



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

Doing the Business of the Church - Alleluia!

I am currently attending the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod triennial convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Yours truly was elected by the Southwest Denver Circuit to be the pastoral delegate. Phoenix in mid-July sounds warm, doesn't it? As I am writing this article from my hotel room on the 24th floor of the Phoenix Sheraton, I can unequivocally tell you it is hot. It is the hottest "dry heat" I have ever experienced!

This is the fifth national convention I have been elected to attend. The theme of this triennial year's convention is **He Is Risen Indeed!** What joy we get to have, as we focus on the resurrection of Jesus every day of our lives! Because Jesus lived, died, and arose from the dead, those who believe in Him will also live in Heaven for eternity. Our theme has been a great reminder of the confidence we live in, knowing we belong to the Lord and will be with Him in glory forever.

What happens at these triennial conventions of the LCMS is this: roughly 1500 people come together to do the business of the church. Overtures (motions) on all kinds of subjects are submitted to the convention ahead of time that come to the floor for consideration for passage and that set the agenda for the specific work of the Synod for the next triennium. We elect people to various positions throughout the church, and believe me, we do lots of electing! We focus on things like mercy work and evangelism, missions, our Lutheran day schools, colleges and seminaries, financial issues and more. It's not unlike the things we think about at Shepherd. It's just at a much larger scale. We worship, have devotions three times a day, we listen to essayists, and we sing. The music is wonderful as the entire gathering lifts its voice in song.

The work of the church and our highest priority is to preach, teach, and tell the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone, wherever they might be found. The convention is about

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Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

7691 S. University Blvd.

Centennial, CO 80122

303-798-0711 ShepherdHillsChurch.org

Member News

Volunteering for Shepherd's Foodbank

Our food bank has transitioned to Shepherd and been in operation the last two months, staffed by the folks who have run it for years. They are now ready for members of Shepherd to volunteer and share in this important outreach and human care opportunity.

The following are days you are encouraged to volunteer your time and talents:

- **Every other Monday, August 10 and 24** (future dates are listed on the SOTH website calendar)
- 2 shifts: 2-4pm, 4-6pm; you may work one or both shifts
- Activity: food distribution to clients

Please park in the SOUTH parking lot, enter through the main door of the Administration Building, and proceed to the "Great Hall." Directions will be provided.

1. Every Thursday

- 9:30-11:30am
- Activity: organizing food and packing non-perishables for distribution

Please park in the NORTH parking lot and enter the building through the double glass doors to the west of the Gym.

2. Every Friday

- 2:30-4:30pm
- Activity: organizing food and packing non-perishables for distribution

Please park in the NORTH parking lot and enter the building through the double glass doors to the west of the Gym.

****We hope to identify 25 Shepherd folks who want to become involved with our food bank. ****What's great about Shepherd's Foodbank is you can be as involved as you like on a variety of days. You may volunteer on all the days, if you desire.

Please note: If you have not already taken Shepherd's "Protecting Our Children" online course, you will need to complete this. You will be sent an email with a link to take the course online.

If you are interested in working with Shepherd's Foodbank, please contact Sam Scheck: sam.scheck@comcast.net.

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.



Breakfast With Baby Serves 22 Families; 38 Children!

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 July 11 we served breakfast and a devotion to 60 individuals from 22 families (4 new families) which included 38 children! Families were able to shop for diapers, clothes, and other available items. For the **August 8** event, **Size 4 and 5 diapers** are needed as well as **wipes** and **Size 3T & 4T boys' clothes**. Additional volunteers would also be very helpful.

Everyone Invited to Fall Kickoff 2026

Everyone from 2 days-122 years old: Save **Sunday, September 13**, to be TOGETHER as a church family. We'll get TOGETHER **9:30-10:30am** in the Gym for an all-ages program based on our theme. At **12:17pm**, after late worship services, we'll join TOGETHER in the Gym for a potluck lunch. Bring your favorite appetizer, salad/vegetable, or entrée/hot dish (dessert is provided). This will be a wonderful year TOGETHER!

August Anniversaries

<i>"And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is Love."</i> <i>1 Corinthians 13:13</i>	8/1	Bob and Jeanette Faust, 67 years
	8/3	Kris and Deb Saline, 35 years
	8/4	Gary and Heidi Dudley, 47 years
	8/4	Dave and D'Wayn Stone, 47 years
	8/6	Jeffrey and Kristi Cooper, 43 years
	8/12	Pat and Lisa Esola, 32 years
	8/16	Pete and Linda Klein, 51 years
	8/18	John and Debbie Misegadis, 42 years
	8/19	Duane and Sue Feldmann, 54 years
	8/19	Virgil and Barbara Koeneke, 54 years
	8/20	Ed and Betsy Barstad, 38 years
	8/20	Kyle and Jayme Klepacki, 21 years
	8/27	Ron and Julee Orrell, 61 years
	8/27	Russ and Pam Robbins, 38 years
	8/28	Gary and Clarice Groeling, 66 years
	8/28	Travis and Lindsey Jarvi, 10 years



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

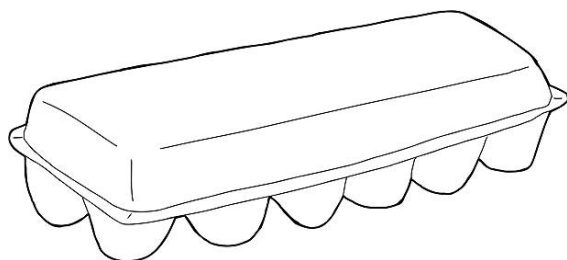
Member News

Praying with an Open Heart

This Month, as we finish our 2025-26 theme, we are **Praying with an Open Heart** that we might remember all we've learned. No matter who we are or what our circumstances, God, through His Word, speaks to each of us. May these Bible passages encourage us in our continued prayer-walk with our Savior, Jesus. May we also use them to encourage others as we lift them in prayer to the Lord!

P.S. A very special **Thank You!** to George and Ardis Gordon, who searched Scripture monthly and, with the Holy Spirit's aid, provided the list of Bible verses to go with each month's prayer theme. Well done, faith-full servants of the Lord!

1 Chronicles 16:11	Romans 6:23
Nehemiah 8:10	Romans 8:18
Psalms 4:8	Romans 8:28
Psalms 23:4	Romans 10:9
Psalms 33:12	Romans 12:2
Psalms 55:22	Romans 12:14
Psalms 147:3	Romans 15:4
Proverbs 3:5-6	Romans 15:13
Isaiah 26: 3-4	2 Corinthians 1:3-4
Isaiah 40:29-31	Galatians 6:2
Isaiah 41:10	Ephesians 2:8
Jeremiah 29:11	Philippians 4:6-7
Matthew 4:4	Philippians 4:13
Matthew 6:9-13	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Matthew 11:28	1 Timothy 2:1-4
Mark 10:45	Hebrews 10:24-25
John 3:16	1 Peter 5:7
John 16:33	Revelation 3:20



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!



LWR Collecting School Supplies in July

During **July**, our Lutheran World Relief team will be collecting school supplies for backpacks to be used in disaster relief in the US and around the world. We have already received many supplies, but still need the following items:

- 160 unsharpened #2 pencils
- 253 black or blue pens (no gel)
- 268 (70 sheet) spiral notebooks
- 74 rulers
- 53 pencil sharpeners
- 53 blunt school scissors
- 19 pink 2 ½" erasers
- 49 boxes of 16 or 24 crayons

Items will be collected in the Welcome Center and the gym during **each Sunday in July**, or use the collection tub in the church office.



Dinner on the Green

Please join the Mission Team **Friday, August 14, 6pm**, for Shepherd's annual Dinner on the Green. Come hear updates from a few of the missionaries Shepherd supports—how by God's grace they have impacted lives here in Denver and abroad. Dinner will be served, and you will have the opportunity to interact with the workers who spread the gospel through evangelism and acts of mercy. We will meet in the Gym and have about an hour presentation from the missionaries. Watch for more information on the missionaries and the menu!

Summer Office Hours, 9am-noon, end August 7.

Communication Request Form

Have an event you want to promote? Need a room for your church group's meeting? An announcement to share? Go to **ShepherdHillsChurch.org**. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on: **Communications Form**. Fill out the form and submit to our Communications Team. Your deadline is 3-4 weeks prior to your event in order to properly advertise or send out your announcement. Questions? Email info@sothfamily.org.



Have you heard? People are talking. They're talking about their GriefShare experiences. It's not a secret that grief hurts. Grief affects every one of us eventually, and it isn't a journey to be traveled alone. See what some of your friends and neighbors have found during their time in GriefShare:

"The groups helped prepare for the journey, knowing what we may expect and that what we are experiencing is normal." N.W.

"The group, the book and the facilitators helped me see that I am not the only one going through grief. Our group discussions were great! Our facilitators never pushed, but their encouragement helped us express our feelings." V.M.

"It helped me get through and process the strong feelings I was dealing with. It was a blessing!" L.C.

JOIN US OR REFER A FRIEND:

"Loss of a Spouse"

Tuesday, August 11, 6:30-8:30pm

Support Group Meetings

Tuesdays, August 18-November 10
6:30-8:30pm

Register at GriefShare.org

Sanctuary Wall 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?

Cross from Kimberling City, Missouri ~ Renner family

The extended Renner family had a family reunion this past June in Branson, Missouri. They attended a church in Kimberling City named Shepherd of the Hills! As guests of the church, the Renner family received a handmade cross. The church's welcome note states: "Your presence here is an honor and a joy. We pray that the Holy Spirit, working through the Word, will enliven and strengthen you in the one, true faith."

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!

Would you Like to Join Our Greeter/Ushering Team?

On **Sunday, August 30**, after late service, Shepherd is hosting an Ushering and Greeter Training / Information / Appreciation Lunch. Come to the Parish Hall after late service and bring anyone who may want information on ushering or greeting. RSVP to **David Renner**: david.anthony.renner@comcast.net or **303-908-2332**, so he knows how much food to prepare. We'll eat Chicago dogs, go over ushering duties, exchange tips and tricks, and have a good time. Hope you are able to come.

Sam Scheck Elected Chairman of Elders

During the Elders' meeting on **July 9**, Elder **Sam Scheck** was elected to be the Chairman of the Board of Elders. Please welcome Sam into this position and pray for God to bless his leadership. We also thank Elder Don Matern, who has served faithfully these past three years as Chairman and was term limited to three years. Don will remain on the Board of Elders. We thank the Lord for these men and for all who serve in leadership at Shepherd!

Member News

Bible Readings for the Month

August 2 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 136:1-9 (23-26); Isaiah 55:1-5;
Romans 9:1-13; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 18:1-6 (7-16); Job 38:4-18;
Romans 10:5-17; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 67; Isaiah 56:1, 6-8;
Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32; Matthew 15:21-28

August 23 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 138; Isaiah 51:1-6;
Romans 11:33-12:8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost; 5th Sunday

Lessons: Psalm 26; Jeremiah 15:15-21;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28



Usher Schedule for the Month

August 2 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Brooklyn Schuchman / Dave Stone
10:45 Sanctuary – Sandy & Bill Griffis
10:45 Gym – Kathy & Chris Biondolilo

August 9 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Chuck Place / Paul Rodeck
10:45 Sanctuary – Pam & Russ Robbins
10:45 Gym – Sue & Duane Feldmann

August 16 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Ava Havekost / Josh Havekost
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde
10:45 Gym – Wayne Johnson / Milo Samson

August 23 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Bruce Boggess / Paul Rodeck
10:45 Sanctuary – Joshua Hoener / Lindsey Jarvi
10:45 Gym – Ron Aukamp / Charley Powers

August 30 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost; 5th Sunday

8 am Sanctuary – Julie Ropte / Kasey Ropte
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde
10:45 Gym – Kathy & Chris Biondolilo



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 – August 2026

Scripture in Motion – David and Cassie Schlecht

Scripture in Motion believes that God has equipped us with diverse gifts and talents, and one way He calls us to use them is to bring the Word of God to life in different forms—spoken, acted out, read in various languages or, in Scripture in Motion's case, through animated videos.

God's Word is a beautifully complex book, yet at its heart, it carries a clear and simple message: the Gospel story of Jesus Christ. Animation has the unique ability to capture both the depth and simplicity of this profound story, bringing the words of Scripture to life through the visual language of our society today. You can watch and download all their videos at ScriptureInMotion.com.

Scripture In Motion is holding a morning women's retreat led by Cassie Schlecht on **August 22, 9:30am to 12pm**, at **Renewal Church** in Denver. Click [HERE](#) to register and view event details.



Why Would I Need a Stephen Minister?

"Why would I need a Stephen Minister? I have my family and friends to support me during this difficult time."

What can a Stephen Minister offer even though you have a support system? A Stephen Minister can be:

1. A listening presence. A Stephen Minister is not as emotionally involved as your spouse or children. You can be open and honest about whatever feelings you are experiencing. People often protect or hide their true feelings from those they love because they don't want to hurt or burden them.
2. Encouragement for family members. Knowing that another is also caring and giving to the one who is hurting will give additional support to family members.
3. A source of caring. After your initial responses to the crisis are over, a Stephen Minister can be a consistent, dependable listener and friend. You will have a companion in the process of healing.
4. A part of our faith community. The presence of a Stephen Minister says, "You are an important member of our church, and your church community cares about you."

With all these reasons, why not ask for a Stephen Minister to walk with you in your hurt and confusion? Do it as a gift to yourself and to those who love you. Call **Ron Manuello (303-587-0001)** or **Pastor Stoltenow** to begin the process.

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Jesus and how we share the message of love, mercy, and forgiveness to our spiritually dying world.

At Shepherd we are always thinking about ways we can promote and champion the Gospel message, two examples being our Food Bank and Breakfast with Baby. Youth and family events, both large and small, are very important to us, as are the social events like the Christmas party. Of course, everything begins with God's Word and the Sacraments as everything flows from there. Our theme of *Witness, Mercy, and Life Together* is evident at the national level of our denomination. Our common confession of faith, Biblical integrity, and focus on the risen Lord who has saved

us by grace through faith binds us together as we do our work promoting the Gospel at the local, district, national and global levels.

Finally, every speaker who addressed the assembly at a microphone from the dais greeted the convention with the words, *He is Risen!* In return, the crowd responded, *He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!* What a wonderful greeting at any time of the year!

Blessings,

Dr. Brad Stoltenow



ELC

Back to School Night - You're invited!

Please help us welcome all our ELC families back as we kick off the new school year with hot dogs, chips, and ice cream on **August 6, 5-8pm**, out near the playgrounds on the west side of the school building.

The ELC Board will serve dinner as the teachers and families deliver supplies, meet each other, and enjoy some fellowship time together. Hope to see you there!

Please Keep Us in Your Prayers

August 11 is the first day of school, and the ELC staff asks that we please pray for them and their students as they begin another school year. Members are also welcome to attend chapel services every Wednesday at 9am in the Sanctuary.

Youth

Youth Pool Party

Xtreme and SHYP youth, join us on **Sunday, Aug. 23, 1-4:30pm** at the Sweeney's home. Lunch, snacks, and drinks are included. Remember to bring your towel and sunscreen!



August Dates to Remember:

July Youth Events (Xtreme & SHYP)

- **August 23 (Sun)** – Youth Pool Party, **1-4:30pm** at the Sweeney's house

Young Adult Events

- **August 6, 13, 20, 27 (Thurs)** – **Sports Night, 7-9:30pm**. Contact **Ben Barstad** for more details and to join the Group Me.
- **August 30 (Sun)** – Lunch off site, 12:15pm

Sunday School Hour – 9:30-10:30am

5th & 6th Grade – Faith Builders with Sam Scheck in the Kid Zone

7th & 8th Grade – Faith Alive with Pastor Oesch in his office

9th – 12th Grade – God Conversations through movies with Sina Williams and Bethany Barnthson in the Youth Room

- 8/2 – Despicable Me 4
- 8/9 – Cinderella Man
- 8/16 – Wizard of Oz
- 8/30 – Amadeus

Youth Adults – Revelation with Patrick Barnthson in the Atrium

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 September issue of the Shepherd's Voice is August 17. Please have all articles entered into the Communication Request system by this date.

POSTMASTER

Send Address Changes to:
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