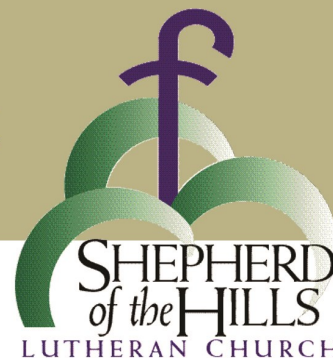


Shepherd's Voice



October 2023

“Wisdom and Imagination”

By Pastor Sherri Otto

I did not want to go. I did not want to drive up to Alexandria to stay at a resort with other pastors when there were things that needed to be done here and at home. I did not have a good experience last year, so why would this be any different. I was not looking forward to the next three days. I was crabby.

So as I drove to Arrowwood Resort for the annual Bishop's Theological Conference, I listened to my favorite songs on the radio and watched the beautiful array of colors that had started to form on the trees. It was a pleasant, easy drive, even when it started to rain. When I arrived, my room was not ready yet, so I curled up into a chair in a cozy alcove of the resort and took a nap. I felt relaxed and thought, “This might not be so bad.”

Have you ever been in that situation, where you really don't want to be somewhere, really don't have any high expectations when God comes alongside you and surprises you with something amazing? Well, that's what happened to me.

It started out on the drive with the amazing colors of the leaves and ended with our key-note speaker. Her name is Dr. Catherine Meeks. A 70 something, African American woman, ridden with rheumatoid arthritis as she no longer stands during her talks, and so full of wisdom and love for humanity and creation that you are mesmerized by every word she speaks. If you are lucky enough to be in her presence, you feel her gentle authority, you hear the stories of her life, and you want to be and do better in your life and the world because of her words.

I began to jot down things she was saying on my phone, and I'd like to share a few of these with you:

- Start close in... stand still and find out from your heart where you need to go and what you need to do.
- Once you do this, you ask yourself the question, “What does this mean for me?” Ponder this question, listen, hold it and see what comes to the surface.
- Notice the difference between inconveniences and tragedies.
- Don't be too busy being important not to notice those around you. Get off your pedestal and get into your heart.

Pastor's Message continued on page 3

**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	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

*Join us for
Book Club*



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., October 29 at 4:00 pm at SOTH
"Klara and the Sun" by Kazou Ishiguro

2023-24 Book Selections:

10/29/23	"Klara and the Sun" by Kazou Ishiguro
12/10/23	"Under the Whispering Door" by TJ Klune
01/21/24	"Hello Beautiful" by Ann Neopolitano
03/03/24	"The Covenant of Water" by Abraham Verghese
04/14/24	"Miss Benson's Beetle" by Rachel Joyce
05/19/24	"Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See
06/??/24	"The Horse" by Geraldine Brooks
08/??/24	"Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver



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

Pastor's Message continued

- Listen for the music of your own soul.
- You feel what you feel but what you do with that feeling, the action you take, is what matters.
- It's okay to take care of ourselves.
- Am I being constricted, in a box? Sometimes that means letting something go.
- Life requires you to move toward the horizon...if you don't it can become deadly.
- Burn up not burn out. If it's killing you, then you need to change.
- Can I make the place that I was sent to by God be better by the time I leave?
- Jump at the sun! Try to land on a star. At least you will be off the ground.
- I will not give my consent to anyone or anything that diminishes me.
- Imagination – use it!

Dr. Meeks talked about our imagination and how we have somehow lost that part of ourselves. When we were young, we would pretend we were flying into space, building forts in our living rooms and imagine that we were rock stars, playing an air guitar and singing at the top of our lungs. But now, we forget to play, we forget to laugh at our silliness, we forget to dream.

I was struck by this as I could hear Pastor Yolanda's son in the back of the room, his little voice reminding all of us of maybe our own youth and longing to be that way again. He was playing with his trucks, entertaining himself in a room full of adults, not worrying about what others thought.

So, I asked myself, when did I stop using my imagination? At what point was I told not to do this anymore? And have I ever quashed anyone's imagination, be it my family, friends or congregations?

When I was first thinking about attending Seminary, I spoke with Sister Noreen from the Synod stating that I really felt called to do this work, but just didn't know if I could talk in front of people. She listened to me, nodding politely and said we would touch base again in a couple of weeks. What I found out later was that inside of her head she was thinking, "Um... Sherri... that is a huge part of your call, talking to people! How is this ever going to work?!?" But she listened to her heart and did not squash the ideas, imagination or Holy Spirit that I had going on inside of me. Had she done that, I don't think I would be here today as a pastor.

So today, I ask you to dream. To imagine a different way of being, a different way of living, a different way of loving. Take these words to heart from a song that has become one of my favorites, titled Daydream, by Lily Meola.

Pastor's Message continued above

Pastor's Message continued

So daydream. It's your life that you're making. It ain't big enough if it doesn't scare the hell out of you. If it makes you nervous, it's probably worth it. Why save it for sleep when you could be living your daydream?

Wisdom and imagination go hand in hand. Remember to use both in this time and place for each other and for our world. I give thanks to Sister Noreen for listening, I give thanks to Dr. Meeks for the powerful reminders of how to live in this world and I give thanks to each of you for your love and support.

Peace,
Pastor Sherri





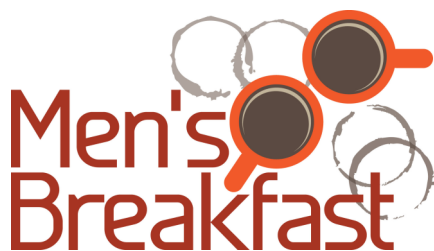
WORD ON WEDNESDAYS

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, October 21 at 8:30 am

SOTH will host a men's breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 21. Sign up at the Welcome desk before October 19. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Wade at 612-716-6707.



PRESIDENT'S POST

By Chris Polston, Council President

This is my favorite time of year. The heat of summer is fading, school has resumed, and we return to a routine for the entire family. Seeing everyone on Sundays is part of this routine for me. I get so busy during the summer months, it becomes all too easy to say 'next week' when my alarm goes off on Sunday morning. We have some new routines this fall. Pastor Yolanda is now installed as our Senior Pastor!

I hope you too are enjoying the change in the weather and will be including services (in person or online) in your 'regular routine'. Next time you see me wandering around with my mug of tea, say hello and tell me about your summer (or anything else that is on your mind).

~Chris



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SUNDAY

October 15, 2023 at 9:30

Speaker: Russel O'Brien, Mental Health Connect, Lead Navigator

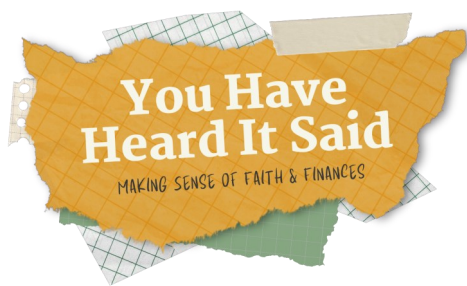
Russell is the lead navigator for Mental Health Connect and has a great passion for getting help to all who need it. **Reaching out to a Navigator is free, individualized, and confidential.** MHC Navigators help remove barriers and complexity so that you can gain access to the right providers or resources for your unique situation.

Please join us as we learn and hear about the Navigation System at Mental Health Connect.

Mental Health Connect is a collaborative of faith communities, working together to help destigmatize mental illness to make sure all people can find the free, customized, and confidential help they need. Living with mental health concerns can be tough. Finding help can be even tougher. Mental Health Connect (MHC) Navigators will help make the right connections for you.

SOTH is 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



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?

During the month of October, we will remove the taboo around money, so that we can get to the very heart of God.

Together, we will listen to the still small voice of God as we seek to "make sense of faith and finances."

October 8 Pastor Yolanda
 Myth: Money = God's Love
 Scripture: Philippians 3:4b-14

October 15 Mental Health Connect
 Myth: God Has an A-List
 Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22

October 22 Pastor Wade
 Myth: Give to Caesar
 Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22

October 29 Pastor Sherri - Reformation Sunday
 Myth: God Loves Those Who Love God
 Scripture: Matthew 22:34-46

November 5 Pastor Yolanda - Promise Sunday
 Myth: Giant Checks Mean Giant Faith
 Scripture: Matthew 23:1-12

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.

IMPORTANT DATES!

October

- Oct. 1 Blessing of the animals 2:00
- Oct. 7 Women's Breakfast (9:00)
- Oct. 8 1st Sunday with Calvary
- Oct. 15 National Coming Out Day
- Oct. 15 Mental Health Awareness Sunday
- Oct. 18 No Youth programming MEA
- Oct. 29 Reformation Sunday
Trunk or Treat

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

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 continuing this fall and ending in November. Each session will last about an hour.

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.



TRUNK OR TREAT

October 29th after worship

Students: Dress up in your favorite Halloween costume for worship and then "Trunk or Treat" on the Northside of Shepherd!

Adults: Spruce up your trunk with silly, fun or crazy decorations and hand out candy to our students and friends!!

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)



MUSIC NOTES

By Patti Arntz,
Interim Music Director

Hello Shepherd of the Hills! I am so pleased to be working with the staff and congregation at SOTH. What a wonderful place to be! I hope to

bring the joy of music to this congregation with exciting music opportunities. You are encouraged to join one of our musical groups this fall!

ADULT CHOIRS

We want to make beautiful music for Shepherd of the Hills and enjoy the diversity of music together. We encourage all singers to be a part of both choirs to help lead the music on Sundays!

One Voice Choir is made up of men and women who enjoy singing and performing contemporary vocal music, old and new. We will rehearse Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This choir, directed by Patti Arntz, will be leading Sunday services with anthems and other special music. If you play an instrument that could be added to our ensemble, please let Patti know.

Festival Choir is made up of men and women who enjoy singing and performing traditional choral music. We will rehearse for special occasions such as All Saints Sunday on November 5th and for services in December. Rehearsals for All Saints Sunday will be on Wednesday, October 25 and Wednesday, November 1st from 5:45-6:30.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Alleluia Singers will demonstrate that there is nothing better than the sweet sound of children singing together. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church children's choir is returning and we invite all 3rd through 8th graders to be a part of this musical journey. You don't have to be a great singer to join the Alleluia Singers, just a desire to sing. Part of being in a children's choir is developing a life-long love of singing. Along with the joy of singing with others, we will work on beautiful tone, phrasing, musical expression and rhythm. The singers in the Alleluia Singers will also learn leadership skills by leading music in a Sunday Service approximately once per month. Rehearsals are on Sunday's from 10:45-11:15 upstairs in the WAM Room. Come give us a try, rehearsals begin on Sunday, October 1st!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Calling all instrumentalists to participate in a few occasions where adding a wind, brass, string or percussion instrument would greatly enhance our Sunday service. Go to the Shepherd of the Hills website to sign up for any of the above music groups. If you have any questions, you can contact Patti at patti.arntz@sothchurch.com.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

JUST LOVE: Fall Women's Gathering

Sat., Nov. 4 at First Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights

Here's an opportunity for women of all ages to come together as we laugh, learn and love! Go to mplswomenofelca.org Click on Gathering - Minneapolis Women of the ELCA for more information.

Cost is on a sliding scale and there are scholarships available. There is also an onsite Day Camp for kids, ages 4-12. Register by October 9th for this complimentary daycare!

Please contact Pastor Sherri when you register so that we can make a plan for traveling together. Looking forward to this wonderful opportunity!!

RESOURCEWEST

Winter Wear Donation Drive

It's coming! Colorful leaves, apples and cold breezes. Help kids (0-18 years of age) in the local area prepare for colder weather through Resource West's Winter Wear program.

Clean out your closet and donate now through Oct. 22nd. Place items in the Resource West blue collection barrel by the coat rack.

Wanted items include:

- New or Clean, Gently Used Coats
- New or Clean, Gently Used Snowpants
- New or Clean, Gently Used Winter Boots
- New Winter Hats
- New Waterproof Gloves and Mittens

If you already have a clean closet, there is a wish list of items on both Target's and Amazon's websites.

Thank you for helping make the Minnesota winter more comfortable for those who could use a hand (or a glove!).

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



WOMENS BREAKFAST

October 7, 2023 at 9:00am

Mark your calendar for our Women's Breakfast, held at Shepherd of the Hills, where there will be good food, conversations and connections of all ages.

Our topic this month will be focused on a book written by Pat Miles, "Before All Is Said and Done, Practical Advice on Living and Dying Well." Pat describes how her husband's unexpected death affected every element of her life, and how she and other women have dealt with the sorrow, financial upheaval, and everyday life adjustments that come with such tragic loss. This topic is not just for older women but for all ages as we prepare ourselves and our loved ones for every stage of life-including death.

Please join us as we navigate through some pieces of her book knowing that through our own stories, we heal, we become better equipped and we know we are not alone on this journey.

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

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