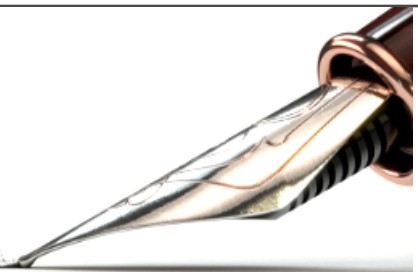


Grace Notes



A publication of Shades Valley Lutheran Church ✦ ELCA ✦ Birmingham, AL ✦ September, 2019

The essential function of religion is to radically
connect us with everything...
It is to help us see the world and ourselves
in wholeness, and not just in parts.

Rohr, Richard. The Universal Christ

God's work, Our hands Serve Day

Sunday, September 8

On *God's work. Our hands* Sunday, all are welcome to join SVLC in serving the staff and animals of the Greater Birmingham Humane Society (GBHS), located at 300 Snow Rd, Birmingham, AL 35209.

After the 9:30 AM worship service, we will have a quick, pizza brunch in the Fellowship Hall before departing for GBHS, arriving there by 12:00 PM. Once we arrive and check in, we will divide into smaller groups for the various tasks GBHS assigns us.

Please use the signup sheet or email svlc.social.ministry@gmail.com by 1 Sept for an accurate count of people (for lunch and the number of projects we can accomplish).

God's work, Our hands day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical

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Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.



Christ in All

It is tempting to think that God is separate from us, as if at times God is somewhere else and then at other

times, God is suddenly here with us. But, what if God in Christ is not separate at all, but rather present in all things, all around us, all the time? Such a thought is radical, I know. It is radical in the true sense of that word, radical (from the Latin **radix**, **radic**- 'root') meaning "an inherent or fundamental part of the nature of someone or something".

Martin Luther believed that it is the radical nature of God to be in all, not relegated to certain places and times. We hear this, Luther's view in his writings about the sacraments, when as he argued with another theologian, the Swiss Reformer, Ulrich Zwingli, Luther made the quirky comment that he knew Christ was in the bread at Holy Communion because Christ was present in his cabbage soup. Yes, Luther believed that Christ is present in the sacraments (baptism and communion) because Christ is present in all creation. As St. Paul wrote "Christ is all things and in all people" (Col. 3:11, CEB).

If we can conclude, with Luther and St. Paul, that the entire physical world around us, all of creation, is both the hiding place and the revelation place for God, then we can open ourselves to begin seeing Christ in neighbor and stranger, friend and foe, creation and civilization. And that way of seeing changes everything.

Suddenly how we treat the creation, the illegal immigrant, our family member, the homeless neighbor, each person we encounter through the day, is a direct expression of our conduct toward Christ. When we mistreat the creation, we mistreat Christ. When we denigrate the humanity of another, we denigrate Christ. But, when we act compassionately toward our neighbor in need or care compassionately for the creation, then it is a direct expression of our love for Christ.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Actions

Gathering under the theme "We are church," voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) made a number of key decisions to further the mission and ministry of this church. The assembly, the chief legislative authority of the church, met Aug. 5-10 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

More than 900 voting members:

- Reelected on the first ballot the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton to a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop.
- Elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer to a six-year term as ELCA secretary. Rothmeyer is currently serving as executive for administration with the Office of the Secretary.
- Approved the social statement "Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action" and its implementing resolutions. The social statement, in part, names patriarchy and sexism as sins and calls the church to action on a range of issues, including gender-based violence, workplace discrimination and economic inequality.
- Adopted "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment," which will serve as church policy for inter-religious relations. The policy statement was adopted with the witness of 39 ecumenical and inter-religious guests in attendance.

Continued page 7

Prayer & Practices:

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is simply sitting in silence, open to God's love and your love for God. This prayer is beyond thoughts, emotions, or sensations. Like being with a very close friend or lover, where words are not required.

Because our minds are so attached to thinking, sometimes choosing a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within. [Then,] sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly, and silently introduce your sacred word. . . . When you become aware of thoughts, return ever-so-gently to your sacred word. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence for a couple of minutes.

Begin with five or ten minutes building over time to 20-30 minutes each day. Let go of all expectations or goals during this time. It is not about achieving anything, whether emptying your mind or finding peace or achieving a spiritual experience. There is no way to succeed at Centering Prayer, except to return again and again to Love.

Thoughts & Prayers

Please join us in praying for the following:

Members...

Paul Schabacker, Gerry Arndt, Ann Veren, Marie Dubois.

Friends and relatives...

Benny Keisler, Ted Metcalfe, Patt Riggins, Dana Moss, Dillard Williams Family, The Family of Harold Arndt, Kim Frolicch, Jana Thomas, Kinsley Green, Suzie Easterling.

Our Church...

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; our Bishop Elizabeth; our ELCA – Southeastern Synod; and, our Bishop Julian & Bishop-elect Kevin.

**Contemplation is prayer
centered entirely on the
presence of God.**

- Thomas Merton

Sunday Worship Scripture Texts for September

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Sept. 1	Proverbs 25:6-7	Psalm 112	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Sept. 8	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Sept. 15	Exodus 32:7-14	Psalm 51:1-10	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
Sept. 22	Amos 8:4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
Sept. 29	Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3	Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22	Revelations 12:7-12	Luke 10:17-20



September Birthdays

9/3 Dorothy Failor
 9/3 Clara Karr
 9/3 Jan Owen
 9/3 Tyler Thomas
 9/4 Amy McDonald
 9/5 Stan Neuhaus
 9/10 Laura Kezar
 9/11 Lucas McDonald
 9/11 Shannon O'Sheal
 9/13 Elaine Hornberger
 9/16 Sarah Kezar
 9/17 Kim Weismore
 9/26 Patty Lower
 9/27 Kathy Peaspanen
 9/27 Rachel Rice
 9/30 Kaitlyn Hall
 9/30 Heather Karr
 9/30 Dirk Rehder

Around the Church

Transportation Needs

We have a couple of church members that are in need of transportation to church on Sundays. If you are interested in helping, please contact Susan Harchelroad at #205-470-3191 (Call or text) or email her at svlcelca@gmail.com. She will be the main person setting up rides for our church members.

Lutheran World Relief

The Happy Quilters have been working hard to collect all the materials for the different kits they assemble for LWR. This year, they have put together 407 school kits, 69 baby kits, 16 fabric kits and 213 health kits. The Happy Quilters have made over 256 handmade quilts. Sixty of these quilts went to Mexico Beach to help families after Hurricane Michael.

T-shirt Fundraiser

Shades Valley Lutheran Church t-shirts will be coming soon! The proceeds from the t-shirts will go to our youth ministry program. The SVLC t-shirts are for our church members to wear when we go out into the community for service projects or Blessing of the Pets, etc. The shirt sizes range from Adult small to XXL, and Youth small to large. The cost for shirts is \$10/youth shirt, \$12.50/adult shirt and \$15/XXL shirt. If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt, please contact Sarah Beth at secretary@shadesvalleylutheran.org.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

SVLC's New Director of Music

Ms. Rebecca Rehorst

We are excited that Rebecca Rehorst is joining our church staff in the ministry of Director of Music.

Rebecca comes to us from Oconomowoc, Wisconsin where she served with Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. Since 1995, Rebecca has served in a variety of ministries, in various congregations, including organist, pianist, adult choir director, children's choir director, bell choir director, singer/vocal worship leader, accompanist, and special music coordinator. In that same period of time, Rebecca also served as a private piano and voice instructor, and a public-school general music teacher and choir director. Rebecca's personality, enthusiasm, and experiences will serve SVLC well, and will enable us to continue our tradition of a strong music ministry. Finally, in addition to serving with SVLC, Rebecca will be teaching at the conservatories associated with Vestavia Hills UMC and Dawson Memorial Baptist.

We believe Rebecca is just what SVLC needs as we move forward in ministry. We look forward to Rebecca starting the first week in September with her first Sunday being September 8. We trust, once she begins, SVLC will go out of its way to help her feel welcomed and supported.

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY

Pub Theology

**Different
Brews...
different
views.**

***Second
Thursday of
the month,***

September 12, 7:00-9:00PM

Pub Theology is an informal gathering of seekers, questioners, religious, spiritualists, humanists, believers, and non-believers, any who are interested in discussing culture and faith in a PUBLIC setting.

All are welcome to join us for great company, conversation, and theological/spiritual discussion on September 12 from 7-9pm at



Sermon Dialogue

A conversational Sunday School for youth and adults

Have you ever listened to a sermon and wanted to reply with your own thoughts or ask a follow-up question? Join Pastor Eric for "Sermon Dialogue & Bible Talk" for conversation regarding that morning's sermon and scripture. Each Sunday after worship, approximately 10:45-11:30 in the Bonhoeffer Room.

FAMILY MINISTRY



Children's Church

We will have Children's Church during the WORD section of worship (following Children's Message

up to the Offering time) children (PreK-5th grades) have the option of moving to the chapel for an abbreviated Sunday school lesson and craft.

This year's teachers are Sarah Beth Hall, Gretchen Sexton, Sarah Trombley, and Maria Hopkins. The Senior High Youth will also help during Children's Church. If you would like to help assist one of these teachers, please let Sarah Beth know.

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Activities

November 9-10, 2019

All Tennessee (Trinity, Hixon, TN)

February 9-10, 2020

All GA (Camp Grace, Roberta, GA)

March 13-15, 2020

SESLYO Assembly (Lutheranch)

June

Affirm (UWA)

Senior High Bible Study

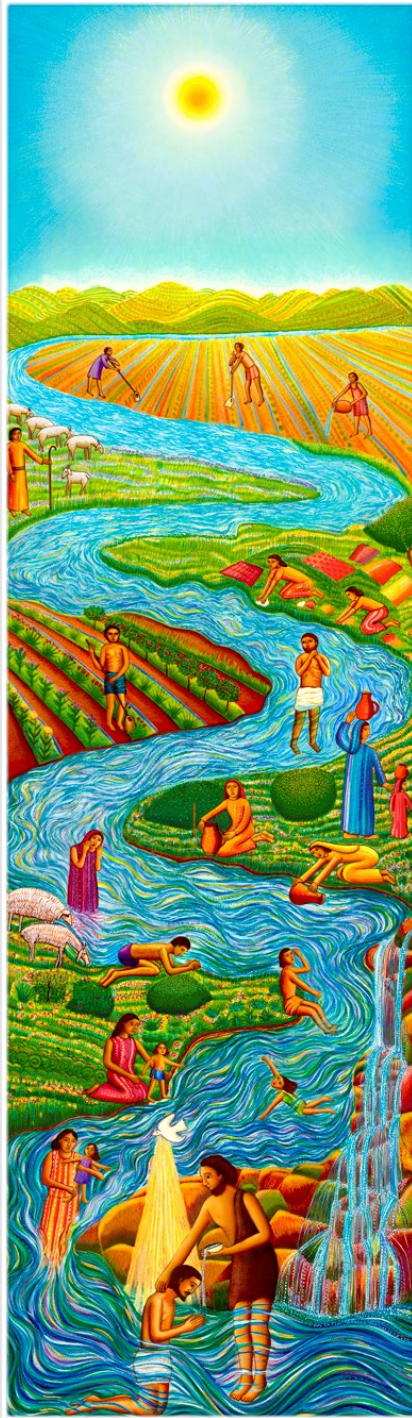
Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm starting September 4.

The topic will be chosen by the group on the first night of bible study.

Middle School Catechism

Looking to question your faith, to ask the big questions of life, and to go through the rite of confirmation? Then, Middle School Catechism is for you! Instruction will follow a retreat/lock-in format. Youth 6th-8th grade will learn about their faith, practice their faith, and serve because of their faith. Retreat attendance is essential. If a conflict arises, please contact Pastor Eric to arrange for a make-up assignment. Here are the dates for the retreats/lock-ins:

When	Time	What	Where
Sept. 27-28, 2019	7:00 PM-noon	Lock-in & Shades Creek clean-up	SVLC
Nov. 8-10, 2019	TBD	Faith Alive Retreat	Lutheranch
Jan. 19-20, 2020	7:00 PM-noon	Lock-in & MLK Nat'l Service Day	SVLC
Feb. 28-29, 2020	7:00 PM-noon	Lock-in	SVLC
March 13-15, 2020	TBD	SESLYO Assembly	Lutheranch
May 1-2, 2020	7:00 PM-noon	Lock-in	SVLC
May 2, 2020	10am-2pm	Conference & SESLYO Spring Gathering	SVLC
May 31, 2020	9:30 AM	Pentecost Sunday Eucharist with the Rite of Confirmation	SVLC
June, 2020	TBD	AFFIRM	UWA



ELCA Churchwide Assembly Actions

(continued)

- Adopted the "Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA," which consists of a report and recommendations on how the ELCA exhibits authentic diversity and formulates goals for racial diversity and inclusion.
- Adopted a memorial that calls for the development of a social statement and social message on the relationship of church and state.
- Witnessed the presentation of the "Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent," which was accepted by the Rev. Lamont A. Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA), and members of ADLA.
- Adopted a memorial that affirms the ELCA's long-standing commitment to migrants and refugees and declares the ELCA a sanctuary church body.
- Adopted a memorial to encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove barriers to ordination for people in same-gender relationships.
- Adopted a memorial to support the vision and goals of the Poor People's Campaign that align with the ELCA's social teachings.
- Adopted a series of amendments to the "Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," including one that makes ordination the entrance rite for ministers of Word and Service (Deacons).
- Adopted a resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people who were shot and killed June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.
- Adopted a resolution to condemn white supremacy, calling all ELCA congregations to engage in a "study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God."

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	9/1	9/8	9/15	9/22	9/29
COFFEE	Gaylia Malone	G&S Vitalis Susan Summers	Joan Carlisle Lois Luther	Anne Scholl Candy Wallace	Dot Underwood
OPEN/ LOCKUP	J&S Trombley	J&S Trombley EJ Rauworth	J&S Trombley Beth Thomas	J&S Trombley Clyde Stanton	J&S Trombley
FLOWERS	Kezar/G. Graham	Kezar/Thomas	Kezar/ McGuinness	Carlisle/OPEN	Hall/Reid
USHERS	Terry Carlisle Blaine Minton Jack Wallace Scott Curlings	Kristin Bakkegard Caleb Hopkins Kathy Peaspanen Tom Peaspanen	EJ Rauworth Ed Kezar Joy Ray Lucas McDonald	Anne Scholl Bruce Montgomery Lane Graham Rick Lampkin	Greg Vitalis John Trombley Joel Arnold Taft Walley
ACOLYTE	Charlotte Curlings	Sam Walley	Edward Cristofani	Kathryn Minton	Braedon Hall
CRUCIFER	Denton McDonald	Ashleigh Walley	Carson Rehder	Olivia Minton	Katie Rauworth
LECTOR	Shannon Curlings	Kristin Bakkegard	Ed Kezar	Rachel Rice	Ellen Brake
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Shannon Curlings Johanna Graham	Sam Galgano Maria Hopkins	Sharon Lampkin Bettye Neuhaus	Amy Rauworth Rachel Rice	Ellen Brake Kenneth Curlings
LAY ASSISTANT	Rick Mittermaier	Stephen Schrader	Roberta Stamp	Greg Vitalis	Gary Huffman
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Sarah Beth Hall	Gretchen Sexton	Sarah Trombley	Maria Hopkins	Sr. High Youth
NURSERY VOLUNTEER	Gaylia Malone	Susan Summers	Kristi Minton	Sarah Beth Hall	Bruce Montgomery
ALTAR GUILD	Cindy Graham, Beth Thomas & Joy Ray				

Shades Valley Lutheran Church

Ministers - Members of Shades Valley Lutheran Church

Staff

Office Professional - Sarah Beth Hall
Director of Music – Rebecca Rehorst
Pastor – Rev. Eric L. Murray

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music@shadesvalleylutheran.org
pastor@shadesvalleylutheran.org

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

ELCA-Southeastern Synod Bishop -- Rev. Kevin Strickland
ELCA Presiding Bishop -- Rev. Elizabeth Eaton