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July
2021

Thoughts from Pastor Stites

An Insightful Challenge!

I recently heard about a pastor who wanted to end a Bible Study by praying the Lord's Prayer, and all the prayer requests that day were to fit a different petition. Well first person asked for healing of a family member; great, that's the fourth petition. Second person asked for help finding a job; okay, that is also the fourth petition. And this continued, every prayer request that day was all associated with the fourth petition, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Now it is not bad to pray for these things, as Luther put it in his Small Catechism, "God gives daily bread, [which includes all the needs of our bodies,] without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving." It is good to pray for the needs of the body, and to trust that God will provide. But is this all that we are concerned about? This is just ONE line, what about the other six petitions?

So here is the challenge: instead of simply praying the Lord's Prayer by rote, use it as a skeleton or frame that you can expand upon. Begin with each petition, then continue on with more specific requests. For example, "Thy Kingdom come," you could pray, "O Lord, you desire not the death of a sinner, but that all would be saved. Bring the lost sheep back to your fold, and bring in those who have never known Your love and mercy, especially (fill in the blank). And fill us with Your Holy Spirit, and embolden ME and Your whole Church on earth, to proclaim the Gospel to all those lost in sin and death." Then continue onto "Thy will be done ..." and so on.

I am NOT saying don't pray the Lord's Prayer as written! It is the very words Christ taught us to pray, and when you do not know what to pray for, when you can't think of the words, PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER! But this exercise does encourage you to pray for more than just the needs of the body, which are easy to pray for. But it is just one line out of seven, Jesus was not just teaching a prayer to pray, but what we should be praying for. Is there some way that you are failing in these petitions, or is there someone that you know needs God's help, not just physically, but spiritually? Take the time to pray each line, and expand upon it.

I have argued that you cannot sum up a lot of Scripture, God has already distilled it down, a mountain of meaning in just a few words. This is exceedingly true of the Lord's Prayer. Take some time, and explore the deeper meaning by praying for specific things within ALL that you are actually praying for within the few words Christ taught us to pray. And if you can't think of anything in that moment, it's alright, you still prayed for everything that Christ taught us to pray for. But also, maybe it's a sign for you to learn more about these blessed words. Amen.

Pastor Jonathan Stites

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Phone numbers and addresses will no longer be published. Please use the church directory or call the church office @ 928-345-9694, if you need someone's number or address for an event



Please join us Sunday, July 4th, following the service to celebrate the 4th of July. We will provide the hot dogs, buns, condiments and beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the back so that we know how many to plan for.

Church Office Closed

The Church office will be closed on Thursdays and Fridays through the summer. Pastor Stites will be doing home visits on those days. If you would like to schedule a home visit with him, please call him or the church office to set up a time.

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](#)



Bible Studies:

Every Sunday morning @ 8:15am, in the Fellowship Hall.

Every Wednesday @ 9:30am, in the Fellowship Hall.

Online Bible Study will continue to be uploaded to YouTube



Both the Wednesday & Thursday Women's Bible Studies have been cancelled for the summer. They will resume meeting in the fall.



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 hear.



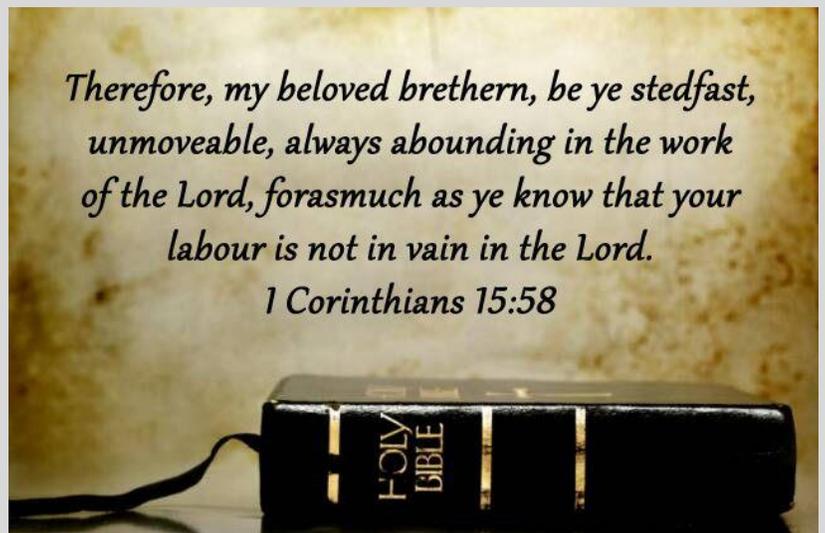
SOTH Evangelism News

Not in Vain



Through faith, we know and believe that God's grace is a gift, and His grace is poured out on us daily and abundantly. Daily we rejoice in our baptisms through which God's grace makes us His children. Sunday after Sunday we celebrate the Easter message of God's grace made available to us through the suffering and victory of His Son. His grace is given to our physical bodies as well as our spiritual lives. In the words of Martin Luther, God provides "our daily bread," including "everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body."

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the people in Corinth, he wrote, *"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). How is it possible that we could receive this grace in vain? When we ignore the Giver of this grace, when we use His gifts for our own good rather than in service to others, and when we attribute our gifts, our abilities, our successes to ourselves, then we receive God's grace in vain.



The life of good stewardship cannot be accomplished on our own, for such an attempt not only is doomed to failure, but demonstrates our receiving *"the grace of God in vain"* (2 Corinthians 6:1). Faithful stewardship that pleases God results when we, in response to His grace in our lives, use all the gifts He has given us to serve Him by serving others.

May God help us all receive His gifts thankfully, manage them wisely, and share them generously.

(From: Ron Chewning – Stewardship Advisor's)

To be reviewed and approved at the Council Meeting in September.
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
June 15, 2021

Attendees: Jon Weeks, Pastor Stites, Kelly Hinrichs, Shannon Cady, Dick Koppe, Esther Foster, Kathy Richardson

President Weeks called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the May 18, 2021, meeting were reviewed. Dick Koppe moved to accept the Minutes. Shannon Cady seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for May was presented. In Sharie's absence, Kelly noted the National Bank checking balance is \$10,531.77 and the LCEF Savings General is \$39,528.73. The LCEF Savings reflects the online giving which can be transferred as needed to the National Bank account. Also, the National Bank account has \$1,060 in it that is for the building fund and needs to be transferred to the LCEF Building Account. The building fund currently has \$67,793.70 and these funds can only be used for items other than a new building if permission is given from the voters. The Memorial Fund balance is \$1,511.69 and can be used as needed. Kathy Richardson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Dick Koppe seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: No Report

President's Report: Jon Weeks noted that as decided at the May meeting there will be no Council meetings in July and August unless something comes up in the meantime.

Vice President's Report: No Report

Elders Report: Dick Koppe reported that the Elders made between 45/50 calls during May. Assistance needed by some members was discussed. It was noted that medical supplies can be purchased at Yuma's Helping Hands.

Trustees Report: No Report.

Evangelism Report: Esther Foster stated that Evangelism is everyone's responsibility not just committee members. Newcomers should be greeted and homebound contacted. Kelly has a program that can monitor church visitations. If given the information, she can input it and then generate reports. Under Evangelism advertising, we donate to Crossroads Mission as a budgeted item. As a thank you for our support, they will put our logo and information on their truck. Kelly has a copy of what this will look like. A request was received from the Yuma Visitor Center to include Shepherd in their visitor information at a cost of \$150 annually. The Evangelism Committee recommended not doing this. President Jon commented that he was encouraged by Sunday's numbers this last week. Hopefully, they will continue to grow.

Stewardship Report: No Report.

Education Report: No Report.

Administrative: In the absence of Bev and Jerry Ferguson, Kelly asked for a volunteer to drop off the Crossroads and Food Bank donations. Kathy will make the deliveries. Kelly said to let her know if we want to start using the Visitor Module to track calls and visitations. Regarding memorials received, Kelly was asked by someone to be notified when a memorial is received and who made the donation. They want this information so they can send thank you cards. It was agreed that Kelly can give names but not amounts.

Old Business: A sign up sheet for the 4th of July social was passed around. Hot dogs and buns will be provided with attendees bringing side dishes and desserts. Since it is so hot and not going to get any cooler, the Social will be held directly following services around 10:30 a.m. Originally it was going to be later in the day, but weather doesn't appear to be getting any cooler by late afternoon. Jon Weeks reported that he has still not heard from the company that inspected the Church roof. Also, no word from District yet on the Bylaw revisions. Esther commented that the activity surveys are coming back slowly. The surveys will be turned over to the people who want to oversee particular activities.

New Business: None

Kathy Richardson moved to adjourn. Shannon Cady seconded. Motion passed.

President Jon adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord's Prayer.

**WE ARE SO BLESSED THAT WE
LIVE IN A COUNTRY THAT ALLOWS
US TO SAY, "ONE NATION UNDER
GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."**

"I urge...that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for...all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).



June Birthdays



THOMPSON, Marie	07/05
WAGNER, Steve	07/11
HANSEN, RJ	07/12
LUNDAHL, Dave	07/14
LIEBSACK, Madeline	07/16
SHOEMAKER, Mary	07/19
STUCKER, Barbara	07/21
KIEHL, Bob	07/29
STAUFFER, Al	07/29
LARSON, Alexander	07/31

June Anniversaries



SEARS, Sam & Ann (40)	07/04
ENGELHARDT, Bob & Winnie (4)	07/05
HOLT, Gary & Sueanne Rehill (16)	07/09
SHOEMAKER, Lynn & Mary (32)	07/09
LIEBSACK, James & Madeline (42)	07/14
SCHLOTHAUER, Don & Sandra (60)	07/19
DOCKTER, Lloyd & Karly (44)	07/30

FOOD BANK



June
\$239

SEASON TOTAL
January - December
\$1,563

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

The writer of Hebrews tells us that we are to be free from the love of money (13:5). Unfortunately, many people find that as they accumulate money they want even more. In the words of Ben Franklin, "Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. There is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of its filling a vacuum, it makes one." In our sinful state, the more money we have, the more we want. When God transforms our hearts, the more we have of God, the more we want. King David wrote, "O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you..." (Psalm 63:1).

Treasurer's Report for June 2021

General Fund

Offerings Received: \$14,172

Offerings Needed: \$20,957

-\$6,785- short

(The Offerings Needed per month is the Annual Budget divided by 12)

Fiscal Year to Date 2021

Offerings Received YTD: \$95,611

Offerings Needed YTD: \$125,742

-\$30,131- short

July 2021 at SOTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>The Tuesday Men’s Bible Study and the Wednesday & Thursday Women’s Bible Studies have been cancelled for the summer.</p>				1	2	3
				Church Office Closed		
<p>4 4th of July 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am 4th of July Celebration</p> <p>Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</p>	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Online Bible Study - click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</p>	8	9	10
				Church Office Closed		
<p>11 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>9:00am – 1:00pm Pastor’s Circuit Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30am Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Online Bible Study - click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</p>	15	16	17
				Church Office Closed		
<p>18 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p>Council Meeting – Cancelled for July & August</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Adult Bible Study - cancelled</p> <p>Online Bible Study - click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</p>	22	23	24
				Church Office Closed		
<p>Pastor Stites Vacation: July 19th -August 6th</p>						
<p>25 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mite Box Collection</p>	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Adult Bible Study - cancelled</p> <p>Online Bible Study - click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</p>	29	30	31
				Church Office Closed		
<p>Pastor Stites Vacation: July 19th -August 6th</p>						