per month for nine months. Tuition for the four year-olds session (Monday, Wednesday & Friday) is \$125 per month for nine months.



**Robo-Church,
Faith for the
Future**

June 19th - 23rd

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Ages 4 - 12

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 Pentecost.

\$10.00 per child with a family maximum of \$40.00

Registration forms available soon.

Prayerfully consider volunteering to help out.

The theme will be robotics.



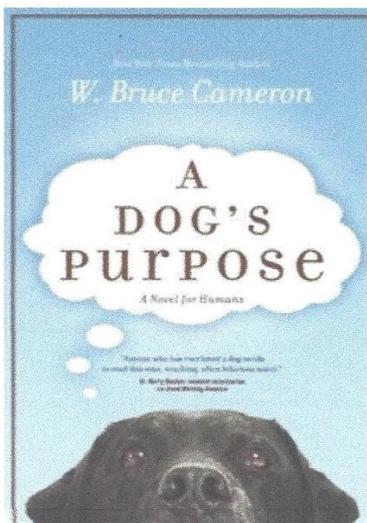
The last day for Sunday school this season will be May 21. Also there will be no Sunday school on Mother's Day, May 14.

Katie's Choice Book Club

Thursday
May 11
10 am

A Dog's Purpose by Bruce Cameron

Heartwarming, insightful, and often laugh-out-loud funny, *A Dog's Purpose* is not only the emotional and hilarious story of a dog's many lives, but also a dog's-eye commentary on human relationships and the unbreakable bonds between man and man's best friend. This moving and beautifully crafted story teaches us that love never dies, that our true friends are always with us, and that every creature on earth is born with a purpose.



FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$13,928.65	\$15,185.00	\$42,209.18	\$43,835.00
Expense	\$17,060.86	\$17,420.12	\$46,534.63	\$47,437.82
Inc/exp	-\$3,132.21	-\$2,235.12	-\$4,325.45	-\$3,602.82
plus offsets	\$762.68	\$800.00	\$1,619.59	\$1,667.50
plus interest	\$0.74	\$0.67	\$2.13	\$2.00
Net income	-\$2,368.79	-\$1,434.45	-\$2,703.73	-\$1,933.32

	3/31/17	2/28/17
C&B balance	\$4,311.84	\$6,680.63

	Building Actual	Building Budget	BLD YTD Actual	BLD YTD Budget
Income	\$2,269.00	\$2,233.00	\$6,487.00	\$6,700.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$6,772.20	\$6,772.20
Net inc/exp	\$11.60	-\$24.40	-\$285.20	-\$72.20

	3/31/17	2/28/17
Building fund balance	\$17,880.05	\$17,868.45

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
Balance on our mortgage - \$291,335.77

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
March 26 - April 23

Average attendance (including Maundy Thursday,
Good Friday, and Easter Vigil) - 69
Average attendance (Sunday's only) - 87

Contributions average are based on
the 4 weeks

March 26 - April 23
Average weekly contributions:
Current & Benevolence (not including Holy Week or
Easter Sunday) - \$ 2,965.40
Holy Week & Easter totals - \$ 1,420.00
Building Fund - \$ 470.20

Summer Concert Series 2017

June 7 –Winnebago Jazz Band



June 28 –Jodi Beach



July 12 -2nd City Chorus



July 26 – River City Sound



Aug. 9 –Alleluia Quartet



Aug. 23 –Patte Armato Lund

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; concert begins at 7:00 p.m.

Freewill offering will be taken.



A book to read: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This will soon be a movie. Henrietta was a poor black farmer whose cells were taken without her knowledge in 1951 and used for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping and more. The story is about ethics, race, medicine, and faith healing.

The Library work day will be Tuesday, May 9 at 9:30 a.m.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



On Monday April 3rd approximately 18,000 disposable coffee cups were delivered to Carpenter's Place.

The 150 anniversary of Lutheran Social Services is this year and the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly is collecting smoke/carbon monoxide detector for children in our Synod as well as gift cards to help provided needed supplies as gas cards etc. for families in need. These will be delivered at Synod Assembly June 16-17. Watch for details.

We are planning a special treat (pizza) for the Rock House Kids on May 15th. Donations can be made in the pew envelopes, (mark it for Rock House) or at the poster in Narthex! Can you help? See Kris Tukker for questions

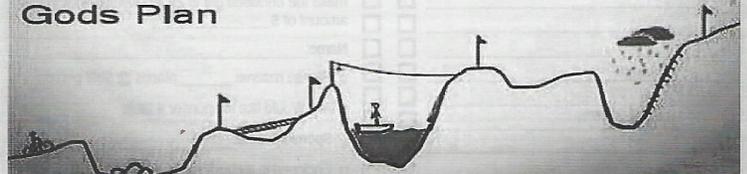
Senior News

Senior lunch and games on Tuesday, May 23 at noon. Check the kiosk for information.

Your plan



Gods Plan



You're invited to a Wine Tasting at Katie's Cup

An evening of Balance, Bouquet & Blend!

Friday, May 12, 7 - 9 pm

Donation: \$20

502 Seventh Street, Rockford

Wonderful wines, great nibbles, and relaxing music await you!

Reservations requested: Katie's Cup, 815.986.0628;
katiecuprockford@gmail.com; or
with Katie's Cup board members,
by Friday, May 5.

Wines provided by



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?

SUNDAY MAY 21

Rockford Promise is a location-based scholarship program. In partnership with Rock Valley College and Rockford University, we give full-cost scholarships to RPS graduates so they can attend college debt-free. Modeled after successful programs in Kalamazoo, Pittsburg, and other communities, the goal of Rockford Promise is to

make post-secondary education affordable and expected for students in our community. Promise programs - which guarantee funding for every public school graduate in their local community - have been proven to show positive results:

- Increasing the percentage of low-income students, and students of color, who finish High School and start and complete post-secondary education.
- Increasing academic performance, especially for students who otherwise might not attend college.
- Reducing discipline issues and improving attendance.

Increasing property values and the desirability of the location - tuition-free college can make people choose to live in your community and attend public schools.

Shepherd of the Valley will be taking a special collection for Rockford Promise on Sunday, May 21.



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 leisure skills.

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

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

Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries offers

TEENS

14-15 YEARS OLD

PAID SUMMER JOB

Interviews @ Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
May 6 & 13, 10 AM
1929 North Rockton Avenue, Directly across from West Middle School
Applicants & parent/guardian must be present at 10AM to apply
Applications available @ www.RocktheGood.com or 815-962-4279

Summer Conflict Resolution Program
Now in its 24th year!
Learn & teach positive conflict management skills!
Build leadership abilities!
Work with other teens!

Park Players
JUNE 5 - JULY 20
Monday - Thursday
12:30 - 3:30 pm
Liberty Park,
Corner of Morgan St & Central Ave

New this year: FREE LUNCH
for anyone that comes 30 minutes early, siblings invited to free lunch too

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

JUNE 27 - JULY 1 + HOUSTON, TX
GATHERING@ELCA.ORG + 888-411-3522 + ELCA.ORG/GATHERING

FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING. IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD. - EPHESIANS 2:8

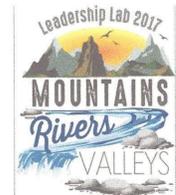
#ELCAYG2018

PRE-GATHERING EVENTS + JUNE 24-27

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MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT OF THE ELCA AN ELCA GATHERING OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Leadership Lab 2017



July 24 - 29, 2017 Leadership Lab is a weeklong youth leadership training camp sponsored by the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Participants range in age from those just having completed the eighth grade to adults. Leadership Lab began in 1962 is held on the campus of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.
CHURCH LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

"I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions." - Joel 2:28

...YOUR YOUNG SHALL SEE VISIONS...

MISSION

To be an active LABORATORY, practicing church leadership for the future..

We see a bright future for the Gospel of Jesus. However, in order for the 'church' to be a part of that future we need leaders who are looking forward more than they are looking backwards.

That is not to say that the 'church' doesn't have a beautiful history and tradition...it does! But if that history and tradition gets in the way of our ultimate calling from Jesus to spread, live and be the Good News, then we need to be able, willing and equipped to look forward beyond those traditions more that we look backwards and learn about them.

The vision then is for us as a community of youth AND adults to be willing to look into the future and practice what that leadership...

EARLY BIRD COST Before 5/10/2017 \$360

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION Before 6/25/2017 \$380

CONTACT INFORMATION

Leadership Lab @ Augustana College
(618) 201-7310
639 38th ST - Rock Island, IL - 61201

Register at leadershiplab.net

Lutheran Day is on May 9th this year. As in previous years, advocates from across the state will gather to study, pray, and take action for equality amongst Illinois residents.

We are faith-based social service organizations or human care organizations. We are men and women from Lutheran congregations all over Illinois.

We are dedicated staff, as well as committed supporters of the people we serve. We are Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and none of the above.

We are people of good will, standing together to exercise our vocation to speak out for justice, compassion, and equality for all people.

Our morning activities will begin at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2477 West Washington Street, Springfield, IL 62702.

Thank you for joining us in raising your voice, and being counted for the sake of God's children, youth, women, and men in need of special care.

\$20.00 Registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch and transportation to and from St. John's Lutheran Church to the capitol. Register online at lutheranday.org.

LUTHERANS STANDING WITH ALL: A MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE

LUTHERAN DAY 2017



SOUNDS FROM THE SANCTUARY

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2016-2017 CONCERT SERIES

YOUNG ARTISTS' CONCERT



Kristiana McCombs



Joanna Nerius



Yurong (Ria) Yang

SUNDAY, MAY 21 - 3 PM

Kristiana McCombs - a college senior and graduate of the Music Academy of Rockford - is currently completing degrees in music education and cello performance at Lee University, Cleveland, Tenn.

Violinist and music educator, **Joanna Nerius**, is a Northern Illinois University graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance. A Music Academy of Rockford graduate, Joanna studied with Rachel Handlin.

A highly sought-after piano accompanist/collaborator, **Yurong (Ria) Yang** has played over 50 concerts and recitals while pursuing her Master's degree in performance and accompanying at Northern Illinois University.

Freewill offering

225 South Third Street, Rockford
Celebrating 160+ years of witness and service to the community
in the heart of historic Haight Village
815.962.6691



United Lutheran- Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Cultural Immersion Trip 2017

May 27th through June 3rd

Home of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation

United Lutheran Church will participate in a unique cultural immersion trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation Retreat Center. The reservation is in the southwest corner of South Dakota.

The mission of the ministry at Pine Ridge Retreat Center is to foster better understanding between Indian and non-Indian peoples and to make contributions to the life of the people living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Native American reservations in the United States are among the most impoverished areas, and we will be immersed in the realities of "third world countries" within our own country. Pine Ridge Reservation is the second-largest reservation in the United States. Per capita income is approximately \$2,600 to \$4,000 per year, and the unemployment rate is approximately 80-90%. About 97% of the population lives below federal poverty levels. Tribal Government records show 38,000 enrolled members living on Pine Ridge Reservation.

The purpose of this trip is multifaceted. Participants will

- Learn about the history and culture of the Oglala Lakota Sioux
- Come to understand the tremendous poverty, social injustice issues, and economic challenges that the Lakota struggle with every day
- Meet and establish companions among the Lakota people
- Observe and/or participate in culturally important events and spiritual ceremonies
- Participate in volunteer work on the reservation

Estimated cost of the Pine Ridge Cultural Immersion Trip 2017: \$450-500.

We will carpool to the reservation. Estimated price includes, gas, two night hotel, accommodations (one on the way out, one on the way back) lodging at the retreat center, most food/groceries, and cultural/immersion experiences included!

For more information, call United Lutheran Church,

Pastor Julane Nease at 815-654-3880



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

