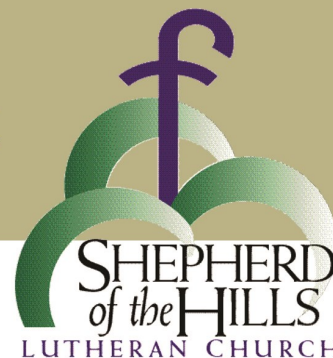


# Shepherd's Voice



January 2024

## "Dreams"

By Pastor Wade Wacholz, Calvary Pastor

*When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream. Psalms 126:1*

Here we are at another new year. We are conditioned to think in terms of changes, of turning. The calendar says January and we all look for the reset button. It's considered a good time to begin anew, to look ahead and make a goal, or several goals, about where we want to go, or what we want to accomplish, or even who we really want to be.

In some ways this season of the new year seems to be about dreams. Dreams, we like to think, are out there ahead of us, are achievements to have, far places to get to, transformations to seek. What is your dream, we like to ask; and we mean what is your ideal, your goal, your future?

Of course, the Bible is full of dream stories. In the weeks before Christmas we heard of Joseph's dream visit from the angel telling him to not be afraid, to take Mary as his wife and that her child would be God With Us; after Christmas Joseph dreams again of angels, this time telling him to flee with his family to Egypt for safety and then later he dreams the message that it is time to return home. There is later the dream of Pilate's wife – who suffered in her dream over the prosecution of Jesus despite his innocence. There is Jacob's dreamy march up the ladder with the angels, the dream of Gideon's soldiers that they could win a battle against a mighty army, and Solomon's dream in which he asked God for wisdom.

The Psalms speak of dreams too, but in a somewhat different way, a difference that is important. Most of the other texts mentioned above speak of dreams with visions, dreams about the future, dreams that anticipate and predict. Psalm 126 speaks of the Lord restoring the fortunes of God's people so that we could be like those who dream. The Hebrew word used here is *hâlam*, which is both to dream and to be healthy, strong and restored. This is a different kind of dream, not so much about what is coming, but rather that we can be full, complete, restored to wholeness.

This month we remember and celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and one of the things we best remember is his great "I have a Dream" speech from 1963. He spoke that day about his dream as a future vision, but it wasn't just a hopeful prediction. His dream was a vision of

**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
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	Peter Barott
Learn	Lyn Kopperud
Communications	Joe Palmersheim
Care	Brittany Roeser
LMCC	Open
Evaluation	Open

**Telephone & Voice Mail Extensions:**

Shawn Wacholz	11
Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers	12
Pastor Sherri Otto	13
Blair Prax	17

**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:**

Office hours:

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

Fridays, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Pastor Yolanda's office hours:

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

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

Friday in Sabbath.

Pastor Sheri's office hours:

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

Friday in Sabbath

**Pastor's Message continued from page 1**

health, strength and restoration—echoing the Psalmist's prayer. Dr. King's words that day, and his whole life before and after that day, strove to describe a whole reality—both a future and a present of racial, economic and moral justice, to be achieved in stern resistance and vigorous peace-making, now and in the future. His was a lifelong *hâlam*, a dream of both kinds—an anticipation and a wholeness.

We make the same claim about Jesus—that he was, is, and is to come. We just celebrated his arrival among us, his long ago life as God, Immanuel. We regularly experience him, sharing his present reality in Word, Water and Meal each Sunday. We also wait in anticipation of his coming again, resurrected and whole, to make us, and all things, new.

As we begin this new year may we be like those who *hâlam*, who dream in both anticipation and wholeness, who seek restored fortune in the Lord Jesus for all whom we love and serve, now and until he comes again.

*Pastor Wade*



GIVING: Thank you for your 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



## ARE YOU INTERESTED?

We are looking for two lay voting members (1 female, 1 male) to participate in the Conference Assembly in preparation for the Synod Assembly in May. There is also a spot open for one voting youth.

This is an important time in the life of our Synod as we will be electing a new Bishop and voting on important issues.

The Conference Assemblies will be held on February 10th from 9am to 12:30pm. Our conference will meet at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Contact Pr. Sherri for more information (952.935-3457)



**Lutheran Social Service**  
of Minnesota

## LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

**Legislative Advocacy 101 Training**  
**Thursday, January 25**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Where: Edina Community Lutheran Church  
4113 West 54th Street,  
Edina, MN 55424

Co-hosted by:

Edina Community Lutheran Church (Edina),  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (Minneapolis),  
**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (Edina).**

Advocacy is one of the most powerful tools that we can leverage to bring more resources and opportunities to our communities and create positive change. We have a wonderful opportunity to invite community members to attend this training about the legislative process.

Attendees will hear from experts and leave with the skills and confidence they need to successfully advocate on the issues they care about.

This training will be led by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's advocacy team, Erin Sutton and Lily Sacay.

Talk to Pr. Sherri if you are interested in attending. (952.935-3457)



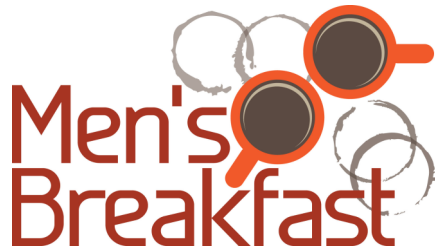
## ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 28 at 10:30 am**

Please join us as we celebrate the wonderful ministries of 2023, elect members to new offices and/or committees and seek approval for our ambitious 2024 budget. We have a lot to share, so we hope you will be able to be there!

## 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

For those who still use the pre-printed offering envelopes, your envelopes are available for pick up in the church narthex. If you would like your envelopes mailed to you, please call the office at 952.935-3457.



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, Jan. 13 at 8:30 am

SOTH will host a men's breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 13. Sign up by emailing Pr. Wade at [pastorwade@sothchurch.com](mailto:pastorwade@sothchurch.com). If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Wade at 612-716-6707.



## WORD ON WEDNESDAYS!

10:00 am and 6:30 pm

Beginning in January evening WoW will start a new study. We will leave the weekly lectionary texts for a while and, in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., take a 30 day "journey" through his writings, including excerpts from sermons, speeches, and letters. We've ordered several copies of the Augsburg Fortress published guide "30 day Journey with Martin Luther King, Jr.", which can also be downloaded from Amazon for your Kindle or other reader device. The guide has daily short readings from Dr. King's works and a brief reflection from the editors.

We will begin the series on January 10<sup>th</sup> with a short review of Dr. King's life and works, as well as his theology. Copies of the book will be available that day for all of us to begin reading and in the following four (4) weeks (Jan. 17 – Feb. 4) we will spend our time at evening WoW (6:40-7:30) talking about the prior week's readings and exploring how the themes and details of those readings speak to us in the current day.

Please join us! We have books on order but want to be sure we have enough so please let Pastor Wade know if you need one ([pastorwade@sothchurch.com](mailto:pastorwade@sothchurch.com) or call the church office).

**10:00 am:** 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.

**6:30 pm:** Meet at SOTH for weekly Bible Study, led by Pastor Wade. Each week, we will discuss readings from the coming Sunday's Worship. No prep – just come & walk together in the Word!



## FUNERAL LUNCHEON UPDATE

In 2023 the SOTH funeral teams served luncheons at 13 funerals. There is currently a list of people who have volunteered to work at these funerals. There are also people who have volunteered to bake bars for the funerals. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with this very important gift that we provide to grieving families. If you want to be

added to the list you can contact any of the people listed below. Also, if you notice that a funeral is being held at SOTH, reach out to one of us to see if help is needed. Thank You.

Sharon Peterson, Karen Vevle, Ellen Levernier, Pat Shauer, Rose Marie Anderson, & Mary Jensen



## FOOD, FASHION AND FUN!!

Wed., January 24 at 6:30pm

Have you ever wondered why your pastors wear shirts/dresses with a white tab? Or what those long things around their necks are called and what the significance is? Or why the colors they wear matter? Robes or no robes? Ropes or no ropes? Any other

things you are wondering about?

On January 24, you will get all of your questions answered! Come for a meal and stay for the fun as Pastor Yolanda, Pastor Wade and Pastor Sherri share stories about what they wear and why these things are important. This is something you are not going to want to miss!!

## IMPORTANT DATES!

### January:

Jan. 1 Happy New Year!

Jan. 10 Wed programs resume

Jan. 21: Youth Service

Jan. 28 Annual Budget Meeting

## SOTH BOOK CLUB

Book club at SOTH is open to all. Please feel free to join us. Please contact Alyssa Barott for questions or more information (apbarott@gmail.com)

### Book Club Schedules

Sun., January 21 at 4:00 pm at SOTH.

Book: "Hello Beautiful"

Author: Ann Neopolitano

# Children, Youth & Family

---

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

5:30-6:20 pm	Adult Choir
6:30-7:30 pm	WoW Adult Bible Study
6:30-7:30 pm	Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)
7:30-8:30 pm	Senior High

## SUMMER PREVIEW

### VBS

June 10-13, 9:00 to noon

### Summer Festival Camp

High School - July 7-10  
Middle School - July 14-17

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sundays, the students will leave worship after "Time for Children" to hear a story, play games and/or make a craft.

We need your help to make this possible!

Please sign up on line or speak with Pr. Sherri or Emily Koski. We will give you all of the tools you need. All you bring is you!!

Thank you in advance. Any questions, contact Pastor Sherri or Emily Koski.



## YOUTH LED SERVICE

Sunday, January 21 at 9:30am

What joy it brings to see and hear our students participate in worship, as they assist with prayers, ushering, serving communion and singing in the choir!

Please join us for this time as we show our love and support for them. Your heart will be filled!!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT

February 9-11, 2024 for Grades 6-9

Keep the excitement of camp going all year long by coming to camp this winter to explore the greatness of our Savior!

We will lodge in cabins, dive into the Bible by looking deeper into what it means to build up our faith on our firm foundation in Christ, play outside, worship together, create community with some cool camp counselors, drink hot cocoa around a fire, and more! Don't miss this chance to be back at camp!

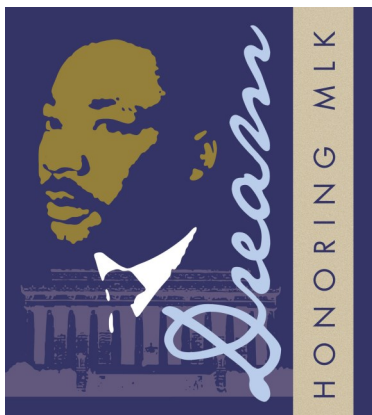
The Retreat begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and ends at Closing Worship around 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Cost: \$205/camper (\$50 Non-Refundable Deposit)

(Parents are welcome to join!)

Lodging will be in a winterized cabin with bunk-style beds, each with its own bathroom and shower. You will also be with a Luther Crest counselor and approximately 8-9 other same-aged campers.

\*Please let Pr. Sherri know if your child chooses to attend.



## OPPORTUNITIES TO OBSERVE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

**January 13th and 20th**  
**Redeemer Volunteer Day: Saturday**  
**Time: 10 am - 2:00 pm**  
**Location: 1922 N 4th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55405**

Our neighborhood food shelf at Minneapolis Central Church of Christ (MCCC) is in need of diapers for distribution. Remember Redeemer drops off our collected diapers on 3rd Saturdays. If you can help deliver or volunteer, reach out to [Redeemer Lutheran Church on Glenwood Ave.](#) Please bring boxes of diapers of any size (sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the most requested) to church on Sundays or drop off during office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays. Saturdays are food distribution days, where over 200 families are served, come meet our community neighbors and join in the work.

**Sunday, January 14th**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday of Service**

**Location: Metropolitan Ballroom, 5418 Wayzata Blvd., Golden Valley, MN**

**Time: 1:15 to 4:30pm**

All are welcome: to celebrate and connect, to love, to uplift and teach, to honor, and to remember Together. Join Sweet Potato Comfort Pie in honoring Martin Luther King's 95th birthday and our 10 years of Origins. We are looking forward to coming together and sharing stories – uplifting one another through our shared commonalities and differences, all while enjoying a delicious catered meal and a slice of sweet potato comfort pie. This year's theme is "Our Origins Travel Onward". Mark your calendar for this free hybrid event! We recommend registering soon, as seats will fill up fast! [Click here to learn more and reserve your spot.](#)

**Monday, January 15th (10am-2pm)**

**Powderhorn Recreation Center, 3400 15th Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55407**

Powderhorn neighborhood's family-friendly, 2-hour artist showcase featuring storytellers, visual artists and performing artists, art activities, lunch and giveaways. FREE event. 10am-2pm. [Learn more here.](#)

**At Your Own Pace**

[Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery](#)

**Location: 1256 Penn Ave. N, 4th Floor Minneapolis, MN**

**Regular hours: Tues-Fri 1-5 pm; Sat. 10am-1pm**

The permanent exhibit, UNBREAKABLE: Celebrating the Resilience of African Americans in Minnesota, explores African American history in MN from the settlers and pioneers through the world wars. Stop by the Children's reading section for a story break.

## THANK YOU!

### Sock Collection for HCMC

Shepherd of the Hills donated 160 pairs of socks, plus assorted hats and gloves to HCMC Emergency Medical Services for their annual drive. They were very grateful to receive our three big bags of socks as they mentioned that their total donations were down from last year. Thank you to all for making this generous donation possible.

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Hopkins, MN  
Permit No. 132

Dated Material



*Joy to the World*