



# SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

Volume 62 Issue 3

MARCH 2020

## God Changes Us through Vocations

Last month in this space the topic was repentance—serious change. But how does God change us? One of Martin Luther's great insights was into how God changes us through our callings, the roles and relationships God gives us. If you are a child, being a child will change you. If you become a parent, being a parent will change you. Being a citizen of the place where you live changes you. Being a bricklayer, a homemaker, or President of the United States changes you, too. Our vocations are where our baptized life meets the challenges and needs of the world, and it's in that meeting that the Holy Spirit works through us and works *on* us.

That's why reminding yourself of your callings can be a spiritual discipline, both reminding you what God has given you and, truly, driving you to pray for God's help. For example, I return to the questions asked of me in ordination:

Will you assume this office, believing that the church's call is God's call to the ministry of word and sacrament?

Will you therefore preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and these [Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian] creeds and [Lutheran] confessions?

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

Will you pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

Reflecting on these questions always reminds me what my calling is (and what it is *not*). I'm also—every time—moved to pray that I may trust the Holy Spirit who makes my calling possible and changes me along the way.

The same is true in all of our callings. God calls us not only to bear fruit for the sake of our neighbors but to work on us to strengthen our faith. As Jesus says of his Father in John 15:2 (NRSV), "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." Remember your vocations, and you may even perceive how God has "pruned" you to bear more fruit.

*Pastor Scott*

† IN OUR PRAYERS †

*Intercessions:* **Neva Abel, Nevagay Abel, Robert Aken, Jackie Anderson Karl Anderson, Ruth Anderson, Charlie Carter, Elizabeth David, Doris Dohlen, Cheri Eagleson, Scott Francis, Betty Hart, Al Johnson, Jerry Lofquist, Kaitlyn Owens, Kevin Persaud, Ron Rice, Alice Schaefer, Sally Schrader, Carline Talmadge, Don Wiese, 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), **Carol Repsher** (Neva Abel's sister-in-law), **Donna** (friend of Ron Rice), **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), **Adam Ortiz** (co-worker of Barbara Pearson), **Gwen** (Linda Severson's sister), **Joyce** (Myrna Hagemann's sister), **Lynn Bossow** (Loretta Stofferahan's sister), and the people of **Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.**



*Thanksgiving:* **Jessie Tolodxi**

(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:

March 16  
April 20

**Cover Girls**



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

March 9  
April 13

**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](http://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**  
**Kids At Heart** meet  
 on the last Tuesday,  
 of the month. Watch  
 the kiosk for information and a sign  
 up sheet.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Financial results as of January 31, 2020 and year to date totals**

	C&B Actual	C&B Budget	C&B YTD Actual	C&B YTD Budget
Income	\$25,892.19	\$ 25,787.00	\$ 25,892.19	\$ 25,787.00
Expense	\$14,710.86	\$ 14,835.46	\$ 14,710.86	\$ 14,835.46
Subtotal	\$11,181.33	\$ 10,951.54	\$ 11,181.33	\$ 10,951.54
offsets	\$ 389.39	\$ 362.91	\$ 389.39	\$ 362.91
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$11,570.72</b>	<b>\$ 11,314.45</b>	<b>\$ 11,570.72</b>	<b>\$ 11,314.45</b>
		1/31/2020	12/31/2019	
<b>C&amp;B Balance</b>		<b>\$ 19,360.97</b>	<b>\$ 7,528.25</b>	
	Bld Actual	Bld Budget	Bld YTD Actual	Bld YTD Budget
Income	\$ 3,170.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,170.00	\$ 3,000.00
Expense	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 2,220.00
Net inc/exp	\$ 950.00	\$ 780.00	\$ 950.00	\$ 780.00
		1/31/2020	12/31/2019	
<b>Building Fund Balance</b>		<b>\$16,125.10</b>	<b>\$15,175.10</b>	
Please note: Financials run one month behind in the newsletter				
Balance on our mortgage: \$253,285.93				
Special note: The first month looks so good for both C&B and Building because we had two pledges come in that were for the entire year.				



**Election Day**

Shepherd of the Valley is a polling place when there is an election. In past elections we have set out coffee and snacks for the voters. This year we need someone to coordinate that effort. Kay Brindle has done it in past years and has put together an extensive list of what needs to be done. If you are interested in assisting in this ministry or would like more information, please contact the church office.



**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.




**Spring Forward**

**MARCH 2020**  
**8**  
 SUNDAY  
 SPRING FORWARD  
 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



## 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](http://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.



Both classes enjoyed making and sharing their valentines bags and loved the candy and special

treats.

The also enjoyed playing in the dirt and mud with the pigs.

Rumor has it that someone special will visit in March. Who could that be?



## Did you know... regarding Lent and Easter dates ....

- The reason the date of Easter Sunday changes every year is that it is determined to be the first Sunday after the first Full Moon occurring on or after the March (vernal/Spring) equinox.
- To figure out when Lent begins, take the date of Easter, skip back six weeks and go back four more days to that Wednesday; that's the date of Ash Wednesday, the day that Lent starts.
- Lent traditionally lasts for 40 days, in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry.
- In the Lutheran Church (among others), the season of Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. This calculation makes Lent last 46 days, if the 6 Sundays are included, but only 40, if they are excluded.
- The 2020 Lenten/Easter dates are:

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

*Ash Wednesday - February 26*

*Palm Sunday - April 5 Service @ 9:30 a.m.*

*Maundy Thursday - April 9 Service @ 7:00 p.m.*

*Good Friday - April 10 Service 7:00 p.m.*

*Easter Vigil - April 11 Service 8:30 p.m.*

*Easter Sunday - April 12 Service @ 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.*

*Easter Breakfast between services*

 Handicapped Accessible

*Come join us for our*  
**Spaghetti Dinner**

**SATURDAY  
 APRIL 25  
 5:00pm**  
 at  
**Salem Lutheran Church**

**Menu:**  
 Spaghetti with meat sauce  
 Lettuce Salad  
 Garlic Bread  
 Cake  
 Coffee, Milk or  
 Lemonade

**Ticket Prices:**  
**\$10 adults**  
**\$5 Ages 10 & under**

For more info see Linda Scherbarth  
 or call 815/871-7172

Salem Lutheran Church | 1629 South Sixth Street | Rockford, IL 61104  
 Phone: 815/965-5131 Email: salemchurch1629@att.net

- A ministry of  
 Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries -

**Rejoicing  Spirits**

**MOSAIC**  
 A life of possibilities for people  
 with intellectual disabilities.

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

**March 14, 2020**  
**5:00pm**

*Celebrate*  
**St. Patrick's Day**  
*With Us!*

Salem Lutheran Church  
 1629 South Sixth Street  
 Rockford, IL 61104

**Corned Beef  
 & Cabbage Dinner**  **\$12**  
 per person

Includes  
 Appetizer,  
 Corned Beef & Cabbage,  
 Dessert and Beverages

RSVP to Pastor Bill  
 815-721-2550  
 or the Church Office  
 815-965-5131  
 By March 10<sup>th</sup>

1629 South Sixth Street, Rockford, IL 815-965-5131

**Katie's Choice  
 Book Club**

Thursday  
**March 12**  
 10 am



**Undiscovered Country**  
 by Kelly O'Connor McNeese

*"So compelling and well written I hated to see it end."*

*"A charming novel, grounded in scholarship and fact but relying on imagination for the romance and fun."*

*"A wonderfully imagined, lively novel."*

*"McNeese's compassion for her characters and their exceptional situation make for a compelling tale."*

In 1932, New York City, top reporter Lorena "Hick" Hickok starts each day with a front page byline—and finishes it swigging bourbon and planning her next big scoop.

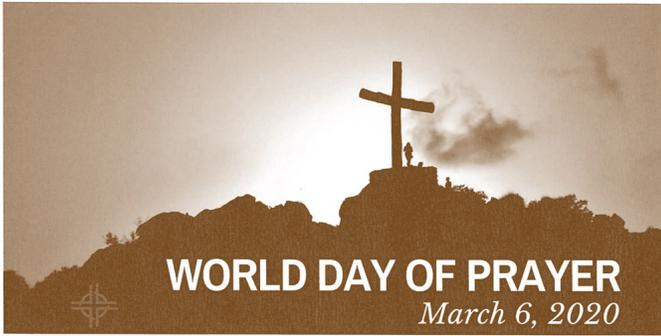
But an assignment to cover FDR's campaign—and write a feature on his wife, Eleanor—turns Hick's hard-won independent life on its ear. Soon her work, and the secret entanglement with the new first lady, will take her from New York and Washington to Scotts Run, West Virginia, where impoverished coal miners' families wait in fear that the New Deal's promised hope will pass them by. Together, Eleanor and Hick imagine how the new town of Arthurdale could change the fate of hundreds of lives. But doing what is right does not come cheap, and Hick will pay in ways she never could have imagined.

**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 interest to you!  
 Books available for purchase at Katie's Cup or bring your own copy.

Next: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng, Thursday, April 9, 10 am



**“Do you want to be made well?”**  
Jesus asks in John 5:6.

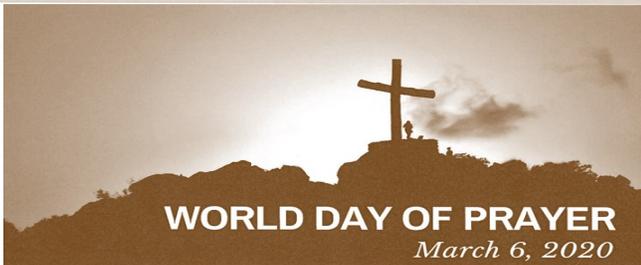
Of course, the lame man whom Jesus encountered at Bethesda wanted to be made well; otherwise, he would have not been at the pool. What stopped him from being well before meeting Jesus? What stops us from being well?

World Day of Prayer 2020 answers this question with a call to action, **“Rise! Take your mat and walk.”**

Join us, as our community unites for a “progressive day of prayer.” Each service lasts 30-40 minutes.

Join us for the day, or for a service: as your schedule permits.

Join us, as we deepen our relationship with God and one another, as we hear the healing words of our compassionate God, and as we are called to bring peace and reconciliation to the world.



Join Peter Marty, author of *The Anatomy of Grace*, as he explores the question,

**DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE?**

Friday, March 6, 2020  
5 pm - 8 pm  
Tickets: \$25  
(Heavy appetizers will be served.)

Christ Lutheran Church  
425 Riverside Road  
Belvidere, IL 61008

**REGISTER NOW**  
<https://2020wdp.eventbrite.com>

**PETER MARTY**

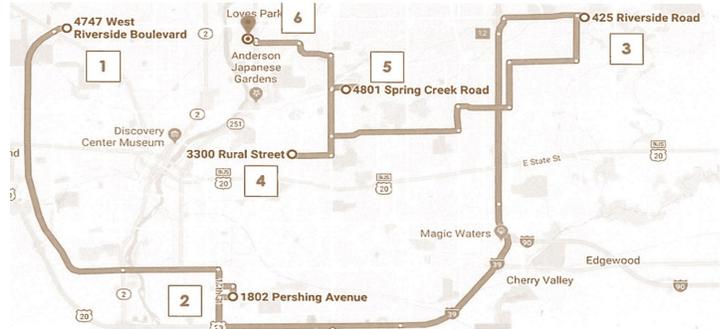


Rev. Peter Marty is senior pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa, and editor/publisher of *The Christian Century*, a journal devoted to shaping conversation about religion and faith in public life. A frequent preacher and speaker across the country, Marty has written numerous articles related to culture, character, and faith issues.

**World Day of Prayer Events**

7:30	Continental Breakfast	New Zion Baptist Church 4747 W. Riverside, Rockford Rev. K. Edward Copeland
7:45	Opening Prayer	
9:15	Matins (morning prayer) Iconography	Christ The Saviour Orthodox Church 1802 Pershing Ave., Rockford Rev. Fr. Jonathan Bannon
10:45	Stations of the Cross	Christ Lutheran Church 425 Riverside Road, Belvidere Rev. Twila Schock
12:45	Taizé	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 3300 Rural St., Rockford Deacon Marti Bein
2:00	Healing Service	St. Anskar's Episcopal Church 4801 Spring Creek Rd., Rockford Rev. Jill Flynn
3:00	Prayer Experience	Grace Lutheran Church 343 Grand Ave., Loves Park Rev. JoAnna Patterson

6:15\* Keynote address: *Do you want to be made whole?* Rev. Peter Marty  
Christ Lutheran Church  
425 Riverside Road, Belvidere  
\*Registration required (\$25) - <https://2020wdp.eventbrite.com>



For your convenience registration can be done online—  
<https://2020wdp.eventbrite.com>

**MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM**

Rev. Peter Marty Event | Fri., March 6, 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Text (circle one)? Yes | No

FEES (Includes admission and heavy appetizers):  
General Admission—\$25 | # \_\_\_\_\_ of attendees X \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send registration form with payment to:**  
Christ Lutheran Church, 425 Riverside Rd, Belvidere, IL 61008  
Checks made payable to: **Christ Lutheran Church**  
Memo line: "2020WDP"

Please direct all questions to:  
Pastor Twila Schock (815) 885-2522, ext. 11  
or [twila@makingChristknown.org](mailto:twila@makingChristknown.org)





Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
2715 S. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61109  
Phone: 815-399-5503 E-mail: [svlcsecretary@att.net](mailto:svlcsecretary@att.net)  
On The Web: [www.shep61.org](http://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  
APRIL 2020  
NEWSLETTER IS  
MARCH 12, 2020**

**Officers of the Congregation**

President - Sherry Scheider  
Vice-President - Rhoda Fox  
Secretary - LaVon Downing  
Treasurer - Phil Smalley

**Congregation Council**

Justin Abel  
Brian Carpenter  
Karen Dolan  
LaVon Downing  
Pearl Fortman  
Rhoda Fox  
Julie Johnson  
Steve Larsen  
Dave Musser  
Barb Pearson  
Sherry Scheider  
Bob Tukker

**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**