

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 47, No. 1 ❁ January 2013



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CHM News

Thanks to everyone for their generous donations of toys for the Giving Tree and the cans of frosting for the Christmas baskets.

During the November food drive a lady at the Bridgeton Schnucks donated an entire cart full of food and a man at the Maryland Heights store donated four \$50 bills. This kind of generosity is greatly appreciated during these tough times.

Liza Browning, CHM Director, reports that new families being helped by CHM is increasing by 10% each month. By January they anticipate that they will be assisting about 1200 families in need.



Season of Epiphany

The season of Epiphany begins Jan. 6 with the celebration of the coming of the Magi to offer their gifts to young Jesus. In connection with the light of Christ that shines for all the nations, the Central States Synod has declared the season of Epiphany to be a celebration of global awareness.

At SOTH we will join in this celebration by using the worship setting in the ELW that is inspired by the Spanish-speaking churches throughout the world. The worship team hopes you enjoy learning these new and fun songs (sung in English) that we will teach and slowly incorporate into worship. Feel free to bring your maracas and play along!

During the season of Lent we will return to a more familiar worship setting.

Annual Meeting January 27

The 47th Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, following worship and refreshments. The meeting will begin around 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided.



Reminder: All Annual reports are due by Sunday, Jan. 6. Please see Lauri Anderson if you have any questions.

Be Like Jesus Servant Event

This fun 24 hour servant event is hosted by St. Louis Metro Youth Coalition at Trinity Lutheran Church in Chesterfield on April 5 & 6. There is live music and worship Friday evening and on Saturday the youth participate in service projects.

Students grades 3-8 are the focus of this event. Registration cost is \$10 per student, with the rest of the registration fee being covered by SOTH.

High School & College age students— you can participate in this event as a small group leader! If you would like to be a small group leader, contact Pastor Kristen at the church office or by email at prkristen@sothstl.org.

Adult leaders are also needed as chaperones for the event. You would be there as an older adult presence, not as a small group leader.

Curious? Talk to Pastor Kristen, her husband Daryn or their daughter Sophia. Daryn and Sophia participated in last year's event.

Registration deadline is Sunday, January 13!

GATHER Joyfully + GROW Deeply + GO Faithfully

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,
Welcome to January and the new year. It is a time to reflect back on 2012 and look forward to 2013 at Shepherd of the Hills.



We are wrapping up a big year. The congregation was of course engaged in a call process, which was moved along by the Holy Spirit—this was a big deal! The energy showed through the hard work of the call committee, support from our Central States Synod, and a great interim pastor, Jeff Lindgren. I also like to think that Pastor Kristen was propelled by the Holy Spirit in her journey of the call process.

But 2012 was much more than the call process. Shepherd of the Hills pursued our mission/vision to serve people with disabilities and their caregivers. The Holy Spirit was at work in the budding Cancer Companions ministry, the curb cut that made our south entrance more accessible, and Jayce's First Communion in December. And there were the countless hours of effort that kept the church running. When I think back about all the things happening at SOTH, I see that pretty much everyone had a hand or two in making our congregation GO!

So, 2012 was great, and it has been my pleasure to serve on Church Council. I truly appreciate the congregational support during my time as president. With that kind of continued support for council, I expect that 2013 will be even better. While I will be exiting council (which is good), I look forward to watching the next council grow. They are a great set of servant leaders, and I ask that you join me in support of, and prayer for, their important leadership in 2013. And let's continue to pray for and support on another as we continue to worship and serve together.

Cheers,

Bill Johnson

SOTH Church Council President



Adult Forum: SOTH Storytelling

As a way for Pastor Kristen to get to know the congregation better, and in preparation for the Annual Meeting, you are invited to join her in the library the first three Sundays of January to tell the stories of the history of Shepherd of the Hills. Story telling will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Confirmation

The Wednesday night Confirmation meetings for January will be on Jan. 16 & 30 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

There will be no Sunday School class on Jan. 27 due to the Annual Meeting.

Regular attendance for both of the classes is highly recommended. It is very important in the confirmation journey. Showing up when you are the scheduled acolyte is also greatly appreciated as there are only five students in this class. Thank you!

Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are at the heart and core of living as God's people in this world. They are not just habits or rituals, but a daily source of meaning, identity, purpose, and new beginnings.



Healing Circle

The "Healing Circle" is offered each Sunday.

Healing ministers Joan Carnaghi, Dave Elder, George Marvin and Tom Ritter respond to individual requests for physical, emotional and spiritual healing, raised to God through prayer and the laying-on of hands. Sign up on the podium.



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| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Eric Heil | 1 |
| Julia Tousignant | 1 |
| Judy Conoyer | 2 |
| Barb Loehr | 7 |
| Jim Berry | 9 |
| Tina Chumbley | 10 |
| Marie Hinkle | 10 |
| Reed Deatherage | 12 |
| Jesse Keyes | 14 |
| Melissa Girtman | 15 |
| Hannah Sieker | 16 |
| Aubrey Hunter | 24 |
| Kristen Hiltner | 25 |
| Dixi Smith | 27 |
| Denise Meyer | 31 |



Bill & Martha Johnson ... 3
Daniel & Jessica Hogbin. 17



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...



- ✦ The sanctuary and fellowship are looked beautiful during the Advent & Christmas seasons! Thanks to **Evelyn Pursley, Kathy Jordan** and all those who helped put up and take down the seasonal decorations.
- ✦ On Sunday, Dec. 2 we welcomed **Alexson Samuel Flomo** to the family of God through the waters of holy baptism.
- ✦ We also welcomed **Jayce Hutson** to the table through holy communion on Sunday, Dec. 16. Special thanks to Jeanne Keirle, Carol Krull, Julie Hutson and Pastor Kristen for making this possible.
- ✦ This year's Christmas pageant, *The Mouse's Tale*, was a great success. Many thanks to **Kim Surratt, Sharon Elder** and everyone who participated or helped in any way.
- ✦ Our condolences go out to **Carolyn Schamel** and her family on the death of her mother, to **Valerie Mudd** and her family on the death of her sister.
- ✦ Special thanks to **Rev. Daryn Holdsworth** for filling in at the last minute for Pastor Kristen on Sunday, Dec. 23.
- ✦ Our thanks also to **Rev. Judy Conoyer** for leading worship on Dec. 30. We are so grateful that she is willing to share her gifts for ministry with the SOTH community!



DECEMBER

Church Council Highlights

- Council elected Julia Tousignant to the office of Treasurer. Transition to begin in January.
- Voted that the collection from Christmas Eve's service should go to Lutheran Campus Ministry of St. Louis.
- Scheduled Annual Meeting for Sunday, January 27. Voted not to have the usual brunch, just normal Sunday refreshments.

News From Bismark



Our Compassion International sponsor child writes:

"I thank you very much for the great things you are doing for me and my family. God will bless you and give you peace and happiness.

I am now in primary five and am in the third position in my class. How are you and how is school for you?

I pray that God will continue to shower you with more blessings and give you joy all the time. I want you to pray for me to grow and become a responsible adult.

My Bible verse for you is Ephesians 4:32: 'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.'

Your brother in Christ,

Bismark Arho, from Ghana"

Shepherd of the Hills

Lutheran Church (ELCA)

January 2013

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|-----------|---|
| Ushers: TBA Counters: Susan Hoven & Jeanne Keirle Altar Guild: Rhonda Bird & Ann Smith CAs: Jeanne Keirle, Tom & Carol Krull <i>Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve!</i> | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 Choir 7:30 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Annual Reports Due Epiphany —9:00 am G: Cal & Julia Tousignant AM: Pat Amick A: Gabi Anderson LR: Carl Jordan R: Daab N: Sharon Elder & Gabi A. T: Tom Ritter | 7 Education Meeting 7 pm | 8 Care & Evang. 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm | 9 Choir 7:30 pm | 10 | 11 | 12 Worship Team 8:30 am Men's Group 9 am |
| 13 Baptism of Our Lord —9:00 am G: J. Keirle & Nancy Cirar AM: Stein Hunter A: Kristen Schnur LR: Tom Ritter R: Bird & Ritter N: Abbi Telander & Meagan T: Aubrey Hunter | 14 | 15 | 16 Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 2 Epiphany —9:00 am G: Bill J. & A. Sanderson AM: Tom Ritter A: Deidra Adams LR: Linda Pearson R: Cirar, Keirle, Amick, Hogan N: Lauri Anderson & Jenna T: Matt Elder | 21 | 22 | 23 Choir 7:30 pm | 24 <div>February Newsletter Deadline</div> | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Annual Meeting 3 Epiphany—9:00 am G: Dave & Sharon Elder AM: Abbi Telander A: Alexis LR: Sydney Meyer R: All N: Julie Hutson & Aubrey T: Linda Pearson | 28 | 29 | 30 Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm | 31 | | |

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 Kristen Koch • 314-571-9205 • prkristen@sothstl.org
Lauri Anderson, Church Secretary • **New Office Hours:** 8:30 am to 1:30 pm Tuesday & Thursday
Church Office e-mail: soth@sothstl.org

Mutual Ministry Team

There needs to be a safe place in every congregation – a neutral zone if you will – where ANY member can come and talk about an issue in a non-biased atmosphere. And it was to fulfill this purpose that your Mutual Ministry Team was formed here at Shepherd of the Hills. We're wanting to advertise our services so that everyone knows where they can come if they need to talk about a church issue. . . . And by everyone we mean the pastor, church council members, the secretary or any SOTH member.

Your Mutual Ministry Team would like to be the "neutral zone" for anyone to come and talk about a church issue trusting that the issue and the discussion will be kept confidential. These issues could be something very positive about Shepherd of the Hills that a member wants to see continued, or it could be about a rumor someone heard and wants to hear the truth about, or it could be a very negative complaint about something going on in our church that a member wants to stop.

Just as importantly, the Mutual Ministry Team is a place for our church employees – pastor or secretary – to voice their concerns in a confidential environment. When one works for the church and is both a member and employed by the congregation, it is often difficult to get necessary feedback or to have a concern heard in a safe way. They need a neutral zone just as much as any other member. Overall, the Mutual Ministry Team's purpose is tending relationships amongst the body of Christ.

Please remember that SOTH has a Mutual Ministry Team at your disposal. You should contact the team chair, Lisa Hogbin, to schedule a meeting with the team at any time you have a concern or issue to discuss or you can speak privately with a team member. Members are: Kathy Jordan, Dave Elder, Martha Johnson, Jim Urnes and Mara Berry. The Mutual Ministry Team vows to listen in a non – judgmental way, further discuss the issue in private, then get back to you about the possible resolution of the issue. You'll hear and see more about us in the next couple of months, so stay tuned!

Vibrant Faith Congregational Training

This conference is being shared with area congregations by Hope Lutheran Church, St. Charles on Saturday, April 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This conference is free of charge and highlights:

- ✠ How to live a vibrant faith that is authentic, available and affirming
- ✠ How to equip families to partner home and congregation so that home is church, too
- ✠ How to lift up milestones as ways to celebrate life and nurture spiritual growth
- ✠ How to integrate your faith talk and faith walk into all facets of life

Please let Pastor Kristen know if you are interested in attending this free, informational event.



To my SOTH church family,

Greetings! My family and I would like to take this time to demonstrate to you our gratitude and appreciation for all your help.

This letter of thanks should have been written a long time ago, but I am sorry to tell you that I am a bit of a procrastinator (hey, I'm working on it!). You have done so much for my family and myself that words alone cannot express our gratitude.

Our church is filled with so many wonderful people, who are always there to help each other when there is a need. What congregation could ever ask for more?! My children and I are very blessed indeed to have you as our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

May God super-abundantly fill your lives with His marvelous blessings as he has filled ours. Again, thank you very much and God bless you all!

*Your sisters and brother in Christ,
Cynthia, Currell & Curnice Darker*





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*
Linda Pearson, *vp & care/evangelism*
Jim Berry, *facilities*

Jim Urnes, Sr., *worship*
Rhonda Bird, *social concerns*
Meagan Nalepa, *youth rep & sec.*

Suah Tokpa, *stewardship*
John Daab, *finance*
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!



- **Styrofoam Recycling:** If you have any amount of Styrofoam—packing peanuts, packaging from Christmas gifts, even clean coffee cups—feel free to bring it to church and Nancy Cirar will happily take it to the recycling center in Earth City.
- **Bald Eagles along the Missouri River:** Spend a day with the Friends of Fort Belle Fontaine Park observing the bald eagle on Sat., Jan. 19. A live eagle, several birds of prey, and a naturalist from the World Bird Sanctuary will be on site from 12-2 p.m. A guided hike will be provided along the 3 mile trail or you can hike or bike on your own throughout the day. Refreshments will be served. Dress for the weather and meet at the Grand Staircase. This event is free. For more information call 314-869-8251.
- **Save the Date:** Trivia Night to benefit Lutheran Campus Ministry on Sat., Feb. 2 at Bethel Lutheran, 7001 Forsyth Blvd. Doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 6:30 p.m. \$20 per person, tables of eight. Call 314-863-8140 for info.