



*Shepherd's
Voice*

March 2025

Bega Kwa Bega Partnership: Shepherd of the Hills Church and Kidamali Parish

Tim Kane

The partnership between Shepherd of the Hills Church and the Kidamali Parish in Tanzania continues to flourish, bringing about meaningful changes and fostering a deep sense of community. This report highlights the significant events and milestones achieved over the past year.

New Leadership

We are delighted that the Kidamali Parish will welcome their new pastor, Hilkie Mgovano, who is set to be ordained on February 21. Pastor Mgovano's ordination marks a new chapter for the parish, and we look forward to the positive impact of her leadership.



Star Word for the Year

We chose a star word for the partnership this year. The word chosen was: Intuition. This word symbolizes our shared journey and will be a focal point for reflection within the Kidamali Parish. The parish has embraced this initiative and plans to incorporate “Intuition” into their agenda for parish-wide reflection.

Infrastructure Improvements

The ceiling in the Kidamali church was completed this year. This significant improvement enhances the worship environment and supports the congregation's spiritual growth.

Vocational Center

The Kidamali Parish is in the process of obtaining a deed for the land they acquired to start a vocational center. We ask for your prayers as they work on bringing their plans to life.

Scholarships

As the new school term begins, please extend your prayers to the students embarking on their educational journeys. Education remains a cornerstone of our partnership, and we are committed to supporting the students.

Theological Education Extension Program (TEE)

We are also proud to announce that three students have successfully graduated from the Theological Education Extension program. These graduates can then become Evangelists at Preaching Points for Kidamali. In recognition of the program's success, we have agreed to fund additional students, ensuring that more individuals can benefit from theological education.

Our partnership between Shepherd of the Hills Church and the Kidamali Parish is facilitated by the Saint Paul Area Synod and Bega Kwa Bega. As it says on the Saint Paul Area Synod website, “At its heart, Bega Kwa Bega is a joint ministry between communities of faith in the ELCA and ELCT, whose purpose is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to extend Christian hospitality, and to strengthen relationships with one another through the shared practices of prayer, presence and projects.” We look forward to the many opportunities the future will bring to further strengthen our bond and impact both communities positively.

Shepherd's Governing Board

Jesus replied "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

~**Matthew 22:37-39, NIV**

Lent 2025: Ash Wednesday on March 5

Our Lent 2025 theme this year is "A New Way of Seeing" and will focus on deepening our connections with God through everyday and approachable contemplative practices. Sarah Cledwyn and Peter Watkins will be guiding us during our Wednesday evening worship services in different contemplative practices. Sue Fairchild will also join us for Ash Wednesday and one of the Lenten Wednesday evening services as our guide.

We will also have some special services during Lent, like a service of prayer and anointing on Sunday, March 30, a Palm Sunday drama, and a Maundy Thursday dinner church gathering.

Each Wednesday Evening Lenten offering will be directed to supporting our students' tuition needs in Kidamali TZ.

Joy Team 2025: March donation opportunity

Items to create Blessing Bags will be collected up until March 9. Following that we will gather for a packing event hosted by the Joy Team during the Donut Hour in Shepherd's Hall on March 16. We'd love to see you there!

The following items will be collected in the Narthex bin: Wash cloths, Single-cased toothbrushes, Combs, Chapstick Travel-size: toothpaste, shampoo, lotions, body soap, conditioner, & mini-deodorant Men's & Women's socks, Travel first-aid kits, Soft granola bars, Razors, Feminine hygiene items

Music Ministry

A women's quartet will be featured on Good Friday (Jennifer Gravidahl, Kate Tripoli, Sarah Koepp and Elsa Keeler). We will also have a brass quintet for Easter Sunday thanks to a generous donation to help offset costs.

We are beginning to plan for Vacation Bible School, which will incorporate Music Camp as well. This will allow all children who participate in VBS an opportunity to engage in music-making. They will be invited back to share some music on the Sunday following VBS.

Youth Ministry

The Confirmation students spent time learning about contemplative practices this January. Sue Fairchild and Sister Tashina put together prayer stations in the Mission Chapel each Wednesday. They will be bringing back the prayer stations during Lent for us all to learn!

Gather Together

Have you been to Adult Sunday School? The next gathering will be Mar 2 between services from 9-10a. Come and learn about the Apocalyptic Texts!

Coffee & Bagels at a new location at Caribou on Rice St. and 694, 3354 Rice St, Little Canada, MN 55126 on Mar 3 from 10-11:30a.

Contemplative Practices with Sarah Cledwyn, Mar 9 from 9-10a in Room 238. Join us!

Lunch Bunch Mar 12

Join us for Soup Supper and Lenten Worship **starting on Mar 12 and each Wednesday** during Lent.

Pour Theology, Thurs Mar 20 from 6:30-8p, at Panino's in North Oaks. Come join the Brewed Theology discussion.

Sunday Service of Prayer and Anointing on Mar 30.

Our Men's Retreat will be Apr 4-6 at Luther Crest Bible Camp with Spiritual Director Peter Watkin's as our guest presenter.

Your Shepherd Governing Board,

Dave Webb, Chair

Sally Peters, Vice Chair

Robb Clasen, Treasurer

Janelle Schrupp, Secretary

Ellen Holmgren

Rachel Hickok

Andrew Springhorn

Chriss Latterell

Pastor Renee Patterson



WHAT DO YOU SEE?



Renee Patterson
Senior Pastor
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I just had an eye exam (finally) after a rather long hiatus of regular check-ups. I had begun to wonder about changes in my eyesight. If you've ever had an eye exam, you're familiar with the refraction test the doctor uses to determine if you need glasses, and if so, what prescription is right for you. You place your face up to a tool called a phoropter, and then the doctor flips down the first lens, then another, while you say which of the two helps you see the letters on the eye chart more clearly. Lens one or two? Lens three or four? Which one is better?

That lens exercise made me wonder what lenses I might need to see people more clearly, or as God sees them. Was it possible to flip down a different lens and see a better world? I write this as I am just coming from doing Shirley Carrigan's memorial service. Shirley had this uncanny ability to see the good in anyone. Not in a Pollyanna sort of way, but in a *chosen* kind of way. Shirley chose to see people as God's beloved children...all of them.

This all sounds so wonderful and so very Shirley-like but loving and seeing people as God loves and sees them is probably one of the hardest things we can learn to do in our faith journey. It is an aspect of our call as Followers of Jesus that we'd rather ignore, because we all know that the struggle is real. It is far easier to judge people for how nice they are to us or whether they can help us in some way or if they think the way we do. It is a very different thing to accept and love people *as they are* without judgment. In hearing all the Shirley stories, I am convinced that her level of *chosen* love for all of God's children was a gift from God and a legacy to be lived. In her Christ-centered life example, I believe she has gifted us with a *new way of seeing* in this challenging world. She has taught us how to see people through the lens of Love.

One of Shirley's favorite Bible verses was John 13:34-35, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (NRSVUE). I believe that Shirley has helped us all see this world (and those in it) in a new Way.

Thanks be to God for that....and for Shirley.

In One Corrected Vision Peace, Pastor Renee

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."
Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."
Revelation 21:5*



Pastor Nancy Carlson
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When I started going to Luther Seminary, I attended a First Week program that was designed to help new students get acquainted with the campus, staff and other students. We all got shirts with this verse on them, "See, I am making all things new." I thought, when I read the verse, "You aren't kidding!" God was indeed making all things new in my life. I had to see myself in a new way and in a new role: seminary student. I also had to get used to the idea that I was eventually going to graduate and become either a pastor, professor or chaplain. Now, I had been working in a church for 14 years, so I was very comfortable around churches and loved worship and music and all kinds of churchy things. But seeing myself in a new light is what probably took the longest to figure out. Was I really gifted with the skills I would need to preach? Would I have comforting words to speak with people who were dying? Could I teach a Bible study on the book of Revelation? Slowly, but surely, God showed me how God was making all things new, including me, and I began to see how I might be able to serve God in this way.

Another time I saw things in a new way was when I was serving as a Chaplain Resident at Methodist Hospital. I love the book of Psalms and enjoy reading them. My dad's favorite was Psalm 46 and my mom's favorite was Psalm 118. Almost everyone else's favorite is Psalm 23. But I saw the psalms in a new way when I went to visit one patient. She had so many things going wrong in her body. It was amazing that she was still alive. Plus, she had constant pain and a terminal illness. She had a supportive family and it seemed like she had a lot to live for but her body was giving out on her. I went to see her thinking she might want to read some scripture that was hopeful or hope-filled, but no, she chose Psalm 6. I thought, "Yikes! Psalm 6?" So, I read it to her and when I got to the part about "every night, I flood my bed with tears" she said, "I want to know that someone else has flooded their bed with tears every night, too." She needed that reassurance that she wasn't the only one who had ever suffered in this way. She wanted to somehow normalize all the "ick" she was going through by hearing that someone else had been through it, too. She helped me see in a new way how the psalms can help people with whatever it is they are going through. I also saw in a new way that it's not always comforting to only read the *good* parts of scripture. In tough times, people don't want to read about sunshine and daisies. They want to know that they are not alone in their suffering and that others, including the psalmist, have walked this path, too. That experience taught me to listen to the patient, to hear what it is they are dealing with and to walk alongside them, especially if that means joining them in their tears.

Throughout our lives, God gives us opportunities to see things in a new way. Will we be open and willing to look at things differently? To walk in another's shoes? To have a conversation with someone about their life, their hopes and their dreams? Perhaps when we do, we'll see that we are all connected and maybe we aren't that different after all.

Lenten Devotional 2025!

Pastor Nancy has crafted a daily devotional for this Lenten season. They include a scripture, reflection and prayer for each day of the Lenten season starting with Ash Wednesday and lasting until Easter Sunday.

Hard copies can be found at the Welcome Desk and in the office. [Here](#) is a digital copy.

Hello Shepherd Folks,

Lent is fast approaching and our theme this year is “A New Way of Seeing.” The focus of our Lenten services and Wednesdays together will be around how Contemplative Practices can help us see our relationship with God and one another in new ways.

I don’t know about you all, but I often feel like I am stuck in the middle of always wanting to learn new things yet always disliking change. Learning new things can be exciting and open new doors of opportunity that you never knew were possible before. However, learning new things also means change because you cannot unlearn knowledge and once you know something it impacts you. You see the world through the lens of what you have learned. This can be scary.



Sister Tashina Good
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For example, when I went to seminary, the way I understood right and wrong along with truth and fact were shaken as we explored my favorite Sunday School stories in new ways. Through this my understanding of God and how the church functions was completely changed. It was exciting and so difficult at the same time. All of the newness and change could easily make anyone want to stick their head in the sand and just lean into the status quo. Why change when what you are doing is working just fine?

However, not learning new things does not change the fact that those things exist. We simply live in a naive state towards them and our world stays small. There are plenty of quotes about how change is inevitable, from scripture (think Ecclesiastes where it states there is a time for everything) to song lyrics to famous individuals who lived in unprecedented times. What are we, as Christ followers, called to do when the opportunity to learn new things, new perspectives, and find new ways of seeing and being?

All four Gospels call Jesus Rabbi or Teacher and his followers disciples. Disciple means student or learner. To be a Christ follower is to be a learner. Whether it is learning new things about scripture, new ways to connect with God and one another, new ways you can serve your neighbor, new things about the world and society around us, there is always something to learn and new ways to grow.

As you lean into Lent this year and prepare yourself for Holy Week and Easter, I encourage you to join in our learning alongside one another. Join us for Wednesday worship. Visit the Mission Chapel where there will be a Prayer Chapel set up with multiple stations that you can explore tactile and interactive prayer practices in a quiet space. Come for soup suppers and sit with Shepherd folks you may not know and learn something new about them. Be intentional about spending time in scripture by joining Bible Study, Adult Sunday School, or doing your own daily devotions. Find something in the world you are curious about and read a book or listen to a podcast about it. Take time to learn new things and dive into a New Way of Seeing this Lent!

See you in Church,
Sister Tashina

I am in a Bible study with four of my good friends. Our study generally opens with a check-in time to see how we each are doing. Sometimes a majority of our time is spent on listening and encouraging, and not as much studying, but there is nothing wrong with that (in my eyes at least). Recently we were discussing what we wanted our next study focus to be. One of the members mentioned she doesn't know much about the book of Revelation and that led us to go with Max Lucado's *What Happens Next: A Traveler's Guide Through the End Of This Age* – a Bible study on the end times.



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As a person who grew up in the church I can say I have not heard much preaching on the end times. What I do know is that I have heard quite a bit on the Rapture, the Antichrist and the seven years of tribulation. It will be a time of darkness and evil will reign. It will be a time of confusion, fear and chaos. When does the rapture happen? Before or after the tribulation? All of that was scary stuff so I wasn't too pumped about spending time looking at that.

Part of the study had a video introduction where Max presented an overview of the program. One thing he said made me see the next weeks of diving into the book of Revelation in a different light. He said "The future is not frightening if you know the future. And you know the future when you know who holds it." In other words, what happens in the book of Revelation is not something to fear or avoid because I know the God who reigns in heaven and He holds my future. That does not mean my life will be a bed of roses but even in the struggles I can still smell the roses.

Just last night I was reading a few chapters in the book in preparation of my Bible study meeting. I had been getting updates over the weekend about a friend who was in critical condition in the ICU. She had spent decades living with the ravages of scleroderma and she finally decided that her fight on this earth was over. Having just read in the book about what Amy would be going to I could immediately look on this event with hope, knowing God walked with her and she would be whole again. Notice I used the word *immediately*. Normally I would wallow in the sadness of losing Amy. Now I could more quickly think of all of this in a positive light. I was able to switch my thinking from sad to glad. Yes, Amy is gone from this earth and that is sad, but she is now part of the "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) that surrounds us in our race that we have left.

I can tell you that my shoulders are a bit lighter now from throwing off some of the fear that comes when I think of the book of Revelation. I am looking forward to what will be revealed as the study continues. Thanks be to God for revealing truth through study.



How can one support Shepherd financially?

- Through the weekly offering plate at service
- Mail in your offertory envelopes
- Give [online on our Giving Page](#)
- List Shepherd as your beneficiary
- Transfer Stock to Shepherd

[Any questions regarding giving, please contact the office.](#)

In my work as a church musician here at Shepherd, I am tasked with selecting music for our worship service. The process is not done without thought or process. I don't simply select my favorite songs each week, though my position would certainly allow that! After the preacher selects the texts they will use, I begin to pray and reflect on those texts. From there, I utilize several resources to help me select hymns and songs that uplift the message or provide deeper insight into a text. I also take into consideration how well the congregation will be able to sing the selected music or if it will need further reinforcement and teaching. After all, every song was new at some point to each of us.



Shaun Halland
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Recently, a member commented that the hymns that have been selected as of late seem to speak to the current events of our country and world. They went on to say that they appreciated the texts in light of the person they voted for back in November. For this person, the texts spoke to them in their particular context and worldview.

Certainly, I have thoughts and opinions about our most recent election and the current status of our country and world. But, with this member's insights I had to ask myself an important question. Am I selecting music from a biased vantage point based on my worldview? I've always maintained that my personal beliefs and taste have no place in the selection of music for a community. But with this person sharing this observation with me, I had to ask myself if I was steering the music to shape my own beliefs as opposed to lifting up the message of the Gospel that we hear each week.

As I have reflected on this, I've gone back to our previous worship services and looked closer at how the texts aligned with the music. I re-read the Gospel texts for those Sundays and then the hymn/song texts. What I see in the Gospel throughout Epiphany is a God at work in the world through Jesus. I see miracles being performed and Jesus healing all those he comes into contact with, especially those deemed as outsiders during his time. I see Jesus teaching about who is blessed in Luke's version of the Beatitudes, where he flips the notion of who is blessed and who is not. Jesus often sides with those on the margins of society, enraging the powerful. Ultimately, he speaks of love for the neighbor in how we interact with one another. How we treat one another is a reflection of who we are and who Christ wants us to be.

Ultimately, I concluded that we hear the words of Christ in the context of our own lives, beliefs and worldview. As I looked at the messages relayed in our singing, I see the works of Christ uplifted as I detailed above. I see Christ's call to action to love my neighbor and not just the ones I agree with all of the time. I hear the words of a loving and merciful God who continues to work in us and through us. May we continue to listen to the message and reflect on Christ's hope for us in this world.

~Soli Deo Gloria!

Song of Shepherd

Samuel Holmberg, Organ Recital

March 13th at 7:00pm

Samuel Holmberg is the Basilica Organist and Director of Cathedral Concerts at The Basilica of Saint Mary (Co-Cathedral) in downtown Minneapolis, America's first Basilica. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Luther College, Samuel holds degrees in organ performance, literature, and sacred music. Samuel has given concerts throughout the United States and Europe, performing upon landmark instruments. He will present a free recital at Shepherd on Thursday, March 13th at 7:00pm on our beautiful C.B. Fisk Organ.



For other upcoming Song of Shepherd dates, visit us [HERE](#).

Stained Glass-Pete Evanson

Editor's note: Shirley Carrigan is referenced in this article. She passed away on February 5th. Pete Evanson submitted this article for inclusion in our newsletter when we had room available.

At coffee and bagels this week Shirley Carrigan commented how she liked the lighted window in our sanctuary. I explained that it was like God calling Samuel, that involved many calls and lots of patience. This recent call through Shirley, was to ask that I write down what we spoke about at coffee.

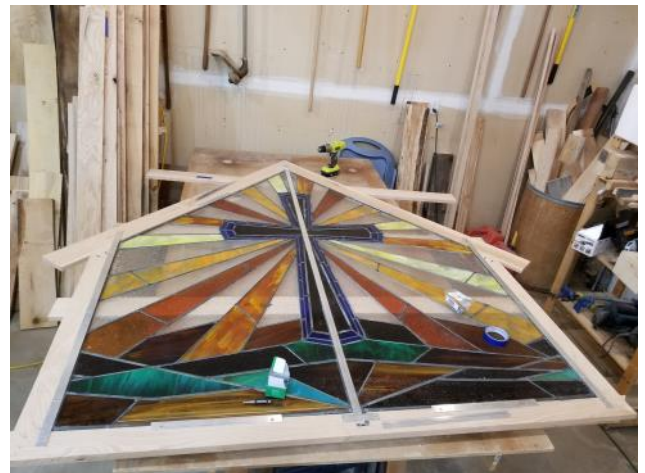
Someone was called to take a photo of the window above the altar in the 2nd sanctuary and hang the photo behind the welcome desk. My first nudge was to see that photo and note that it was no longer present in Shepherd's hall. At a property committee meeting, I asked "why wasn't it still in place?". The explanation was that it was no longer weather tight and had to be removed. It then made sense to me as to why it had not been incorporated into the design of our current sanctuary. My second nudge came at a later meeting when I expressed sorrow that it had been lost. It was not lost, but it had been tucked away in a storage closet. Could it be hung somewhere inside the church with backlighting? There was a very long pause to actually doing something.

While figuring out how to build a new enclosure, I pondered what message was the artist calling us to see? The cross is clearly the main message. Why blue for the outline? Clearly blue is for Advent but two shades of blue. One for Jesus as a baby and the second shade for his return? The other colors to show he is with us the rest of the year, brown for the early spring before the green of summer. Oranges and yellows for the flowers and fall. There is lots of white for lots of winter.

Artists speak of also looking at the negative space. Is it important to note there is no red in the image? Red for the blood of Christ. Has he given all of it? The black for sin. There is black surrounding every piece of glass but the color bursts through to the point that unless you look for the black you really don't see it. It is no longer important. Until the back lights were turned on I thought the color of the cross would be a dark wood tone. It actually is wine colored. Could this be communion and/or his first miracle?

The window was originally given to be part of our sanctuary. The open space on the north wall seemed to be a good spot to return the window to the sanctuary. A triangular shape is often used as a symbol for the triune God. Careful measurements showed the window was not a deliberate equilateral triangle symbol but rather to just fit the roof line. The four original panels were physically too large to fit well into this wall space. The two smaller wings didn't seem to add any detail to the central image, so we considered just using the 2 central panels. This engineering solution to simplify construction, reduce weight and costs and better fit the available space yielded an unplanned new message. The new shape looked like a house, a home. Emmanuel, God with us, in our house (dark blue) or God preparing a future home for us in heaven (light blue). The home is now sitting on a firm foundation, a mighty fortress.

We wanted to compliment the organ so wood was chosen for the frame. We learned the organ is made up of woods that are native to Minnesota. Oak had not been used in the organ. Wes Frank was called and he offered up the material and skills to make the frame. The fix-it crew helped to hoist it into place. I guess the latest call is to you, the reader, to ponder any meanings of the window the next time you see it.





Jilene Ylonen
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Register Now for 2025-2026

Registration for Summer 2025 and the 2025-2026 school year is up on our website. If you know anyone interested in preschool, please send them our way!



Highlights from the past month

This past month in preschool we celebrated our family and friends! We had Valentine's parties, played outside in the snow, made Valentine's for those we love, and worked in the vet clinic. They had so much fun learning about animals and how to care for them!



Join us for as we celebrate Dr. Suess' Birthday!

We will be celebrating on Saturday March 8 from 10:00-11:30am.
We will have games, crafts, snack, story time, and much more!



Join us for Vacation Bible School in July!

July 14-17
9:00am-12:00pm
Ages: preschool-5th grade
Register now: sohsv.org

Save the Date

First Communion Class
April 6 from 11:00-1:30pm in
Shepherd's Hall

Eggstravaganza
April 13th from 9:00-10:00am

Lent 2025

Ash Wednesday is March 5th

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, March 5th. We will worship that evening at 6:15pm.

Lenten Midweek Services

During Lent, we will gather on Wednesdays for Midweek Worship at 6:15pm. These services begin on Wednesday, March 12th and continue for 5 weeks, culminating on Wednesday, April 9th. Each evening begins with soup supper at 5pm. All Are Welcome!

Prayer Chapel

From 5-8pm Wednesdays during Lent take some time to stop in the Mission Chapel to pause and engage in some tactile and interactive prayer stations. We will have a Prayer Chapel set up where all are welcome to quietly learn new ways to pray and connect with God.



Lenten Soup Supper Hosts Needed

This year we are looking for families to host our Lenten Potluck Soup Suppers, which start on Wednesday, March 12th. Each week we are hoping to find 4 families to provide soup and sides from home for the community. These families will be greeted by a staff or Kitchen Host who will help them get set up, then the families will serve and clean up. This is a great way to build our community and share our bounty with one another. Please Sign Up [HERE!](#)

Lenten Member Panels 2025

During Lent our Confirmation and High School Youth ask you to join us! Each week during Lent we will be hosting 3-4 Shepherd Members on Member Panels where you will be asked about your job/hobbies, how you engage at Shepherd, how you see God at work in the world, and your hopes for our youth. These take place directly after Lenten Wednesday Worship in the Lower-Level Assembly from 6:50-7:15. Sign up [HERE](#) to join a panel. Reach out to Sister Tashina with any questions.



First Communion Class

Shepherd's 2025 First Communion Class will take place on April 6th from 11:30am-1pm. With the First Communion taking place during worship on Palm Sunday Worship, April 13th at the service of your choice. [Register HERE](#)

Here at Shepherd we believe that ALL are welcome at the Communion Table because it is God's Table for God's people, everyone. We have a formal instruction that typically takes place around 3rd grade but can be taken earlier or later depending on parental preference. If you have middle or high school youth (or if you as an adult) would like to join, please, contact Pastor Renee or Sister Tashina before registering.



Mark Your Calendars!

2025 Vacation Bible School and Youth Camp will be the week of July 13th

VBS Registration [HERE](#)
or via this QR Code



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
3920 N VICTORIA STREET, SHOREVIEW, MN 55126

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

RIVER OF Life

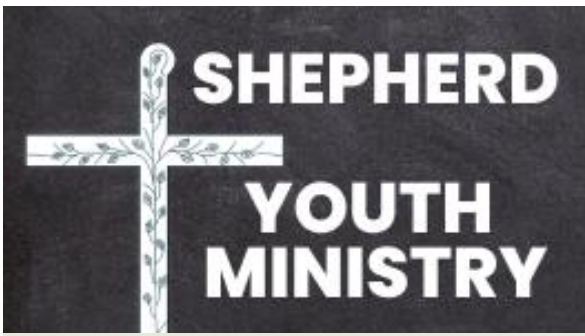
JULY 14-17, 2025
9AM-12PM



Youth Summer Camp

July 13-18, 2025
Sunday July 13 11:15am-12:30pm
Mandatory Training
Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:30pm
A Day Camp for 6th-12th Grade Youth (2024-2025 school year)
Cost: \$100
VBS Support Team Only Cost: Free
Sign up [HERE](#) or via this QR Code





REFUEL - MARCH-25

**Lent Soup Suppers @5p,
Worship @6:15p, And Refuel @6:45p**

MARCH 5 ReFuel - Lesson Night
In the ReFuel Room

MARCH 12 Adventure: Bowling
The Mermaid

MARCH 19 ReFuel - Lesson Night
In the ReFuel Room

MARCH 26 No ReFuel - Ash Wednesday
Worship @6:15pm

Wednesday Nights - 5pm-8pm

LENTEN MEMBER PANELS:

During Lent our Confirmation and High School Youth ask you to join us!

Each week during Lent we will be hosting 3-4 Shepherd Members on Member Panels where you will be asked about your job/hobbies, how you engage at Shepherd, how you see God at work in the world, and your hopes for our youth.

These take place directly after Lenten Wednesday Worship in the Lower Level Assembly from 6:50-7:15. Reach out to Sister Tashina with any questions.

Sign up to be on a panel [HERE](#).

Shepherd Confirmation

**March & April-
Lenten Mentors**

- 5th - Ash Wednesday Worship @6:15
- Confirmation each Wednesdays March 12th-April 9th will be:
- 5-6pm - Soup Supper
 - 6:15pm - Lenten Worship
 - 6:50pm - Member Panels in LLA
 - 7:15-8pm - Lenten Mentors

**April-
Holy Baptism**

- 16th - No Confirmation - Holy Week
- 23rd - Lesson - Youth & Parents
- 25th-26th - World Religions Spring Retreat
- 30th - Small Group Time

C A T E C H I S M

Adult Faith

2025

Formation at Shepherd

Bible Study - Weekly on Wednesdays

1pm & 7pm in room 238 - Join us as we dive into the upcoming Sunday's scripture texts.

Adult Sunday School - 1st Sunday of Each Month

9am in room 238 - Join us as we dive deeper into Biblical themes and stories.

Coffee & Bagels - 1st Monday of Each Month

10am-11:30am at Caribou on Rice Street & 694 - Join us for fellowship.

Contemporary Practices - 2nd Sunday of Each Month

9am in room 238 - Join us as we dive deeper into Biblical themes and stories.

Pour Theology - 3rd Thursday of Each Month

6:30-8pm Panino's in North Oaks - Join us for conversation around difficult topics through the lens of our faith

Men's Retreat Registrations are open!
Join us April 4-6 at Luther Crest Bible Camp with Spiritual Director Peter Walkins as our guest presenter. More information and registration [HERE](#).



Shepherd's Joy Team



God's work. Our hands.



Sharing the Joy of Serving

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Fill-A-Truck and Stock-The-Shelves



April 27th 9AM-12PM
at Cub Foods in Arden Hills
Filling Ralph Reeder's Shelves!

Drive for Blessing Bag Items:

March 16th the Joy Team will be hosting a Blessing Bag packing event during the Donut Hour. In preparation for this event, we are collecting items for Blessing Bag, February 2-March 9, to offset the cost. Blessing Bags are filled with basic resources that you can keep in your car and pass out to pan handlers letting them know they are seen and cared for. If you are able to bring in these items, new and unused, and put them in the Narthex bin that would be of great help:

- Wash cloths
- Single cased toothbrushes
- Travel toothpaste
- Travel Shampoo
- Travel Size Conditioner
- Travel Size Body Soap
- Travel Size Lotions
- Socks (men's and women's)
- Soft Granola bars
- Chapstick
- Combs
- Razers (men's and women's)
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Miniature deodorants
- Travel first aid kits



Joy Team Facts about why service matters: What is a Blessing Bag and Why are they important?

Sometimes, through no fault of their own, an individual or family finds themselves out on the street.

We have all seen them on corners of freeway exits, asking for assistance. Do we look at something, anything to avoid eye contact or do we reach out in LOVE.

Try handing them a Blessing Bag which contains some of the basic essentials needed daily. Say a prayer for them, that they may find a way out of their situation.

To quote Mary Jo Copeland (Sharing and Caring Hands), "In this world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world."

Convey LOVE and HOPE, one bag at a time.



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