



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

Jesus Door to Door – JD2D

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." ~Matthew 28:18-20

In the time I have been a pastor, I have never heard anyone ever say they thought the "Great Commission" was a bad idea, nor have I ever heard of a congregation say they did not want to experience growth in their congregational family. Sharing the Gospel of Jesus is an important and wonderful thing to do and most Christians know this and agree with it. People need to know the love of God shown to us through Jesus. The world needs to hear the message of God's love, mercy, and forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins.

But exactly how do we go about doing the work of "making disciples" and who is going to do it? This is a question Shepherd of the Hills needs to answer.

Last December 13, a Saturday, a dozen members of Shepherd gathered for a training workshop called **Jesus Door to Door** which I will heretofore refer to as **JD2D**. This approach to evangelism was developed by a parish pastor in Kansas and was taught to us by his assistant who came to Shepherd for the day. We had a wonderful time beginning with donuts and coffee followed by a Bible study by yours truly and a morning of instruction. After lunch, we did some practicing of the techniques we learned using role play and then paired up and went out into our community, going "door to door." We asked people prepared questions about their religious background, if they knew of Shepherd of the Hills, whether they had a church which they attended and, if not, would they like more information about Shepherd. We gave people a brochure about Shepherd and our Christmas Services schedule and took their names

Continued on page 6

Inside You'll Find

- 2 Member News
- 3 Lent/Holy Week Schedule
- 6 Mission & Ministries
- 7 Pastor's Letter Cont.
- 8 ELC/Youth News



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

7691 S. University Blvd.

Centennial, CO 80122

303-798-0711 ShepherdHillsChurch.org

Member News

Come to Our 12th Annual Chili Cookoff!!!

Join us to see whose chili reigns supreme on **Sunday, February 1, 5-8pm** in the **Gym**! Enjoy a night of chili and entertainment by our very own Infinite Grace (Praise Band). Pre-sale tickets cost \$15 until 6pm on Jan 1. Cost at door is \$20. Cost for kids 4th grade and younger is \$5. The family price for adults and youth (5 people maximum) is \$50.

Your ticket into the Chili Cookoff includes 10 voting tickets. You can also purchase more voting tickets on site. Funds go toward SHYP's Summer Trip. There will be prizes for Most Unique, Spiciest, and of course, Best Overall chili! Questions? Contact **Sina** at swilliams@sothfamily.org or **707-326-8666**.

The Season of Lent

Lenten season begins with **Ash Wednesday** Worship **February 18, 7pm**. It continues with Lent Wednesdays and Holy Week, with the theme: Praying with an Open Heart: The Lord's Prayer. Join us for soup suppers every Wednesday (**February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25**) at **5:15pm** with Lent services at **6:30pm** in the Sanctuary. And you can help! **Sign up** to bring a crockpot of soup (serves 10-12) or to set up or clean up. All are welcome! Find complete details at: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Easter.

Sanctuary Crosses

We thank God for the gifts of the many crosses which grace our sanctuary walls. These crosses come from all over the world! Some are in memory of a person or event; others are from travels or are made especially for our cross walls.



Can you guess which of the sanctuary wall crosses is the one described below?

This cross is from Costa Rica, from the town of Monteverde, purchased by Chris and Tina Skirde. Tina writes: "We traveled with friends to this area – a mountain town. The area is beautiful, green, and most of the time you are literally above the clouds. God's nature and design are breathtaking!"

If you have a cross you would like to donate, bring the cross to Gail Black in the church office, with an explanation of where it came from (and, if you wish, why you are giving it). This can also be done anonymously, if you prefer!

Address Update

Karen Holle
10760 E Ida Ct
Englewood, CO 80111



Updates
to
Our
Church
Family



Breakfast With Baby Serves 22 Families in January

On January 10, Breakfast with Baby served 43 people including 32 children from 22 families. After a buffet breakfast and devotion, parents shopped for clothes, diapers, wipes and other available items. For the **February 14** event, **baby wipes** and **Size 6 diapers** are needed. Also, **boys' size 9-mo and 3T & 4T clothes** and **girls' size 18 & 24-month and 2T clothes** are needed. Thank you for continuing to share God's love through this ministry.



Marge Duffy Birthday Celebration

Shepherd of the Hills is invited to an open house on **March 1**, from **1-3pm**, in the Parish Hall, to celebrate the 90th birthday of Marge Duffy! You may come and go as you like.

Keeping In Touch with Karen Holle

Karen Holle's new address is 10760 E. Ida Ct. Englewood, CO 80111. She would love visitors to come by and chat. They are welcome any day of the week. She would also be glad to have cards or notes mailed to the above new address. ~Thanks, Kevin & Christie and Keith & Beth

February Anniversaries



- 4 George and Ardis Gordon (59 years)
- 18 Ralph and Dorla Ohlmeier (59 years)
- 27 Milo and Jennie Sampson (44 years)

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

Member News

Praying with an Open Heart

This month, we are **Praying with an Open Heart for...our government**.

The Bible teaches that Christians are called to submit to governing authorities. By praying for government, we acknowledge the authority God has placed over us, and we seek His guidance for those in leadership positions. We ask that decisions made are just and righteous, reflecting God's character and His commands. We ask for our leaders to be guided by God's will and His wisdom in their decision-making processes and to work toward unity and peace in our communities, our country, and with the rest of the world.

Some Scripture to aid you as you **Pray with an Open Heart for our government** this month: our theme verse Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 22:28; Psalm 33:12; Proverbs 29:2; Proverbs 29:4; Proverbs 3:5-6; Daniel 2:21; Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 6:9-13; Romans 13:1; Ephesians 4:3; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Titus 3:1-2.

A Way to Pray ~ When Prayer Looks Different

For a long time, I believed I wasn't very good at prayer. My mind wandered, distractions crept in, and I quietly wondered if I was doing it wrong. Over time, I've learned something freeing: prayer doesn't have to look the same for everyone. Distraction is not a spiritual failure — it's part of being human. And God meets us there.

Prayer is a relationship, not a performance. Sometimes simply showing up is an act of faith.

There are many ways to support a meaningful prayer life. Some people find focus through movement — praying while walking, doing dishes, or holding prayer beads or a cross. Others engage the senses by lighting a candle, looking at sacred art, or listening to quiet worship music. Writing prayers down or speaking them aloud can help keep thoughts from wandering, and structured prayers or Scripture-based liturgy can provide grounding when words are hard to find.

It also helps to shift how we think about prayer. Progress matters more than perfection. When distractions arise, we can gently return without self-judgment. God understands our hearts, our limits, and the seasons we are in. A prayer practice that works for a time may change — and that's okay.

Prayer doesn't need to be quiet, still, or uninterrupted to be faithful. It only needs to be honest. However we come, God is already there, listening.

The Season of Lent

By the 2nd century, the Christian Church was starting to use the 40 days before Easter, what we now call the *Season of Lent*, as a time of concentrated study and prayer for preparing *catechumens* (new believers being instructed in the Christian faith) for entrance into the Church. Since these new members were being received into a living community of faith, those already instructed and baptized used this preparation time to rededicate themselves to Christ through repentance, prayer, and acts of mercy.

This year at Shepherd of the Hills, connecting with our theme of *Praying with an Open Heart*, we will spend Lent evening services studying God's gift of the best prayer outline, *The Lord's Prayer*. Each week will focus on a petition of the prayer, concluding with Easter Sunday.

Learning together, let us rededicate ourselves to Christ and His mission of bringing others to know, grow, and go.

- **KNOW Christ** and His story of salvation
- **GROW in faith and service** to Him and to His people
- **GO and tell** others who are still in sin's darkness and the shadow of death

May this time of study and rededication be a blessing to all of us as we make the Lenten journey and reach its destination: the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Lent Schedule:

- Ash Wednesday Worship | February 18, 7pm
- Wednesdays in Lent (Feb. 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25)
 - + Soup Supper | 5:15pm
 - + Worship | 6:30pm, with Children's Chat

Holy Week Worship:

- Palm Sunday | March 29, 8 & 10:45am
- Maundy Thursday | April 2, 7pm
- Good Friday Tre-Ore | April 3, 12-3pm
- Good Friday Tenebrae | April 3, 7pm
- Easter Sunrise | April 5, 6:30am
- Resurrection of Our Lord | April 5, 8 & 10:45am



Singing Second Semester

Second semester singing has begun! You are invited to join Shepherd's Chorale to prepare anthems for February-May singing in Traditional services. Come **Wednesdays, 6:37pm**, to the sanctuary "loft." Lent season, we practice after evening worship. Questions? **Gail Black, 303-707-4364**, gblack@sothfamily.org.

SOS! Choir – Mark It on Your Calendar!

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! Watch for "**SOS! Sing One Sunday**" announcements throughout the year. Questions? Contact **Gail Black, 303-707-4364**, gblack@sothfamily.org.

Sunday, March 15:

- + rehearse: March 15, 7:47am, choir loft
- + song: *There Is a Redeemer*
- + sing: at the beginning of Traditional services



I cry to you for help
when my heart
is overwhelmed.

Lead me to the towering
rock of safety.
Psalm 61:2b NLT

Member News

Bible Readings for the Month

February 1 – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Lessons: Psalm 15; Micah 6:1-8;
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

February 8 – 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Lessons: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 58:3-9a;
1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

February 15 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

Lessons: Psalm 2:6-12; Exodus 24:8-18;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

February 18 – Ash Wednesday

Lessons: Psalm 51:1-13 (14-19); Joel 2:12-19;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Lessons: Psalm 32:1-7; Genesis 3:1-21;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11



Usher Schedule for the Month

February 1 – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

8 am Sanctuary – Julie Ropte / Kasey Ropte
10:45 Sanctuary – Sandy & Bill Griffis
10:45 Gym – Ron Aukamp / Milo Samson

February 8 – 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

8 am Sanctuary – Brooklyn Schuchman / Dave Stone
10:45 Sanctuary – Josh Hoener / Lindsey Jarvi
10:45 Gym – Kathy & Chris Biondolilo

February 15 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

8 am Sanctuary – Bruce Boggess / Paul Rodeck
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde
10:45 Gym – Wayne Johnson / Charley Powers

February 18 – Ash Wednesday

7 pm Sanctuary –

February 22 – 1st Sunday in Lent

8 am Sanctuary – Heidi Dudley / Chuck Place
10:45 Sanctuary – Pam & Russ Robbins
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 81 pair of eyeglasses have been collected. **We are nearing 2000 pair collected since 2010!** 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 – February 2026

John and Jen Wolf – Africa

John and Jenn Wolf serve the Lord as career missionaries through LCMS in Kenya. As the Africa region's project manager, John provides oversight and support for projects and grants across the region, with a particular focus on mercy work. He also trains the local people and the local church partners to develop, manage and sustain projects that support Christian growth and congregational needs across Africa. Jenn is a stay-at-home mom, homeschooling and doing volunteer work. John and Jenn have five beautiful children — Ian, Sean, Thad, Annalise and Angus — who join them on the mission field.

Pray for the people in Africa that they are brought to a saving knowledge of Christ and are assisted in their vocations through the work of LCMS' African missionaries.



Discuss It with God

Nothing is too large or too small to take to our Lord in prayer. Sometimes, however, it is difficult to overcome the anxiety of knowing if God is really going to listen to our pleas for help. Here at Shepherd of the Hills we have a group of trained Stephen Ministers to help you overcome these types of fears, whether they be because of sickness, loss of job, death in the family, etc. Take this opportunity to pray to the Lord and seek His guidance; see if a Stephen Minister can be of help.

For more information, please contact our Stephen Leader: **Ron Manuella (303-587-0001)** or **Pastor Stoltenow**.

Seeking Him Prayer Group

The Seeking Him prayer group meets on the **third Thursday** of the month, **6:30-7:30pm** in the **Atrium**, to pray for the Staff and Lay Leaders of the congregation based on specific prayer requests that come from them. People who meet enjoy the fellowship and the opportunity to pray for our church. You're welcome to attend and join in this ministry of prayer. Our February meeting is **Thursday, February 19**.

Continued from page 1

and phone numbers if they wanted to visit with us further. One person asked us to bring her a Bible! We thanked them for their time and moved on to the next house. In all, our groups visited over 300 homes in about two and a half hours. Not everyone was home and some houses had “no solicitors” signs near their doors. We respected their wishes and moved on to the next house.

We found that there was a substantial proportion of homes where folks told us they did not go to any church. Some of them knew who Jesus is, but they also did not know Him well. Others told us they were not “religious” and were not really interested. Some of the folks were members of Christian congregations and knew the Lord very well. They were delighted we were calling on them. When we finished our calls, we returned to the Parish Hall and shared with each other our experiences while making the calls. We all enjoyed the day even though there was some nervousness when we were ready to go out and make our visits. While we were sharing, we learned that while some of our groups were a little anxious about going “door to door,” they reported it was not as hard as they thought it might be. The day ended in prayer, and we went home feeling blessed.

In Shepherd's Strategic Plan assembled by the congregation in 2021, it was established that our second “Critical Target” (among four targets) is **Personal Evangelism**. Specifically, the target reads that Shepherd of the Hills will:

Enable and create a culture of personal witnessing by all at Shepherd through education, practice, support, and engagement.

In the past year, Shepherd has continued to work to enable and create a culture of evangelism at Shepherd by teaching two classes of our members using the curriculum ***Everyone His Witness*** (about 40 total people), and the second effort, ***JD2D***. Both groups appreciated their experiences in either class.

I invite you to consider participating in our next JD2D workshop. When we set the date for another group training, we will publish the date and time, so you are able to plan and join us.

In the next month's **VOICE**, I will share with you the experiences of one of our groups by way of interview so you are able to read about the experiences before and after their participation. In the meantime, I hope you will prayerfully consider your role in sharing the Gospel of Jesus with people around you. Sharing the message about Jesus with our community is to engage with people who live near us who need to hear the message of love, mercy, and forgiveness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessings,

Pastor Brad



EVANGELISM:

Sharing Christ With Others

Youth



February Dates to Remember:

SHYP

February 1 (Sun) – 2pm (to set up for the Chili Cook-off)

February 4 (Wed) – \$50 non-refundable deposit due for SHYP Retreat

Xtreme

- **February 8** (Sun) – **NOT MEETING** (Enjoy the Super Bowl!)
- **February 15** (Sun) – 12:30-3pm – Ice skating at South Suburban

Young Adults

- **February 1** (Sun) – **NOT MEETING** (Join us at the Chili Cook-off instead.)
- **February 8** (Sun) – **NOT MEETING** (Enjoy the Super Bowl!)
- **February 15 and 22** (Sun) – 7-9:30pm - Young Adults Sports Night
- **February 22** (Sun) – Lunch at 12:15pm. Meet in the Gym

Xtreme

Join us on **February 15, 12:30-3pm** for some ice skating! Lunch is included at Shepherd in the youth room and then we'll take the church van and head to South Suburban Ice Rink to skate. We'll cover the cost of your skating ticket and skate rentals. We just need your RSVP so we know how many to drive! Drop off and pick up at Shepherd. Friends are welcome as long as they're in 5th-8th grade. RSVP to Sina swilliams@sothfamily.org.

SHYP

High schoolers: join us **March 6-8** for a fun weekend in North Denver as we study God's Word, worship, cook, and play together! The retreat will last from 4:30pm Friday to 1:30pm Sunday. Cost is \$100 (includes lodging, food, and retreat-themed t-shirt). **Non-refundable deposit of \$50 due by Wednesday, Feb. 4.** Rest of balance due on March 1st. Scholarships available. *High school friends are welcome.* Space is limited, so get your deposit in ASAP! If you want to help plan the retreat we'll meet on Jan. 18. Questions? Contact Sina, **707-326-8666**.

Young Adults

Calling ALL young adults (age 18-35) to join us for our weekly sports night for a chance to meet new people, build friendships, play volleyball, basketball, dodgeball, laser tag, etc., and have a short group-led discussion on topics from today's world. We will meet **Sundays, February 15 and 22, 7-9:30pm**, in the gym. **Beginning March 5**, we meet every **Thursday** night, **7-9:30pm**. Enter the north gym door (the side by King Soopers). Bring your friends, whether they attend a church or not! For any questions, contact Sina at swilliams@sothfamily.org.

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 March issue of the Shepherd's Voice is February 16. Please have all articles entered into the Communication Request system by this date.

POSTMASTER

Send Address Changes to:
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