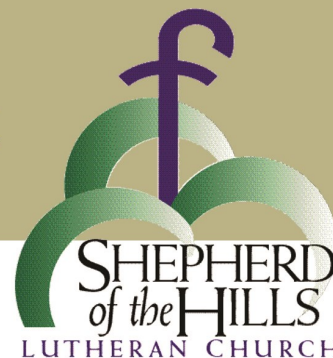


# Shepherd's Voice



July 2022

## "God's Presence in Everyday Life"

By Pastor Sherri Otto

*She is clothed with Strength and Dignity and  
laughs without fear of the future. Proverbs 31:25*

I received this picture from my sister as I graduated from Luther Seminary and I have it hanging in my office on the wall in front of my desk. It is a constant reminder to me that God provides me for me, giving me courage when I feel weak, humor when I feel afraid and wraps me in love when I feel alone. (See picture on page 2.)

These past few months have felt a bit unnerving, a bit unbalanced, a bit out of my comfort zone and through it all, God has been present in the ordinary and sometimes not so ordinary. Thank you God for all that you have brought to me and to Shepherd this past month:

- Receiving an email from the Hopkins PD, asking if I knew of any 4th or 5th grade students that would be interested in fishing as they were taking applications for Cops N Kids Fishing. I nominated one student as I found out about her love for fishing and later learned that she was chosen. She ended up catching 19 fish!! Congratulations Elsa!!
- Having coffee with Pastor Satise Roddy of Oasis Church and being part of Now Is the Time Prayer and Worship service at her church in Minnetonka where several clergy from different denominations came together to pray for our community, our policy officers, for peace and for wholeness in our world.
- Meeting with the Call Committee and finding out the wonderful work they are doing.
- Interviewing three awesome candidates for the Interim Pastor position and choosing one that will start in September!
- Playing cornhole against Pastor Anne at the first Summer Food and Fun (and losing to Pastor Anne and Brittany Roeser!)
- Gathering together at VBS with 28 students and 21 volunteers to learn that God is Great and God is Good! Laughter, learning and eating great snacks. Overhearing students talk about the Feeding of the 5000 and even the Trinity!!
- Celebrating 3 baptisms in the month of June!

God has been present in the ordinary and will continue to be present in our everyday lives. As we head into these days of July summer heat, celebrating the 4th of July, going to camps and being together with family and friends, remember to thank God for all that God has given us and continues to give us.

**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
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	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
Intern Pastor Anne Schaefer	14
Blair Prax	15
Emergency Message Mailbox	24
Kaye Wothe	25

**Shepherd Online!**

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**

I look forward to these summer months and cherish this time that we have as community here at Shepherd of the Hills. God is Great. God is Good. And so is this place called SOTH! Peace and joy to you!

Pastor Sherri

**SOTH BOOK CLUB**

Book club at SOTH is open to all. 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.

Meetings will be on Zoom. For questions please contact Kaye Wothe, Faith Community Nurse at kwothe@comcast.net

**Book Club Schedules**

Note date change!  
Sun., July 26 at 7:00 pm  
Book: "The Four Winds"  
by Kristin Hannah



## **PRESIDENT'S POST: Interim Pastor Update**

*By Adam Driscoll, Council President*

We are excited to announce that Pastor Susan Debner will be joining Shepherd as our Interim Senior Pastor, beginning in September. Pastor Debner has over 20 years of pastoral experience, serving churches in Minnesota and Iowa, including experience in serving as an interim pastor during periods of pastoral transition such as where Shepherd sits today. The addition of such an experienced leader in the interim role allows us to continue to serve the Lord and this congregation and accommodates the careful and diligent work of our Pastoral Call Committee, such that they are able to take the time and effort needed in their discernment.

I have thoroughly enjoyed all of my conversations with Pastor Susan, and am so excited for the congregation to meet her, and for her to help us see the ways in which God is working in our world. Thanks be to God!

## **CURIOS 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. Dates: July 31 and August 28 following worship.

## **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.



## **INTERN PASTOR ANNE July 31 Farewell Reception**

Come and celebrate Pastor Anne's last Sunday at Shepherd on July 31! We are so fortunate to have had Pastor Anne with us for the past 18 months and would like to have as many folks join us at worship so we can send her on to the next adventure! Stick around after for treats and be sure to thank Pastor Anne for all her work at SOTH!



## **THANK YOU**

Dear Friends at Shepherd of the Hills, I want to thank everyone who came to my 100th birthday party and for all the cards and gifts I received. It was really wonderful and I will never forget it. God bless you all!  
Lorraine Cushman





## **HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY! TO JUDY SOTEBEER JULY 20, 2022**

*Thank you Shepherd of the Hills for a lifetime of wonderful friendships and lasting memories on my life's journey with the Lord, as I celebrate my 100th birthday.*

*~ Judy Sotebeer, founding member*

Blessings to Judy on this incredible milestone.



## **WE ARE THE CHURCH**

Many of us recall the saying and hand actions demonstrating that the church is not a building (“Here is the church, here is the steeple ...”), that rather, the church is the people (“... open the doors and see all the people.”) Just like the fingers represented in the hand actions of that song, the people are active in the church. At SOTH, there are great volunteers who work in several different areas to help and we appreciate everything that they do here. They represent what is called the 10% club in volunteers of an organization. That is to say typically 10% of an organization’s membership do 90% or more of the total volunteering needed.

As I stated in church on Sunday, we need your help. We need more than just 10% of our church to do this work. And this is our plea. Please be the church 😊.

In a SOTH size community that means more than being active every few months or only when there is a crisis. It means being consistently involved, not just when it is convenient. It means that sometimes, you may need to get out of your comfort zone and do a new thing! And who knows, it may even be fun and you get to meet and develop new friendships!!

Here are a few of the events/items that we are looking for volunteers to:

- Lead and organize Sunday morning coffee
- Help with community events (ex. FOOD and FUN, kids’ events)
- Serve during worship (sound booth, readings, singing, ushers, communion servers)
- Upcoming Block Party (food, set up, tear down, games, etc.)
- Serve on a team (Care, Worship, Learn and Serve)
- Serve on council (Still looking for a treasurer!)
- Help with funerals (set up, food, serving, clean-up)
- Visit shut-ins or write/send cards

As the old recruitment signs used to say, “WE NEED YOU!!!” We truly do need you! Honestly, without you by our side, this important work cannot continue to get done. This work enriches the lives of all people here at SOTH and our surrounding community.

Prayerfully consider where you can find your passion and purpose here at Shepherd. We look forward to serving with you and being the Church for all to experience!

Pastor Sherri and Kaye Wothe, RN, BSN, MA



## 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.*

**Lesson #1:** A few weeks ago, inside of a single week, our dog needed surgery, we had an out-of-town wedding, we hit a deer and majorly damaged our car, I graduated, my stepdaughter had Covid, we had a funeral, and I had a job interview. Of course there was the stress of the extensive logistics to pull off such a busy week, but navigating the vast span of emotions proved to be just as tiresome. For each event, there were multiple emotions that sometimes seemed like they were conflicting – fear and thankfulness, relief and sadness, joy and loss, frustration and concern. In every feeling, though, I knew that the Holy Spirit was with me magnifying the comfortable feelings and dividing the uncomfortable ones.

As humans, we are complicated. Our complexities are often most pronounced in our emotions, but this is what separates us from the animals. And, I believe, this is what makes us most in the image of God. Experiencing all of these emotions inside of a short timeframe gave me a glimpse of what God experiences every minute with humanity. Talking to God about my emotions is a way that I drew closer to God, and yet, those same emotions are what make me most reflective of God's image... this is what they call ironic beauty.

This week, I have the privilege and the joy to write both a funeral sermon and a wedding sermon. Another opportunity for this ironic beauty to ground me in God's constant presence.

**Lesson #2:** We have an wonderfully gifted and motivated Call Committee. This group cares deeply for this community and the future of SOTH.

Considering that my most recent seminary coursework included an opportunity to study this congregation and the community surrounding us, they invited me to share in some of their meetings. I feel richly blessed by this recent learning. We have done a few spiritual practices together and talked openly about the call process and the potential candidates that will soon be knocking on our doors.

## At Every Turn continued

Thanks to their openness, I have been able to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the process that a call committee has to work through in order to name a candidate. I am incredibly grateful that they have allowed me to witness some of their meetings because it allowed the Holy Spirit to settle some of my nerves in regard to my own process towards a future call in pastoral ministry. I am far more trusting of the process.

**Lesson #3:** Many tears have already come as I prepare to leave you. You have taught me of such love and encouragement, and I am immensely thankful for these last 18 months. I'd love to come sit on your porch or have you come sit on ours one more time before I go! Please reach out if that could be arranged! If not, see you on the 31st for my final Sunday.

Grace and peace!  
Intern Pastor Anne



## MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT EDUCATION

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



## IMMIGRANT MINISTRY

### UPDATE

By Paul Bohnsack

At our monthly group update meeting on June 2, ACT-TC invited Artur and Naida to address the group.

We were moved by the following heartfelt and eloquently written message composed by Naida which she read to us in excellent English and which I now share with her permission:

"We want to express our sincere gratitude to all of you for helping us. Thank you for your kind hearts and responsiveness, for your attention and understanding of our problems. For everything that is a difficult moment for us, you did not turn away and we are not indifferent. Thank you for taking the time and energy to delve into our problems and find a solution for us. You have golden hearts and pure souls. Happiness to you all and good health."

Following that Artur shared the news that Naida is pregnant! Their baby is due late November.

Thank you for your continued support of the Magomedov family.

Paul Bohnsack  
952-891-5677  
bohnsackps@frontiernet.net



### VBS 2022

We had a great week at VBS June 13-16 at our Food Truck Party: on a roll with God! Thank you all those who volunteered and made donations . It was a huge success!!



## SOTH Senior Pastor Congregational Survey

What are the most important gifts for the next Senior Pastor of Shepherd of the Hills to bring to this role? Please rank the five qualities you feel are most important, with 1 being highest priority and 5 being lowest from the list below. If there is a category that you feel is critical to the role but not listed, mark the "Other" category and describe the gift. In addition, there is space for comments to provide further thoughts that you want the Call Committee to consider. Thank-you for your valuable input. The Call Committee welcomes your feedback at any time.  
Your SOTH Senior Pastor Call Committee

- Preaching
- Teaching
- Administration (staff management, financially savvy, and stewardship)
- Visitation of members, possibly non-members
- Care and nurture
- Social Issues in the Community or Congregation
- Help Others Develop Abilities and Ministry Skills
- Ministry with Seniors
- Children's Ministry
- Youth & Family Ministry
- Multicultural Ministry
- Mental Health Connections
- Building a sense of community (both inside and outside the walls of SOTH)
- Participation in the Larger Church
- Ecumenical Work
- Conflict Management
- Music, Worship, Arts
- Technology
- Spiritual Formation and Direction
- Innovative and Creative
- Vikings Fan
- Other:

Additional Comments:

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Please drop off your survey in the church office or mail it in.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
Attn: Call Committee  
500 Blake Road South  
Edina, MN 55343



### SOTH's SENIOR PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE CORNER

The Call Committee is seeking your input and feedback for the traits and gifts that you believe the next Senior Pastor should have in this role. We are distributing the Survey through the July Newsletter and at services over the next several weeks. There is also a Survey Monkey (electronic) version accessible through this Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/97XX6N7> We hope to receive feedback from you through one of these options. As always, we welcome your questions and input as we move through this important Pastoral Call process.

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

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