

The Powerful Message

One thing the Wednesday morning Bible study group has learned is that they love *The Message*, Pr. Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of the Bible. Pr. Peterson has a knack for finding lively ways to express familiar passages of scripture. John 3:16 ("For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.") becomes "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life." Psalm 23:1 ("The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.") becomes "God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing." No matter the text, the Wednesday morning group has found that *The Message* helps them hear God's word in a new way.

That's a big impact for just a new wording of the same scriptures you may be used to hearing. So try to imagine the impact of *the message*, the one the message is named for, the first time the world heard it. In Acts 2, Peter proclaims to the crowd at Pentecost that a new age of the Holy Spirit has begun, because Jesus Christ, crucified by humankind, has been raised up by God and freed from death. And when those hearing Peter's words are "cut to the heart," Peter exhorts them, "'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him'" (Acts 2:37-40). With that potent, world-changing message Christ's church began its mission.

The New Testament has a word for that powerful message: *kerygma* ("proclamation"). While fellowship (*koinonia*) and serving (*diakonia*) are what the church always *does*, the *kerygma*—the good news of Christ crucified and risen—constitutes the church, like bricks the Holy Spirit builds up with the mortar of faith. Like the English word "proclamation," *kerygma* refers to the message itself and to the act of proclaiming it, and both Acts and the Epistles give many examples of *kerygma* in both senses. Both in the message and its proclamation, the *kerygma* of Christ is still the means through which God calls us to faith.

So what does *kerygma* mean for you? What is the core of the good news in your life, that promise that doesn't change no matter what else has changed for you? How would you share it with someone in a sentence or two? It might sound different in your words than in Peter's or Paul's or Eugene Peterson's, but that's okay. Paul reminds us to put no stock in fancy words, because the message of Jesus shared from person to person is *powerful all by itself*.

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:17-18)

† IN OUR PRAYERS †

Intersessions: **Nevagay Abel, Neva & Don Abel, Kelsey Hernandez, Stu Hoffman, Lois Johnson, Lisa Jones, Doris Kampfe, Kevin Persaud, Carline Talmadge, Ruby Watson, Ron Hunt, Alice Kundo, Annette Aken, Helen Swanson, Doris Dohlen, Hugh & Linda DeGroff's family, 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), **Carol Triplett** (friend of the Smalley and Wacker families), **LeAnn Dahl** (daughter of Carol Dahl), **Charlotte** (mother of Kay Brindle), **Huxley** (Carol Dahl's nieces grandson), **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), **Denise Sand** (daughter of Leona Garthwaite), and **the Stubbs family** (missionaries in Tanzania).

Thanksgiving: **Stacey & Kevin Holder** (Sally Schrader's daughter and son-in-law), **Janet** (Cheryl Erdmann's deaconess sister)

(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.

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.

Senior News

No Senior luncheon in August.



Rescue Mission Needs Our Help!

Social Ministry

The Rockford Rescue Mission is asking for donations of bathroom tissue and men's deodorant for their clients. The Mission is open 24 hours a day for 365 days annually and provide shelter for close to 130 clients daily so they are in constant need of supplies. We will be collecting these items during the month of August. You may purchase the items and bring to church or donate money for the purchase these items.

Library News



What are you reading this summer?

Our church library has great Christian fiction, biographies, audio books, easy to listen CD's, children's books, DVD's and much more.
Where can you read? In your backyard, on your porch, at the beach, riding in a car (not the driver), in air conditioned houses, etc. Don't wait! Our library books, etc. need you!



Please let the church office or Pastor Scott know if there are items you would like to see in the newsletter.

Welcome

We welcome Judy Miller as a member of the body of Christ at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in August. Judy is a retired secretary and enjoys reading.

Attendance statistics average are based on
the 4 weeks
July 2 - July 23

Average attendance: 65

Contributions average are based on
the 4 weeks
June 25- July 16

Average weekly contributions:
Current & Benevolence \$ 2,793.00
Building Fund - \$ 388.50

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$11,440.98	\$11,425.00	\$90,757.89	\$91,550.00
Expense	\$17,020.50	\$16,913.93	\$95,549.28	\$95,271.70
Inc/exp plus offsets	-\$5,579.52 \$586.16	-\$5,488.93 \$488.17	-\$4,791.39 \$4,996.02	-\$3,721.70 \$3,754.00
Net income	-\$4,993.36	-\$5,000.76	\$204.63	\$32.30

C&B balance

	6/30/17	5/31/17
	\$12,193.56	\$12,193.56

	Building Actual	Building Budget	BLD YTD Actual	BLD YTD Budget
Income	\$2,074.00	\$2,233.00	\$14,021.00	\$13,400.00
Expense	\$4,422.40	\$2,257.40	\$15,709.40	\$13,544.40
Net inc/exp	-\$2,348.40	-\$24.40	-\$1,688.40	-\$144.40

Expenses this month include \$2165 for our new LED parking lot lights

	6/30/17	5/31/17
Building fund balance	\$18,825.25	\$18,825.25

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
Balance on our mortgage - \$288,273.61

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

Quarterly Statements

The 2nd quarter statements are ready. Please pick your up in the Narthex or call the church office to have yours mailed.



Congregational Work day Saturday, August 19

We will start at 8:30 a.m.. Please bring some tools from home to help out: rakes, shovels, paint brushes, window cleaning stuff, etc.

We have a list of things that we would like to accomplish! If you see something that speaks to you feel free to work on it prior to the work day. Everybody can't come on a given day, but might have some time during the week.

One big project will be cleaning up the basement. STUFF SEEMS TO ACCUMULATE DOWN THERE! If you have things in the basement that you wish to keep, please claim it or it will be repurposed to a charity or dumped, depending on its usefulness.

Lunch will be provided on Saturday.



What We Did on Summer Vacation

Have you had an experience you'd like to share with the church? Sign up with Pastor

Scott to talk about what you've been up to during the Forum after worship in September. From Synod Assembly to church camp, mission trips to vacations, and everything in between, your sisters and brothers in Christ will be inspired by what you've seen and heard.

A FUN WEEK-END AHEAD



ALL are welcome to join us for this FREE Community Event!!! The afternoon picnic will include a free meal, music, archery, climbing, bounce houses, bingo, and more!!!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13



We'll begin Sunday morning with worship outside (weather permitting). We will gather in the memory garden to worship our creator in His beautiful world.

THEN

Where: Church grounds (inside if weather is inclement)

When: from 11-2 with food served about 11:30 a.m.

Sign up in the Narthex to bring a dish to pass

Shepherd of the Valley will provide:
Fried chicken, hot dogs, brats, water, lemonade, and paper products

There will be games, fellowship and fun in the sun.

Contact the Fellowship Committee with questions.

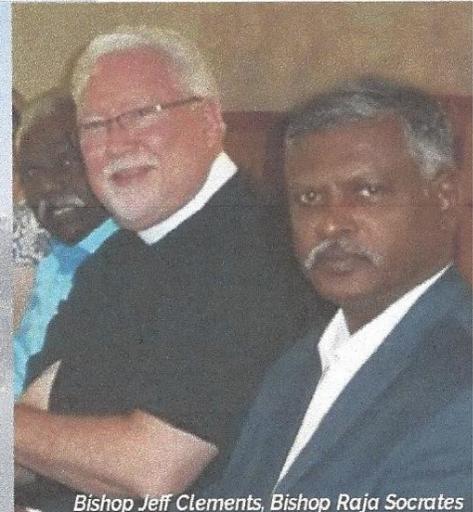


Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA

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.)

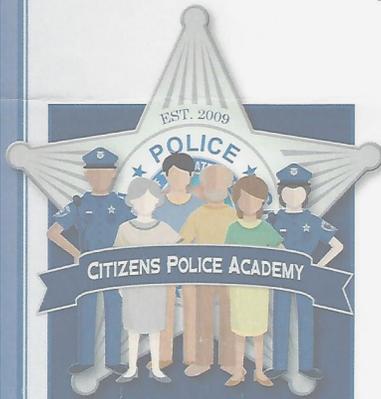
Optional Extension: One-way airfare and tax from Chennai to Delhi, accommodations *shared occupancy*, meals as shown, transfers and transportation, extensive sightseeing, entrance fees, portage, local guides, and gratuities for drivers and guides.



YOUTH CONNECT BONFIRE WORSHIPS

The next bonfire worship is Wednesday, August 9th, from 6-8 pm at Christ Lutheran. The worship is open to youth in high school and older. There will be a fun game to start the night and a homemade escape room followed by snacks, fellowship, and worship.

ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY August 22—October 17, 2017



Applications

To register

Online visit:
www.rockfordil.gov/police

Deadline for application:
August 1, 2017

For more information contact Karen -
Karen.hammarberg@rockfordil.gov

Are you interested in learning more about the
Rockford Police Department?

The Rockford Police officers and personnel from various divisions will present problem-solving strategies for non-police officers to learn more about the police department and criminal justice system.

Classes include:

- ★ Organization Structure of the Rockford Police Department
- ★ Domestic Violence
- ★ Lies and Deception
- ★ States Attorney
- ★ Gang Unit/Criminal Law
- ★ K9, Red Man and Narcotics demo
- ★ Forensics, mock crime scene
- ★ Tours of the 911 Center and Jail

This is a FREE Course!

This is a 10 week course on
Tuesdays, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Classes meet at
Rockford Police District 2
1410 Broadway, Rockford, IL.
Location and dates are subject to change
Graduation October 24th at District 2

N7891 US Hwy 12
Elkhorn, WI
262-742-2352

Lutherdale Fest



QUILT AUCTION

31ST ANNUAL



AUGUST 12TH, 2017
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Live Auction starts at 10 A.M.
Over 300 Quilts to bid on

Silent Auction Items • Food Concessions
Door Prizes • Fresh Baked Goods & Pies
Crafts • Fabric Sale • Honey
Pontoon Rides On The Lake

Online Quilt Viewing and Bidding at www.lutherdale.org

Quilt Preview & Fish Fry

Friday August 11th • 3:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Fresh Baked Goods • Silent Auction Items

Fish Fry Menu: Baked or Lager Battered Cod,
Choice of Potato, Cole Slaw, Bread & Butter,
Applesauce, Beverage & Dessert

Adults: \$14 Youth (12 and under): \$7

Funded by multiple Thrivent Action Teams and the
local Thrivent Financial Shoreline Group

**FREE
KIDS
AREA**
9 AM—4 PM
Play games, watch
movies, make crafts.
Lunch available for \$5

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 nisynod.org/women

Morning
message
by
Bishop Jeffrey Clements



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!

Rockford area Lutheran Churches (ELCA)
and Katie's Cup
invite you to:

HERE WE STAND: DIALOGUES OF FAITH AND THE REFORMATION

Tuesdays September 12th, October 3rd,
and November 7th
6:30pm at Katie's Cup
On the corner of 7th Street and 4th Avenue

September 12th discussion featuring
the Rev. Dr. Martin Lohrmann,
Assistant Professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage at
Wartburg Seminary
and Dr. Jacob Kohlhaas, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Moral Theology at Loras College

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

 Katie's
CUP
coffee • conversation • community

 Rockford Area
Lutheran
Ministries

As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, *Living Lutheran* is exploring 500 of its unique aspects, beginning the series this month with 50 Reformation things you may not know about the Reformation. We will list 10 facts each month.

- 1 The word "Protestant" was first used formally around 1529. "Protestant" originates from the Latin word *protestari*, meaning "declare publicly, testify, protest."
- 2 The name "Lutheran" originated as a derogatory term used against Martin Luther by German scholastic theologian Johann Maier von Eck during the Leipzig Debate in 1519.
- 3 While reformers rejected marriage as a sacrament of the church, they expanded the role of the church in marriage. Couples took an oath before God and the ceremony was moved from outside the church on the doorstep—a medieval practice—to inside the sanctuary in front of the altar.
- 4 The Reformation created a demand for all kinds of religious writings. Readership was so great that the number of books printed in Germany increased from about 150 in 1518 to nearly 1,000 six years later.
- 5 By the time Luther died, 30 editions of the Small Catechism had been published. By the end of the 16th century, there were an additional 125 editions in circulation and approximately 100,000 copies in print.
- 6 An estimated 6,001,500,000 Bibles have been printed since the first one came off the press in the Middle Ages. The first Bible published in North America was printed in 1663.
- 7 The Luther rose (or Luther seal) was created at the request of printers to have a personal symbol representing the reformer's faith that could serve as a mark indicating something was an authorized publication of Luther's. It became widely recognized as the symbol for Lutheranism, and still is today.
- 8 With the invention of the printing press and the introduction of pamphlets and booklets to the public, women in the 16th century found increasing access to information they had been previously restricted from reading, studying, discussing or even listening to in public settings.
- 9 The Reformation paved the way for what we still refer to as a "Protestant work ethic." Luther's teachings about the "priesthood of all believers" helped dissolve the wall between "temporal" and "spiritual" realms. In doing so, everyday work and labor was affirmed and seen as pleasing to God; it was no longer considered an inferior life to that of a monastic life or the priesthood.
- 10 Education was set on a far-reaching course of reforming thanks in part to Luther's advocacy and ideas that a proper, well-organized and broad education for all children—not just those of the wealthy elite—would benefit the state as well as the church.

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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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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
Vicki Nitz, Preschool
Sherry Scheider, Worship/Music
Kris Tukker, Social Ministry
Peggy Wenstrom, Personnel
Don Wiese, Finance
John Wolf, Stewardship
Deb Zandonatti, Outreach
Property
Youth Ministry

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

Shepherd of the Valley Summer Concert Series 2017

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*

