

Fellowship in Christ

The first congregation I remember being part of is Fellowship Lutheran Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma. It was a "new mission start," only a few years old when my family joined, and because I grew up there it did not occur to me how unusual its name was. Now, having lived in several places and seen many congregations, I can attest that there are not too many "Fellowships" among Lutheran churches.

And that's too bad, I think, because "fellowship" is a vital Christian word. It's actually a translation of a word that appears more than a dozen times in the New Testament, *koinonia*. From the very beginning, *koinonia*, fellowship, has been a hallmark of who we are as Christians. No wonder we, like so many other congregations, have a Fellowship Committee that works to bring us together and strengthen our bonds of fellowship, the *koinonia*, among us. (By the way, if you'd like to be part of the Fellowship Committee's important work, come to their next meeting—Sunday, June 4—or contact committee chair Janette Erickson.)

How the Bible describes our fellowship also reminds us who we are as a church. Fellowship is not just friendship, and it's not just about agreeing or getting along in a conventional sense. It's about sharing something in common, a bond that signifies not only agreement between you and me but something bigger than both of us that we get to celebrate and partake in.

In fact, the secret of our fellowship is that it doesn't begin with you and me at all. The New Testament almost never talks about "fellowship" apart from fellowship *with* Christ and the Father (1 John 1), or *of* Christ (1 Corinthians 1), or *in* Christ or his Spirit or even his sufferings (Philippians). The fellowship we share is given to us through Christ; we are in fellowship with each other because he established fellowship with us.

This fellowship is effected, signified, and reinforced primarily in "the cup of blessing that we bless" and the "bread which we break" (1 Corinthians 10:16). In other words, the sharing of Jesus' body and blood in Holy Communion is not just the climax of our worship but the beginning of our fellowship. As we begin our re-formation this summer through fellowship in reading through Acts, we will be re-membering this fellowship that unites us both with each other and with the first Christians, those who "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). In all these things, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship (*koinonia*) of the Holy Spirit be with all of you (2 Corinthians 13:13).

† IN OUR PRAYERS †



Nevagay Abel, Neva & Don Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Stu Hoffman, Lois Johnson, Lisa Jones, Doris Kampfe, Kevin Persaud, Carline Talmadge, Ruby Watson, Ron Hunt, Alice Kundo, Annette Aken, Helen Swanson, David Johnson (nephew of Dyvone Freburg), **Mildred Anderson** (mother of Cheryl Erdmann), **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), **the family of Dr. Mark Jacobson** (Director of Arusha Lutheran Medical Center), 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.



The 3 & 4 year olds are waiting for the picnic in Bauman Park on May 24th and 25th. We will be releasing the beautiful butterflies at that time!

Have a safe summer and we will see you again in September!

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.

July 3rd & 4th

In celebration of Independence Day the church office will be closed July 3rd & July 4th. It will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5th. Have a safe week-end everyone.

Meet Steve & Marybeth Larsen

Steve and Marybeth were longtime members of Shepherd of the Valley. Marybeth attended Sunday school and was confirmed here. They were also married here then left Rockford for Minneapolis and Battle Creek. They returned 9 years later with 3 little kids. When one of them asked if Jesus is one of Santa's helpers they said, "Whoa, we better get these kids back to church!" They rejoined and have good memories watching their kids grow up here.

On the new member information sheet they wrote, "we're so grateful to be able to come back, and the genuine welcome given us was overwhelming. We can't tell you how much that meant. We look forward to summer golf, swimming and gardening. Spending time with our kids and 4 grandchildren is always high on the list. They all live fairly close which is lucky.

Shepherd of the Valley was a big part of our lives and we hope to make it that way again and be able to make a contribution here. Thanks for being such a friendly place."

Steve and Marybeth were received into our community of faith on Pentecost, June 4, 2017. Welcome back to Shepherd of the Valley.

Attendance statistics average are based on the 4 weeks

April 30 - May 21
Average attendance: 79

Contributions average are based on the 4 weeks

April 30 - May 21

Average weekly contributions:
Current & Benevolence \$ 4,658.50
Building Fund - \$ 773.75

WE'RE GEARING UP FOR A FUN WEEK OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

We need your help.
Please consider volunteering to assist during Bible school. Contact Patte Lund if you can help.

The theme this year is Robotics.

NURSERY ASSISTANT FOR JUNE

The June schedule to sign up to assist in the Nursery if needed is now available online. You can access it by following this link:

<http://doodle.com/poll/z4wzn3r57yzzmzxx>

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of April 30, 2017 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$17,656.29	\$18,965.00	\$59,865.47	\$62,800.00
Expense	\$15,628.06	\$15,732.70	\$62,142.69	\$63,170.52
Inc/exp plus offsets	\$2,028.23	\$3,232.30	-\$2,277.22	-\$370.52
Net income	\$762.91	\$720.67	\$2,384.63	\$2,390.17
	\$2,791.14	\$3,952.97	\$107.41	\$2,019.65

	4/30/17	3/31/17
C&B balance	\$7,102.98	\$4,311.84

	Building Actual	Building Budget	BLD YTD Actual	BLD YTD Budget
Income	\$2,504.00	\$2,234.00	\$8,991.00	\$8,934.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$9,029.60	\$9,029.60
Net inc/exp	\$246.60	-\$23.40	-\$38.60	-\$95.60

	4/30/17	3/31/17
Building fund balance	\$18,126.65	\$17,880.05

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
Balance on our mortgage - \$290332.87

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

Keeping Shepherd of the Valley up-to-date

Please be sure to let the office of Shepherd of the Valley know when you have a change in address, phone number or e-mail.

Nursery Job Opening

In scripture Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16

At this time Shepherd of the Valley is looking for someone to fill the position of Nursery Attendant.

The mission of the Nursery Attendant is to create a welcoming, safe and secure, clean nurturing environment for children to that they will want to come to church and to the nursery.

The nursery attendant is responsible for the care of the children during the Sunday morning worship time and additional designated activities.

There will also be opportunity for additional hours during the Christmas and Lenten holidays.

For the complete job description please call Peggy Wenstrom.

Shepherd of the Valley Summer Concert Series 2017

June 7 - Winnebago High School Jazz

Band

June 28 - Jodi Beach

July 12 - 2nd City Chorus

July 26 - River City Sound

August 9 - Alleluia Quartet

August 23 - Patte Armato Lund

Where: Shepherd of the Valley

Lutheran Church

on the s.w. corner of Harrison and Mulford

815 399-5503 2715 Mulford Rd.

Concerts are FREE and begin at 7pm,

doors open at 6:30 A free will offering, after the

concert, enhances music and educational programs. Refreshments following concerts



SVLC Reads **Acts**

Listen, God is calling! Beginning on Pentecost, June 4, let us be re-formed together into the church's story: the story of Acts.

1. Choose one to three other people (of your gender) to meet with,
OR
To be assigned to a group, call the church office or sign up in Moline Hall under the times that are usually best for you.
2. After our sending prayer at Pentecost or at another time, talk with your group about when you will meet for the first time.
3. Read Acts 1-2 before you meet that first time.
4. Guidance for your group when it meets:
 - a) 10 minutes. Check in time. Relationship building. How's it been with you this past week? What's going on? The kind of stuff we do naturally when we greet people etc.
 - b) 20 minutes. Conversation about the two chapters of Acts assigned for that week. Some questions to discuss: What is God doing in these two chapters? What are people doing in these two chapters? (sometimes at odds with God). What is the Holy Spirit doing? What lessons are here for the church in that day? What lessons are here for the church today? What is this telling us about a possible vision purpose for our ministry? These are the basic questions. Others could be added: Where does the activity take place? What was old in this text? What was new? What kind of impact did reading this and praying about it have on you? etc. Don't get stuck on formal questions here. It's conversation about the text.
 - a) 15 minutes. Prayer. Examples of what to pray for: each other, and what you heard as you checked in with each other. For the gift of the Word you have just encountered. For the ministry. For a vision for mission that God is raising up in us. For our ministry to be connected to the city and to real life, etc.
 - b) Confirm a next meeting, whether the same time and place or not.
 - c) Read the next two chapters of Acts before the next meeting.



6th Grade-12th Grade Lock-In
 The Youth group will be having a lock-in at church on Friday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. to Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. If you would like to attend, please

RSVP how many are coming to Amy Kellogg or Carol Bailey, or sign up on the youth bulletin board. Feel free to invite a friend or two. We will be enjoying activities, games and movies late into the night. We are asking each youth attending to bring either a simple snack (chips/cookies/fruit) to share or a beverage (soda/juice) to share. Direct any questions to Carol or Amy.
 RSVPs or questions can also be sent to SVLCYouth61@gmail.com

It's our 5th Birthday!! And we're having a Party!!



It'll be PIPING HOT!

FRIDAY JUNE 9
6:30 - 9:30 PM
 at Katie's Cup

Join us for a "smooth blend" of GREAT MUSIC & refreshments, including appetizers, luscious little desserts & BIRTHDAY CAKE!

NEW: A SILENT AUCTION with lots of great items from local artists and KC vendors!

PLUS: we'll tell the story of Katie's Cup thru a **HUMAN SLIDE SHOW** - you won't want to miss it!

AND EVEN: An "AFTER-GLOW" PARTY on the rooftop patio, weather-permitting, with the ever famous (or infamous) "Three (or two or four) Amigos"

\$25 PER PERSON - HELP US CELEBRATE!!

This Annual FUN-draiser benefits:



Reserve your spot at the coffeebar, 815.986.0628, or go to katiescuprockford@gmail.com. Indicate your name & the number of attendees. Making your reservation by June 5 will be greatly appreciated!

A Katie's Cup Conversation: *Uncovering Today's Social Safety Nets*

Monday, June 12
11:30 am - 1 pm

"A safety net is only useful if people can access its benefits. Our current one is fraying and letting too many people fall through the cracks. . . . For many, in particular women working low-wage jobs, the safety net is so frayed that rather than being 'dependent' on it, they struggle to even access it." PBS NEWSHOUR 2/2/17



Presenter: Dr. Kristin S. Seefeldt
 Assistant Professor in the Schools of Social Work and Public Policy at the University of Michigan and the author of *Abandoned Families: Social Isolation in the 21st Century*.

Dr. Seefeldt's most recent book, *Abandoned Families* (Russell Sage), explores the ways in which various institutions that once fostered economic security and upward mobility currently fail low and moderate income families, particularly families of color. She is also the author of *Working After Welfare* (W.E. Upjohn Institute Press) which discusses employment and work-family balance challenges among former welfare recipients, and is a co-author of *America's Poor and the Great Recession* (Indiana University Press).



Cost: \$15 - Program & Lunch
Reservations by Thursday, June 8
Space is limited
 Contact Katie's Cup, 815.986.0628 or katiescuprockford@gmail.com.
 Sandwich, pasta salad, chips, cookie & drink.
 Indicate sandwich option: Turkey, Ham, Beef or Veggie



Library News

Library work day June 13 at 9:30 a.m.
 Have you seen the table in the narthex with books about PEACE?

Perhaps you noticed the tile with the words PEACE ON EARTH.

The artist, Sam Furman, writes these words about his creation-We are aware of how divided our nation and world have become recently. This tile is a gift of hope that 2017 will mark the beginning of healing and be a bridge to better understanding each other. We may not agree on political or world views, but we can come together to learn to understand and respect each other's views. The sentiment-PEACE ON EARTH- is universal and timeless and not just a phrase to speak or sing during the holidays. You will find another PEACE ON EARTH tile in the memory garden..

Take a "Peace" book home today! Share the message with your family.



No Senior lunch in June.

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, health 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

Park Players in its 24th year.

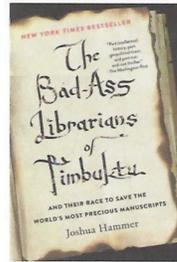


Katie's Choice Book Club

Thursday
June 8
10 am

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu
AND THEIR RACE TO SAVE THE WORLD'S MOST PRECIOUS MANUSCRIPTS

By Joshua Hammer



To save precious centuries-old Arabic texts from Al Qaeda, a band of librarians in Timbuktu pulls off a brazen heist worthy of Ocean's Eleven. In the 1980s, a young adventurer and collector for a government library, Abdel Kader Haidara, journeyed across the Sahara Desert and along the Niger River, tracking down and salvaging tens of thousands of ancient Islamic and secular manuscripts that had fallen into obscurity. *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* tells the incredible story of how Haidara, a mild-mannered archivist and historian from the legendary city of Timbuktu, later became one of the world's greatest and most brazen smugglers.

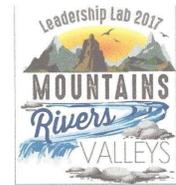
"[The book] has all the elements of a classic adventure novel [and] it is a story that couldn't be more timely. . . . Riveting skullduggery, revealing history and current affairs combine in a compelling narrative with a rare happy ending." (Seattle Times)

"[The book] vividly captures the history and strangeness of [Timbuktu] in a fast-paced narrative that gets us behind today's headlines of war and terror. This is part reportage and travelogue . . . part intellectual history . . . and part out-and-out thriller." (Washington Post)

Katie's Cup coffeebar
Corner of 4th Avenue and 7th Street
No reservations necessary.

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

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

@ELCAGATHERING | FB.COM / YOUTHGATHERING | @ELCAGATHERING

PRE-GATHERING EVENTS + JUNE 24-27

myLe the **tAble**
MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT OF THE ELCA AN ELCA GATHERING OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

#ELCAVG2018

Northern Illinois Synod Assembly 2017 IN-KIND OFFERING



150
YEARS
1867-2017

For 150 years, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) has been a leader in child welfare services, and is one of the largest providers of foster care services in Illinois. LSSI serves approximately 2,500 children each year; currently 558 of them in the Northern Illinois Synod through offices in Rock Island, Galesburg, Nachusa, and Rockford. <http://www.lssi.org/>



Often, children are unable to be placed in a home because of the simple absence of a **smoke/carbon monoxide detector**. Your donation will help children in need of a safe and loving home to be placed quickly.

Gift cards take up little room in the small spaces of LSSI offices and can be used for:

- Awarding a child who has met a goal on their service plan
- Helping a foster family get prepared to take in a child
- Providing clothing and other necessities to a child when first being placed
- Purchasing items for projects and activities at group sessions and family therapy
- Providing a gas card to a family so they can get to necessary appointments
- Providing Birthday, Christmas and other gifts to children throughout the year
- Purchasing school supplies
- Taking a child or family out to eat for a special occasion

We will have gift cards available for members to purchase and donate June 4th and June 11th.

We are also hoping to receive some Thrivent funds. Thank you everyone for your support!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The Bible study for Wednesday, June 7th, is cancelled.

Pastor Scott will be on vacation:

June 6 - June 12.

July 24 - August 6

Adult Forums during the summer will be based on "FAITH, SEXISM, JUSTICE: Conversations toward a Social Statement."



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

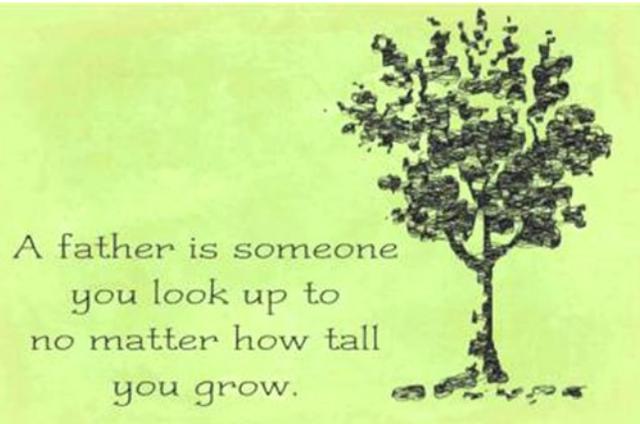
Called Forward
together in Christ

Synod Assembly
June 16-17, 2017

Augustana College • Rock Island

Thirtieth Annual Assembly | June 16-17, 2017 | Augustana College, Rock Island

Our delegates in addition to Pastor Scott are Candy Wolf and Mark Pellant. Please keep them in your prayers.





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

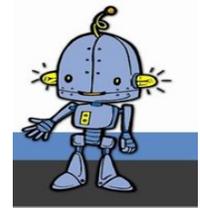
Carol Bailey, Christian Education
Janette Erickson, Fellowship
Chad Farris, Property
Amy Kellogg, Youth Ministry
Vicki Nitz, Preschool
Sherry Scheider, Worship/Music
Kris Tukker, Social Ministry
Peggy Wenstrom, Personnel
Don Wiese, Finance
John Wolf, Stewardship
Deb Zandonatti, Outreach

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

Come to Vacation Bible School

Robotics is the theme



Robo-Church, Faith for the Future

June 19 - 23

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Ages 4 - 12

**Registration forms available now in the
Narthex.**