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September 2023

Thoughts from Pastor Stites:

Back to School!

It's that time of year (though nowadays it's in August) when children begin a new year at school; new classes, teachers, and friends. There is a joy and excitement with the beginning of a new year, but also a bit of dread at the mountain of homework that will soon come across the desk. ... At least there would be, if you were still in school. The vast majority of our congregation has been out of school for a long time, and we only live vicariously through sending our children and grandchildren to endure the hardships we had to endure long ago.

But are we ever done learning? One of the great joys in life is learning new things. Of course the top of that list should always be the Bible. As **Psalm 119:9-16** says, "*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! ... I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*"

Problem is, many people are not as ... *enthusiastic* about reading and studying Scripture as the Psalmist is. Some view Confirmation like a graduation, and do not think to come to Bible Study or Sunday School ever again. Some just get busy with life, and find it difficult to come back. Some say they will wait till a NEW study starts, but the timing doesn't work or they simply forget. Some wait for a "good time to start," like New Year's Day or the beginning of Lent, a new resolution that doesn't last long.

Well, even though you have been out of school for a time, we invite you back to school! Come to a Bible Study throughout the week, and find companionship with your fellow students of God's Word. Begin a devotion today, not tomorrow or in few months, but today. If the morning doesn't work, try an evening devotion. No matter how much or how little you know, there is still more to learn. As a Pastor, one of my greatest joys is to learn more of God's Word, and in turn share that good news with all of you.

We are all students of God's Word, we have never stopped going to school. Please join us, whether the school year has started for others or not, it can begin today with you. Come, be a life-long student of God's Word, never stop learning! School is in session, who will come?

Pastor Jonathan Stites

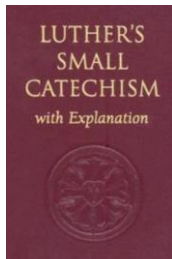
Announcements & Upcoming Events

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, September 6th @ 7:30am at Barb Koppe's*

Wednesday, September 20th @ 7:30am at Em Foster's*



Labor Day Potluck

Monday, September 4th @ 1:00pm

Bring your favorite dish to share.



LWML Meeting

Wednesday, September 13th @ 11:00am.

All ladies are invited to attend!



Thank you to everyone that helped at the Morner home. An estate auction will be held sometime in the future, TBD.



Ladies are all invited to our meeting on September 13th at 11:00am.



There will be a potluck on Labor Day,
Monday, September 4th at 1:00pm.



LWML Fall Celebration

Our Fall Celebration will be held at Holtville on October 21st. There will be the election of officers at that time. If you feel the calling to serve, let Sharie Jasper know.

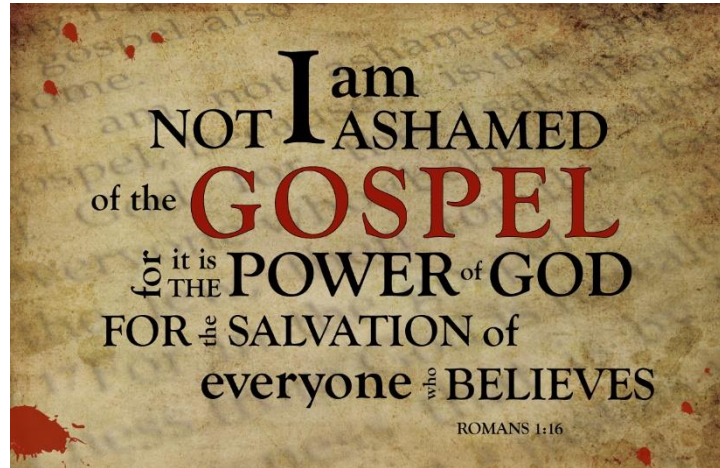


I hope you have all been busy making things for our November Craft Fair. We would love to have a variety of crafts from men and women.

Sharie Jasper



SOTH Evangelism News



Easy Evangelism:

Just Talk—Don't Debate

“Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you.” –Philippians 2:14-15

Many people are intimidated by the idea that evangelizing may involve some level of debate, but here's the surprisingly simple truth: We are called to reap a harvest of people's souls (Mark 16:15)—not debate with other religions or even other Christian denominations.

Many believers feel it's their responsibility to “defend the Lord” when they're witnessing. But our job is simply to give out His Word and to allow the Word to do the work. Remember, His Word is His power (Romans 1:16). Going beyond that by arguing and debating is a distraction and a time waster, and it should be avoided. So, don't debate! Just share the truth in love.

Welcome to the Family!

In August we welcomed
Jan Kuhl, Micah McMurrin
& Bonnie Tichenor
into our family.



Micah McMurrin, Jan Kuhl & Pastor Stites



Pete Dryer, Rob Cairns, Jan Kuhl, Pastor Stites, Micah McMurrin & Dick Koppe



Pete Dryer, Rob Cairns, Pastor Stites, Bonnie Tichenor & Dick Koppe

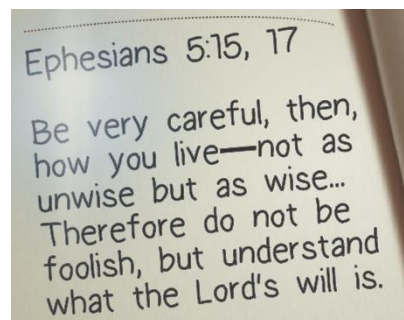


The purpose of this newsletter is to share God's Word so that our members will better understand who we are to be and what we are to do in the light of the Scriptures. It is our hope that this monthly publication will help you grow in your relationship with the Lord and as a Christian steward.

Giving Expresses our Love and Gratitude

Faithful giving is one aspect of a Christ-like character. In our giving, we emulate Jesus Who showed us what it means to love and to give. *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). Jesus gave us the greatest and most perfect gift by offering Himself on the Cross. In response to His great gift, we become "givers" rather than "takers." Giving is an expression of our love and gratitude for the Lord. In light of what God has done for us through His Son, how can we not give freely to Him?

Mature Christians who are under the control of the Holy Spirit understand the importance of giving and do so willingly and cheerfully. The Apostle Paul exhorts us *"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is"* (Ephesians 5:17). Through faith, we understand that it is God's will that we *"contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality"* (Romans 12:13). In order to reach the lost, we are encouraged to support evangelism efforts locally and throughout the world



As Christians, we live lives in thanksgiving and gratitude because of who God is and what He has done for us. *"And He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised"* (2 Corinthians 5:15). Living for Jesus, we use our time, talents, and treasures responsibly because we know that God gives us all things to glorify and serve Him. Paul put it succinctly, *"You were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body"* (1 Corinthians 6:20).

As Christians, we are in this world, but we are not of this world. We are warned not to *"love the world or things in the world"* (1 John 2:15). We are not in love with this world because, as God's children, our love is directed toward Him rather than things in the world. We love and worship the Creator, not the creation. Through our faithful giving, we demonstrate both our love for Jesus and our ability, by His grace, to break the grip that things of this world can have on us.



Inadequate as we are, God uses us as His hands, feet, and mouth. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10). We are His stewards. As redeemed people of God, we are called and equipped to render willingly the firstfruits of our lives and resources to Him.

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!

(From Ron Chewning – Stewardship Advisors)

To be reviewed and approved at the Council Meeting in September.
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
August 15, 2023

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

President Weeks called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer. Sue Cairns was then inducted to the Council as Stewardship Chair.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the July 18, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Sue Cairns moved to accept the Minutes. Dick Koppe seconded. Motion carried. Minutes from the Special Council Meeting of July 23, 2023 were reviewed. Dick Koppe moved to accept the Minutes. Barbara Koppe seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for July 2023 was presented. Kelly Hinrichs noted that \$37.37 has been received via Kroger Rewards in a five-month period. Jon reported that the Summary of Congregational Receipts for District has been received for the period ended June 30, 2023, copy attached. After review, Kathy Richardson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for July 2023. Pete Dryer seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor shared information from the 68th LCMS Synodical Convention, copy attached. The Pastors' conference will be held September 24-27, 2024, in Palm Springs.

President's Report: A question had come up from the attorney for the Morner Trust. They said that Shepherd of the Hills Church property was still under Calvary Lutheran Church. Pete and Kelly will look into this (subsequent to the Council Meeting, Kelly checked on the title of Shepherd of the Hills, and it had been transferred from Calvary to Shepherd.) Jon also mentioned building maintenance for the Church, i.e., fascia replacement, painting exterior and sealing doors were examples of items that need to be taken care of. A list of items and estimates will be garnered and then a total cost will be presented to the Voters Meeting for overall approval. Repairs won't start until the Church has funds for them which will probably be next Spring/Summer.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Elders Report: Dick Koppe reported that 32+ calls were made to members during the month. Pastor's vacation time in October was discussed and also fill-in possibilities. Dick also commented that a member was lost because we don't have a Saturday service.

Trustees Report: Pete Dryer reviewed work done around the church and for the Morner Trust, copies of report and the Affidavit of Receipt and Release on the Morner property are attached. Now that the Morner property on 25th Place has been released to the Church, the Council discussed holding an open house for members to purchase house items prior to turning the furniture, etc. to an auction company. The open house will be held sometime between August 28 - September 1. A notice will be in the Sunday bulletin when the dates and times are set. Discussion was held on moving the Church sign closer to the parking lot entrance.

Evangelism Report: No report.

Stewardship Report: No report.

Administrative: Kelly reported that the October Council meeting will be held on October 24 due to Pastor's vacation. Upcoming Council elections to be held at the Voters Meeting in December was discussed. The Nomination Committee is to be comprised of the Council Vice President, Council member, Congregation member. Up for reelection/election are the positions of President, Vice President, Trustee, Stewardship. Kelly will be on vacation October 4-10. She will put in extra hours to get work completed before and after vacation. Kelly stated that she has not yet started working on a Facebook page for the church.

Old Business: n/a

New Business: The parking lot is scheduled to be redone on the coming Monday or Tuesday. Kathy Richardson moved to adjourn. Sue Cairns seconded, and motion carried. Jon Weeks adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.
Pastor Stites led us with the Lord's Prayer.

To be reviewed and approved at the Council Meeting in September.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

August 27, 2023

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

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

Pete Dryer stated that this special meeting was called to discuss items regarding the Morner Estate. Kelly stated that jewelry was taken to Paul Bensele Jewelers for an appraisal. An appraisal of \$2,343 was received, copy attached. Bensele's offered to pay the Church \$2,343 for the jewelry, or we could try to sell ourselves. After discussion, Sharie Jasper made a motion to accept the \$2,343 offer from Paul Bensele Jewelers. Dick Koppe seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. Pete Dryer stated that he is taking the coins to Yuma Coin & Gun Shop. The issue in question is do we want to accept their offer when received or try to sell the coins on our own. After discussion, Sharie Jasper made a motion to accept the offer from Yuma Coin & Gun when received. Dick Koppe seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

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

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord's Prayer.

September Birthdays



LUNDAHL, Linda	09/01
BROWN, Joe	09/04
WHITMAN, Sylvia	09/08
ELLEDGE, Sharon	09/15
HUBER, Paul	09/17
BROOKS, Jeannie	09/19
CADGER, Sharon	09/19
PEUGH, Diane	09/22
VAUGHN, Betty	09/26
JUNGERS, Phyllis	09/30



September Anniversaries

JONES, Paul & Cheryl (56)	09/01
SPANNO, Anthony & Donna (33)	09/01
EICHELKRAUT, Ron & Barbara (56)	09/16



FOOD BANK

August
\$221

SEASON TOTAL
January - December
\$1,908

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

Who among us likes sacrifice? Do we not seek to please ourselves, to spare ourselves, to shield ourselves and those we love from pain or disappointment or failure? Unlike us, *"From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things...Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him..."* Peter loved his Lord; He didn't want Him to suffer. Our answer to the temptation to self-centeredness should echo Jesus' answer to Peter, *"Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on things of man"* (Matthew 16:21-23).

Treasurer's Report for August 2023

General Fund

Offerings Received: \$9,792

Offerings Needed: \$21,458

\$11,666 - short

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


Fiscal Year to Date 2023

Offerings Received YTD: \$129,178

Offerings Needed YTD: \$171,664

\$42,486- short

September 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	2
3 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	4  1:00pm Potluck	5 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Elder's Mtg.	6 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Barb Koppe's 9:30am Adult Bible Study	7	8	9
10 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	11	12 8:00am Men's Bible Study	13 9:30am Adult Bible Study	14	15	16
17 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	18	19 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Council Mtg.	20 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Em Foster's 9:30am Adult Bible Study	21	22	23
24 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards Mite Box Collection	25 <div style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Pastor's Conference in Palm Springs.</div>	26 8:00am Men's Bible Study - cancelled	27 9:30am Adult Bible Study - cancelled	28	29	30