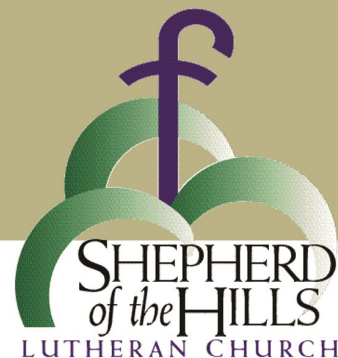


Shepherd's Voice



Spring 2024

"The Promise of April Rain"

By Pastor Wade Wacholz, Calvary Pastor

As I'm writing this it's pouring rain outside. Its grey and dreary and chilly - a day more suited for a fireplace, a cup, a book and a nap than just about anything else. This is a day made for a rest.

We do all need a day to be made like this every now and then – a day to cozy-up, circle around into ourselves, and ponder, relax, breathe and doze for a while. It would be my prayer that when God sends a day such as this, we could be free to do just that – to think, relax, breathe, or doze for a while. Most of us aren't really free that way – free to just take the day that comes and suit our living of it into what it is. Rather, we are bound by our schedules, our projects, our meetings, and our multiple responsibilities. Certainly all these things are important, all of them serve one good or another: creating the means to eat, be warm, protected and healthy; connecting with those important to us; growing up; learning; recreating. Our busy-ness serves us, and others, in many ways.

But our busy-ness also governs us, even restricts us. The command of the world is to focus, to produce, to fix and to act, and that command pulls us more and more outside ourselves and into the tasks at hand; more away from others and into the thing to be done. Our full-to-the-brim days perhaps take something apart in us. They disjoint us by narrowing us into only what we do. Yet, some part, a significant part, of us is our need to just be; our need to just ponder, relax, breathe or doze.

God is at work in days like today – though we have to trust it more than can see it at the time. The April rains promise results we trust to see soon enough: the green that bursts out after all the wet; the buds and blossoms that pop free, all showy and alive in colors fresh and fair; the aliveness that permeates air and earth, pond and river, bird and creature. God is at work in and under the dreary grey chill of days like today making a coming spring – for we know the result of that work when the sun breaks free in the days that come soon after days like this. The new breath that lifts life out of the grey chill and into vibrant warmth.

And God would be just as much at work in and under the grey chill of our sometime over-busy lives – should we take the moment, or the hour, or the day that sometimes presents itself, and circle around into ourselves to ponder, relax, breathe and doze a bit, amidst the dripping rains. God is, after all, as good at re-creating as he ever was at creating, as every spring proves. I pray God soon gives each of you such a day – a day to just be, and to be re-created.

**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
Calvary Pastor	Rev. Wade Wacholz
Music Director	Patti Arntz
Administrative Assistant	Shawn Wacholz
Building Manager	Blair Prax

Church Council Members / Officers:

President	Chris Polston
Vice President	Steve Hanneman
Treasurer	Jean Wicks
Financial Secretary	Fred Jensen
Secretary	Kim Kelly
Serve	Nancy Shaeffer
Worship & Music	Karen Hofstad
Building & Facilities	Peter Barott
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
Pr. Wade Wacholz	pastorwade@sothchurch.com
Shawn Wacholz	office@sothchurch.com
Blair Prax	blair.prax@sothchurch.com
Church web site	www.sothchurch.com

Office Hours:

Office hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Fridays, 9:00 am to 12:00 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



SOTH SPRING NEWSLETTER

Friends,

Communication is key to staying connected to our family of faith. In our efforts to keep the congregation up-to-date on important news and events, we use our weekly Sunday bulletin, our weekly emails, sent now through Constant Contact, letters and post cards mailed to your homes and our Shepherd's Voice newsletter.

Starting this Spring, we will be publishing our Shepherd's Voice newsletter on a quarterly basis. It will be sent out as part of the weekly emails and posted on our website (www.sothchurch.com).

Please let us know if you prefer to receive a printed copy of the newsletter mailed to your home. We are happy to do so. Call (952.935.3457) or email (office@sothchurch.com) the church office to let us know.


Come to breakfast. Feel support in the room.
Listen to impactful stories. Meet someone new.
Learn about the Collaborative work. Support the mission. Speak to a Navigator. Gain knowledge, resources, and support. 

MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT: Celebrating 10 years! You're invited to the 5th Annual Stories of Hope Breakfast

When: Thursday, May 9, 2024
8-9 am, breakfast
7:30 am, doors open

Where: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
5025 Knox Ave S, Minneapolis, MN

Go to mhconnect.org to register and for more information!



**Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly
May 2 – 4, 2024**

Like the early Christians gathered at Pentecost, we pray for the Spirit to fill us with “glad and generous hearts” as we gather for our 2024 Synod Assembly.

Today’s world doesn’t always call us to our better selves – to live with ‘glad and generous hearts.’ Forces within our culture often seek to create bitterness, jealousy, and hoarding.

As Christians, we are called to be different – called to live with gladness, not because we are in denial of the challenges of the world, but because we are loved by a gracious and generous God; a God who also calls us to love the neighbor, following in the generous way of Jesus.

We are called to be community even when the basic fabric that supports relationship is being frayed. We are called to live as the early church – which also faced many challenges to community – by living with glad and generous hearts.

In addition to worship, fostering community, and discernment, we will be electing synod leaders – including the election of a new bishop. We will also have an opportunity to thank Bishop Svennungsen and the synod staff.

Thank you to John Owens and Lyn Kopperud for representing Shepherd of the Hills in this important election process!



**SHEPHERD / CALVARY
NEW MINISTRIES**

The Shepherd – Calvary Team has continued to meet and discuss the ideas put forward by

all the contributors in response to our requests and outreach back in March. We have narrowed the focus to three (3) principal areas: 1) Building a Collaborative, Engaging Youth Ministry; 2) Exploring a Family & Community Centered Alternative Faith Building Gathering (something like the “Dinner Church” gatherings held during Lent) and 3) Updating our Communications and Technology tools for a better, more flexible and impactful Sunday (and other) experience in and from our sanctuary. We’d love to hear more from you and will continue to listen for what God may be calling us to in these three areas. Please reach out (phone, in person, email or whatever) to Pastors Yolanda, Sherri or Wade, or any of the committee members (Becky Rorke, Bruce Nelson, Cindy Morris, Julia Buteyn, Steve Manacek, Adam Driscoll and Alyson Purdy) or leave a note in the basket on the Welcome Desk. Thank you and please keep this work in your prayers!



**HOLDEN VILLAGE
INTEREST MEETING**

Sunday, April 21st after worship

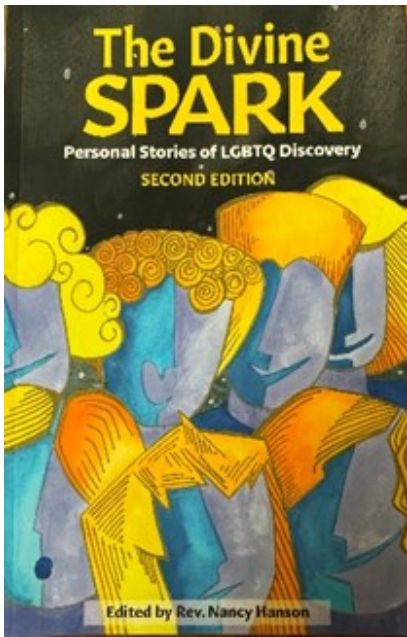
Join us as we discuss plans for a trip to Holden Village in 2025. Hear from those who have been and start planning for this amazing getaway of beauty and God's creation!! Talk with Pr. Sherri if you have any questions.



ANNUAL MEETING

**April 28 at 10:30 am
(Following 9:30 am worship)**

We have had a wonderful year of ministry and our church council is looking forward to the opportunity to tell the story! We will share ministry team updates. In addition, we have a few council members who are transitioning off the council and we will need to vote in our new council members. We hope you will make plans to join us, there is good news to share and a hopeful future to envision.



THE DIVINE SPARK

Wednesday, April 24th, 2024

6:00pm – Dinner

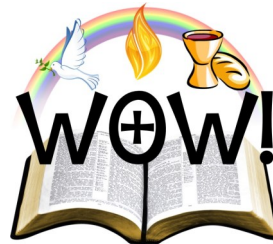
6:30pm - Program

“When you (or your loved one) hear a lawmaker speak against you, experience a classmate’s rude joke, feel parental or church disapproval, you might feel afraid and alone. The writers in this book want you to find emotional, social and spiritual health and wholeness.

“You are not alone. We believe in you.”

Please join us on April 24th as we hear from Rev. Nancy Hanson about her new book, “The Divine SPARK, Personal Stories of LGBTQ Discover,” 2nd Edition.

We thank both Brian Henning and Pastor Yolanda for contributing their stories to this book.



WORD ON WEDNESDAYS

WORD ON WEDNESDAY

Spring 2024: Creation Care in the Bible

6:30 pm

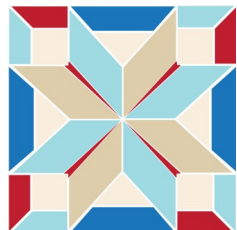
To wrap up WoW for Spring 2024 our plan will be to read and study some of the ways Scripture speaks to us about creation and its care. Genesis tells us that we humans are to “have dominion” – what should we understand “dominion” to mean? When God speaks to Job about the “foundations of the earth” how does that inform how we related to creation? What do the Psalms say about how the earth is to be cared for? What connections might there be between our faithfulness to God and how creation will be affected by our actions? Is the earth resilient? Resilient enough to withstand human actions? Resilient enough to wait on the Lord?

Join us at 6:30 pm Wednesdays from April 10 to May 15 and let’s see what we can learn together!

WEEKLY TEXTS & THEMES

April 10	Created to Care (Genesis 1:1-2:4a)
April 17	Humans and the Sky (Job 38:4 -38)
April 24	(No WoW this evening)
May 1	Humans and the Water (Psalm 65)
May 8	Humans and Animals (Leviticus 26:3-22, 34-35, 40-45)
May 15	Humans and Environmental Devastation (Ezekiel 47:1-12)

WoW at 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.



THANK YOU QUILTERS!

On Sunday, May 12 we will show our appreciation for the SOTH quilters group. The quilts displayed on the pews that day will be just a sample of the many quilts made this past year by the quilters group. Donation of quilts have been made to Reach & Restore, Methodist Hospital, Emerald Crest (Mtka), Move Forward, Sojourner, Fairview Southdale and resident refugees. They welcome donations of fabric, blankets, sheets, etc. to create the quilts. Thank you to our wonderful quilters!!



THANK YOU MUSICIANS!

By Patti Arntz, Director of Music & Worship

I've been a part of the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church community for a year! What a great experience it has been. Together, we have celebrated Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter and all of the wonderful services in between. Working with the musicians at SOTH, we have created new and exciting music as well as bringing back favorite hymns and anthems/special music. I would like to thank the guidance from the pastors, the choir and other musicians who have graciously volunteered their time and talents to make this past year possible!

I want to especially thank the members of the One Voice Choir for their dedication and loyalty to Shepherd of the Hills. They are always there on Sundays, ready to share their spiritual joy with the congregation. It is my hope that the music ministry at SOTH can continue to grow. We encourage you to reach out and let us know of hidden talents (maybe those musical instruments that have been stored in the basement for too long) that you would be willing to share. You can contact Patti at patti.arntz@sothchurch.com. We would love to have you join in on the fun!

SINGERS IN ACCORD

Concerts, May 4th and 5th, 4:00 PM

Our Director of Music, Patti Arntz, sings with a 70-voice choir called Singers in Accord. Each season, the choir collaborates with a different choral director from the Twin Cities Area. Last fall, the choir director was Rene Clausen, former director of the Concordia Choir. This spring, Philip Brown, a well-known choral educator from the Twin Cities will be directing Singers in Accord. Concerts are on May 4th and 5th at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights. The concert begins on both days at 4:00 p.m. You can purchase tickets online at singersinaccord.org. General Admission tickets are \$25. For a discounted ticket, contact Patti for the code to use on the website.

Join Singers in Accord and esteemed guest conductor Philip Brown for an afternoon of soul-stirring music as they perform together, "From Darkness to Light – Navigating the Storm of Life." The choir will weave together a captivating tapestry of melodies that reflect the human experience and the beauty of unity, through sharing our vulnerabilities.

We hope to see you there. If you have any questions please contact Patti at patti.arntz@sothchurch.com.

IMPORTANT DATES!

April & May:

- April 10 Wed Programs
Resume
- April 21 Men's Breakfast
Women's Breakfast
- April 24 Dinner/Speaker
- May 2-4 Synod Assembly
- May 12 Mothers' Day
Sr. Grad celebration
Quilters recognition
- May 19 Confirmation

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

May 19, 2024:

Lady Tan's Circle of Women
by Lisa See

June 2024 (date TBD):

The Horse
by Geraldine Brooks

Aug 2024 (date TBD):

Demon Copperhead
by Barbara Kingsolver

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS TELEVISION BROADCAST

Residents in Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Richfield can watch Sunday Worship on Comcast Channel 14 and CenturyLink Channel 8110.
Sundays at 9:30 pm
Wednesdays at 3:00 pm
Thursdays at 8:30 pm

Children, Youth & Family



ALLELUIA SINGERS

Calling all singers in grades 3-8 to join us to sing for Mothers' Day, May 12. It's a special Sunday as we will be celebrating Mothers, Quilters and High School Graduates. The Alleluia Singers will be rehearsing at 10:40 am on Sunday Mornings, April 21, 28 and May 5. Grab a treat and join us to get ready to sign for Mothers' Day!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

5:30-6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30-7:30 pm Confirmation
7:30-8:30 pm Senior High

Upcoming Dates for Confirmation Students

April 10 at 6:30pm
Class Resumes
April 21 at 9:30am
Youth Service for all ages
May 8 at 6:30pm
Last day of Confirmation
May 15 at 6:30pm
Confirmation Banquet
May 19 at 9:30am
Confirmation celebration!

Summer Festival Camp

High School - July 7-10
Middle School - July 14-17



SENIOR GRADUATION RECOGNITION

Sunday, May 12

Shepherd of the Hills would like to congratulate the following young people on their upcoming High School graduations!

Elizabeth Barott, Danielle Hobbs and Louis Nelson

This is a great milestone in the lives of these students, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Please join us as we bless and recognize each of them during worship on May 12, 2024, at 9:30am.



CONFIRMATION

May 19th at 9:30am

On May 19th, our youth will affirm their baptism through the Rite of Confirmation. Please join us as we celebrate the following students:

Laken Barott, Jackson Chi, Alaina Dallum, Dylan Nordin, Avalon Prax, Ollie Teppen and Leah Wall.

Please hold these youth and their families in your thoughts and prayers during the coming weeks as they discern and prepare for this important day.



VBS 2024 CAMP FIRELIGHT

JUNE 10—13

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

A SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE WITH GOD

Join first-time camp counselor Sam and Lu (short for Lumen), the lightning bug, and learn to face your fears while trusting in God.

Kids will learn ways they can connect with and put their trust in God whenever they are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.



**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES Twin Cities Benefit for Youth at Quincy Hall Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

Hosted each spring by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS), the Benefit for Youth event series supports the work of LSS Youth & Family Services. Together, we will ensure children and families have safe, stable homes and the opportunity to thrive in community. As a trusted statewide leader, LSS is continually reaching out to understand the unique needs of our young neighbors; reaching beyond the status quo to offer innovative services; and reaching across communities to help more Minnesotans thrive. For more information or to register, go to <https://events.lssmn.org/page/63541/data/1>



COTTAGEVILLE PARK Earth Day Spring Cleanup Sunday, April 21

Join us Sunday, April 21, immediately after church (10:45 a.m.) for a trash cleanup of SOTH's 'adopted' park.

Treats provided - all ages welcome. Bring gloves if you have them. Cottageville Park is at 415 Blake Road North, just up the street from church. There is limited parking.

DRIVING IMPROVEMENT CLASS AT SHEPHERD Thursday, May 23 from 1:00-5:00 pm 55+ Driver Improvement Program (4-hour refresher course)

The Driver Improvement Program offered by the Minnesota Highway Safety and Resource Center is open to the public and is taught by a certified instructor. By utilizing the most up to date research in the field, participants will be provided the latest information in regards to driver safety, new laws, and vehicle technology.

Persons age 55 and older who complete the course qualify for a ten percent discount on their auto insurance premiums. For more information or to register for a class near you, visit www.driverdiscountprogram.com or call toll free, 1-888-234-1294.



SERVE TEAM Spring Cleaning? Donate Now!

Do you have some gently worn shoes that you no longer wear? Participate in our shoe drive and help us donate to Soles4Souls! Until the end of May, we will be collecting all styles of gently worn shoes that can be put to good use. You can even donate single shoes!

Soles4Souls has 3 basic programs. "4Relief" helps get shoes to people in disaster relief areas. "4Opportunity" works with developing countries to help people start and grow business that sell donated shoes. "4EveryKid" partners with schools across the U.S. to get new athletic shoes to children who are experiencing homelessness.

Repurposed shoes extend their life and keep them out of landfills. 98% of shoes are reused and if shoes are determined to be beyond use, Soles4Souls works with third-party partners to turn this waste into energy. Please place your shoes in the donation center and enjoy a cleaner closet this summer.

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



Dated Material

LET US
rejoice today
AND BE GLAD.



PSALM 118:24, NIV