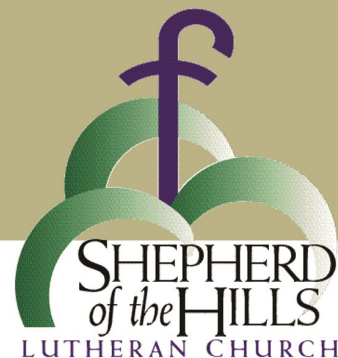


Shepherd's Voice



September 2022

“THINGS ARE A COOKIN’!!”

By Pastor Sherri Otto

I remember it like it was yesterday, walking into my Grandpa and Grandma Fredrickson's home in Wanamingo, MN. Grandpa would be sitting in his recliner in the corner of the living room, reading the paper and Grandma would be in the kitchen, cooking up the most amazing meals!

The moment that you walked into their home, your nose was filled with the most wonderful, delicious smells. There was fresh bread along with Norwegian flat bread and lefse. There was never just one kind of meat but usually ribs that were so delicious and juicy, I just couldn't get enough, along with a ham or meatballs. The potatoes had just been boiled and I remember my grandma beating those with a metal whisk to get them just right. And of course, adding lots of butter to it and serving gravy alongside.

Desserts were never in shortage for she always had cookies and bars, pies and ice cream. My grandma loved to cook, and she was darn good at it. Not only was she a wonderful cook, but she had great organizational skills, for this meal didn't just happen on its own. It took timing, patience, dedication and some really hard work to get this all done.

And once we were all seated at the table, we would pray over our meal and pass all of it around to enjoy. I wonder if at that moment, my grandma would sit back and smile, enjoying the fruits of her labor.

Timing, patience, dedication, hard work and prayer. Sounds like a great recipe to get things cookin'! And it reminds me a little bit about what has been happening here at Shepherd. With Summer over and Fall upon us, things really are a-cookin' at Shepherd of the Hills!!

All the right ingredients have been added to make this fall at Shepherd an amazing place to worship, learn, care and serve. There has been a lot of prep work, finding the right temperature, the amount of people to serve and what kind of ingredients people would like. The directions have been laid out but are open to change for you never know when we may need a sprinkle of this or a dash of that somewhere down the line.

And Cooks! We can use Cooks! For cookin' at Shepherd is not a one-person cuisine. Take a look at our menu and see where your time and talents lie. Help us to be the best, most inviting place in town!!

Pastor's Message continued on page 3

**Shepherd of the Hills
Lutheran Church
500 Blake Road South
Edina, MN 55343
(952) 935-3457**

Staff:

Pastor	Sherri Otto
Interim Pastor	Susan Debner
Music Director	Emily Koski
Administrative Assistant	Shawn Wacholz
Building Manager	Blair Prax

Church Council Members / Officers:

President	Adam Driscoll
Vice President	Don Wothe
Treasurer	Johanna Olson
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 Susan Debner	12
Pastor Sherri Otto	13
Blair Prax	15
Emergency Message Mailbox	24
Kaye Wothe	25

Shepherd Online!

Pr. Sherri Otto	sherri.otto@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



GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU

By Pastor Susan Debner

Grace and peace to you, SOTH. My name is Susan Debner, and I am excited to join you as your interim pastor. I grew up in Iowa, on my father's family farm. We were more

“Little House on the Prairie,” than “Millennial Farmer.” I gardened and did chicken chores, drove the hay rake, and might have been pulled on a sled behind the tractor when my parents weren't home. It was a wonderful grounding in life, but the farm crisis of the 80s led my parents to encourage different careers for all four of us kids. We are now a tailor, accountant, pastor and philosopher.

The country church of my ancestors was foundational to my faith, followed closely by the time spent at Bible camp. During and following college in Sioux Falls, SD, I worked in professional youth ministry and was mentored (some might say dragged while kicking) into ordained ministry by several outstanding pastors. I already knew and loved the Lutheran Church of the Midwest, so I headed east for graduate school and completed my M. Div. among the Congregationalists, Episcopalians, and scholars at Yale University. I learned to be a collaborative, ecumenical leader from that setting.

I am in my 25th year of ordained ministry, with another 10+ spent in youth work, an area of ministry that still ignites my passion. I have experience across many dimensions of the church: solo with staff, multi-point/rural, senior pastor with a staff of 12-20, and now interim. I delight in engaging new people, places and ways of doing things—and I am eager to find all of this in your midst.

I have a 12 year old daughter, Paige, who has thought herself a cat person forever, but recently discovered she is a lover of cat-sized puppies when we became a pandemic cliché by adopting a shelter puppy. Pipp is not yet a year old, and she thinks tug-o-war is the reason God put her on earth. Paige, Pipp and I live near Southdale Mall, and Paige attends Hopkins West Junior High. We love exploring parks (especially those with interesting playgrounds), traveling, riding horses (Paige), and long conversations over dark roast coffee (Pastor Susan).

I am looking forward to meeting you and learning what exciting work God invites us to join in your neighborhood.

Peace,
Pastor Susan



PRESIDENT'S POST

By Adam Driscoll, Council President

Hello extended Shepherd of the Hills family. If you're reading this, on some level, Shepherd does, or has, played a role in your life, for reasons that are varied, and personal. Perhaps you attend worship frequently, in person, or via Zoom.

Perhaps you've moved away, but enjoy this newsletter as a way to follow along. Whatever the reason or season that has caused us to be connected, I am grateful.

We know that church life and the ways in which we engage has been rapidly changing, waxing and waning between aspects that are familiar, and ways that are new. Our hope is that the coming fall season gives us an opportunity to experience our family of faith anew. We look forward to the block party, the resumption of children's programming, the welcoming of Pr. Susan, God's Work Our Hands and More. Whatever it is that has connected us in the past, I look forward to our future, and ask you to consider what calls to you, what draws you in, what ways do you aspire to engage with your faith? My hope is that the increase in the familiar and normal routines of church life provide those opportunities for to engage with each other and our faith.

Thanks be to God for you, and for this family of faith.

Pastor Sherri's Message continued from page 1

So, what's a-cookin' at Shepherd? I thought you'd never ask!!

- Block party and introducing our Interim, Pastor Susan Debner
- God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
- Shepherds of Light (aka Sunday School)
- Confirmation
- High School group (rumor has it, they may be creating a room of their own!)
- 3rd Grade Bibles given
- Women's Breakfast
- Mental Health Awareness Sunday with Guest speaker (a four-part series with one focused on youth!!)
- New Member Sunday
- Turkey Bingo (can't wait to participate in this!!)
- Lutheran Partners in Global Mission Speaker
- Thanksgiving Eve service (with refreshments to follow)
- Christmas Tea
- Children's Christmas program
- Hope in the Darkness
- Christmas services
- And this is just through Christmas!!

Things are a-cookin' here at Shepherd with a lot of the old traditions and some new ways of doing things to spice things up! There is a purpose for each one of you here and I would love for you to join us in making new recipes and dishes together.

I look forward to worshipping with each of you, sharing our faith together, growing in God's love and reaching out to a community in need.

Peace, Pastor Sherri



ORDINATION SERVICE

Thursday,
September 1, 2022
6:00 pm

Pastor Anne Schaefer is getting ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA!

What a joy and gift it is to invite you to a worship service with the *Rite of Ordination* at 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 1 at Shepherd of the Hills! If you are able to attend, wear red.

Following the ordination service there will be a short reception with refreshments.

CURIOUS 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. Date: August 28 following worship. New members will be welcomed on Sunday, October 30.

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

Sun., September 18 at 7:00 pm
"The Stranger in the Lifeboat"
by Mitch Albom

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.



**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS
SUNDAY IS COMING!
Sunday, September 18th!
Worship at SOTH at 10:00 am!*(*note time change!!)
Picnic at Calvary at 12:30 pm**

On September 18, 2022 we have big plans! The Calvary and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church congregations will engage in service work right here in our community. We'll be part of over 8,900 ELCA congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." day of service. Across the country, thousands of members will engage in service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love.

That Sunday we will begin by worshipping together at Shepherd of the Hills, with Pastor Wade preaching and Pastors Sherri and Susan presiding. Following worship everyone, young to mature (or old to immature!) will have multiple opportunities to join in different service projects. We will decorate grocery bags for VEAP and ICA food shelves, put together care kits, write birthday and get well cards, clean up Cottageville Park, make hand-tie blankets and wash cars, all for our neighbors near and far.

Everyone can donate their time that day, plus we can certainly use your help to acquire supplies such as grocery bags, toothbrushes, toothpaste, small bottled water (4 oz.), socks, Subway gift cards (\$10), packets of hand wipes, Vaseline, lip balm, granola bars, quart size ziplock bags, (all small enough for care kits), greeting cards (blank, birthday, get well), blanket materials and cash donations to help with other expenses.

After we wrap up our projects, everyone is invited to Calvary for a picnic lunch. It will be a wonderful time to meet new friends, share in good work and just have fun.

Put on your bright gold GWOH t-shirts (and if you don't have one, we'll have more available that day) and join us as we do God's work with our hands!



SOTH BLOCK PARTY!
Coming September 11, 2022!

SOTH will be celebrating our Annual Block Party to kick-off Fall programming and introduce our Interim Pastor Susan Debner on Sunday, September 11, 2022 following 9:30 a.m. worship.

We are welcoming the entire neighborhood to join us for a barbecue lunch, lawn games and an obstacle course.

Festivities begin at 10:30 am immediately following worship:

- Big Bell Ice Cream truck will make an appearance!
- Great food by Mary Jensen. She is back after a great meal last year with more great things to eat!
- Activities for kids, a 70 foot obstacle course, and a corn hole tournament with prizes!
- Music, Bingo and more!

We need volunteers to help with this great event on both Saturday and Sunday. Contact Don Wothe at 612-801-0195.

Be sure to put September 11th on your calendar now!
9:30am worship. 10:30 block party!

We ask that unimmunized members of the community wear masks for their protection and ours!



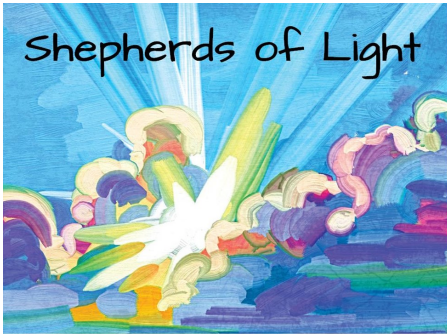
CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Greetings from the Call Committee!
We are so excited to report that the Holy Spirit has been busy calling the members of SOTH to fill out the congregational survey. We received nearly 100 responses between the online and paper copies. Thank you so much to all of you who took the time to share your input! We are busy compiling and analyzing the results and look forward to sharing more details with you soon.

Here is a preview of our next steps this fall:

- 1) We will use the survey results to shape the gifts and tasks sections of the ministry site profile (MSP).
- 2) We will review and finalize the MSP to submit to the Synod.
- 3) We will meet with Pastor Susan when she arrives.
- 4) We will host SOTH member meetings both in-person and on Zoom to get more thorough Congregational feedback.
- 5) We will plan a Congregational Listening Session with Bishop Anne Svennungsen after submitting the MSP to the Synod.
- 6) We will read and review candidate submitted resumes to decide on the candidates we would like to interview.

As we dive into fall and gear up for this incredibly meaty part of our journey, we ask you to pray that the Holy Spirit help and guide us on this journey to find SOTH's next senior pastor.



SHEPHERDS OF LIGHT INFORMATION (PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE) (Formerly known as WAM)

Pre-K to 1st graders, also known as **The FIREFLIES**, will meet **each Sunday after church from 10:30 to 10:50** for a short time of singing, Bible story time and prayer. And of course, play! This will allow parents to have a cup of coffee and talk with other parents or volunteer to join us! We will be reaching out to the High School students to help too.

2nd to 5th graders will be broken up into two groups (2nd to 3rd – **The SPARKLERS**) and 4th to 5th – **The STARS**) and will gather on **Wednesday nights from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**. We will be following the **Spark Curriculum**. They will learn music, read a bible story and do a craft each night. We will be asking parents to help through Sign-up Genius and/or have them **sign up at the parent meeting night which will be on September 14th at 6:30pm**. We will also be reaching out to the High School students to help on this too.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION (6TH TO 8TH GRADE)

Confirmation will continue to meet on **Wednesday evenings** and will now run from **6:30 to 8:00**. This is a time change from last year. We will be following a Spark Curriculum, learning about Old Testament and New Testament stories and how they relate to us today. We are working on getting speakers throughout the year that are relevant to what these students are going through in their lives. We will be reaching out to parents to help each week. **Parent meeting will be held on September 14th at 7:00pm**.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (9TH TO 12TH GRADE)

High School students that love working with younger students will be asked to help out with from **6:30 to 7:30**. At **7:30 the High School students will** gather in their own space to talk, play games, plan future activities and just be together. If anyone is interested in helping with this group, please contact Pastor Sherri.

FALL EVENTS for STUDENTS and PARENTS

- September 11 Block Party
- September 14 Parent Orientation for Confirmation and Shepherd of Light (Sunday School)
- September 18 God's Work Our Hands
- September 21 Confirmation & Shepherd's of Light begin
- September 25 Shepherds of Light begins (Fireflies—Pre-K to 1st Gr.)
3rd Grade Bible Presentation
- October 12 Wednesday night meal with Speaker focused on Mental Health and students
- November 6 Turkey Bingo
- December 11 Children's Christmas program



Faith Milestones

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

3rd Grade Students

**Saturday, September 24,
9:00am – 10:00am**

3rd Grade students are invited to a morning at SOTH where they will receive a new Bible, learn the basics of what is inside and have fun getting to know how to use their Bibles. We will have creative games and activities that will help the students as they navigate this wonderful and amazing book. Please email Pastor Sherri at sherri.otto@sothchurch.com or text her at 612-251-1342 if you would like your child to participate.

On Sunday, September 25th, the students will be presented with their Bibles at worship during the Time for Children. If you cannot make Saturday and/or Sunday, please contact Pastor Sherri.

Happenings



TURKEY BINGO 2022

Save the date—Nov. 6, 2022!!

Advance Notice! Save the date:
 Sunday, Nov. 6th at 10:45am
 Have lunch, play bingo and win big!
 Turkey Bingo & Bowling is Back!
 All ticket sales will be donated to the
 ICA Food Shelf just in time for
 Thanksgiving.

PARENTS, MARK YOUR 2023 CALENDERS

- 4/6/23 – First Communion
- 5/17/23 - Confirmation Banquet
- 5/21/23 - Confirmation Service
- 6/19-22/23 - Vacation Bible School
- 7/9/23 to 7/12/23 – Summer Festival
Camp – High School
- 7/16/23 to 7/19/23 – Summer Festival
Camp – Middle School
- Luther Crest Camp – TBD (Dates not
available yet)



FALL PREVIEW FOR ALL

September 11	10:30 am	Block Party
September 14	6:30 pm	Parent Orientation Meeting
September 18		God's Work Our Hands Morning of Service
	10:00 am	Worship @ SOTH
	10:50-12:00	Service Projects
	12:30	Picnic @ Calvary Lutheran Edina
September 21	6:30 pm	Wednesday Youth Programs begin
September 25	9:30 am	3rd Grade Bible Presentation
	10:30 am	Shepherd's of Light begins
October 1	9:00 am	Women's Breakfast
October 2	9:30 am	Whispers in the Pew Series
		Mental Health Awareness Sunday
October 5	5:30/6:30 pm	Whispers in the Pew Series
		Wednesday night meal with Speaker
October 9	10:30 am	Whispers in the Pews Series
		Adult Forum after church
October 12	5:30/6:30 pm	Whispers in the Pews Series
		Wednesday night meal with Speaker focused on Mental Health and students
October 16	9:30 am	Consecration Sunday
October 30	9:30 am	Reformation Sunday (wear red!) New Member Sunday
November 6	9:30 am	All Saints Sunday
	10:45 am	Turkey Bingo
November 13	9:30 am	Lutheran Partners in Global Mission Guest Speaker
November 23	tbd	Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 26	9:00 am	Decorate Church for Christmas
December 11	9:30	Children's Christmas Program
December 18	5:30 pm	Hope in the Darkness service
December 24	tbd	Christmas Eve services
December 25	9:30	Christmas Day Sunday morning worship

Grateful continued

And now let the future begin! Let us be together in community with expectation and hope as a new era of leadership at SOTH once again is ushered in and takes us into the future as a community of believers with a mission and an action plan to act on as we are called to do together!

Blessings my Dear Friends,

Kaye Wothe

Former Faith Community Nurse



GRATEFUL!!

You know how I love music and find so much inspiration and insight from it? Lately I have enjoyed playlists labeled “Hope”. One of the songs from that is called “Rise” by Callum Scott. The opening words are:

“I've been staring at the coastline
Thinking of every choice I've made
To lead me here right now
Standing on solid ground
And I've been hiding in the shadows
Wondering if I'm on the right road
Some place I've never been
Is this how it all begins?”

This for me names some of what it feels like when one is making life transitions. I look back and remember, I look at today to consider the present and I look forward to wonder, imagine, and dream about what is next. This is hope. Hope built on a past days that were productive, full of service to others, full of faith development, love, personal growth, community, fellowship, partnerships, fun, and have added to my life experience in all ways. For all of this I am thankful. For the invitation to journey with each of you in your lives, to serve together, laugh and cry together, to learn and grow together, to see God together, to share holy meals and other meals together, and all the other things.

Also, thank you for the wonderful send off on August 14th! For the food, flowers, and festivities! Thank you to the those who planned, spoke, those who served and those who were present and reached out to me before and afterward. Thank you for the your gifts. I will enjoy them in the days ahead. Thank you, thank you!



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



UPDATE

By Paul Bohnsack

The big news this month is that Artur has his first job in America! It is a part time position with a Minneapolis printing company. We are excited for him and his family.

We continue to search for a dependable used car that can be donated to the family or purchased at a reasonable price. If you have any leads, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support through prayers and gifts.

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



LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH October Speaker Series

October brings the opportunity to hear from Marjorie Schaffer, an expert in public health nursing and helping loved ones cope with mental health challenges. A retired nursing professor from Bethel University, she holds a PhD in Family Social Science and parents an adult daughter who lives with bipolar disorder.

Dr. Schaffer will share stories from *Whispers in the Pews: Voices on Mental Illness in the Church* and her book, *Journey Through the Mental Illness Maze: How Families Find Hope and Acceptance*. She has volunteered as a family-to-family teacher for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, currently serves as an ambassador at All Saints Lutheran Church for Mental Health Connect, and is in her sixth year on the Hennepin County Adult Mental Health Advisory Council.

What we will talk about...

- **Overcoming Stigma and Discrimination**
Sunday, October 2, 9:30 am
- **How Trauma Impacts Mental Health**
Wednesday, October 5, 6:30 to 7:20 pm
- **"Being With" to Promote Recovery**
Sunday, October 9, 10:40 to 11:30 am
- **You are Not Alone**
Wednesday, October 12, 6:30 to 7:20 pm

Note: Both books are available on Amazon in print and Kindle formats.



PARKING LOT UPDATE

A topcoat of asphalt has been added to the main parking lot and the auxiliary lot. Landscaping has been added along the perimeter and in the rain garden as required by the City of Edina. Thank you to Pete Barott for coordinating the work of the landscaping company and to the volunteers who updated the landscaping near the building. You are awesome!!



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

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Shepherd of the Hills September Worship Schedule

- Sept. 4 9:30 am Worship
- Sept. 11 9:30 am Worship
 10:30 am Annual Block Party!!
 Food and Fun for all ages!
- Sept. 18 God's Work. Our Hands event
 with Calvary Lutheran Church
 10:00 am Worship @ SOTH
 10:45 am Service projects
 12:30 pm Picnic @Calvary
- Sept. 25 9:30 am Worship
 3rd Grade Bibles Presentation
 10:30 am First Day of Fireflies!
 (Pre-K to 1st Grade)