

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

September/ October 2013 Updates



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

God's Work, Our Hands, Sunday – September 8

To celebrate the ELCA's anniversary and our church's commitment to sharing God's love with our neighbors, Shepherd of the Hills is taking part in a dedicated day of service on **September 8** known as **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**.

Imagine joining the nearly 10,000 congregations of our church serving meals, cleaning up neighborhoods, making quilts for refugees or simply visiting the neighbors who need us. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

On that Sunday we will gather at our regular 9:00 time for a brief worship service. We will sing, pray, and receive Holy Communion together...and then we will spend the rest of the morning, and maybe even the afternoon serving others! We will gather back at church for an afternoon meal together.

Sign-up in the fellowship area, or send an e-mail to prkristen@sothstl.org, to volunteer for and/or lead the following work sites:

- Community Helping Ministries on McKelvey
 - Cutting back hedges
 - Painting the sign (paint provided)
 - Equipment needed: gloves, hedge trimmers, pruning shears
 - **Contact Sydney Meyer**
- "College care packages +"
 - Creating and assembling care packages for our college students
 - At least 10 packages
 - Creativity welcome
 - Snacks, games, handmade cards
 - The "+": Each package will include one smaller package for each student to share with someone else who might enjoy it.
 - **Contact Lisa Hogbin**
- Mark Twain Manor possibility
 - singing to guests
 - manicures
 - play games
 - **Contact Jim Urnes**
- Afternoon meal following the service events.
 - **Contact Jeanne Keirle**
- That great idea you have for a service activity!

Remember to wear a SOTH t-shirt if you have one!

Faith Formation Time (aka Sunday School) begins in September!

We are called – at all ages – to continue to grow in our life of faith. Young people: be an example to your parents and grandparents! Adults, be an example to our children and grandchildren by participating in the following Faith Formation Time opportunities:

For Adults:

Adult Forum **in the sanctuary** **10:30-11:30**

This fall we will be using the “animate Faith” curriculum, which includes video, discussion and journaling.



For High School students:

Echo **in youth room** **10:30-11:30**

The Echo curriculum creates an imaginative way to engage in the Bible using storytelling, creative reflection, and dialogue



Grades 7-8

Confirmation **Classroom 106** **10:30-11:30**

This group will meet on Wednesdays and Sundays through October.

Grades 5-6

Connect **Classroom 104** **10:30-11:30**

The Connect curriculum is specifically designed for 5th and 6th graders’ minds in mind. The students are engaged with videos, Bible exploration, and hands-on projects. “Connect takes tweens on a journey through the Old Testament and into the New Testament, exploring the connections between several stories each week.”



Grades 1-4

Spark 2

Classroom 100-3

10:30-11:30

Spark Lectionary is designed to connect Sunday School and Sunday worship by delving into the same Bible story in class that the kids hear during worship. That connection will be reinforced by having one Bible story read at Sunday worship from the Spark Story Bible.

PreSchool-Kindergarten

Spark 1

Classroom 104

10:30-11:30

This group of students will also use the Spark Lectionary curriculum as it has been designed for 3, 4 and 5 year-olds. New this year: they will be meeting in room 103 instead of the nursery.



Regular classes will begin September 15.

Please Note: On Sunday, September 8, all students will be participating in the God's Work our Hands Sunday of Service. All students are welcome to choose from a variety of service projects on-site or in the community. There will be multiple on-site projects appropriate for children.



Planning has begun for a Community Garden on the Shepherd of the Hills property. A significant number of people from our church have committed to helping with this project so we are going forward with applying for a grant from Gateway Greening. The grant application is due October 18 so we need to keep moving forward with plans.

So far, we have received pledges of support from the Church Council, Community Helping Ministry, and Cypress Gardens Apartments. In addition, requests for support have gone out to community leaders and businesses. Other progress that has been made is preliminary site drawings and drafts of Garden Guidelines and Garden Applications.

A meeting is planned for Tuesday, September 3 at 6 pm at Prairie Commons Library in Hazelwood. We will tour their Community Garden prior to going inside to discuss what has been done so far, review preliminary drawings and documents, and divide up grant application tasks. Another meeting date and time will also be discussed. Anyone interested in helping with our Community Garden is welcome to attend.

If you have questions, please contact Mara Berry or Martha Johnson.



So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

We are a church that is deeply rooted — and always being made new.

If anyone is in Christ...

We are deeply rooted. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is still comparatively new as a church body, and yet our roots are much deeper than our 25 years together. The taproot of our life extends through the histories of predecessor churches in the United States, through the formative witness of the 16th century evangelical reformers and their confessional writings, to the Scriptures and the word of Christ. Our life is in Jesus Christ. We are deeply rooted in his word of forgiveness and the promises of God's steadfast love and mercy. The word of Christ dwells in us richly. God nourishes us as one body in Jesus Christ with companions from around the globe who meet us at Christ's table of grace.

...there is a new creation

We are being made new every day. In Jesus Christ we are not unchanged. What God does in Christ is as radical as the death and resurrection of baptism, where new creatures in Christ rise to live "no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them." God is bringing that new creation to life among us in the ministry of reconciliation. In that service we no longer see each other as we did before. We are no longer strangers, competitors or enemies to each other. We are beloved companions in one body, restored to a communion where the rich diversity of our experiences, wisdom and abilities serve the common good in Christ. The new creation in Christ rises to life among us every day.



Synod News:

- Farewell and Godspeed to Bishop Mansholt
 - Reception August 24 at St. Phillip Lutheran Church
 - Cardinals/Braves game August 24,
 - Throwing out the ceremonial first pitch
 - Attending batting practice
 - \$5 of every ticket sold goes to synod campaign fund
 - Close to 500 tickets sold.
- Installation for Bishop-Elect Roger Gustafson
 - November 2, 2013 at 3:00 in Kansas City

ELCA News:

- Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and wife Ione, receive the Servus Dei Medal, which honors officer of the ELCA at the completion of their terms at 2013 Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburg, PA
- Reverend Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop of Northeast Ohio Synod was called by ecclesial ballot to be the 4th Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. She will serve a 6 year term, beginning November 1, 2013.
- The Churchwide assembly gave thanks for the service of David Swartling for his ministry as Secretary of the ELCA. Swartling announced this past fall that he would not seek to serve another term.
- William Christ Boerger, formerly bishop of the ELCA Northwest Washington Synod, was elected August 16, 2013 to a six-year term as secretary of the ELCA.
- For other information about the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly actions and decisions, go to elca.org.



Season of Creation

During the month of September, Shepherd of the Hills will be taking time in the church year to focus our celebration on God the creator, Christ as the redeemer of creation, and the Spirit as sustainer of creation—to worship God along with all creation, and to express gratitude, love, and a commitment to care for all living things on earth. It's called the Season of Creation, and here's what it will look like this year:

September 1 (September 8)	Ocean Sunday God's Work our Hands Sunday*
September 15	Animal Sunday
September 22	Storm Sunday
September 29	Universe Sunday

** because of the 25th anniversary celebration, God's Work our Hands, we will have special readings on September 8 to honor that celebration, and will return to the Season of Creation the following Sunday.*

We will be celebrating this season with fresh plants and flowers in the sanctuary, provided from members' gardens and homes, with liturgical readings connected to each Sunday's theme, and with whatever other ideas you might have to enrich this celebration of God's creation.

Notice: We have changed the way we handle sign-ups within the church. During worship, the only clipboard that will be passed around is the worship register. Any other sign-up requests will be located on a clipboard or bulletin board in the fellowship area, to be addressed after worship. Please feel free to announce any sign-up possibilities during Opportunities, directing people where to find the correct clipboard, or personally circulate your sign-up during fellowship time.

Additional Dates to Remember:

- ❖ 9/3 – 6:00 pm, Garden Meeting at Prairie Commons Library (see Community Garden article for more info)
- ❖ 9/5 – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Budget Bonanza at SOTH
- ❖ 10/11-10/12 – Feed My Starving Children Lock-in Event for Confirmation Class
- ❖ 10/27 – Commitment & Confirmation Sunday



SEPTEMBER – Birthdays

Eliza Urnes	1
Dian Collier	4
Lori Collins	8
Zach Hogbin	10
George Marvin	12
Gabrielle Anderson	13
Jim Urnes, Sr.	13
Gage Dixon	14
Nancy Gbelawoe	18
Sharon Elder	19
Julie Hutson	25

Anniversaries

Judy Conoyer & Ted Bronson	2
Jeff & Julie Hutson	6
John & Barb Daab	8

OCTOBER – Birthdays

Helen Griffin	10
Lisa Hogbin	13
Kim Loehr	13
Tony Chumbley	14
Linda Ritter	20
Ted Bronson	21
Devin Travis	22
Bob Bird	23
Evelyn Pursley	23
Bill Keyes	24
William Kparkillen	27
Steady Tokpa	29
Eileen Meyers	30

Anniversaries

Carl & Kathy Jordan	23
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