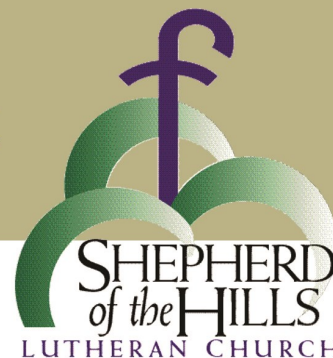


# Shepherd's Voice



September 2023

## “Pastor’s Message”

By Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers

As of September 1, 2023, I have been your Senior Pastor for two months! It has been a joy to get to know you in worship, Bible study, and cottage gatherings. We are so blessed to have such a beautiful community of faith.

As you may know, our Fall programming will kick off with my installation and SOTH’s Block Party on Sept 10th. Bishop Ann Svennungsen will be our special guest. I hope you will invite all of your family and friends to be a part of this momentous occasion in the life of our church.

The following Sunday, Sept 17th, we will be participating in God’s Work Our Hands (GWOH) Sunday. This is an ELCA event that encourages congregations to participate in community service projects both inside and outside of our church buildings! What a joy to partner with area social service organizations to share the love of Jesus with neighbors near and far.

It has been a challenging four years for churches since the COVID pandemic that changed the landscape of how we do church together. If you have been away for a while, consider this a gentle invitation to return, with no judgment at all! Did you have a baby during COVID? We want to baptize them, regardless of their current age. Has your child missed out on Sunday School or confirmation? We will have them pick up with their current class. Have you been anxious about returning to Sunday worship for fear that people will look at you sideways? It won’t happen; we pledge to rejoice with you as our pews are filled again!

***Beloveds, we are at our best, when we are church together!*** Starting in October, our dear siblings from Calvary Lutheran Church of Edina will be invited to participate in the many ministries at SOTH. They have sold their building and all of their members will be looking for a new congregation where they can belong! Let’s make them feel our care and radical welcome as they join us in worship, choir rehearsals, Bible studies and the like. When we say, “All are welcome,” we mean it!

Looking forward, be advised that October will be Stewardship Emphasis Month! Here at SOTH, we are learning that our “Money turns into Ministry!” Please begin your prayerful consideration about how you can best support our congregation with the precious gifts of your time, talent, and treasure. Alone, none of us can support the ministries of our church. *Together, I know that we have everything that we need!*

**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	15

**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 Sherri's office hours:

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

Friday in Sabbath

**Pastor's Message continued**

In conclusion, I close with great gratitude for SOTH's exceptional staff: Blair (Building Manager), Patti (Interim Director of Music), Shawn (Church Administrator), and Pr. Sherri (Associate Pastor). Our staff is second to none and deserves our praise and appreciation! Please consider sharing a word of encouragement, call or email, greeting or gift card with them as you are led by the Holy Spirit! I look forward to walking with you into the future. By faith, I know that our best days are yet to come!

Peace be with you,  
Pr. Yolanda



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-SOTH PARTNERSHIP TEAM REPORT

*Reprinted from the Calvary Lutheran Church of Edina newsletter*

Throughout this summer a team, comprised of congregational members from both Calvary Lutheran Church (CLC) and Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH), has been meeting to discuss opportunities for the two congregations to develop a more formal partnership following Calvary's last Celebration Worship Service. On the Calvary Team is Pastor Wade, Steve Manacek, Cindy Morris, Alyson Purdy and Becky Rorke. On the SOTH team is Pastor Yolanda, Adam Driscoll and Bruce Nelson. The group has been tasked to identify opportunities to share in God's mission together. Our hope is that we can partner in sharing our gifts and talents with one another, enjoy continuing fellowship in faith and serve the broader community we love.

Although many of the specifics are still being finalized, there are a few plans that we, as a team, wish to share with our congregations. The Calvary Council has reviewed and approved this basic outline:

- Following Calvary's last service on Oct. 1, 2023, the congregation of Shepherd of the Hills welcomes the Calvary members to join them in worship, fellowship and to participate in any of the SOTH programs. This is a wonderful opportunity for the two congregations to meet and get to know each other. It also provides an opportunity for the Calvary members to continue to worship and fellowship together, but within a larger congregation.
- On October 8, 2023, SOTH is planning a welcoming worship service for the Calvary members. Pastor Wade will be there and have a role in worship leadership that day.
- A "Partnership Plan" has been outlined and is currently being refined. It will describe the roles, programs, and funding of the initial integration of the two congregations. The Partnership Plan was reviewed and approved by the Calvary Church Council and will be presented at Calvary's Congregation Meeting on September 17, 2023. If it is approved, it will then be sent to the SOTH Council for review and action.
- The Partnership Plan contemplates Pastor Wade continuing in a part-time role providing pastoral care, regular preaching and worship leadership, and leading WoW or other adult bible studies through 2024. It also contemplates Daryl leading a one-service-per month "festival choir" and an adult handbell choir. A portion of Calvary's sale proceeds would be set aside for development of one or more new ministry initiatives to be developed by a joint committee and approved by both councils sometime in 2024.

*continued above*

### *Calvary-SOTH Partnership continued*

We welcome your thoughts and ideas about this tremendous step that we are taking as two congregations in sharing God's mission. Please reach out to any of us with your feedback and questions.

Yours in Christ,  
The Cavalry-SOTH Partnership Team



## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Sunday, October 1 at 2:00 pm

People LOVE animals. There is something about God's creatures that brings us joy - especially those that live or have lived with us. This includes beloved stuffed animals, dogs, cats, birds, snakes, lizards, goats, pigs, chickens, bees - and any animal that we see and help care for.

Please join us on Sunday, October 1st at 2:00pm to celebrate and bless God's creatures and the beloved animals in our lives. Bring your pets, bring your smiles, bring your joy to Shepherd of the Hills for this important time of blessing!



## WORD ON WEDNESDAYS!

WoW begins on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 p.m. Calvary Lutheran and St. Alban's Episcopal join Shepherd of the Hills for WoW! 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!

## 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.



## INTRODUCING PATTI ARNTZ INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR

Patti Arntz has been a music educator and church musician in the Twin Cities area for over 40 years. She has degrees in music from Hamline University, St. Paul, MN and Drake University, Des Moines, IA and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

She recently retired from teaching elementary music with the Robbinsdale Area Schools. During her 30 years of instructing young children to sing and make music, she also directed the Robbinsdale All-District Elementary Honors Choir for 15 years. Throughout her teaching career, she served as an organist and director of youth/adult choirs in local churches.

Keeping in touch with her elementary music roots, she serves as an online adjunct professor at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, MN, instructing elementary education majors on teaching and integrating music into their future classrooms.

Patti lives in the Twin Cities area with her husband, Rolland, where she enjoys outdoor activities, traveling and studying the Czech language. She sings with Singers in Accord and is a charter member of the choir. Her adult children, Kyle and Melani are both very involved in music in the Twin Cities area.

## SOTH BLOCK PARTY!

**Coming September 10, 2023!**

SOTH will be celebrating our Annual Block Party to kick-off fall programming and to celebrate the installation of Pastor Yolanda on Sunday, September 10, 2023 following 9:30 a.m. worship.

We are welcoming the entire neighborhood to join us for a picnic, 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 including a 70 foot obstacle course and more!

We need volunteers to help with this great event on both Saturday, September 9th and Sunday, September 10th. Contact Steve Hanneman at 612-750-5129.

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

# God's work. Our hands.

## Sunday, September 17th

Shepherd of the Hills is planning some fun projects for God's Work, Our Hands again this year, but we need your help!

### GWOH Goals:

- Assemble 50 birthday bags for ICA Food Shelf
- Assemble 50 candy treats and note cards for Meals-On-Wheels
- Assemble 40 personal care bags
- Assemble 17 baskets for those who are somewhat homebound
- Tie 4 pre-cut, no sew flannel blankets
- Clean up Cottageville Park
- Decorate 25 grocery bags for ICA
- Support Loaves and Fishes
- Cleaning up Cottageville Park

### Donations:

We have a wonderful start, but still need these items by Sept. 10th:

- 22 cake mixes
- 28 frostings
- 30 packages of candles
- 23 packages of any kind of paper napkins
- 25 packages of any kind of paper plates
- 4 large bags of individually wrapped mini chocolate bars.

If you own a yellow God's Work, Our Hands T-shirt, be sure to wear it on September 17th . If you cannot participate in GWOH this year, consider donating your T-shirt by dropping it off at the Hospitality Desk.

We look forward to a fun time of community service!



### LOOSE CHANGE NEEDED!

The children will be collecting a special offering called The Noisy Offering once a month in worship. We will have the children grab a can and look for anyone who is raising their hand with loose change to give them. The proceeds of this special offering will go towards helping a student attend school through Lutheran Partners in Global Missions. Thank you in advance for your contribution!!

## IMPORTANT DATES!

### September

- Sept. 10 Pr. Yolanda's Installation Block Party
- Sept. 13 Parent Orientation for SOL and Confirmation
- Sept. 17 GWOH
- Sept. 20 Confirmation and Children's Choir begins  
Senior High starts
- Sept. 24 SOL- begins
- Sept. 24 3rd Grade Bibles Presented

### October

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

## 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.

## SERMON NOTES (not just for Confirmation students!)

Have you ever had wonderings about a sermon, questions that you might want to ask the pastor or something that resonated with you, only to find that once you get home, you can't remember what those things were?

Have we got a solution for you! Sermon Notes will be available every Sunday for you to use during worship where you can write down your favorite hymn, something that you want to remember, something you questioned or challenged by or something you may want to talk about later with a friend or family member. These are here for you to use as you wish. Post it on your refrigerator or set it by your nightstand for the week. Bring it home and look information up on things you didn't quite understand or want to know more about. Drop it at the office if you'd like the pastor to read it.

Most importantly, this is for you! Not because you have to, but because you want to. We hope you enjoy! Happy Sermon note taking!!



## GEARING UP FOR FALL PROGRAMS!

### SHEPHERDS OF LIGHT

**Shepherds of Light (Pre-K to 5th grade) begins Sunday mornings starting September 24.**

Students will begin in worship and leave after the kids' message, returning around the Sharing of the Peace so that they can participate in the Lord's Prayer and the Lord's Supper. Once a month, we will bring Communion to them, and they will stay in their classrooms until the end of the service. We will be following the Spark curriculum which correlates with the weekly message you will hear during worship. If your child does not have a SPARK Bible, please let us know and we will gladly get one for them.

### CONFIRMATION

**Confirmation (grades 6-8) begins on September 20th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**

During our time together, students will study, socialize, and serve as we read the Bible, study the Small Catechism, learn about the Lutheran Church and draw on how the Bible relates to their own lives and the lives of others. Utilizing multiple avenues for engaging youth, we invite young people to learn about their faith through story, art, community service, public speakers, games and activities.

**REGISTRATION for all programs available on our website.**

Go to [www.sothchurch.com](http://www.sothchurch.com) and at the top of the page you will see the word Learn. Under that heading, click on Registration. We will need volunteers to make this a successful and fun learning environment for your children. Contact Pastor Sherri or Emily Koski for sign-up opportunities.

### PARENT MEETING

**Wednesday, September 13th**

Shepherds of Light (Pre-K to 5th grade) at 6:30pm

Confirmation (6th – 8th grade) at 7:00pm

High School (9th – 12th grade) at 7:30pm

Please come to hear all the exciting things that will be taking place this year at SOTH!!

### ALLEULIA SINGERS!

A Children's Choir for grades 2nd through 5th under the direction of Patti Arntz. Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 7:15pm, starting on Sept 20th. Sign up on our website!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

5:30-6:20 pm Adult Choir

6:30-7:15 pm Alleluia Singers Children's Choir (2nd-5th Grade)

6:30-7:30 pm WoW Adult Bible Study

6:30-7:30 pm Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)



A day retreat for *women*



## WOMEN'S RETREAT

Here's an opportunity for women of all ages to come together as we laugh, learn and love! Go to [mplswomenofelca.org](http://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!!



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

September 9th, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Simple Food – Good Conversation

This is the last gathering at Calvary's location. Meet you at there (6817 Antrim Road, Edina)!



## 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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SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO ...

# Pastor Yolanda's Installation



**BISHOP ANN**

MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD, ELCA



**PASTOR YOLANDA**

NEW SENIOR PASTOR

**WORSHIP: SEPT 10 @ 9:30AM**

500 BLAKE ROAD, EDINA, MN 55343

**BLOCK PARTY 10:30AM**



**Join us on**

**September 10, 2023!**

For a very special morning!

9:30 am Worship &  
Pastor Yolanda's installation

10:30 am Block Party!  
Food! Games! Fun!!

**All Are Welcome!**