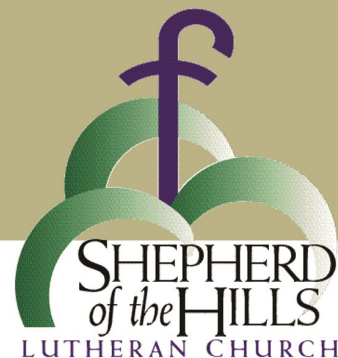


# Shepherd's Voice



August 2023

## "Greetings!"

By Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers

Greetings, Beloveds:

I have now completed my first month as your senior pastor and what a joy it is to have the privilege of serving you. From life-giving worship, to inspiring music, a phenomenal associate pastor, tasty coffee hours, exciting Bible studies, camp for our youth, and so much more - we have so much for which to praise our God!

Rest assured, that our best days are ahead of us. Your staff will be holding a retreat this month to get to know each other, learn how we can best love and serve you and one another, and plan for the upcoming programmatic year. We are so blessed to have such capable staff people and celebrate their ministries amongst us.

As you know, our mission is: To love God and love neighbor in the spirit of Jesus. We do this together as we worship, learn, serve, and care for others and the world God made. Since all of SOTH's members are ministers of the gospel [see 1 Peter 2:9], we ask that you would prayerfully consider joining one of the many teams at our church. As Christians, we are called to steward our time, talent, and treasure and this is but one way you can give back to the God, who has given us all things good.

Would you consider sharing 1-3 hours of your time, per month, to assist on a team? Currently, we have the following teams: Building & Facilities, Communications, Learn, Serve (external ministries), Worship, Care (internal ministries), and Personnel. We are also establishing Stewardship, Sound and Tech, and Mutual Ministry Teams. In September, there will be sign up sheets in the Narthex, we hope all teens and adults, who are able, will find a place to serve.

You may also be aware that we are a bit behind in our finances. This always happens in the summertime, and we need your help to catch up! Please see the graphic on page 2 for the many ways for you to give. Remember, your money turns into MINISTRY!

I, and my family, feel so blessed to be a part of this beloved community of faith. Truly, we live our welcome statement, to the best of our ability, every single day!

**Pastor's Message continued on page 2**

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

**Staff:**

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Yolanda Denson-Byers
Associate Pastor	Rev. Sherri Otto
Interim Music Director	Patti Arntz
Administrative Assistant	Shawn Wacholz
Building Manager	Blair Prax

**Church Council Members / Officers:**

President	Chris Polston
Vice President	Steve Hanneman
Treasurer	Johanna Olson
Financial Secretary	Fred Jensen
Secretary	Kim Kelly
Serve	Nancy Shaeffer
Worship & Music	Karen Hofstad
Building & Facilities	Terry Jensen
Learn	Lyn Kopperud
Communications	Joe Palmersheim
Care	Open
LMCC	Open
Evaluation	Open

**Telephone & Voice Mail Extensions:**

Shawn Wacholz	11
Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers	12
Pastor Sherri Otto	13
Blair Prax	15

**Shepherd Online!**

Pr. Yolanda Denson-Byers	<a href="mailto:pastoryolanda@sothchurch.com">pastoryolanda@sothchurch.com</a>
Pr. Sherri Otto	<a href="mailto:sherri.otto@sothchurch.com">sherri.otto@sothchurch.com</a>
Shawn Wacholz	<a href="mailto:office@sothchurch.com">office@sothchurch.com</a>
Blair Prax	<a href="mailto:blair.prax@sothchurch.com">blair.prax@sothchurch.com</a>
Church web site	<a href="http://www.sothchurch.com">www.sothchurch.com</a>

**Office Hours:**

Summer office hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Pastor Yolanda's office hours:

Monday, 9:30-5:30 (home office);

Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30-5:30 (SOTH);

Friday in Sabbath.

Pastor Sherri's office hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 am -5:00 pm (SOTH);

Friday in Sabbath

**Pastor's Message continued**

In addition to being a welcoming church, I pray that we will be an inviting one! Welcoming assumes that when someone gets here, we will welcome them as Christ. But, inviting requires us to step out of our comfort zones, and invite people to come with us to SOTH to experience all that God has to offer God's children in the city of Edina/Hopkins and beyond! You can give a verbal or written invitation. You can provide directions, or pick someone up. But, by all means, let's get out there and make Jesus famous!

In closing, I want you to know that I already love and care for you very much. If you have questions or concerns, I hope you will contact me via phone, text, email, or in person. Please don't send anonymous letters or tell me, "someone said." I am a more direct communicator and only address concerns that come with names. In return, I promise that I sincerely want to learn more about you and our church! You will be met with love and not judgment and we will work together to find solutions to your concerns.

Peace be with you, my friends! Soon, September will roll around and we will be blessing backpacks, celebrating my installation (Sept 10), participating in God's Work Our Hands (Sept 17), and kicking off our programmatic year for children, youth, and families!

Go in peace; share this good news! Thanks be to God!

~Pastor Yolanda



SUMMER GIVING: Thank you for your summer generosity to SOTH! There are many ways to give:  
TEXT "GIVE" to 844-503-1571  
MAIL: 500 Blake Road South, Edina, MN 55343  
Place your gift in the offering plate at church.  
SCAN the QR Code



## PRESIDENT'S POST

*By Chris Polston, Council President*

This summer is HOT, and not just the mercury! VBS, youth retreats, and Pastor Yolanda's first services are all cause for celebration. I have enjoyed watching the energy and joy in our community this summer and now find myself looking ahead to the fall. Also, I do not like hot weather so

I am praying for those crisp fall mornings to arrive quickly.

Planning for the September 10th block party is underway, please consider volunteering. This is a BIG weekend at SOTH! Pastor Yolanda will be installed as our Senior Pastor on Sunday, September 10th at 9:30 am worship. Bishop Ann Svennungsen will be joining us for this special occasion. The following Sunday, September 17th is God's Work Our Hands. This means more and more opportunities to join together in action and faith! As we wind down summer and start looking to the fall, please keep in mind that everything we do is done by US. Please consider volunteering in some capacity.

## COTTAGE MEETINGS

**Please sign up for Cottage Meetings!**

We hope you will be available to participate in our upcoming Cottage Meetings to help P Yolanda get to know you and for you to get to know P Yolanda. We have sign up sheets at church for either in person or Zoom sessions starting in August and ending in November. Each session will last about an hour.

Thank-you to members who have already stepped up to host a session; we will need additional hosts. Your role as host is to be the contact person and host the small group. We are planning to have family sessions and some with specific demographic groups within the congregation. We are looking forward to getting to know each other better and sharing what is important in our faith life together.

Please contact Kathy Wiemer with any questions.

## 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. Bible Study will continue to meet weekly in the summer.

All are welcome.

▶▶▶ SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO ...

*Pastor Yolanda's Installation*

**BISHOP ANN**  
MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD, ELCA

**PASTOR YOLANDA**  
NEW SENIOR PASTOR

**WORSHIP: SEPT 10 @ 9:30AM**  
500 BLAKE ROAD, EDINA, MN 55343  
BLOCK PARTY 10:30AM

◀◀◀

## **SOTH BLOCK PARTY!**

**Coming September 10, 2023!**

SOTH will be celebrating our Annual Block Party to kick-off fall programming and to celebrate the installation of Pastor Yolanda on Sunday, September 10, 2023 following 9:30 a.m. worship.

We are welcoming the entire neighborhood to join us for a picnic, 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 including a 70 foot obstacle course and more!

We need volunteers to help with this great event on both Saturday, September 9th and Sunday, September 10th. Contact Steve Hanneman at 612-750-5129.

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

# God's work. Our hands.

**GOD'S WORK.  
OUR HANDS**  
Sunday,  
September 17th -  
Save the Date!

## **MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS!**

Resource West is very thankful for the barrel full of donations from Shepherd of the Hills. We really did fill it to the brim!

They appreciate Shepherd's support and will begin their distribution of school items very soon. Thanks again for your thoughtful donations.

Shepherd of the Hills is planning some fun projects for God's Work, Our Hands again this year, but we need your help!

### **GWOH Goals:**

- Assemble 50 birthday bags for ICA Food Shelf
- Assemble 50 candy treats and note cards for Meals-On-Wheels
- Assemble 40 personal care bags
- Assemble 17 baskets for those who are somewhat homebound
- Tie 4 pre-cut, no sew flannel blankets
- Clean up Cottageville Park
- Decorate 25 grocery bags for ICA
- Support Loaves and Fishes

### **Donations Needed before Sept. 1st ! Drop off in the labeled bucket at the Hospitality Desk**

- 50 chocolate or white cake mixes
- 50 chocolate or vanilla frosting mixes or containers of frosting
- 50 packages of candles
- 50 packages of birthday napkins
- 50 packages of birthday paper plates
- 4 large bags (35.9 oz.) of mixed miniature chocolate candy bars, individually wrapped
- 2 large bags of individually wrapped peanut butter cups

If you own a yellow God's Work, Our Hands T-shirt, be sure to wear it on September 17th . If you cannot participate in GWOH this year, consider donating your T-shirt by dropping it off at the Hospitality Desk.

### **Looking for Other Ways to Serve at Church?**

We need volunteers! Meet new people and serve the needs of our church. Join a committee to support a council liaison position or work on a single project:

Worship and Music Committee contact – Karen Hofstad  
(khparkhill@gmail.com)

Serve Committee contact – Nancy Shaeffer (nshaeffer@comcast.net)

Learning Committee contact – Lyn Kopperud (lynkopperud@gmail.com)

Building & Facilities contact – Terry Jensen (tljensen4@gmail.com)

Stewardship contact – Pastor Yolanda (pastoryolanda@sothchurch.com)

Offering Counting Committee contact – Pastor Yolanda  
(pastoryolanda@sothchurch.com)

Person to organize ushers or be one – contact Shawn  
(office@sothchurch.com)



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

On Sunday, August 27th, we will be celebrating our children going back to school with a Blessing of the Backpacks!

Please have your children bring their backpacks to church and adults, bring your computer bags, diaper bags or whatever you tote around each day too! You will receive a blessing and a special tag to place on your bag. These vibrant tags convey a message of care, support, and love that can be shared with children returning to school, adults returning to the office, and anyone who needs a little boost.

## THE GREAT TASTE

### ICA's 52nd Anniversary Celebration We hope to see you on October 12th!

We're so excited! The 10th annual The Great Taste is coming back to celebrate ICA's 52nd anniversary! Please join us Thursday, October 12th at Oak Ridge Country Club for a wonderful celebration of community, generosity and neighbors. The evening will also feature a new community award to celebrate our generous volunteers.

Tickets are NOW on sale! NOTE: Use code EARLYBIRD when checking out to secure a price of \$71. Ticket costs increase to \$100 after Tuesday, September 12.

For more information or to purchase your tickets, please go to [icafoodshelf.org/taste](https://icafoodshelf.org/taste)

## LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

### Celebration of Changing Lives

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) is one of the primary service organizations in the state. One in every 65 Minnesotans is touched by its services each year. The Celebration of Changing Lives is a primary means of financial support and publicity for its programming.

Saturday, September 16  
5:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. Dinner & Program

The Depot  
225 Third Avenue South  
Minneapolis

You can celebrate how LSS is Powering Potential for communities, families, and individuals across Minnesota through compassionate services, creative partnerships, and its commitment to pursuing the limitless possibilities ahead of all of us.

Tickets for the 2023 Celebration for Changing Lives are available for purchase until Wednesday, September 6.

Those unable to attend this year's event can still support the work of LSS by making a gift. Your generosity helps inspire hope, change lives, and build community for more than 90,000 neighbors each year.

For tickets and more information, to to <https://gather.lssmn.org/celebration/>



# Blessings from the Lord

Throughout the Bible, God blesses his chosen people. How can we receive these gifts?

*Directions: In the word search, find all the words in the box. Then write the words in the correct order on the blanks below to complete the verse.*

come you these LORD if blessings you the accompany  
Deuteronomy All on your obey will God you and

I	J	T	Z	Z	L	M	X	N	W	C	I	Z	Y	H
X	V	U	B	M	O	O	O	V	I	O	L	T	R	T
N	L	V	L	I	R	A	D	S	L	M	R	H	A	T
B	F	C	E	Z	D	T	X	O	L	E	D	E	L	D
O	S	K	S	L	O	D	A	B	V	G	W	S	L	E
H	G	Y	S	L	R	A	W	E	Y	J	E	E	U	U
I	O	R	I	W	F	I	C	Y	O	U	R	L	R	T
Z	D	B	N	I	A	B	Y	C	V	M	R	X	C	E
G	K	D	G	Y	D	M	A	O	O	T	U	F	M	R
C	T	I	S	Z	O	M	T	E	Q	M	P	N	T	O
C	X	C	I	D	U	U	O	L	R	D	P	T	C	N
F	S	X	F	R	T	L	P	M	F	B	L	A	A	O
Y	Y	Y	O	U	H	T	U	A	P	A	I	U	N	M
E	O	K	N	U	E	A	Z	U	F	E	F	B	D	Y
T	Q	U	Y	N	I	N	O	O	V	E	O	T	Z	I

“ All \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 28:2, NIV

Answer: “All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God.” Deuteronomy 28:2, NIV

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

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