



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

Volume 61 Issue 10

DECEMBER 2019

Communion 202

You are what you eat. If you've heard that before you might be ashamed of those potato chips you, indeed, couldn't eat just one of. Or you might be encouraged that those fruits and vegetables you're making an effort to eat right now might make you feel better in the long run. Either way, we've gotten used to doctors and experts telling us that nutrition matters, that what we put into our bodies changes us.

So it is with Holy Communion. When we receive the body and blood of Christ, it doesn't just nourish our faith. It doesn't just grant us forgiveness. It also makes *us* into the one body of Christ. We become what we receive. We are what we eat. We who have received Christ are now poured out for our neighbors.

That means what we eat, how we eat it, and what happens as a result matter. And it means Holy Communion is the heart of our life together in Christ. So on December 8 and 15 join our conversation after worship about what it means to us. Get a refresher on those things you learned a while ago, and perhaps gain a new perspective. Share what the sacrament means to you. Ask the questions that you've been wondering about. Talk about the details that normally seem too small to mention. Find out what Altar Guild does. Try out a new way to receive bread and wine. This is our chance to talk as one body about what matters for Holy Communion, and I hope you can be part of it.

Pastor Scott

† IN OUR PRAYERS †



Intercessions: **Neva Abel, Nevagay Abel, Robert Aken, Karl Anderson, Ruth Anderson, Elizabeth David, Doris Dohlen, Cheri Eagleson, Scott Francis, Betty Hart, Stu Hoffman, Al Johnson, Jerry Lofquist, Kaitlyn Owens, Kevin Persaud, Ron Rice, Alice Schaefer, Sally Schrader, Carline Talmadge, Jessie Tolodxi, Don Wiese, Marcia Woodman, Connie Blake** (Bob Black's mother), **Brad Carpenter** (brother of Brian Carpenter), **Colleen Dziejdzic** (friend of Barb Pearson), **Brian** (Betty Hart's nephew), **Pat K.** (Robert Aken's sister), **Scott K.** (husband of Karl Anderson's niece), **Pastor Jane McChesney, Pastor Lynn Morrow** (friend of Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann), **Jennifer Peterson** (Pastor Gerald & Lois Peterson's daughter-in-law), **Carol Repsher** (Neva Abel's sister-in-law), **Donna** (friend of Ron Rice), **Howard Sand** (Kay Brindle's father), **Stacey** (Sally Schrader's daughter), **Trey** (Sally Schrader's grandson), **Erik Wilberg** (friend of Don & Kay Brindle), and the people of **Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.**

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



**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:
December 16
January 20

Cover Girls



The Cover Girls are back at it beginning Monday, September 9, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. Also mark your calendars for
December 11
January 13

Library News



Items are needed for the Christmas book bags the library committee is assembling. They need 30 stuffed animals, small to medium

size. It would be great if they were "Christmas-like" but not necessary.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild Appreciation breakfast will be Saturday, December 7 at Stockholm Inn. We will gather at 9:00 a.m.

**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.



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.

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



**Kids at Heart
Mark your
calendars**

The annual Christmas potluck will be Tuesday, December 10 at 11:00 a.m. in Moline Hall. Everyone is welcome. Ham will be provided. Bring your favorite Christmas dish to pass. We'll also be singing Christmas carols.

Kids At Heart meet on the last Tuesday, of the month. Watch the kiosk for information and a sign up sheet.



Thank you for all the prayers and well wishes during my surgery and recovery. Prayer is so helpful.
Judi

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



PreThe 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 2020.

Financial results as of October 31, 2019 and year to date totals

FINANCIAL REPORTS

	C&B Actual	C&B Budget	C&B YTD Actual	C&B YTD Budget
Income	\$15,295.11	\$ 14,375.00	\$ 160,023.95	\$ 157,750.00
Expense	\$14,983.70	\$ 15,441.29	\$ 197,627.15	\$ 168,812.09
Subtotal	\$ 311.41	\$ (1,066.29)	\$ (37,603.20)	\$ (11,062.09)
offsets	\$ 2,166.81	\$ 122.90	\$ 40,542.01	\$ 8,989.10
Net Income	\$ 2,478.22	\$ (943.39)	\$ 2,938.81	\$ (2,072.99)
		10/31/2019	9/30/2019	
C&B Balance		\$ 7,371.70	\$ 4,893.48	
	Bld Actual	Bld Budget	Bld YTD Actual	Bld YTD Budget
Income	\$ 6,622.65	\$ 5,328.00	\$ 20,541.65	\$ 22,574.00
Expense	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 22,695.00	\$ 22,200.00
Net inc/exp	\$ 4,402.65	\$ 3,108.00	\$ (2,153.35)	\$ 374.00
		10/31/2019	9/30/2019	
Building Fund Balance		\$13,396.10	\$8,993.45	
Please note: Financials run one month behind in the newsletter				
Balance on our mortgage:	\$256,841.88			

Fellowship

Join us on December 8 after Sunday school to talk about your ideas for fellowship with congregation members and our brothers and sisters in the neighborhood.

Communion 202

Gather on December 8 and 5 for a special forum on Holy Communion. Learn more about what it means, share how it nourishes your faith, and discuss changes in our congregation's practice.

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.



Christian Education

Every Sunday after worship, Kindergarten through 5th graders learn about God's love with "Whirl" Sunday school! Adults can get involved, too: see Pastor Scott to become a teacher or helper.



Youth (Middle & High school) meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays after worship.

TED Talks

On most first Sundays of the month we will start a new journey in our learning time for adults. We will gather in Shepherd Hall after worship for what we hope will help us connect some of the great minds of our time with the Bible, our lives today and the greatest teacher of ALL time.

Utilizing the library of knowledge available from TED (you can learn more at www.ted.com), matching it with a Scripture lesson and some probing questions for discussion, we will try to come to a deeper understanding of what it means to serve Christ in a changing world.

On other Sundays we will be discussing articles from last months Living Lutheran and have a Q & A time with Pastor Scott.

Coming Soon

The Giving Tree will soon be up in the narthex. Names will be taken and an outfit and toy will be purchased for a child at Summerdale Early Learning Center.

Christmas Tree Decorating

After worship of 12/22 we will be decorating the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to help.-

Blue Christmas

Holidays can be bittersweet when you're missing the ones you've lost. Gather at 11:45 a.m. Sunday, December 22 to remember those who have died and light a candle for hope.

Caroling

Mark your calendars as we go caroling on December 22 at 2 p.m. Both singers and cookie bakers are needed to spread Christmas cheer.

Music In The Midtown



SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

NOON CONCERT SERIES

12:30PM SOUP LUNCH
(FREE WILL OFFERING)

FEATURING MUSIC OF THE SEASON!
EXPERIENCE THE MUSICIANS AND INSTRUMENTS OF OUR
MIDTOWN CHURCHES WITH ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

NOVEMBER 26 AT NOON
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - 201 NORTH FIRST STREET
JEAN ANDERSON; ORGAN, PIANO, BASS & VOCAL

DECEMBER 3 AT NOON
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - 925 FIFTH AVENUE
JODI BEACH; PIANO, GUITAR/DRUM & VOCAL

DECEMBER 10 AT NOON
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - 920 THIRD AVENUE
CLEA ARBOGAST; ORGAN & PIANO

DECEMBER 17 AT NOON
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - 225 S. THIRD STREET
JOSEPH SCHENK; ORGAN, PIANO, HARPSICHORD & VOCAL

Sponsored by Katie's Cup
Corner of 7th Street & 4th Avenue
Phone: (815) 986-0628
www.katiescup.com



Volunteers Needed

If you would like to Volunteer to help with the Swedish KORV Sausage please fill in the information below.
Same Tabor Korv, Now at Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries

NAME:	TELEPHONE #:		
New through 11/17	Anytime	Calling Previous Orders	Time: _____
Tuesday - Dec 3rd	(8:30 am - 2:00 pm)	Set-up & Prep Work	Time: _____
Wednesday - Dec 4th	(7:30 am - 10:30 am)	Making Sausage	Time: _____
Wednesday - Dec 4th	(10:30 am - 4:00 pm)	PICK-UP Sausage	Time: _____
Thursday - Dec 5th	(9:00 am - 3:00 pm)	PICK-UP * Final Day	Time: _____

Call Amy to Sign-Up 815-962-4279 RalmMail@aol.com

SWEDISH KORV SAUSAGE ORDER SLIP

PICK UP @ ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
925 - 5th Avenue, Rockford

NAME: _____
TELEPHONE #: _____ Email: _____
Quantity/Pounds of KORV Sausage: _____ @ \$6.00 PER POUND
(1 Sausage equals 1 pound)

Circle a Date Pick-up Date Wed - Dec 4th Pick-up Time: (10:00 am - 4:00 pm) AM or PM
Circle AM or PM for Pick-up
Pick-up Date Thurs - Dec 5th Pick-up Time: (9:00 am - 2:00 pm) AM or PM

Is someone else picking up your order? (Who?) _____
(Cell / Telephone #) _____



Thank you for your order of Tabor's Swedish Korv Sausage
Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries



Longest Night

Calling Back the Sun

Christmas, Hannuka, Solstice and
Winter Celebrations from Around the World

A Multimedia Songfest
with Composer, Guitarist, Singer

Jim Scott

and

David Stocker, percussion
and Louisa Scott, violin



7:00 PM Saturday December 21

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
920 Third Ave. Rockford IL

Suggested donation \$15 - or visit www.elrockford.org

In this time of the shortest days and long dark nights, the human family has always turned to story and song. Jim leads an exciting multimedia program of music, words and pictures of many faiths and their observations in this season.

First Lutheran Church announces its
61st Annual Lucia Celebration
Saturday, December 14
9 am - noon



Traditional Kaffe Kalas
with

Santa Lucia
Candy Boy & Girl

Musical entertainment
provided by Joseph Schenk

Crafts, "treasures," & homemade bakery
plus Swedish Korv sausage

(made by Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries using Tabor Lutheran Church's traditional recipe)

Holiday Concert at 10 am in the sanctuary
Music Academy of Rockford students

225 S. Third Street, corner of Third & Oak
in the heart of Rockford's historic Haight Village 815.962.6691

Welcome

Miranda Faulkner - Miranda has been hired to be the nursery attendant and will be here every Sunday morning.

New members joined on All Saints Sunday:

Debbie Hartman - Debbie has 2 adult sons & works at Panera Bread along with Sharon Secoy.

Matthew & Lisa Reum - Matt & Lisa met in high school and have been married for 10 years. They have 4 children, Abigail (in 5th grade), Peyton (in 4th grade), Austin (in 1st grade), and Paxton. Lisa works as a dental hygienist and Matt is a machinist. They love to travel and often take road trips to Florida. They are very happy to have finally found a church to call home.

Pastor Kenn & Ellen Storck - Pastor Kenn is a retired ELCA pastor and Ellen is a retired bank teller. They have 3 adult daughters and one granddaughter. Pastor Kenn & Ellen are active members of Bread for the World. They love going to the theatre spending time with their daughters and granddaughter and taking care of Eddie (their dog). They also work with soup kitchens. Ellen also love to read current novels. Pastor Kenn does supply preaching and teaches diakonia courses.

Salvation Army Food Drive



The barrels for the annual Salvation Army food drive have arrived. Grocery bags with the list of nonperishable items will be handed out after worship service in November. The items the .Salvation Army is looking for are canned soups and stews, peanut butter, oatmeal, boxes of cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, chicken or tuna, rice or noodles, pasta sauce, applesauce, canned tomatoes, and dried fruits (like raisins).

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SECOND SUNDAY

KATIE'S CUP
502 7TH STREET
ROCKFORD, IL

DECEMBER 8
JANUARY 12

7:00–8:30 P.M.
NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED
JUST SHOW UP



IGNITE 2020 HS Retreat

June 12-14
LOMC
with Rachel Kurtz

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

nisynod.org/ignite

Ignite 2020

Mark your calendars now and plan to spark a fire in the hearts of your High School youth with Ignite – June 12-14 at LOMC!

The NIS Light high school youth leadership team is excited to invite your high school youth groups to its first Ignite Synod Youth Event on June 12-14, 2020, at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, IL.

Special Guests will be Rachel Kurtz and Bishop Jeffrey Clements!

Watch for more details and registration information!

It's never too early to start planning to attend the Youth Gathering.

2021 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING

boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

ELCA Youth Gathering

June 29-July 3, 2021 Minneapolis, MN

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

An important part of the Gathering's ministry are the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), a faith formation and leadership development event primarily for youth of color, and the tAble, a gathering that gathers, blesses and empowers youth with disabilities.

The ELCA Youth Gathering team announces the theme of the 2021 Gathering, "boundless: God beyond measure," based on Ephesians 3:19 CEV.

"I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is."



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

**DEADLINE FOR THE
JANUARY 2020
NEWSLETTER IS
DECEMBER 12, 2019**

Officers of the Congregation

President - Sherry Scheider
Vice-President - Rhoda Fox
Secretary - Vicki Nitz
Treasurer - Phil Smalley

Congregation Council

Justin Abel
Brian Carpenter
Karen Dolan
LaVon Downing
Rhoda Fox
Vicki Nitz
Sherry Scheider
Bob Tukker
Don Wiese

Staff

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



Christmas Eve:

4:30 p.m. Musical Prelude

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion

December 29

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion