



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

Volume 62 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2020

Change and Trust

I've heard a lot of stereotypes and labels about Lutherans, generally ones we've given to ourselves or perhaps received from stories of Lake Wobegon. Some of these are relatively harmless; for instance, I've heard Lutherans like coffee and don't like to sit in the front pew. Some stereotypes point to aspects of cultural heritage that don't apply to all of us and can easily serve to exclude some of us (can you imagine a food more exclusive than lutefisk?). But perhaps the most harmful stereotype I've ever been told is, "Lutherans don't like change."

It's harmful because the Bible has another word for change: repent. As the *Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* reminds us, that's what repentance is: "a serious change of mind and heart about a previous point of view or course of behavior."

To be sure, that call to "serious change" is hard for us to hear. Martin Luther summed it up this way:

"Here a person must listen to a judgment such as this: 'You are all of no account—whether you appear publicly to be sinners or saints. You must all become something different from what you are now and act in a different way, no matter who you are now and what you do. You may be great, wise, powerful, and holy as you could want, but here no one is righteous, etc.'"

However, the demand for serious change also comes with a promise of grace. We hear this from the beginning of Jesus' ministry, where he tells us both to "repent" *and* "believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15). And so changing and trusting the promise go together throughout our lives. We don't stop needing serious change anymore than we stop needing to trust Jesus through every serious change.

So as we begin Lent, pray about change, welcome and unwelcome, planned and endured, positive and troubling. Pray about how your church and community need to change and how you can be part of that change. And always remember your crucified Lord, who changes death to life and who is making you, and all things, new.

Pastor Scott

† IN OUR PRAYERS †

Intercessions: **Neva Abel, Nevagay Abel, Robert Aken, Karl Anderson, Ruth Anderson, Jackie Anderson, Charlie Carter, 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), **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), **family of Howard Sand** (Kay Brindle's father), **David Simon** (Lauretta Stofferahn's brother), **Jean Soberg** (Lauretta Stofferahn's sister-in-law), **Stacey** (Sally Schrader's daughter), **Trey** (Sally Schrader's grandson), **Erik Wilberg** (friend of Don & Kay Brindle), **Angel** (co-worker of Mark Pellant), **Tom Parr** (friend of Linda DeGroff and Neva Abel), and the people of **Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.**



(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:

February 17
March 16

Cover Girls



The Cover Girls gather on the second Monday at 9:30 a.m. Mark your calendars for:

February 10
March 9

**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.

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



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**

On February 23 we will meet at church at 11:30 a.m. for a game day. Bring your lunch. Dessert and coffee will be provided.

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

**Alleluia
BINGO!**

February 23

After Sunday school

There will be food!!

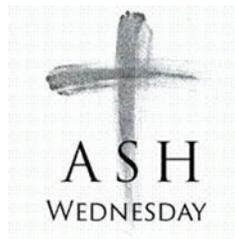


FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

	C&B Actual	C&B Budget	C&B YTD Actual	C&B YTD Budget
Income	\$18,786.04	\$ 15,575.00	\$ 191,248.25	\$ 186,200.00
Expense	\$17,380.79	\$ 19,292.87	\$ 230,208.06	\$ 203,901.65
Subtotal	\$ 1,405.25	\$ (3,717.87)	\$ (38,959.81)	\$ (17,701.65)
offsets	\$ 1,124.30	\$ 523.00	\$ 42,055.17	\$ 9,885.00
Net Income	\$ 2,529.55	\$ (3,194.87)	\$ 3,095.36	\$ (7,816.65)
		12/31/2019	11/30/2019	
C&B Balance		\$ 7,528.25	\$ 4,998.80	
	Bld Actual	Bld Budget	Bld YTD Actual	Bld YTD Budget
Income	\$ 4,422.00	\$ 2,127.00	\$ 26,760.65	\$ 26,728.00
Expense	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 27,135.00	\$ 26,640.00
Net inc/exp	\$ 2,202.00	\$ (93.00)	\$ (374.35)	\$ 88.00
		12/31/2019	11/30/2019	
Building Fund Balance		\$15,175.10	\$12,973.10	
Please note: Financials run one month behind in the newsletter				
Balance on our mortgage:	\$254,464.94			

February 26



**Holy Communion
with imposition of
ashes 7:00 p.m.**

**Beginning March 4
we will again be doing simple suppers
at 6:00 p.m. and Holden Evening Prayer
at 7:00 p.m. through Lent.**

**Watch for a sign up board in the
narthex to help with the suppers.**



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.

Calling all greeters. On February 23 Pastor Scott will have an informational session for anyone who has expressed an interest in being a greeter and for those who wonder just what the greeters do. Meet Pastor Scott in the sanctuary after worship.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars

The annual congregational meeting of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church will be Sunday, January 26 after worship. We will be discussing the business of our church and voting on church council members. Your input and ideas are needed.

Save the Date!

Second Annual

Having Your Cake (or Pie!) and Eating it too!

February 21, 2020

Fundraiser for Katie's Cup

Dinner, with a Delectable, Decadent DESSERT AUCTION

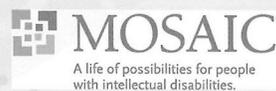
Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club, Rockford

5:30 pm - Check in/dessert viewing/cash bar

- A ministry of
Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries -



Rejoicing Spirits



Second Thursday of the month
6pm

Alpine Lutheran Church
5001 Forest View Ave.
Rockford, IL 61108

Rejoicing Spirits enriches the spiritual lives of people with intellectual disabilities through meaningful Christian worship service and fellowship time in a shush-free, expressive environment.

Everyone in the community is welcome

Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Psalm 98:4

Zion Lutheran Church Invites you to



FAT TUESDAY PANCAKES

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SWEDISH PANCAKES

\$8 Adults \$4 Children (under 12)

Tickets available at the door/Call to reserve your tickets

Includes Lingonberries, sausage, butter, milk, juice or coffee
(all you can eat is for pancakes only)

CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

February 25, 2020 8 AM to 1 PM



Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL

Proceeds benefit the 2020 Zion Civil Rights Trip to the South

815-964-4609 - zionrockford@gmail.com

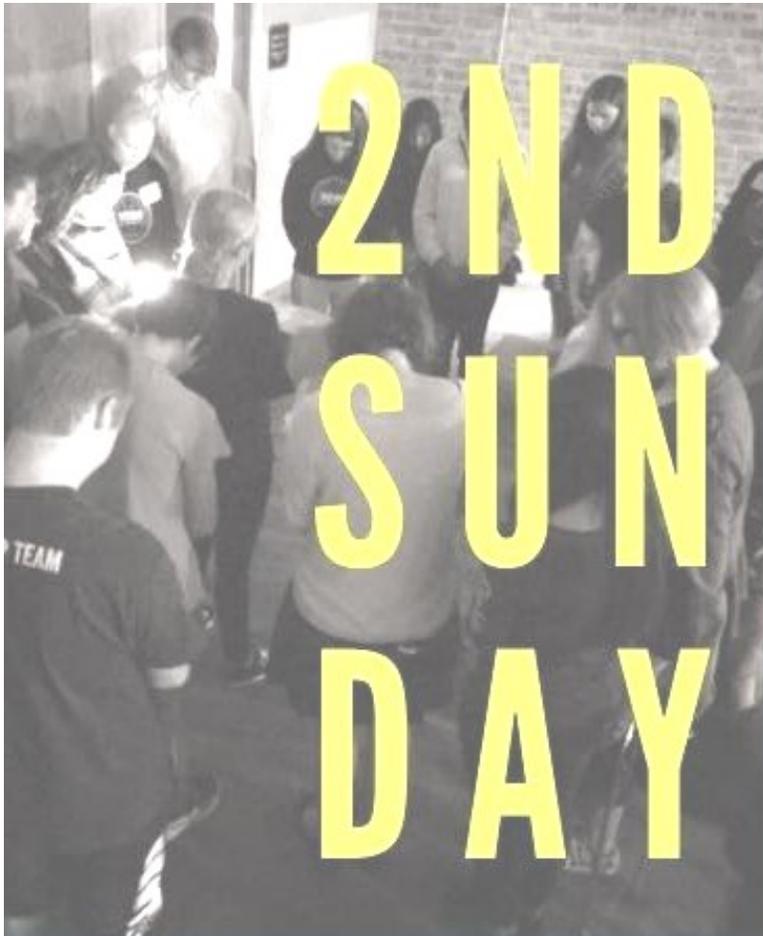
Sponsored by Zion Lutheran Church



The children enjoyed bringing in a Christmas gift they received to show their

classmates!

The 3 year-olds enjoyed experimenting with water & ice. They also enjoyed having a newspaper snowball throw with each other. Happy New Year. Until next month!



7-8:30 PM

Katie's Cup
Rockford

A night of worship, music, games, and more
for high schoolers, led by high schoolers

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

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

**FEBRUARY 9
MARCH 8**



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.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 4261

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE
MARCH 2020
NEWSLETTER IS
FEBRUARY 13, 2020**

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



MARCH 8, 2020