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October 2021 Newsletter

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

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MARY

Fall greetings everyone!

Many of you have told me that you cherish this time of year: the colors, cool air, and all that goes with the season which makes us feel more alive and energized! *I'm with you 100%* Yet, the irony of this season of color, is that these colors only exist because something is changing/dying. Technically the leaf color change is the result of chemical processes that take place in the tree as the seasons change from summer to winter. The leaves had been food producing factories during the spring and summer months, but because of changes in the length of daylight and changes in temperature in the fall, the leaves stop their food-making process. The leaves lose their connection to the tree they had been feeding and fall to the ground. Later they decompose and make the soil richer for the next season of growth. This circle of life goes on year after year. We expect it, anticipate it, and even yearn for it.

We've learned to appreciate these annual changes in the physical world around us - but have somehow developed internal alarm systems that go off when we face other 'changes' within our lives. We get alarmed when our children seem to be growing up too fast, when our bodies and minds age too quickly, when the technology around us continually grows more complex, when the sense of 'what is normal/acceptable/true' warps into something we are no longer comfortable with in our lives. *Again, I'm with you 100%*

In such moments of discomfort with change/dying, I find myself eternally grateful for the God who gives us life, salvation, and the wisdom to live into/through it all. I am forever grateful for the word of God that teaches us about how we are intimately connected to God, baptized into God's family, graced with the faith, gifts and wisdom to be God's people in the world. Because of God's divine love, forgiveness, and grace we do not have to fear the fate of the leaf, we will not lose a connection to God. However, it takes intentionality to keep that connection alive in our hearts, minds, and lives. Faith is lived, experienced, and an expression of who we were made to be. Living out our Christian faith brings a sense of feeling alive and energized; not only for ourselves, but for those we interact with in life.

As a church family, a body of Jesus Christ, we have the blessing of drawing strength from God and one another. We grow stronger together, supporting one another through the trying and difficult times of life. Will you join me in a season of celebrating our connectedness to God and one another? Recognizing what we have in common, what we have to be thankful for, and what God is leading us to do and be? Re-connect and be strong,
Pastor Mary

If you are in need of prayers, home visit, home communion, are hospitalized, or need other pastoral services, please contact Pastor Mary at 715-308-0652 or meide@luthersem.edu
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR



8th-12th GRADERS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING TACO DINNER/MEETING **Wed. October 13th at 6pm.** Hey families, it's time to make a commitment to a trip to the 2022 National Youth gathering in Minneapolis July 24th-28th. This is a fantastic opportunity to experience what it's like to be with thousands of fellow Christians: laughing, learning, serving, worshipping...and seeing the world in a new way. Yes, for some of you the prospect of being *with thousands of people* may seem like an anxiety producing event. But rest assured that safety will be a top priority for the event organizers, and the ELCA is requiring everyone who participates to have either proof of COVID vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the event. **IMPORTANT: Steve and Holly Sweeney ask that you RSVP if you are coming to the dinner by contacting them either at (Home) 715-874-5199 or at thesweeneys@wwt.net**

EM School District COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR **Thursday, October 14th 4-6pm.** This event will be at the EM Middle School Cafeteria. You can:

- Meet School Counselor
- Learn more about how parents can check child's grades on the *Infinite Campus*
- Meet the District Mental Health Coordinator
- Sign up for Mounder Meals weekend kids' meal program
- Learn about School Based Mental Health Services.

There will be a number of local vendors on site as well.

KITCHEN CLEANUP **Saturday, October 23rd 9am-Noon.** It's been a while since our kitchen has had a good cleaning. Why not make a little time in the morning to lend a hand? No doubt there will be coffee, tea, and sweet things to eat!

REFORMATION/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY **October 31st at 10am** – Bradlee Clemmens, Savana Millermon, Jace Peterson, and Ellie Schiszik will Affirm their Baptism (be confirmed) during worship

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES have begun and take place between 8:45am-9:45am. We are using the SPARKS curriculum this year. (3-year-olds through 6th graders). We have a GREAT staff this year: **(We are still looking for youth/adults to serve as substitute teachers, assistants or 'behind-the-scenes' workers.)**

- Bobbi Jo Carothers 3-year olds-Kindergarten
- Chris Miller 1st-2nd grade
- Brad Zillmer 3rd-4th grade
- Holly Sweeney 5th-6th

You can contact our Sunday School Coordinators : Chris Miller (715-579-7628) and Jaime Folczyk (715-821-0796) if you have questions or want to get involved.

CONFIRMATION KEY DATES:

Sun., Oct. 31st – 10am **9th Grade** Confirmation Service

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/SARAH CIRCLE...on **Wednesday, October 27th 1pm church basement.** We are continuing a study on the Holy Spirit. This study comes from the W-ELCA magazine *Gather*, available on print and electronically. Let Pastor Mary know if you need a printed copy.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE WIX.com to build/maintain a website? We could REALLY use your help. Cindy Wenzel has been doing a fantastic job of getting items on the website, but we would benefit from having more than one person to keep the site updated, and to brainstorm on ways to make it something people go to for information, insight on their faith, and ways to connect with one another. Please contact Cindy or Pastor Mary if you have an interest

THANK YOU NOTES...

...to our Sunday School team, committee and families who participated in this year's Rally Day activities

...to the dedicated Autumn Fest organizers, volunteers, contributors and participants that made this year's Autumn Fest a SUCCESS!!

...special thanks to Terry Stamm and Bob Dempski for working to remove *old* waterproofing material in the front of the building; and to Mark Levra for installing *new* waterproofing to keep water from getting into the building. Mark also was instrumental in identifying the proper rain drainage system for that area.

From Diane DeMoe: Thank you for the fellowship event to celebrate my 90th birthday. To Barb and Bud Barum for the cake, to Linda Dempski and Carol Carlstrom for serving it, to Carol Carlstrom for the coffee warm ups, and to ALL the gifts and cards from so many people.

GIVING

GIVING of TREASURES

Independent State Bank – General Operating Balance: \$13,940.02

Mortgage Balance: \$50,002.62

AUGUST GIVING: \$12,605.75

AUGUST EXPENSES: \$12,343.48

Monthly Suplus \$262.27

Yearly Deficit (\$5,243.82)



****NEW DEDICATED FUND:** *Education/Faith*

fund has been established to fund costs for necessary Education/Faith Formation curriculum/supplies not funded for in 2021 Budget. (i.e. New Confirmation curriculum with at-home family activities)

Formation

YOUR REGULAR GIVING MATTERS...and not just for the church's financial bottom line. When we give our offerings to the church, it is a faith practice of recognizing that all we have is from God...and our offering is our way of responding to God's goodness...of showing our trust in faith in God.

GIVING+: Here is a way you can have direct access to controlling your online giving. Go to our church website, www.sotherm.org, find the drop down menu at top right of the page and select GIVE. This will bring you to a *Vanco Giving* where you can set up a 1-time donation, or a monthly giving amount to be withdrawn from your checking/savings account and deposited into our church checking account.

BILL PAY: If you are already paying bills online, just add Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church to your list. You choose the amount and date you want a computer generated check to be mailed to the church for your giving.

GIVING of TIME

RUBY'S PANTRY is on the 2nd Saturday of each month, and open to people of *all income levels*. Why? Because all of us need to eat, and by distributing this food we prevent it from going to landfills. Any food left over is donated to *Elk Mound Community Food Pantry*, *Mounder Meals* and other non-profit groups that can use the items.

How do you receive the food?

- 1) Arrive in a vehicle at the Elk Mound High School parking lot between 7-9:30am
- 2) Pay your \$20 donation, and then sit in the comfort of your vehicle until it's your turn to go to the distribution site at our church.
- 3) Make sure you have enough space cleared in the back of your vehicle, so volunteers can place the items in it. (Yep! You don't have to leave your vehicle!!)

Want to volunteer? :

- 1) Go online to www.rubyspantry.org and click on "Volunteer." From there you complete an online Volunteer Application that is good until the end of the year. Minors need to have parents sign the form.
- 2) Arrive at our church parking lot/church basement anytime after 6am to find out ways you can make this a successful event. OR, you could arrive around 9:30 to help with the cleanup.

WORSHIP...be a vital part of our Sunday Worship Leadership Team

Sunday worship goes so much smoother when we have all the worship leadership positions in place. WHO is a worship leader?

- *Technology:* run livestreaming software & camera to connect people beyond building
- *Singers:* yes, you can sing a solo or get a group together for some music
- *Musicians/Singers:* children, youth and adults are welcome to provide special music
- *Ushers/Greeters:* greet and assist worshipers and with worship
- *Acolytes:* create atmosphere for worship with candle lighting & cross bearing
- *Lectors (readers):* allow others to hear God word from the Bible
- *Communion Assistants:* help with distribution of Holy communion (9th gr.-adult)
- *Altar Guild:* prepare communion elements, tend to altar candles, change altar paraments
- *Banner Team:* change banners for the various church seasons and festival days
- *Special candle lighting and reading* occasionally for Advent season

Individuals, couples and families can sign up together. How do you do it? Sign up on one of the clipboards in the Gathering Area outside of the sanctuary for one week or one month at a time. You can also talk to Tim Jenson for *ushering*, Claudeen Oebser for *altar guild*, Keith Lee or Pastor Mary for other roles.

Shepherd of the Hill Council Minutes

23 August 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:33 by Linda Dempski

Members Present: Linda Dempski, Marshall Fuhrman, Stephany Grossbier, Kris Jenson, Jennifer Kinblom, Keith Lee, Claudeen Oebser, DiAnna Scheffler, John Silvernale, Steve Sweeney, Barb Vadnais, Alison Young, Carol Carlstom, Pastor Mary Eide

Members Absent: Jennifer Kinblom

Devotion: Reading from 1st Thessalonian

Mutual Ministry: Sandy Kenefick was hospitalized, she is now in nursing home to rebuild her strength. She is more hopeful now. Joe Larson passed away on August 12th. Lawrence Osmond fractured his clavicle. Kouba family, Faylene's son Lennie, Diane DeMoe, Duane & Anita looking for a new home, Schweers family: Ariel gave birth to Archer. Visit Ariel's

site: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/archerschweers>

God Sightings: Baby Archer was born after some concern over his health.

- **Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda made by Keith Lee. 2nd by Marshall Fuhrman. Motion carried.
- **Secretary's Report:** Motion was made by John Silvernale to approve July minutes. 2nd by Barb Vadnais. Motion carried.
- **Treasurer's / Finance Report:**
 - Dedicated Accounts: Month End Balances
 - Total technology budget was \$3,606. Total expenses are \$4,561.
 - Hardware budget was \$500 so we are over -\$455.
 - Profit and Loss: January through July 2021
 - July was another good month. Second month in a row in the black \$579.
 - Tracking closely to our budget. Behind our YTD budget -\$4,741.10
 - Profit and Loss Budget Performance: January through July 2021
 - Budget for postage is currently at \$335.
 - Purchase stamps before the increased rate August 29th.
 - Parking lot repair bid from Seal King in Menomonie of \$2,015.
 - Annual budget for parking lot repair remains at \$2,500.
 - Other Points of Discussion:
 - Kim suggested we compare the age of donors with the amount given (in ranges), to identify what age groups are giving the most (but NOT by identifying individuals). The purpose of doing so is to see how this impacts our future income potential. Also helps us understand any urgency in teaching/encouraging younger generations to give.
 - Discussed contacting a local investment company to set up an endowment program for estate giving for members.
 - Discussed requesting a fee/donation from Sunday school and confirmation families to cover costs of program supplies. Committee suggests we establish Dedicated Fund for donations to cover Faith Formation costs (Bibles, curriculum), as there is not enough money budgeted for 2021. Fall Costs: \$92 for used Sparks bibles, \$263 for Sparks leaflets/2 Bibles; \$368 for Confirmation Journals (13-weeks), Faith Inkubators membership/cds. Motion was made to create a dedicated fund for education and faith formation supplies by Keith Lee. 2nd by Barb Vardnais.
- **New Business:**
 - Benevolence Funds: New Balance: \$439.16. No requests currently.

- Parking Lot Bid: We budgeted \$2,500 for this project already, and we have a bid from Seal King and Superior Sealing. Guaranteed work for cleaning cracks and hot crack filling. Superior Sealing submitted the lower bid. Alison Young made a motion to use Superior Sealing, 2nd by Keith Lee. Some discussion followed regarding if the sealing will hold up until we are able to complete the work.
- **Old Business:**
 - Website Claudeen Oebser noticed that our website needs updating. We can all help get the word out that we are looking for someone with time and knowledge of how to update/maintain website, with Cindy Wenzel.
 - Autumn Fest: Next Meeting is September 7th. We are looking for more people to help.
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Faith Formation:**
 - Sunday School: Rally Day invites went out to all Sunday School families. Everyone is invited to our Rally Day event on Sept. 12th 9:15-9:45am. We are now fully staffed: Bobbi Jo Carothers (PreK-K); Chris Miller/Jaime Folczyk 1st-2nd grade; Brad Zillmer (3rd-4th Grade); Holy Sweeney (5th-6th) Grade. *Looking to include youth as class assistants.* Regular classes 8:45am classes begin the following week
 - **Confirmation:** Parents/students meeting Sep. 1st 7pm; 3:20-4:30 classes begin Sep. 8th
 - **Property:**
 - Linda will provide update on the Building Project List
 - Retaining wall on back side of Sunday School wing: The retaining wall is for decorative purposes only and can be safely removed. Right now wall is sagging and poses a safety issue.
- **Youth and Education:** Successful Ice Cream Social. Sweeneys sent out more invites for a 9/8 Spaghetti Dinner/Info meeting for National Youth Gathering Meeting with 6 families attending. Steve Sweeney went to the National Youth Gathering meeting. He stated that he did not learn too much new information, but he would keep council updated.
- **Ruby's Pantry:** October 9th
- **Pastors Report:**
 - "How to Read Your Bible" class ended on 8/18 and was a great time of discussion and community building. Plan for 11/21 worship while I'm on vacation is to have readings and a songfest and a temple talk, all led by members of congregation. Hopefully by now you've received and email from me inviting you to participate in free continuing education through Vibrant Faith on a variety of topics.
 - Pastor wants to meet with the Executive committee within the next couple of months.
- **Next Meeting:** September 20th @6:30 pm
- **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Keith Lee at 7:41. 2nd by DiAnna Scheffler. Motion carried.
- **Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

Respectfully submitted by Alison Young, Secretary



OCTOBER 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 10-12 Food Pantry <i>Homecoming Parade</i>	2
3 8:45 SS Lesson: ABRAM'S CALL 10 Worship 11 Autumn Fest	4 7 AA Meeting	5 4-6 Food Pantry	6 3:20 Confirmation class	7	8 10-12 Food Pantry <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	9 8:30-10 Ruby's Pantry distribution
10 8:45 SS Lesson: ABRAHAM/SARAH'S VISITORS 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	11 <i>EM Fall Break</i> 7 AA Meeting	12 4-6 Food Pantry 6 Finance Meeting	13 12 Women's Mtg 3:20 Confirmation class 6pm NYG Meal and meeting	14 4-6pm Community Resource Fair at EM Middle School Cafeteria	15 10-12 Food Pantry <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	16
17 8:45 SS Lesson: ISAAC'S BLESSING 10 Communion Worship 11 Executive Committee Mtg.	18 7 AA Meeting	19 4-6 Food Pantry	20 3:20 Confirmation class	21	22 10-12 Food Pantry <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	23 9am-Noon Kitchen Cleanup
24 8:45 SS Lesson: FREE FROM SLAVERY 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	25 6:30pm Church Council	26 4-6 Food Pantry	27 1pm Sarah Circle 3:20 Confirmation class	28	29 10-12 Food Pantry <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	30
31 8:45 SS Lesson: THE RED SEA 10 Confirmation Worship						

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

There is a *place* in our
family for your *family!*