



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

Volume 61 Issue 1

February 2019

Advice for Your Love Life

How's your love life? February 14 is coming, the day the church commemorates . . . Saints Cyril and Methodius, whose love of the gospel led them to tirelessly evangelize the Slavic peoples, even inventing the *Cyrillic* alphabet for the task. But, perhaps since Cyril and Methodius don't sell greeting cards, chocolates, or dinners for two, February 14 usually reminds us instead of Valentine's Day and, with it, love. As those called to share God's love, we are blessed that our scripture readings this month urge us to examine our *whole* life, not just our "love life," in terms of love.

Most notably, as the lectionary (the church's schedule of readings) takes us through 1 Corinthians, we will hear that popular passage, often heard at weddings, that begins, "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (1 Cor. 13:1 NRSV). 1 Corinthians 13 is not a testament to romance, but to love as the essential ingredient in every relationship, every action, every aspect of our lives. Paul's words were for a congregation full of gifts and enthusiasm, but without love it had become mired in cliquishness and discrimination.

Later in the month, we hear Jesus' own words on love: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them" (Luke 6:32 NRSV). There is twofold good news here. First—and this is good news for Valentine's Day—Jesus reminds us that *all* people want to be loved and are capable of loving in return. But the deeper good news is about the love of God in Christ, who laid down his life for his enemies and betrayers and loved outcasts and the poor as if they were dear friends and family. His church, each of us baptized into Christ, is here to experience that love and to give it away to those least deserving of it.

So examine your love life this month. When are you treating people with love, and when do you forget to? How are you reserving love for "loved ones," and what would your life look like if you loved strangers and even enemies the same way? How can you help your church love the world the way Christ loves us, and how can your church help you practice that kind of love? Look at yourself deeply, honestly, but most of all, look at yourself as God does—with love.

† IN OUR PRAYERS †



Intercessions: **Nevagay Abel, Don Abel, Alka David, Elizabeth David, Stu Hoffman, Lisa Jones, Kevin Persaud, Carline Talmadge, Karl Anderson, Doris Dohlen, John Miller, Alice Schaefer, Robert Aken, Richard Farris, Graydon Anderson, Cheri Egelson, Scott Francis, Al Johnson, Jerry Lofquist, Ronald Rice, Sally Schrader, Sam Horvath, Betty Hart, Myrna Hagemann, Scott K.** (husband of Karl Anderson's niece), **Nancy Brandt** (Kay Brindles 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 Brindles father), **Tiffany Deshazer** (granddaughter of Ruth & Graydon Anderson), **Tom Pellant** (brother of Candy Wolf and Mark Pellant), **Pastor Lynn Morrow** (friend of Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann) and **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.

Cover Girls



Come join us on the first Monday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in Shepherd Hall.

We are currently working on hats to go to the Rescue Mission or Carpenter's Place.

Mark your calendars for the following dates:
February 4

Library news



After twenty plus years, Ruth Anderson and Myrna Hagemann have retired from management of the church library. They are appreciative of your support during their time.

We are fortunate to have two ladies in our congregation who are well-qualified and willing to assume and share the responsibility. Julie Johnson is a retired teacher who loves books and reading. She is employed by Rockford Public Schools as a part-time tutor. Carolyn Ciaccio is employed by RPS as a library paraprofessional. She too, loves books and reading.

Judy Miller, Sherry Scheider and Myrna Hagemann will continue as members of the committee.

We look forward to the able and enthusiastic leadership of Julie and Carolyn in the library ministry here at Shepherd of the Valley. Please show the library committee your support by visiting the library and/or the narthex table and checking out an item to read, listen to or view.



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:
February 18
March 18

Become a Member

Please speak with Pastor Scott after worship if you would like to be received into our community of faith at Easter.

Kids At Heart



Mark your calendars

Kids At Heart will meet on Tuesday, January 29 at 11:30 a.m. for a soup lunch.

We will have a speaker from Rock Valley College Center for Learning & Retirement.

Making Christ Known – New Digital Format

Making Christ Known has been published six times a year since 2004 bringing stories of mission and ministry of the Northern Illinois Synod. Now, *Making Christ Known* will come to you monthly as an online source of videos, photos, and stories. A special feature will be a video message from Bishop Clements.

What stories do you have to share? What would you like to see and hear? Send your stories and ideas to Deacon Karin Graddy, Communication Director at kgraddy@nisynod.org.

See Bishop's video message and get the January issue at nisynod.org. Go to publications then Making Christ Known and click on January 2019.



The 4 year-old class enjoyed a surprise visit from Santa Claus the last day of school in December. Parents and siblings also came in to

sneak a few pictures with him. We are now back from the holidays and are preparing for the new year. Until next month!

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of November 30, 2018 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$16,300.33	\$14,175.00	\$165,458.71	\$160,525.00
Expense	\$14,377.56	\$16,042.82	\$180,018.91	\$176,344.29
Inc/exp	\$1,922.77	-\$1,867.82	-\$14,560.20	-\$15,819.29
plus offsets	\$301.42	\$800.66	\$10,817.93	\$5,757.33
Net income	\$2,224.19	-\$1,067.16	-\$3,742.27	-\$10,061.96

	11/30/2018	10/31/18
C&B balance	\$3,586.41	\$1,362.22

	Building Actual	Building Budget	BLD YTD Actual	BLD YTD Budget
Income	\$6,022.00	\$2,067.37	\$24,392.00	\$23,318.63
Expense	\$2,220.00	\$2,220.00	\$26,640.00	\$24,420.00
Net inc/exp	\$3,802.00	-\$152.63	-\$2,248.00	-\$1,101.37

	11/30/2018	10/31/18
Building fund balance	\$13,007.45	\$9,205.45

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
Balance on our mortgage - \$267384.48

Thank you to all who have turned in their pledges!

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!

Carolyn Ciaccio joined Shepherd of the Valley on January 13, 2019. You may have seen her around working with the library or this past summer with vacation Bible school. Welcome, Carolyn!



All men are invited to join the men of Shepherd of the Valley at 8:30 a.m. on February 7th at Cherry Valley Café, 216 East State St., Cherry Valley, for breakfast.



LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

Lent

March 6, 2019 - Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. with imposition of ashes

March 13, 20, 27, and April 3, & 10 - Simple Supper at 6:00 p.m. Evening prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week

April 14, 2019 - Palm Sunday Holy Communion beginning at 9:30 a.m.

April 18, 2019 - Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

April 10 - Good Friday worship at 7:00 p.m.

Easter

April 20 - Easter Vigil: Holy Communion at 8:30 p.m.

April 21 - Easter Day: Holy Communion at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. with Easter Breakfast between services.

FOOD
MUSIC
GAMES
PRAISE
WORSHIP

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
SECOND SUNDAY

KATIE'S CUP
502 7TH STREET
ROCKFORD, IL

FEBRUARY 10
MARCH 10
APRIL 14
MAY 12

Youth Connect

January 27th - Trip to Urban Air 12:30 p.m. (high school only)

Join other youth from Northern Illinois Synod at Urban Air adventure in Crystal Lake. Cost is \$20 per youth. If you have an adult that is joining us the cost is \$8. We will leave Rockford at 12:45 and return around 5:45 p.m.. Let Phil Smalley or Pastor Scott if you are interested in going.

Some of the choices are Sky ryder (indoor coaster), ropes course, climbing walls, warrior course, battle beam, slam dunk zone, dodge ball, drop zone, and many more.

Parents must fill out a waiver at <https://urbanair.tray.com/signwaiver/83> before leaving.

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 is ongoing.



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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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

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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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