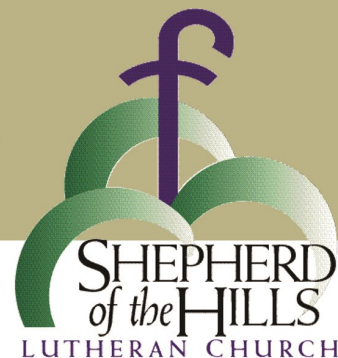


# Shepherd's Voice



November 2023

## "Giving Thanks"

By Pastor Sherri Otto

Each week in our staff meeting, we start out by checking in with each other as we state our highs and lows for the week. This gives us an opportunity to share things we might not normally talk about during the week, and it can open us up for some real conversations and prayer.

We also talk about where we saw God or love in the past week. This, as you can imagine, is always and ever changing. The weather, the beautiful fall colors, now gone with the coming cold weather, kids, family, you name it. We all see God and love every day, but this practice helps us to say it out loud and to realize the impact God and love has on each one of us.

Our staff is unique in many ways, and I give thanks to God for that and for them. For Shawn, who is our "go-to" person, especially when it comes to the past, having been at Shepherd for 24 years. She is our rock, strong and steady and she manages all of the things at Shepherd. Always polite, always putting a positive spin on things and always helpful!

For Blair, who came into this job a few weeks before me and then going into lockdown mode because of COVID. He came in every day to make sure things in the building were secure and in good order. He keeps our space looking beautiful and is always willing to help when he can. His sense of humor keeps all of us laughing and on our toes!

For Patti, who recently joined our team as the Interim Music Director, is amazing! What a joy and delight it has been working with her. She is beyond talented and truly is a team player, always looking for ways to improve worship, working with our choirs and our kids to celebrate God's love!

For Pastor Wade, who I have known now for over 3 years, is not only a gifted preacher but also wise and thoughtful addition to our staff. It has been a joy to get to know him and not only work with him and Calvary Lutheran, but also doing Text Study together and Vacation Bible School.

*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	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:**

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

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

For Pastor Yolanda, who in her short time here, has graced us by teaching and leading us in different ways of doing things here at Shepherd. Her love for Jesus is contagious and we are blessed to have her here as we look forward to our future together.

Our staff is made up of wonderfully, different and unique individuals who bring their hearts, souls and minds to work every day. Working together, bouncing ideas off each other, being able to be honest, being vulnerable and good laughs are just some of the qualities that this group holds close.

We work together to help bring all together as a community and to show love to the world. We may not be perfect, we sometimes make mistakes, but through it all, we have each other's backs, and we care for each other, our congregation and the people we serve. I am so grateful to be a part of Shepherd of the Hills staff.

So, thank you God, for giving us this amazing staff, this wonderful community and the many blessings you have bestowed upon each of us.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Pastor Sherri



**TURKEY BINGO AND BOWLING!**

**This could be the year you win big!  
Join us for the 10th Annual Turkey Bingo and Bowling.**

It is just around the corner. Join us on Sunday, November 5th right after the 9:30 am service for a delicious meal and Turkey Bingo. Pay \$15 per person at the door, cash or check, (\$30 per family max.) for the chance to win your Thanksgiving

turkey. Frozen turkeys will be given away, plus other amazing prizes. All ticket sales will be donated to the ICA Food Shelf.

The event will be held in Good Shepherd Hall. Bring your family and friends and don't miss out on all the fun. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk to help us prepare estimate food amounts.



GIVING: Thank you for your generosity to SOTH!

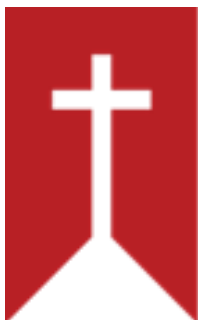
There are many ways to give:

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



## CALVARY CORNER

By Pastor Wade Wacholz

After 85 years in the Cahill-Edina neighborhood Calvary Lutheran held its final worship service on October 1st and celebrated the many facets of ministry and fellowship they have shared there. The following Sunday a new chapter began as we received a warm welcome from the Shepherd family in worship, followed by treats and coffee.

I assisted in worship and have joined the SoTH staff on a part-time basis where I will lead evening WoW, preach every few weeks, assist with worship and provide ongoing care and assistance to Calvary members as the congregation closes the sale of its property and wrap up other details. I and all the Calvary members are grateful for your welcome and excited for what our coming together can mean for God's mission in our community. The Calvary/Shepherd team is continuing to meet and work out how that mission will unfold in the coming months – please keep us all in prayer as we seek the Spirit's guidance for the new things that God has in store for us!



## CHRISTMAS TEA Sunday, December 3

Start the Holidays on a joyous note at our annual Christmas Tea! On Sunday, December 3 our table hostesses will have transformed Good Shepherd Hall into a lovely display of Yule creativity. Here is the schedule:

- 2:00 pm Touring the tables and piano carols
- 2:30 pm Dessert and speaker
- 3:00 pm Entertainment by Overdressed Duo

Hostesses and guests may sign up at the Welcome Desk from October 29 until November 26. Cost is \$8.00 (cash or check made payable to SOTH with memo: Christmas Tea).



## THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

**Wed., November 22 at 6:30 pm**

Please join us for Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Wed., November 22nd at 6:30 pm. We will be hosting a joint service with St. Albans Episcopal Church, a tradition established several years ago with Calvary Luther and St. Albans and joined in last year by Shepherd of the Hills. After worship join everyone for a little pre-holiday pie, with coffee and cider and conversation. Worship + Pie = a great beginning to your Thanksgiving celebrations!

## DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 am

Save the date! We will decorate the church for Advent/Christmas on Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 am. Many hands make light work so come for as long or as little as you have time available. You can count on a really fun morning with a great group of people as we transform our church for the holiday season! Don't miss it! We are also looking for a few more volunteers to help set up the Christmas trees on Friday morning, December 1. Please contact Blair Prax at the church if you are available to help.

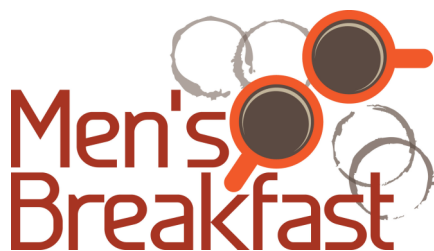


## WORD ON WEDNESDAYS!

10:00 am and 6:30 pm

**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!



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 11at 8:30 am

SOTH will host a men's breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 11. Sign up at the Welcome desk before Nov. 9. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Wade at 612-716-6707.



## PRESIDENT'S POST

By Chris Polston, Council President

Hello, and Welcome!

I start this letter with these words of greeting to highlight all the 'newness' we are blessed to have this fall. Even as the year winds down and the leaves are falling, we celebrate the new here at Shepherd of the Hills.

- We welcome our friends from Calvary!
- We celebrate our television debut on Channel 14!
- We welcome the new Teen Room and CYF program!
- We welcome our new Alleluia singers!

While we have many new things to celebrate, we are still the same church and congregation we have been for over 50 years. And just like the leaves falling now were new this Spring, all this 'new stuff' will one day be 'that old thing'. I hope you too enjoy our growth and 'newness' this fall.

## NEW DONATION CENTER

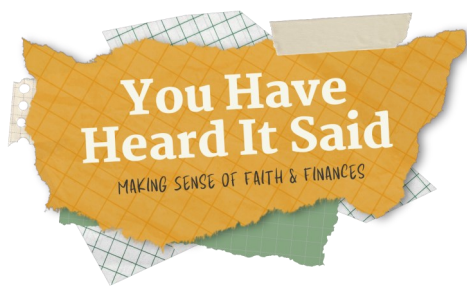
By Nancy Shaeffer, Serve Council Liaison

New shelving has been installed by Terry Jensen at the south door to the sanctuary that will serve as a donation center for various non-profit collection drives. Thank you, Terry!

Currently, the ICA Food Shelf is looking for donations of egg cartons, paper grocery bags and reams of printer paper. If you have a few extras of these items, please place them on the shelves.

The items will be delivered to ICA by Tom Sheldon who is on their board, volunteers at ICA and is a member of SOTH. Tom will also let us know, from time to time, what types of items are most needed at the food shelf so we can focus our donations.

If you have a non-profit that you would like to support with a collection drive, please contact a member of the serve committee: Pastor Yolanda, Nancy Shaeffer, Patty Tushie, Julie Luers, Kristin Hanneman, Julia Buteyn, Scott Koelsch and Nate Lichty.



## WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

By Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers

We have heard people say all sorts of things about money. Some of those things were even said in our churches. Some of the messages we heard made us feel good about ourselves and our finances. Others made us feel sad,

ashamed, guilty, and even like we were not enough. People have said all sorts of things, but what does God say?

Throughout the month of October, the Stewardship Team encourages each of us to prayerfully listen to new messages about our faith and finances and to prayerfully discern our part in helping to fund the mission and ministry of SOTH in Edina/Hopkins and beyond.

On Sunday, November 5, we will each turn in our "stewardship cards" and by God's grace - and your generosity - we will have everything that we need.

## STEWARDSHIP NOTE

Thank you to those who have already completed their promise card for our annual stewardship appeal. Thank you! If you haven't yet completed your card, please do so today. If you need a new card, they are available at the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office (952.935-3457) and one can be mailed to you. Thank you for your gifts that support our mission, ministry and life together!



## SINGERS IN ACCORD

**PRESENTS: The Music of Living**

*Celebrating the human spirit in song.*

Singers in Accord welcomes internationally renowned composer and conductor, Dr. René Clausen for its fall concert series, "The Music of Living." The performances will express the beauty of life's journey through music that illuminates the ideals of hope and thanksgiving, beauty and love, and the blessing of living through all of life's everyday moments.

**Our own Patti Arntz is a member of this ensemble.**

Location: First Lutheran Church (1555 40th Ave. NE, Columbia Heights)

For tickets or more info, go to [www.singersinaccord.org](http://www.singersinaccord.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES!

### November

- Nov. 5 Stewardship Sunday
- All Saints Sunday
- Turkey Bingo
- Nov. 12 Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry speaker
- Nov. 19 New member orientation
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Eve Worship
- Nov. 26 New Member Sunday

### December:

- Dec. 2 Christmas Decorating
- Dec. 3 Christmas Tea
- Dec. 10 Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 13 Wed night caroling
- Dec. 17 Hope in the Darkness Service
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship
- 3:00 & 5:00 pm

## 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](mailto:apbarott@gmail.com))

### Book Club Schedules

Sun., December 10 at 4:00 pm at SOTH  
 "Under the Whispering Door" by TJ Klune

# Children, Youth & Family



## YOUTH SERVICE

Sunday, November 19

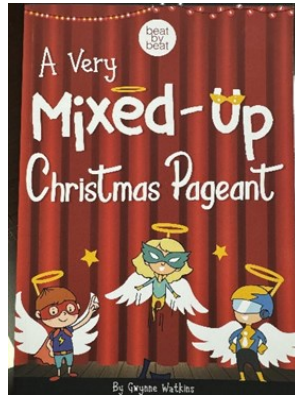
We love having our kids in worship! What a joy it is to have a Youth service where students assist with prayers, ushering, serving and singing in the choir! Join us on November 19th at 9:30am for this exciting time!!

## 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

## SOTH TELEVISION MINISTRY

An abbreviated version of SOTH's Sunday morning worship services will be telecast on Comcast Channel 14 and CenturyLink Channel 8110. Sundays - 9:30 p.m., Wednesday - 3:00 p.m., Thursday - 8:30 p.m. Special thanks to Tasha Denson-Byers, our multi-media specialist who edits the video and submits it for presentation to the community.



## Calling All Students! Children's Christmas program December 10th at 9:30am

Mark your calendars for this important time of worship!! We will be starting our practice for the Children's Christmas program November 5th during Sunday School time. Please contact Emily Koski or Pastor Sherri if your child will be able to be a part of this amazing program! Let us know if your child is interested in a big speaking part, a small speaking part or only wants to be part of the ensemble as soon as possible, so that we can begin practicing their parts with them.



## TAPESTRY FUNDRAISER!! Silent Auction & Brunch Sat., November 18 10 am to noon at St. Stephen Lutheran in Bloomington

Please join us in celebration and support of Tapestry and the ministry to over 150 individuals in 2023! This fundraiser will help us reach our budget goals for year-end 2023. We hope you can join us!

Silent auction items will include:

- Puerto Rican dinner with Pr. Melissa and Deacon Josue
- A homemade Venezuelan dinner
- Christmas cards drawn by Tapestry kids
- Yardwork
- Homemade lefse (just in time for Thanksgiving)
- Translation and interpretive services
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Quilts and other handmade crafts

\$20 pre-paid admission includes brunch, music, fellowship & fun! \$25 at the door. Every ticket purchased in advance is eligible for a door prize (must be present to win) If you would like to purchase tickets remotely, or offer support scan the QR code





## RESOURCEWEST Winter Wear Donation Drive

Gloves! Gloves! Gloves!

If it wasn't obvious from the subject line, there's one thing that we most need for the Winter Warm Wear Program—Gloves. We really need gloves.

We still need over 750 pairs of gloves, to adequately equip over 1,000 youth with a winter coat, hat, and gloves. Can you donate 4 pairs of gloves? You can drop your donations off at our office on Mondays and Thursdays, from 10 am to 2 pm. Or, you can have your donation shipped directly to our office by using our Amazon and Target Wish Lists. Go to <https://resourcewest.org/winter-warm-wear/> for more information or to order.



## Toy Drive for Resource West

Our last collection for ResourceWest this year is toys for the holidays. If you are interested in making a donation, please place your item in the blue bin by the coat rack by December 3rd. Desired items include a wide variety for kids of all ages:

- Baby Toys - Stacking and Sorting Toys, Push + Pull Toys, Playmats
- Building Sets and Blocks
- Play Food and Toy Kitchens
- Creative Play and Dress Up Toys
- \$25 Target Gift Cards for Teens
- Belt Bags
- Drones
- Playsets with Action Figures, Dolls, Character Toys
- Vehicle Toys and Vehicle Playsets
- Remote Control Toys
- Bluetooth Headphones
- LED Strip Lights (to decorate a bedroom)

Thank you, again for your generosity. We have filled the blue bin twice already with school supplies and winter wear and we look forward to a full bin of toys!



## MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT

We're excited to continue joining forces with Mental Health Connect—we'll work together to help destigmatize mental illness to make sure all people can find the free, customized, and confidential help they need.

Please join in and see Mental Health Connect share new videos each week this October as they IGNITE their 'Who ya gonna call' Fundraiser. @mhconnect on social media

Mental Health Connect is one to watch! Consider donating today at [mhconnect.org/donate](https://mhconnect.org/donate)

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

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