

Shepherd of the Desert

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Shepherds Staff Newsletter August 2020



Peace be with you,

Sisters and brothers of mine in Christ Jesus, the grace and hope which we hold through faith sustain you now and forever more. These last months four of our sisters in Christ have entered the church Triumphant † Jackie Goudy † †Audrey Goodrich† † Lyle Shattuck† and †Shirley Citrowske†. I give thanks to God for giving them to us, for giving them to me to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage on earth. Each of these ladies were unique children of God, each brought insight and faithfulness. They held distinct sets of humor, piety and comradery. They cared for their families and make no mistake about it they cared for their family here at Shepherd. We all were strengthened by their prayers, by their presence, by their wisdom and by their offerings of love.

Many knew them and know of them... but, during this time of the "pandemic" many have been absent from our midst and while not forgotten, having been absent, we grieve. Yet, remember this we grieve not as those who have no hope, remember we grieve as a people with a hope that springs eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord. We know our sisters are at peace they now rest from their labors here in the church militant. We are strengthened and nourished by their witness, by their faithfulness, as we commend them to our God of mercy and compassion as they are now at rest in the Church Triumphant.

And we the living, give thanks to God for them as we commit them to the eternal and amazing grace that sustained them in this life. And, we the living, must deepen our lives, repent our sin, and continue to serve Christ by recognizing the Christ in others...

As did †Jackie†, As did †Audrey†, As did †Lyle†, As did †Shirley†

And with the saints before us, remembering the Eucharist's deepest meaning is a communion of life between the living Lord and all believers and this life bond cannot be broken, even by death...in thanksgiving to God for all the blessings received

Pastor Daniel

Your Church Staff

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623-933-1359

Our Worship service is now on Facebook and Youtube if you would like to watch Worship just search Shepherd of the desert Sun City or check out our website @ shepherdofthedesertelca.org

Mission: "Created, Redeemed and Called by God, we reach out to all, by sharing our gifts and the unconditional love of Jesus."

Vision: "To be an intergenerational congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world".

Your Church Council

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Council President David Christensen

Hello Church!

We had an interesting discussion in Healthy Living this last session. It was basically about how much your mind controls your body. If you cannot envision yourself accomplishing a task, then odds are you won't get it done! The discussion prompted me to think that this mindset is what FAITH is all about! An idea is something you cannot see, taste or touch, but you know it in your Heart. If your Faith is strong enough, you can accomplish just about anything but if you LACK Faith, you are most likely doomed to failure.

So, my question is this, do you have the faith that God has your back? That it is safe to venture out into the world and see the glory that abounds on this Earth? Each day is a blessing if YOU allow it to be so. Venture out, talk to the people out there that soooooo desperately seek contact with ANYONE! A simple Hi! to a stranger can accomplish the impossible! Have Faith that you are going to be strong and healthy as you go out and show the world what God's Love can do for the world!

Blessings!

David Christensen

Council President



Senegal Missionary Kristin Senegal Each year, young adults join Pastor Kristin Engstrom in Senegal, where they serve for one year with our companions in the Lutheran Church of Senegal and Senegalese

Worship August 2020

When thinking about this Pandemic it reminds me of the meaning of the time after Pentecost and how we could put the lessons of this time into practice. As we are taught, this is a time to look to our neighbors and see if there is anything they are in need of. Part of this is the use of masks when we venture out and the other is the social distancing we keep so that we are not spreading this virus to others. Also, we could take the time to give someone a call to see if they doing all right through this time. Just maybe that contact will be the only communication they may have with anyone. It will bring a lift to them and make your day a whole lot brighter.

The other day I ran into someone who told me that they were afraid to leave their house for fear of the virus. They were walking their dog past my house and asked them if there was something I could do for them and they told me they needed to get some milk and bread. I offered to go to the store for them and it took a large burden off of them. When it comes down to it, we could all do something small like that as we remember the lessons we were taught about "giving a cup of water".

Yours in Christ,

Chuck Hyland

Assistant to the Pastor for Worship

Mission August 2020

Some time ago a very dear friend and my pastor, Pastor Jack, gave me a magnet for my refrigerator with a special message. It began, "People of God," which immediately got my attention for I had been searching for a place, a church where I felt I truly belonged. The message went on, "Live abundantly in God's grace for the beginning begins the end and the end begins the beginning." Wow! It really hit me because I could not really say that I was living life abundantly and I seriously began to question whether I appreciated the awesome grace being poured out upon me each day.

The question for me became am I reflecting that grace or was I just being a sponge, absorbing God's awesomeness and blessings, only to tuck them away in some remote corner of my being? Did I hide what God had done and is doing in my life, taking out the treasures to dust them off, but never revealing His grace, or sharing His magnificent love? Believe me when I say that God's grace has truly saved me from a life of despair!

God has truly blessed me by placing people in my life, like pastors, and like my dear friend Keri who recently passed away. Keri was a teacher and so in her very special way she taught me about abundant life in grace. Blessed with much Keri lead a simple life caring for others, giving of herself and quietly reflecting in her actions God's love and His grace. I pray that I may live life abundantly in God's grace.

David Hargreaves

Assistant. for Mission

Ministry August 2020

Still waiting, the solar panels are installed and still waiting for the APS meter even though all inspections have been done and approved by APS as of June 5th and now they have decided they don't like the meter that they approved. So, one more hoop to jump thru! Today our solar company, Solar Concepts, installed the different type of meter that APS is now specifying. So still we wait for APS to get us on their schedule and powered up!

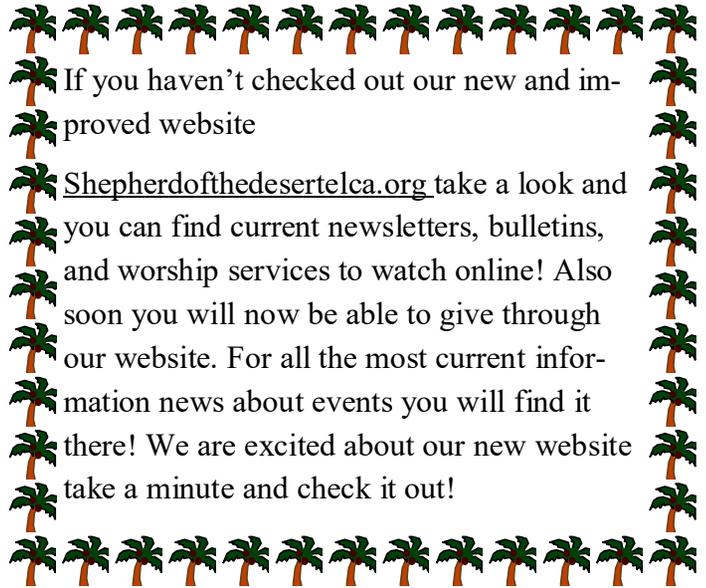
Sad to report our food trucks are gone for the next couple of months, just too hot to work in those food trailers every day. I will notify you as soon as I know a specific date for the return of Harris Smokehouse BBQ and East Coast Cheese Steaks.

Pancake Breakfast is becoming more popular each month! Whether it is everyone knowing about it or being comfortable enough to come out doesn't really matter what your reason it makes us happy to know that we are filling a need for you and a service to the community. We served 89 meals and hopefully that meant 89 happy recipients. Please plan to join us next month, as always the last Saturday of the month at 8:00 am to 10:00 am we will be here to serve you.

Don't forget: We are all in this together and contact us if you need assistance.

Judy Yates

Assistant for Ministry



If you haven't checked out our new and improved website

Shepherdofthedesertelca.org take a look and you can find current newsletters, bulletins, and worship services to watch online! Also soon you will now be able to give through our website. For all the most current information news about events you will find it there! We are excited about our new website take a minute and check it out!

Best Pancakes in Sun City

The price is right.... **FREE!!!!** Come enjoy breakfast the last Saturday of each month from

8:00am-10:00am in Walton Hall Saturday August 29th This will be a drive up / take out due to COVID-19 precautions. Please call the church office if you wish to pick up an order.

623-933-1359

Healthy Living

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month

We have a personal trainer that meets with us and helps us with a 30 min. structured workout at 6:00 followed with fitness and nutritional discussion from 6:30-7:00pm.

Healthy Living does not meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Contact David Christensen for more info or call the church office. 623-933-1359

I don't know what the second half of 2020 has planned for us but it better not involve my air conditioner.