

ROD and STAFF

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want . . . your rod and your staff — they comfort me.”

**Parish Newsletter of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Volume 46, No. 8 ☼ August 2012**



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SOTH 101 & Luncheon August 5

Trying to get a handle on what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus and an active participant in God’s mission here at Shepherd of the Hills? Do you want to learn more about the ministries here at SOTH and how your gifts and talents could be put to their best use within the congregation? Has it been some time since Confirmation and you feel like you need a refresher?

If so, then please accept a special invitation to the next “SOTH 101” gathering and luncheon to be held on Sunday, Aug. 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See Pastor Jeff or call the church office at 314-739-3222 and let us know if you would like to attend so we have a head count for lunch and sufficient materials to share. This is a great way to learn more about others who are on the faith journey and what it means to be a faithful disciple connected to SOTH.

Backpack Blessing August 12



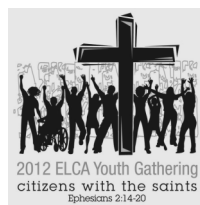
Join us for a “Blessing of the Back Packs” event on Sunday, Aug. 12 during worship. Students of all ages and teachers alike are invited to bring your back packs, book bags and brief cases forward for a special blessing to help us all enter into the 2012-2013 school year more aware of God’s gifts of grace for wisdom and learning. Invite a friend or a co-worker and let them get in on this special event. A card will be given to everyone who comes forward for the blessing. The card has a special prayer printed on it and can be kept in you back pack or brief case to remind you of God’s promise. Extra copies will be available.



Thanks to Kim Surratt and her many helpers who once again made our VBS a faithful offering.

Each evening was filled with exciting Bible adventures with a “Sky” focus.

Our mission offering connection was to collect money to buy mosquito nets for Liberian children. As of the last night, we collected enough money to buy eleven nets. After posing a challenge to the congregation on the following Sunday, enough money was collected to purchase over 40 more additional mosquito nets. Thank you!



Youth Gathering Update

More than 35,000 youth and adults attended the “Citizens with the Saints” Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 18-22. Some of their efforts included improving literacy, cleaning up the environment, and caring for the New Orleans community.

This year’s SOTH participants were Aubrey Hunter, Meagan Nalepa, Hannah Sieker, Devin Travis, and sponsors Bridget & Matt Elder. Special thanks to Sharon & Dave Elder for the use of their van as transportation for the trip and to all the generous supporters who donated money and items for the trip.

Please continue to pray for the New Orleans community as they are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. We look forward to hearing about the many stories and adventures our mission trip participants experienced during their days of discovery and growth in doing the Lord’s work.

GATHER Joyfully + GROW Deeply + GO Faithfully

Dear Friends,

What an exciting time this is for SOTH as your Call Committee begins to interview actual candidates for your next pastor! Now that I am back from vacation, I am resuming the role of intentional interim pastor, but I look forward to watching you move ahead quickly with the call process. Perhaps, with the help of the Holy Spirit, your interim period will not be much longer. One of the tasks of the interim period is to renew and strengthen relationships with the denomination and the wider church. As I pointed out in a recent sermon, SOTH is far more deeply connected to the Central States Synod, ELCA, and the world-wide church than people realize. Some of you have asked for a list of the things I spoke about in that sermon, so here it is:

- † Julie Hunter, director of music, received her musical training in church music (along with a husband!) at Bethany College, one of our ELCA colleges; and Jim Urnes, Sr., choir director, grew his love of choral music at St. Olaf College, another of our church colleges (Jim found a wife there as well!).
- † Every year SOTH sends youth to YouthQuake, an event that is put on by Youth Encounter, a ministry begun by ELCA and other Lutheran congregations. Kristin Hiltner (Elder) spent a year traveling the country with a Youth Encounter team, often performing at Lutheran Churches as well as other youth events.
- † Several times SOTH has hosted a mission team from Wartburg College, an ELCA college in Iowa, who have stayed at the church and put on a concert for us.
- † SOTH frequently sends youth to “Confircamp,” which is a ministry of several area ELCA congregations working together.
- † Several youth and adults will attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans, an event held every three years.
- † Derek Hoven, a son of the congregation, was trained to be a pastor at Trinity Seminary, one of our ELCA seminaries, was approved for ordination by the professional leaders’ committee of the Central States Synod, and was ordained here by our synod bishop. Then the ELCA connected him with a congregation in Florida where he now serves as pastor.
- † SOTH has been blessed with many members who have come to this country from Liberia. They were already Lutheran Christians when they came here, and SOTH has helped their home congregation in Liberia. There is a strong Lutheran Church in Liberia because the ELCA and others send out missionaries to proclaim the gospel.
- † For three years, SOTH participated in the Partnership for the Missional Church process, a program developed by one of our ELCA seminary professors, along with others. The Central States Synod organized this process for several of our area congregations and provided funds so that SOTH could participate. This process resulted in the Vision Statement that is now guiding the congregation’s ministry.
- † Many people at SOTH receive The Lutheran magazine, which highlights every month the amazing variety of ministries here and around the world made possible by our participation in the synod and ELCA.
- † Since Pastor Barwinski resigned, the synod has provided SOTH with a well tested process for finding a good fit in your next pastor, helped locate someone to serve as interim while the process proceeds, and is now supplying names of potential pastors to be interviewed.

I am sure that this is not an exhaustive list of all the ways this congregation is connected with and benefits from its relationship to the synod and the ELCA.

Since God calls us into “the communion of saints,” this is an important dimension of our faith. I personally am very proud to be part of the ELCA, for a number of reasons. One is our church’s world-wide efforts for the well-being of all people. To give just one example, recently SOTH joined in the Malaria Campaign, an effort to help eradicate malaria in the world by 2015. This is a bold challenge that no other church, no medical organization, and no country has been bold enough to take on, but we have! And our people have been responding! Already we are making a difference in Liberia and in other countries.

Another thing I am proud of is our church’s efforts to bring Christians together. Of all the Christian denominations in our country today, the ELCA stands out as the most actively involved in making ecumenical partnerships with others. Already we are enjoying “Full Communion” with the United Methodist Church (since 2009), the Presbyterian Church USA (1997), the Episcopal Church (2009), the Moravian Church (1999), the Reformed Church in America (1999), and the United Church of Christ (1997).

Full communion occurs “. . . when two churches develop a relationship based on a common confessing of the Christian faith and a mutual recognition of baptism and sharing of the Lord’s Supper. This does not mean that the two churches merge; rather, in reaching agreements, churches also respect difference. These denominations likewise jointly worship, may exchange clergy, and also share a commitment to evangelism, witness and service in the world.”

A central document for Lutherans is the Augsburg Confession. Article VII of the Augsburg Confession states that “the true unity of the church” is present where the Gospel is rightly preached and Sacraments rightly administered. The ELCA is committed to this model of full communion as an authentic expression of Christian unity. What a blessing it is to be part of a church that actively seeks to live out the unity of the church in its relations with others.

“Christ is a single body,” writes St. Paul. If we limit our thinking about the church to only our own congregation, we are missing out on the amazing riches and strength we receive from being part of a world-wide communion of believers.

Yes, I’m grateful to be an ELCA Lutheran!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff

AUGUST



Rhonda Bird	2
Caitlyn Travis	3
Eric Johnson	6
Carl Jordan	6
Lauri Anderson	7
Carina Collins	17
Curell James (Darker)	19
Curnice (Darker)	19
Deidra Adams	20
Genny Jordan	22
Heather Tousignant	22
Kathy Jordan	24
Brendan Sieker	25
Shelby Chumbley	28

Anniversaries

Dave & Sharon Elder	4
Stein & Julie Hunter	11
Jim & Lois Urnes, Sr.	22
Jim & Mara Berry	25
Cal & Julia Tousignant	25
Dixi & Ann Smith	27
Pat & Bert Amick	30

Your Photos are Needed

Do you have any recent or past photos of church activities? Your photos are needed for use on the church website. Digital photos are preferred but we will be happy to scan photo prints as well. Please copy photo files to a CD or a USB. Please enclose prints and USB drives in an envelope with your name on it and they will be returned to you. Any notes that you can provide to give context to the photos would also be greatly appreciated. Photos can also be sent electronically to contribute@sothstl.org. Please see Mike Toohey if you have any questions.

NewsBytes...



- ✦ Our sincere condolences go out to the **Elder/ Sater** family on the death of their beloved, June, on June 20, to **Ann Smith** and her family on the death of her brother, Frank, who passed away in July, to **Donna & Phil Rogers** on the death of their 4 year old grandson, Landen, from brain cancer, and to **John Daab** and his family on the death of his niece, Debbie, a victim of domestic violence. *May God walk with all of you in your time of grief.*
- ✦ We offer prayers of thanksgiving for safe travels for our **New Orleans Youth Gathering** participants. *Ask them about their experiences!*
- ✦ Congratulations to **Matt & Bridget Elder** who have announced that **Nolen** is going to be a big brother. *Best wishes for your growing family!*
- ✦ Special thanks to all who helped to make the July visit from the **Water-Mark Germany** team a great success. It was a wonderful experience.

Thanks for keeping us up-to-date with Newsbytes! Email them to soth@sothstl.org.



Church Council Highlights

- Vision Planning Meeting went well with 20-25 participants. Two items of importance that came out of the meeting were: attracting and retention of youth and partnering with other community groups.
- “Work Zone” cross installed for church projects.

Summer Office Hours



Starting Wednesday, June 6 through August 15, the church office will be operating under summer hours. These hours will be **Wednesday & Thursday** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The summer hours and days may be subject to change but any changes will be noted in the Sunday bulletin if possible. Otherwise, please call the church office before stopping by to make sure someone is there. If you need access to the building at a time when the church office will be closed, please call the church office in advance and arrangements will be made. *Thank you!*

Need An Extra Pair of Hands?

Cynthia Darker is a young single mom in our congregation who is unemployed and has been desperately job searching to find a job to support herself and her kids while she attends UMSL to work towards her elementary education degree. She does not drive and uses Bi-State for transportation.

If you, or anyone you know of, have any work or odd jobs around your home that you need help with or if you know of any job openings that may fit Cynthia’s needs, please call Cynthia at 636-795-6659, Lisa Hogbin at 314-209-0743 or Kathy Jordan at 314-518-7409. *Thank you so much!*

Shepherd of the Hills

Lutheran Church (ELCA)

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ushers: Paul & Jim Urnes, Sr. Counters: Linda Ritter & Julia Tousignant Altar Guild: Lisa Hogbin & Ann Smith CAs: Carol & Tom Krull, Meagan Nalepa <i>Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve!</i>			1	2	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4
5 SOTH 101 Class & Luncheon —9:00 am G: Dale & Candy Travis AM: Tom Ritter A: Carlie Hunter LR: Kim Surratt R: Krulls & Keyes N: Julie Hutson & Meagan N T: Joe Nalepa	6	7 Education Team 7 pm	8	9	10 Pastor's Sabbath	11 Men's Group 9 am
12 Back Pack Blessing —9:00 am G: Carol & Tom Krull AM: Abbi Telander A: Kristen Scnur LR: Denise Meyer R: Rita Wills & Rhonda Bird N: Lauri A. & Aubrey Hunter T: Gabi Anderson	13	14 Church Council 7:00 pm	15	16	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18
19 Cancer Companions Fundraiser —9:00 am G: Sydney M. & L. Pearson AM: Pat Amick A: Gabi Anderson LR: Carl Jordan R: Daab & Pursley N: Sharon Elder & Guest T: Carl Jordan	20	21 September Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25 Baby Shower for Flo & Alex Flomo @ 10:00 am
26 —9:00 am G: Carl & Kathy Jordan AM: Jim Berry A: Jenna Hutson LR: Tom Ritter R: Berry & Hoven N: Kim Surratt & Guest T: Tom Ritter	27	28	29	30	31 Pastor's Sabbath	

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church • Worship 9:00 am • Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 4161 Cypress Road • St. Ann, Missouri 63074 • 314-739-3222
 Pastor Jeff Lindgren, Interim Pastor • 314-571-9205 • prjeff@sothstl.org
 Lauri Anderson, Church Secretary • **Summer Office Hours:** 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Wednesday & Thursday
 Church Office e-mail: soth@sothstl.org



Call Committee Update

The call committee continues to make good progress! We have met numerous times to fashion our interview questions for potential candidates & we are grateful for the help of Kathy Jordan, who has agreed to look at our questions and "fine-tune" them so we're asking clear questions that will get us clear, focused answers.

As we were working on our questions, we were contacted by the ELCA office to say that one candidate might be a good match. The committee was able to act quickly and organize an initial Skype interview last Sunday, June 24th. We have been informed that we will probably be sent a few more names around the middle of July. By then we should be well organized and completely ready for the interviews.

By the way, just to remind everyone who is serving your congregation on the Call Committee, the members are: Abbi Telander, George Marvin, Aubrey Hunter, Zsabetta Artis, Gary Johnson, Daryl Hogbin and Mara Berry. It is crucial that you feel that the lines of communication are open at all times during this process, so if you have questions or opinions, please stop a Call Committee member to let them know of your concern.

I ask that you continue to offer up prayers for wisdom and discernment as we work to call a future pastor for Shepherd of the Hills. God be with us.

- Mara Berry, Call Committee Chair



ELCA Global Links

New Orleans: The Power of the Youth to Make a Difference

ELCA young people know the power of focusing their giving through collective action that supports sustainable projects in places where the global Lutheran community is working. The final ELCA Youth Gathering offering will benefit four ELCA ministries: new ministries in New Orleans, new missionaries in South Africa, the 100 Wells Challenge and the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Haiti: Earthquake Recovery

Two years later recovery from the deadly earthquake still continues. See www.elca.org/disaster.

Papua New Guinea: "Pastor, what is depreciation?"

Can you imagine what it would be like to be a missionary, a pastor and a Certified Public Accountant all at the same time? See www.elca.org/handinhand.

Russia: Sponsor a Missionary

You can sponsor Brad Buerkle, ELCA missionary teacher serving in Russia. Contact missionarysponsorship@elca.org or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2657.

Mexico: Immerse yourself in transformative travel

"Seeds of Transformation" offers opportunities for individuals and groups to take trips that deepen discipleship through hands-on service learning, stimulating site visits, cultural exchanges and lectures. Trips are available in Mexico City, Oaxaca and Chiapas. For more info go to www.elca.org/Mexico.

Educational & worship resources for upcoming seasons: Have you wondered what Advent is like in Argentina or what Christmas traditions are in Kenya, Japan or Haiti? Go to blogs.elca.org/handinhand and learn more.



Dear friends at Shepherd of the Hills,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Sharon and Bridget Elder for all their support this year while I was Education Chair. Thank you also to all the Sunday School teachers and anyone else who contributed to our Sunday School efforts, including Pastor Jeff and those who led Adult Forums. The Men's Group and WELCA were also there whenever we needed them, we appreciate that.

Big thanks to Kim & Mike Surratt, and to all those who taught, brought and served food, worked on props and brought their children to join in the fun and learning.

And last but not least, I'd like to thank all the parents for getting their children to Sunday School and Confirmation. Confirmation is a very important part of a child's growth to adulthood in the church and they need to be present for the instruction as much as possible.

Let's have a safe and fun summer and look forward to Sunday School and Adult Forum in the fall.

Your sister in Christ,

Genny Jordan

Dear friends & family at SOTH,

The Elder & Sater families would like to express our sincere appreciation for the wonderful meal that was provided to us at Collier's Funeral Home on June 24. It was wonderful to have the food there for my entire family and we can't thank you enough. Thank you so much for all the support through the years, as well as now, and for making my mother, June, feel like she was a part of the flock whenever she visited SOTH.

Thanks again for everything!

Sharon Elder



Prepared especially for:

—Address Correction Requested—

Parish Newsletter of
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
4161 Cypress Road · St. Ann, MO 63074
Phone: (314) 739-3222 · e-mail: soth@sothstl.org
web site: <http://www.sothstl.org>
Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.



Our Ministers: All the People of God at Shepherd of the Hills / Our Faithful Church Council Members:

Bill Johnson, *president & tech team*

Jim Urnes, Sr., *worship*

Suah Tokpa, *stewardship*

Linda Pearson, *vice president & soc. con.*

Rhonda Bird, *care/evangelism*

John Daab, *finance*

Jim Berry, *facilities*

Megan Nalepa, *youth rep & sec.*

Genny Jordan, *education*

OUR VISION . . .

GATHER Joyfully

GROW Deeply

GO Faithfully

All people into God's grace † Disciples of Jesus Christ † In Witness and Service

Don't Miss These Opportunities!



- ✦ **Cancer Companions Fundraiser:** tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. There will be a Mary Kay consultant on hand for a beautification program, with all proceeds going to the SOTH Cancer Support program. See Lisa Hogbin or Suah Tokpa for more information.
- ✦ **CHM** needs to replenish some much needed items on their shelves. Most needed items are: canned meat, canned stews and chilis, boxed macaroni & cheese, complete pancake mixes & syrup and soups with meat. Please place all donations in the bin marked "CHM" under the coat rack in the fellowship area.
- ✦ **Concerts in Gentry Park:** Sunday, Aug. 5 is Red Sky Junkies (*Top 40's country*) and Sunday, Aug. 19 is Mirage (*little bit of everything*). All concerts are from 6-8 p.m. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment under the stars. Refreshments available for purchase.
- ✦ There will also be an outdoor concert at **Tiemeyer Park** on Ashby Road on Wed., August 8 at 7:00 p.m.