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August  
2023

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### *Thoughts from Pastor Stites:*

#### **This I know, that God is for me!**

**Psalm 56** is a wonderful prayer and statement of faith. It begins with a cry for mercy because enemies oppress us. Now, this could be seen as an enemy in war, a conquering and oppressive foreign nation, individual enemies that continually sin against us, which are all part of the suffering in this fallen world, we could also see it as those who war against God and His Church. But if you take a step back, even when you do not have a visible enemy, but as you endure dark and difficult times like unemployment, loneliness, depression, etc., we cry out to God for help!

This is where the psalm changes tone, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?” (Ps 56:3–4) In the midst of difficult times, in the face of an enemy, we are to put our trust in God! It is first and foremost a reminder to us; we who easily forget the power and love of God in the midst of darkness, we NEED to be reminded that we can, and that we should be always trusting in God.

But even more, it is a battle cry, it is our song of defiance against the evil around us. In the face of great difficulty or dark times, when we face an enemy who wants to sin against us, when the devil himself wants to fill us with fear and despair, we cry out, “In God I trust, I shall not be afraid!”

The reason we can say this is because of the key line in verse 9, “This I know, *that God is for me.*” That is why we cry out to God, that is why we can be defiant against the sin and darkness of the world around us, God is on our side. This is made even more glorious because we admit that we too are sinful, that we do not deserve God to be on our side. But He chose to love us, to love us more than we could ever hate Him. And so, He came in our flesh, in order to live, die and rise again to save us from our own sin as well as the sin of the world, from the death we deserve and the death others would impose, to save us from the great enemy of the devil. God is for us because He has already saved us!

As Paul said in Romans 8:31-39, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The next time you are facing difficult times, learn to pray Psalm 56. And do not be afraid, rather boldly say, “This I know, that God is for me!”

*Pastor Jonathan Stites*

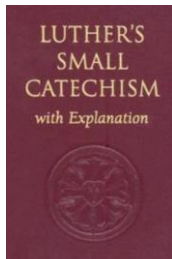
# Announcements & Upcoming Events

\*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.



## Online Study continued: 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, August 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30am at Em Foster's\*

Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30am at Kathy Richardson's\*

The Answer Key is on the bottom of the Evangelism page.

## Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 238

Matt. 5:9-19

S	E	V	I	G	S	W	S	K	A	E	R	B	I	N
E	G	T	S	A	E	L	O	N	E	D	D	I	H	C
H	Y	L	E	S	L	A	F	R	F	O	R	M	A	Y
C	F	A	T	H	E	R	J	O	L	R	O	L	T	E
A	T	S	E	L	L	A	M	S	E	D	L	L	L	P
E	L	O	N	G	E	R	Y	W	G	E	A	P	R	H
T	T	H	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	S	O	O	P	S
G	R	E	A	T	O	R	I	E	S	E	P	G	R	I
R	L	A	P	T	D	K	R	D	P	H	E	O	A	L
E	E	V	M	D	L	E	H	T	E	P	I	D	I	O
J	T	E	A	P	H	U	L	T	H	S	A	N	S	B
O	T	N	L	T	L	O	S	I	U	R	S	S	E	A
I	E	U	I	R	S	E	T	N	G	R	O	E	I	R
C	R	E	E	G	L	A	D	N	I	H	T	W	L	D
E	N	F	U	L	F	I	L	L	G	T	T	H	N	B

## Beatitudes2

BREAKS	ABOLISH
CALLED	BLESSED
DEEDS	COMMANDS
FULFILL	DISAPPEAR
GIVES	FALSELY
GLAD	FATHER
GREAT	HEAVEN
INSULT	HIDDEN
LAMP	KINGDOM
LEAST	LONGER
LETTER	NEITHER
LIGHT	PROPHETS
PEOPLE	REJOICE
PRAISE	REWARD
SALTY	SMALLEST
SHINE	TEACHES
TRUTH	THROWN
WORLD	TRAMPLED

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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MORE PUZZLES AT:  
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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## **LWML**

### **Calendar of events: 2023-2024**

September 4 - Labor Day Potluck 1 PM  
September 13 - First LWML meeting 11 AM fellowship Hall  
October 11 - LWML meeting 11 AM  
October 21 - Fall Celebration at Holtville  
October 22 - LWML Sunday  
November 4 - LWML Craft and Bake Sale 9 AM-1 PM  
November 8 - LWML meeting 11 AM fellowship hall  
November 23 - Thanksgiving  
December 13 - LWML meeting  
December 9 – LWML Christmas luncheon  
January 10, 2024 - LWML meeting 11 AM fellowship hall  
January 12-13 - Yard Sale 7 AM-12 PM  
February 10 - Sweethearts and Singles Dinner- Sharie Jasper-chairman  
5 PM-appetizers 6 PM-dinner  
February 14 - LWML meeting fellowship Hall  
February 14 - Ash Wednesday  
March 13 - LWML meeting Fellowship Hall  
March ? – Zone 25 Spring Celebration  
March 31 - Easter Brunch-Em Foster, Kathy Richardson, Bev Ferguson  
April 10 - LWML meeting 11 AM fellowship hall  
May 5 - End of season Pot-luck and election of officers. Em Foster home  
June 7-9 2024 Rosemead, CA PSD LWML District Convention

Women's Bible study - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 7:30 AM in member's homes  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 9:30 AM. Starting Date TBD

Quilting for charities - Monday mornings at 9 AM beginning 10/9/23.

Pillowcase Dresses - TBD



## SOTH Evangelism News



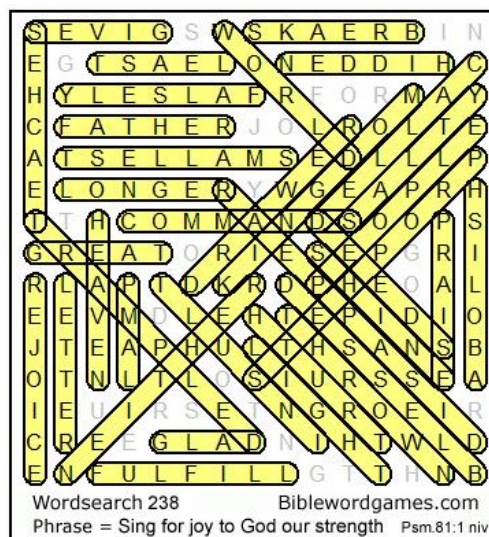
### Easy Evangelism:

What is the purpose of an apple tree? Think about it – most people say “to make apples”. Actually, apple trees are here to make more apple trees. The apples are a method of seed distribution. Please think of yourselves as apples – your job is to spread the seeds of Christianity!!! You may never know if the “seeds” you spread will flourish. However, some, if not all of those seeds will bear fruit.

Our God gave us the gift of Eternal Life, through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, that we might accept His gift and dwell with Him forever in a world without sin, that is the big picture. All He asks of us is that we Believe in Him and accept His gift of eternal life.

Our mission here in this sinful world is to believe in and worship our creator and to spread the news of His gifts. This is little enough to ask of us, so ask yourselves how YOU can be an “Apple”. Tell others how great HE is.

The Answer Key for the  
wordsearch on the  
announcement page.





# July 4<sup>th</sup> @ SOTH





The purpose of this newsletter is to share God's Word so that our members will better understand who we are to be and what we are to do in the light of the Scriptures. It is our hope that this monthly publication will help you grow in your relationship with the Lord and as a Christian steward.

### **Giving Millions for the Lord's Work**

Many years ago, a young man of sixteen years left home to seek his fortune. All his worldly possessions were tied up in a bundle, which he carried in his hand. As he trudged along, he met an old neighbor, the captain of a canal-boat, and the following conversation took place, which changed the boy's life.

"Well, William, where are you going?"

"I don't know," he answered. "Father is too poor to keep me at home any longer and says I must now make a living for myself."

"There's no trouble about that," said the captain. "Be sure you start right, and you'll do well."

William told his friend that the only trade he knew anything about was soap and candle making, at which he had helped his father while at home.

"Well," said the old man, "let me pray with you once more and give you a little advice, and then I will let you go."

They both knelt down, and the dear old man prayed earnestly for William and then gave this advice: "Someone will soon be the leading soap-maker in New York. It can be you as well as anyone. I hope it may. Be a good man; give your heart to Christ; pay the Lord all that belongs to Him of every dollar you earn; make an honest soap; give a full pound, and I am certain you yet will be a prosperous and rich man."



When the boy arrived in the city, he found it hard to get work. Lonesome and far from home, he remembered his mother's words and the last words of the canal-boat captain. He was then led to "*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*" (Matthew 6:33). He remembered his promise to the old captain that the first dollar he earned brought up the question of the Lord's part. In the Bible, he found that God commanded His people to give one-tenth; so, he said, "If the Lord will take one-tenth, I will give that." And so, he did; and ten cents of every dollar were sacred to the Lord.

He found regular employment and soon became a partner; after a few years his partners died, and William became the sole owner of the business.

He now resolved to keep his promise to the old captain; he made an honest soap, gave a full pound, and instructed his bookkeeper to open an account with the Lord, and carry one-tenth of all his income to that account. He prospered; his business grew; his family was blessed; his soap sold, and he grew rich faster than he had ever hoped. He then gave two-tenths, and prospered more than ever. Then he gave three-tenths, then four-tenths, then five-tenths.

He educated his family, settled all his plans for life, and gave all his income to the Lord's work. He prospered more than ever.

This is the story of Mr. William Colgate, who has given millions of dollars to the Lord's cause and left a name that will never die.

Basil Miller

**Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!**



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

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**July 18, 2023**

Attendees: Jon Weeks, Pastor Stites, Dick Koppe, Sharie Jasper, Pete Dryer, Kelly Hinrichs, Shannon Cady, Kathy Richardson, Barbara Koppe, Donna Urquhart, Anthony Spano

President Weeks called the meeting to order at 9:53 a.m.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the April 25, 2023, special meeting were reviewed. Sharie Jasper moved to accept the Minutes. Shannon Cady seconded. Motion carried. Minutes from the May 16, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Dick Koppe moved to accept the Minutes. Pete Dryer seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for May 2023 was presented. After review, Pete Dryer moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2023. Shannon Cady seconded. Motion carried. On the June 2023 report, Kelly Hinrichs noted that the checking account has \$33,779.56. The Fund 70 balance of \$41,821 is earmarked for the organ fund, choir material, altar supplies. The account is also made up of proceeds from the Hanson property sale, pillowcase dresses, and the church sign. President Jon noted that we received a \$20,000 donation for the new sign and can be used for either digital or other design. Dick Koppe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for June 2023. Shannon Cady seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor said that things are working all right. Sunday Bible study and online are going well. New members will be welcomed on Sunday, August 6, 2023. Pastor had also received his 5-year evaluation by the Elders. Synodical election took place and Matthew Harrison was re-elected as president.

President's Report: Jon Weeks stated that prior to selecting a new church sign, we need to find out what the warranty will cover on a digital sign. The various sign options were discussed.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Elders Report: Dick Koppe reported that 49+ calls were made to members during the month. A productive meeting of the Elders was recently held.

Trustees Report: Pete Dryer reviewed work done around the church, copy of report attached. Pete then reported on the Morner Trust and that Shepherd of the Hills is the sole beneficiary of the Trust. Pete and Anthony Spano shared information on the Trust and their meeting with the Trust attorney, copy attached. One of the items to be taken care of is the sale of the Ram Laramie, copy of appraisal for \$45,500 attached. Shawn Garner has asked to purchase the truck for \$500 over appraised value. Sharie Jasper made a motion to allow Shawn Garner to purchase the truck for \$46,000. Shannon Cady seconded the motion. Motion carried. Following discussion on the Estate, Pete Dryer made a motion to take possession of the house and its contents with the intention to sell. Sharie Jasper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Evangelism Report: Barb Koppe reported that a letter had been received from Right Turn for Veterans profusely thanking the church for all that has been done on their behalf. The committee has several ideas for activities for outreach to the community and also fellowship with our members.

Stewardship Report: No report

Administrative: In trying to get word out on Shepherd of the Hills, Kelly asked about having a Facebook page. There is an “Unofficial” Shepherd of the Hills Facebook page that was generated by Facebook. She asked if anyone is interested in working on it. Sharie and Kathy said they would help. Alabaster Cleaning is now coming in at 4:00 p.m. on Thursdays and they are cleaning twice a month.

Old Business: Pete noted that in regard to insurance costs for the church building, we have not gotten an appraisal on the property. We probably need more coverage, but we need to get replacement costs first. Pete will work with Kelly on this.

New Business: Sharie Jasper stated that she will be out of town and not at the Sunday, August 13 service. Kelly will play the taped hymns. Kelly also said that she will be on vacation the first week of October.

Sharie Jasper moved to adjourn. Shannon Cady seconded, and motion carried. Jon Weeks adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord’s Prayer.

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

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**July 23, 2023**

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

President Weeks called the special meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Kelly Hinrichs reported that Shannon Cady had resigned her position as Stewardship Committee Chair. According to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church By-Laws, under Unexpired Terms, if a vacancy occurs, the Church Council may appoint a qualified member to the vacancy. This appointee will be presented at the next scheduled Voters Assembly for affirmation. Our next Voters Assembly will be in December. Sue Cairns has volunteered to serve in this position. Dick Koppe moved to accept Sue Cairns as Chair of the Stewardship Committee. Pete Dryer seconded, and motion was carried.

Sharie Jasper made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Barbara Koppe seconded, and motion carried. Jon Weeks adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord’s Prayer.



### August Birthdays



KUEBLER, Ervin	08/05
KOPPE, Dick	08/08
SANDERSON, Nancy	08/08
URQUHART, Donna	08/08
YELLAND, Abigail	08/08
ZEISS, Bob	08/08
WILLIAMS, Deviney	08/09
ERICKSON, Sandy	08/10
JASPER, Sharie	08/11
LOMAX, Daniel	08/13
DOCKTER, Karly	08/14
MUELLER, Judy	08/15
RICE, Carol	08/17
WILLIAMS, Ginger	08/17
KOCH, Diane	08/20
ALBERY, Sharon	08/24
WEST, Brenda	08/25
LARSON, Maria	08/26
PETERSON, Reynoir	08/27
CAIRNS, Sue	08/30



### August Anniversaries

LEE, Larry & Ann (41)	08/16
FERGUSON, Jerry & Bev (66)	08/23



### FOOD BANK

July  
\$202

SEASON TOTAL  
January - December  
\$1687

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

Through faith, we believe that our lives and blessings are gifts from God and that He blesses us with the privilege of being stewards of all that He entrusts to us. Our responsibility as stewards is to manage what we've been given to honor and please God. In his book, *The Power of Pure Stewardship*, the sainted Carl W. Berner, Sr., wrote, "The faithful God and the faithful steward working together—that's the winning combination. No one can improve on that. If a man is as faithful in his stewardship as God is in His gifts and promises, failure is impossible, success inevitable."

### Treasurer's Report for July 2023

#### General Fund

Offerings Received: \$12,277

Offerings Needed: \$21,458

**\$9,181 - short**

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

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

Offerings Received YTD: \$119,386

Offerings Needed YTD: \$150,206

**\$30,820- short**

## August 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>			
		<b>1</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Elder's Mtg.	<b>2</b> 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Em Foster's 9:30am Adult Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>9</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Council Mtg.	<b>16</b> 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Kathy Richardson's 9:30am Adult Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>23</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards <b>Mite Box Collection</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		