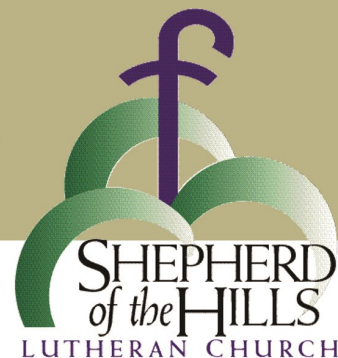


Shepherd's Voice



August 2021

“Our Next Faithful Move”

By Pastor Scott Searl

Like many of you I've struggled over the last year with my reaction to George Floyd's murder. I've struggled with how my daily life might need to change to address the racial disparities all around us. I've also struggled with how we should react as a family of faith.

I'm grateful to once again announce that we have received a \$20,000 grant from Augsburg University to enter into the conversation. We have hired three consultants to help us make our next faithful move toward racial reconciliation: David Scherer has been a facilitator, trainer, and teacher for twenty years with individuals and organizations around the country to “move the needle” in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Joe Davis has been a facilitator, trainer, artist, and teacher for the past ten plus years. A gifted visual and musical artist, Joe travels the country inviting individuals and organizations to create space where everyone feels like they belong. Justice Feldman grew up in the City of Hopkins and has more than five years of racial equity and social justice experience. He has worked in corporate, government and athletic organizations. He is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota.

These three talented folks will be with us in worship on Sunday mornings, lead educational opportunities on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. They will help facilitate some strategic thinking and planning with our church council and staff. And they will be helping to lead us to new ways of thinking and being in the world both as individuals and as a family of faith.

I hope you will make every effort to participate in this unique opportunity. The ELCA is one of the whitest denominations in the country. And even right here in Hopkins there have been racial covenants on homes that for years prevented people of color and even Jewish families from buying homes in the very neighborhood where our church is located. We have much to learn about our history and ourselves.

One of the things that makes me most proud of our family of faith is our willingness to enter into real life conversations about real issues that can often make us real uncomfortable. It is in our faithful DNA to do this. Confession is not some rote recitation of pious words on Sunday morning. Confession is the uncomfortable realization that we have not been the person or the people that God hopes us to be. Confession requires real conversation and real change and being really open to the possibility of growth. We have done this before as

Continued on page 2

**Shepherd of the Hills
Lutheran Church
500 Blake Road South
Edina, MN 55343
(952) 935-3457**

Staff:

Pastors	Scott Searl, Sherri Otto
Assistant/Visitation Pastor	Fred Jensen
Music Director	Emily Koski
Intern Pastor	Anne Schaefer
Faith Community Nurse	Kaye Wothe
Administrative Assistant	Shawn Wacholz
Building Manager	Blair Prax

Church Council Members / Officers:

President	Adam Driscoll
Vice President	Don Wothe
Treasurer	Steve Hanneman
Financial Secretary	Ryan Erickson
Secretary	Christa Meland
Serve	Nate Lichy
Worship & Music	Julia Buteyn
Building & Facilities	Peter Barott
Learn	Stephanie Nordin
Communications	Jill Miller
Care	Dave Cousins
LMCC	Open
Evaluation	Chris Polston

Telephone & Voice Mail Extensions:

Worship Times	1
Directions	2
Shawn Wacholz	11
Pastor Scott Searl	12
Pastor Sherri Otto	13
Intern Pastor Anne Schaefer	14
Blair Prax	15
Emergency Message Mailbox	24
Kaye Wothe	25

Shepherd Online!

Pr. Scott Searl	scott@sothchurch.com
Pr. Sherri Otto	sherri.otto@sothchurch.com
Intern Pr. Anne Schaefer	anne.schaefer@sothchurch.com
Shawn Wacholz	office@sothchurch.com
Kaye Wothe	kaye.wothe@sothchurch.com
Blair Prax	blair.prax@sothchurch.com
Church web site	www.sothchurch.com

Pastor's Message continued from page 1

individuals as we learned about our Muslim neighbors, as we welcomed Somali youth into our parsonage basement for tutoring, as we have openly welcomed LGBTQ and transgender people, and now as we take another faithful step toward understanding our racial bias.

Please join us for all the opportunities ahead. Please say thank you to Julie Showers and Christa Meland who are helping us lead this process. Please pray for our family of faith as we enter into this time of reflection, confession, and growth. Please encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to join us as we take one more faithful step toward becoming the people that God calls us to be!



PRESIDENT'S POST: The Things that Connect Us

By Adam Driscoll, Council President

I have to admit, I am not one who is generally attached much to "things." I'm quick to discard, and appreciate the feeling of relief from purging unused "stuff," be it old clothes, or especially all the items that went along with having babies in the house after our boys grew out of them. That said, there are a few things to which I am attached, one was my grandfather's boat. It's simple enough, an early 2000's combination fish and ski that he and I spent plenty of time on. Early on he was teaching me how to use, while towards the end of his life, he was far more apt to tell me to drive as his eyesight had started deteriorating. He never directly indicated that he needed me to do the driving at that point, but he didn't need to. We both knew without saying it out loud, and I feel that helped him maintain his dignity.

My grandfather passed in 2010. When he died, my uncle inherited his boat. We used it from time to time, and it was good fun, but no deep emotional attachment. That is, until my uncle decided he would be purchasing something newer and would be selling that boat that he had inherited. I immediately knew how interested I was in it, and long story short, this spring we bought the boat from him. What joy we are getting, not just from having the boat to take the kids swimming and fishing, but for us to be the stewards of Grandpa's boat. With every activity, be it making some much needed improvements, letting Rex "drive," or watching the boys get the confidence to jump off on their own, I'd like to think my grandparents (Grandma joined him to be with the Lord in 2019) would struggle to contain their joy if they could see how this "thing" is giving us so much joy and happy memories as a family. Thanks be to God for those things that connect us: to each other, to ourselves, and to those that we have lost.



NOTICE

Special Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, August 15, 2021

10:30 am

A special meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 10:30 am for the purpose of getting congregation approval to secure a loan from Thrivent Financial for the parking lot update project.

SOTH Book Club

Book club at SOTH is open to all, male and female. Please feel free to join us. We have 2-3 copies of each book. All books will be available all year if you want to read ahead. Please read the book and return ASAP so another person can borrow the book for reading also. We try to get 2-3 readers to be able to read one copy.

For questions please contact Kaye Wothe, Faith Community Nurse at kwothe@comcast.net

Book Club Schedule

Sun., Sept. 19, 7:00 pm
"Small Great Things"
by Jodi Picoult

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Please mark your calendars for our next summer meeting date:

August 18.

Come for Bible study, food, and fellowship! The Wednesday morning group meets at 9:30 am for coffee, treats and fellowship before they begin a Bible study. The Bible study begins at 10:00 am and is based on the following Sunday's sermon text. All are welcome.



2021 SOTH BLOCK PARTY! Coming September 12!

SOTH will be celebrating our Annual Block Party to kick-off Fall programming on Sunday, September 12 2021 following 9:30 a.m. worship.

We are excited to welcome everyone back to church, and we are hoping that our annual block party event gives us all an opportunity to welcome our neighbors to join us. Fun outdoor games, food provided by SOTH (no pot luck this year), and entertainment for all ages! Festivities begin at 10:30 am immediately following 9:30 am worship and include:

- Great food by Mary Jensen. She has spent the last year thinking up great things to cook and bake! Big Bell Ice Cream truck will make an appearance!
- Activities for kids, a 70 foot obstacle course, a corn hole tournament with prizes, and Mini-golf!
- Music, Bingo and more!

Be sure to put September 12th on your calendar now. 9:30am worship. 10:30 block party!

We ask that unimmunized members of the community wear masks for their protection and ours!



SUMMER FESTIVAL CAMP

9 middle school students got to head to SUMMER FESTIVAL CAMP which took place at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN!! We played games, ate a ton of delicious food, watched hilarious skits, jammed to great music and listened to a speaker share about his relationship with Jesus! The focus of the week was about how OUR LIVES MATTER TO GOD. We specifically looked at how God loves and cares for all of us - even the broken parts and the parts of which we are ashamed.

Following each message from the speaker, we got to gather as a small group to unpack what the speaker had said. Our students picked up on how the words and the stories that were shared felt heavy. It was a great opportunity for Pastor Sherri and Pastor Anne to teach about God's great promises of grace and presence! We were really proud of the students being so open and honest, and they showed a lot of support to each other as well!

We spent some time discovering ways to pray and ways to read our Bible, and we also wrote letters to God. One night, we competed in a game show competition as a group, AND WE WON!! Our prize was pizza, and we took that down too! We had a shaving cream fight, a dance party and skit night! It was a great week learning how God is fun and real and tangible - not just something that we do on Sundays in a church building.

It was a blessing for us to have this time with these students, to remind them of the promises of grace and presence, and to just have fun and be silly too! Summer Festival Camp '22 is on our radar for next year!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WAM Parents' Meeting

August 9th, 6:30 pm

August 11th, 6:30 pm

There are two opportunities for parents to meet to discuss the future of WAM. Please bring your ideas, hopes and dreams for this important ministry. Contact Pastor Sherri at sherri.otto@sothchurch.com with any questions.

Nursery Cleanup

August 16th, 6:30 pm

Since this area has not been used in over a year, it could use some TLC. If you are interested in helping with cleaning, organizing, etc. please contact Pastor Sherri at sherri.otto@sothchurch.com.

High School Group

August 8th and August 22nd

High School Youth Group will meet from 4-5:30pm on the patio of Shepherd. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Sherri or Pastor Anne.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We are grateful to be back to in person worship!

We will open the worship to anyone who would like to attend. No sign up required. Masks are not required. **We kindly request that those who have not yet been vaccinated, to please wear a mask.** Zoom church will continue to be available.

As you know things may change. The return team (Scott Edmundson, Jodi Rogness, Don Wothe, Terry Jensen and Blair Prax) will continue to meet and offer guidance or changes along the way. We look forward to seeing you live in person (or on zoom) as we begin to make a return to in-person worship.



10 Reasons to Return to Shepherd This Fall

By Kaye Wothe, Faith Community Nurse

Whether you return in person, or via ZOOM, there are lots of great programming and worship opportunities for worship, faith growing, learning, community connecting, caring and service-to-the world activities for you to join in. Here is a peek at a few with more to come on September 1st when this academic year's catalog of events comes out. Please note these are in RANDOM order (because who could decide what order they should be in)!

My sneak peek list:

Racial Justice. Yep, I am sick of talking about it too. I am blessed to have the choice to ignore it with little personal impact. But, is that the response I am called to? What is different about this year's programming is that it is a connected, complete, experience and expert-driven series funded by a large grant we received which we would otherwise not have been able to benefit from.

Science and Religion. After a pandemic where we have seen many conservative Christians lead the numbers of people as unvaccinated, and/or COVID-19 denying, as well as a time when we are witnessing so many climate-change effects ravaging our earth, it is time to drill down and consider how we correlate our belief in science with our belief in God. We welcome a seminary-trained clergy with an education in science, author, researcher and University-level teacher to speak to us about this.

Motivational Interviewing. This is a new field of communication to help us understand and do better at interacting in productive and caring ways in personal and working relationships. An expert in the field will help us understand the methods of this emerging field of communication.

Emotional Intelligence. Ever wonder what your EQi is? Many would say your EQi is as, or more important than, your IQ. How about the EQi of your kids? Come gain insights from our speaker expert on how to know your EQi and how to make or coach positive changes.

Biblical Perspective. When you read the Bible, how you interpret the words and stories likely is very impacted by your own personal experiences. With this in mind, how do people with very different life experiences than us interpret these very same words and why??

WAM. Kids need to engage with their faith and faith community to understand the meaning and importance of that in the days ahead. Research, personal experience and wisdom tell us community and faith both add to a person's resilience. As an adult in crisis, will kids remember to come back to these places for help and support if they experience it in their childhood?

10 Reasons continued

Confirmation. As teens most want to claim their voice and choice, while at the same time they are laying down the foundation of their identity. Confirmation hopes to allow all three of these things, providing a strong foundation, adding to positive identity and helping them find their voice as emerging adults.

Block Party. The EXTRAVAGANZA of fun in the pandemic safety of the outdoors anticipates being a glimmer of hope toward normalcy, while celebrating the SOTH community and inviting the Holy Spirit to enter in and fuel our energy and sustain us for the year ahead.

Worship. Whether you are attending in person or on ZOOM, the liturgy calls you to confession, forgiveness and healing, the message reminds you of our call in the world, the music adds to both healing and message. For me, it adds to my resilience to be reminded I do not have to face each day's challenges alone, that I am a loved child of God no matter what negative mantra is running through my head, I am forgiven, and I am called to a purpose in the world in a community of hope. It is powerful stuff.

Mental Health and Wellness. We know by the numbers that many, many struggle with mental health challenges. The pandemic has only added to this. At SOTH, we work to talk about it freely, without stigma. We work to seek resources and assistance, and walk with others who struggle too. Also, we work to learn how we can prevent or manage the related stresses that push us to difficult places. Come, join the conversation, learn, walk with others seeking hope, healing and resilience.

Small Groups. Whoops... that's 11 things. But let me just sneak this one in, please. Whether you are a kid, a young parent, an empty nester, newly retired, or far into retirement, there are peer groups and mixed-age interest groups to be part of. Some are focused on fellowship, some on learning, some on serving others, or caring for others. There is book club, quilting, prayer and visitation team, Wednesday night gatherings, HS youth group, Bible study, Circles, service, learn, care or worship teams, work with housing immigrants, music groups, altar guild, women's breakfast, men's breakfast, etc., etc., etc. Let us help you find or start a group!

We hope to offer ALL formal gatherings on ZOOM as well as in person this year. Attend in the way you are most comfortable.

If you are not vaccinated for any reason, we ask that you are called to care for yourself and others by wearing a mask to both protect you and others you are here with.

With a Heart that Loves Community,
Kaye Wothe
Faith Community Nurse



mental
health
connect

We help open doors

MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT
Mental Health Resources and
Education can be found on their
webpage:

<http://www.mhconnect.org/>
events

Staff Reflection and Youth News

At Every Turn continued

How can I do this better in the communities that I serve? How can I be a better teammate in serving my family, neighbors, church and the world? These are the questions I am still pondering.

My last call of the night was a traffic stop that turned into a DWI arrest. Watching the field sobriety test was captivating. All of the tests administered were the same ones you see in the movies, but I was enthralled with the officer's patience as he instructed the driver again and again to follow the flashlight with just his eyes. And then again with walking the line. Watching from a little distance, I could tell that the man was not sober. I don't think anyone could have missed it. And yet the officer remained calm, spoke clearly, made lots of eye contact and continued to show the driver respect while giving him many, many opportunities to pass the tests.

I don't think we all do that very well. When people make poor decisions, it can be easy to immediately turn up our noses or turn our backs on them. But as Jesus followers, we are called to be more like the officer doing the field sobriety test. While Jesus was hanging out with criminals, sinners, and overzealous religious leaders, he continually responded to everyone with love and respect. Jesus did not treat people differently depending on their actions and decisions. Jesus continually showed grace and patience to people based on their intrinsic value of being a child of God. Let's work to show grace and respect regardless of the decisions that they have made.

Grace and peace!
Pastor Anne



AT EVERY TURN: Insights from the Intern

By Intern Pastor Anne Schaefer

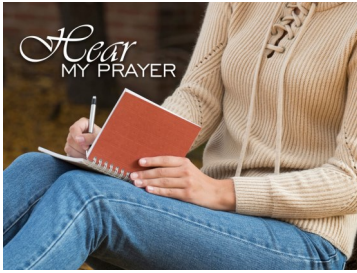
Welcome to my little corner of the world. As an intern pastor, I am learning a great deal about what it means to be called to ministry. Each month, I will use this newsletter space to reflect on the wisdom that has come my way. I will likely learn a great deal about God, the Church, this congregation, faith, myself and grace. Thanks for being part of my journey!

I got to go on a ride along with the Hopkins Police Department one Saturday night in July. Officer Andy and I hung out for a few hours, and he gave me a behind-the-scenes look at how police officers serve the community. There are a few things that I'll take with me as I am learning how to also serve the community.

One of the first things that Andy showed me was how they double check the calibration of the radar gun that they use to see if people are driving too fast. Some of you may be bummed to hear that there is a special tool that police officers use to make sure the radar gun is working properly before each and every shift. This isn't just a regularly scheduled maintenance; this is an every-shift-every-officer requirement. The tool that they use is a little tuning fork. The officer knocks the fork and then the radar gun points at the tuning fork and registers the sound frequency. If the measurement that the gun registers is different than it should be, then the radar gun is not accurately calibrated.

It seems like a great habit to get into; double checking that your tools are working correctly before beginning the day's work. As a human being, I use my heart, mind, and body every day. These are my tools. In order to work and serve God, how can I check my calibration every single day? Martin Luther tells us that each and every day we are to remember our baptism. We are to double check our identities as children of God before we do anything else in our days. Remembering our baptisms are our daily tuning forks to make sure our days are calibrated to our Creator.

Nearly every traffic stop we made or calls we responded to was in tandem with other officers. Sometimes there was just one additional officer, and one time there were 5 squad cars with a total of 6 officers present. These officers have each other's backs. They don't show up as a response to someone needing them; they show up for each other **just in case** they may be needed. This is community. Knowing each other and knowing the world that they serve – showing up for each other out of support and understanding. This support or backup isn't always needed, and yet if an officer needs help, it is probably already there.



PATIENCE AND PRAYER

By Pastor Sherri Otto

I am sitting in the waiting room area, waiting for my physical therapy appointment. Today, I hurt. I don't want to be here. I'm sick of the achiness, the not sleeping at night, the crutches. I mean, come on! It's been two weeks since my second hip surgery! I should be walking better with no pain by now...

Oh really!?!

As I sit here complaining to myself, I look up at a sign that says, "Patient Registration". A sign I had not noticed before today. A sign that was almost flashing like a beacon of light at me. And I stopped to smile.

For Patient or Patience is not something that I have right now. And it was this sign that told me that maybe, just maybe, I needed to enroll, enlist, register for a little patience of my own.

Have you ever felt this way? When it feels like you have waited for something to take place, whether it be for your body to heal, a much-needed vacation or waiting to visit with a family member or friend you haven't seen in a while. It's hard to have patience, to endure, to persist, and to keep your chin up that things will get better, that the much needed rest will come and that your family and friends will see you soon. It's hard when you don't know what the future holds. It's hard when the waiting of relief seems like an eternity.

What can we do, who do we turn to and where do we go to "register" for this patience? I believe it starts with prayer. Now I need to admit this is not something that comes naturally for me and perhaps, you feel the same. But I have found that when you start to feel restless about what is going on in your life, setting aside a time for prayer can be helpful to center yourself and give you the hope and encouragement that you need with a God who you can trust and confide in.

Prayer is just another word for having a conversation with God. It doesn't have to be formal. You don't need to have all of the "right" words or phrases. You don't even have to say anything at all! Just sit and be. Close your eyes and open your heart. Allow room for the Holy Spirit to enter and She will, I promise you.

When I was at Seminary, I took a class in which we would experience prayer in different ways. One of the ways was through painting. I remember sitting out on my front porch with a canvas and Bible. I picked out a verse and as I read it over and over, I painted on the canvas whatever came to me.

We also tried Lectio Divina, in which you choose a short reading from the Bible and repeat it over and over, with silence for reflection in between each reading. You can do this in a group or by yourself.

Patience and Prayer continued

And lastly, you could pick a word like "patience" or whatever is on your heart. You can close your eyes and breathe in saying part of the word and as you breathe out or say the second part of the word. It slows down your breathing and opens your mind to the Holy Spirit.

These are only a few examples that you may want to try. This is not easy work. It takes intentionality. It takes purpose. It takes time.

Please register today with God for some Patience. I know I am!!

Peace,
Pastor Sherri

HELPING KIDS START THE SCHOOL YEAR STRONG

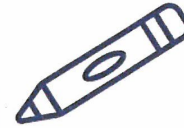
donate to RESOURCEWEST'S SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
JULY 6–AUGUST 18, 2021

MOST NEEDED SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- New Backpacks for Students**
from Kindergarten – 12th Grade
- Sharpened Yellow Pencils**
- Crayons** - Boxes of 24
- Wide Tip Markers** - Boxes of 12
- Narrow Tip Markers** - Boxes of 12
- Wide & College Ruled Spiral Notebooks**
- Pocket Folders** - Assorted Colors
- Glue Sticks** - Elmer's
- Zipper Pencil Pouch for 3-Ring Binder**
- Wide & College Ruled Composition Notebooks**

OTHER SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Fine Tip Black Sharpie Permanent Markers
- Colored Pencils - Boxes of 12
- College Ruled Loose Leaf Paper
- Pencil Boxes - 5x8" Plastic Box
- Dry Erase Markers
- String Backpacks
- Index Cards - 3x5" Size
- Red Ink Pens
- Blue Ink Pens
- Black Ink Pens
- Pink Erasers
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Yellow Highlighter
- 3-Ring Binders



If you would rather shop Amazon or Target for your school supplies, please visit the ResourceWest website for the link and get them shipped directly to the ResourceWest office.

DONATION DROP OFF: TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 9 AM TO 4 PM,

AT THE RESOURCEWEST OFFICE:
Donations can be dropped-off at the ResourceWest office at 1011 First Street S, Suite #109, Hopkins. There is a collection barrel located in the lobby across from our office door. We will have community drop-off days in August. Details on dates and locations coming soon!

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING:

Email Tracie at Tracie@resourcewest.org
It takes the participant, the volunteer, and the donor to equip kids for a strong start to their school year – Thank you!

A tremendous thanks to the many local businesses, organizations and congregations and individuals who donate school supplies for the Back to School Program.



CONSIDER A FINANCIAL DONATION:

TO DONATE ONLINE
visit:

www.resourcewest.org

- \$15** folders, notebooks and pencils for one child
- \$25** backpack for one child
- \$50** all the supplies needed to go into the backpack for one child
- \$100** average cost for one child to get ready for school
- \$500** supports a family of five kids to get ready for school



ResourceWest

1011 1st Street South, Suite 109 | Hopkins, MN 55343
www.resourcewest.org | 952-933-3860



MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR HOSTING OUR ASYLUM SEEKER(S)

IMMIGRANT MINISTRY

As you may recall, Shepherd of the Hills is part of a local interfaith coalition (ACT-TC) to help asylum seekers transition into our community. We are providing housing in our parsonage. All of us in the coalition will be sharing in the work of making the transition successful through financial assistance, visits, providing rides, helping with shopping, and guidance through the medical and legal systems. After church on October 3rd a couple who belong to ACT-TC, and who are also members of a Lutheran church in St. Paul that has hosted an asylum seeker, will share their experiences and be available for questions.

With the invaluable help of a member of Temple Israel ACT-TC has created a sign-up opportunity on the internet for those wishing to help furnish the parsonage and donate gift cards for Target and Cub. The response has been overwhelming! If you wish to participate or to explore the current needs, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cod4baca72ba5ff2-help>.

No later than the end of September the parsonage will become available to welcome our first asylum seeker. Minor touch ups are planned for that time (such as painting and electrical work), and volunteers will be needed for cleaning and for moving donated furniture upstairs from the basement. Please contact Paul Bohnsack by phone or email if you can help with cleaning or moving. Hopefully, we can welcome our first guest(s) in October.

Stay tuned for more details!
Paul Bohnsack
952-891-5677
bohnsackps@frontiernet.net

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
500 Blake Road South
Edina, MN 55343

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*O give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is good;
his steadfast love
endures forever.*

Psalm 107:1, NRSV

