

June 2018



From Pastor Aleese

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ...may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the

eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know...what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for all who believe..." - Ephesians 1:17-19

On May 13, Kelsey Drake made a public confession of her faith in the Triune God and committed herself to continue living as a disciple of Christ. As a part of our service, we offered this prayer from the book of Ephesians as a blessing for Kelsey. But that morning, we also recognized that each of us are called to tend to our walk with Jesus. It's why we turned to each other and offered this prayer of blessing to each other so that we all might come to know more and more what the immeasurable greatness of God's love and power is for us and for the world.

So, what does that look like? And how might we come to know what God's love is for us and for the world? One way to think about this is to consider various spiritual practices. What's a spiritual practice? Simply, a spiritual practice is A) something that connects us to God and B) something that we practice on a regular basis.

This summer, you all have an opportunity to commit yourself to a spiritual practice that we're embarking on as a congregation. We say repeatedly that Scripture is the place where we ground our faith. And, as a congregation in the midst of a listening and visioning process under the theme "Grounded in Christ, Sent in Mission" (check out the new large bulletin board coming soon in the narthex for more information!), we have committed ourselves to grounding ourselves in our identity in Christ. Put those

two things together and it seems as though there might be no better way for us to ground ourselves in God's promises than *diving into God's Word* this summer. I therefore invite you to participate with us as we make our way through the Bible this summer. You can join us in three different ways:

1. Comprehensive Verse-by-Verse Reading Plan: Yep. Every verse.
2. Condensed Reading Plan: Is every verse a bit too much? Consider the condensed plan that covers 2-4 chapters of the Bible each day.
3. Adult Education: Even if you're not reading along with us during the week, you'll get a survey of the entire Bible by the end of the summer!

Though it might seem as though summer is the worst time to suggest such a practice, there simply is no "good time." Even if you're able to walk with us through a portion of our collective spiritual practice this summer, great. Life will happen. Things will get busy. But what might it look like for you to take up a spiritual practice? Maybe this opportunity isn't the best way for you to connect to God on a regular basis. So be it. Then, what else might be something you could either continue or take up this summer as we continue to ground ourselves in Christ? As you move into summer, consider your walk with Jesus and consider what it might look like for you – and all of us – to come to know more and more the immeasurable greatness of God's power.

Peace,
Pastor Aleese

OUR MISSION TOGETHER

Led by Christ, and transformed by his love and grace, we welcome all to join us as shepherds, in praise, worship and compassionate service to others.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

3rd	Fuz Miller
6th	Heather Allen
7th	Judy Featherstone
12th	Arthur Lurndal Josh & Heather Allen
17th	Abigail Jackson
18th	Dave & Amy Bakke
21st	Dallas LeGrand Gage LeGrand
22nd	Daryl & Leslie Eichelberger
24th	Bryson Hill
26th	Terry & Joanne Drinkall Konrad & Sue Wilke Hannah Wilke
27th	Bill LeGrand
28th	Mark & Kaia Petersen
29th	Melanie Wachtel
30th	Varinia Bruns Kimberly Ordway



Board Meetings

- Lay Ministers
Not meeting
- Education
June 5 @ 6:00
- Property
June 12 @ 5:30
- Evangelism
June 14 @ 6:00
- Stewardship
Not meeting
- PPC
July 24 @ 6:30

Upcoming Events

SOTC Monthly Faith Formation and Worship Schedule

Worship and Music

Worship - Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
The Way - Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.

Education

Adult Education - Sunday, 10:20-11:30 a.m.
Bible at the Brew (BATB): 1st Thurs. of the month, 5:30 p.m. at
Missipi Brewing Company
Women's Group: 2nd Sat. of the month, 8:30 a.m. at SOTC
Christians Underground: 3rd Wed. of the month,
11:30-1 at Geo John's

June Adult Education Schedule

Date	Focus Personality	Theme
June 3	Sarah & Abraham	"The Journey of Faith"
June 10	Leviticus & Numbers	"Keeping the Rules"
June 17	Ruth & Joshua	"Faith & a Frightening World"
June 24	David	"Imperfect Heroes"

Summer Youth Fun Nights

Calling all upper elementary – high school youth! Beginning in June, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, we'll be gathering for summer youth fun nights from 5-7pm. Our first night, June 10, will be hosted at church. We'll gather for some games, snacks (maybe a fire?), devotion and a brief worship. We'll also take some time to hear from our youth what they'd like to be up to this summer? A canoe trip? A night at the pool? Board games?

The intent of these nights is similar to the "three-legged stool" that our FINK Program is built upon. Those three legs are: 1) Learning, 2) Fellowship and 3) Service. We hope to integrate a bit of each of these elements into these evenings this summer... while also having some fun!

We respect that for many youth, summer is just as busy as the school year. So, if you can make it once a month and that's it, no problem. Bop in and out as you're able to. Attendance is not the point. The point is to provide a space for youth to A) hang out with other youth, and B) connect their lives of faith together.

Questions? Talk to Pastor Aleese or Dave Bakke



Upcoming Events

Spring Cleaning

With the new roof hopefully completed, **June 9th** at 8 a.m. we will continue with cleaning up of the flower beds and other outside tasks, then move inside to finish up needed repairs and cleaning. A list of projects to be completed is in the narthex. If you are unable to join us Saturday you may sign up and finish a task at your convenience. A light lunch will be provided. Questions? Talk to a Property board member, Tom Atkinson, Doug Bunn, Tom Burger, or Kathy Dunham.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, Simulation and Potluck

Twice a year we gather as a congregation to attend to the "business" of this community. On **June 10, immediately following worship**, we'll elect new officers and board members and will hear an update from the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly which was held in May. Pastor Aleese (with the help of our kids!) will also provide an update on the congregation as we head into summer.

Following the meeting, all are invited to stick around to experience the "Walk for Water" simulation which will be set up outside. Those who are not able to walk are invited to join the Stewardship Board for a conversation.

Potluck meal, with pizza provided, will follow the simulation. Congregational members are invited to provide salads and desserts.

Vacation Bible School – July 30-August 3



Bummed that your child isn't old enough to go to Camp EWALU this summer? Or, bummed that your child isn't old enough to go to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston this summer? Then do we have a deal for you!

In an effort to link the theme of the curriculum used at Lutheran Outdoor Camps and the ELCA Youth Gathering, Shepherd will be partnering with Grace Lutheran and will be using the *same curriculum* that will be shared at camps and in Houston. As Lutherans, and even as Christians of any stripe, we ground our faith on the grace of Christ. And that action of God through Christ literally changes *everything* – it changes us, the world and how we live in community with one another.

So, if you have a child in PreK-5th grade, mark your calendars to join us **Mon., July 30-Fri., August 3 from 5:30-8:00pm**. We will also be looking for older youth and adults to help as leaders. A meal will be served at 5:30, with festivities kicking off at 6pm. Mon-Thurs will be hosted at Grace and Fri will be at Shepherd (with families invited to attend). And special bonus for us! We will then host an overnight campout in our back field to end the week!

More information to come soon. Questions? Talk to an Education Board member.

Ministry Connections

Summer Lunch Program



Did you know that **53%** of students in the Muscatine Community School District (MCSD) are eligible for free and reduced

lunch? So what happens in the summer, when school isn't in session?

The United Way, partnering with the MCSD and other community agencies, is coordinating the Summer Lunch Program for the fifth year. Though United Way has been organizing this effort for five years, the program has been offered within the community for much longer under other organizational umbrellas.

This summer, lunch will be served at eight sites around Muscatine. Five of those sites will also serve breakfast. To help engage kids in different activities when away from school, some of these sites will also offer a program/activity following the meal to get kids up and moving.

As SOTC, we've committed to serving Friday lunch at Jefferson School. Thank you to Al Oestmann, Kathy Dunham and Cathy Bermel for making the effort to serve on a regular basis! To hear how things are going, the number of kids being served, and what it's like to volunteer, talk to one of these awesome servants!

Update From Products of the Flock

Thanks to the diligent efforts from participants of Products of the Flock, 18 baby afghans, blankets, lap afghans and 4 pillows were donated. These items went to Lutheran Services of Iowa (LSI) to be given to new moms and their babies, and to Lutheran Living to be given either at time of death to families or to be used as prayer blankets.

Current Events is the ELCA:

First Female African-Descent Synod Bishops Elected

On May 5, Patricia Davenport (shown top left) was elected to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. She is the first African-descent woman to be elected as a synod bishop.



Less than 24 hours later, the ELCA again made history by electing a second female synod bishop of African descent, Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld (shown bottom right). She was elected to serve a six-year term as bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

Quoting from *Living Lutheran*, the magazine of the ELCA, "Some of the most meaningful moments for Davenport and Thomas-Breitfeld in the wake of their elections have been hearing from members, young and old, across the church (and other denominations) about what the actions have meant to them. The bishops-elect reported hearing from not only elders of color in the church—saying, "I'm grateful that I lived long enough to see this happen," or "I couldn't sleep last night"—but also encouraged young seminarians, who have told them, "I'm going to stay here [in the ELCA]. I'm going to continue to press forward..."

"Probably the thing that has been most gratifying and most humbling is hearing from my sister-pastors and sisters who are in the call process who have been so emotional about this," Thomas-Breitfeld said. "It gives them a sign of hope. That as they watch me, they can celebrate and say, 'Maybe that can be me, too, one of these days. Maybe things are changing.'"

Just as the church celebrated the ordination of women in 1970, so too do we as the church celebrate the elections of these bishops today. These elections signify a path toward intentional inclusion for all God's people in the ELCA and also point to the ELCA taking one more step to reflect the ethnic make-up of this country. Together with all God's people, we offer our thanks for those who serve as our leaders and pray for the Spirit to continue to move within Christ's church on earth!

Synod Assembly Report

By Delene McConnaha

First, thank you to Pastor Aleese who invited Roger Luft and I to be voting members and representatives of Shepherd of the Cross at this year's Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly. Representing our congregation was an honor for us.

This year's theme was The Water and the Witness. The congregation should be somewhat familiar with this theme as the children (and adults) were diligent in raising funds for clean water for the ELCA World Hunger program.

Some of the major issues and highlights before the assembly were:

- Southeastern Iowa Synod Governance Restructuring
- The Bishop's report
- Talk given by Mikka McCracken, "Pentecost Girl," Director for Planning and Engagement, ELCA World Hunger
- Bishop H. Julian Gordy, Bishop of the Southeastern Synod, Tennessee
- Voting on Churchwide voting members

Southeastern Iowa Synod Governance restructuring is to address the current emphasis on Leadership and Vital Congregations. The changes made are to enhance the shared witness to God's saving action in and through Jesus Christ. Individual members of this congregation will not experience much impact from these changes. It is mostly for church leadership (Synod Council, Synod Deans, Conferences and Conferences Chaplains). There is a handout available if you are interested in learning more about this.

The bishop's report really spoke to me as a voting member. One sentence that perhaps made the most impression on me is, "If your congregation went away, would anyone notice?" In the community or connection to the church down the street? How do we become or remain a "Vital Congregation?" We continually need to try something new, no matter how difficult it is to say "no" to something old. We need to remain communities of Jesus – that life changing relationship with God, with each other. We must continue to proclaim the good news – Jesus Christ!!

One last thought that came from Bishop H. Julian Gordy. He quoted Abe Lincoln. "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"

If you would like to see any synod materials, please talk to Pastor Aleese, Roger Luft or me, Delene McConnaha.



Parish Planning Council

May 22, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Present: Heather Allen, Amy Bakke, Pastor Aleese Baldwin, Kathy Dunham, Roger Luft, Al Oestmann and Barb Williams.

Devotion: While at a First Call Retreat, Pastor Aleese and her colleagues talked about Evangelism and "what does it mean to you." Is it reaching out to others? The people to people process? Visiting with visitors to worship? Or maybe telling the story of Jesus? Pastor asked us to take this question back to our boards. "What, in what we are doing, helps share the story of Jesus?"

Approval of March 2018 Minutes: A motion was made by Al Oestmann, seconded by Amy Bakke. All in favor.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Aleese provided the board with a report on how her time has been spent over the past month at SOTC with her focus being on: wrapping up the education year, the Walk for Water Initiative, Camp EWALU, the Visioning Task Force and Constitution Task Force.

Treasurer's Report: Roger Luft reported that we are currently remaining stable with offerings. He noted that the end of the month is the most expensive time.

Board Reports:

- *Education:* Did not meet.
- *Evangelism:* The next Stepping Out is June 15th is to the Quad City River Bandits game. Another one is planned for August 17th to the Chart House. A new coffee pot was purchased to replace the old one.
- *Lay Ministers:* Bulletins, a new "Life Touch" directory, and how flowers for special occasions are ordered were discussed. A new CD player is needed for Children's Bells and has been ordered.
- *Stewardship:* Finalized the "Walk for Water" simulation and approved the addition of special offering envelopes for poinsettias and Easter lilies.

Old Business: 2018-2019 board members and candidates were discussed to be elected June 10th at our semi-annual meeting. Thank you to those who have served and to those stepping up. The Employee Handbook is still being created.

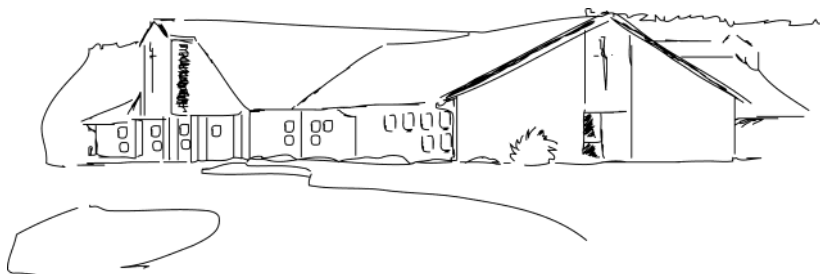
New Business: No new business

Next meeting will be **July 24th @ 6:30 p.m.**

Motion to adjourn was made by Al Oestmann, seconded by Amy Bakke. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Roof Update

As we move into June, construction will start on the roof! The plan is that the old roof will come off Friday, June 1st. Repairs will be made and tar paper will go down on Saturday, June 2nd. Starting Monday, June 4th the new roof will be laid and weather permitting it will be finished later in the week! The church will remain open that week, but please note that there'll be a bit more noise and debris around!



Community Events

Adult Mission Trip Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

Take the night off from cooking and join the Mission Building group at Pizza Ranch, Wed., June 6th from 5-9pm. Funds will help support the group as they travel to Missouri Sept. 9th-14th to rebuild after a recent natural disaster. For more information talk to Tom Burger or Doug Bunn.

Food Pantry Needs

Every time you do your grocery shopping, please consider purchasing an item or two that can be donated. Bring it to church and add it to the collection box in the narthex. We will be sure that donated items are taken to the Food Pantry on a consistent basis.

For the month of June you are invited to donate cereal, peanut butter and jelly.



Summer SOTC Hours

Pastor Aleese: Tues.: 3-5 p.m.
Wed.: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thur.: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Office Hours: Mon.: 8 a.m.- Noon
Wed.: 8-10 a.m.
Thur.: 8-10 a.m.

For clarification, we will be working throughout the week, these are the times that you can expect to find us in the office. Monday is Pastor Aleese's day off.

Kelsey Drake's Affirmation of Baptism

On May 13, Kelsey Drake chose to affirm the covenant God made with her in baptism. Having completed the confirmation sequence – now known as FINK – she desired to make a public confession of her faith as she continues to live as a disciple of Jesus. Way to go, Kelsey! As your family at Shepherd, we're all here to continue supporting you on your journey!

As a wrap up to her confirmation journey, Kelsey wrote a faith statement – claiming what she believes about God – and a testimony – offering a witness to how God has been at work in her life. Be sure to congratulate Kelsey and continue to hold her in prayer as your fellow sister in Christ!

Faith Statement: I believe God's love is always there. I know God is smiling at me when I do something good for others. There has been lots of bad things that have happened to me, but I know that God is still there with me.

Testimony: God's love is always there. When my grandpa passed away, when I was in 3rd grade, I was very upset. I was mad at God for making that decision. But now I know my grandpa was in a lot of pain in the hospital bed. It was better for him to go instead of suffering. Even through the bad times, God still loves us.



Weekly Giving

April

April 1	\$3705.03
April 8	\$1420.00
April 15	\$1372.00
April 22	\$1882.00
April 29	\$1156.00
Total	\$9535.03

May

May 6	\$2453.00
May 13	\$2425.00
May 20	\$1727.00
May 27	\$1314.00
Total	\$7919.00

Thank you for your continued support of the mission of Shepherd of the Cross! Because of your generosity, we continue to share the Spirit and share the story of Jesus! Thank you!

Prayers of the People

Please remember the following people in your prayers this month:

Concerns

Members of SOTC who struggle with health concerns, including:

Sara Guhn, Ruth Reist, Thelma Pendleton, Judy Braun, and Margaret Hildebrandt

Colby DeBlaey, sister-in-law of Becky DeBlaey, diagnosed with breast cancer

Kenneth James, brother of Ruth Reist, recovering from hip surgery

Phyllis Martz, friend of the Grete's, diagnosed with breast cancer

Mark Petersen, health issues

Steve Pugh, brother of Cathy Bermel, recovering from a car accident

Nicole Cochran, sister of Leslie Eichelberger and daughter of Roger Luft, health issues

Mike Bermel, recovering from a stroke

Joys

Walk for Water

Coming Up...

Please keep Brynn, Jake, Noah, Raen, Ava & Pastor Aleese in prayer as they head to Camp EWALU

June 17- 22. And, keep Carly Dunham, and all volunteers & staff of the ELCA Youth Gathering, beginning

June 26, in your prayers!

Sunday Fellowship Teams

June 3 ~ Team 3

Judy Bartling, Gladys Reif, Michele Rogers, & Barb Williams

June 10 ~ Semi-Annual Meeting

Parish Planning Committee

June 17 ~ Team 4

Shelly Corman, Melanie Drake, Kathy Dunham, & Roger Luft

June 24 ~ Team 5

Joanne Drinkall, Marlys Grete, Elizabeth Hill, & Sandy Hill



Walk for Water Bucket Project Thank You

Thank you to all who contributed toward the initiative to raise \$500 toward clean water efforts domestically and abroad. Thanks to your generosity, we doubled our original goal and raised **\$1000.31!** Way to go Shepherds! Together, with the whole Southeastern Iowa Synod, we raised over **\$60,000!** Check out our bucket, one among many (even more than pictured here!) that joined the "bucket brigade" across the synod.



Though our official fundraising drive has ended, if you would like to contribute, bring your offering with you on **June 10**. We'll collect one final offering to send directly to ELCA World Hunger. And, though this marks the end of our focus on clean water efforts, as we move into the summer, splash some water on your face to remind yourself often of your baptism. Using the words of Bishop Burk, as you remember your baptism, may "streams of living water continue to flow from our hearts, our hands and our voices as we share the reconciling love of God."

Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Children's Sermon	Communion Assistant	Communion Set-Up	Fellowship	Acolyte & Communion Assistant
Sunday June 3 @ 9:00 a.m.			Roger Luft				Team 3	
Sunday June 10 @ 9:00 a.m.				Roger Luft	Roger Luft		Team PPC	
Sunday June 17 @ 9:00 a.m.							Team 4	
Sunday June 24 @ 9:00 a.m.							Team 5	

June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Roof Replacement Starts	2 7:30 Weight Watchers Hill/Littlejohn Wedding
3 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Adult Education	4 5:00 Weight Watchers Continuing Education	5 6:00 Education for Pastor Aleese	6 5:00 Pizza Ranch Fundraiser for Mission Group 5:00 The Way	7 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:30 Bible @ the Brew 6:30 Stitching Group	8	9 7:30 Weight Watchers 8:00 Spring Cleaning @ SOTC
10 9:00 Worship Service, Congregational Meeting, Walk for Water Simulation, Pot Luck 5-7 Youth Fun Night	11 5:00 Weight Watchers	12 5:30 Property	13 5:00 The Way 6:30 Constitution Task Force	14 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:45 Visioning Task Force 6:00 Evangelism 6:30 Stitching Group	15 5:45 Visioning Task Force Stepping Out: Quad City River Bandits	16 7:30 Weight Watchers 8:30 Women's Group
17 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Adult Education Father's Day	18 5:00 Weight Watchers	19 EWALU Camp with Preschool Summer	20 11:30 Christians Underground 5:00 The Way Pastor Aleese Science Camp	21 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	22	23 7:30 Weight Watchers
24 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Adult Education 5-7 Youth Fun Night	25 5:00 Weight Watchers	26 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	27 5:00 The Way	28 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:30 Visioning Task Force 6:30 Stitching Group	29	30 7:30 Weight Watchers
<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><u>Upcoming Events</u> July 30-August 3 VBS with Grace Lutheran "This Changes Everything"</p> </div>						