



Shepherd's Voice

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~ Philippians 4:6-7

A Letter from Pastor Stoltenow

Praying With an Open Heart

In our American culture, and in others, too, we have a certain way of greeting each other that replaces the standard, *hello*. Have you ever noticed people passing by each other and saying things like, *how ya doin*, *what is up*, *whattaya say*, and other such phrases? Each of these greetings is a question, yet seldom do people really stop to hear the answer to the question. What would you do if you said to someone *how ya doin* and intended to keep walking, only to be met with the request to stop and really listen to how that person is doing? It would be a surprise for most people.

Christians also have a saying which falls into this same category of odd speech when we use the phrase, *hey, I will be prayin for ya*, and then it does not happen. How many times might you have told someone you would pray for them and then did not? I have been guilty of this. And this is sad because praying for someone is such a powerful and meaningful thing to do. Do not get me started on how fast I can say *Grace* when I am hungry, or how quickly we want prayers to be said during worship, so church services do not go so long. We can even pray the *Lord's Prayer* without thinking about what we are saying.

Praying with an Open Heart based on Philippians 4:6-7 is the theme for Shepherd of the Hills for this year. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.* God wants us to pray! God wants to hear our prayers in every situation. When we pray, we might have an idea of how we want God to answer our prayer, but when we truly pray *with an open heart*, we can find God doing something we may not have anticipated or even thought about. This is why it is important to pray with an open heart.

Dr. John Kleinig, author of the book *Grace Upon Grace* (a book I have spoken about before and highly recommend), makes a convincing case that praying is one of the most

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Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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Join Us for Fall Fest at Shepherd!

Shepherd invites you, your family, and friends to our Fall Fest on **Saturday, October 25**, from **4–6:00pm**. This community celebration is open to all, and we'd love for you to come and be part of the fun! The afternoon will be filled with exciting activities for kids and families, including carnival games, an inflatable obstacle course, a jump house with a slide, a costume contest, and face painting. We'll also be joining together for a special community outreach project, giving us a chance to bless others as we celebrate. And yes—food is provided!

But Fall Fest is more than just a time for fun—it's a time of fellowship and joy as we gather in honor of Jesus, our Savior. Everything we do is because of Him, and we're excited to welcome our community, our Early Learning Center families, and our church members to experience this time of laughter, connection, and celebration together. Mark your calendars, invite your neighbors, and come join us for an unforgettable evening at Shepherd!

Help Us Make Fall Fest a Fun and Impactful Evening!

We want YOU! Sign up [here](#) to run a game or activity booth and help create a fun, memorable event for our community. Volunteers are the heart of Fall Fest, and there are many ways to get involved:

- * Decorations Help: Help us decorate on Friday, October 24 to create an inviting atmosphere for our guests!
- * Kitchen Crew: Help serve snacks and keep things running smoothly.
- * Carnival Game Leaders: Bring fun and laughter to kids of all ages.
- * Bounce House Monitors: Ensure safety while the kids jump and play.
- * Face Painters: Add colorful smiles and creativity to the night.
- * Project Outreach Booth: Engage the community in meaningful ways through our service project.

Whether you have a little time or a lot, your involvement will make a huge impact. This is a great opportunity to serve, meet new people, and share God's love with our community.

This Month, We Are Praying with an Open Heart for...Church Workers and Missionaries!

As we spend time in prayer this month, we remember church workers and missionaries. God has much to say to those whose vocation is in the religious field. The work can feel like a challenge at times because of the charge God gives to take care of His flock and bring others to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Religious workers don't want to cause anyone to be turned away from salvation in Christ because of their words or actions. That's why God reminds them He has given His Spirit to do the heavy lifting! And He provides encouragement through His Word (see the short list of Scripture references at the end of this article).

God also asks us all to pray for His church workers and missionaries. He reminds everyone that His Word is true. It gives strength for each day, light for the right path, and will not return to Him empty, because He is The One in charge. Our prayers are especially encouraging for missionaries in foreign fields who can feel lonely, discouraged, or in danger. Knowing they are lifted by the prayers of God's people provides strength for their hearts and minds.

One more thing: We ALL are church workers and missionaries, even if our vocation isn't in the religious field. God commands us: *Get out there, and make disciples! Wherever you are, you are My witnesses.* He promises: *I will send My Spirit to you. I have given you My Word. I will be with you always.* Pray this month for church workers and missionaries, and remember to pray for each other!

Scripture to aid you to Pray with an Open Heart for church workers and missionaries: Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 118:25-26, 119:105; Isaiah 6:8-9, 40:31, 52:7; Matthew 11:29-30; Luke 8:4-15; Ephesians 2:10, 4:11-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:2; Hebrews 12:1-3.

October Anniversaries

- 10/2 Gregory and Elizabeth Patrick, 26 years
- 10/7 Matthew and Lynnette Braunschweig, 25 years
- 10/12 David and Amy Menges, 39 years
- 10/16 Roger and Shelley Huddleston, 43 years



NOTE: Don't see your anniversary listed? Please contact the front office to have your member information updated!

Member News / Ministries

A Way to Pray

This "Way To Pray" was taught to me by a former pastor, Rev. Royce Rinehart. At night when he prayed the Lord's Prayer, he would pray a petition and then think of a person or people for whom that petition was particularly relevant. Examples: *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* "Dear Lord, bless the high schooler who is struggling with following Your path and has been skipping school. Give her parents wisdom in how to talk with her. Give her teachers insight into how to engage her. In my meeting with her tomorrow, may Your Spirit reveal the real problem, that Your will can once again become hers." *Give us this day our daily bread.* "Dear Lord, please watch over the mother who came to the office today and needed food for her baby and preschooler."

Martin Luther used this idea in the prayer on pp. 215-216 in *Lutheran Service Book*. This version of the Prayer of the Church was written by him, and the Way to Pray pattern he used is the Lord's Prayer.

May this **Way to Pray** make Jesus' prayer pattern, **the Lord's Prayer**, even richer in meaning as you pray it with an open heart!



LWR Quilts & Kits

Those of you who would like to help with our ongoing project of putting together quilts for those in need, our next Ready, Set, Tie! date is **Wed., October 1**. We will tie quilt tops in **Room LL5** from **9:00am-noon**. You are welcome to drop in at any time. For more information contact **Sharleen Jespersen** at jesper417@yahoo.com.



Breakfast With Baby Serves 13 Families in September

At the September 13 Breakfast with Baby event, we served 17 children from 13 families. After breakfast and a devotion, parents shopped for diapers, wipes, clothing and other available items. For the **October 11** event, needed items are **Boys' Size 3 & 4 clothes and Size 5 & 6 diapers**. **Please note: We do not need any Size 1 or 2 diapers.** Thank you for sharing God's love.

Church Worker Appreciation on Sunday Oct. 12

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Church Worker Appreciation Sunday will be celebrated on **October 12**. We will celebrate our Shepherd and ELC Staff and highlight Gail Black's 25 years of service as Director of Parish Music at Shepherd. Join in the party from **4:30-7pm** in the **gym**, which includes a catered dinner and program. Please **RSVP** by October 5.

We will also have a card shower for Shepherd and ELC Staff. Cards may be dropped off until October 10. In lieu of gifts, a donation in Gail's honor may be made to [The Mission of Christ Network](#) or [Alternatives Pregnancy Center](#). Questions? Contact **Sina** at **707-326-8666**.



Grief affects everything you do. It can disrupt every aspect of your life in ways you might not expect.

"I don't think I had time to think because psychologically I wasn't with it," says Nancy, whose husband passed away. "I would do stupid things. I would be coming home thinking I was on X Street, and then I'd realize, 'Well, I'm on the wrong street.' It was dumb things like that."

When life seems chaotic and your world has lost its predictable order, remember that God does not change. Like Nancy, you may find yourself driving down the wrong road, but God is with you, and He is able to get you to your destination.

"What a God! His road stretches straight and smooth. Every GOD-direction is road-tested. Everyone who runs toward Him makes it" (Psalm 18:30 MSG).

*From *Grieving with Hope* by Samuel Hodges and Kathy Leonard

Member News

Bible Readings for the Month

October 5 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 62; Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4;
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10

October 12 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 111; Ruth 1:1-19a;
2 Timothy 2:1-13; Luke 17:11-19

October 19 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 121; Genesis 32:22-30;
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 26 – Reformation Day, Observed; Confirmation in 10:45am Traditional

Lessons: Psalm 46; Revelation 14:6-7;
Romans 3:19-28; Matthew 11:12-19; John 8:31-36



Usher Schedule for the Month

October 5 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Bruce Boggess / Chuck Place
10:45 Sanctuary – Pam & Russ Robbins
10:45 Gym –

October 12 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Brooklyn Schuchman / Dave Stone
10:45 Sanctuary – Sandy & Bill Griffis
10:45 Gym – Ron Aukamp / Milo Samson

October 19 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Rick Monson /
10:45 Sanctuary – Josh Hoener / Lindsey Jarvi
10:45 Gym – Kathy & Chris Biondolilo

October 26 – Reformation Day, Observed; Confirmation in 10:45am Traditional

8 am Sanctuary – Heidi Dudley / Chuck Place
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde
10:45 Gym – Wayne Johnson / Charley Powers



Ministry Opportunities

Priscilla Circle serves meals for families after funerals and memorial services. If you are interested in being part of this circle as a helper or to bring food for these occasions, please contact **Sandy Garberding** at RSGarb@comcast.net or **Kay Stolzenbach** at gkstolzenbach@comcast.net.

Loving Meals Ministry

When someone in our Shepherd family has surgery or becomes ill, help with preparing meals may be needed. If you or someone you know could use help with small meals on a short-term basis, please contact the church office at **303-798-0711** and you will be contacted by one of our meal coordinators.

Contemporary Service Altar Setup/Cleanup Team

This setup/cleanup team takes turns preparing the altar for the Contemporary services by filling candles and setting out the altar ware on Sunday mornings. After the service, things get put away. It doesn't take much time and there are no meetings to attend. To be a part of this team, please contact either **Mary Powers** at powersworld@live.com or **Luanne Reimer** at reimer.luanne@gmail.com.

The women of **Altar Circle** prepare the chancel area in the Sanctuary for the traditional services. Communion preparations, changing paraments, filling candles with oil and vacuuming are just a few of the duties performed before services. On Communion Sundays, there is cleanup after the services. We get together for a meeting once a quarter and enjoy fellowship, a devotion and treats! We're always looking for women to help with preparations and Communion cleanup. The work is shared among our members so it isn't a big commitment of time. Even if you don't want to come to the meetings, please consider assisting with Communion cleanup after the services. Contact **Luanne Reimer** through email at reimer.luanne@gmail.com.

Used Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids

Another 30 pair of eyeglasses have been collected and delivered to the Lions Club, to be distributed to those in need throughout the world. Since 2010, Shepherd has donated 1,879 pair of eyeglasses. Several hearing aids were also collected and given to the Sertoma organization. Place any eyeglasses and hearing aids in the designated basket in the Sanctuary Welcome Center Cry Room. Thank you! Your contributions are a blessing to many!

Missionary of the Month – October 2025

Pastor Duane Meisner - Resurrection in the City, Denver

Resurrection in the City (formerly Mt. Calvary Church) is a church community that reaches out to local North Denver families and homeless communities. Outreach includes after-school care (snack, dinner, Bible time) and tutoring for 25 inner-city elementary-age students. The ministry has built a community room for inner city men to come and fellowship with neighbors and church members. Pastor Duane is continually reaching out to non-members in the Resurrection in the City community, hoping to bring them to fellowship in Christ.



Offering Christ-Like Care to Others

In our congregation we have a group of people with skills in helping those who are experiencing problems in living their lives. These people are called Stephen Ministers, and they have undergone extensive training to develop and nurture their helping skills. At the present time, our Stephen Ministers are working with people experiencing many different kinds of crises in their lives.

People who might be helped by the ministry of Stephen Ministers include those who are hospitalized, have lost a loved one, are separated and/or are undergoing the process of divorce, are shut-in, or are experiencing a wide variety of other problems and difficulties in their lives.

Each of us have times when we experience some of the problems listed above—times when we are lonely, grieving, hurt, or in need of help of one kind or another. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells us such troubles can produce personal growth for the individual experiencing them. But as we who are in Christ experience suffering of one sort or another, we also experience comfort through Christ. One way we receive this comfort is through others who have likewise received comfort and care through Christ (2 Corinthians 1:4-6). Our Stephen Ministers are currently offering this kind of Christ-like care to those with many kinds of problems in life.

If you are wondering whether the care of a Stephen Minister is for you and would like more information to make a decision, please call **Ron Manuella (303-587-0001)** or **Pastor Stoltenow**.

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important things a Christian does in their daily walk of faith. We read in James 4:3, *You do not have, because you do not ask God.* And again, in James 5:16, *The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.* Of course, our Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray when he gave us what we call *The Lord's Prayer*. The Lord's Prayer is packed with its various petitions for our good. Dr. Kleinig encourages us to read Scripture aloud, even when we are alone, and then pray aloud based on whatever Scripture we've read. When we hear ourselves reading the Bible, and we hear ourselves praying to our Lord, Kleinig points to the greater focus on what we read and how it informs our prayer. In short, we say it, pray it, and remember it. Additionally, we assume a learner's posture and open ourselves to the Lord's answers

and blessings. In any and all situations. The Lord will fill an open heart.

My prayer for you, and I promise you I WILL pray, is we will all consider and renew our prayer habits so that we are ***all Praying with an Open Heart.*** I ask you to pray the same for me. Prayer is an act of faith, is something God wants us to do, and has great power because our Heavenly Father takes joy to hear our prayers and promises to answer--maybe not always in the way we want, but in a way that serves His purpose and works for the good of all of us.

Blessings!

Pastor Brad

Pray With an Open Heart



PRAYER Opportunities at Shepherd for your learning and encouragement this year:

- Every Wednesday from 12-1pm the sanctuary will be open. Use this space at 12:12pm (see Romans 12:12) to Pause to Pray.
- Every week, the written Announcements includes a prayer list you may use as an outline for your own or your family prayers.
- Join our Seeking Him prayer group every third Thursday of the month in the Atrium. It is led by Pastor Feldmann.
- Sign up for Shepherd's email Prayer Chain. Go to **ShepherdHillsChurch.org**, scroll to the very bottom of the page, and click on Eblast/Prayer Chain Sign-Up, or follow this link: [**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church: Sign Up to Stay in Touch**](#)

ELC

ELC Halloween Parade

Our ELC students would love to share their cute and creative costumes with you! Everyone is invited to our Halloween parade in the gym on **October 31** at **11am**.



Youth

Teach Me to Pray Milestone

The Teach Me to Pray Faith Milestone will be held on **Sunday, October 12**. At this milestone preschool students and their families will be blessed during a worship service. The parents will attend a "Teach Me to Pray" class during the Sunday School hour.



SHYP

October Dates to Remember:

- **October 5 (Sun)** – Meet at **K1 Speed - Indoor Go-Kart Racing, 12:30-2:30pm**. Cost: \$35 per person. Drop off and pick up at 8034 Midway Dr., Littleton, CO 80125

Xtreme

- **October 12 (Sun)** – **No regular Xtreme**. Instead, join us for dinner and a celebration of Gail Black's 25 years at Shepherd! **4:30-7pm** in the **gym**.
- **Confirmation Sunday!** On **October 26**, join us at the **10:45am** Traditional Service in the **Sanctuary** as we support our Confirmands in this milestone!

Young Adults

- **October 26 (Sun)** – Lunch at 12:15pm. Meet in the Gym.

Youth Group Notes

Shepherd of the Hills' **Spiritual Formation Plan** encompasses your child's spiritual formation from the womb all the way to when they leave the nest after high school. It is age appropriate and designed to assist your children to mature as Lutheran Christians so they may take a joyful stand for Christ.

For specific information about Shepherd's Confirmation Program, please contact **Pastor Ben Oesch** at BOesch@sothfamily.org. For information about junior and senior high youth groups, please contact **Sina Williams** at swilliams@sothfamily.org. For information about Family Ministry, contact **Jodie Stoltenow** at jstoltenow@sothfamily.org. You can also find specific youth information and upcoming events online under either the Connect tab or the Calendar tab at ShepherdHillsChurch.org.



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The deadline for the November issue of the Shepherd's Voice is October 20. Please have all articles entered into the Communication Request system by this date.

POSTMASTER

Send Address Changes to:
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