

What's Happening!

LISA APPRECIATION THIS SUNDAY. Lisa Olson has resigned from her position as Children's Music Director. Please join us after both worship services when we will recognize Lisa and show her our appreciation for her 20 years of service.

RALLY DAY will kick off the new Sunday School year on Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 AM. Students will meet their teachers and participate in special activities. Registration forms are available in the Narthex. Please return the forms to the church office prior to Rally Day.

WORD ON WEDNESDAY [WOW] begins on September 16. Kids from preschool (age 3) through 5th grade are invited to join us for Christ centered fun on Wednesday nights. The schedule is as follows:

5:30—6:00: Music and dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:00—6:30: Bible time and games/crafts/activities

The cost for dinner is \$41 per semester, with a \$100 cap per family per semester. Registration forms are available in the Narthex, in the church office or online at www.sothaz.com. We still need some helpers, so if you'd like to volunteer, please contact Janet Leger at (480) 837-8089.

MEALS FOR EIGHT. Are you interested in getting out and meeting others? This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a meal and fellowship once a month with your friends from SOTH. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact the office. The gatherings will begin in September.

MEASURELESS LOVE, a Beth Moore DVD Study for women of all ages. This three week course is being offered at Shepherd of the Hills on Sunday evenings 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm on September 13, 20, and 27th. The cost is \$5.00, however if you need a scholarship they are available. Please register in the Narthex, call the church office or email julia@sothaz.com. By registering this ensures we have the materials available and if you need childcare we will be able to provide that for you. Refreshments will be served. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your daughters, grand daughters, neighbors, co-workers and friends in order that they may experience God's love and grace.

SWEET LIFE CAFÉ WOMEN'S RETREAT. Satisfy your cravings for friends, God, and spiritual growth! At Sweet Life Café, women stay engaged and feel a sense of belonging as they encounter a buffet of refreshing group experiences and personal alone time with God. Set aside Saturday, November 14, for this one-day retreat with women from all over the valley. More information coming soon. If you would like to sign up or assist, please contact Pam Rowedder at (480) 981-1910 or the church office (480) 837-9532.

GOAL ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRES have been sent to every member of the congregation via the *Spirit* or through email to assist the Church Council in measuring the success of our five-year goals. We ask that you complete the survey and return it to the church office via email or fax. Additional questionnaires are in the Narthex as well as a box to place the completed surveys. A list of the goals can be found in the *Spirit* and eblasts. Your input is greatly appreciated. Please find the goals and questionnaire at the end of this email.

POTLUCK NEXT SUNDAY. Join us at 10:45 August 23 for a potluck in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite Italian dish, salad, or dessert. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. In lieu of a free-will offering, please bring a canned good or non-perishable item for the Extended Hands Food Bank. See you there!

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY in Minneapolis begins August 17. Please keep the voting members in prayer as they will be making very important decisions. You can watch the Assembly on the internet at elca.org.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY on the texts for the following Sunday will now meet on Wednesdays at 9:15 AM, beginning August 19. Leftovers from the Men's breakfast will be served.

TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND. Pastor Steve Bergeson will lead a Shepherd of the Hills group tour to Israel, March 1-13, 2010. The tour will visit all the significant Christian sites around the country. The cost of the tour is \$4,095 per person in a double room or \$5,190 for a single room. The price includes airfare from Phoenix, 4- and 5-star accommodations, most meals, and 9 days of touring with a licensed, English-speaking guide. Brochures can be found in the Narthex.

NEW DIRECTORY COMING SOON! We will soon be putting our updated directory on our website www.sothaz.com, and we'd like for you to let us know of any changes or corrections (name spelling, address, phone number). If you do NOT want to be in the directory, we will remove your name. If you'd like to be ADDED to the directory, please contact the church office or email julia@sothaz.com.

PAZ NEEDS WATER and SUNSCREEN. Paz de Cristo needs water and sunscreen for the homeless. Please bring your donations and place them in the container in the Narthex.

DON'T FORGET TO RECYCLE all your newspapers, paperback books, telephone books, catalogues, and now, broken-down cardboard. Help out SOTH financially and save the environment as well! Dumpsters are located in the upper parking lot.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS. Please continue to pray for those on our prayer list, our troops and those serving in harms way, as well as our nation, state and local governments.

HOME DELIVERED MEALS of Fountain Hills is recruiting volunteers now to deliver meals to the homebound once per month for only 90 minutes (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.). This is an excellent opportunity for stay-at-home moms, seniors, and anyone who is available for this rewarding community service. Delivery is done in teams of two. Pair up with your spouse, a neighbor, relative or friend. Please contact Marti Lemieux at 480-816-5228 for more information or to apply.

SERMONS ON THE WEB. If you are vacationing or home for the summer, don't forget you can catch Pastor Steve's sermons via the web. They are available via voice or you can download a paper copy of his message.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & SR. HIGH YOUTH. We are continuing our activities during the week as well as planning many activities. Plan on coming and invite your friends this summer!

SR. HIGH YOUTH. We meet weekly in the Youth Room on **Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH. Join in the fun on **Wednesdays at 5:30 pm** in the Youth Room.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT, DAVID DUDGEON.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Your church council has compiled seven major goals that we believe can help us to focus our efforts to carry out the work of the Lord and continue to make SOTH an even better "Light on the Hill". We would like to accomplish these goals over the next five years. We can only be successful with God's help and your continuing support. The goals accompany this letter and we welcome your comments and criticisms. The goals are ambitious even if they were to be pursued in the best of financial times. However, with God all things are possible. With your prayers and support, SOTH will not just survive but thrive. We will continue to offer our members and our community the most visible sign of Christ's living love. We, your council, look forward to serving you and working with you using these goals to spread the good news of God's love to all our neighbors. Please support us with your prayers and if possible with your individual and personal involvement in these church goals.

God's Peace,
David L. Dudgeon
SOTH Church Council President

CONGREGATION COUNCIL GOALS

- #1 Improve Council/Action Team/Congregation Communication.
- #2 Achievement of full funding of our Goals through improved Stewardship Ministry.
- #3 Seek increased Pastoral assistance with a second part or fulltime position to maximize availability of Spiritual Leadership and increase Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH) outreach potential.
- #4 Increase year-round church attendance and membership by making the surrounding community aware of Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH) as a desirable church home.
- #5 Increase our Education Programs.
- #6 Increase our Church Small Group Life.
- #7 Increase and/or improve campus facilities to initiate new programs and to sustain our present Church ministry.

Goal Assessment Questionnaire
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (SOTH)

The following survey is meant to aid Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH) Congregation Council in measuring the success of our five-year goals. Everyone is asked to complete the survey and return it to the church office via email or fax, or box placed in the narthex. Note: Please refer to the SPIRIT and email blasts for a list of these goals.

1. *Are you currently on one of the SOTH Action Teams?*
 No Yes (please list) _____

2. *Are you participating in a ministry within SOTH? (i.e., Choir, Bell Choir, Altar Guild, Quilters, Sunday Servants, WELCA)*
 No Yes (please list) _____

3. *Are you participating in a mission outside of Shepherd of the Hills? (i.e., Paz, Habitat, Navajo)*
 No Yes (please list) _____

4. *Would you be willing to give a personal testimony of what God is achieving in your life, ministry or mission activities?*
 No Yes (list topic) _____

5. *If a third service were added, would you likely attend given the day/time?*
 No Yes
What day or time would an additional worship service fit your schedule? _____
What style worship service would you like added? _____

6. *Do you attend Adult Sunday school on Sunday mornings?*
 No Yes, how frequently _____

7. *Do you participate in any of the Bible study opportunities affiliated with SOTH? (i.e., Men's, Women's, Small Group)*
 No Yes (please list) _____

8. *Do you participate in any Bible study outside of SOTH?*
 No Yes (please list) _____

9. *Have you participated in any SOTH small group activity within the past year? (i.e., 40 Days Studies, Cursillo groups)*
 No Yes (please list) _____

10. *Have you attended any course sponsored by SOTH in the past 2 years? (i.e., Parenting Class, Financial Peace University, Estate Planning)*
 No Yes (please list) _____

11. *For those parents, grandparents and guardians. Do you have children under 18?*
 No (Proceed to question 12.)
 Yes, please indicate age of each child _____ (Proceed to question 12a.)

11a. *Do your children attend SOTH Sunday school?* No Yes
11b. *Do your children attend Vacation Bible School (VBS)?* No Yes
11c. *Do your children attend a youth group?* No Yes

12. *What youth or young adult related programs or activities would you like to see started at SOTH? Input from youth and/or young adults encouraged.*

13. *Would you like SOTH to offer more life skills programs?* (i.e., Parenting Classes, Marriage, Will & Guardianship, Financial, Resume Building/Job Search)

No Yes (please list) _____

14. *Would you participate in support groups, programs or ministries at SOTH?* (i.e., Seniors Group, Single Parent Support, Summer Ministry Children/Youth Day Camps, Unemployed Support, Fellowship Lunches with Games)

No Yes (please list) _____

Ideas for new groups you would be interested in? _____

15. *Does SOTH have a need for a second full or part time pastor?*

No Yes Uncertain Comments: _____

16. *Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 5 how adequately we communicate to you regarding the following:*

	Very Informed		Usually Informed		Poorly Informed		Comments
	1	2	3	4	5		
Church Council	1	2	3	4	5	_____	
Action Team Activities	1	2	3	4	5	_____	
Church Finances	1	2	3	4	5	_____	
Church Events	1	2	3	4	5	_____	

17. *How do you like to be informed?* (i.e., mail, email, newspaper, website, blog, twitter, temple talk, other)

18. *Do you feel welcome at SOTH?* No Yes Comments: _____

19. *Are you a:* Member Associate Member Regular Attendee New to our Church

Your age: __ Gender: __ Name: (optional) _____

Comments: _____

Your input is greatly appreciated. Thank-you!