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June  
2023

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## *Thoughts from Pastor Stites:*

### To sit at His feet and listen ...

Since the beginning of the Church year, we have gathered to hear about the life of Christ. We celebrated His birth at Bethlehem, we mourned at the foot of the cross, and rejoiced with His glorious resurrection. But now we enter the long, long, LLLOOONNNGGG Pentecost season, a.k.a. the “green season” (because of the paraments). What are we celebrating?

I am reminded of the story of Mary and Martha from **Luke 10:38-42**, when Jesus came to their house. Martha was busy being the host, preparing food, cleaning, etc., while Mary was sitting with the rest of the guests at Jesus’ feet, listening. It’s easy to forget that the majority of the time Jesus was simply teaching the crowds, not performing miracles. In fact, the miracles were in part to grab people’s attention so they would LISTEN to Jesus. After all, He is not called Rabbi (which means teacher) for nothing!

Jesus actually praises Mary for choosing to listen to Jesus as opposed to doing all the household chores. But hear again what Jesus said to Martha, “Martha, Martha, **you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary**. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:41–42) In the midst of the constant chaos of mortal life, all the things that worry us, all the things we try to control, how often do we take the time to stop and listen to God?

That is what this time of year is for, the first half we celebrate the LIFE of Christ, this second half, we are to sit at the feet of Christ and listen to His teaching. So we do focus on His lessons on the Law, the Parables, and His instructions for us. But we also turn to God’s teachings in the Epistles of the New Testament, as well as the lessons throughout the Old Testament, as Christ teaches us how we ought to live in our new life of faith that He won for us through His life, death and resurrection. We will even explore the life and challenges of the saints throughout history, so that we may be inspired to follow in their footsteps.

So in the midst of all that would make you anxious and overwhelmed, I invite you to come and sit at the feet of Christ, and to hear Him speak to us. When we find ourselves overwhelmed with the troubles and challenges of life, the last thing we should do is stay away from Church so that we can get some work done. Those are the very times we NEED to stop, put all things into God’s loving hands in prayer, and listen to Him.

Do not grow weary of the Pentecost season, rather be eager to come and listen to our Rabbi. Amen.

*Pastor Jonathan Stites*

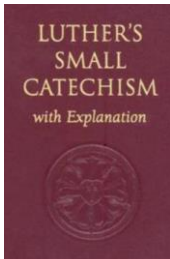
# Announcements & Upcoming Events

\*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\*



## 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.



## New Online Study: A Review of Luther's Small Catechism

Available online every Saturday by 6:00am and can be accessed by clicking on this link: [Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page](#) or search "Shepherd of the Hills Yuma" on YouTube.



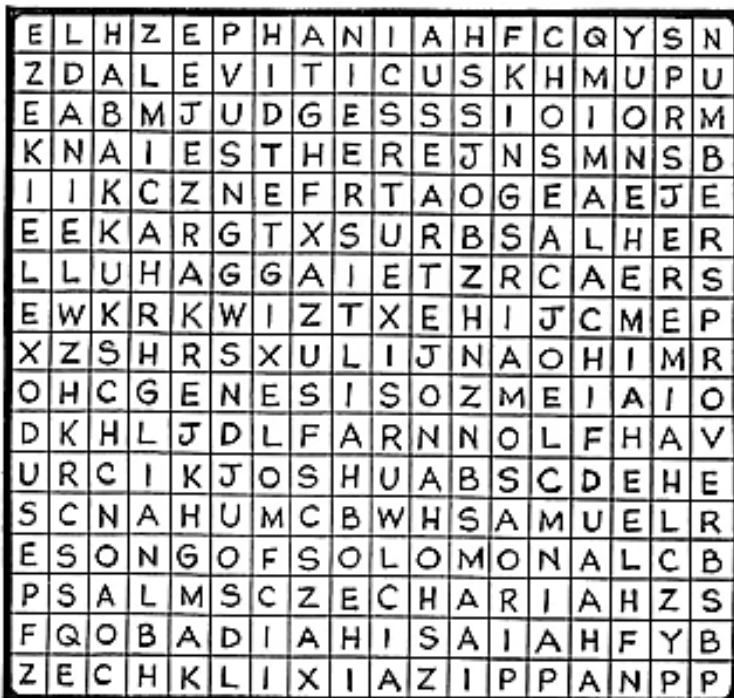
## Women's Bible Studies

Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30am at Karly Dockter's\*

Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:30am at Esther Foster's\*

## ~ OLD TESTAMENT WORDSEARCH ~

Can you find all the books of the Old Testament here?



GENESIS  
EXODUS  
LEVITICUS  
NUMBERS  
DEUTERONOMY  
JOSHUA  
JUDGES  
RUTH  
1 & 2 SAMUEL  
1 & 2 KINGS  
1 & 2 CHRONICLES  
EZRA  
NEHEMIAH

ESTHER  
JOB  
PSALMS  
PROVERBS  
ECCLESIASTES  
SONG OF  
SOLOMON  
ISAIAH  
JEREMIAH  
LAMENTATIONS  
EZEKIEL  
DANIEL  
HOSEA

JOEL  
AMOS  
OBADIAH  
JONAH  
MICAH  
NAHUM  
HABAKKUK  
ZEPHANIAH  
HAGGAI  
ZECHARIAH  
MALACHI





**We held our end of season LWML potluck on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.**



**Sharie Jasper & Esther Foster delivered quilts to Saguaro Foundation.**





## *SOTH Evangelism News*



### **Easy Evangelism:**

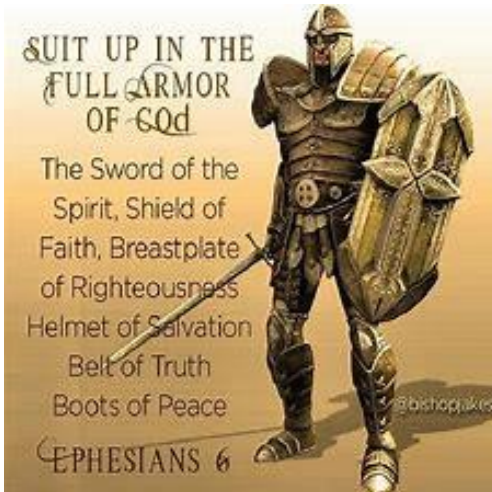
Let your light shine. When you believe in God and count the many blessings he has given you, you are a happy Christian. I know Christians who are positive, happy and spirit-filled. People know there is something special about them and are drawn to their joy and happiness. This is a great way to let your faith show.

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Thank you so much for your support and donations of hygiene products for Right Turn for Yuma Veterans. Your donations are greatly appreciated!





## STEWARDSHIP: SOLDIERS FOR CHRIST

I was reading a book about D-Day, June 6, 1944. Numerous books have been written about this massive battle engineered by the Allies to invade France and take it back from Hitler's Germany. It appeared to be an impossible undertaking. The selfless service of these "boys" truly overwhelms your sensibilities. Could I be that brave? Could I sacrifice my life for people I did not even know? In fact, for generations that did not even exist? We are told that the church thrives during periods of persecution. As God's steward, I am to faithfully manage His earth and His people on earth. While not succumbing to the world's sinful ways, I am to protect the land

and the people residing in it. Bringing them the Gospel, telling them of the freedom available to them in Christ Jesus. I often fear I would be found lacking. But. . . I also do not think I could deny my Lord and Savior. And I know I would be given the strength to hold firm.

How can this be? Because we, as believers in the redeeming grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, are armed and ready. We wear the armor of God. Paul warns us in Ephesians 6 that our struggle, unlike that of the heroes of World War II, are not "against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

We stand firm "having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace." We have the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

We are better prepared for battle than any army that ever existed on this earth. We also have the greatest message and can offer the greatest reward. We offer the gift of salvation and life eternal with the Lord.

So this June 6, I will pray for the soldiers who sacrificed all for us. I will pray for the strength of God's people to cling to their faith, and I will praise the Lord for allowing me to live in a country where I can pray, and speak, and work in freedom.

The country pulled together in World War II. The leader of our country, Franklin D. Roosevelt, was a strong patriot and a man of faith. Here is his prayer for the country on June 6, 1944:

*Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor...to set free a suffering humanity,  
Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.*

*They will need Thy blessings.....They will be sore[ly] tried, by night and by day, without rest—until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men’s souls will be shaken with the violence of war.*

*For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and for tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.*

*Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom. And for us at home—fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas—whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them—help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice. . . . .*

*Thy will be done, Almighty God.*

*Amen.*

A soldier for Christ. Armed and ready to do battle. May I be refreshed and renewed each day to be a better steward of God’s gifts to me. His Holy name be praised.

Soli Deo Gloria

*Shannon Cady – Stewardship*

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I moved into a nursing home in Durand, Ill.

I want to thank each and every one of you who has touched my heart for accepting me into your church family and for all the prayers along the way and also for all the goodbyes and well wishes. I will miss you all and we will see each other again someday.

Love you all,

Joyce Bieber

**To be reviewed and approved at the Council Meeting in June.**

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
May 16, 2023**

Attendees: Jon Weeks, Pastor Stites, Dick Koppe, Sharie Jasper, Kelly Hinrichs, Shannon Cady, Kathy Richardson, Barbara Koppe

President Weeks called the meeting to order at 9:57 a.m.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the March 21, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Dick Koppe moved to accept the Minutes. Shannon Cady seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for March 2023 was presented. Sharie stated that there were no significant items to review. Kelly noted that the Memorial Funds still need to be moved to the Organ Fund as approved by family members. Shannon Cady moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2023. Kathy Richardson seconded. Motion carried. The April 2023 report was reviewed. Dick Koppe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for April 2023. Shannon Cady seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor stated that he has started an online study on LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM. It seems to be having a positive review. Council discussed the use of Online classes during the COVID shutdown and maybe now was the time to hold more in person studies with the hopes of bringing in new members.

President's Report: No report.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Elders Report: Dick Koppe reported that the departure of Winter visitors included a number of the Elders. Even so 31 plus calls were made to members.

Trustees Report: In Pete Dryer's absence, Kelly Hinrichs presented his report, copy attached. The new Attendance cards previously discussed were ordered and received. During the summer, cleaning services have been reduced to twice a month. Kelly will clean on alternate weeks. Safeline is going to redo the parking lot in areas that were not properly done their first-time round. A wheelchair has been donated by a member and is now by the sound booth in Church. The May 8 meeting with John Andres and a commercial realtor was reviewed. SOTH is currently insured for \$1.2 million but this would probably not cover replacement in case of disaster. They will respond with an updated value.

Evangelism Report: Barb Koppe reported that the Evangelism Committee is finishing with Right Turn for Veterans hygiene items collection. The committee will be discussing ways to reach out to our community and also ways for members to get better acquainted.

Stewardship Report: No report.

Administrative: Kelly ordered \$100 of funeral bulletin covers. Joyce Bieber's family is having a yard sale this week. Leftovers will be given to the church for the LWML annual yard sale. Accounting for In Kind Donations was discussed. Kelly's Vacation time was also discussed.

Old Business: None

New Business: Sharie Jasper stated that she will be gone for the June 18th Sunday service. Kelly will play the taped hymns.

Sharie Jasper moved to adjourn. Shannon Cady seconded, and motion carried. Jon Weeks adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord's Prayer.

### June Birthdays



ENGEL, Larry	06/02
FOSTER, Em	06/02
POTTER, Alice	06/02
RICHARDSON, Cal	06/03
BIEBER, Joyce	06/08
MUELLER, Tom	06/08
ANDERSON, Sharon	06/10
ERICKSON, Tom	06/10
CAPPLEMAN, Dawn	06/11
SPANNO, Donna	06/13
STITES, Theresa	06/13
FOSTER, Esther	06/23
YELLAND, Michael	06/23
ZEISS, Judy	06/23
JONES, Paul	06/28

### Stewardship Corner

*"If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me,"* Jesus declared (Matthew 16:24). The Christian steward taking up his cross is ridiculed by the world, just as his Savior was. The world hated Christ, and the world will hate His followers (John 15:18-19). Still, we are filled with His Spirit, and, equipped with His gifts and renewed in our minds, we joyfully take up the cross He gives us. The cross, rather than being an agent of death, frees us – frees us to serve, to give, to sacrifice willingly and freely. Like our Savior on Whom we fix our eyes, we endure any hardship or discomfort for the joy that lies before us as we surrender our wills to the perfect will of our Father in Heaven (Hebrews 12:2).



### June Anniversaries

APPELDOORN, Ron & Pat (58)	06/01
HEISTAD, Myron & Diana (53)	06/06
DRYER, Pete & Joyce (55)	06/15
MUELLER, Tom & Judy (50)	06/16
ERICKSON, Tom & Sandy (65)	06/21



### FOOD BANK

May  
\$144

SEASON TOTAL  
January - December  
\$1340

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

### Treasurer's Report for May 2023

#### General Fund

Offerings Received: \$12,481

Offerings Needed: \$21,458

**\$8,977 - short**

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

#### **Fiscal Year to Date 2023**

Offerings Received YTD: \$95,247

Offerings Needed YTD: \$107,290

**\$12,043- short**



## June 2023 at SOTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday's Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</a>			Wednesday's Online Bible Study – click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube</a>			
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	5	<b>6</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>7</b> 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Karly Dockter's 9:30am Adult Bible Study	8	9	10
<b>11</b> 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship  5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	12	<b>13</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>14</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study	15	16	17
<b>18 Father's Day</b> 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship  5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	19	<b>20</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Council Mtg. <b>Cancelled, will meet in July</b>	<b>21</b> 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Esther Foster's 9:30am Adult Bible Study	22	23	24
<b>25</b> 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship  5:00pm Sunday Night Cards <b>Mite Box Collection</b>	26	<b>27</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>28</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study	29	30	