

11201 East 38th Place
Yuma, AZ 85367
928-345-9694

Email:
Sothyuma@gmail.com
Website:
www.sothyuma.org



November 2023

Thoughts from Pastor Stites:

Loving Service to our Neighbor

With Thanksgiving and Christmas ahead of us, it is that time of year when people turn their hearts and minds toward others, to aid them through the holidays and the winter. Though many today do so out of some sort of obligation or guilt for being so blessed, we know the truth. As Christ said, *“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”* (Matt 25:35–40)

While the world strives to do good for a variety of reasons, for us it flows from genuine love for our neighbor. For the second greatest commandment is to *“love your neighbor as yourself.”* This flows from the greatest, *“love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”* (Matt 22:37, 39) The way we give thanks to the overwhelming love of God is by sharing that same love with all our neighbors. This time of year, we reach out to our neighbors in need, sharing the bounty of the daily bread God has given us.

Now, what better gift is there to share than the very gift of Christ Jesus, and the salvation He freely offers to all? We are not only commanded to make disciples of all nations, but we like Christ our Savior desire all people to be saved.

But it can be difficult, inviting people to Church can be overwhelming when we are afraid of being rejected, or them coming and never returning, or losing our friends, or having to answer questions we don’t know the answer to. As a result, many remain silent, and just come to Church. Is that an act of love?

Good news! Over the next couple of months, we will be having multiple events and services that will make it a little easier for guests to come to. We will be having a Friendship Sunday on November 12, inviting all to join us, as well as the upcoming Midweek Advent Services that are a little easier to enter. We have the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners; if you want people to come, feed ‘em! We also have other functions like the Craft Fair and upcoming Yard Sale which people are free to come to. And above all, we have Christmas, a time that many EXPECT to go to Church.

In many ways, the faithful have used loving acts of service as opportunities to share our faith. This year, let’s do more than just help those in need for a day, but let us truly help them, and give the greatest gift of all, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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.



Women's Bible Studies

Wednesday, November 1st @ 7:30am at Kathy Richardson's*
Thursday, November 16th @ 9:30am at Sandy Erickson's*
Wednesday, November 15th @ 7:30am at Em Foster's*
Thursday, November 30th @ 9:30am at Sandra Schlothauer's*



Our Craft and Bake Sale is **Saturday, November 4th between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** Set-up for crafts will be on Friday, November 3rd between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please price your items and bring them to the fellowship hall that Friday. Pricing in whole dollars is suggested. Helpers are needed for both days. Baked goods can be brought in on Saturday morning starting at 8:00 a.m. Small packages of 4-6 cookies per plate sell best. Pies and homemade breads also sell well. A variety of crafts and baked goods make for a successful sale. Proceeds go to local charities. Questions? Call Kathy Richardson or Sharie Jasper.



Wednesday, November 22nd @ 7:00pm



TBD

Shepherd of the Hills Polo Shirts for Sale

We still have polo shirts available on the counter (under the TV) in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$20 per shirt.



Choir Rehearsal

Tune up your voices! Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays @ 6:00pm. Please join us for singing praises to our Lord and fellowship "making a joyful noise". See Sharie Jasper for details.



Next Monthly Meeting is on November 8th @ 11:00am.



Our Craft and Bake Sale is November 4th between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Set-up for crafts will be on Friday, November 3rd between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please price your items and bring them to the fellowship hall that Friday. Pricing in whole dollars is suggested. Helpers are needed for both days. A sign-up sheet for Saturday is in the back of the church. Baked goods can be brought in on Saturday morning starting at 8:00 a.m. Small packages of 4-6 cookies per plate sell best. Pies and homemade breads also sell well. A variety of crafts and baked goods make for a successful sale. Proceeds go to local charities. Questions? See Kathy Richardson or Sharie Jasper.





SOTH Evangelism News



Easy Evangelism:

WOW! Thanksgiving will be here soon. As Christians, we are thankful for so much. We are children of the Heavenly Father, who sent His only Son to die for us. The gift of Jesus is matchless, and we are so blessed in so many ways. During times of stress or pain, I like to count my blessings, and am amazed at how long a list there is. Wouldn't it be great to pass the knowledge of this wonderful gift to those who don't know of it?

God asks us to believe in Him, accept our salvation through Jesus, and tell others. Seems simple, doesn't it? God is the only reason we have made it this far.

Marcia Nichols - Evangelism



For the month of November, our Evangelism Team will be collecting canned meals (i.e., stew, chili, spaghetti, etc.) for "Right Turn for Yuma Veterans". There is a collection box set up in the back of the sanctuary.



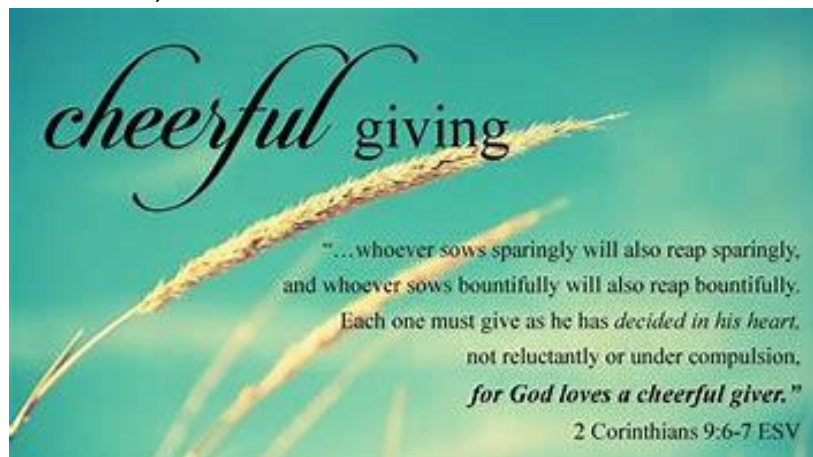
The first act of giving from a person to God in God's Word is found in Genesis 4 when Cain and Abel gave their gifts to God. Both brothers gave gifts from their profits. Cain gave some of his crops, whereas Abel gave the firstborn of his flock and of the fat portion. *"And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard"* (Genesis 4:4b-5). God viewed their gifts differently. Abel's gift pleased God and Cain's did not.

In the Hall of Faith chapter, Hebrews 11, we read, *"By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks"* (Hebrews 11:4). So why was Abel's gift more acceptable than Cain's? Abel gave a better sacrifice not because of what he brought but because of his faith that prompted his gift. His gift was acceptable because of his motive for giving. God looks at the heart of the giver. Abel loved and trusted God and gave accordingly.

We demonstrate our faithfulness through what we give. Through faith, we give acceptable gifts. Knowing Who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus, we want to thank and praise Him with gifts that are acceptable and pleasing to Him. When we give God our first and best out of thankful hearts, God is pleased to receive them.

There are gifts we can give to God that are not acceptable. When we give token amounts and only go through the motion of giving, God is not pleased. If we give to God for tax purposes, for recognition, or give only our leftovers, God is dishonored. God wants our total devotion. When He has our hearts, we will make the effort to give our first and best in gratitude for Who God is and all He has done and continues to do for us.

As sinful people, we struggle in our efforts to give acceptable gifts. Our nature is to keep rather than to give. Left to ourselves, we would limit our giving to what is leftover rather than to make giving a priority. By God's grace, we acknowledge that He is the one Who has made it possible for us to earn an income, and He is the owner of all that we have. In essence, we are merely returning to Him what



He has already given to us. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to make giving a priority and to give generously. We seek to thank and honor Him by giving our heavenly Father acceptable gifts. God gave us the most acceptable gift of all when He sent His Son to the cross for our redemption and salvation. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift"* (2 Corinthians 9:15).

(From Ron Chewning – Stewardship Advisors)

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

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

October 31, 2023

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

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

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Report of Nominating Committee: Dick Koppe reported that that Slate of Nominees to be voted on at the December 17, 2023 Voters Meeting are: President – Jon Weeks and Kris Haugh; Vice President – Karly Dockter; Secretary - Kathy Richardson; Treasurer - Sharie Jasper; Trustee - Pete Dryer; Evangelism - Marcia Nichols; Stewardship - Sue Cairns. Slate of Nominations will be posted one month prior to election. Dick Koppe moved to accept the Slate of Nominees as presented. Sharie Jasper seconded. Motion carried.

Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the Voters Meeting.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the September 19, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Sharie Jasper moved to accept the Minutes. Dick Koppe seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for September 2023 was presented. After review, Sue Cairns moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2023. Pete Dryer seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor commented that he is getting into his busy season. Thanksgiving Eve., November 22, service will be at 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Day dinner at church still needs someone to chair the dinner. Advent starts on December 3, 2023. There will be Advent services on the three Wednesdays prior to Christmas and will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year; therefore, services will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Both will be the Christmas Eve service. Christmas day service will be at 9:30 a.m. There's no need right now for two services. Pastor is also gearing up for Friendship Sunday.

President's Report: Jon Weeks suggested that on Friendship Sunday the entire congregation wear their SOTH shirts. There are several still available for purchase. Members will also be invited to wear their SOTH shirts on the second Sunday of each month. Jon then commented that we are getting close to settling the Morner Estate. Items needing attention in the Church include fascia repair, painting exterior and interior of the building. Other items include replacing the church carpet. Jon said that it is important to keep the church modernized.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Elders Report: Dick Koppe reported that 33 plus calls were made to members during the month. Dick stated that the Elders have been talking about ways to grow our membership. Mike Yelland will become an Elder in January. The addition of Mike Yelland will bring the total number of Elders to seven. Dick said a total of eight Elders is desirable.

Trustees Report: Pete Dryer presented his report, copy attached. Items include not only the Church property but the Morner estate. Pete shared correspondence between attorneys, Susan Kern Ambrosi, Margaret's daughter, and Pete. Pete and other church members will be meeting with Susan Kern Ambrosi at the Morner house on Thursday, November 2 at 9:00 a.m. and then will also go to the storage unit with her.

Evangelism Report: Marcia Nichols requested prayers for the upcoming Friendship Sunday to be a success and bring in new members. Donna Urquhart shared that we are still collecting canned meals for Right Turn for Veterans. This collection will run through November.

Stewardship Report: No report.

Administrative: Kelly asked to change her work hours from 8:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. during the winter months to 7:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. Council approved this change.

Old Business: The Annual Budget Proposal-2024 Worksheet was reviewed. Kelly noted some corrections to be made.

New Business: The Slate of Nominees will also be emailed.

Sharie Jasper moved to adjourn. 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.



On Wednesday, October 25th, Sharie Jasper and Kelly Hinrichs delivered 21 pet beds, 1 kennel & 1 pet play yard fence (which came from the Morner Estate) to the Purr Project Animal Rescue in Yuma.

Purr Project Animal Rescue's goal is to enhance the Welfare of Animals in our community through Rescue, Treatment, Spay and Neuter, and Adoption. Through Spaying & Neutering & Public Education on Ethical Pet Ownership, we are dedicated to lowering the number of Homeless Animals. All the animals in our care receive a secure and supportive environment, and we work hard to place them in devoted, Forever Homes where they may flourish. Our ultimate objective is to help as many animals as possible.



Pictured:

Sharie Jasper & Amber Joslin (Purr Project Animal Rescue)



All new members, guests & visitors are invited to be a part of our Digital Church Pictorial Directory. For more details, please speak with Kelly in the Church Office.

During the week of October 22nd our new sign was installed!

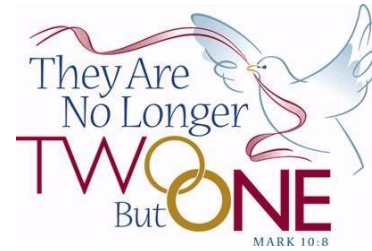
Thank you very much to all who donated, and all the hard work of our Trustees.



November Birthdays



STEWART, Dan	11/01
VAUGHN, Dale	11/01
SEARS, Ann	11/03
SCHLOTHAUER, Sandra	11/07
MICHEL, Gail	11/08
FERGUSON, Bev	11/09
WASH, Peggy	11/09
FERGUSON, Jerry	11/11
VIETHER, Walt	11/15
ERICKSON, Brad	11/21
TULP, Eugene	11/26



November Anniversaries

MICHEL, John & Gail (15)	11/15
OHLAND, Warren & Sharon (64)	11/21



FOOD BANK

October

\$140

SEASON TOTAL

January - December

\$2137

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

Have you ever questioned why God often elevates the foolish and the lowly to be His workers? A reason may be found in 1 Corinthians 1:29: *"so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."* It is only by God's grace that we are saved, called, and equipped to be in His service. If we come into God's work with impressive credentials, we risk taking the glory and credit for ourselves. God desires the weak and the lowly. As Paul said, *"Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong"* (2 Corinthians 12:9b-10). God uses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. Are you ready for duty?

Treasurer's Report for October 2023

General Fund

Offerings Received: \$15,775

Offerings Needed: \$21,459

\$5,684 - short

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

Fiscal Year to Date 2023

Offerings Received YTD: \$156,556

Offerings Needed YTD: \$214,590

\$58,034- short

November 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 @ Kathy Richardson's 9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 9:00am – 1:00pm LWML Craft & Bake Sale Set-up	4 9:00am – 1:00pm LWML Craft & Bake Sale
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	7 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00 Elders Mtg.	8 9:30am Adult Bible Study 11:00am – LWML Meeting 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 Friendship Sunday 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Friendship Potluck 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	13 9:00am Quilting for Charities	14 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am – 1:00pm Pastor's Circuit Mtg.	15 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Em Foster's 9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 9:30am Women's Bible Study @ Sandy Erickson's	17	18
19 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am LWML Breakfast 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards	20 9:00am Quilting for Charities	21 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Council Mtg.	22 9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Potluck - TBD	24	25
26 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship 5:00pm Sunday Night Cards Mite Box Collection	27 9:00am Quilting for Charities	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study	29 9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30 9:30am Women's Bible Study @ Sandra Schlothauer's		