



USING OUR GIFTS FOR SERVICE...

As an act of His grace, God has blessed each of us with talents, gifts, and abilities. Therefore, we should strive to put our faith into action when we become God's hands, arms, and feet in service to others. God's love is seen through us as we are empowered to do His work.

Some characteristics of a Christian Servant:

Serves with vulnerability—Let the power of Christ shine through you despite your weaknesses

Serves to honor God—We serve not for personal gain or recognition but to glorify God

Serves with enthusiasm—Those we serve should see our inspiration and motivation

Serves with honesty—Serve out of devotion to Christ, not to impress others

Serves as a channel, not a source - God is the source of our love and compassion. God give us the abilities and tools to assist others

The above was borrowed from "Life at its Best" by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning. For more information on how you can live wisely in an unwise world, join the Adult Bible Study on Sunday morning at 9:15 am.

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
He is the Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:11*

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY EVENING—6:00 pm

SUNDAY MORNING—8:00 am | 10:30 am

HOLY COMMUNION—December 2 and 3; 16 and 17; 30 and 31

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT 6, 13, 20—5:00 pm Meal | 5:45 pm Worship | 6:30 pm Confirmation

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM—Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 am

NO SERVICE—Saturday, December 23

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES—Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 am and 6:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE—Monday, December 25 at 9:00 am

SAT. DEC. 30 w/HC—6:00 pm | **SUN., DEC. 31 w/HC**—8:00 and 10:30 am

(The December 30 and 31 services will be led by Pastor Kolander.)

BIBLE STUDIES, CLASSES and MISCELLANEOUS

EDUCATION HOUR FOR ALL AGES—Sunday following the 8:00 am service

LADIES MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will not meet in December. Join us on January 8 at 6:30 pm to discuss chapter 8 from "The Case for Miracles" by Lee Strobel. Question? Contact Mindy Braun at 608-792-9238. For a review of the November discussion, please see page 3.

CASUAL CONVERSATION with Pastor Mark and Marilyn Kolander

December 5 from 9:30—11:00 am. Stop by the Narthex for conversation, encouragement, the sharing of constructive ideas and tasty baked goods!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday at 9:30 am

CONFIRMATION—Wednesday 6:30 pm (Students attend the Advent Service)

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Thursday at 9:30 am

ONGOING MINISTRY MEETING SCHEDULE

TRUSTEES—Thursday, December 14 at 5:30 pm

FELLOWSHIP—Monday, January 8, 2024 at 11:30 am at Perkin's

ELDERS—Monday, December 11 at 6:00 pm

EDUCATION—TBD

COUNCIL—Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 pm

Schedules subject to change. Check the church bulletin, Facebook, Website or Weekly Update for updates.



**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?
HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Look no further! Your help is needed here—right now

GREETERS

Say “Hello” to people—who are joining us for worship

Greet people prior to the service. Following the service invite visitors to fill out a Connect Card and to pick up a “Goodie Bag”. To volunteer,

PROJECTOR

Advance the projector slides during the church service

To volunteer contact an Elder

COUNT OFFERING

Record the offering or help assist, organize and count funds.

To volunteer contact Betsy Jessie at betsylou13@hotmail.com

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Provide treats, coffee and fellowship

Sign up sheet at The Welcome and Opportunity Center.

USHERS

Help people get to where they are going

To volunteer contact an Elder

**CHECK OUT
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for a unique way to bless others this Christmas!

Sign up for all events at The Welcome and Opportunity Center

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

SHARE TIPS, CONCERNS AND SUPPORT WITH THOSE AFFECTED BY CANCER

The “Cancer Support Group” will resume in January.

Cancer Support Contact: Shawn Mahoney 608-797-1927

EDUCATION MINISTRY

ASSISTS WITH THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The Sunday School students will present “Away in the Manger” on Sunday, December 17 during the 10:30 am service.

Practice for “Away in the Manger” will be held on Sunday, December 3 and 10 during Education Hour following a brief Sunday School lesson.

On Sunday, December 24 and 31 students are asked to meet in the chapel for a Christmas movie and craft during Education Hour.

Education Contact: Hanni Cowley 608-863-6767 | hannicowley@yahoo.com

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

CONNECTS PEOPLE THROUGH FUN, FOOD and FELLOWSHIP

ADVENT by CANDLELIGHT—Saturday, December 2 at 4:00 pm.

THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM is making plans for 2024. If you would like to share your ideas, please send your suggestions to Jana at jounder5js@gmail.com

Fellowship Contact: Jana Underkofler jounder5js@gmail.com

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY

SERVES THE NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND OUR COMMUNITY

PRAYER CHAIN

to submit requests (or to join the prayer chain) please contact Sharon at sryan6731@gmail.com, 608-526-6731, or the church office.

ONALASKA FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry request for December — Personal care items (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.). Donations may be left on the shelves located across from The Welcome and Opportunity Center.

Human Care Contact: Sue Mravik at suemravik@gmail.com

LWML

SUPPORTS MISSIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION—Monday, December 11 at 11:30 am. Please bring a snack or appetizer to share. Pastor Baumgarn will deliver a Christmas devotion at 1:00 pm. “The Giving Tree” gifts will also be sorted. All women are welcome!

MUSIC MINISTRY

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

CHIMES—TBD | **CHOIR**—Wednesday at 6:30 pm

“LET LIGHT SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS” COMBINED CHOIR CONCERT—Sunday, December 10 at 6:00 pm. Music provided by singers from area LCMS churches. This concert is free and open to the public.

LWML and Music Ministry Contact: Kay Conzemius at bkconz@aol.com

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY—From The LCMS stewardship Ministry
SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

OCTOBER MISSION COLLECTION BENEFITS UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN GERMANY

Many thanks to members at Shepherd of the Hills for their generous contributions to assist Ukrainian refugees currently in Wittenberg, Germany. In the month of October, we collected \$1,760 to support Ukrainian refugee members of the Lutheran Church in Ukraine with accommodations, language education and weekly worship opportunities.

Each year, Shepherd of the Hills members support a local mission in the spring and an international mission in the fall. Recommendations for mission recipients are always welcome; please forward thoughts and ideas to John Berg, Stewardship Ministry Leader. Thank you!

Stewardship Ministry Contact: John Berg at johnjberg@outlook.com



SUPPORT SOTH MISSIONS/MINISTRIES WITH YOUR IRA

Here's an important reminder as we approach the end of the calendar year: Under federal law, individuals 73 years of age or older with an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) are required annually to take a minimum distribution (RMD).

Are you aware that you may make a significant, charitable impact by directing some of your IRA — up to \$100,000 annually — reducing your taxable income and preserving more liquid assets for other, equally important uses? Shepherd of the Hills joyfully receives IRA gifts that support the ongoing work of our church ministries.

To learn more about making an IRA qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to support your church, contact John Berg, Stewardship Ministry Leader at johnjberg@outlook.com or Betsy Jessie, CPA at betsylou13@hotmail.com.

CONFIRMATION and YOUTH MINISTRY

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH STUDENTS THROUGH STUDY, WORKSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

IT'S A CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Bowl, play bowling challenges and eat food!

Saturday, December 9 at 3:30—5:30 pm

Coulee Golf Bowl—Onalaska | Text your RSVP to Martha at 608-797-0204 or (email her at martha.keeffe@sothonalaska.com) by December 5

Monday Night Ladies Bible Study November Recap

ARE ALL MIRACLES FROM GOD? - shared by Mindy Braun, Ladies Monday Night Bible Study leader

The Ladies Monday Night Bible study discussed The Science of Miracles, from "The Case for Miracles" by Lee Strobel. We looked at miracles not just through science, but also through the Bible directing us to "test the spirits". God's miracles point us to His saving grace through Jesus. Are there others who do miracles, and why?

Jesus has a warning for us in Matt 24:24. "For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect..." Deception causes one to believe something that is not true in order for the deceiver to gain some personal advantage. 1John 4:1 tells us "...do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God..." How do we do this? 1John 2:22-23 explains, "Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist — he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father..."

Consider Simon the Sorcerer in Acts 8:9-11. "...He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people...exclaimed, this man is the divine power known as the Great Power. They followed him because he had amazed them with his magic." Simon's motive in doing miracles was to deceive others and gain self-importance, not to point to Jesus.

Lastly, we "tested the spirits" as we looked at scientific studies that focused on whether patient recovery benefited from intercessory prayer. One deceptive study recruited non-Christians to pray for the patients, and then concluded that prayer did not make a difference. Another study recruited Christians active in their faith to pray for the patients, and affirmed that these patients had better outcomes. "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus...for ever and ever! Amen." Eph. 3:20-21.

Join us January 8 at 6:30 pm to discuss chapter 8, Dreams and Visions.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 16

Submitted by Carolyn Bey

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

Year to Date: as of 10/31/2023

Total Ministry Support Received=\$355,798

Total Ministry Expense=\$389,259

Mortgage Principle Paid=\$28,358

Current Mortgage Balance=\$329,165

Total Congregational Long-Term Debt=\$479,165

Mark Wrolstad—Treasurer, reported that we only have about 50% of the original amount of money left in the Rainy-Day Fund to use toward making up the difference between income and expenses. This Council Meeting was devoted to cutting the new budget as much as possible. December's meeting will concentrate on the income side, such as what can we do to bring in more income to meet all of our bills.

BUDGET INFORMATIONAL MEETING:

This is scheduled for January 14th, 2024 right after the second service. The New Budget will be presented to the Congregation and a discussion, and question and answer time will be provided. There will not be any voting at this meeting. All who wish to be informed are encouraged to attend.

ANNUAL VOTER'S MEETING:

This is scheduled for January 21st, 2024, right after the second service. All matters ready to be voted upon will be taken care of at this meeting.

DECEMBER'S COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, 12/19TH AT 6:30pm.

THE GIVING TREE is up with many opportunities to pick one or more "Ornaments" from the tree and purchase the Christmas request listed on the ornament. This is a wonderful opportunity to make someone's Christmas a joyous one! More information can be found in the bulletin.

A MUSICAL ADVENT CONCERT:

will be held at SOTH on December 10th at 6pm. This is a wonderful way to get into the Christmas Spirit and the true meaning of Christmas.

BYLAWS UPDATE:

Further discussion of the new changes will be put off until the new council can work on this project. When the council reaches a recommendation to the Voters, the Voter's will make the decision regarding the possible changes.

THE COUNCIL STILL NEEDS 2 VOLUNTEERS TO FILL 2 OPEN MINISTRY POSITIONS. ONE IS TO HEAD THE HUMAN CARE BOARD, AND THE OTHER IS TO HEAD THE EVANGELISM BOARD. If you are willing to help, contact Warren Bey. His phone number is in the SOTH Directory.

BECOME INFORMED!



BLOOD DRIVE—You Can Be a Hero!

Shepherd of the Hills

Thursday, December 21 | 1:00—6:00 pm

To schedule your appointment, simply scan the QR code!

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Reverse

ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day, add an item to a collection box.

On Christmas Eve donate the contents of your collection box to a food bank.

					 1	2
					1 Box of Cereal	Stuffing Mix
 3	4	 5	6	 7	8	 9
Peanut Butter	Boxed Potatoes	MAC & CHEESE	Canned Fruit	Canned Tomatoes	Canned Tuna	Dessert Mix
10	 11	12	 13	14	 15	16
Canned Sweet Potatoes	Jar of Apple Sauce	Cranberry Sauce	Canned Pork and Beans	Box of Crackers	Package of Rice	Package of Oatmeal
 17	18	 19	20	 21	22	 23
Spaghetti Sauce	Package of Pasta	Chicken Noodle Soup	Tomato Soup	Can of Corn	Can of Mixed Vegetables	Can of Carrots
24						
Can of Green Beans						

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS? Check out the Reverse Advent Calendar for inspiration!

Many people ask the question “Why am I here?” The writer to the Hebrews gives a clear answer: “that we may serve the living God!” The life of Jesus lived for thirty-three years gives us a model of service to emulate. As Jesus lived to serve and extend His Kingdom, we are called to do the same. Jesus lived a perfect life of complete service to those He came to save, and His death and resurrection were His supreme acts of service.

How we use our lives is our gift to God. When we commit to a life of service because of Jesus’ love for us, we are fulfilling one of the purposes Christ has for our lives. Service is what we can do with the brains, bodies, and talents God has given us.

This month, consider how you can serve our neighbors as a response to the Lord’s love for us.

The above content was borrowed from “Life at its Best” by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning. For more information on how you can live wisely in an unwise world, join the Adult Bible Study on Sunday morning at 9:15 am.



SHEPHERD'S FLOCK PRESCHOOL

December 2023 • Shepherd of the Hills Newsletter

Monthly Update

Wow! It's hard to believe it's already December. In November, our preschool children learned about giving thanks and all the things that the Lord has given us that we can be thankful for. We spent our Jesus time learning many of the stories of the Old Testament and how God was always there for His people.

This month we'll be focusing our Calendar time and Jesus time on the Christmas Story and the birth of Christ! Christmas is such a special season for our preschoolers. We'll be practicing many Christmas songs throughout the month that our preschoolers will be performing at their Christmas program on Thursday, December 14th at 10:30am. All church members are invited, and we would love to see you there!

It's also that time of year again when our preschool staff is busy getting ready for our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser and Silent Auction. All the proceeds that we raise this night help fund our preschool program throughout the year. How blessed we are to have an outreach mission making a difference right here in our own community! We hope that all the church members can join us, get to know our preschool program more and meet some of the wonderful families that we get to share the Word of Jesus with each week through our preschool program!

Our preschool teachers wish you all a Merry Christmas and blessed holiday season!

YOU'RE INVITED

Shepherd's Flock Preschool's Christmas Program

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR KING WITH OUR PRESCHOOLERS AT OUR 2023 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.

14 DECEMBER, 2023 AT 10:30 AM
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW



SHEPHERD'S FLOCK PRESCHOOL SPAGHETTI DINNER & SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

.....
Shepherd's Flock Preschool has been providing quality Christian education to families in the community for more than 40 years.

Join us for our only fundraiser of the year- a night of food, fun & fellowship to support our preschool program!



Friday, February 2, 2024
5:00-7:00pm

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Free Will Donation



**HAVE A QUESTION?
FIND YOUR ANSWER HERE!**

Q & A

WHY? WHAT? HOW?

Do you have a question about your faith or how our church works? Do you want to know how your faith applies to your daily life? To submit a question, visit the church website at sothonalaska.org and click the Q & A tab. An answer to your question will be posted on the website—just because you asked.

All submissions are anonymous.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kerry Wheeler
- 2 Kaye Lehrman
- 4 Jan Kovars
- 7 Serena Baumgarn, John Dissmore
Cathy Sanden
- 8 Hollie Triebs, Noah Underkofler
- 9 Linetter Guilette, Joan Marx
- 11 Alexis Dissmore
- 13 Jennifer Barg
- 15 Kabryn Burns
- 17 Charles Anderson, Phil Hartman,
Hazel Stehl

- 17 Amy Breidenbach
- 18 Vicki Clauson
- 19 Linda Vetsch
- 20 Lynne Dale
- 21 Todd Trautmann
- 22 Joyce Gilbertson
- 26 Carol Drury, Ralph Schroeder
- 27 Jake Ziegelbein
- 28 Ian Janzen
- 29 Shannon Mahoney
- 31 Vickie Michalko, Bob Schuppel

ANNIVERSARIES

- 23 Jim and Tricia Finch
- 24 Tim and Nancy Henke
- 26 Charles and Sarah Sheffer
- 28 Charles Anderson and Marla French
Warren and Carolyn Bey

CONTACT US

Kira Peters—Admin. Asst./Church

608-783-0330
office@sothonalaska.com

Rev. David H. Baumgarn

507-227-5646
david.baumgarn@sothonalaska.com

Mark Kolander—Retired Pastor

509-885-2490
mkolander2507@charter.net

Terry Ours—Head Elder

608-780—1422
terryours@gmail.com

Shepherd’s Flock Preschool

608-781-9445
shepherdsflockonalaska@gmail.com

Martha Keeffe—Communications

608-783-0330
martha.keeffe@sothonalaska.com

Hanni Cowley—Education Coordinator

608-863-6767
hannicowley@yahoo.com

OFFICE HOURS/COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

Kira’s office hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00 am—2:30 pm

Friday

9:00 am—12:00 pm

Martha’s office hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00 am—2:30 pm

Submit ALL bulletin, Weekly Update and Narthex TV entries to Martha by noon on Tuesday of that week. Items received after the deadline will not be included. January Newsletter submissions must be received by noon on Tuesday, December 19.

CONNECT CARD for members, visitors and friends -

Provide your current contact information to receive up-to-date information on church activities and announcements! Connect cards are located in the back of the church pews.