



**SHEPHERD
OF THE HILLS**
LUTHERAN CHURCH



July 2018

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God bless America-What does this mean?

This month we celebrate the 242nd anniversary of our nation, and it is often a time of great celebration and revelry. However, our nation remains greatly divided on many issues, and there are outcries against the rightfully elected office holders. Whether you support the current administration or hope for the day when someone else will take their place, there are going to be times when you don't like our nation's leaders, you don't like our nation's laws and policies, and you will not feel like celebrating. How is a Christian supposed to respond?

Paul points out in **Romans 13:1-7**, we are to always honor, respect and pray for our political leaders, "for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." Whether we like the current government or not, whether we like our elected leaders or not, the reality is that they would not be in power if God did not want them there. The Lutheran doctrine of the two kingdoms of God point out that on the right hand, God rules the Church through His Word, while God continues to reign over the whole earth in the left hand through world governments. The left hand is mysterious, we do not know what God's will for the world is or how it is carried out, but we trust that God is guiding the world *ultimately* for our good.

If you still struggle with these words from Paul, remember that He wrote these words when the government was in fact hostile to Christianity. Many people from local leaders to the Emperor in Rome would go on to persecute the Church, and even execute many, including Paul. Yet, as far as the laws are within the greater law of God, we are to obey them. It is only when they defy or go against God and His greater Law that we disobey, and then we speak out against their sins, and submit to any persecution that may come. We do not think like this anymore because we have lived so long in a nation where we have a say, and we have had protection and safety as Christians. If you approach this or any government with the same attitude as the ancient martyrs, you will be able to still respect and pray for the government, no matter who is currently in office.

Therefore, this July 4th, do pray, "God bless America," but it is not some platitude to appease the masses. Instead, we pray it like the Kyrie, "Lord, have mercy." Pray for our leaders, that they would be good servants of God in their positions, whether they recognize Him or not. Pray that they would make good and wise decisions for our nation and would lead us to peace in this world. Pray for them, that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit and be saved; we are not just concerned about what they can do for us, but we want them to be saved in Christ as well. Do not condemn politicians for their evil deeds, rather pray for their salvation! For we are to pray that all people would be saved, even our political enemies, for Christ Jesus died for them just as He died for us.

So, this July 4th, give thanks to God for the blessings He has given us in this land, but also pray for our nation and its leaders, that we would be guided by the wisdom of God, and that His Word may continue to be proclaimed until at last He returns to usher in His eternal Kingdom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, July 4th - **cancelled**

Wednesday, July 18th @ 7:30am at Winnie Moir's, 1892 W. Camino Pradera, 928-502-0238.



The Men's Tuesday morning bible study has been **cancelled** until September.



Fourth of July Celebration & Potluck at SOTH

Wednesday, July 4th @ 5:00pm

Hamburgers & hotdogs will be served, please bring a side dish to share.

Fun & games to follow.

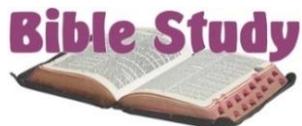


Everyone is invited!

Wednesday, June 18th @ 11:30am

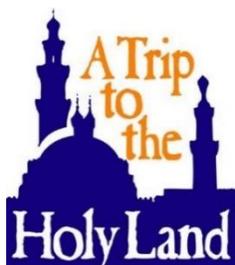
Wheezy's Grill, 11732 S. Fortuna Rd.

Please contact Joyce Bieber @ 815-543-4423 for more information.



Adult Bible Study: Wednesday's @ 9:30am

Led by: Pastor Jonathan Stites

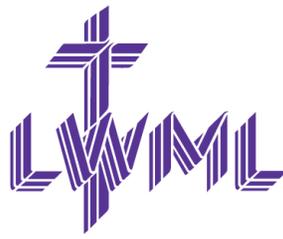


HOLY LAND TOUR (Nov 13 – 24, 2018) A First Class Biblical tour of Israel & Jordan where Scripture is read at each Biblical site - The trip of a lifetime! Many blessings will result – one being an appreciation of the complete accuracy of the Scriptures! Contact Pastor Darold Reiner, retired LCMS Pastor and former International LWML Counselor, for a brochure: [406-890-1149](tel:406-890-1149) or imhis38@gmail.com



We are looking for someone to take over the kitchen on Sunday mornings for fellowship: making coffee, putting out snacks and clean-up.

If you are led to this ministry, please call Maureen Tracy @ 928-919-6129.



The summer finds us with fewer activities but four of us went to the District Convention at the South Point Hotel and Resort June 8-10. The convention theme was He Rocks based on 1 COR 10:4. Pastor Stoterau gave the sermon "Living Water" for our opening Friday evening service. 262 women were in attendance. Saturday's events included the business meeting dinner and talent show. 16 Mission grants were submitted and the board voted to accept all grants. PRAISE THE LORD! This is the first time that all grants were able to be covered without having to vote on them. Our Mite contributions go toward funding these grants. There were several from local Yuma area organizations such as Jessie's Closet- \$10,000, Precious Treasures, Somerton AZ - \$10,000, and KCFY Christian Radio-Yuma-\$10,000. There were also 4 Mini grants that were funded. SOTH "Wrapping the Needy with quilts" received a \$1000 grant. This will enable us to buy needed supplies and equipment for our quilting project. These grants will be funded during this next biennium. If you know of any organization that would benefit from a grant in 2020 for the next Convention, please let me know.

Our keynote speaker was Cindy Steinbeck and our bible study leader was Linda Stoterau. We were also visited by "two angels" throughout the days.

After a delicious dinner Saturday night, a talent show contest was held. Esther, Em, Bev, and I were talked into performing something for the contest. We did "this Little gospel Light of Mine" (several in the audience were even shining their cell phone lights with us) Needless to say we did not win the contest, but we had fun making fools of ourselves.



We made the zone banner that Nancy Pendleton, our Zone President, carried in for the Friday Service.

The banners were made to be baby quilts which were then donated to a charity.

We had nice rooms, met many wonderful Christian women and returned home enriched and tired.

More photos of the Convention can be found on psdlwml.com. Save the date for the next District Convention, June 23-25, 2020 Palm Springs, CA.



SOTH Evangelism News

When the Evangelism Team meets to discuss different events that we might want to schedule during the year at SOTH, we often feel a bit overwhelmed. We want to do the right things so that more people will come to saving faith in Christ, and the Church will continue to grow. For our team, as well as the entire congregation, carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) is challenging. As Pastor Stites asked in his sermon on June 17, “How much of a burden have we put upon ourselves to make the Church grow, when in fact we can only do so much?”

“It is important to recognize that God’s way of building healthy churches does not fit into worldly models. God’s wisdom is not of this world (1 Cor. 1:18-25). To the world God’s wisdom seems foolish. But God has promised to use the ordinary and unadorned means of Word, prayer, water, and bread and wine to save, by grace through faith, those for whom Christ dies. The world has never been impressed with these means, nor will it ever be. But God promises to use them for His own glory and the salvation of His people.”

Jon D. Payne, “Ministry on God’s Terms”, *Tabletalk Magazine*, June 16-17, 2018

Pastor Stites reminded us that it is only God who can give someone faith to believe. So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ (Rom. 10:17).

This is what evangelism is about. We need to sow the seed of His Word. Pastor suggested that we

“pray that God would so fill you with the Holy Spirit that you would always be ready to speak His Word, His saving Gospel to any and all people, and that even your works would proclaim His name. Be ready to share with strangers you never expected to meet, as well as family and friends that you still hope will come to faith.”

Pastor reminded us to “not give up, but to boldly proclaim the Good News, sow the seed of God’s Word to all, in the hope that God will take His Word and produce faith in all others.”

In the upcoming year, we plan to provide some opportunities for all of us to learn how to be more effective proclaimers (‘sowers’). If you have any ideas regarding the Evangelism efforts of SOTH, please speak with Winnie Moir, Carrie Kositzke, or Mike Kositzke. We welcome all ideas and invite anyone who would like to participate in any future projects to do so.

In His Name,
Evangelism Team -6





July Birthdays

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| THOMPSON, Marie | 07/05 | COOPER, Sandra | 07/24 |
| LESPERANCE, Patty | 07/09 | BRINGHURST, Lis | 07/26 |
| HANSEN, RJ | 07/12 | OGARD, Roger | 07/28 |
| YODER, Felty J. | 07/13 | BRINGHURST, Seth | 07/29 |
| LUNDAHL, Dave | 07/14 | RICHARDSON, Cal | 07/29 |
| LIEBSACK, Madeline | 07/16 | LARSON, Alexander | 07/31 |
| STUCKER, Barbara | 07/21 | | |

July Anniversaries



| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| OGARD, Roger & Joanne (57) | 07/01 |
| SEARS, Sam & Ann (37) | 07/04 |
| ENGELHARDT, Bob & Winnie Moir (1) | 07/05 |
| HOLT, Gary & Sueanne (13) | 07/09 |
| SCHOUTEN, Tim & Kay (55) | 07/13 |
| LIEBSACK, James & Madeline (39) | 07/14 |
| SCHLOTHAUER, Don & Sandra (57) | 07/19 |
| WEBBER, Gene & Mary Ann (9) | 07/27 |
| DOCKTER, Lloyd & Karly (41) | 07/30 |

Stewardship Corner

The Apostle Paul wrote, *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ”* (Romans 10:17). Through the Word, the Holy Spirit is present and opens hearts. Through God’s Word and the faith that God gives us, we receive life eternal. Because the words in the Bible are inspired by the Holy Spirit, they have the supernatural ability to change and transform us into the people God wants us to be. God’s Word has the ability to fill our minds, souls, and spirits like nothing else. Just as our physical bodies need physical food to survive, we need spiritual nourishment for our minds, souls, and spirits. The spiritual truths of God’s Word fill us and help us grow spiritually. The Word of God is living, powerful, and real spiritual food for the soul, mind, and spirit.

FOOD BANK



June
\$153

SEASON TOTAL

January -
December
\$1696

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.
Deuteronomy 16:17

Did you know we have a Website? Go to www.sothyuma.org



You can view our monthly newsletter and past newsletters by going to the Connect tab and click on Newsletter/Bulletin. You can also listen to previous sermons (uploaded weekly when available) by going to the Sermon tab and clicking on the date you want to hear.

July 2018 - Shepherd of the Hills

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------|---|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fellowship every Sunday after the service. | | | | | | |
| 1 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games | 2 | 3 8:00am Men's Bible Study Cancelled until September | 4 Independence Day 7:30am Women's Bible Study Cancelled 9:30am Adult Bible Study 5:00pm 4 th of July Celebration & Potluck | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games | 9 | 10 8:00am Men's Bible Study Cancelled until September | 11 9:30am Adult Bible Study | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games | 16 | 17 8:00am Men's Bible Study Cancelled until September | 18 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Winnie Moir's 9:30am Adult Bible Study 11:30am Fellowship Lunch @ Wheezy's Grill 7:00pm Council Meeting | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games | | 24 8:00am Men's Bible Study Cancelled until September | 25 9:30am Adult Bible Study | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games Mite Box Collection | 30 | 31 8:00am Men's Bible Study Cancelled until September | | | | |

July 2018