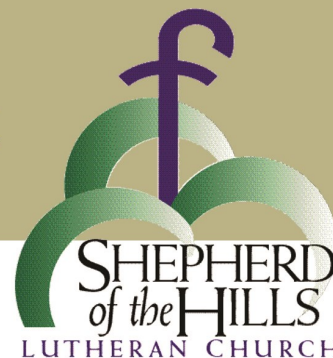


Shepherd's Voice



July 2023

“Greetings!”

By Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers

Greetings, Beloveds:

I am writing to you from the sandy beaches of Playa Del Carmen in Mexico.

It is with great joy that I - and my family - anticipate our first day with you on Sunday, July 2, 2023. It is my prayer that you will choose to join us either in person or via Zoom.

It is an honor that you chose to call me as your next senior pastor. I look forward to all the ways that we will love God and one another into the future.

Please know that your radical welcome statement is a balm to my soul. I imagine that our neighbors in Edina, and beyond, feel the same way.

Generally, the first year of a new call, is spent getting to know the wonderful people who are members of the congregation and learning about the ministries that already exist.

I will also be moving around the neighborhood getting to know our community partners, as well as the marvelous organizations that exist in Edina. I can't wait to hear more about yourselves, families, vocations, and hopes for SOTH and the communities we are privileged to serve.

I know that it will be fun to learn, grow and explore together! After all, we have covenanted to be a beloved community where all people are “known, loved, and cared for.”

Please receive this correspondence as a heartfelt invitation to visit with me at your convenience. I am here to be of service, both to you, and to our king, Jesus.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers

News

**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	pastoryolanda@sothchurch.com
Pr. Sherri Otto	sherri.otto@sothchurch.com
Shawn Wacholz	office@sothchurch.com
Blair Prax	blair.prax@sothchurch.com
Church web site	www.sothchurch.com

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 Sheri's office hours:

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

Friday in Sabbath



PRESIDENT'S POST

By Chris Polston, Council President

As I write this, I am waiting for the outfitter to call me back to discuss the details of our annual family BWCA trip. Like many of you, I will be missing some Sundays at church over the coming weeks. Those days will be spent in reflection dipping a paddle and watching the world drift by in silent majesty. That does not mean I forget about our congregation or our mission in the world! My offerings are set up for electronic transfer, and I can even join services on Zoom (if I have any cell signal). Occasionally, these times away even give me an opportunity to live our values with people who have never even heard of our wonderful church. As I am out and about, I will be always grateful for the community I see every time we gather together and I will try to carry that with me on my summer adventures.

As you travel and enjoy our summer months, I hope you too will take some time to feel the community we create together. Near or far, we build and foster this together. For that, I am grateful.

COTTAGE MEETINGS

Pastor Yolanda's first Sunday with us will be July 2! She is eager to get to know each of us. We are looking forward to holding Cottage meetings for each of us to get to know P Yolanda and for her to get to know each of us. This will also be an opportunity for us to meet and interact with fellow members that we may or may not know very well and to share what is important in our faith life together.

We are looking for members to host these meetings, preferably in your home, but they can also be held at church and will last about an hour or so. There will be family sessions and also some with various demographic segments within the Congregation. We will have sign-up sheets at church starting in July and more details forthcoming. We are looking forward to this time together!! *From the Call Committee*

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.

Just Do Something continued

Being a caregiver is hard work and often goes unnoticed because the attention is on the person that is sick. As a community at SOTH, let's take notice of others who may need help, those who are the silent heroes in our midst, those who may long for a break or conversation or meal.

Just do something... great and courageous advice to take to heart.

Peace to you all,
Pastor Sherri



JUST DO SOMETHING

By Pastor Sherri Otto

I recently was talking with a friend of mine who was going through a crisis with her family. I had not been able to get a hold of her and had left her several messages. I decided to drive over to her home to talk with her and find out if

there was anything I could do for her or anything that she needed.

She invited me in, and we started to talk about what had been going on. She then told me that she knew I had called her several times, but she just did not have the capacity to call me back. She was so exhausted by all the things that had to get done, by all the decisions that had to be made, by all the details that had to be taken care of that she sometimes just wanted to crawl under the covers of her bed and not come out. But that was not her reality. She was the caregiver.

My friend then said, "When people ask me what I need, I don't even want to answer that question and truthfully can't answer that. What people need to realize is that even if I can't answer their question, I still need help... so just do something. Something... anything is better than having to answer that question."

Just do something.

I must confess that I have been guilty of asking this question to people when I don't know what else to say. I have been guilty of waiting for them to give me a clue as to what they need without taking the lead and doing something. I have been the one who asks that question because I want them to know that I care for them, love them and are here for them, but now realize that this is not helping them out in the long run.

I know that I am not alone in this, and I know several people who are reading this have been on the other side, being the caregiver. So, what can we do when we want to show someone that we care about them and what they are going through?

Here are some suggestions:

- Bring over meals.
- Drop off groceries.
- Take them out for lunch or bring lunch to them.
- Do some chores around the house or hire a cleaning service.
- Visit with their loved ones so they can have a break.
- Visit with them away from their loved ones.
- Offer rides to doctor visits, etc.
- Send a letter/card to them.

Continued above



School Supplies Needed for Resource West

In support of Resource West, Shepherd of the Hills would like to “Fill the Barrel” with school supplies to give all kids a strong start to the 2023-24 school year. A collection barrel is located by the coat rack.

Each registered student receives a new backpack with basic, grade specific

supplies.

Remember how much promise a new pack of Crayola crayons held for you? Share that “back to school” feeling with others in the Hopkins, Minnetonka, Excelsior, Shorewood, Deephaven, Greenwood and Woodland area.

Items needed include:

- Backpacks for Elementary Students
- Backpacks for Secondary Students
- Wide Ruled Composition Notebooks
- Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks (1-subject)
- College Ruled Composition Notebooks
- College Ruled Spiral Notebooks (1-subject)
- College Ruled Filler Paper
- Plastic 2-Pocket Folders (blue, yellow, red, green)
- Headphones (USB-C OR USB-C/3.5mm jack adapter)
- Pencil Boxes and Pouches
- Fine Line Crayola Markers (classic colors)
- Broad Line Crayola Markers (classic colors)
- #2 Sharpened Pencils (box of 12)
- Colored Pencils (12-pack)
- Black or Blue Ink Pens (pack of 10)
- Highlighters (2-pack)
- Scissors (Fiskars 5")
- Elmer’s Glue Sticks (4-pack)
- Rulers (12")
- Pink Erasers (2-pack)
- Index Cards (white, 3x5")
- Crayola Crayons (24-pack box)

Thank you for your generosity!

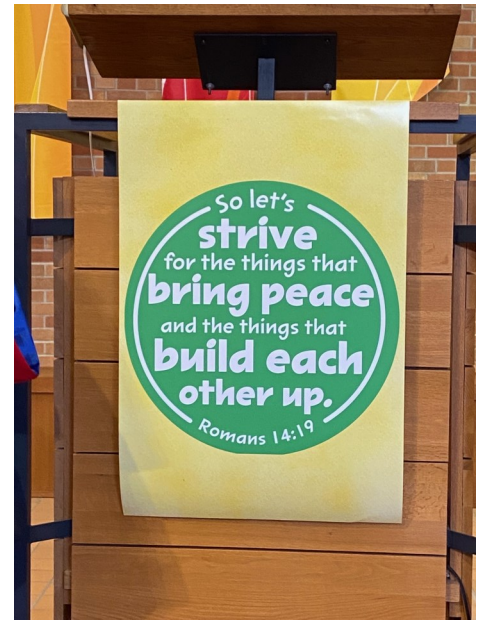
VBS 2023



VBS 2023 HERO HOTLINE

What a wonderful time we had a VBS Hero Hotline – Called Together to Serve God! We learned the Bible verse from Romans 14:19 which states, “So let’s strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up.” We also learned that Heroes are called to Follow Jesus, called to Help others, called to Listen to God and called to Show grace. Thank you to Calvary church, Pastor Wade and to all the amazing volunteers who helped our students grow in their faith.





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

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Thank you,
Lord of life,
for this beautiful summer day!
May all who worship here
know the
warmth of your presence
and the
sunlight of your love.