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## July 2022 Newsletter

*"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."*

### *THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MARY*

Dear fellow life and faith travelers,

As I type this, the temperature outside is a steamy 90 degrees (feels like 98), and the 'official beginning' of summer is not yet here! Perhaps like our family, you are looking forward to enjoying family outings, watching sporting events, and generally making the most of the warm weather months before us. The Good News is that we can do all this more freely this year, compared to the last two years! And another bit of Good News is that over the past couple of years we've learned to prioritize and appreciate the time we have with loved ones, doing things that bring us joy as well as a sense of connectedness.

Of course, there have been other 'not so good news' changes popping up in our lives as a result of events that've happened over the past couple of years: supply line shortages, more divisiveness within society, and *the Great Resignation* that has resulted in numerous restaurants and stores closing or reducing hours, and other businesses unable to hire/maintain sufficient staff. (NOTE: Our household garbage cans are getting stinking sitting out in the heat of the day...as we wait somewhat patiently for our much-delayed garbage service in Menomonie.)

One big change the Christian church has seen across the country, is that people are just not returning back to church. Many people are not as interested in volunteering either. Granted, these trends started before COVID...but the increase of occurrence has negatively impacted many churches...giving them cause to pause and re-evaluate their future. WE are one of those churches. As scary as that may sound, it is not the worse possibility. Still, it IS a little scary and uncomfortable...but than many changes in life feel that way, too. But we have an opportunity to turn this into some Good News by being proactive, courageous, honest, forthcoming, creative, and VERY OPEN to what the Holy Spirit is telling us/leading us.

I wanted to once again share the online link to *Holy Conversations*

<http://nswi.org/congregational-vitality/holy-conversations> posted on the NW Synod website. We DO have copies of the brochure and 20-page booklet that goes into deeper detail available at church. This is the material your congregation and I are digging into, and we are interested in your thoughts as well. We are wondering if the Spirit has been talking to you about what the future holds for Shepherd of the Hill? What are the ways we can be a vital congregation that is excitedly engaged in what God is calling us TO DO/AND BE in the world?

In gratefulness and hope,  
Pastor Mary Eide

## FUTURE DATES

Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Jorde Baptized (celebrate with parents Molly and Devin Jorde)  
Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social  
Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 7pm Confirmation Parent/Student meeting  
Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 9am Rally Day  
Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> First Confirmation class  
Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 8:45am First Sunday School Class  
Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 11am – 1 or 2??  
Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 10am Bluegrass Music Worship  
Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> 10am 9<sup>th</sup> Graders Confirmed  
Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm Open House for Carol Heimstead's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

## GATHERING

*WORSHIP - 10am Sunday throughout the Summer*

*Summer Sermon Series on the BOOK of ACTS*

Have you ever wondered what it was like for the apostles and other followers of Jesus, to continue his work after his resurrection and ascension? Not only did they find themselves living into the reality that he is no longer with them, but what Jesus and the Holy Spirit reveal to the faithful is SHOCKING...this *Good News of salvation and the Kingdom of God* is to be spread to *all people...of every nation!* Not only will this be a logistical endeavor of godly proportions, but it will require the hearts and minds of the faithful to reimagine WHO God is calling to be part of it all; as well as HOW they will all live, worship, and work together to fulfill God's will and the Great Commission. As we hear these Bible text, my prayer (Pr. Mary) is that we will hear what future God is calling us into.

DATE	TEXT	DATE	TEXT
7/3/2022	Acts 5:17-36, 39b-42	8/28/2022	Acts 22:30-23:11
7/10/2022	Acts 6: 1-7, 8-15, 54-60	9/4/2022	Acts 28:17-31
7/17/2022	Acts 9:1-14		

As we've already heard in the readings of Acts 1-3, the life and work of the church...**with Jesus and the Spirit empowering and enlightening believers...is changing lives!** The absence of these *'big moment/miraculous occurrences'* in the church (or our personal lives) today doesn't mean the Spirit is not working. But what I (Pastor Mary) have learned over the years, is that the more we allow ourselves to be looking and listening for the Holy Spirit, the more obvious the Spirit's presence and message is experienced/heard. Think about how this is true in so many other areas of our lives: when we are looking for information about our health, wealth, work, or hobbies...our minds and ears are more likely to be tuned into this information as we listen/read the news, books, online blogs, social media and daily conversations.

Throughout this Summer Sermon Series, we will focus our thoughts on three key questions:

1. What is God doing in these events and in the lives of the people/world?
2. How are the people responding to/reacting to God's words/actions?
3. What does all this tell us about what God is calling US (as a congregation, family unit, and/or individual) to do or be in the world today?

\* \* \* \* \*

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL** is coming up **AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>**! What a fun and delicious way to get neighbors together AND host a MAJOR fundraiser for the YOUTH MINISTRY of our church. **Families, please keep this date open on your calendar so you can help work at it.** An email/letter will be going out with a SHIFT LIST. Linda O'Mara, Tracy Clemmens and Edie Litzkow are organizing this event.



**Duane and Anita Clemmens** have moved  
E8784 555<sup>th</sup> Ave. Lot 128  
Elk Mound, WI 54739  
Anita: 715-271-8130  
Duane: 715-271-8131

**Joann Knutson** has moved to  
Care Partners Country Terrace (Across from  
5110 Stonewood Dr. Menards Dist.)  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

## GROWING

### LUTHER PARK

KIDS/TEENS...CREATE LIFETIME MEMORIES at **LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAMP** in Chetek Hang up the school backpacks and put away the books because summer is here! It is time to make sure that you have your children and youth signed up for the program of their choice at Luther Park or Luther Woods. First time campers receive a discount! Camp programs provide a variety of activities and adventures including swimming, hiking canoeing, archer, games, arts and crafts, cookouts, and meeting new friends. These activities are all centered on daily Bible study and worship that focuses on our summer theme entitled "Sailing on the High C's". There is still time to sign up for an experience that your son or daughter will always remember.

We have a camp brochure at church and you can access information at their website: [info@lutherpark.org](mailto:info@lutherpark.org) Our congregation is committed to making camp affordable, so we will pay 50% for children/youth who are members of our congregation. You will need to use our **CAMP CODE SH50** when you register for the "Amount Church Pays." Luther Park also has *Camperships* available. (These are scholarships funded by the camp)

Please contact the church to let us know IF you are attending camp, and WHICH CAMP WEEK you are registering for, so we can look for the bill at the end of the season.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

August 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



*Do you want to help with VBS?*

*Come to a planning meeting.*

**6/29 6pm at Holly Sweeney's Home (2847 35<sup>th</sup> Ave., Elk Mound)**

**7/20 at Jaime Folczyk home (2789 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Elk Mound)**

**7/31 Setup after Sunday worship service**



## GIVING

...of TIME, TALENTS, & TREASURES

**SUMMER GIVING CHALLENGE** Generous donors have established a SUMMER CHALLENGE to help encourage giving and work towards reducing our current deficit. They are willing to match up to **\$2,000** in giving that is **above your normal giving!** Any offerings/donations marked "SUMMER CHALLENGE" (also available on Online GIVE PLUS) given **between June 21, 2022 and August 31, 2022** will be doubled up to the \$2,000 limit.

[NOTE: If you'd like to participate by *INCREASING* that challenge amount, please contact Pastor Mary or Barb Vadnais.]

### **May 2022 Balances**

Independence State Bank Balance	\$ 11,542.15
Mortgage Balance	\$ 21,512.09
Year-to Date Income	\$ 57,322.44
<u>Year-to-Date Expenses</u>	<u>-\$ 66,143.82</u>
<b>LOSS</b>	<b>(\$ 8,821.38) Please help reduce this deficit!</b>

...of TREASURES

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

*THANK YOU* also to

**YOU CAN MAKE ONLINE OFFERINGS/DONATIONS by using GivePlus on our church website.** Simply go to [www.sothem.org](http://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 THANKS

*To the many who made memorial donations honoring LaVerne Ausman... Thank you for your friendship, love, support, and many expressions of kindness throughout LaVerne's life and at the time of his death. We appreciate every sentiment and story shared, as would he. Each of you were a gift to him and are to us. We are deeply grateful.*

- With love from Flora and the Ausman family

Pastor Dean and Kari Brockmeier made a memorial gift to the churches GENERAL OPERATING fund and sent along this message:

*This special offering is made in memory of all the Shepherd of the Hill members we have known how have joined the Church Triumphant.*

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

*\* Starred items were inadvertently omitted in the June newsletter*

### General Fund/Memorial Fund

Billy & Betty Heltne *	In memory of Faylene Howe's daughter, Danita Howe
David & Mary Gilbertson *	In memory of Faylene Howe's daughter, Danita Howe
Bud & Barb Barum *	In memory of Faylene Howe's daughter, Danita Howe
Bud & Barb Barum *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
David & Helen Blicher *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Steve & Holly Sweeney *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Loren & Diane Hanson *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Judy & Lynn Dieter *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Jim & Claudeen Oebser *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
David & Mary Gilbertson	In memory of Diane Hanson's father, Harold Johnson,

### Building Fund

Linda Eder *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Renee & Randy Simpson *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
David & Mary Gilbertson *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Friends & Family of LaVerne *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Gordy & Candis Sessions *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Diane DeMoe *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Tim & Kris Jenson *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Dave & Kathy Kopp	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Olivia & Sandy Kenefick	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
Tim & Kris Jenson *	In memory of Denise Howe-Anderson's husband, Casey Anderson
Tim & Kris Jenson *	In memory of Faylene Howe's daughter, Danita Howe

### Luther League

Friends & Family of LaVerne *	In memory of LaVerne Ausman
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### Sunday School/Faith Formation Fund

Tim & Kris Jenson *	In honor of their grandsons Grayson & Lincoln
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OUR KITCHEN PROJECT has met a big milestone...the electricity is updated! The Kitchen Committee will now look more into the safety/quality issues related to cleaning dishes, pot/pans and deep roasters. Options include installing a dishwasher or creating one or two 3-sink settings. MANY THANKS to Tim Jenson who has devoted untold number of hours

**NEXT AUTUMN FEST organizational meeting WEDNESDAY, JULY 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** in the church basement. We are still looking for Coordinators/Co-ordinators for Kids Games (we have equipment already), Set Up/Breakdown and Promotion. We hope to have sign ups out soon for baskets needed and additional volunteer opportunities.

## LUTHER PARK NEWS

...the WOMEN'S RETREAT was a hit!! Approximately 130 women attended throughout the 2 days of fun and learning. Mark June 7-8, 2023 on your calendar for the next retreat.

... Luther Park really could use some help with their staffing. They are *very, very short* staffed...needing camp nurse, a counselor, or support staff. They are looking for short-term help (individuals able to help out for a week or two) or summer-long help. High school youth can help as support staff. Contact Keith Newman at [keith@lutherpark.org](mailto:keith@lutherpark.org) or at 715-859-2245

... Not too late to sign up for camp see website: [info@lutherpark.org](mailto:info@lutherpark.org) or get a brochure at church. Our congregation will pay 50% for children/youth who are members of our congregation, just use our CAMP CODE **SH50** when you register for the "Amount Church Pays." We DO have additional Youth Funds for scholarships...just contact Pastor Mary.

...Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, the Luther Park Golf Outing is occurring at Sioux Creek Golf Course in Chetek starting at 9 am. Pastor Brad Peterson (Trinity Lutheran, Boyceville) is in charge and is looking for help and/or golfers. He is looking for **hole sponsors** and **donations to be used for raffles or Silent Auction**. [NOTE: Sponsorship per hole: \$250 Recognition on the course and at the event \$400 Recognition on the course, at the event, and a team of 4 for free] Pastor Brad can be contacted at [pastorpb@cltcomm.net](mailto:pastorpb@cltcomm.net)

## Shepherd of the Hill Council Minutes May 25, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:33 by President Barb Vadnais

Council listened to a presentation by Reverend Erin Nelson on the sustainability of our church and possible options for the future.

**Next Meeting:** June 20th @6:30 pm Please submit agenda items by Monday, June 13th end of day to Barb Vadnais; and then please be sure to read agenda ahead of time to be prepared. Thank you.

**Adjourn:**

Respectfully submitted by Alison Young



# July 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 10am Communion Worship	4 <i>Independence Day</i> Office closed 7pm AA Meeting	5 4-6pm Food Pantry	6	7	8 10am-Noon Food Pantry	9
10 10am Worship	11 7pm AA Meeting	12 4-6pm Food Pantry 6pm Finance Meeting	13	14	15 10am-Noon Food Pantry	16
17 10am Communion Worship	18 7pm AA Meeting	19 4-6pm Food Pantry	20 6pm VBS meeting @ Jaime's 2789 23 <sup>rd</sup> St. EM	21	22 10am-Noon Food Pantry	23
24 10am Worship	25 6:30pm Church Council 7pm AA Meeting	26 4-6pm Food Pantry	27 10am Adult Bible study/potluck 6pm Autumn Fest meeting	28	29 10am-Noon Food Pantry	30
31 10am Worship 11am SET UP FOR VBS						

## Notes

View and edit this document in Word on your computer, tablet, or phone. You can edit text; easily insert content such as pictures, shapes, and tables; and seamlessly save the document to the cloud from Word on your Windows, Mac, Android, or iOS device.





# 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

## **RAFFLES**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**GAMES FOR  
CHILDREN**

**CAR SHOW**

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

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

*“Encouraging faith and  
Gathering, Growing and*



*proclaiming God's love by  
Giving.”*

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