

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

Volume 60 Issue 10

December 2018/JANUARY 2019

Christmas Doesn't End

As far back as I can remember, I have heard people complaining about how early "Christmas" begins. This was true back when stores had "day after Thanksgiving" sales instead of the now-ubiquitous "Black Friday" sales. It was true before certain radio stations started changing their format to all Christmas songs sometime after Halloween. It was probably true before "A Charlie Brown Christmas" contrasted all those big, shiny aluminum trees with the pathetic sapling Charlie bought.

But as valid as such complaints may be, to me they overlook the yearning our culture has for what Christmas can represent. Beneath crass commercialism lies a longing for peace on earth and goodwill to all, and behind nostalgia for Christmases past is an unfulfilled hope for more meaningful human connection in the present. At its best, Christmas—even the watered-down TV movie version—appeals to our common humanity, not our cynicism.

That's why my Christmas complaint, if you want to call it that, is not really that it starts too early, but that it ends too soon. No matter how special December 25 was, on December 26 our culture moves on. Stores have clearance racks and lines at the return counter. Media have those end-of-year "best-of" lists. People looking for connection are making New Year's Eve plans.

But don't be fooled, brothers and sisters, because Christmas is not over after one day. Christmas is not even over after 12 days (and who would remember that anyway if it weren't for that "partridge in a pear tree" song?). Christmas is an event that changes the cosmos forever after. The Christmas morning gospel from John 1 makes that clear: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." God has become one with humanity and there's no going back, for God or for us.

So keep that tree up for a while. Have some egg nog in January. Share with those in need even after the bell-ringers go home. Don't stop looking for peace on earth and living with goodwill toward all. And with Mary, keep treasuring the promises of the Christ child and pondering them in your heart.

† IN OUR PRAYERS †



Intercessions: **Nevagay Abel, Don Abel, Alka David, Elizabeth David, Stu Hoffman, Lisa Jones, Doris Kampfe, Kevin Persaud, Carline Talmadge, Karl Anderson, Doris Dohlen, John Miller, Alice Schaefer, Robert Aken, Richard Farris, Graydon Anderson, Sally Schrader, Jessie Tolodxi, Iona Reidlinger** (niece of Linda Severson), **Scott K.** (husband of Karl Anderson's niece), **Nancy Brandt** (Kay Brindle's sister), **Linda Finegan** (friend of the Bailey family), **Charles Last** (Judy Miller's brother), **Charlotte Sand** (mother of Kay Brindle, **Karen** (Dave Musser's sister), **Keith Sand** (Kay Brindle's brother), **Sara Falth** (Karl Anderson's sister), **Howard Sand** (Kay Brindle's father), **Tiffany Deshazer** (granddaughter of Ruth & Graydon Anderson), **Tom Pellant** (brother of Candy Wolf and Mark Pellant), and **Pastor Lynn Morrow** (friend of Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann), **the Stubbs family** (missionaries in Tanzania).

(Please pray with this list and let either Pastor Scott or the church office know when a name can be removed).

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

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.

Become a Member

Please speak with Pastor Scott after worship if you would like to be received into our community of faith on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019.

Library news



The library committee will now be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.



Living Vine (Women's Bible Study)

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

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

January 21
February 18

Cover Girls



Come join us on the first Monday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in Shepherd Hall. We will be making a variety of items for our neighbors in need. We've made blankets for the pre schoolers at Circles of Learning to use during their rest time and are currently working on hats to go to the Rescue Mission or Carpenter's Place.

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

January 7
February 4

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$15,843.24	\$14,375.00	\$149,158.38	\$146,350.00
Expense	\$13,769.06	\$13,849.59	\$165,641.35	\$160,301.47
Inc/exp	\$2,074.18	\$525.41	-\$16,482.97	-\$13,951.47
plus offsets	\$126.08	\$120.37	\$10,516.51	\$4,956.67
Net income	\$2,200.26	\$645.78	-\$5,966.46	-\$8,994.80

C&B balance	10/31/18 \$1,362.22	9/30/18 (\$844.38)
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	Building Actual	Building Budget	BLD YTD Actual	BLD YTD Budget
Income	\$2,305.00	\$2,067.37	\$18,370.00	\$21,258.26
Expense	\$4,440.00	\$2,220.00	\$24,420.00	\$22,200.00
Net inc/exp	-\$2,135.00	-\$152.63	-\$6,050.00	-\$941.74

Building fund balance	10/31/18 \$9,205.45	9/30/18 \$11,340.45
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Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
Balance on our mortgage - \$268541.33

Note: Please turn in your pledges for 2019

Kids At Heart



Watch the Kiosk and the weekly announcement sheet for information about our next outing. We usually gather on the last Tuesday of the month.

Mark your calendars for the following:
January 29
February 26



The 4 year-old class had their Thanksgiving feast with parents and grandparents in attendance. They also did a play about the pilgrims and sang songs. We enjoyed a great Thanksgiving dinner and great entertainment by the class.

The 3 year-olds are adjusting well.
We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
See you in 2019.

Thank You

to all who have bought gifts for Summerdale students. It is greatly appreciated.

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 typically 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)

Welcome!

Jackie Anderson comes to us from Tabor Lutheran in Rockford. She has three daughters and four grandchildren. Jackie graduated from Rockford Memorial School of Nursing and has worked in the emergency room and several doctors' offices. She also volunteers for hospice and Shriners Hospital for Children. She also enjoys gardening.

Judy Chatfield comes to us from Tabor Lutheran in Rockford. She has three grandchildren. She previously was employed by Chase Bank and enjoys garage and estate sales and road trips.

Pearl Fortman comes to us from Tabor Lutheran Church in Rockford. Pearl worked for 23 years at the Clock Tower Resort and is now retired. She had a daughter, three grand children and 7 great-grandchildren.

Kay Johnson comes to us from Tabor Lutheran Church in Rockford. She is married to Roger, and they have three children. Kay works as a telecommunicator at Swedish American Hospital. She enjoys knitting and reading.

Mike & Julie Johnson come to us from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rockford. Mike was confirmed at Alpine Lutheran and Julie was confirmed at Shepherd of the Valley. They have four children. Mike is a sales manager and enjoys golf, softball, walking, and hiking. Julie is a retired teacher and enjoys running, walking, hiking, and biking.

Barbara Lutzow comes to us from Tabor Lutheran Church in Rockford. She has three children and four grandsons. She retired from H & R Block. She enjoys doing crafts, puzzles, and gardening.

Kent & Jeanne Retzer come to us from New Life Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook, IL. They have two grown children and four grandchildren. Kent is retired from Architectural Engineering. Jeanne is a retired seamstress. She enjoys sewing, crocheting, & reading. Kent's hobby is HO trains and is currently building a train layout in their basement.

Sandi & Bill Sanford come to us from Tabor Lutheran Church in Rockford. Both Bill and Sandi are retired and enjoy time with their family.

Jessie Tolodxi comes to us from Zion Lutheran Church in Rockford. She is Tabatha Scheider's sister.

Bob Tooley comes to us from Tabor Lutheran in Rockford. After serving in the Pacific theater as a bombardier navigator Bob worked for Smith Oil Co. as a salesman for 35 years. He enjoys antiques and wood working.



December 23
Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.
(No Sunday School)

December 24
Nativity of Our Lord
Musical Prelude
begins at 4:30 p.m.
Holy Communion at 5:00 P.M.



December 30
First Sunday of Christmas
Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.
(No Sunday School)

Come let us
Adore
Him



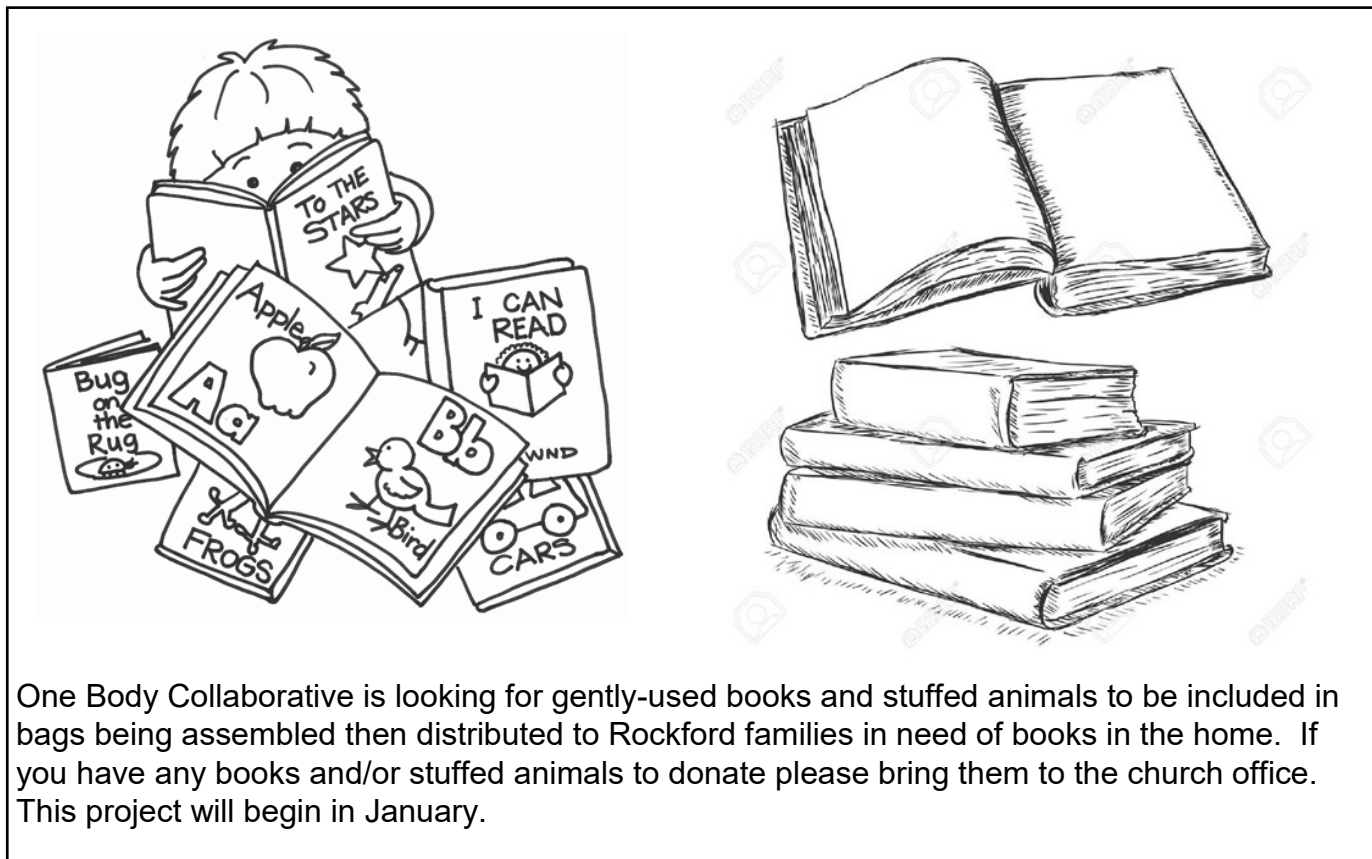
January 6
Epiphany of Our Lord
Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, Faith
Forum & Middle/High
Schoolers meet 11:00-
11:45 a.m.

Youth Connect

January 13th - Second Sunday @ Katie's Cup 7-8:30 (High School only)

January 27th - Trip to Urban Air 12:30 p./m. (high school only) Watch for more information.

February 10th - Second Sunday @ Katie's Cup 7-8:30 p.m. (high school only)



One Body Collaborative is looking for gently-used books and stuffed animals to be included in bags being assembled then distributed to Rockford families in need of books in the home. If you have any books and/or stuffed animals to donate please bring them to the church office. This project will begin in January.

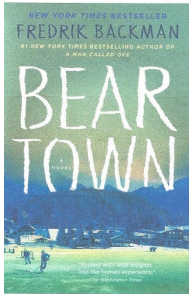


January 27, 2019
11:30 a.m.

**Katie's Choice
Book Club**

**January 10
10:00 a.m.**

***Beartown*
by Fredrik Backman**



A tiny community deep in the forest, Beartown hasn't been the best at anything in a long time. But down by the lake stands an old ice rink. And, in that ice rink, the town's junior ice hockey team is about to compete in the national semi-finals—and they actually have a shot at winning! All the hopes and dreams of this place now rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys. Under that heavy burden, the semi-final match becomes the catalyst for a violent act that will leave a young girl traumatized and a town in turmoil. This is a story about a town and a game, but even more about loyalty, commitment, and the responsibilities of friendship; the people we disappoint even though we love them; and the decisions we make every day that come to define us. In this story of a small forest town, Fredrik Backman has found the entire world.

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 Books available for purchase at Katie's Cup or bring your own.

Next: *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult • Thursday, February

**Songs
& Suds**

Christmas Music Sing-along

Tuesday, December 18

6:30 - 8 pm

Sing and enjoy Christmas songs and celebrate the Advent Season!

Feel free to enjoy the suds shared!

Free event with donations to benefit Katie's Cup.

MUSICIANS: Denver Bitner, Jane McChesney,
Marti Bein, Jay Quinn, Scott Stolberg,
Michael Thomas & others!

Questions: contact Michael Thomas at methomas1966@gmail.com
or 815-964-4609



Katie's Cup Christmas CD
available for sale!!

502 Seventh Street, Rockford
Corner of Seventh Street & Fourth Avenue

**High School
Youth
2nd Sunday**

- FOOD
- MUSIC
- GAMES
- PRAISE
- WORSHIP

**KATIE'S CUP
502 7TH STREET
ROCKFORD, IL**

**7:00-8:30 P.M.
JUST SHOW UP**

**JANUARY 13
FEBRUARY 10
MARCH 10
APRIL 14
MAY 12**



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

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The Rev. Scott Benolkin, Pastor
Judi Fields, Secretary
Linda Longardner, Organist
Phil Smalley, Treasurer
Susie Smalley, Music Coordinator
Patte Lund, Christian Education
Anita Ralston, Custodian

