



June
2020

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

Email:

Sothyuma@gmail.com

Website:

www.sothyuma.org

Thoughts from Pastor Stites

As we look to re-open the Church for regular worship services, we are working to make sure that this is done safely. This newsletter is a written companion to the virtual tour now uploaded to YouTube.

But no matter what the preparations we have taken are, YOU are the one who has to decide whether you will join us or continue to self-quarantine for a time. If you choose to remain in isolation, that is fine, we will continue to serve you as best as possible, including the video service on YouTube, though we will be recording Sunday morning, and uploading after the service. If you choose to attend, we welcome you with open arms (metaphorically), but with a few requirements for all attendees.

First and foremost, understand that we are not going to rush back to our normal schedule of events. For the time being, we will ONLY have Sunday morning worship, no other activities are scheduled. As we get used to new norms and regulations continue to lax, we will open up Sunday morning Bible Study, midweek Bibles studies, and other activities. Any activities that require touching common surfaces are indefinitely suspended.

For all those interested in coming, here are the list of requirements:

- Wash your hands BEFORE AND AFTER you leave/return home.
- Park in every other spot on the West side of the Church (main parking lot). ONLY the West doors will be open.
- ALL will be required to wear a mask during the service. I, the pastor, am the only exception, so I can be clearly heard during key parts of the service, and I will maintain a greater distance. But I will don a mask for communion.
- Maintain a 6-foot distance from others as best as possible.
- No physical contact with others, or any unnecessary surface.
- Place your offering in the collection on your way into the sanctuary.
- You will be assigned seating as you come in, which you will continue to sit at for the foreseeable future.
- The service will be printed in the bulletin, no need for hymnals or service books.
- Communion will be "speed line," no tables or kneeling rail. DO your best to continue the 6-foot distance.
- Dismissal will be by rows, going back to front. Please refrain from socializing in the sanctuary after the service.
- There will be no coffee or refreshments. If you choose to socialize, please do so in the parking lot, and maintain a 6-foot distance.

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There are still concerns about the rising numbers of cases here in Yuma, and the CDC still recommends seniors 65 and older remain home. But we give the choice to you. Please review these notes, watch the virtual tour, and discuss this with family and friends.

We look forward to re-opening our doors, and welcoming all back, so we can once again gather around God and His Word.

O Heavenly Father, have mercy upon us and guide us in these uncertain times. Help us to continue to work to keep each other safe, and guide us in our decisions to attend or remain in quarantine. But above all, do not forsake Your children, keep us firm in the one true faith, until the day we are reunited in Church here on earth, and with all the saints in Paradise, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

God bless,
Pastor Jonathan Stites



Online Services & Bible Studies

We will continue uploading Sunday's Services and Bible Studies to our YouTube Channel, for anyone who doesn't feel comfortable attending at this time. You may click on the following link:

[Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page](#)

or search "Shepherd of the Hills Yuma" in YouTube.



Thank you to Joyce Dryer, Sharie Jasper, Carol Rice & Marie Thompson! They have made masks so that we will have them available for when we open back up. Also, thank you to Smokey & Margaret Morner for the donation of single-use masks and to everyone who has donated hand-sanitizer.



What You Can do if You are at Higher Risk of Severe Illness from COVID-19

Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness?



Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

Here's What You Can do to Help Protect Yourself



Stay home if possible.



Wash your hands often.



Avoid close contact and stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.



Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.



Cover coughs and sneezes.

Call your healthcare provider if you are sick.

For more information on steps you can take to protect yourself, see CDC's webpage on [How to Protect Yourself](#)



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



Join us for the PSD LWML
2020 Mini Convention

June 6th

Will be posted at 10:00 AM www.psdlwml.org



Sermonette

Bible Study

President's Message

Election Results



SOTH Evangelism News

"He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain - first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Again He said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."



With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when He was alone with His own disciples, He explained everything." Mark 4:26-34

"The seed is the Word of God. When planted on "good soil", or the receptive heart, the life-bearing seed grows steadily and produces grain without any human effort. This is the unseen work of God - a work of grace. Only God makes the seed grow." K. T. SIM (Our Daily Bread) Parables. Stories. Jesus was the "greatest storyteller ever". Jesus knew that everyone loved great stories. It was a way for Him to get our

attention. The Gospel of Mark showed us that Jesus would use stories to help people understand how much God loves us.

As we go out and share God's great love and mercy to others, maybe we should use stories. The Greatest Story ever told. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior was born, lived and then was crucified and died for us. Paying the price for our sins. Let us go out and share the good news. Christ died and rose again! He is alive. And our belief in Him will give us eternal life also. We are all evangelists every day. Wherever we meet people, when they see us do they see someone who loves them or someone only concerned with themselves?

We pray everyone is well and keeping safe. God bless you all.

The Evangelism Team

**To be reviewed and approved at the Council Meeting in July:
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
May 20, 2020**

Attendees: Jon Weeks, Beverly Ferguson, Pastor Stites, Sharie Jasper, Kelly Hinrichs, Dick Koppe, Brad Erickson, Sue Cairns, Bob Engelhardt and Winnie Moir.

President Jon Weeks called the meeting to order at 10:56 am.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the March 18th meeting were distributed. Dick Koppe moved to accept minutes. Bob Engelhardt seconded. Motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of the February Income & Expense Report and Balance Sheet were distributed for review. Bob Engelhardt moved to accept the treasurer's report. Brad Erickson seconded. Motion passed. Minutes from the special meeting March 8, 2020 were distributed for review. There was a correction to read painting the "exterior" doors for \$975. Sharie Jasper moved to accept minutes as corrected. Sue Cairns seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes from special meeting March 18, 2020 were distributed for review. Winnie Moir moved to accept minutes. Sue Cairns seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes for special vote by text March 31, 2020 were distributed for review. Bob Engelhardt moved to accept minutes. Dick Koppe seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes for April 15th were distributed for review. Winnie Moir moved to accept minutes. Sue Cairns seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report for April 2020 was distributed. Bob Engelhardt moved to accept treasurer report. Brad Erickson seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Stites reported that March 15, 2020 was our last service. Service started on video, uploaded to YouTube, on March 22, 2020. He is hoping we can open for church service on May 31, 2020 at 9:30am with communion. There will be a letter sent out with instructions about what to do when attending the service. If someone comes down with the virus the church will be closed for two weeks. We will probably use a projector and screen, rather than paper bulletins.

President's Report: President Jon Weeks said he was thrilled with the rock wall. Discussion followed about lights in the chancel. Dick Koppe moved that we get a bid for recessed lights with a dimmer switch in the chancel. Winnie Moir seconded. Motion passed.

Vice President's Report: Brad Erickson reported that Mr. Mendoza, the contractor we hired, has been in the hospital.

Elders Report: Dick Koppe reported that they made 160 calls. They are talking with the Pastor Stites about the opening of the church.

Trustee's Report: Bob Engelhardt reported that he would get the bid for the lights in the chancel.

Evangelism Report: Winnie Moir reported that they have been taking food to the MCAS food bank.

Stewardship Report: Sue Cairns reported that five members have signed up for online giving.

Education: No report

Administrative: Kelly Hinrichs reported that she will be having surgery June 30th and be out of the office till July 13th. We need more hand sanitizer when we begin church services. Century Link will not hook up the line to the office but a gentleman offered to run the lines for free and will do the hook up for \$170 approximately.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Sharie Jasper moved to adjourn. Sue Cairns seconded. Motion passed.

President Jon Weeks adjourned the meeting at 12:22 pm.

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord's Prayer.



June Birthdays

ENGEL, Larry	06/02	ERICKSON, Tom	06/10
FOSTER, Em	06/02	STITES, Theresa	06/13
RICHARDSON, Cal	06/03	FOSTER, Esther	06/23
DICKISON, Wilma	06/07	LARSON, Isabella	06/23
BIEBER, Joyce	06/08	ZEISS, Judy	06/23
MUELLER, Tom	06/08	HANSEN, Fran	06/26
ANDERSON, Sharon	06/10	JONES, Paul	06/28



June Anniversaries

APPELDOORN, Ron & Pat (55)	06/01
MUELLER, Tom & Judy (69)	06/16
ERICKSON, Tom & Sandy (62)	06/21
HARRISON, Bob & Elaine (63)	06/22

Stewardship Corner

Everything we have is a gift from God? We have food to eat because God gives the sun and the rain and good soil so vegetables, fruit, and other plants can grow. We have good fresh air to breathe because God supplies it. We have homes to live in and clothes to wear all because we have a heavenly Father Who provides for us all that we need. God gives us these gifts because He loves us. Even money we use to buy things comes from God, and He only asks that we share what He gives us with others. If we think about all that Jesus has given and done for us and about how we can show our love for Him by helping others, we may soon find that giving is fun and exciting and a habit we enjoy doing.



FOOD BANK

May
\$263

SEASON TOTAL
January - December
\$1328

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 by going to the Connect tab and click on Newsletter. You can also listen to previous sermons (uploaded weekly when available) by going to the Sermon tab and clicking on the date you would like to