



11201 East 38th Place
Yuma, AZ 85367
928-345-9694

Email:
Sothyuma@gmail.com
Website:
www.sothyuma.org

One great joy from my childhood was the fact that my Church became my family. Before I was born, my parents moved from Colorado to California, so I did not get to see much of my extended family throughout my life. In some ways, I feel estranged from many of my blood relatives, as if I really do not know them at all. Yet, I was not alone, for my Church really became my family. I had friends that were as close as cousins, if not brothers. Many adults became aunts, uncles, and grandparents. One woman in particular became as much of a *real* grandmother to me as anyone ever could, she was adopted into our family, and I look forward to the day we are reunited in God's eternal Kingdom.

Any time you are with a group a people long enough, you do grow beyond being acquaintances, to friends, and for some, they become as much part of your family as your blood relatives, if not closer. It is no different with the Church; we gather regularly, we celebrate together, we also cry together. There is a bond that connects us, but it is more than just comradery or a happy accident.

As John 1:12-13 says, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." In fact, throughout the New Testament, we see this language where we are called children of God the Father, brothers and sisters to Christ our Lord and Savior, as well as brothers and sisters with all the faithful. We are part of the ONE FAMILY of God. It is more than an appearance, we truly are brothers and sisters in Christ! In our baptism, God the Father adopts us as true sons and daughters, and we are brought into the family of God here on earth as well as in glory.

This is wonderful news for all people. For those who have good relationships with their families, they are blessed with even more to love and serve. For those who have painful relationships with their families, the family of God offers them a new family who will love and care for them. For those who are away from their family and they feel like they are drifting apart, they have a loving family that will gladly be with them, and maybe even adopt each other. I look around this congregation, and I do believe it is one of, if not the friendliest congregation I have ever served. But even "friendship" sounds weak compared to the love of being part of the family of God. Certainly, we can gladly call each other brother and sister, and some of you may feel like you are closer than any blood relative.

In fact, I think this is a great feature that we need to embrace to help reach out to those who are not part of our family here at SOTH and especially to those outside the family of God

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altogether. We can be the loving family for the retirees and winter visitors as they travel from their families. We can be the loving grandparents to young families. We can even be the loving family to those who need it the most.

So, I encourage you to continue to love one another as Christ loves you, to share the blessings God has given to you with all here at SOTH, as well as open your arms to welcome all in need of the love of God in Christ Jesus, the love of the family of God. And remember these words of Ephesians 5:1-2, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

To all SOTH members abroad:



As you may or may not know, prior to my coming to Yuma, SOTH was in the beginning stages of a building campaign to build a new sanctuary. However, that process was put on hold during the call process. With my coming, we are in a sense beginning back at step 1 and reviewing what we have and asking some of the initial questions like feasibility, options, and is this still what we want to do?

For one part of that, I would request your assistance, I am assigning all of you abroad with a little bit of homework. Prior to ever meeting with an architect to design a building, we would like to come up with a list of must-haves, could-haves, and do-nots for the building. So to aid in that process, I would like to do a case study on Church architecture in order to help get ideas. I would like all of you abroad to go ahead and take pictures of the various churches you attend and get some brief history on the Church (date of construction stuff, additions, remodeling, etc.). I will then compile this info into a presentation for the council & building committee that we can then discuss what we need going on further.

So again, I am asking that you take a few minutes, take some pictures of the Churches you attend, get a little background information to send along, and email the pictures and that info onto me, so it can help us in these initial stages prior to ever meeting with an architect. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Thank you and God bless,

Pastor Jonathan Stites

revstites@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, August 1st @ 7:30am at Winnie Moir's, 1892 W. Camino Pradera, 928-502-0238.
Wednesday, August 15th @ 7:30am at Joyce Bieber's, 11230 E. 34th Place, 815-543-4423.



Evangelism Brainstorming Session

Sunday, August 19th @ 10:45am
In the sanctuary, following the service.
Come share your evangelism ideas.



Ice Cream Social @ SOTH

Sunday, August 19th @ 4:00pm

Bring your favorite topping to share, we will provide the ice cream (unless you have a special kind you would prefer).



Purple Pinochle Palooza

Saturday's @ 1:00pm at SOTH

Everyone is welcome!



Everyone is invited!

Wednesday, August 15th @ 11:30am

Jimmy K's (formerly Dudley's), 11375 S. Foothills Blvd.

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



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

Led by: Pastor Jonathan Stites



Choir Rehearsal

Rehearsal will begin in September.



We have been working on our schedule for the 2018-2019 season.
We will have the finalized schedule available soon.

Welcome to our New Members!



Dick Koppe
Elder

Ervin & Ora
Kuebler

Pastor
Stites

Ervin & Ora
Kuebler



Ervin & Ora
Kuebler

**To be reviewed and approved at the Council Meeting in August:
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
July 18, 2018**

Attendees: Rob & Sue Cairns, Sharie Jasper, Dan Lomax, Jon Weeks, Mike Kositzke, Beverly Ferguson, Kelly Hinrichs, Pastor Stites and Esther Foster.

President Jon Weeks called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the May 16th meeting were distributed. Sharie Jasper moved to accept the council minutes. Sue Cairns seconded and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of the May and June Income & Expense Report and Balance Sheet were distributed for review. Dan Lomax made a motion to accept the reports. Ron Cairns seconded and the motion was approved.

Pastor's Report: Convention notes are available to review. Next year we should have a lay delegate. Visits with the congregation are going well. Service folders are wearing out so we need to make a decision about repairing or replacing them. This will be brought to the elders. Placement of the flags was discussed. Pastor would like to see monthly potlucks. He also suggested that we again start to investigate about land, loans and etc.

President's Report: No Report

Vice President's Report: No Report

Elders Report: Rob Cairns has asked Jim Einwaechter to serve as an elder and he has accepted.

Trustee's Report: Dan Lomax has received estimates for repairing the air conditioners. The estimate was \$942.50 for replacement parts and labor. Rob Cairns moved to repair air conditioners. Sharie Jasper seconded and motion was passed. Oliver Tracy informed Dan that we need a new flag for outside and that we should consider a ramp to the sidewalk at the handicap parking places. Dan will get an estimate for the ramp.

Evangelism Report: Mike Kositzke reported that we will advertise at the visitor's bureau. Pastor would like to do a seminar about evangelism. March 10-31st will be the annual Food Bank Drive. He would like to organize a welcome and greeting committee. Sharie Jasper, as president of LWML, will meet with evangelism committee to make the yearly calendar.

Stewardship Report: No report

Education: No report

Administrative: Kelly Hinrichs got an estimate of \$493 from A-1 Carpet to clean carpets. Sue Cairns moved to have the carpets cleaned for \$493. Sharie Jasper seconded and motion was approved. The copier needs to be repaired or replaced. We can lease a copier for \$35.87 monthly and a maintenance using 3500 copies for a total of \$105.87 monthly. Sharie Jasper moved that we lease copier at a cost of \$105.87 monthly. Dan Lomax seconded and motion was passed. A memorial fund has been set up for Joyce Squires. Name tags need to be updated. Kelly will purchase new cover and bring tags up to date. Kelly also mentioned that we no longer have enough individual mail boxes for our members. It was decided to remove the mailboxes and just leave the ones for Council members and groups.

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Old Business: None

New Business: None

Unscheduled Items: None

Sharie Jasper made a motion to adjourn. Sue Cairns seconded and the motion was approved.

President Jon Weeks adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm. Pastor Stites closed with prayer and the Lord's Prayer.



Looking for Donations:

Valley Horizon Elementary School is bringing art back into the classroom for a second year and they would like our help.



They are asking for donations of items you may have laying around your house:

Milk/ water jugs
Aluminum foil
Wire (bendable)
Pipe Cleaners
Yarn
Yarn cones
Paper plates
Shaving foam

Food Color
Non-toxic paints
Card Stock
Construction paper
Empty toilet paper rolls
Empty paper towel rolls
News paper
Magazines

Cardboard
Wood scraps (at least 3"x3")
String
Buttons
Fabric scraps
Empty Pringles cans

If you are interested in donating these items, please place them in the collection box that is on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly in the church office @ 928-345-9694.

August Birthdays



WATSON, Marlene	08/02	STENLUND, Betty	08/15
KUEBLER, Ervin	08/05	KNOLLE, Tammy	08/17
KOPPE, Dick	08/08	RICE, Carol	08/17
SANDERSON, Nancy	08/08	ALBERY, Sharon	08/24
LESPERANCE, Mike	08/09	LARISON, Marlene	08/24
PICKETT, Bubbles	08/09	WEST, Brenda	08/25
JASPER, Sharie	08/11	LARSON, Maria	08/26
LOMAX, Daniel	08/13	FRIESENEGGER, Michael	08/29
DOCKTER, Karly	08/14	ROTERT, Francine	08/29
KEHLER, John	08/14	CAIRNS, Sue	08/30
STUCKER, Howard	08/14	BRYAN, Delores J.	08/31

August Anniversaries



KOSITZKE, Michael & Carrie (37)	08/01
WHITMAN, Frank & Sylvia (34)	08/08
FERGUSON, Jerry & Bev (61)	08/23
SANDERSON, Nancy & Tom (60)	08/30



FOOD BANK

July
\$205

SEASON TOTAL

January -
December
\$1901

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

Stewardship Corner

As faithful stewards, our response is not dictated by well-conceived stewardship appeals or pressure for money or time. We respond faithfully to needs of our church, because our primary motivation for sustained giving is thankfulness for the love that Jesus has for us. *“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him Who died for them and was raised again”* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). We express His love within us by what we do and what we give. Through God’s grace, bestowed on us through Word and Sacrament, we become more like Jesus. We become generous people who give willingly and cheerfully.

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.

August 2018 - Shepherd of the Hills

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Fellowship every Sunday after the service.						
			1 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Winnie Moir's 9:30am Adult Bible Study	2	3	4 1:00pm Purple Pinochle Palooza
5 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games	6	7 8:00am Men's Bible Study Cancelled until September	8 9:30am Adult Bible Study	9	10	11 1:00pm Purple Pinochle Palooza
12 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games	13	14 8:00am Men's Bible Study Cancelled until September	15 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Joyce Bieber's 9:30am Adult Bible Study 11:30am Fellowship Lunch @ Jimmy K's 7:00pm Council Meeting	16	17	18 1:00pm Purple Pinochle Palooza
19 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Evangelism Brainstorming session 4:00pm Ice Cream Social 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games	20	21 8:00am Men's Bible Study Cancelled until September	22 9:30am Adult Bible Study	263	24	25 1:00pm Purple Pinochle Palooza
26 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games Mite Box Collection	27	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study Cancelled until September	29	30	31	August 2018