

WEEKLY CONNECTIONS

February 25, 2022

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

www.shephills.org



Commitment Weekend is next weekend!

We are off to an amazing start with 14 households pledging a combined total of \$612,238. Thanks be to all, and thanks be to God! Every gift, no matter the amount, is a blessing to generations BEYOND.

Ready to Participate?

Come, bring forth your pledges and prayers next weekend during worship. Need a pledge card?

Get one in Worship!

We'll have pledge cards and prayer cards for all!

Check your mail!

Be a part of our future and Beyond! Information and pledge cards have been mailed, along with information about Lenten Worship and Learning.

Check the website!

Find more information, architectural renderings, and inspirational videos at www.shephills.org/beyond. If you prefer to [pledge or give online](#), we've made it super easy!

Worship

Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture Reading: [2 Pet. 1:16-21](#) Gospel Reading: [Matt .17:1-9](#)

Contemporary Worship

EVERY SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary this week (it's cozier!)

We know it's cold. Come join us in the warmth of the sanctuary for songs of worship. You'll be glad you did!

Sanctuary + Livestream Worship

EVERY SUNDAY

8:15 a.m. | Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. | Sanctuary + Livestream Worship

<https://shephills.org/church-online/>

Learning

The Learning Hour

EVERY SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study | Library + Zoom

An in depth study of the week's scripture.

Contact [Ruby Cadenhead](#).

Zoom - Meeting ID: 882 7978 6819 Passcode: 267585

[Click here to join the Zoom](#)

9:45 a.m. High Five for Children + Families | Courtyard

Faith formation and worship all wrapped up in one!

Contact [Pr. Lauren](#)

Fellowship

For the Youth

EVERY SUNDAY

12:00 p.m. Youth Group Grades 9-12 | TBD

Let's get with lunch some place in town. Contact [Joel Timmons](#), Youth Director for this week's plan.

7:00 p.m. NextGen Grades 5-8 | Activity Center

Gather for games and a quick Bible Study. Contact [Joel Timmons](#), Youth Director.

The Season of Lent

Divine Direction + Spiritual Exercise

We have so much to offer as we seek Divine Direction through Spiritual Exercise. Information to guide your growth can be found on the shelf by the stairs in the Gathering Space. Pick up printed copies, or click on the link and download your own! [Lenten Calendar for Daily Prayer](#) and other activities, [Lenten Study Guide](#), and [Family Devotionals](#).

Find out about all that is happening on Realm Events or the [website](#)!

Weekend Worship

Divine Direction + Spiritual Exercise

Saturday @ 5:30 p.m. Courtyard Worship

Sunday @ 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship (and livestream)

Exercise of Discernment Mar 5/6 Luke 4: 1-13

Exercise of Meditation Mar 12/13 Luke 13: 31-35

Exercise of Fasting Mar 19/20 Luke 13: 1-9

Exercise of Honesty and Confession Mar 26/27 Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Exercise of Celebration Apr 2/3 John 12: 1-8

Wednesday Worship

WEDNESDAYS MARCH 9 - APRIL 6

7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

A practical guide to the week's exercise helping us to answer these questions...How do I discern the will of God for my life? Can I really grow spiritually? How can the spiritual disciplines help me grow?

Adult Bible Study

SUNDAYS, MARCH 6 - APRIL 3

9:30 a.m. | Library + Zoom

An in-depth study of the Worship Scriptures

Zoom ID 882 7978 6819 Passcode 267585

“Forgiveness” led by Dr. Steve Larson

WEDNESDAYS, MAR 9 - APR. 6

10:30 a.m. | Library + Zoom

Steve Larson leads this in-depth study of forgiveness during Lent.

Zoom ID 870 4638 4698 Passcode 469481

Ignite! Small Groups

VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS (In-person + Zoom)

If you are unable to join us on Wednesdays for Worship, consider joining a small group. These groups will focus on Richard Foster’s classic, “Celebration of Discipline.”

[Contact Pr. Tom](#) to join a group.

This Week

ACL Homelessness Initiative Meeting

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

3:00 p.m. | St. Martin’s Lutheran Church + Zoom

Austin City Lutherans will kick-off its new ministry emphasis to combat homelessness at this meeting. We'll hear from Sarah Weier of Sunrise HNC on the navigation process for people transitioning from the streets to shelter and housing, and we'll sign up for volunteer opportunities and consider other options to effectively engage together to combat homelessness in the name of Christ's compassion. Join us in-person or via this [Zoom link](#).

Parking available on north and west sides of church and in the lot directly west of the sanctuary. Enter north doors or side doors left of large sanctuary doors. Here is the Zoom link or if you have any questions.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

5:30 - 7:00 pm | Courtyard

You will need to eat up to prepare for all the spiritual exercise we have planned this

Lent, and this fundraiser put on by the Youth is just the place to load up on your carbs. Come when you can, grab a plate of free pancakes, and choose from a variety of ways to support the Youth's summer trip!

Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

6:30 am + Noon + 7:00 pm | Sanctuary

7:00 pm | [Livestream](#)

The beginning of Lent is marked by the imposition of ashes in worship.

Pickleball

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING

9:00 a.m. | Activity Center

EVERY TUESDAY EVENING (Saturday Mornings Too!)

5:30 p.m. | Activity Center

Sooo popular we had to add another day. Contact [Pr. Tom](#).

Firm Believer Yoga

EVERY TUESDAY EVENING

5:30 p.m. | Butterfly Center Fellowship Hall + Zoom

[Click here](#) to Zoom in! Or use: Meeting ID 883 8245 7022 Passcode 157279 *Feb 22 will be in Breezeway Bldg Rm 104/105

Men's Bible Study

NO STUDY THIS WEDNESDAY (ASH WEDNESDAY)

7:27am | Zoom

For Lent (Mar 9– Apr 6), this study joins “Forgiveness” with Steve Larson in the Library. See description under “Lent.”

Women's Bible Study

NO STUDY THIS WEDNESDAY (ASH WEDNESDAY)

10:30 a.m. | Library + Zoom

For Lent (Mar 9– Apr 6), this study joins “Forgiveness” with Steve Larson in the

Library. See description under “Lent.”

Special Announcements

Updated COVID Protocols

As we have continued to assess our local community’s risk, safety measures, and comfort level in gathering for in-person worship, we have made the following updates to our practices for indoor worship:

Masks are optional. We encourage each person to make the decision that feels best for them. We also continue to encourage respect for each person’s decision. The important thing is that we are together!

Holy Communion may now be received at the altar rail, or you may continue to remain in your seat and receive the bread and wine in the individual Communion packets provided. Again, whatever feels most comfortable for you.

Keep Those Baby Blankets Coming

BABY CARE KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Keep knitting, crocheting, or sewing flannel blankets for Baby Care Kits! These blankets (min 36” square, max 52” square) will be used to wrap and package care items that will be sent around the world to mothers in need. Questions about how you can participate? Contact [Kathy Gerhardt](#).

The Care Team is for Everyone

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Need a ride? Need a meal? Need a listening ear? Need a prayer? When you need something, timing is everything and the Care Team is ready to step in and help because we love you!

Since October 2021, the Care Team has walked with 75 individuals both within and outside our walls. Some of the connections were one or two times. With others, our conversations continued for multiple weeks or months, staying until we were no longer needed.

The team consisting of [Rebecca Guengerich](#), [Tamara Allen](#), [Karen Flint](#), [Michael Watt](#), [Bob Cannon](#), and [Sandy Smith](#), listened to you over a single conversation or continued until the stress of the situation diminished. We held space for you to

cry, laugh, hug, question and pray during times of surgery or illness, grief and loss of loved ones, mental health struggles, stress of aging or family dynamics, birthdays of children or grandchildren or managing the maze of a cancer diagnosis or addiction. We empowered you to be a disciple of Christ by providing transportation to medical appointments or church functions, meals when cooking added one more burden to the day, a listening ear or a prayer for others.

God’s Love is needed now in our world more than ever. How can we be Christ’s Love for you? Reach out to a care team member by clicking on their name above, or show love to others when you see the need.

Giving

Lent and Easter Offering

Our Mid-Week Worship in Lent and our Easter Sunday offering has been designated to support ELCA World Hunger and Austin City Lutherans Homeless Mitigation.

ELCA World Hunger For nearly two years the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic. While Shepherd of the Hills has responded with extraordinary generosity in supporting our food pantry, Bread for All, this special offering will allow us to go national and .global in responding to hunger needs.

Austin City Lutherans Homeless Mitigation Our mission of “More. Better. Together” is evidenced through our Bread for All Food Pantry, Mariposa Family Learning Center, and this new initiative that will seek to respond to the crisis of homelessness in our city. Through fostering community partnerships, training support teams, and recruiting key facilitators, we believe that we can make an impact on this complex humanitarian crisis.

[Giving](#) can be done on the website, or under Giving on onrealm.org , or by check or cash. Please indicate Lent Offering.

Beyond Capital Fund Appeal

[Click here](#) to learn more and make your pledge or a one-time gift. Thank for being a part of our future!

This Matters! Plus Wraps Up

This Matters! Plus finishes up with contributions totaling \$101,000. 100% of this went to paying down the debt! Thank you to all who gave!

Regular Giving

[Click here](#) to stay current with your giving or make a one-time gift. Thank you for giving freely and joyfully!

2022 Stewardship

It's never too late to make a pledge of support for our ministry and missions! Please consider making your 2022 pledge using this [online pledge card](#), or mail in a paper pledge card to 3525 Bee Caves Rd., 78746. Thank you!

Bread for All Collections

Diaper and non-perishable food collections happen every Saturday morning, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Courtyard, or bring donations with you to worship on Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Prayers

Please pray for Don Gaskin, Don Knight, Marie Fortune, Glenn Richter and Betty Lueders

Please pray for family and friends of Shepherd members:

David Lechler, brother of Dawn Paulson

Walter DeBill, husband of Stacia DeBill

Kenna Joy Kramer, Grandniece of Weldon and Mary Allison

Lori Roth, Sister of Sandy Smith

We pray for all who mourn the death of John Pollock, father of Deb Pollock Darnell

Please pray in thanksgiving for the birth of Isla Ryan Powell, daughter of Thomas Ryan and Megan Powell and, granddaughter of Ted and Corky Powell!

Please pray in thanksgiving for the birth of Alora Isabel Rieger, daughter of Jackie and Tommy Rieger and sister, Nicolette, granddaughter of Mark and Kathy Gerhardt!

Lord, throughout the generations you have beacons your people to “Go”. Go, from what is familiar. Go, trusting that you are with us. Go, in the confidence that you know the way. Go, with the faith that the outcome belongs to you. In his last words to the Church, Jesus directed us to Go into the World, promising that he is with us. Those who respond to your call are not disappointed in the future you are preparing, where love abounds and life is full.

Lord, we now hear a call to us to Go Beyond; to go from where we are. We are beacons to go even further from where you have already taken us. Lord, when we are pulled to the logic “to stay” and we feel we have gone as far as we are able to do so, give us a vision, once again, of what lies ahead.

Thank you, Lord, for our church family with whom we journey, and thank you for the opportunity to serve our neighbors and their children in a loving, safe, environment where children can grow and faith can take root.

We come to you, Lord, with grateful hearts, and we are prepared to go with you with faith. In Christ, we pray. Amen

We pray for the people of our country and world as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant healing to those afflicted, strength to those who care for the sick, and wisdom to those who lead.

We pray for the people of Ukraine and all who find themselves in the midst of war, gripped by fear and uncertainty. Send your peace. Send your wisdom to leaders of the world as they grapple with deep disagreements and tensions. May we be ever aware of your beloved people all around the world who suffer and who cry out for help. Send us as proclaimers of your love.

We pray for our global ministry partners: Rev. Karen Castillo in Guatemala; Iglesia Luterana Augustina Virgen del Rosario, Aurora 8 de Octubre, Guatemala. We pray for Malcolm and Joy Henderson and the ministry of CHARIS in Haiti.

Please pray for our local ministries: Mariposa Family Learning Center, Bread For All and Upbring Ministries.

Please pray for our faith community, that we may be a church without walls and live out loud...faithfully!

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran | 3525 Bee Caves Rd, ATX

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