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March 2023

Thoughts from Pastor Stites:

Those who have ears, let them hear!

Christ, our Lord, said, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." (Matt 7:24–27)

Throughout the season of Lent, we are looking at the teachings of Christ; the parables during the midweek services, and His more straight-forward teachings in the Gospel of John on Sundays. Are you truly listening? Or are you passively hearing, while your mind is elsewhere?

Jesus compares this to building a house upon different foundations. In contrast to the Three Little Pigs, it's not the structure itself that is stable or unstable, but the very ground upon which you build. Doesn't matter how strong your building is, that is your faith, your life, your perspective on life, if you build your house on sand, on something that is not solid, or not real, your house will not stand when the storms of life and the assaults of the devil come. Only if you build firmly upon Christ, upon His Word, upon His death and resurrection will you be able to survive anything the world throws at you.

But we face many struggles today. Many simply do not listen; they don't come to Church, or come to Bible Study, they don't even have a regular devotion. Of those that do come, how many are distracted by life's worries or life's pleasures to pay attention even when God's Word is proclaimed? And those that hear the Word clearly, how many stand in judgment of others, wishing THEY would have heard the sermon, while they fail to apply it to their own lives? How many are just hearers of God's Word, and not doers?

How strong is your foundation? How well do you hear the Word of God, and how well do you carry it out? Throughout this Lententide, heed Christ's call to hear, to understand, to grow in faith, to obey His Word and carry out His will in Your daily life. Not only will you be able to withstand the storms of the world and the assaults of the devil, you may be able to help shelter others through the storm, that they too may stand upon the rock of our salvation.

"For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken." (Ps 62:5–6)

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



Online Services & Bible Studies

Sunday's Services and Bible Studies are available on our YouTube Channel. Just click on the following link: [Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page](#) or search "Shepherd of the Hills Yuma" on YouTube.

EARS TO HEAR THE PARABLES OF JESUS



Lent Services:

Every Wednesday through March 29th
Services are at 11:00am & 7:00pm



Women's Bible Studies

Wednesday, March 1st @ 7:30am at Goldie-Anne Engel's*
Thursday, March 9th @ 9:30am at Pat Stewart's*
Wednesday, March 15th @ 7:30am at Karly Dockter's*
Thursday, March 23rd @ 9:30am @ Joyce Viether's*



LWML Zone 25 Spring Celebration

SOTH is hosting the LWML Zone 25 Spring Celebration on Saturday, March 25th. All women are welcome. The registration is \$5. Registration and Breakfast is at 8:30. The theme is "Your Life Reflects your Heart" taken from Pv. 27:19. Please see the LWML page for more details.



"Dementia, Alzheimer's & Caregiving"

The Health Ministry Committee of Christ Lutheran Church is sponsoring a seminar on "Dementia, Alzheimer's & Caregiving". The speakers are: Dr. Ricky Ochoa, Family Practice & Carol Brown from WACOG. Everyone is invited to attend and invite you friends and neighbors!

Saturday, March 25th @ 10:00am
Christ Lutheran Church (in the Sanctuary)
2555 S. Engler Ave., Yuma



Voters' Meeting

Sunday, March 26th @ 10:30am (following the service)



Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday's @ 6:00pm (5:45pm during Lent) in the sanctuary.
Please join us in serving the Lord by creating a "joyful noise".
No tryouts necessary!





Our next meeting is March 8th @ 12:00pm.



Thank you to everyone that served on the committee and those that attended The Sweetheart and Singles dinner.



Carol Rice has made and donated two beautiful quilts to use for a Quilt Drawing. They are hanging in the fellowship hall above the refreshment table. The tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The drawing will be held at our April LWML meeting on April 12, 2023. See Sharie for tickets. Proceeds from the drawing will go towards purchasing materials needed for Quilting for Charities and Pillowcase Dresses.



The collection of stuffed animals, coloring books and crayons for "What's Your 80" ended on February 15th. Thank you to everyone who has supported these donations. The **38** stuffed animals will be given to local police and fire organizations, **80** color books and crayons to Yuma Lutheran School and **80** adult coloring books and color pencils to dialysis clinics in Yuma.

The "What's your 80" donation campaign was in celebration of LWML's 80th Anniversary.



LWML Spring Celebration



March 25, 2023

Shepherd of the Hills-Yuma

11201 E 38th Pl

Registration \$5 and breakfast at 8:30 AM

"Your Life Reflects Your Heart"

PV 27:19 As water reflects the face so one's life reflects the heart.

Speaker-Saguaro Foundation of Yuma

Ingathering of men's (M-3X) and women's (M- XL) underwear, Hygiene supplies and activity supplies

SOTH is hosting the LWML Zone 25 Spring Celebration on Saturday, March 25th. All women are welcome. The registration is \$5. Registration and Breakfast is at 8:30. The theme is "Your Life Reflects your Heart" taken from Pv. 27:19.

Saguaro Foundation of Yuma will be our guest speaker at 12:30 PM. **Anyone interested in hearing their presentation of the services** they provide in Yuma are welcome to attend. I'm sure some of you have seen their buses in our area. Now you have the chance to find out more of what they do for less fortunate people in our community.

We are doing an ingathering on that day of men's and women's underwear, hygiene products, and activity items. These items will be given to the Saguaro Foundation along with a monetary collection on the day of the event.

Quilting for Charities will be coming to an end for this season in a couple weeks. We thank everyone that has made quilt tops, tied quilts, donated fabrics, sheets etc. or helped in any way.

Sharie Jasper



Sweethearts & Singles Dinner

February 11th, 2023





SOTH Evangelism News



Easy Evangelism:

Let's say you are sitting on an airplane next to a nervous passenger. Break the ice with a question and a kind word. You can then tell the person that they need not worry, you have already said a prayer for a safe flight (or whatever the circumstance) and "we're going to be just fine". This can turn into a nice chat and perhaps more opportunities to share faith. If not, nothing lost.



Queen Size



Full Size

During the month of March, we will be collecting new and lightly used sheets (queen or full sized) for Right Turn for Veterans of Yuma. Thanking you in advance!

If you are donating lightly used sheets, please put them in a bag and mark the size on the outside.

The SOTH Evangelism Team



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Lent is a time of reflection. It is the sometimes painful period before the Easter joy. A time when Christians examine their relationship with the Savior and seek to change their heart to more resemble the heart of God.

On the surface, this does not appear to have any connection to stewardship, but it does. At the core of a good “stewardship congregation” is the belief that everything we have—whether it be time, talent, or treasure—is a gift from God, and we are called to give back a portion of these gifts in gratitude. We give because we are grateful for what we have been given.

This basic belief brings joy to my heart. The joy of stewardship. I am sure you were not expecting to see the word “joy” in conjunction with the word “stewardship.” And while I am thoroughly capable of being sneaky and slipping in a good word about stewardship, I did not have to this time! It just fits in naturally with the Lenten season.

The joy of stewardship creates in us the “need” to give. Not the need to give to pay for a parking lot or to replace HVACs or renovate the kitchen, but because our new heart leads us to give as we grow in Christ.

A change of heart. Just like Lent is a time when we grow closer to our Lord as we follow His journey to the cross, when our hearts become more like the heart of our God, stewardship also naturally follows a change of heart.

Stewardship is not about fund-raising. At least that is not what it means to me.



Stewardship is about *faith-raising*. As we walk with our Lord and realize what He has done for us and continues to do for us, time, talent and treasure will just naturally flow out of us. The needs of the church will be met, the needs of the community will be attended to, people will see and feel the love of Christ through us and our changed hearts will call more people to Jesus. Lent and stewardship. A natural couple; a perfect duet; in perfect harmony.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Shannon Cady – Stewardship

Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the
FREE mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "[Instant Church Directory](#)" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need help or have questions?

Please contact: Kelly Hinrichs @ 928-345-9694



Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](#).

If you would like to print the directory yourself, please contact the church office and we will send it to you in a PDF that is password protected.



Thank you to Kathy Richardson, Sue Cairns and Sharie Jasper for helping with the picture taking and proof reading of our new digital photo directory!
Kelly Hinrichs

To be reviewed and approved at the Council Meeting in March.
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
February 21, 2023

Attendees: Jon Weeks, Pastor Stites, Dick Koppe, Kelly Hinrichs, Shannon Cady, Kathy Richardson, Pete Dryer, Brad Erickson, Barbara Koppe, Donna Urquhart

President Weeks called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the January 17, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Dick Koppe moved to accept the Minutes. Shannon Cady seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for January 2023 was presented. Kelly noted that there were no unusual items to report. Pete Dryer moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2023. Brad Erickson seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor confirmed that the three Yuma pastors will be switching pulpits during Lent. Pastor Stites will lead the 11:00 a.m. service at SOTH and show the sermon on the screen in the Fellowship Hall. The other pastors will be in attendance and lead the 7:00 p.m. services. There are some concerns on how this will be accepted. Otherwise, Pastor Stites is continuing preparation for the rest of Lent.

President's Report: President Jon reported that due to a conflict Pastor has with a Winkel meeting on March 14, 2023, the Council meeting will be moved to March 21 and the Voters' Meeting to March 26, 2023. A two-week notice for the Voters' Meeting will be in the Sunday bulletin.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Elders Report: Dick Koppe stated that the Elders have made an additional 35+ calls to members to find out the status of their membership. Synodical Convention this summer was discussed. The ballot must be submitted by February 28, 2023. Pastor had no recommendation for the ballot. Discussion followed on raising and lowering the US flag on Sundays. Pete will ask Larry Lee if he would take on this service. Dick will call the Engels about serving during Lent.

Trustees Report: Pete Dryer reviewed maintenance items he handled since the January meeting. A copy of Pete's report is on file. Alabaster Cleaning should be coming to clean at night. Pete will double check with them on this. Regarding a new church sign, Pete is still waiting for call backs from Penn Sign and Sign Masters. There are also concerns about the size, etc. of the sign since the Church is in a residential zone.

Evangelism Report: Barb Koppe said that the committee will continue with sending out Birthday/ Anniversary/ Special cards and Donna is in charge of this. Marcia talked to Crossroads Mission about our continuing to collect toilet paper rolls and empty pill bottles. Crossroads indicated that they still need these items and really appreciate our ongoing support. Next month's Evangelism activity will be to benefit Right Turn for Veterans and is to collect new and slightly used sheets. The sheets are given out when residents move on to their own apartments.

Stewardship Report: No report.

Administrative: Kelly reported that the directory is going well. Forty-Five people have downloaded the app and four have requested printed copies. She has gotten a lot of feedback that people like the new online Directory. Having wheelchairs available for members to borrow when needed was discussed.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

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

Jon Weeks adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord's Prayer.

March Birthdays



HINRICHS, Paul	03/02
KURTZ, Cathy	03/07
SCHLOTHAUER, Don	03/07
HALL, Thomas	03/08
MOSLEY, Don	03/08
HALL, Karen	03/13
APPELDOORN, Pat	03/17
JUNGERS, John	03/17
GRAHAM, Debbie	03/22
NOSKA, Bob	03/22
KLEVER, Gus	03/23
PETERS, Lynda	03/30

March Anniversaries



RICHARDSON, Cal & Kathy (34)	03/18
PETERSON, Reynoir & PEUGH, Diane (12)	03/19
HINRICHS, Paul & Kelly (33)	03/31



FOOD BANK

February
\$201

SEASON TOTAL
January - December
\$489

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

In the Parable of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1-13), the master fired his steward or manager, because he was not doing a good job. The steward was not being responsible or was mismanaging his master's money so he was discharged from his duties. This leads to the question for us: Are we faithfully managing God's possessions? Are we demonstrating our faithfulness by living for and serving God? Jesus ends this parable with the words "No servant can serve two masters..." For most of us the ultimate question is "Are we living for worldly things or are we serving God?"

Treasurer's Report for February 2023

General Fund

Offerings Received: \$18,459

Offerings Needed: \$21,458

\$2,999 - short

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

Fiscal Year to Date 2023

Offerings Received YTD: \$39,198

Offerings Needed YTD: \$42,916

\$3,718- short

March 2023 at SOTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday's Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube			Wednesday's Online Bible Study – click on following link: Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube			
			1 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Goldie-Anne Engel's 9:30am Adult Bible Study 11:00am Midweek Lent Service 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Midweek Lent Service	2	3	4
5 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	6 9:00am Quilting for Charities 9:00am Pillowcase Dresses	7 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Elder's Mtg	8 9:30am Adult Bible Study 11:00am Midweek Lent Service 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Midweek Lent Service	9 9:30am Women's Bible Study @ Pat Stewart's	10	11
12 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	13 9:00am Quilting for Charities 9:00am Pillowcase Dresses	14 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Pastor Circuit Mtg. @ SOTH	15 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Karly Dockter's 9:30am Adult Bible Study 11:00am Midweek Lent Service 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Midweek Lent Service	16	17	18
19 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	20 9:00am Quilting for Charities 9:00am Pillowcase Dresses	21 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Council Mtg.	22 9:30am Adult Bible Study 11:00am Midweek Lent Service 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Midweek Lent Service	23 9:30am Women's Bible Study @ Joyce Viether's	24	25 8:30am LWML Zone 25 Spring Celebration
26 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Voters' Meeting 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards Mite Box Collection	27 9:00am Quilting for Charities 9:00am Pillowcase Dresses	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study	29 9:30am Adult Bible Study 11:00am Midweek Lent Service 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal - Cancelled today only 7:00pm Midweek Lent Service	30	31	