



Shepherd's Voice

There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

~Ephesians 4:4-6

A Letter from Pastor Stoltenow

The Beauty of Believing in God "Like a Lemon"

People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have Him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to Him and said, let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. ~Matthew 18:15-17

Since Pastor Z left for Colorado Springs and Pastor Ben came on board at Shepherd, I have taken over doing "Jesus Time" in the ELC. For those who do not know about "Jesus Time," it meets twice a week where I go to each classroom between 9:00 and 10:00AM to have a short lesson on the topic of the week and a prayer. Chapel takes place on Wednesdays where the topic of the week is further developed, and finally, a group "Jesus Time" takes place on Fridays, led by one of the ministry staff members who finishes the weekly theme. Each class has a name. There are the Bugs, Lions, Little Lemons, Foxes and Rockets. The Little Lemons are the youngest group, and they do not say very much. They have started to walk up to where I sit and look me over which I take as a good sign. It is really cute how these little kids approach the giant pastor!

I have come to really love visiting these kids and sharing the love of God with them. Make no mistake...their attention spans are short, and the Little Lemons just kind of look me over to determine if I can be trusted. You should see the looks on their little faces when they listen to the story of Jonah and the whale or Noah and the ark. They are completely into the story, and their little minds are immersed in how Jonah lived in the whale's tummy or how silly it is to build such a big boat on dry land. Most importantly, they believe the truth of the stories. It is absolutely joyful for me to watch them listen and learn with such genuine interest. I have to say it refreshes my soul and renews me to see such eagerness as they learn of God's love and talk about Jesus.

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Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

7691 S. University Blvd.

Centennial, CO 80122

303-798-0711 ShepherdHillsChurch.org



Join Us for Fall Fest at Shepherd!

Shepherd invites you, your family, and friends to our Fall Fest on **Saturday, October 24**, 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, inflatables, activities, a costume contest, and fall fun! If you'd like to help with Fall Fest, please sign up online or at the Fall Fest table between services.

Interested in Going to Cambodia Next Summer???

Could God be calling you to Cambodia in 2027 as a trip member OR as a trip supporter? Come learn about our next mission trip on **Sunday, October 4**, at **12:30 pm**. We'll enjoy a meal, share trip details, and answer your questions. Come hungry—and ready to discover how you can be part of this incredible adventure! RSVP to **Pastor Ben** at boesch@sothfamily.org.

Our Next Active Seniors Luncheon

Our next luncheon will be on **Thursday, October 8**, starting at **10:30am** with coffee in the Atrium, followed at **11:15am** by lunch and a program in the Fellowship Hall. This month's program features Dr. Mark Akers and Mariel Deaguero who will discuss and give insight into Health and Healing Outside the Lines. If you need a ride to the event, please **Jan Hoener**, **303-898-5401**.

LWML Fall Rally

Ascension Lutheran Ladies Guild invites all ladies to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Fall Rally **Saturday, October 3, 9am-2:30pm**. A light breakfast and lunch is provided. Guest speaker is Jenni Talcott from AbleLight. Ingathering for AbleLight: new towels (not white), oversize yard games (or Amazon gift cards), and art supplies. RSVP by Sept. 28 to **Linda**: linda.achziger@gmail.com, **303-921-6081**. Bring a Bible and a friend! 1701 W. Caley Ave., Littleton 80120.

Grandfriends Brunch Set for November 1

Join us for this wonderful intergenerational event on **November 1** from **9:30-10:30am** in the Parish Hall! It's a time to connect with your grandfriend as you eat, talk, and learn about God's Word together. Kids, Xtreme, and SHYP

are welcome to join us even if you don't have a grandfriend or your grandfriend is out of town. Questions? Contact **Connie Rosel** at Rosel_connie@yahoo.com, **720-324-9270**.

Growing Our Youth/Young Adult Team!

After being here 3 years (how has it been that long already?!), one of my greatest desires is for an expanded youth/young adult team. I'm so grateful to Bethany, Ben, Adam, Sam, our pastors, Val, and Patrick for all the ways they've invested in these ministries. I would love to grow our resource bank, and that's where YOU come in!

Please check out the [Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team form](#) here or fill out the green sheets on the Welcome Center credenza or the information table in the Gym to let me know how you would like to offer support. Some commitments are small (less than 1x/week or 1x/month).

Having a list of team members to contact would be an asset to me and to those we serve as we walk TOGETHER in Christ. Your partnership in these ministries will be a huge blessing!

~Sina



Breakfast With Baby Serves 24 People in September

Breakfast with Baby is Shepherd's monthly event serving families with children 2 years and younger and women who are at least 7 months pregnant. On September 12 we served breakfast and a devotion to 24 individuals, including 13 children, from 9 families. Families shopped for diapers, clothes and other available items. For the **October 10** event, we could use **9-mo** and **4yr boy's winter clothes** and **24-mo** and **4yr girl's winter clothes**. We could also use **blankets** and **Size 6** diapers. Thank you.

October Anniversaries

10/7 Matthew and Lynnette Braunschweig, 27 years

10/16 Roger and Shelley Huddleston, 44 years



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



SOS! Choir

Are you looking for a reason to update your 2026-27 calendar? Below are the SOS dates for the year. Now you'll be ready when that urge comes to sing with a group in church!

SOS stands for "Sing One Sunday." This is a low commitment, once-in-a-while opportunity to sing. You may sing parts or just melody. All rehearsal times are the day of, less than 15 minutes before worship begins, and the song is sung right at the beginning of the Traditional services.

Watch for "SOS! Sing One Sunday" announcements throughout the year. Questions? Contact **Gail Black** 303.707.4364, gblack@sothfamily.org.

Sunday, November 1: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Sunday, November 29: *O Jesus So Sweet*

December 25, Christmas Day: *a carol sing*

Sunday, January 17: *Nothing But the Blood*

Sunday, February 28: *Jesus Paid It All*

Sunday, April 18: *My Shepherd, My Shepherd*

Sunday, July 4: *God of Our Fathers*

Above And Beyond Hanger Party

Please join us for our Above & Beyond (high school age and above) Hanger party at Centennial airport **Sat., October 17**. A BBQ meal will be provided with drink at \$15 a person. The Shuttle from the tower parking lot will run **4-4:15pm**, and again starting at **8pm**. 7565 South Peoria St., Centennial, CO. RSVP to **Connie: 720.324.9270**.

Other Ways to Help the Food Bank

Food Donation of the Month

During October, we are requesting donations of **spaghetti and/or spaghetti sauce** for the Food Bank. A marked donation barrel is in the Great Hall under the message screen at the top of the ramp.

Egg Cartons Needed

Our Food Bank will have an ongoing need for egg cartons. Either paper or styrofoam are fine. Only the dozen size please. Please give to **Sharleen Jespersen** or leave in the church office with a note attached stating they are for the Food Bank. Thank you!

Your Investment Check Might Be "Anonymous"

Many investment checks have been coming in this year from companies, such as National Fidelity and LPL Financial, that have no donor name on them. Checks cannot be credited to your giving statement without a name present. These funds are still processed as offerings for the church but are considered anonymous. This means your end-of-the-year giving statement may not reflect all your intended giving. Please have your investment company reference who the donor is on the memo line of any check offering, unless your intention is to be anonymous.

Volunteering for Shepherd's Foodbank

God doesn't need our help, but our neighbors do. Thank you to those wonderful volunteers who load, set up, stack, push, sort, trash and direct. On July 27 we served 65 families. Each time a family comes, they receive 2 week's worth of food. Even when the food bank distribution day is on a holiday, we come out to serve. On Labor Day, through you, God blessed 38 families, and we are expecting the number of families to steadily increase as we advertise publicly.

The following are days we would appreciate your time and talents:

- **Every other Monday** for food distribution. This month it's **October 5** and **19**. (Future dates are listed on the Shepherd website calendar: ShepherdHillsChurch.org)
- 2 shifts: 2-4pm and 4-6pm; you may work one or both shifts **Park in the SOUTH lot and enter through the southeast entrance to the Great Hall.*
- **Every Thursday** organizing food and packing non-perishables for distribution
- 9:30-11:30am **Park in the NORTH lot and enter through the double glass doors to the Great Hall.*
- **Every Friday** organizing food and packing non-perishables for distribution
- 2:30-4:30pm **Park in the NORTH lot and enter through the double glass doors to the Great Hall.*

You can be as involved as you like on a variety of days or just one. It's up to you. Questions? Contact **Sam Scheck:** sam.scheck@comcast.net or **Sharleen Jespersen:** jesper417@yahoo.com.

Copies of the Shepherd's Foodbank volunteer schedule are on the Welcome Center credenza, the information table in the Gym, and the office front desk.

Enjoy an Organ Concert at Grace Lutheran!

Join Grace Lutheran Church, Parker, for their 3rd Annual Organ Concert. Featured organist is Kantor Kevin Hildebrand of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, who will play some of his original compositions as well as various organ literature.

+ **Sun., Nov. 15, 4pm**, 11135 Newlin Gulch Blvd., Parker 80134

Kevin Hildebrand is Kantor at Concordia Theological Seminary. He completed his undergraduate education at Concordia University Chicago, holds master's degrees in music and theology from The University of Michigan and Concordia Theological Seminary, respectively, and currently is a doctoral candidate at Ball State University. He is an active composer and music editor, with numerous compositions for organ, choir, and instruments in print with several publishers. Kevin is the accompanist for the Fort Wayne Children's Choir Youth Chorale and is a frequent organ recitalist, hymn festival presenter, and workshop leader.



Grief impacts every part of you: your health, family, friendships and even your relationship with God. Through October we'll be learning and talking about these challenges and more:

- Facing the empty chair at the table
- Does anyone understand?
- Why this? and What about Heaven?
- When it feels impossible to move forward

Groups meet Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in the Atrium through November 10.

New groups begin January 2027.

More info and registration at
GriefShare.org.

Inviting Our Neighbors to Christmas

Join us for a Jesus Door-2-Door evangelism event on **Saturday, November 21** from **9:00am-1:00pm** in the Parish Hall. We are excited to reach out to our neighbors and invite them to Christmas at Shepherd! Pizza lunch provided. RSVP to boesch@sothfamily.org.



Offering Christ-Like Care to Others

In our congregation we have a group of people with skills to help 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 has 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**.

Member News

Bible Readings for the Month

October 4 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 80:7-19; Isaiah 5:1-7;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 11 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 23; Isaiah 25:6-9;
Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14

October 18 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13); Isaiah 45:1-7;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 25 – Reformation Sunday Observed

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 4 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Julie Ropte / Kasey Ropte
10:45 Sanctuary – Pam & Russ Robbins
10:45 Gym – Kathy & Chris Biondolilo

October 11 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 18 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Heidi Dudley / Chuck Place
10:45 Sanctuary – Joshua Hoener / Lindsey Jarvi
10:45 Gym – Ron Aukamp / Charley Powers

October 25 – Reformation Sunday Observed

8 am Sanctuary – Ava Havekost / Josh Havekost
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde
10:45 Gym – Sue & Duane Feldmann



*We're here to
Serve*

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 25 pair of eyeglasses have been collected. **We are nearing 2000 pair collected since 2010, currently at 1985!** The eyeglasses have been delivered to the Lions Club and will be distributed to those in need throughout the world. Several hearing aids were also collected and given to the Sertoma organization. Place any eyeglasses and hearing aids in the designated basket in the Welcome Center cry room. Your contributions are a blessing to many! Thank you!

Missionary of the Month – October 2026

Sharron Wilen, Son and Reins Ranch, Franktown, CO

Missionary Sharron Wilen is the founder of The Son and Reins Ranch, an Equine-Accredited-Learning ministry in Parker, CO. This ranch provides support and encouragement to those who are hurting for any reason, developing a relationship that can be trusted and learning about the love of Jesus. God allows the rescued abused horses to bring about effective change in a person's life.

Summer has been busy at the ranch with a big celebration in August of the barn's 5-year anniversary. Food, fellowship, and—of course—painting the horses Levi and Kat, were highlights of the day, with games for the kids. Sharron says, "It was wonderful to hear kids and adults laughing and having fun together."

Sharron also initiated a program specifically for young girls struggling with everyday pressures. She will have more information as the program grows. The Ranch continues to have men's fellowship on the 2nd Friday of each month and women's Bible Study the 2nd Saturday of each month. The horses continue to provide the healing that accompanies the Bible study and fellowship.

Please keep Sharron, her horses, her volunteers, and her ministry in your prayers.



Kat enjoying his new paint and, of course, dinner.

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What is so awesome about "Jesus Time" is spending time with these kids who, when it comes to the Christian faith, do not doubt what the Bible teaches. They believe without doubt that Jesus loves them. They believe Jesus will always take care of them. They trust in Jesus to give them eternal life. Their trust in Jesus has no boundary. Often, young children can be dismissed from conversations, left out of discussions, or otherwise even be considered not particularly important. Jesus takes the opposite view: the best example of faith comes from those who hear the Word of God and believe it. It is completely understood by them to be for them. Such is the case of the account of the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. For them, no doubt.

But...for me...hmmm...sometimes it is hard to believe what God has told me is true.

When the world gets its hooks into us and we start listening to all the voices who want us to consider our Christian faith to be more about legend than fact, it is hard to resist. The world without God wants us to believe that we ourselves are god and it's up to us to determine what is true and not true. There is no innocent, childlike faith in the world's process. Oh, it's stimulating to our minds all right, but for all

the wrong reasons, and worse yet, it seeks to rob us of our confidence in Jesus. That is something that does not happen with the Bugs, Lions, Little Lemons, Foxes and Rockets.

Is it any wonder that Jesus said, *Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.* ~Luke 17:1-2. A child-like faith that trusts in God without doubt is what God want for all of us.

If you want to see what such a faith looks like and sounds like, come with me to "Jesus Time." It is every Tuesday morning here at Shepherd at 9:00am. You are also invited to ELC Chapel on Wednesdays at 9:00am for more of the same. The kids would be happy to have you join them. I promise you will be inspired and refreshed in your Christian faith.

The Little Lemons? Well, they will need a while to look you over first.

Blessings!

Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Come and join us for "Jesus Time!"



ELC

ELC Library Work Day

Help us give our ELC library a fresh start! Join us **Sat., October 17** at **9:00am** for a library clean up and setup day. We'll be sorting books, organizing shelves, and getting the space ready for the kids and families. Coffee and donuts provided. All ages welcome! No experience necessary; just a willing pair of hands. Questions? Contact **Chris Skirde** or **Martha Johnson**.

Please join us for our Halloween Costume parade in the gym at **11am** on **Friday, October 30**. We would love to have you come and see the ELC students in their fun and creative costumes.



Youth

Teach Me to Worship Faith Milestone

The Teach Me to Worship Faith Milestone will be held on **Sunday, October 11**. At this milestone, preschool (2-5 year olds) and kindergarten children and their families will be blessed during the 8:00am Traditional and 10:45am Contemporary services. The parents will attend a "Teach Me to Worship" class during the Sunday School hour in the seating area of the Kidzone.

Come and Help with Fall Fest 2026!

Youth and families can dress up in their best costume and help run a booth as we serve the community on **Saturday, October 24, 3:30-6:30pm** in the gym! We'll have games, face painting, food, etc. This is a great event to invite your neighbors to, especially if they have small children! The event itself is 4-6pm, but we ask volunteers to know their stations before and to help take down for 30 minutes afterward.



October Dates to Remember:

SHYP

- **October 4** (Sun) – 12:30-2:30pm – SHYP Youth Group in Youth Room
- **October 24** (Sat) – Fall Fest – See details above.

Xtreme

- **October 11** (Sun) – 12:30-2pm – Xtreme Youth Group in Youth Room
- **October 24** (Sat) – Fall Fest – See details above.

Young Adult Events

- **October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** (Thurs) – **Sports Night, 7-9:30pm**. Contact **Ben Barstad** for more details and to join the Group Me.
- **October 24** (Sat) – Fall Fest – See details above.
- **October 25** (Sun) – Lunch off site, 12:15pm

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 Stollenow** at jstollenow@sothfamily.org.





School Update

Fall courses began today, so I traded extra reading time, catching up on life tasks, camping, and traveling for textbooks, projects, and quizzes. But I get to study the Word of God and ways to serve his people!

My fall courses include Old Testament: Conquest to Exile, Pauline Epistles, Worship and the Word, The Lutheran Confessions, and German. Although every class

will be beneficial, I think I will most enjoy studying the Pauline Epistles.



Family Updates: Felicitas!

Felicitas Maude Lani Poppe was born at 5 am on July 24th, at a healthy 8 lbs, 19 1/2 inches, and was baptized seven hours later at Mercy Hospital by Pastor Matt Clark. Family and friends joined us for a public recognition of baptism at our fieldwork congregation, Ascension Lutheran, on August 16th.

Zadok (6th), Titus (4th), and Esther (1st) went back to school on August 19th, and Basil (4 years), Jael (2 years), and Felicitas (1 month!) are enjoying time at home with mama. Zadok and Esther are running cross country again this year, and Titus will keep running his seminary trash business! We all look forward to hiking and exploring this fall.



Please Pray...

- Thanksgiving for a healthy Felicitas and recovery for Molly.
- Zadok, Titus, and Esther as they head back to Word of Life.
- For my heart and mind to receive and recall instruction, endurance, and wisdom.

We Appreciate Your Support!

1. Keep praying!
2. Send encouraging notes.
3. Consider purchasing a required book or wishlist items by visiting this link (<https://tinyurl.com/mwtrfr59>) or scanning the QR code.



Thank you for your support during our time studying and living at the seminary and for your diligent prayers for pastors, present and future!

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The deadline for the November issue of the Shepherd's Voice is October 19. Please have all articles entered into the Communication Request system by this date.

POSTMASTER

Send Address Changes to:
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