



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND CHILD CARE

Congregational Report

May 21, 2023

Our mission: To lead people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus

ShepherdLutheran.com

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Shepherding the Flock

Rev. Dr. Christopher Kennedy, Senior Pastor, pastorchris@shepherdlutheran.com

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We're coming out of an exciting season – Easter, First Communion, Confirmation – and now finishing the school year and preparing for summer. God's blessings to all of our graduates, including Shepherd kindergarten, Shepherd eighth grade, and Lutheran High School seniors. The end of May includes special worship days – Ascension and Pentecost. June is Vacation Bible School. The rhythm of the year gives us many special occasions to celebrate people and grow in faith together. The pages of this report describe some of the notable activities this time of year at Shepherd.

Summer is a great time for work and rest. At Shepherd, it's a time for work as we partner with one another to provide ministries and strive for excellence in all that we do. This summer, we'll also continue to lay the groundwork for the fall capital campaign, *NEXT*. Please keep the campaign in your prayers, that it may yield a great harvest of resources for the ministry.

Summer is also a time of rest. Many of us will go on vacation during the summer. Teachers get a break. Children will be out of school and at home more. (Actually, that may not be so restful for the parents!)

In times of work and in times of rest this summer, I pray that your life is filled with God's grace, peace, and love over these upcoming months!

God's blessings,
Pastor Chris

Dale Stein Jr., Congregation President, dalesteinjr1@gmail.com

- The BOD are continuing to review the Constitution and By-Laws. I am working with the District office to assure the documents are correct and meet all of their requirements. I encourage any suggestions the congregational members may have for these documents.
- The BOD has also approved a new Mission Team to review the use of the King George and Dove houses. With the new Family Life Center and meeting rooms, we will be moving some of the school use of the portable buildings. By the adjusting of these uses, the BOD wants to see if these houses are still needed.
- The BOD will also be looking at a Campus Beautification Mission Team to review the new build, school, and church buildings to review the current public areas and see if any modifications are necessary.

Dale R. Stein, Jr.
President
SHLC Board of Directors



Three things I want you to know about my ministry area . . .

1. We are planning for Financial Peace University to help our members settle their personal finances in anticipation of “Next,” our church’s capital campaign!
2. We will continue offering prayer partners for those wanting to pray with an elder or deaconess for themselves or others after each service.
3. We are aware of “sticking cups” during Holy Communion. Please gently lift the cups straight up or move to another cup if one sticks.

Ministry metrics . . .

Easter was a beautiful success. We celebrated with the following for Easter services:

Easter Sunrise - 95

8 AM - 231

9:30 AM - 245

11 AM – 265

I’m thankful for . . . Susan Rath and Brian Lawrence for joining our board!

A great comment I heard recently at church was . . . We are all going to miss Megan directing our weekend nursery. Good luck to her in optometry school!



Three things I want you to know about my ministry area . . .

1. Saturday, May 6 we put on a new event for kids and their families called Pedals & Petals.
2. I've really been enjoying teaching the Sunday morning Bible class over the last few months!
3. Over the next few months I'll be working on connecting the NEXT campaign with our school chapel curriculum to teach our school students and families how NEXT doesn't just involve finances, but hopefully it will shape everything we do!

Ministry metrics . . .

It was encouraging to have SO many more students in attendance at the Confirmation retreat this year.

I'm thankful for . . . all the wonderful volunteers we have each and every week!

A great comment I heard recently at church was . . . "We feel so welcome. I'm so happy God led us here!"



PEDALS & PETALS



“A man with money is not match against a man on a mission.” Doyle Brunson

“Ben Franklin may have discovered electricity – but it is the man who invented the meter who made the money.” Earl Warren

- As of 5/15/2023 we are averaging \$22,347 in weekly tithes and offerings. We have seen a slight decrease in giving as of late. Please, keep in mind our weekly average needs to be \$21,368 to fully support our operational budget.
- The School and Kitchen are sustaining upward financial movement. Average balances sheet figures for the school remain around \$1.134 million.
- I am thankful for continued financial growth from our investment accounts. We are averaging \$1,500 per month in interest with our investments with Edward Jones. Special thanks to Jim Tanberg for helping the congregation with these financial gains.
- Shepherd of the Hills staff continue to move forward with our capital campaign. We truly have a blessed team of dedicated individuals. I am thankful for our staff and the way they use their gifts to make ministry happen. I am amazed at how smooth the capital campaign has gone this far and look forward to what is Next!!!
- Thank you for your faithfulness, and desire to bring people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus.



NE>T

The logo features the word "NEXT" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A large, green, stylized arrow points from the "E" towards the "T", with the arrowhead positioned between the "E" and the "T". The arrow is thick and has a slight curve, giving it a dynamic feel.

Three things I want you to know about my ministry area:



1. Members of our choir and handbells ministries at Shepherd are about to start a summer hiatus to allow me time to plan the next season of worship music. Their absence leaves space for singers and instrumentalists to provide a one-time song during the summer months. If you are aged high school and up and like the idea of sharing your musical talent but cannot make a weekly commitment, then summer music is for you. Contact me to sign up for your weekend, and I will find just the right title for you to share in worship and give you plenty of time to practice!

2. Jason Fischer, our Audio/Video Coordinator, is looking for more interested volunteers to assist with cameras, PropPresenter slides, and livestream for weekend services. Ideally, there would be enough volunteers to sign up for a once-per-month rotation. Jason will provide training and scheduling support. Contact him at jfischer@shlutheran.org for information or to add your name to the roster.



3. Chapel Song Leader students in grades 3, 4, and 5 at Shepherd will be singing at 10:30 modern hymn worship on May 21 to help celebrate the Ascension of Jesus. These students have really grown in their confidence as singers since September, and I am excited for you to hear them. If you cannot attend in person, be sure to catch them online on our Web site, Facebook page, or Youtube channel.

I'm thankful for ... This congregation that is filled with so many faithful followers of Jesus who readily share their love for Him with me, my family, and guests who come to worship.

You can help by ... tapping a friend, neighbor, or relative on the shoulder and inviting them to take part in music ministry at Shepherd of the Hills. There is always room for more brothers and sisters in Christ who love music!



A great comment I heard recently at church: "Today's songs really nailed the theme of the service."

[Lauren White, Director of Christian Education, lauren@shepherdlutheran.com](mailto:lauren@shepherdlutheran.com)

Three things I want you to know about my ministry area . . .

1. VBS registration for participants and volunteers opened May 1.
2. Camp Eagle registration is still open.
3. VBS will be a Stellar event with limited morning spots as we pilot a morning program. To reserve a morning slot, talk to DCE Lauren.

Ministry metrics . . .

We have 16 teens going to Camp Eagle this summer.

We average 41 kids each weekend for Shepherd's Kids.

I'm thankful for . . .

A great turnout for the Easter Breakfast and all that were able to help!

A great comment I heard recently at church was . . .

"I just want to share how happy that Shepherd of the Hills has made our family, thank you all for being so welcoming."



Three things I want you to know about my ministry area . . .

1. New member one-on-ones are being scheduled this month. One family has already completed their session and have joined the church! These sessions include a walking tour of the campus while I explain Shepherd's history and beliefs. The stained glass windows in the church have been a great resource when explaining what our church believes. We also take time to evaluate and develop a personal discipleship plan with the goal of "leading people into a life-changing relationship with Christ."
2. In addition to new lobby furniture, furniture for the Family Life Center has been purchased and is ready to be assembled!
3. Another aspect of our guest and member experience is their access to nursery during worship services. Megan Schillerstrom has done a wonderful job as our Director of Nursery, but as she prepares to move on to new things, she will be finishing her time with us this month. We are currently looking for a replacement.

Ministry metrics . . .

We currently have a list of 19 individuals and families who are candidates for our membership class.

One class has already taken place, and two more are scheduled for May. My goal is to have all of these complete by the end of summer.

I'm thankful for . . .

My team! I am blessed to work with a great team of staff and volunteers who work together to move our ministry forward.

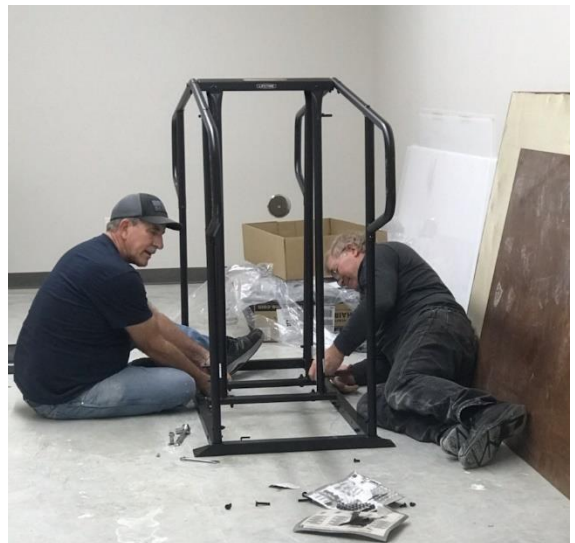
A great comment I heard recently at church was . . .

One member shared that she and her family are going away for the weekend and that it will be her first time missing church since they joined! She felt a little sad to miss. I encouraged her to enjoy her trip and to join us online! I was inspired by her commitment.



Dave Kottwitz, Family Life Center Liaison, davehwa@sbcglobal.net

Inspections upon inspections – that's the current reality as of this writing (early May 2023) to get a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, which will allow us to start moving in. The trades needing final inspections for the TCO are: building, plumbing, mechanical (AC), electrical, fire, and traffic. Lauger and their subs are working all these at this time. A joint punch list has been generated – they are working through those items. More inspections will follow to gain the final Certificate. The elevator is currently on hold until they get the correct motor for it. The Monday/Tuesday Shepherd Crew has installed: cabinets, baby changing tables, paper and soap dispensers; spread: rock, crushed granite, top soil, and mulch; assembled all sorts of equipment; and moves anything that needs moving. We were visited by San Antonio Development Services Department, and they provided details on requirements to gain our TCO – really appreciated the visit.



Three things I want you to know about my ministry area . . .

- 1. I was blessed to be present when the Shepherd eighth grade students dressed in their caps and gowns were taken on a personal tour of the Family Life Center by Tim Eickstead. I was able to grab photos of these young men and women as they took in the beauty of the building! Absolutely priceless moment.
- 2. The school Ramfest Spring Carnival took place April 27. One of the games was a good old fashioned cake walk. Melody and I teamed up together to get the word out to church families to provide cakes, and boy did they!! The Saturday Service Supper team alone provided 56 cakes!
- 3. Our next huge event coming next month is VBS, and PR has begun!

Ministry metrics . . . Take a look at the attendance numbers from Holy Week 2022 and 2023. A definite increase!

Holy Week Attendance 2022	Holy Week Attendance 2023
Palm Sunday Weekend 555	Palm Sunday Weekend 622
Maundy Thursday 96	Maundy Thursday 117
Good Friday 269	Good Friday 271
Holy Saturday 67	Holy Saturday 109
Easter Sunday 796	Easter Sunday 836

I'm thankful for . . . Our Shepherd community. We come together to celebrate the wins and support one another in the losses. All of this ... done from the heart!!

A great comment I heard recently at church was . . . Confirmation Sunday was the BEST!!

