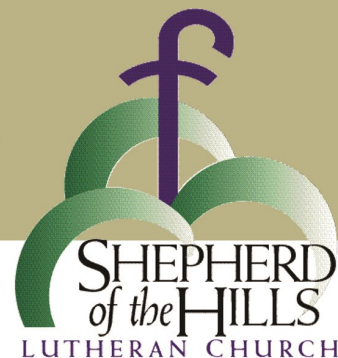


Shepherd's Voice



August 2022

“HEADPHONES ON, HEADPHONES OFF”

By Pastor Sherri Otto

It was the last night of Middle School Summer Festival Camp and it had been a hot three days. Pastor Anne and I were at Gustavus Adolphus with students from Shepherd along with several other churches. The students had had a full 3 days of learning about Jesus, singing songs, playing games and now the last event of the night... A Dance Party!!

Not only a dance party but a Silent Disco Party! Each person was given a set of headphones that you could turn on. Once they were on, you had a switch on the side that you could move to three different settings or stations. Each setting/station had its own color that would light up on the headphones... blue, green and red. Once you had the headphones on, you could not hear anything else that was going on, only the music.

I'll give you an example of how this worked. Let's say I had my setting on blue and the song that was playing was *Shake It Off* by Taylor Swift. I would look around to see who else had their headphones on blue so that I might go and dance with them. If I looked around and a bunch of people had their headphones on red, I would switch mine to red to hear what they were listening to. Let's say it was the *Cha Cha Slide* by Mr. C. Then I could run over there and line dance with them. At the end of that dance, I looked around and some of the students had switched it to green and it was *Let It Go* from the movie *Frozen*. I would run to them, and we would sing our hearts out!

It was so great to see all the different groups forming together, not knowing each other, but just dancing and having fun. There were a couple of times during the Silent Disco Party that I would take my headphones off, and it was only then, that you could hear three different groups singing at the top of their lungs to their favorite song that they were listening to. And sometimes, you would see an individual, dancing to the music all by themselves, seemingly not having a care in the world.

This got me thinking about what songs/voices we listen to in our own lives. And how those songs/voices can influence us, get us all pumped up or turn us off and make us run to look for another voice to listen to.

What if, instead of having three different colors on our headphones that had three different stations, we imagined that the three colors represented the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Pastor's Message continued on page 2

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

Staff:

Pastor	Sherri Otto
Music Director	Emily Koski
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	Open
Financial Secretary	Fred Jensen
Secretary	Christa Meland
Serve	Nate Lichty
Worship & Music	Karen Hofstad-Parkhill
Building & Facilities	Peter Barott
Learn	Stephanie Nordin
Communications	Joe Palmersheim
Care	Johanna Olson
LMCC	Open
Evaluation	Open

Telephone & Voice Mail Extensions:

Shawn Wacholz	11
Pastor Sherri Otto	13
Blair Prax	15
Emergency Message Mailbox	24
Kaye Wothe	25

Shepherd Online!

Pr. Sherri Otto	sherri.otto@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

What if, when we had our headphones on, tuning out the rest of the world, we would be able to hear each voice of the Trinity? What if the red color told us "I love you", the blue color told us, "Go out and help your neighbor" and the green color whispered, "I will never leave you." How cool would that be?

Whenever you needed to shut the voices of this world out, whenever you needed encouragement or love or a little nudge, you could just put on your headphones and hear the voice of God!! And how great would it be to actually see and know who else was looking for support, friendship and relief!

Unfortunately, life isn't always that easy. Sometimes it requires searching and finding those who need help in this world, those who are lonely or those who have lost their way. And sometimes, it's not easy for us to ask for help either. And so, we keep our headphones off and listen to all of the chaos in the world and all of the voices that are the loudest. We start to shut people off because we can no longer hear them or the voice of God. We turn inward instead of looking for those who are dancing by themselves. We think only of our own needs instead of what is needed in our families, our church and our community.

I admit I have done this and am trying to do better. I have taken my headphones off for too long. I have forgotten to listen for the voice of God, forgotten to be still so I could hear. I have forgotten that God loves me for who God created me to be and that God wants me to help people who are in need of physical, emotional and spiritual uplifting.

I know that I am not alone in this. And so, I ask you today, to put on your headphones and listen for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Experience God's presence in your life for healing, health and happiness. Look for others who are in need and find those who may be lost, lonely and forgotten. And when you do take off your headphones, stand up to the voices that do harm and join with the ones who are doing good in this world.

God longs for and desires us to listen to God's voice and be in community with others with headphones on and headphones off. As we listen to God for God's will to be done, we also continue to listen to the world in all of its chaos, trusting that God has a plan.

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11*

May God bless you as you trust and listen to God's voice and serve SOTH, your neighbor and your community.

Peace,
Pastor Sherri



PRESIDENT'S POST

Council Leadership Update

By Adam Driscoll, Council President

I'm excited to announce that Johanna Olson has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer, and has been elected to the position at our July 19 Council Meeting. We are very grateful for Steve Hanneman's 4+ years of service in this important role for our congregation and excited for Johanna to bring her relevant professional experience to Shepherd in this capacity.

Our lay leaders have been key to our transition in clergy this summer and beyond. To that end, we thank Intern Pastor Anne, and celebrate her time with us, and look forward to Interim Pastor Susan Debner, who will start with Shepherd on Monday, September 5. Finally, we cannot thank Pastor Sherri enough, for all she has been doing while we have been without a senior pastor this summer. Thanks be to God for all who are contributing to our current and future mission.

CURIOUS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP?

Want to know more about Shepherd of the Hills? We are offering informational times for questions you may have as you form or grow in your faith life. "What is a Lutheran? What can I expect at Shepherd of the Hills? How can I engage here? and any other questions you may have. Join Pastor Sherri after worship on the last Sunday of each month for conversation and questions. Date: August 28 following worship.



APPRECIATION AND RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR KAYE WOTHE

Sunday, August 14 at 10:30 am

Join us on Sunday, August 14th as we say thank you to Kaye Wothe, our Faith Community Nurse, for the multitude of gifts she has given in her ministry as our Faith Community Nurse. A light brunch will be served. If you would like to contribute towards a gift, please bring your donation to the church office by August 11.



ORDINATION SERVICE

Thursday,
September 1, 2022
6:00 pm

Pastor Anne Schaefer is getting ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA!

What a joy and gift it is to invite you to a worship service with the Rite of Ordination at 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 1 at Shepherd of the Hills! If you are able to attend, wear red. Following the ordination service there will be a short reception with refreshments.

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Looking for workers

SCS is a 73 year old non-profit service company located in Hennepin County .

WE HELP SENIORS STAY IN THEIR HOMES. We are looking for Members of Shepherd of the Hills that want to make extra money providing light level house cleaning or lawn care service.

LAWNCARE

Very flexible scheduling
Hourly pay \$18/ per hour
Provide your own transportation and lawnmower
Commit to the remaining growing season into October
16 years old or older .

HOUSEKEEPING

Part Time set your own hours (8 to 5)
Hourly Pay \$17/ per hour
Must have cleaning experience and own transportation
Cleaning individual senior homes with emphasis on kitchens, bath, dusting and Floor care.
Use customers vacuum cleaner and cleaning products

If interested or questions contact:

Kelly Webber
Senior Community Services
k.weber@seniorcommunity.org
PHONE 952-767-7886



DONATE TO RESOURCEWEST'S SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

RESOURCE WEST Back to School Program

ResourceWest is busy preparing for their 2022 Back to School Program.

Through this program, they will help over 1,100 students in the Hopkins and Minnetonka School Districts to start the school year strong. Your contribution to our Back to School Program will help power a successful start to the school year for youth in our community. They couldn't do this important work with out you! Thank you in advance for your support.

Most Needed School Supplies

Pocket Folders - Assorted Colors
New Backpacks for K - 12th Graders
Pencil Pouches & Pencil Boxes
Pink Erasers
Wide & Narrow Tip Markers - Boxes of 12
Wide & College Ruled Spiral Notebooks
Wide & College Ruled Composition
Scissors
3-Ring Binders - 2"

Donate from Home: Amazon Wish List & Target Registry

Donation Drop Off :

ResourceWest Office
Mondays & Thursdays, from 10am - 2pm

For more information, go to: www.resourcewest.org/back-to-school/



SOTH BLOCK PARTY!
Coming September 11, 2022!

SOTH will be celebrating our Annual Block Party to kick-off Fall programming and introduce our Interim Pastor Susan Debner on Sunday, September 11, 2022 following 9:30 a.m. worship.

We are welcoming the entire neighborhood to join us for a potluck, lawn games and an obstacle course.

Festivities begin at 10:30 am immediately following worship:

- Big Bell Ice Cream truck will make an appearance!
- Great food by Mary Jensen. She is back after a great meal last year with more great things to eat!
- Activities for kids, a 70 foot obstacle course, and a corn hole tournament with prizes!
- Music, Bingo and more!

We need volunteers to help with this great event on both Saturday and Sunday. Contact Don Wothe at 612-801-0195.

Be sure to put September 11th 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!

**LOAVES AND FISHES
RETURNING TO SOTH!**

Loaves and Fishes is an organization that provides a free meal to anyone who needs food or enjoys the company of others. SOTH has been involved with Loaves and Fishes providing a meal a month for over 35 years!! We originally served at Holy Rosary Catholic church in Minneapolis and then moved to St. Gabriel's church in Hopkins as the location was so much closer for our people. COVID has kept us from serving the past two years, but we are planning to begin again as early as September. Meals are still not served inside the church at St. Gabriel's but rather will be boxed up by our people and picked up outside the church by anyone who wants a meal.

We are so excited to be a part of Loaves and Fishes once again! A huge thank you to all of you who are willing to help again with this important ministry and for those who may help in the future.

Kristi Halverson and Sharon Peterson

Call Committee News

Call Committee continued

appreciates the time she took to help us work on our listening skills by teaching us an exercise called “Dwelling in the Word”. We will miss having her join us routinely at meetings but are so excited to hear Pastor Anne has accepted her first call in Elk River.

Finally, we are so very grateful for Pastor Sherri. Not only is she walking with our entire congregation through this transition and being pulled in many directions, but she also still manages to find time to be present with us. Pastor Sherri recently joined us to share her thoughts and insight for the Ministry Site Profile. Her input was invaluable.

Thanks be to God for all the wonderful and understanding people of SOTH! Once we’ve collected the survey redo’s and any that have yet to be submitted (YES, there’s still time to send your first!), we will utilize the results to finish shaping our Ministry Site Profile and share what we’ve learned with you.



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Hello from the SOTH Call Committee,

We are filled with gratitude.

First and foremost, thank you to all who have filled out our congregational survey. We’ve received an overwhelming response and are so grateful for your valuable input. By now, many of you have seen the call to action in recent weekly Shepherd e-News emails for those that filled out the electronic survey

prior to July 26th. If not, the following italicized message below is what you’ve missed:

YOUR URGENT ATTENTION is needed to address an issue the Call Committee encountered with the electronic survey!!!!

The initial survey solution used by the call committee previously allowed unlimited responses to surveys that were 10 questions or less. Unfortunately, the rules have changed since any of us last utilized the platform and we were only allowed to collect the first 10 responses for free. In order to collect the rest of the responses, we would have had to upgrade to their premium service which would cost over \$1000. Due to our current budget of \$0, we decided to abandon all responses from that platform and find a truly free solution. Thank you Louis Nelson and Google forms!!!

If you filled out the survey on paper, thank you. There is no need for you to read further.

For those of you who submitted electronically, thank you AND PLEASE take 5 more minutes to complete the survey again at the NEW link below:

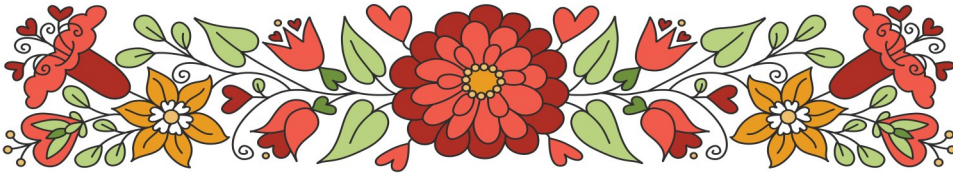
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZXiMaFzClxVYn9hdHZId4YeBOWcdQItghPGVpT2gRF18mQ/viewform>

We sincerely apologize for this snafu and look forward to hearing from you (again) VERY soon!

We appreciate your patience as we take a little extra time to re-gather your electronic responses.

Next, we want to thank Pastor Anne for sharing her final seminary project entitled “A Look into the Faith Community of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church”. There is so much excellent content and insight in her report which will help us complete SOTH’s Ministry Site Profile (remember this is like SOTH’s dating profile to woo our next Senior Pastor). The Committee also

Continued above



LEARN TEAM UPDATE

The LEARN team met and came up with a super-fun plan of how learning will happen this year for all grade levels. Please take note as there are several changes for your students.

WAM has been rebranded as Shepherds of Light (SOL) for Pre-K to 5th grade

Pre-K to 1st graders, also known as **FIREFLIES**, will meet **each Sunday after church from 10:30 to 10:50** for a short time of singing, Bible story time and prayer. And of course, play! This will allow parents to have a cup of coffee and talk with other parents or volunteer to join us! We will also be reaching out to the High School students to help too.

2nd to 5th graders will be broken up into two groups (2nd to 3rd – **SPARKLERS**) and 4th to 5th – **STARS**) and will gather on **Wednesday nights from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**. We will be following the **Spark Curriculum**. They will learn music, read a bible story and do a craft each night. We will be asking parents to help through Sign-up Genius and/or have them **sign up at the parent meeting night**. We will also be reaching out to the High School students to help on this too.

Confirmation will continue to meet on **Wednesday evenings** and will now run from **6:30 to 8:00**. We are working on getting speakers that are relevant to what these students are going through in their everyday life. We will be reaching out to parents to help each week.

High School students - We will ask students to **help out with the younger students** from **6:30 to 7:30**. From **7:30 to 8:30**, they can gather in their own space and play games, etc. and just be together. We will be planning fun activities for them throughout the year as well. If anyone is interested in helping out with this group, please contact Pastor Sherri.

FALL PREVIEW for STUDENTS and PARENTS

August 28	Blessing of the Backpacks
September 11	Block Party
September 14	Parent Orientation for Confirmation and Shepherd of Light (Sunday School)
September 18	God's Work Our Hands
September 21	Confirmation & Shepherd's of Light begin
September 25	Shepherds of Light begins (Sunday School) 3rd Grade Bible Presentation
October 12	Wednesday night meal with Speaker focused on Mental Health and students
November 6	Turkey Bingo
December 11	Children's Christmas program

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We will be having a special blessing of students' backpacks on August 28th, during worship. Students will receive a tag that they can attach to their backpack to remind them how much they are loved by God, their families and the community here at SOTH!

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Come for Bible study, coffee, 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.

CALLING STUDENTS - 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE

We will be meeting at SOTH on August 17th at 6:30pm for pizza and pop! Afterwards we will help Rowan with his Eagle Project by helping him color the banners that he has created. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Sherri. Looking forward to seeing you all on August 17th!!

Staff Reflection

At Every Turn continued

God has begun a great work in you, Shepherd of the Hills, and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to have shared in your journey. Know that you have left an imprint on my heart that I will carry with me forever.

God's grace and peace to you!
Intern 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!

Lessons... turns, pivots, chapters, learnings, engagements... there are many words to describe how God has worked in me through you and our ministry together. I am incredibly thankful for each and every turn that our journey together has made. While I am sitting here reflecting on the ending of our ministry, I can't help but remember the beginning. Two years ago, I was so prayerful that I would find a congregation that was "a good match" for me to do my internship. Little did I know that "a good match" was far more than I ever dared to desire.

This good match has filled me to the very depths of my core with love, grace, encouragement, validation, challenge, abundance, mercy, compassion, and awe. I am not who I was. Two years ago, I awaited something that I thought I understood but completely underestimated, and now I am completely changed. My hopes for the future have become monumental moments of my past. You have made my joy complete.

Lesson #2: Endings beget new beginnings. While I am sad to leave the beautiful congregation of SOTH, I am being received into the open arms of another congregation. It is with humbleness, gratefulness, and excitement that I accept the call to be the Associate Pastor of Elk River Lutheran Church beginning this September.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for being so willing to lead me through my internship. It has been an honor, to say the least. I am privileged to have shared in the celebrations of baptisms, birthdays, graduations, confirmations, new jobs, new life, championship games and awesome vacations. And I have felt the privilege of sitting with some of you in sickness, death, tragedy and disorder, infertility, frustration, and loss. You have gifted me with your life experiences, and I will hold every single one of them as sacred treasures.

Continued above



Give
thanks
to the
Lord;
for He is
good.
Psalms 136:1

THE LAST REPORT ON THE MIRACLES AT SOTH AS REPORTED BY THE FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

By Kaye Wothe, Faith Community Nurse

For those of you who are big fans of local author and book store owner, Louise Erdrich you might be familiar with an older titled book she wrote called: "The Last Report On the Miracles From Little No Horse". It is about a nun who fakes being male in order to respond to her call to be a priest. She (he) serves a remote Native or Original American reservation community

starting in 1912 for over 80 years. The insightful quotes related to the people and relationships in this book combined with their faith experiences are incredible. My favorite on the power and reality of love is this one:

"To love another human in all of her splendor and imperfect imperfection is a magnificent task. Tremendous and foolish and human.

It is magnificent because it's a generous gift of acceptance. It's tremendous because it goes against a culture that prizes only certain kinds of beauty.

It's foolish because other people may not believe we really do love them as they are.

And it is human because all of us are imperfect and our deepest connection to others often comes as a result of the wounds we share."

This quote largely summarizes what both I experienced from you all at SOTH over the 13 plus years and also what I hope might be the epithet on the tombstone of my ministry here, though I am painfully aware of times I failed at that.

The importance and power of being involved closely in a caring community where we can be seen for who we are and loved in our lifetime is of extremely high importance. I would wager a life abundant can not be lived without such a community. Most of us need a few of these types of communities in our lives to thrive.

A caring community ideally has as a base component of people caring for and loving one another for all their perfect imperfections as Erdrich names in the quote above. A God of grace is the very model of this kind of love. We love one another not because of who we are or who we are not, but because we simply are. We don't condone or love the imperfect acts or choices but we look for the good, recognize the effort to be better and help with that by lovingly caring for that person, often believing in them when they don't believe in themselves.

Continued above

The Last Report continued

In the same way in faith communities each of us may encounter periods of unbelief. Here too, as a community of sisters and brothers we carry one another's faith for them while they travel through a time of doubt.

As I have written and said many times it has been my great pleasure and gift received to walk with many, many of you and yours in times of transition, crisis, medical challenge, and life changes of all kinds. Also to learn with you about important life wellness subjects like mental health, and our many other speaker subjects over the years. I am grateful for the ways you have walked with me with grace and love when I have experienced these challenges too. We reminded one another our greatest title is child of God.

Now the list of challenges and life transitions in this phase of my life leads me to other places professionally. Personally, my husband Don and I intend to remain active members here at SOTH and look forward to remaining in this community whose mission matches well with ours and whose community we love dearly and enjoy the care of also.

With a Grateful Heart,
Kaye Wothe
Faith Community Nurse (a few more days...)

PS- FYI, a surprise to me is that an article about Faith Community Nursing I was interviewed for will be in the SUN in mid August, 2022. It is written by Sue Webber, who is the sister of SOTH member, Jim Robbins.

MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT EDUCATION

“Delay Your Gray: How to Keep Your Teenager Safe and Yourself Sane”

An Informative Program For Parents

Thursday, August 11, 2022

6:30 check in and refreshments

7-8:30 pm presentation and Q & A

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

16023 Minnetonka Blvd,

Minnetonka

Activity Room- lower level

Co-Hosted by Newport Healthcare,

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and

Wayzata Community Church, a

benefit of Mental Health Connect.

MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT
Mental Health Resources and Education can be found on their webpage:
<http://www.mhconnect.org/events>

Supporting our Youth continued

November 10, time TBD – Mental Health Navigation warm line/ resource, texting lines for teens, crisis resources. We'll wrap up our 4-part series with information on the MHC text/email/call warm line, where people can reach out and how to assist a young person in finding help or a next step for mental health or recovery.

We'll break into small groups to discuss what we've learned and how to continue the conversation.



MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT EVENTS

(For more information on these events and more, please go to mhconnect.org/events)

Supporting our Youth Series

(for youth leaders, volunteers and others that care about our youth)

We know our young people are experiencing unprecedented mental health concerns and struggles.

We will discuss questions such as...

How can faith communities support our youth?

How are youth leaders and volunteers part of the solution?

What tools are available?

How can we collaborate and work together?

Join Mental Health Connect and these partners as we bring together youth leaders, clergy, volunteers and anyone that works with youth. Each session will provide education, resources and small group collaboration. Please share this information with your faith community staff and your volunteers.

August 29 at 12:00 pm, virtual – Jenita Pace of Three Rivers Counseling Center will be kicking off the MHC 4-part information and training. At this event we'll be connecting youth leaders in the Twin Cities area to discuss tools they need to support our young people. Jenita Pace specializes in teens and will provide her tools for reaching youth, connecting with them, building meaningful relationships and how faith communities are uniquely situated to support the community in mental health needs.

September 13 at 7:00 pm, virtual (part of our Ambassador meeting) – Greta from RELATE Counseling Center will present on what to do when a teen receives a diagnosis. She will talk about next steps, tools, resources and options.

October 11 at 7:00 pm, virtual (part of our scheduled Ambassador meeting) – Stacy from Change To Chill: how you can impact teen's mental health by introducing stress management strategies with tools and activities.
Course Outcomes

Learn about the Change To Chill program

Learn and practice techniques to reduce Stress and engage the Parasympathetic Nervous System

Respond to stressors in a healing way

Integrate core practices into daily life and those who you serve



IMMIGRANT MINISTRY

UPDATE

By Paul Bohnsack

At our monthly group update meeting on July 7, ACT-TC invited representatives from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul (Highland Park) to share pictures of and information about their new efficiency apartment for asylum seekers. The space was formerly an unused classroom in the church. The congregation hopes to have its first guest(s) by the time you read this.

Here is a link to view the space:

<https://www.gloriadeistpaul.org/room-99-project-july-update/>

(The space was dedicated July 10th, so the open house opportunity has passed.)

A video* of the meeting is available if you wish to hear updates about the Magomedov family we are hosting and to give you a sense of the issues facing host congregations in this mission. In that particular meeting several faiths were represented: Lutheran, Catholic, Jewish and Unitarian Universalist. We are all united in our goal of helping the stranger.

And last, but not least, Artur just passed his driving test July 15 and got his Minnesota driver's license! As a result, *the family has asked that people not come to the house now without warning* since Artur may not be there, and it is not customary for them to receive anyone when the husband is not at home. Thank you for your continued support in this journey.

(* Please reach out to Paul to receive the link to the video.)

Paul Bohnsack

952-891-5677

bohnsackps@frontiernet.net



THANK YOU

The family of Jeff Kintzler give all the people of the SOTH community a big thank you for past and continued prayers as Jeff heals from his surgery for glioblastoma cancer on his brain. He continued with chemo and other treatments.

~Virgil Peterson on behalf of Jeff's family

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
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Edina, MN 55343

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