



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Volume 60 Issue 4

MAY 2018

We Are Lutheran

Last month in this space you read that Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has four emphases for understanding the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The first was "We Are Church," that is, a people baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The second is like it: "We Are Lutheran."

"Lutheran" is not the most popular word lately. Not for nothing do theologians write books like *Reclaiming the "L" Word* (a good read, by the way). Many of the newest ELCA congregations don't use it as part of their names, in part because "Lutheran" may not mean much to people hearing it for the first time.

What would those first-timers say? They might guess it has something to do with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At best, they might connect the "Lutheran" church with Martin Luther, but even then it's easy to miss the mark. Martin Luther, of course, was probably the greatest Christian theologian of the last millennium, but he was also a forceful actor in world history, as well as a vicious anti-Semite known for insulting his opponents in the strongest terms. He never wanted to be the founder of a denomination, nor did he want his name used to describe Christians. He would be pleased, no doubt, that in some places Lutheran churches are known instead as "Evangelical"—that is, "of the gospel."

Arguably, the word "Evangelical" is even more misleading in our setting than "Lutheran" (see the cover story in April's *Living Lutheran* magazine). But that simple meaning, "of the gospel," gets at why Luther's theology and the church that bears his name matter. Luther's reformation sought not to claim a particular label for itself but to reclaim the gospel as the true treasure of the church. Rather than rejecting tradition, scripture, ministry, liturgy, polity, or any other feature of the church, Lutherans see all of those things as bearers of the good news of salvation. Luther and company insisted that this good news is God's promise freely made for Christ's sake, something not to be earned fearfully but to be trusted joyfully.

As Christians with that Lutheran heritage, you and I are called to live in joyful trust and to look at the church and the world through that lens. Why read and revere scripture? Because there we find the gospel. Why accept all people, no matter who they are? Because that's how Christ accepts all people. Why call ourselves "Lutheran"? Not to claim that we're the only Christians worthy of the name, but to remind others and ourselves of the only news worthy of the name "gospel."

† IN OUR PRAYERS †



Intercessions: **Nevagay Abel, Don Abel, Alka David, Elizabeth David, Stu Hoffman, Lisa Jones, Doris Kampfe, Kevin Persaud, Carline Talmadge, Alice Kundo, Karl Anderson, Doris Dohlen, John Miller, Hugh DeGroff, Alice Schaefer, Robert Aken, Richard Farris, Sally Schrader, Peggy Wenstrom, Graydon Anderson, Mildred Anderson** (mother of Cheryl Erdmann), **Lyle Solko, Carol Triplett** (friend of the Smalley and Wacker families), **Bill Wolf** (John Wolf's father), **Iona Reidlinger** (niece of Linda Severson), **Loretta Thompson** (sister of Linda Severson), **Scott K.** (husband of Karl Anderson's niece), **Rick DeGroff** (Linda & Hugh DeGroff's son), **Tyler Webb** (son of Jordan Stork), **Don Pflipson** (friend of Kay & Don Brindle), **Bryan Krause** (Anita Ralston's brother), **Tom Pellant** (brother of Candy Wolf and Mark Pellant), **Nancy Brandt** (Kay Brindles sister), **Patty Stork** (Jordan Stork's mother), **Linda Finegan** (friend of the Bailey family), **the family of Destiny Tolodxi, Charles Last** (Judy Miller's brother), **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).



Our caterpillars have arrived and the children are looking forward to seeing the steps it takes to turn them into beautiful butterflies.

The classes are also looking forward to riding their trikes/bikes to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital!

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is still open. Check with Patti Wiese for more information.



The church staff is looking for a person or persons to take responsibility of lowering the flag on the corner to 1/2 staff when necessary and then raising it again. If you would be interested in serving in this ministry contact the church office.

Become a Member

Please speak with Pastor Scott after worship if you would like to be received into our community of faith on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

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.

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

Senior News

Seniors! Join us for a game day at church Tuesday, May 29 th At 11:30am. Bring your own lunch! Dessert and coffee provided. We will have several different games to play or learn to play. Everyone is welcome!





Library work day
 Tuesday, May 8
 9:30 a.m.

Attendance statistics average are based on
ATTENDANCE FROM
March 25 through April 15
This includes the three days and Easter

Average attendance: 117

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

2ND SUNDAY
MAY 13, 2018

FOOD MUSIC
GAMES
PRAISE WORSHIP
KATIE'S CUP
502 7TH STREET,
ROCKFORD

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
JUST SHOW UP
TO LEARN MORE CALL
AMY
815-962-4279

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of March 31, 2018 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$12,885.28	\$12,575.00	\$46,908.67	\$45,870.00
Expense	\$18,060.55	\$16,930.85	\$52,852.53	\$49,079.92
Inc/exp	-\$5,175.27	-\$4,355.85	-\$5,943.86	-\$3,209.92
plus offsets	\$1,453.71	\$525.67	\$4,841.82	\$1,237.00
Net income	-\$3,721.56	-\$3,830.18	-\$1,102.04	-\$1,972.92

C&B balance	3/31/18 \$6,275.73	2/28/18 \$9,997.29
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	Building Actual	Building Budget	BLD YTD Actual	BLD YTD Budget
Income	\$1,605.00	\$2,060.37	\$5,940.00	\$6,835.67
Expense	\$2,220.00	\$2,220.00	\$6,660.00	\$6,660.00
Net inc/exp	-\$615.00	-\$159.63	-\$720.00	\$175.67

Building fund balance	3/31/18 \$14,535.45	2/28/15 \$15,150.45
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Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
 Balance on our mortgage - \$278544.54

Note: Our challenge is to give 5% more than you pledged!



Geraniums for Pentecost

\$5.00 each

Sign-up in the Narthex

Wear Red on May 20th

Pentecost is the 3rd most important day in the church year.



We have been asked to provide lunches for 75 volunteers on May 19! We can all be part of the village (it takes a village) that makes this happen. A poster will be available to sign up. Consider this ministry! We will need simple lunches of a sandwich, chips, piece of fruit, and a cookie.



Bags of Hope for Victims of Human Trafficking

Illinois is ranked #8 in the U.S. for human trafficking with Rockford #2 city in our state! The average age of victims forced into prostitution is 13-14 years old. We will be collecting small toiletry/cosmetic items or dollars to buy the articles to be placed in small bags to be given to these victims. Let's share a gift of caring and hope to these victims.



WORK DAY

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 16th. The property committee is planning a work day. Lunch will be provided. There are many projects to work on and items designed to spruce up the building.

Living Vine (Women's Bible Study)

Join the women of Shepherd of the Valley at 9:30 a.m. on May 21 for a women's bible study. We are using the bible study from the Gather magazine.



Summer Concert Series

- June 6 – WHS Jazz Band (Zane Smalley is a member)
- June 20 – Doug Janicke & his niece
- July 11 – The Diners (Holden Kellogg's band)
- July 25 – Acoustic Juice (Tom Wilson and Tim Austin)
- Aug. 8 – Alleluia Quartet
- Aug. 22 – Patte Armato Lund

Faith Forum

Join us in Shepherd Hall (down the hall from the office), 11:00-11:45 A.M. most Sundays for Faith Forum (a.k.a. Adult Forum). Each month we'll follow this pattern:

- * 1st Sunday of the month: Together in Faith (informal coffee and conversation in Moline Hall)
- * 2nd Sunday of the month: Living Lutheran (discussing last month's *Living Lutheran Magazine*)
- * 3rd Sunday of the month: Connecting the Faith (how our faith matters in the world)
- * 4th Sunday of the month: Deepening the Faith (topics to deepen our roots in the faith)

Avast ye Mates!!!

Join us for a high seas adventure as we seek God's treasure here on Earth. Vacation Bible School 2018 begins Monday, June 18th and goes through Friday, June 22nd. We'll seek and explore through games, crafts, music and all manner of fun from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.



So tell your friends, neighbors and family because this adventure is FREE! That's right, all this Piratey fun and it won't cost 'ye a single doubloon! So sign up soon, space is limited. (Registration forms can be found in the narthex. For more information, call the scurvy Captain Patte the Pirate 815-566-1301)



Brothers and Sisters in Christ! Won't you consider volunteering to help with Vacation Bible School. We will need adults to help shepherd the students, prepare and serve snacks, assist with games, facilitate the teachers lounge, assist with music and crafts and in general join in the joy of sharing God's love with the future of our church. June 18th - 22nd from 8:30a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please watch for a sign up in the narthex and sign up for any help you can give. Even one day is helpful! Thank you in advance for your service.



We Love Vacation Bible School!!

Join Us
this Summer



ALI PARIS IN CONCERT
WEDNESDAY, MAY 30 at 7:00 PM
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
225 South Third Street, Rockford, IL

SPONSORED BY: Northern Illinois Synod
Global Mission Committee
First Lutheran Church, Rockford
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline
North Conference

Ali Paris captivates audiences worldwide with his unique fusion of Middle Eastern and Western music styles highlighted by both technical virtuosity and emotional expression. Ali accompanies his singing with his instrument, the Qanun, a rare Middle-Eastern 76-string zither that dates back to the 14th century.

FREEWILL OFFERING will support
Augusta Victoria Hospital, the Center for Treatment of Childhood Cancers in Jerusalem

Save the dates



**Katie's Choice
Book Club**

Thursday
May 10
10 am

**Big Magic
Creative Living Beyond Fear**

By Elizabeth Gilbert



Readers of all ages and walks of life have drawn inspiration and empowerment from Elizabeth Gilbert's books (including *Eat, Pray, Love*) for years. In *Big Magic*, Gilbert digs deep into her own generative process to share her wisdom and unique perspective on creativity, offering potent insights into the mysterious nature of inspiration. Whether you are looking to write a book, make art, find new ways to address challenges in your work, embark on a dream long deferred, or simply infuse your everyday life with more mindfulness and passion, Gilbert's book cracks open a world of wonder and joy!

"Big Magic is a celebration of a creative life. . . . Gilbert's love of creativity is infectious, and there's a lot of great advice in this sunny book."
- *The Washington Post*

"Reading [Big Magic] is a little like having a coach by your side, cheering on your efforts—whatever they are—candidly and selflessly."
- *The Christian Science Monitor*

Katie's Cup coffeebar
Corner of 7th Street and 4th Avenue

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: *The Hearts of Men* by Nikolas Butler • Thursday, June 14, 10 am



CUP Presents: Second Thursday Concerts

Music on Thursdays . . . on Seventh!



Chip Messiner will be lighting up the coffeebar with his **JOHN DENVER Tribute Show, "Sunshine on My Shoulders!"**

Chip has been entertaining since 1966. He was just eleven years old when he played his first professional job! Performing today, he enjoys playing and singing at festivals and clubs with his "One Man Country Band" or solo with just his acoustic guitar. Besides his wife, it's the thing that he loves the most: Performing!!!!

**Chip Messiner
Thursday, May 10**

Doors open at 6 pm. Concert begins at 7 pm. Free Admission.

CDs and merchandise offered for sale. Katie's Cup full drink and food menu available.
502 7th Street 815.986.0628 katiecupcoffee@gmail.com www.katiecup.com Find us on Facebook!

2018 Taste of Zion



Theme: On The Road 2 D.C.....

May 19 from 4-6pm

Zion Lutheran Church

Multicultural Food Celebration

May 23 - Katie's Cup Golf Outing @ Timber Pointe

June 29 - Piping Hot @ Katie's Cup

July 23 - 2019 Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries Golf Scramble @ Swanhills Golf Course, Belvidere

July 14 - Bike Midtown

Zion Lutheran Church

Friday night fish fry

May 4 from 5-7p.m.

\$10.00 per person / \$7.00 for children



The menu is: baked cod, deep fried cod, baked tilapia, baked cat fish, mostaccioli, baked potato, cole slaw, vegetable, beverages, and desserts.



Take Me **OUT** TO THE **Ball Game**

Batter Up!
Salem's Men Banquet
 Thursday, May 17
 6:00pm
 Cost **\$10**

BE SURE TO WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM'S LOGO FROM ANY SPORT

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
 June 7 — June 8
 8:00am-5:00pm

SATURDAY — June 9
 8:00am-11:00am

Wanted:
 Clothes, games, toys, household items, outside items, or anything no longer needed in your home.

Items can be brought to the Church after May 15th

1629 South Sixth Street, Rockford, IL

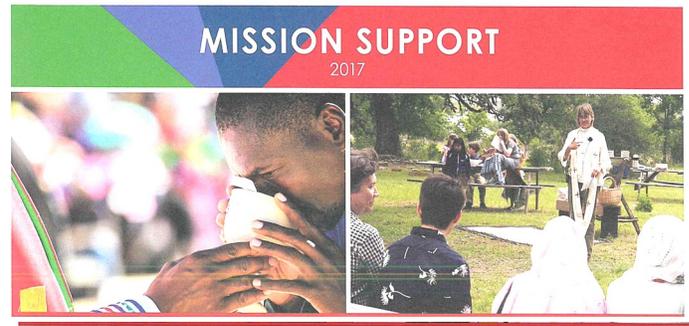


Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries
 www.RocktheGood.com
 815-982-1279

Saturday, September 8, 2018
 Rockford Lutheran High School



Pack meals for the local community



Thank You

To the members of
Shepherd Of The Valley Lutheran Church, Rockford
 from the
Northern Illinois Synod
 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 In grateful appreciation for giving
\$6,600
 for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synodical and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Jeffrey Clements
 Synod Bishop
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Elizabeth B. Eaton
 Presiding Bishop
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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 - Janette Erickson
Treasurer - Phil Smalley

Congregation Council

Carol Bailey
Liz Beale
Janette Erickson
Rhoda Fox
Vicki Nitz
Sherry Scheider
Zane Smalley
Bob Tukker
Peggy Wenstrom
Don Wiese
John Wolf

Staff

The Rev. Scott Benolkin, Pas-
tor
Judi Fields, Secretary
Linda Longardner, Organist
Phil Smalley, Treasurer
Susie Smalley, Music Coordinator
Patte Lund, Christian Education

