

Service to Neighbor

On Maundy Thursday Deaconess Cheryl and I washed feet. Besides being a more and more popular way Christians remember what Jesus did on the night in which he was betrayed, footwashing is a prime example of Christian service. Even though it's just symbolic for those of us with socks, shoes, and showers, my experience of footwashing is that it is inescapably personal, humbling, and *physical*—that is, it concerns our vulnerable human bodies.

That idea of service epitomizes what the New Testament means by the Greek word *diakonia*. Early Christians, united in fellowship (*koinonia*) through the body of Christ, in turn cared for their neighbors' bodily needs. *Diakonia* was such a fundamental mark of the church that it is applied to many kinds of service or ministry, from giving alms to the poor to the apostles' "serving the word" (Acts 6). There is no church without *diakonia*.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognizes the vital importance of *diakonia* in lifting up both "ministers of word and *sacrament*" (also known as pastors) and "ministers of word and *service*" (also known as deacons). (The Deaconess Community (deaconesscommunity.org), to which our own Deaconess Cheryl belongs, is one leading body of ministers dedicated to service.) The church needs both pastors to administer the sacraments in the *koinonia* of the church and deacons to lead the church in service in the world. Both are essential to who we are as the body of Christ.

And one thing leads to another. We are gifted and fed by Christ's presence in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us for *diakonia* in the world. Our service to others is intimately related to our God-given selves and gifts: not impersonal service, but personal; not service at arm's length, but relational; not service to things or abstractions, but to living, breathing human beings. In other words, our service is *incarnational*, just like Christ's service to us.

So how is your *diakonia* doing? How have you served your neighbor lately? In our specialized society, it's easy to imagine service is someone else's job, or that writing a check is the same as showing up. But the secret of *diakonia* is that it shows Christ's love not just to the person being served, but to the server. Seek out people who need help not as problems to be solved but as people to learn about as you care for them. Accept others' help not as a last resort but as a chance to let them get closer to you. Bring your testimony about it all back to church, that we may praise God with you. And as with Maundy Thursday footwashing, know that in your service you are doing as Jesus has done to you (John 13:15).

† 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, Doris Dohlen, David Johnson (nephew of Dyvone Freburg), **Phil Armato** (Patte Lund's father), **Mildred Anderson** (mother of Cheryl Erdmann), **Lyle Solko, Don Johnson** (friend of Lyle & Phyllis Nelson), **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), **Stacey & Kevin Holder** (Sally Schrader's daughter and son-in-law), **Sally and Marcie Ramsey** (friends of Helen Swanson), **Pastor Jane McChesney, 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), **Lois and Mike Virtue** (friends of Scott & Sue Francis), 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).

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.

Library News

Stop by the library and check out one of our new audio-books. Karl Anderson has given the library money from his wife Judy's memorial fund.

There is no library work day in July.

Senior News

There is no Senior event in July.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Pastor Scott will be at Confirmation Camp at LOMC July 20-21.

Pastor Scott will be on vacation July 24 - August 7.

Important Notice

Beginning with this issue of the Shepherd's Staff a copy of the approved minutes from the council meeting will be included. Please let the church office or Pastor Scott know if there are other items you would like to see in the newsletter.

Save the Date

August 19 beginning at 8:00 a.m. will be a work day on the church property. Many hands make the work go faster.



Attendance statistics average are based on
the 5 weeks
May 28 - June 25

Average attendance: 67

Contributions average are based on
the 4 weeks
May 28 - June 18

Average weekly contributions:
 Current & Benevolence \$ 2,852.75
 Building Fund - \$ 467.25

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$19,451.44	\$17,325.00	\$79,316.91	\$80,125.00
Expense	\$16,386.09	\$15,187.25	\$78,528.78	\$78,357.77
Inc/exp	\$3,065.35	\$2,137.75	\$788.13	\$1,767.23
plus offsets	\$2,025.23	\$875.66	\$4,409.86	\$3,265.83
Net income	\$5,090.58	\$3,013.41	\$5,197.99	\$5,033.06

	5/31/17	4/30/17
C&B balance	\$12,193.56	\$7,102.98

	Building Actual	Building Budget	BLD YTD Actual	BLD YTD Budget
Income	\$2,956.00	\$2,233.00	\$11,947.00	\$11,167.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$11,287.00	\$11,287.00
Net inc/exp	\$698.60	-\$24.40	\$660.00	-\$120.00

	5/31/17	4/30/17
Building fund balance	\$18,825.25	\$18,126.65

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
 Balance on our mortgage - \$289285.33

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



**YOUTH CONNECT
 BONFIRE WORSHIPS**

Two dates have been set for bonfire worship nights this summer, Wednesday, July 12th and Wednesday, August 9th, both from 6-8 pm at Christ Lutheran. These are open to youth in high school and older. There will be a fun game to start the night (water gun fight in July and a homemade escape room in August) followed by snacks, fellowship, and worship.

**ANNUAL CHURCH
 PICNIC**

* **AUGUST 13**
 * **11 - 2**

* **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX**

save the date!

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

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



Family to Family

Our council is supporting the opportunity for our members to mentor a family that will be making their home at The Grove at Keith Creek housing development. This citywide goal is to establish relationships by pairing a team with a family to support their transition to their new home. Consider being part of the team! Speak with Pastor or Kris Tukker.

2017 City-Wide Church Picnic

Save the date to join your fellow Christians from throughout the Rockford area for a Unity picnic on Saturday, August 12 from 1- 4 at YMCA Camp Winnebago on North Main Street. Together we'll build on last year's record attendance and fun for all ages while we get to know each other better as the body of Christ for Rockford.

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
29th Annual Northern Illinois Synod Convention

Lifting the Least

"So in everything, do to others as you would have them do to you." -Matthew 7:12

"Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." -Matthew 25:40

Saturday, September 16, 2017

9:00 am

Immanuel, Dixon

Register online and find out more
at nissynod.org/women


Morning
message
by
Bishop Jeffrey Clements

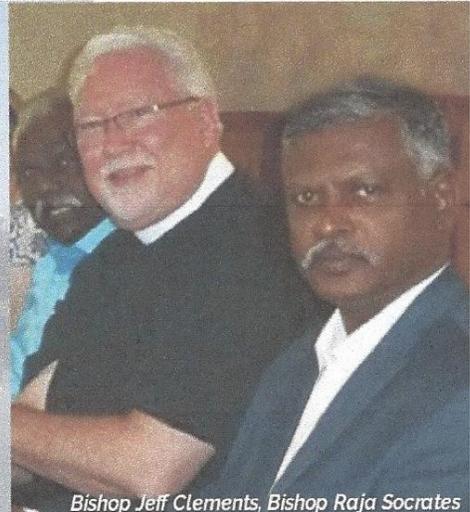


Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA

Companion Synod Trip to India, 12 Days, February 5-17, 2018

Optional extension to Taj Mahal, Agra: February 16-18

with Bishop Jeff Clements, Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, John and Esther Prabhakar



Bishop Jeff Clements, Bishop Raja Socrates

Tour Cost Summary

Approximately \$ 2299 (single supplement \$299)
Extension \$ 599 (single supplement \$99)

Participants should also plan on \$500 - \$1000 in cash for expenses during time spent with the Arcot Church in addition to the above costs.

For more information/ questions

815 964 9934

Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann
at the NI Synod office or

Dr. John & Esther Prabhakar 815 757 0406

Please Pray, consult with your family and once you decide to go, please call Deaconess Cheryl or e-mail her at CErdmann@nisynod.org and reserve your spot. Places are limited to maximum of 25, with a minimum of 20.

More information on the kiosk.

What's Included?

Round-trip economy class airfare from Chicago, accommodations *shared occupancy*, meals as shown, transfers and transportation, extensive sightseeing, entrance fees, portage, local guides, gratuities for drivers and guides, and airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$99 per person).

Not Included: Indian entry visa is required for U.S. citizens (currently \$60 per person for the online e-visa) *GTD will provide information*, fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour, beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast, any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary, items of a personal nature, optional travel protection (Cost of this optional GTD Travel Protection is \$169 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable fourteen days after you purchase a plan), passport fees (a passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S.)

Optional Extension: One-way airfare and tax from Chennai to Delhi, accommodations *shared occupancy*, meals as shown, transfers and transportation, extensive sightseeing, entrance fees, portage, local guides, and gratuities for drivers and guides.

July 15

Bike The City

8:30-11:30am



Architectural Bike Tour with Gary Anderson

Midtown to Downtown - Starts & Ends at Katie's Cup





The Midtown Lutheran Parish sponsored *FREE POP-UP Street Store* will held be on Saturday—July 29th from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. The store will be hosted at First Lutheran, in their parking lot, and all Midtown Congregations are currently accepting donations.

The *FREE POP-UP Street Store* will feature men's, women's, and children's clothing and shoes. *There will also be FREE hot dogs, chips, and bottled water available while the store is open and while supplies last.*

Summer Potluck

Welcome, Rev. Jane

Tuesday, July 11

Come to the Summer Potluck at 6:00 PM in the Social Hall. We will welcome Rev. Jane Anita of the Arcot Lutheran Church. Many of you know Rev. Jane as the Manager of the Siloam Girls Boarding Home in Tirukoilur, India where 600 girls live, many of whom you sponsor through LPGM. Rev. Jane is visiting Our Savior's on her way to the WELCA Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis later that week.

Enjoy a summer evening with good food and an opportunity to hear Rev. Jane share stories of her work.

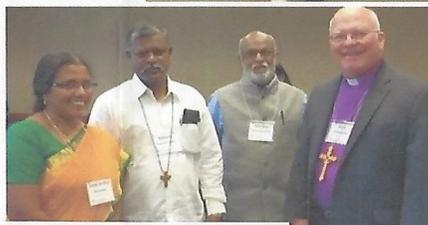
Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks and table service will be provided. See you there!

Pastor Jane is the guest of **all of us** in the NI synod, so please come to her welcoming potluck at **Our Savior's Lutheran Church** at 3300 Rural Street in Rockford.

A freewill offering will be taken to cover the last \$110 of her travel expenses.

A blessing will be given to all the women who will be traveling to the WELCA Triennial Convention in Minneapolis.

We hope that you can come! You would be most welcome!



For more
information

Cathy McCulley-Rothkopf

6532 Burberry Drive cathycculley@comcast.net
Rockford, IL 61114 mobile 815.262.9550

Salem's

Wednesday
August 2
6:30pm



Sundstrand Park, Belvidere
\$6/donation

Corn Boil

Along with delicious sweet corn, we'll have ham, tomatoes, French bread, beverages and great fellowship!

Join Us For Our 4th Annual

Luau

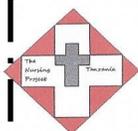
Saturday, July 29
4:30pm

Cost is \$10.00/person

Call Pastor Bill or Lois in the Church Office to make your reservations.



1629 South Sixth Street, Rockford 815-965-5131



The Nursing Project – Tanzania

- Imagine a hospital that only has ½ the nurses needed.
- Imagine having to walk 15-20 miles to reach any type of health care.
- Imagine having no opportunities to earn a living for your family.

For the people of Tanzania this is a reality and the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center School of Nursing is working to provide solutions to these problems and more. The school began in 2014 in a rented location. Without a new permanent location, the school is in danger of losing its license and being closed. To help with this project the Northern Illinois Synod initiated a Task Force. The Task Force has set a goal of raising \$100,000 to help build the new school.

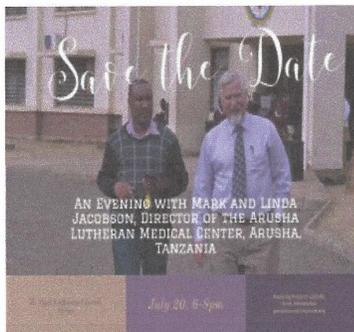
The Nursing Project – Tanzania task force asks the congregations and people of our synod to join us in a project that will educate nurses, lift individuals and families out of poverty, create better health care in northern Tanzania, and strengthen our existing partnership with the North Central Diocese.

More information can be found

- Facebook: [The Nursing Project Tanzania](#)
- Email: thenursingproject@nisynod.org
- Synod Website: <http://nisynod.org/the-nursing-project-in-tanzania/>

Donations can be made through the Facebook page and the synod website or by sending a check to the Synod office at NIS, 103 W State St, Rockford IL 61101. Please designate check for the Nursing Project.

Dinner with Dr Mark Jacobson



The Nursing Project – Tanzania is hosting a dinner with Dr Mark Jacobson, director of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center Nursing School on Thursday July 20, 6pm – 8pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dixon.

The event is open to anyone interested in hearing about the current nursing school program and supporting The Nursing Project – Tanzania as they raise funds to build a much needed new nursing school building.

A buffet dinner will be served from 6pm – 7pm and the program will begin at 7pm. There is no charge for the meal and an offering will be taken with all donations going to the building of the new school.

RSVPs are appreciated but not required to togerickson@nisynod.org. Questions about the event can be directed to the same email.



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.

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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
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

