



Dear Member of Shepherd of the Hill Church

Your Church Council members have been exploring and discussing our church's decline in active participation throughout this year. Reverend Erin Nelson from the Northwest Synod of WI office met with us in May to help us understand how many other congregations are facing similar challenges. She provided resources for our entire congregation to use in assessing the vitality of our ministry, and how to perceive a faithful path forward. (*website listed below*)

Your thoughts and experiences are an important part of this exploration because we are part of God's church together. Your reflection on, and suggestions for ways to bring a renewal of interest in church life would be extremely helpful. You may receive a call from one of us to meet face-to-face or by phone, to get your response to the **3 Questions listed below**. Our names and phone numbers are listed below so you could also reach out to anyone of us to share your thoughts on how to keep our church viable, a place for people to be fed spiritually, connected to one another, and active in the life of our community. These responses will be shared within the church council, and if you'd prefer, done without disclosing your identity.

Questions that will be asked on the phone call or in a face-to-face conversation.

1. When were you most excited or felt the sense of deepest connection to our church? What was happening during that time in your life and the life of the church?
2. What has changed in your life or in the church since then that may have affected your sense of connection, or excitement about our church?
3. What is one wish/hope/dream you have for the future of our church?

We plan to complete this work in time for our September church council meeting.

Sincere appreciation,
Your Church Council

Barb Vadnais (Council President) 715-308-0252	Stephany Grossbier (Vice-President) 715-514-8197
Steve Sweeney (Treasurer) 715-874-5199	Alison Young (Secretary) 814-232-4546
Carol Carlstrom 715-874-5288	Marshall Fuhrman 715-879-5509
Kris Jenson 715-563-1402	Claudeen Oebser 715-874-6054
DiAnna Scheffler 715-577-7079	Pastor Mary Eide 715-308-0652

NOTE: The *Holy Conversation* resources provided by Rev. Nelson have been shared in church communications and can be found at this website <http://nswi.org/congregational-vitality/holy-conversations>

“Encouraging faith and proclaiming God’s love by Gathering, Growing and Giving.”

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MARY

Dear Church Family,

I am so very excited about the energy that is building within our congregation as we prepare for VBS (8/1-4), the Ice Cream Social /Stuff the Bus event (8/11), Rally Day (9/11), the beginning of Sunday School classes (9/18) and Confirmation classes (9/14)...oh...and Autumn Fest (10/2) too.

Like you, I’m living in that *in between time* of not wanting Summer to end...and yet, getting excited about upcoming *new school year activities*. School instructions, clubs, band, and sport season are very soon going to be kicking back into gear. And while the summer temperatures are going to linger for a while, the *summer break schedules* will end. All this means that families are going to be establishing/re-establishing familiar daily patterns that accommodate the demands of work, school, play, rest...and hopefully - church.

This September and October, we will be talking about and trying out ways we as individuals, family units, and a congregation can add or strengthen the Christian faith patterns and practices that help us live into the God-given/Baptism affirmed identities we have as children of God, and bearers of Jesus Christ’s name. You’ll be learning more about this in the September newsletter, in worship and online.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

Pastor Mary

FUTURE DATES

Wednesday, September 7th 7pm Confirmation Parent/Student meeting

Sunday, September 11th 9am Rally Day

Wednesday, September 14th First Confirmation class

Sunday, September 19th 8:45am First Sunday School Class

Sunday, October 2nd 11am –2pm Autumn Fest (at the Elk Mound Park)

Sunday, October 9th 10am Bluegrass Music Worship

Sunday, October 30th 10am 9th Graders Confirmed

Saturday, November 12th 2-4pm Open House for Carol Heimstead’s 80th birthday

Sunday, December 4th 11am Fellowship 40th Anniversary celebration for Sandy and Conrad Barth

Sunday, December 18th at 10am worship Sunday School Christmas program

GATHERING

WORSHIP - 10am Sunday throughout the Summer

We’ve had the opportunity to learn so much about the very beginning of the Christian Church so far this summer, as we study the **Book of Acts**. Continue with us through Labor Day with these readings:

DATE	TEXT	DATE	TEXT
8/7/2022	Acts 15:1-35	8/28/2022	Acts 22:30-23:11
8/14/2022	Acts 16:9-15	9/4/2022	Acts 28:17-31
8/21/2022	Acts 21:17-23, 27-36		

AUTUMNFEST **Sunday, October 2nd 11am to 2pm** this year will include not only a delicious meal, FREE games for the kids, music, car show and a Silent Auction...BUT...we will also have a RAFFLE with some amazing items! The list is still being finalized, but currently there will be a RAFFLE for: Blackstone griddle, one of Barb Vadnais' beautiful quilts, a kayak, cash prize, and more.

So mark SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2nd on your calendars and make plans to come...bring family and friends too! A portion of our proceeds will go to *Mounder Meals*, a weekend food program for children in our school district.

Keep alert for ways YOU can support this annual event by donating some of your time or some food/drink items for the event.

GROWING

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATES!!! Vacation Bible School will be August 1st – 4th from 6pm-8pm. **COME JOIN US AND MAKE A SPLASH WITH JESUS - POOL PARTY.**

August 4th will be *Family Pool Day at Wakanda Park Pool* from 6-8pm. VBS children will be free. Adults and Non-volunteer youth will be \$3.50 each.



Parents, Sunday School students (3-years old through 6th grade)...actually... EVERYONE is invited to our **RALLY DAY CELEBRATION, Sun. Sept. 11th from 9-9:45am.**

Everyone can join us in the 1st Floor Gathering Place where we will:

- † Hear a Bible story
- † Meet the Sunday School Staff and Education Team
- † Play a game
- † Sing a Bible song
- † Get our picture taken
- † Get to know your teacher and others while enjoying beverages and a healthy snack.
- † And more!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES will begin Sept. 18th at 8:45am

7th - 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Wednesday, September 7th 7pm Confirmation Parent/Student meeting

Students...bring your Bibles to this meeting

Wednesday, September 14th 3:20 First Confirmation class

GIVING

...of TIME, TALENTS, & TREASURES

Summer (Match) Challenge **through the end of this month, your donation to Shepherd of the Hill can be DOUBLED**, thanks to generous folks who have offered to match a total of \$4,000. That's right...your giving could help us raise up to \$8,000 to go towards funding our ministry here at church. Considering the slump we've been in this year, ANY AMOUNT YOU GIVE labeled *Summer Challenge* can be doubled. This applies to Memorial Gifts you give that are going to the *General Operating Fund*...just be sure to label them *Summer Challenge*. There is even an online giving option a *Summer Challenge* on our GivePlus site on the church website <https://www.sothem.org/give> (This would be giving beyond your normal giving)

...of TREASURES

THANK YOU to the many of you who continue to give generously and consistently!

YOU CAN MAKE ONLINE OFFERINGS/DONATIONS by using GivePlus on our church website. Simply go to www.sothem.org and click on the GIVE tab. From there go to the top right of the page to "**Sign in or Sign Up**". You will be directed to a secured site from Vanco to set up an account so funds can be withdrawn from your checking or savings account. *You can set up a one-time or reoccurring offering/donation.* You are in control of how much and when you want to donate! You can contact us at the church to make sure the account set up and first donation came through alright. These transactions are all tracked in your giving record and including in your giving statement for tax purposes. This is an easy way to ensure the donation you are making for God's work is placed into the church account. Start small if you like, and then build on your generosity as time goes on. (*You can ignore the pop message that ask you to download a mobile app for GivePlus*)

Of course, you can also bring offerings to church on Sunday, mail them to the church (207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739), use Bill Pay on your bank/credit union's website to have a check mailed to the church with funds drawn from your account, OR set up a Vanco *Simply Giving* recurring donation payment. (Barb Vadnais can help you with this as our Financial Secretary)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

General Fund/Memorial Fund

Faylene Howe	In memory of her daughter, Danita Howe
David & Mary Gilbertson	In memory of Flora Lehman
Bud & Barb Barum	In memory of Flora Lehman
Marshall & Bonnie Fuhrman	In memory of Flora Lehman
Lloyd & DiAnna Scheffler	In memory of Flora Lehman
John & Mary Ausman	In memory of Flora Lehman
Karen Gugel	In memory of Flora Lehman
Steve & Holly Sweeney	In memory of Flora Lehman
Sue Suechting	In memory of Flora Lehman
Bob & Linda Dempiski	In memory of Flora Lehman
John & Evie Silvernale	In memory of Flora Lehman
Lyn & Judy Dieter	In memory of Flora Lehman
Lloyd & DiAnna Scheffler	In honor of Keith & Rita Lee's 50 th Anniversary
Carol Stuckert	In honor of Keith & Rita Lee's 50 th Anniversary
Billy & Betty Heltne	In honor of Keith & Rita Lee's 50 th Anniversary
Tim & Kris Jenson	In honor of Keith & Rita Lee's 50 th Anniversary

June 2022 Balances

Independence State Bank	\$ 12,290.49
Mortgage Balance	\$ 17,333.50
Year-to Date Income	\$ 68,647.29
Year-to-Date Expenses	-\$ 78,630.80
DEFICIT	(\$ 9,983.51)

Your SUMMER (MATCHING) CHALLENGE donations can make TWICE the impact in reducing this deficit.

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Providing school supplies to low-income families with children 4K-12 in the Menomonie, Elk Mound, Colfax, Boyceville, and Glenwood City School Districts.



We Need Your Help!

We are setting our sights for the 2022-2023 school year. The past few years have been challenging for families that have experienced hardships and the current inflation climate will only increase the needs.

- Donations of school supplies, Crayons, markers, Dry-erase markers, headphones, pencils, crayons, etc
- Donations to buy supplies - checks can be made payable to West Cap - Operation Back to School, and mailed to PO Box 308, Glenwood City, WI 54013
- Donations for an Angel fund- Angel funds help pay off lunch balances, help fund the back-pack program for meals sent home so no kids go hungry. Checks can be made payable to West Cap - Angel fund, and mailed to PO Box 308, Glenwood City, WI 54013

If you have any questions or would like to learn ways that you can help, please contact Kristen at 715-280-3067, or email westcap@wcap.org.



If you need to have items picked up, please contact us and we will get you on our list. 715-598-4750

Thank you for your support!



**Stuff the Bus
8/11 4-7pm at
Shepherd of
the Hill.**

**Donate School
Supplies,
money for
supplies, or
money for
"Angel Fun"**

**All supplies
and financial
donations
benefit Elk
Mound Schools**

August 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 6-8pm VBS	2 4-6pm Food Pantry 6-8pm VBS	3 6-8pm VBS	4 6-8pm VBS Pool Party at Wakanda Park (RAIN Plan: VBS here 6-8pm)	5 10am-Noon Food Pantry	6
7 10am Communion Worship Elizabeth Jorde Baptized	8 7pm AA Meeting	9 4-6pm Food Pantry	10	11 4-7 Ice Cream Social & "Stuff the Bus" with School supplies	12 10am-Noon Food Pantry	13
14 10am Worship	15 7pm AA Meeting	16 4-6pm Food Pantry 6pm Finance Meeting	17	18	19 10am-Noon Food Pantry	20
21 10am Communion Worship	22 6:30pm Church Council Mtg 7pm AA Meeting	23 4-6pm Food Pantry	24	25	26 10am-Noon Food Pantry	27
28 10am Worship	29 7pm AA Meeting	30 4-6pm Food Pantry	31			



AUTUMN FEST

October 2, 2022

11:00-2:00

**HOSTED BY SHEPHERD OF
THE HILL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN ELK MOUND**

MENU:

PULL PORK
HOT DOGS
BAKED BEANS
CHIPS
COLE SLAW
BEVERAGE
DESSERT

**\$8 ADULTS
\$6 CHILDREN**

PART OF THE
PROCEEDS WILL
SUPPORT THE
LOCAL
WEEKEND MEAL
PROGRAM FOR
CHILDREN

LOCATION: ELK MOUND PARK
S405 HOLLY AVENUE, ELK MOUND, WI

RAFFLES

SILENT AUCTION

**GAMES FOR
CHILDREN**

CAR SHOW

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE
AWARD \$50**

ICE CREAM
Social

Thursday, August 11, 2022
4:00-7:00pm

Everyone Welcome

Free Will Offering

Menu Includes:

BBQ's – Hot Dogs – Potato
Salad
Baked Beans – Pie – Ice
Cream
Pop – Milk – Coffee

*Served by our Youth Group
Proceeds support our Youth
Ministry*



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church
207 University Street
Elk Mound, WI 54739