



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

Volume 61 Issue 3

April 2019

Unlocking the Bible

By Pastor Scott

As we traverse another Lent, many of us are rededicating ourselves to reading scripture regularly. Thankfully, there are many ways to do this, from the daily lectionary found in the back of our hymnals (and at www.dailylectio.net) to daily devotionals like *Christ in Our Home* to myriad other schemes on the internet.

It's natural to think there are also many ways to understand the Bible. Indeed, people in different times and places have found all kinds of inspiration in its pages. And over centuries, scholars have gained great knowledge by analyzing different aspects of scripture, from grammar and literary qualities to history and social science. With all that in mind, you might think that however you read the Bible, you'll get *something* out of it.

However, to unlock what *God* wants you to get from the Bible—a new relationship with God through Christ—you need a key. The key is distinguishing between all of the “got to’s” in the Bible from the “get-to’s” (the Lutheran Confessions call them “law” and “promises”). The “got-to” parts spell out what you’ve got to do to live up to God’s expectations. The “get-to” parts spell out the free promise of grace, rooted for us in the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

The Bible’s “got-to” parts and “get-to” parts appear side-by-side throughout the old and new testaments, so sorting them out is an art. But for a clear starting point, open up your Small Catechism (see me for a free copy!). See there how the Ten Commandments lay out God’s ideals for relationships, which require absolute respect (“fear”), love, and trust from us—or else! There’s a big “got-to.” That sets us up to read the distillation of Biblical good news that follows in the Creed, where we “get to” be created, redeemed, and made holy—even given faith itself—solely by grace. Keeping the “got-to” distinct from the “get-to” unlocks the Bible’s good news that Jesus, crucified and risen, has saved us from sin and death. Better yet, this month we “get to” experience together the whole marvelous story once again though Holy Week and Easter.

† IN OUR PRAYERS †



Intercessions: **Nevagay Abel, Don Abel, Elizabeth David, Stu Hoffman, Kevin Persaud, Carline Talmadge, Karl Anderson, Doris Dohlen, John Miller, Alice Schaefer, Robert Aken, Richard Farris, Cheri Egelson, Scott Francis, Al Johnson, Jerry Lofquist, Ronald Rice, Sally Schrader, Sam Horvath, Betty Hart, Myrna Hagemann, Jerri Dal Collo, 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), **Karen** (Dave Musser's sister), **Sara Falth** (Karl Anderson's sister), **Howard Sand** (Kay Brindle's father), and **Pastor Lynn Morrow** (friend of Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann), **Brad Carpenter** (brother of Brian Carpenter) **Carol Repsher** (Don Abel's sister), **Dennis Eagleson, Cindy** (friend of Dyvone Freburg), and **the family of Graydon Anderson**.

Thanksgiving: **Arthur Carr** (relative of Kay Johnson),



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:

April 15
May 20

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 blankets for Rock House Kids..

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

April 1
May 6

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 at Easter.

Follow us on Facebook

New items are posted frequently. See what your Synod or the ELCA is doing.
www.facebook.com/Shepherd-of-the-Valley-Lutheran-Church-ELCA

God's Work. Our Hands. is Sunday, September 8.
Mark you calendars.

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)

**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.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of February 28, 2019 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$14,436.85	\$13,625.00	\$37,211.14	\$36,250.00
Expense	\$15,796.90	\$15,992.69	\$32,814.53	\$33,506.57
Inc/exp	-\$1,360.05	-\$2,367.69	\$4,396.61	\$2,743.43
plus offsets	\$123.29	\$122.90	\$220.31	\$215.80
Net income	-\$1,236.76	-\$2,244.79	\$4,616.92	\$2,959.23

C&B balance	2/28/19	1/31/19
	\$9,049.81	\$10,286.45

	Building Actual	Building Budget	BLD YTD Actual	BLD YTD Budget
Income	\$1,357.00	\$1,427.00	\$3,031.00	\$3,157.00
Expense	\$2,220.00	\$2,220.00	\$4,440.00	\$4,440.00
Net inc/exp	-\$863.00	-\$793.00	-\$1,409.00	-\$1,283.00

Building fund balance	2/28/19	1/31/19
	\$14,140.45	\$15,003.45

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
Balance on our mortgage - \$266,162.34

Thank you to all who have turned in their pledges!

Laundry Love & M&M's

Containers of M & M's are available in the Narthex for your eating pleasure. After enjoying the M & M's please fill the container with a roll of quarters which will be given to Laundry Love for their clients.

FOOD
MUSIC
GAMES
PRAISE
WORSHIP

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

SECOND SUNDAY

KATIE'S CUP
502 7TH STREET
ROCKFORD, IL

APRIL 14
MAY 12

7:00–8:30 P.M.
JUST SHOW UP

Library news



The library committee is hosting a book fair after Sunday services on April 28, and May 5. Books will be available for purchase as a gift to be used in our church library, or for personal use.

IFTAR Dinner to be held at Shepherd of the Valley

Iftar is the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset. Muslims break their fast at the time of the call to prayer for the evening prayer. It is usually broken with dates and water, then pray the evening prayer (maghreb). After prayer a meal that usually consists of sambousa, rice (biryani), meat (chicken or beef), yogurt, juices and maybe some sweets (basbousa, sweet rice) is served.

We will be sharing this meal with our sisters from Faithful Sisterhood and out neighbors across the street ON MONDAY, May 27th.

The meal will begin at sundown, about 8:30 p.m.



Kids At Heart
Mark your calendars
Kids At Heart will meet on Tuesday, March 26 and April 23. Watch the kiosk for information and a sign up sheet.



All men are invited to join the men of Shepherd of the Valley at 8:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month at Cherry Valley Café, 216 East State St., Cherry Valley, for breakfast and fellowship. No reservations needed.



The naughty leprechaun showed up again to everyone's enjoyment. The children enjoyed seeing all the naughty things he had done in the classroom. He also left each class gold coins. On March 2nd the children enjoyed spending a few hours with their Dads/Grandpas or special male friends in the class rooms. Registration is open for the 2019-2020 school year.

Polling Place April 2

We will once again be a polling place for the local election held April 2. Please sign up in the narthex to greet visitors or provide treats.



CARS AND COFFEE
APRIL 6TH

Katie's Cup is sponsoring a new program called "Cars and Coffee". The focus will be to bring in various car groups to show off their cars in the RPS205 Parking Lot. This will be coordinated by Katie's Cup and the Rockford IL Area Car Shows & Cruises group. The first "Cars and Coffee" will be Saturday, April 6 from 9 am- noon. It will be held on the first Saturday of the month until September 7th!



Becca's Closet

Open Saturdays from March 10 - April 28, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Set up begins at 8:30 a.m.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

1829 N. Rockton Avenue

Shepherd of the Valley is scheduled to assist in the distribution of free special occasion dresses for Prom and other spring events on March 30. Contact Kris Tukker to volunteer.

The Rockford Chapter of Becca's Closet is a ministry of Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries, a partnership organization of area Lutheran congregations.

Katie's Choice Book Club

Thursday, April 11

10:00 a.m. @ Katie's Cup

Caroline: Little House, Revisited

In this novel authorized by Little House Heritage Trust, Sarah Miller vividly recreates the beauty, hardship, and joys of the frontier in a dazzling work of historical fiction, a captivating story that illuminates one courageous, resilient, and loving pioneer woman as never before--Caroline Ingalls, "Ma" in Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved Little House books.

In the frigid days of February, 1870, Caroline Ingalls and her family leave the familiar comforts of the Big Woods of Wisconsin and the warm bosom of her family, for a new life in Kansas Indian Territory. Packing what they can carry in their wagon, Caroline, her husband Charles, and their little girls, Mary and Laura, head west to settle in a beautiful, unpredictable land full of promise and peril.

Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA
2019 Spring Retreat

God for all Seasons of Life

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13: 8

Saturday, April 27, 2019
9:00 am - 3:00 pm at LOMC
Registration begins at 8:30 am



Bible Study Leader
Esther Prabhakar



Special music
Peg Lehman

Worship leadership
Pastor Jessica Bakken



Find out more and register at nisynod.org/women



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





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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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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Secretary - Vicki Nitz
Treasurer - Phil Smalley

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