

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. 5 ☼ May 2013



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SOTH Youth Group Trivia Night

Many thanks to ALL who helped make our Youth Group Trivia Night a wonderful success. Special thanks to Stein Hunter who emceed the event and to Mike Toohey who kept the slides moving. Abbi Telander and her "girls" did an awesome job in keeping everything running smoothly, from selling 50/50 and raffle tickets and handling the silent auction to keeping the players supplied with refreshments. Thanks also to the judges and to Leland's Road for their participation in the music round. At the end of the night, \$2,500 was raised to put into the Youth Fund.



Sunday School/ Church Picnic

Join us Sunday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Mary Ridge Park in St. Ann for our Sunday School and Church Picnic. The Men's Group will get the grills ready, the WELCA women will provide table service and paper goods, and the Education Team will supply drinks. Bring your own meat to grill and a side dish or dessert to share. There is a playground for the little ones and we'll have our infamous piñata. Feel free to bring Frisbees, kites or other sporting equipment as well. Maps will be available prior to the event in the fellowship area. *All are welcome!*

National Day of Prayer

In 1775 the Continental Congress allocated a time for prayer in forming a new nation. Over the years, there have been calls for a day of prayer, including from President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law in the United States. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, designating the first Thursday of May each year as the National Day of Prayer.



Through the efforts of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, more than 35,000 prayer gatherings will be conducted by about 40,000 volunteers across the United States. Several million people are expected to participate in this call to prayer. Other events in various communities across the United States may include: choirs and bands performing songs relating to prayer; community prayer breakfasts or luncheons; daytime prayer walks; and evening worship and prayer services or gatherings. National Day of Prayer is a time for people of all faiths to pray together in their own way.

Locally, there will be a gathering at the Bridgeton Government Center (and most city halls) from Noon to 1:00 p.m. and one at the Arch also from Noon to 1 p.m. There will be a Scripture Reading at the Arch from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Get Ready for VBS!!!

This year's theme is "Kingdom Rock—Where Kids Stand Strong for God". Each night from Sunday, June 16 to Thursday, June 20, kids will discover God's word in fun and unforgettable ways.

If you would like to fill out a volunteer form, please talk to VBS coordinator Kim Surratt. We are especially looking for adults who can serve as crew leaders with a specific group of five to seven children for all or most of the five nights. *Join in the fun as we share the Good News of Jesus!*

GATHER Joyfully + GROW Deeply + GO Faithfully

A Word from the Pastor...

As Linda Pearson introduced in the April newsletter, the church council has invited the congregation to participate in a year-long focus on getting to know our neighbors. What does that look like? Well, it depends on you!



It has been almost six years since the dedication of the new building, and during those years a lot of other things have taken place, including getting to know the quirks of the new space, going through the PMC process, saying farewell to Pr. Dan and Sara, spending a year in the call process with Pastor Jeff and entering into a new ministry with me.

My sense is that we are feeling more grounded and centered now. And as we look to the future ministry of our community of faith I think it's about time we got to know our new neighbors! We have the Cypress Village apartment community across the parking lot and Holman Middle School and the Pattonville Learning Center within walking distance. Across Cypress Road there are businesses and residences, as well as a park and golf course.

These are the neighbors we would like to get to know in the year to come. So, if you are on a board or a team, I encourage you to ask yourselves how your group could focus its ministry on making connections with the people who live and work in the immediate area. Keep in mind that this is *not* about *doing something for them*. It is about **listening to** and **building relationships with** them; perhaps even receiving their hospitality.

That is a crucial foundation for authentic ministry: honoring and listening to those around us so that we might learn who they are, rather than assuming or deciding we know what "they" need. The doing part can come later on in the relationship. And with the help of the Spirit, the ministry we do will be *shared* with the community, making us all stronger and more whole.

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you*

Hymn 708, Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Peace,

Pastor Kristen

Confirmation

Confirmation Wednesdays:

May 1 & 15

6:00-6:30— pizza, Highs & Lows

6:30-7:30-devotions &
conversation

Please let Pastor Kristen know each week by text or email if you will be unable to attend so she can plan accordingly.

Attendance at the Sunday School classes and the Wednesday evening classes is very important as we are nearing the final months of the Confirmation journey. Please make every effort to be there and be present and attentive while you are in class.

Holy Baptism and Holy Confirmation 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.

Simply sign up on Sundays at the Prayer Requests lectern in church or talk to one of our healing ministers.



Jackie Vick.....	7
Hannah Johnson.....	10
Becky Heck.....	13
Ann Sanderson.....	13
Joan Keith.....	14
Chuck Collier.....	16
Mike Toohey.....	16
Mara Berry.....	18
Matt Elder.....	19
Angie Hoven.....	21
Kyle Bird.....	30



Chuck & Dian Collier.....	5
Bob & Rhonda Bird.....	15
Bill & Cathy Hogan.....	22
Phil & Donna Rogers ...	24



Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday is May 19. Everyone is encouraged to wear red that Sunday in celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Please see Pastor Kristen if you would like to read a small portion of text in a foreign language.

Beginning May 26, we will worship using the "red" setting.

Worship Team will meet next on Sat., May 18 at 8:30 a.m.



NewsBytes...



- ✦ On Sunday, May 5, we will celebrate the Baptism of **Jonah Michael Elder**. Please hold Matt, Bridget, Nolen and Jonah in your prayers in anticipation of this special milestone.
- ✦ Thanks to **Tom Krull, Tom Ritter, Jim Sanderson** and **John Daab** for picking up and/or returning the tables and chairs we needed to borrow from Hope Lutheran for the Trivia Night,
- ✦ **Gabi Anderson** will be playing the role of the face of the Cheshire Cat in a production of Ritenour Middle School's *Alice in Wonderland* on May 3 & 4 at the Ritenour High School Auditorium. Both performances are at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children.
- ✦ Sunday, May 5 is the last day to sign up for the **Central States Synod Assembly** in Overland Park, Kansas. The event begins Thursday night, June 6 and will end after worship on Sunday morning.
**Please take note that this assembly will include the opportunity to elect the synod bishop. ** The congregation has funds set aside to help with the cost for registration and housing. See Pastor Kristen if you are interested in attending.

Plastic Pots: Recycle or Reuse



Spring is here! Many of you are getting ready to buy plants and flowers for your yards and gardens. What can you do with all those pots and trays that your new plants come in?

Reuse: Use your pots to take divided perennials from your yard to family or friends. The church is looking for donations of irises should you have any in your yard that need to be thinned out. See Mara Berry for details.

Recycle: Bring your plastic pots and cell packs to church and Nancy Cirar will take them to Missouri Botanical Garden to be recycled. First shake the soil and rocks out of your containers and remove any metal or other materials that may interfere with the plastic grinding process then place them in a plastic or paper bag for transport. They cannot accept garden edging, plastic sheeting, food-grade plastics or clay pots. Many garden centers and nurseries will also accept pots and cell packs, ask when you buy your flowers and plants.

April—Church Council Highlights

- Discussion on a community garden here at SOTH. Decision was made to postpone until cost, purpose and focus factors are worked out.
- SOTH has been approached to sponsor a Rd Cross blood drive by Kevin Sneed of the Red Cross. Waiting on more information.
- Pastor Kristen reported that the Synod recognized and thanked SOTH for the donation given to mission support. The Synod received donations from all congregations and actually exceeded budget expectations.
- Dale Travis is looking into what liability our snow plowing service may have in regards to the damage of our parking blocks.

Shepherd of the Hills

Lutheran Church (ELCA)

May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ushers: Tom & Linda Ritter Counters: Mike Toohey & Bob Bird Altar Guild: Rhonda Bird & Ann Smith CAs: Suah Tokpa, Rhonda Bird & Lisa Hogbin <i>Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve!</i>			1 Confirmation 6:pm Choir 7:30 pm	2	3	4
5 6 Easter - 9:00 am G: Bob & Rhonda Bird AM: Stein Hunter A: Gabi Anderson LR: Jeanne Keirle R: Anderson/Ambacher N: Julie Hutson & Carlie H. T: Joan Carnaghi	6	7	8 Choir 7:30 pm	9	10	11 Men's Group 9 am
12 Mother's Day 7 Easter —9:00 am G: Ann & Dixi Smith AM: Jim Berry A: Jenna Hutson LR: Lori Collins R: Griffin/ Keirle N: Sharon Elder & Gabi A. T: Devin Travis	13	14 Care & Evang. Mtg 6:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 pm	15 Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	16	17	18
19 Sunday School Picnic Pentecost—9:00 am G: Dale Travis & S. Meyer AM: Pat Amick A: Carlie Hunter LR: Candy Travis R: Travis/ Tokpa N: Abbi Telander & Aubrey T: Joe Nalepa	20	21	22 Choir 7:30 pm	23	24	25
26 Holy Trinity Sunday —9:00 am G: Tom & Carol Krull AM: Tom Ritter A: Deidra Adams LR: TBA R: Berry/ Holdsworth N: Sydney Meyer & Jenna T: Lauri Anderson	27	28	29 Choir 7:30 pm	30	31	

Worship 9:00 am • Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 Pastor Kristen Koch • 314-921-5497 • prkristen@sothstl.org
 Lauri Anderson, Church Secretary • Office: 314-739-3222
Office Hours: 8:30 am to 1:30 pm Tuesday & Thursday
 Church Office e-mail: soth@sothstl.org



Praise Band Survey

In the weeks to come, we will have a survey available to assist the worship committee with scheduling Praise Band worship services. The following is a sample of that survey. You may either complete the survey printed here or pick up one at the church during worship services. Return completed surveys to an usher or place in the box near the sanctuary doors. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Worship/Contemporary Praise Band Survey

Please take a minute to complete the following survey.

Completed surveys can be given to any member of the worship committee.

I would like to have a Worship/Contemporary Praise band as part of the worship experience. _____ Yes _____ No

I would like to participate/help in the following areas:

- _____ Play an instrument.
- _____ Type of instrument played _____
- _____ Singer (soprano/alto/tenor/bass) Please circle one
- _____ Scheduling rehearsals/notifying members.
- _____ Copying and distribution of music.
- _____ Technical and sound set up and tear down.
- _____ Leadership/Planning and selection of music

Name: _____

Email: _____



Thanks to Daryn Holdsworth for accompanying six youth to the Be Like Jesus servant event on April 5&6, and to all the parents who drove to and attended the closing worship service. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students in our congregation to join with others so that they could serve the wider St. Louis community.

Can't wait for next year!



Inquiring Pastor Wants to Know...

...have you ever wanted to bring communion to the homebound of our congregation or have you already been trained to do so? If so, please contact Pastor Kristen so she can get a group together to "bring church" to those who cannot make it on Sunday mornings.

...have you ever wanted to share a word of hope with the congregation, or a story of how God has acted in your life, or offer a children's message? Have you already done so at SOTH? If so, contact Pastor Kristen so she can find ways to provide opportunities for that Word to be shared.

...have you ever wanted to see how the larger church works together to make decisions and to celebrate ministry? Have you already done so by attending a Synod Assembly and would like to either do it again or encourage others to do it? If so, contact Pastor Kristen so she can sign you up for the Central States Synod Assembly, June 6-9 at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at the Convention Center. We can bring one female adult, one male adult and one youth (male or female).



Prepared especially for:

—Address Correction Requested—

Parish Newsletter of
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
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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:

Linda Pearson *president & care/evang*
Stein Hunter, *vice pres. & technology*
Dale Travis, *facilities*

Jim Urnes, Sr., *worship*
Kristen Hiltner, *social concerns*
Stephanie Sackey, *youth rep*

Suah Tokpa, *stewardship*
John Daab, *Sec. & 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— packaging from new products, even clean coffee cups— feel free to bring it to church and Nancy Cirar will be glad to take it to the recycling center in Earth City.
- **CHM Food Drive** on Sat., June 1 and Sun., June 2 at the Bridgeton & Maryland Heights Schnucks. See Linda Ritter or call Liza at 314-770-2216 if you would like to volunteer for a shift.
- **2013 Synod Assembly June 6-9** in Overland Park, Kansas. SOTH is entitled to have one female, one male, and one youth representative, in addition to the pastor, participating in this assembly. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please see Pastor Kristen.
- **Save the Date:** Leland's Road will play a benefit concert for CHM on Friday, Aug. 16 at Gateway Community Church (formerly Bethlehem) on Old St. Charles Road. More info to come.