



welcomegrowsend

Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church

August 2017

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Share the Spirit. Share Your Story.

In July, many of you gathered to “share the Spirit” and “share your story” of Shepherd of the Cross. For those of you who shared, *thank you*. It has been an honor and privilege to hear your experiences of Shepherd and your journeys of faith. And, for those of you who were unable to attend one of these gatherings, know that you haven't missed out! At least two more gatherings will be hosted in August and September. If you haven't joined us yet, we *need your story*. Your story is a part of who we are at SOTC, and is a part of God's living and active story today.

At each of these gatherings, we've begun by listening to Luke 24: 13-35. It's the story of two of Jesus' disciples walking along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus after Jesus' death and burial. Thinking that their Lord and Master had just died, and with nothing left to live for in Jerusalem, they head toward Emmaus. But along the way, Jesus starts walking with them. Oblivious to what's going on, the disciples don't immediately recognize Jesus. But at the end of the day, when Jesus takes bread, blesses it and gives it to them in their presence, finally they recognize Jesus and realize that they have seen their risen Lord.

Almost every time we read this story, you all shared that there have been times when you couldn't recognize Jesus' presence of guidance either. Truth is, sometimes it's not easy to recognize that Jesus is really, truly present with us; and sometimes, there are “things” that keep us from seeing Jesus, even when he's right in front of us! But just as there are things that *prevent* us from recognizing Jesus, we also talked about how there are also things that *help* us see Jesus. Some of those things might be once-in-a-lifetime experiences. But for many of us, often the things that help us see Jesus are simply daily or weekly faith practices.

Here at Shepherd, we aim to be about those “things” that help each other recognize Jesus' presence and the work of the Spirit among us.

- We're about worship: a time to offer our praise and thanksgiving, expecting that Christ will show up
- We're about service: offering ourselves to our neighbors and graciously receiving the gifts of others
- And we're about growth: continually dedicating ourselves to our formation as disciples of Christ as we're sent out in God's mission

As we prepare to celebrate our 30th Anniversary, I invite you to participate in these foundational “practices” that make up SOTC's identity. Later in this newsletter you'll find a schedule of events for our anniversary weekend. The weekend of September 16-17 will be a special weekend. But what we'll “do” together will be no different than what we do each week! We'll worship. We'll gather in fellowship. And we'll serve each other. But we don't do these things *only* when we celebrate. We continually do those things because we *want to see Jesus in our midst*.

I encourage you to join us as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of SOTC. And, I encourage you to join me in prayer for this congregation. Pray that the Spirit continues to ignite us with a passion for the story of Jesus, and pray that the Spirit continues to direct us on the road as disciples of Christ.

Peace, Pastor Aleese Baldwin

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st	Brynn Eichelberger
5th	Nathan Stalheim Jeff & Melanie Wachtel
8th	Gary & Marlys Grete Josh Allen
9th	Steve & Barb Williams Zach Allen
10th	Shelly Corman
11th	Craig & Jessica Freers Olivia Guhn
13th	Parke McConnaha
14th	Tom Burger Catherine Burger Dave & Crystal Niebaum
16th	Danaa Burger Joe Morrison
17th	Braedyn Burger
18th	Ben & Catherine Burger
19th	Daryl Eichelberger
20th	Tonya Looker
21st	Noah Jorgensen
24th	Kathy Dunham
26th	Joe Corman
27th	Margaret Hildebrandt
28th	Polly Owens
30th	Dawn Eichelberger

Board Meetings

- Property
August 1 @ 5:30
- Lay Ministers
August 1 @ 6:30
- Evangelism
August 10 @ 6:00
- Education
August 14 @ 5:30
- PPC
August 15 @ 6:30
- Stewardship
TBD

Upcoming Events

Monthly Faith Formation Opportunities for Summer

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

Church Membership Information Update

Thank you to those who have already begun completing their information either online or via the paper form! All households have received an email with a link to enter your household's information directly into your personal account. If you are having trouble with your account, or have any questions, please contact the church office. We hope to have our membership information updated by the end of August. Again, thank you for your patience and for your help as we re-member each other in this body of Christ!

Share the Spirit...Share Your Abundance!

On Sun., Aug.6, we'll consider the resources that God has entrusted to us, and consider how God is calling us to share that abundance in faith. As a part of worship, we're asking people to bring either fresh produce and/or canned/boxed food to worship as a special offering to the food pantry. Don't have time to go to the store? We'll have a special offering to collect money for the commercial refrigerator that the food pantry needs to store perishable items.

Blessing of Backpacks

Bring your backpacks on Sun., August 20 as we look toward the beginning of another school year! We'll offer a blessing during the children's sermon, and each child will receive a tag for their backpack along with a surprise to start off the school year!



Rally Day and "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday – Sun., Sept. 10

Mark your calendars now for a full Sunday of worship, fellowship, education and service! Following this summer's VBS theme, we invite everyone to come to worship in their favorite sports apparel. Adult Education and Sunday School will follow worship after a time of fellowship. Later that morning and into the afternoon, we hope to join with the other ELCA congregations in the area for our annual "God's Work. Our Hands" service day in Muscatine. Watch for more details in the near future.

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Confirmation News!

Confirmation for Everybody? You Bet!



Last month, we shared that "confirmation" is being modified for this coming school year. Rather than thinking about confirmation merely as "instruction," we hope to create a structure that incorporates service, fellowship, reflection, relationships with peers and adults...along with some good ol' fashioned learning thrown in there. **The result? Something like "FINK"!** Instead of thinking about confirmation as a "graduation," we hope that FINK will provide youth

and families the resources to spark faith-filled conversations and opportunities for continued growth as disciples.

But, you might be wondering, what's with the name "FINK"?

1. First, FINK refers to the curriculum we'll be using – "Faith Ink."
2. But even more than that, Faith Ink suggests that a "FINK" is anyone who engages in faith formation that inkubate faith from the family up – not the church down.
3. So who's a "FINK"? Everyone! You all are "FINK's" and are invited to be a change agent for the sake of our youth...and also for your own sake as we grow in faith together!

Because we're aiming to incorporate several different elements of faith formation into FINK, and because we will be working with Grace, our typical "confirmation" schedule will look a bit different this year. **And that schedule change will impact everyone at SOTC,** not just parents and youth in 7th and 8th grade.

How so? Here's a typical month of FINK:

1st Wednesday: Theme event (lesson-based) – Hosted by Grace

2nd Wednesday: Service event (service projects)

3rd Wednesday: Theme event (lesson-based) – Hosted by SOTC

4th Wednesday: Intergenerational Faith Formation Nights at each congregation

5th Wednesday: Social event (fellowship)

So how will this affect you? Two ways:

1. Each 3rd Wed. as we host our youth in 7th and 8th grade, we'll also be giving families the opportunity to actually sit down and eat together! (Novel idea!) A meal will be served as a part of FINK, and **we'll be looking for volunteers to either bring, prepare, cook and serve that food.**

2. **Each 4th Wed. everyone is invited to join us for an intergenerational family faith night.** Families of FINK will be expected to attend, but we hope that many in the congregation will join us as well as we all learn what it means to continue learning and *confirming* our faith in Jesus Christ.

The Education Board, along with a key group of thinkers from both Grace and SOTC, are very excited to see how this model can not only impact our youth, but also our families and our respective congregations. Plan to join in on the fun, especially on the fourth Wed of each month. Questions? Concerns? Talk to Dave Bakke, Leslie Eichelberger or Pastor Aleese.

A Word from Luther

For the past few months, we've explored how Martin Luther's thought changed not only the church, but the political landscape. But by the late 1520's, Emperor Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire was getting concerned. The Ottoman Empire would soon be on the southeastern doorstep of the empire, and his empire was splintering over varied understandings of the church.

Trying desperately to maintain control, Charles V called for the Lutheran princes to present their religious position before an imperial diet (a council), in late spring of 1530 in the city of Augsburg. Quickly appealing to Luther and his accomplice, Phillip Melancthon, they prepared a confession of faith. However, the emperor didn't buy it. What was meant to unite the empire only divided it even further.

Today, this document – the Augsburg Confession – remains central to our Lutheran heritage. It clearly outlines who we understand God to be, and what it means to be the church. In the seventh article, titled "Concerning the Church," Melancthon writes:

"It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel."

When asked today what the church is about, perhaps it would do us well to look back on what Melancthon had to say. Though our mission statements today might elaborate on these central things, today the church remains committed to these things as we strive to recognize Jesus and share that story with others.



LSI Newsletter Article and Story

Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! But imagine being a child or teen with an emotional or behavioral disorder. This time of year can be extremely stressful. They are afraid they won't be able to concentrate or fit in at their school. They worry about the transition adjusting to a new classroom routine.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services right in their communities? Our therapists can work one-on-one with children while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team is there to collaborate with families in their home and develop skills like anger management and decision-making.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift and support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Happier, healthier families

For years, Bia struggled with her daughter's behaviors. McKenna, 8, lashed out against authority, and tempers regularly flared at home.

"It took a little more time to work with her on anything," Bia said.

Bia couldn't find a way to help gain control of her child, and she became more and more frustrated. That's when her DHS social worker recommended LSI's Families Together program.

Through the program, Bia regularly meets with her Families Together worker, Gaylene. Together, they are working on what Bia calls a "three-step technique."

"Whenever a possible argument comes along, I start by telling McKenna to go take a break and reset herself. Then I can go calm down and eventually, we can talk it out," Bia says. "It's teaching both of us. My main goal right now is to learn how to better handle McKenna and better handle myself."

Bia is also practicing the technique with her younger daughter, Brynn, which she says is "working perfectly." It's drastically improving the way her family communicates, and Bia says she has recommended *Families Together* to any friends looking for guidance.

"I love the program," she says. "I love how it works and I know if I have questions, they can give me advice on how to go about things."

Community Events

Pub Theology

Looking for an informal place to build relationships and ask questions that relate to faith and life? Wondering how God fits into everyday life and current issues? Consider joining Pub Theology beginning again this September. As we get going in the fall, our hope is to offer a less "structured" format and to encourage more conversation geared toward the interest of those attending. Leaders have been meeting throughout the summer, and are solidifying the frequency and times we will meet. Like "Pub Theology - Muscatine" on Facebook for more updates or talk to Pastor Aleese.



Food Pantry Donations

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 August you are invited to bring 'kid friendly' foods. (granola bars, fruit snacks, easy mac, pudding cups, etc.)

30th Anniversary Celebration Schedule

Thanks to Judy Bartling and Heather Allen, our schedule of events for our anniversary weekend have been solidified. Plan to join us as much as you are able!

Saturday, September 16

6:00 p.m.: Family Fun Night

Join us for an evening of fellowship and preparation. Lawn games will be outside, and those who wish to play Euchre will be inside. Campfire weather permitting. Feel free to bring your own snacks, appetizers and drinks.

Sunday, September 17

9:00 a.m.: Worship

10:30 a.m.: Sharing Our Story

11:15 a.m.: Lunch and Fellowship

Sloppy joes, chicken sandwiches, cake, bars and tableware will be provided. Congregation members are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Weekly Giving

June

June 4	\$2993.06
June 11	\$1095.00
June 18	\$1725.06
June 25	\$1355.00
Total	\$7168.12

July

July 2	\$2940.00
July 9	\$1230.00
July 16	\$1590.00
July 23	\$1773.00
July 30	\$1268.00
Total	\$8801.00

Prayers of the People

Please remember the following people in your prayers this month:

Concerns

Sara Guhn, following a stroke
Bernice Stalkfleet, dealing with health issues
Ruth Reist, dealing with health issues
Rose Howard, dealing with health issues
Thelma Pendleton, dealing with health issues
Judy Braun, dealing with health issues
Margaret Hildebrandt, dealing with health issues
Those who mourn the death of Robert Ludwig, father of Amy Bakke
Betsy, family of Joanne Drinkall, recovering from surgery

Joys

In thanksgiving for veterans and all who have served our country
Steve Anderson, nephew of Joanne & Terry Drinkall, who's received a positive prognosis
In praise and thanksgiving for God's work in and through our leaders and kids of VBS.
"Who always wins? God always wins! Huh!"
In thanksgiving for fellowship and stories shared at "Share the Spirit, Share Your Story" gatherings



Sunday Fellowship Teams

August 6 ~ Team 5

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

August 13 ~ Team 6

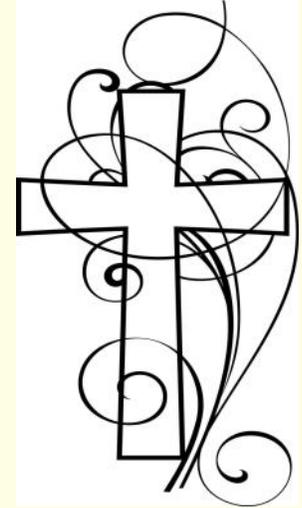
Amy & Dave Bakke, Margaret Hildebrandt, Glendola Reinier, and Ruth Reist

August 20 ~ Team 1

Betty Burch, Becky DeBlaey, Kaia Petesen, Melanie Wachtel

August 27 ~ Team 2

Heather Allen, Cathy Bermel, Leslie Eichelberger, & Patti Oestmann



30th Anniversary Celebration Needs

Below are some areas in which we could use some help.

- On Saturday night, tables and chairs will need to be set up and the church decorated for Sunday.
- Have pictures you would like to share? Put together a poster board we could display, transfer slides to digital, or assist in making a slide show.
- Whether you have been here since the beginning or are new to SOTC, if you would like share during the "Sharing our Story" time, we would love to hear your story. (Please let Judy Bartling or Heather Allen know.)

If you have any questions, would like to help, or have other ideas, please speak with Judy Bartling or Heather Allen.

Summer SOTC Hours

Pastor Aleese: Tues.: 8-10 a.m.

Wed.: 8-12 a.m.

Fri.: 10-12 a.m.

Office Hours: Mon.: 1-5 p.m.

Wed.: 8-12 a.m.

Fri. 10-12 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.

Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Children's Sermon	Communion Assistants	Communion Set-Up	Fellowship	Acolyte
Sunday August 6 @ 9:00 a.m.		Roger Luft			X	X	Team 5	
Sunday August 13 @ 9:00 a.m.			Al Oestmann	Pastor Aleese	2 needed	Lay Ministers	Team 6	
Sunday August 20 @ 9:00 a.m.			Roger Luft	Pastor Aleese	2 needed Roger Luft & ___	Marlys Grete	Team 1	
Sunday August 27 @ 9:00 a.m.					2 needed	Lay Ministers	Team 2	

***We are in need of Worship Assistants for the month of August.
Please take time to volunteer where you are able.***

August 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:30 Property 6:30 Lay Ministers	2 5:00 The Way	3 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:30 Bible @ the Brew 6:30 Stitching Group	4	5 7:30 Weight Watchers
6 9:00 Worship Service Pastor away for Continuing Education	7 5:00 Weight Watchers	8	9 5:00 The Way	10 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:00 Evangelism 6:30 Stitching Group	11	12 7:30 Weight Watchers 8:30 Women's Group
13 9:00 Worship Service	14 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:30 Education	15 6:30 PPC	16 5:00 The Way 6:30 FINK Youth & Parent meeting @ Grace	17 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	18	19 7:30 Weight Watchers
20 9:00 Worship Service <i>Blessing of Backpacks</i>	21 5:00 Weight Watchers	22	23 5:00 The Way	24 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	25	26 7:30 Weight Watchers 9:00 Worship and Music Team
27 9:00 Worship Service	28 5:00 Weight Watchers <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	29	30 5:00 The Way 6-8 "FINK" Kick Off!	31 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group		
<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><u>Upcoming Events</u></p> <p>September 10 - Rally Day, Beginning of Education Classes, and "God's Work. Our Hands."</p> <p>September 17 - 30th Anniversary Celebration</p> </div>						