

Spotlights

Spring 2017

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES CHURCH

Looking Ahead

Great events are planned for everyone in the family.
For more information go to: www.shepherdofthelakes.com

March 1

Ash Wednesday
7:00pm

March 5

Food Pantry Dollar Sunday

March 11

City on a Hill Health Clinic
8:00am – 6:00pm

March 13

Church Council Meeting
6:30pm

April 1

Affirmation of Faith Brunch

April 2

Affirmation of Faith Ceremony
10:15am

April 2

Food Pantry Dollar Sunday

April 2

Kids Hope Decorating
5:00-7:00pm

April 3

Kids Hope Easter Event
6:00-7:30pm

April 9

Palm Sunday Services
8:30am & 10:15am

April 10

Church Council Meeting
6:30pm

April 14

Good Friday Seder Meal &
Special Speaker
6:00pm

April 16

Easter Sunday Services
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

April 17

Easter Monday
Church Offices Closed

April 29

Mission of Hope Event
Waupaca Learning Center
10:00am-1:00pm

May 7

Food Pantry Dollar Sunday

May 14

Senior Blessing Sunday

May 17

Timber Rattlers Game
All Youth Ministries

Thoughts from Pastor Dean

‘Occupy’

I love to hear the voice of Jesus. I listen to Jesus speaking to me daily as I pray, read the Bible, and practice His presence. He speaks to me every day his words of love, grace, power; all that reflect the reality of my identity as a son of the Heavenly Father. Since the beginning of 2017 he has spoken a reoccurring word, ‘occupy’. Over time I have come to believe that this word is for both me personally and us as the family of Shepherd of the Lakes.

At first, I was unsure what to make of this word. What was I to occupy? Was this a challenge or an invitation from God? Over the last few weeks, how I am to respond to what Jesus is saying has become clearer. Pastor Mary and I have been preaching on Profiles in Courage from the Bible and I originally was going to speak of Tamar and her courage to do what it takes to get justice, a story from Genesis 38. But as time drew closer to the message, I felt the Holy Spirit calling me to preach from Joshua 1, the story of God commanding Joshua to take the Israelites across the Jordan and possess the land that He had promised to give them.

God said, “My servant Moses is dead. Get ready now, you and all the people of Israel, and cross the Jordan River into the land that I am giving them.” Joshua 1:2 (TEV)

God had promised the Israelites a home of beauty, yet they had wandered for 40 years in the desert because of their lack of trust in Him. They needed to let go of the past and step out in faith into the future that God was giving to them. Moreover, though God was gifting them the land, they would have to fight for it, trusting the presence and power of God to give them victory.

I believe the word ‘occupy’ is not only for me but also for us a congregation. God has gifted us with what we need, and as sons and daughters of the King he gives us the authority and power to claim the world around us for the Kingdom.

Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son's blood on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven. Colossians 1:20 (TEV)

Thoughts from Pastor Dean cont.

Jesus has shed his precious blood on the cross reconciling the world to the Father. The victory is now won; all things in heaven and earth have been brought back to God. We are being called out of our status quo, to step out in faith, occupying that which our Father is giving to us. He has given us our neighborhoods and community, but we need to cross over out into the land to claim it for the King of Love. There will be battle ahead. Threat from the outside and fear from the inside will rise.

Are you ready? Are your priorities in godly order? Are you willing to give more than you receive, to serve more than you are served, to not only receive the love of Jesus but to reflect it to a lost and hurting world as you go out?

Let us ready ourselves as we obey the command of Jesus,

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

More to come...

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Wheeler". The signature is written in dark ink on a white, rectangular background that has a slightly torn or deckled edge on its left side. The background of the entire page is a light yellow-green color with a subtle pattern of white, stylized plant stems and circular flower heads at the bottom.

Musings by Mary...

Traditions can be a wonderful thing but it can be hard, almost even painful, to watch them die.

Over the past several years, we here at SOTL have continued to see a dramatic decline in attendance at our 'special services' held during Holy Week- specifically Holy (Maundy) Thursday and Good Friday.

So, this year we are going to be celebrating and remembering these special days in a different way. About 10 years ago, Rabbi Jack Zimmerman came to my former parish, American Lutheran Church in Prescott, AZ to do a teaching on the biblical roots and symbolism of a Passover Seder meal. Rabbi Jack is a Messianic Jewish Rabbi with Jewish Voice Ministries (see next page) and leads a congregation in the Phoenix area.

Rabbi Jack is funny, engaging and immensely talented in explaining the significance of the Seder meal and tying Old Testament prophecies to New Testament events and practices. **I am delighted to announce that he will be coming to speak to SOTL on Good Friday, April 14th at 6:00pm.**

That evening we will gather together in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a catered meal, good fellowship and great teaching. Tickets are \$10 per person or two for \$15 (scholarships are always available- just speak with Paula or me). Space is limited so please sign up now. Free child- care will be available. A love offering will be received.

Invite your friends and be sure to get your tickets today! Can't wait- **it's gonna be great!**

Shalom,



Pr. Mary

Special Good Friday Meal

Join us as we experience the
Last Supper as Jesus did.

You'll discover the link
between the ancient
Passover in Egypt, and our
true Passover lamb!

Friday, April 14th
6:00pm

Hurry! Only 75 tickets available!

\$10/each or \$15/two

(Tickets available to purchase Sunday mornings after services)

Catered Meal and Childcare Included

Rabbi Jack Zimmerman



JVM's Staff Evangelist, Jack Zimmerman, is a former stand-up comedian and has an engaging wit and dynamic speaking style. A Messianic Jewish Rabbi, Jack has a deep understanding of the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith that makes him a valued and respected teacher of the Scriptures. He is also an award winning reporter, radio and television host, and has taught Bible classes throughout the United States, and at theological universities in Russia and the Ukraine.

WORSHIP WAYS

Hello Shepherd Family,

What an exciting time to be a part of this church body. So much has happened in these past few months. In case you hadn't noticed, we have a new sound system! I think the sound is substantially better than the old system and more evenly distributed. We plan to install our new projectors next month.

We also have a few new worship team members. Ben Thuerman on piano has just transitioned from the AFW team to the adult team, Ian Gibson has stepped in on bass and we are blessed to have Sally Swanson step into a Worship Leader role this past month. We now have two bass players, two drummers, two keyboard players and our team continues to grow not only in numbers but, more importantly, in relationship with each other as we lift up our Heavenly Father.

As we look to the future, I ask for prayer for God's guidance and provision as I move forward in leadership, discipleship, friendship, music and a lifestyle of worship.

For His glory,

Matt Vassar

*Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

NEW & EXCITING!

Dear Friends and Family of Shepherd of the Lakes Church,

This month we celebrate William Postel's tenth year as a part of the full time staff of Shepherd of the Lakes. We have seen his growth in maturity and skills as our Youth Ministry Coordinator. We have also joyfully witnessed the growth of his family from him and Aimee, to the additions of Zephaniah, Micah, Aravis, and last year, Lydia.

Over the years for me personally, William has gone from coworker to friend to part of our family on mission in the world. Therefore, it makes me happy to announce that William has new responsibilities and a new job title.

William is stepping into the new position of Connections Coordinator here at Shepherd of the Lakes. If you know William, you know that he is a people person with the spiritual gift of evangelism. As Connections Coordinator William will be responsible to establish and enrich relationships within and outside of the church through visitor outreach, ministry recruitment and social media. This will include such duties as assimilating new members into the congregation, working with members to discern their spiritual gifts and passions, connecting them to ministries and coordinating Shepherd's social media presence. Because of William's passion for youth ministry, he will continue doing the work of Middle school and High school ministry here at SOTL.

This is good news for us and William and his family, as we at Shepherd of the Lakes become better friends, who are living and leading like Jesus, bringing the Kingdom to the lost and hurting. I am excited to see what the future holds for us.

Living Awesome,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Wheeler". The signature is written in dark ink on a white, rectangular background that has a slightly distressed or torn edge effect.

Pastor Dean Wheeler

Senior Pastor



PROJECT BACKPACK

Our Mission: To stamp out hunger in area schools one student at a time.

Project Backpack continues to have an amazing impact on our communities! This past December, we were able to bless **88 families** (412 people!) with fixings for a full Christmas meal. Thank you so much to those of you who 'adopted' a family through our Christmas 'Love Goes Out' campaign. The kindness you have shown to these families is heartwarming. We tried a new approach of delivering the boxes of food directly to the families this year, and that was extremely well-received, as many of the families in the Project Backpack program have unreliable transportation. HUGE thanks go out to the numerous volunteers who helped shop, pack and distribute the food – it truly takes a village!!!

We are currently in need of delivery drivers to the Weyauwega school. If you have a vehicle big enough to fit 7 large totes and are available on Thursday or Friday to deliver backpacks to the school, please contact Mark Thuermer at 715-942-6951.



A big thank you to Alliance Industries for their recent donation to Project Backpack!



Welcome KHUSA Director, Lisa Stafford!

My name is LISA STAFFORD and I will be serving as the KIDS HOPE USA Director (KHUSA) for Shepherd of the Lakes Church. Many, many, thanks to CASSIE ROLLINS for her leadership with KHUSA! Her leadership, insights and passion for children and their families have been invaluable to the program.

I love to equip children (and families) so they not only survive but thrive! Creating thriving families is a team effort. I am here to PARTNER with you, our schools, our church and those amazing KHUSA MENTORS! Please feel free to call/text or email with any questions/concerns or comments.

In the Joy of Jesus,

Lisa Stafford

KHUSA Director

715-802-3540

lstafford1961@yahoo.com

(first letter is a lower case "L")

KHUSA is looking for MENTORS!

Do you like to color pictures? Do you like to play games? Do you like to "shoot hoops"? Do you like to build stuff with Legos? Do you like to eat lunch? Do want to help children (and their families) experience the love of Jesus? Then YOU have what it takes to be a KHUSA MENTOR! One mentor, one student, one hour, once a week equals changes that last a lifetime (for both the mentor and student!).

New mentors would begin meeting with students SEPTEMBER 2017; training is provided. Interested? Curious? Can't wait to start? Then let's connect! Call/text or email me today! And THANKS for being "Jesus with skin on" to children in our schools.

In the Joy of Jesus,

Lisa Stafford

KHUSA Director

715-802-3540

lstafford1961@yahoo.com

(the first letter is a lower case "L")



LOBBY RENOVATION

Dear Church Family,

I hope that you have seen our lobby recently! If you have, you probably noticed it looks a little different:) A great team of ladies worked together to redesign the space. Because of their creativity and thriftiness, *we were able to keep the budget to an unbelievably low cost!*

We wanted the lobby to be a space that immediately feels welcoming to people and where we can gather and chat informally. We wanted it to be a place that is both beautiful and functional and a space where you can grab a cup of coffee to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

On the awesome design team were:

Angie Linjer
Becky Heisler
Mary Zimmermann
Debbie Fisher
Julie Handy
Coordinated by: Aimee Postel

Contributing their skills:

Mitchell Rotta – creation and donation of chandelier
Jess Gibson – banner design
Brian Handy – frame construction and donation
Bill Rotta – donation/installation of light fixture
Don Fisher – donation of shelving installation
Christensen Home Decorating - Painting

In case you were wondering, the Mail Center is now by the coat racks in the front hall, across from the kitchen door. Be sure to check it out!

It is my pleasure to serve this church family!

In Christ,



Aimee Postel





G.L.A.M. WINTER WOWZA!

On Monday, January 23rd, nearly sixty women gathered for our annual G.L.A.M. Winter Wowza. This year we had several women volunteer to decorate themed tables and I must say the Fellowship Hall never looked so good. Thanks to all who helped make the night so festive.

And it was a 'first' for G.L.A.M. in that we allowed a rooster in the hen house, so to speak. We listened, laughed and learned from Christian author and humorist Ken Davis who encouraged us to "Live Fully Alive".

Saint Irenaeus: "The glory of God is man fully alive."



WINTER WOWZA

2017



City On A Hill Mission Trip

Join us as we serve during City on a Hill's Health Clinic. Healthcare professionals are needed; non-health care professionals are welcome!

Saturday, March 11th 2017

Leave church: 8:00 am

Return to church: 6:00 pm

**** Bring your own lunch and beverages**

**** Limited to 10 adults/sign-ups in the lobby**

If you have questions contact:

Lisa Stafford at 715-802-3540



Pictures from Dec. 12th, 2016





HELP for the HOMELESS™

Hygiene Drive

Feb. 19 - March 12

Bring your
donations
to Church!

Donate Personal Care Items for **LOCAL**
Waupaca Crisis Programs!

Help ease the financial strain on local crisis programs and those they serve!

Most Needed Items:

- Cleaning Supplies
- Feminine Needs
- Bathroom Tissue
- Diapers/Baby Care
- Hair Care
- Deodorant
- Dental Care
- Body Lotion
- Laundry Soap
- Kitchen Trash Bags
- Paper Towels
- Face/Bath Soap

Donations Remain in the Communities Where They are Collected!

More information at thefamily.net or call The Family at 800-236-9364



Thanks to our sponsors!



The Easter Event is coming!

Monday, April 3rd, from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm is our KHUSA Easter event. Our KHUSA mentors, their students and families will gather at church for dinner, an egg hunt and opportunity to hear the Good News of the Easter message.

Will you help us? We need food, candy, plastic eggs, Easter grass, jelly beans, face-painters, dessert-makers, dinner-servers, folks to set-up and clean-up, and egg-hiders! Pulling off an event like this will require all of us to work together to impact these children and their families for God's Kingdom! GET ALL THE DETAILS in the church lobby, on the 'Happenings' wall! We also need to borrow two Nesco Roasters. Please contact me if you have one we can use!

Thanks and be blessed!

In the Joy of Jesus,

Lisa Stafford
KHUSA Director
715-802-3540

lstafford1961@yahoo.com (first letter is a lower case "L")

Thank You Pizza Lovers!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT PIZZAS AND DONATED TO INVEST IN OUR YOUTH! Thank you also to all the wonderful folks that came to help build pizzas!
WE RAISED \$1,615!





SPLASH NEWS!

We have started a Bible Challenge in SPLASH and it has been a lot of fun to see some of the kids really own it! They get points for reading specific Bible stories and of course, their weekly memory verse. So far, Jodie Schulz's classroom is in the lead but Miss Marla and Miss Rose's classrooms aren't far behind! *I love seeing kids get excited about reading the Bible!*

The SPLASH Plus+ kids earned a reward in their group and had a pizza and bowling party! They had a fun IN time!

We are looking forward to spring in SPLASH and the upcoming 7th Annual **SPLASH Bash**! Your kids will not want to miss the biggest event of the year! We always have a ton of crazy, splashing fun! **Mark your calendars for May 21st!**

SPLASH would not be possible without my awesome team of dedicated leaders! I want to give a HUGE shout-out to: Marla Snyder, Rose Swanson, Jodie Schulz, Julie Jape and Kirsten Peterson and Jen Drivas! You all are the best!

Thank you for the privilege of serving your kiddos!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aimee Postel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Aimee Postel

P.S. Enjoy the pictures of a few of our SPLASH kids!



YOUTH POWER GROUPS



Menzies Family



Thuerman Family



Lewis Family



Snyder Family

THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE
FAMILIES WHO HAVE HOSTED
YOUTH POWER GROUPS THIS
YEAR SO FAR!!!



Levine Family

**We are looking for a few more families
to help us finish out the year!**

If you would be interested in hosting the high school youth in your home each Wednesday night for 1 month, please give me (William Postel) a call at (715) 281 - 7480. We have approximately 15 to 20 high school students who meet each week, and they are a great group! Just ask any of these families.

Senior Blessing Milestone

On May 14th, we will join with families at both services to bless their high school senior. Please join us for this heartwarming moment in our families' lives and help us celebrate our high school seniors!

Parents of seniors, we will have 2 meetings in preparation of the Senior Blessing. More info to come.

Please save the dates:

- Senior Blessing Parent Meeting: Sunday, April 30th 11:30am—12:30pm
- Senior Blessing Parent Meeting: Sunday, May 7th 11:30am—12:30pm
- Senior Blessing Milestone: Sunday, May 14th—Both Worship Services

Recent MSM and YPG Teachings

We have walked through the Lord's Prayer, helping students understand that it is more than just a prayer that we say on Sunday mornings, but a powerful prayer that Jesus taught us to pray and also teaches us what to pray for.

We gave the students the image of the Hexagon to break the prayer down into six memorable parts each with a title and an image.

Students were challenged to place their normal prayer requests around the hexagon where it would match up best. Then we practiced praying!

We have also helped students identify where their spiritual gifting lies. We have challenged them to live into using the gift that God has given them for His glory! For example: the pastors were asked to look for opportunities to care for their friends, the evangelists were asked to share the "Good News" with a friend, and the teachers were asked to look for opportunities to teach a friend something during the week.

Students are becoming more and more empowered to live out the life God is calling them to as they understand who God has created them to be, and the authority He has given them to live a life filled with His power!





March 1st ONLY!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY TIME CHANGE

MSM will meet from 6:30 –7pm in the Fellowship Hall
Then they will participate in the Ash Wednesday Service.

YOUTH POWER GROUPS LOCATION CHANGE

YPG will meet here at Shepherd at 7pm and participate in
the Ash Wednesday Service.

We will be going to the Timber Rattler game

Wednesday, May 17th

YOUTH 6th—12th grades

Cost: FREE! (includes ticket, hotdog & soda)

Depart SOTL: 5:15pm

Return to SOTL: 10:30pm approx.



Save the Dates!

Junior High / Senior High Camp

July 10th –14th

Middle School Ministry

Wednesday nights at the church: 5:45pm-7:00pm

Dinner is Provided

6th-8th grade students

Middle school is a place where students are really trying to figure out who they are and who to follow. As we direct our students to listen to who Jesus says we are, and then as we follow Him, lives will be changed!

Middle school students love to have fun! So we play games, worship, pray for one another, have a time of teaching and some small group time each week.

The fast pace of the night, loaded with great structure, teaching, food, friends and fun is making for a successful year with our middle school students!

If you haven't joined us yet this year for a night of Middle School Ministry, I'd invite you to come and check us out!

8th Grade MILESTONE

Affirmation of Faith

Saturday, April 1st, 9am—11am (Brunch, Pictures and Practice)

Sunday, April 2nd @ Second Service (Affirmation of Faith Service)

Students who are in 8th grade are invited to participate in the Affirmation of Faith ceremony.

This is an opportunity for students to share where they are in their faith journey with the congregation.

Students and parents must also meet with William Postel by Thursday, March 23rd. Check your email for more information and "homework" for your child in preparation for our meeting.

SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES CORE VALUES



We Are Passionate About Jesus

We intentionally pursue a personal and intimate relationship with God.



We Before Me

We are one church family fed by four streams. We honor a diversity of backgrounds.



We Get Messy

We desire people to be genuine in their relationships with others and Jesus.



We Get Out Of Our Seats

We serve the church and the world for the glory of God.

Shepherd of the Lakes Staff

Dean H. Wheeler *Senior Pastor*
Mary M. Bope *Pastor*
Paula Thuerman *Church Administrator*
William Postel *Connections Coordinator*
Aimee Postel *Children's Ministry Coordinator*
Matt Vassar *Worship Leader*
Jess Gibson *Office Assistant*
Rose Swanson *Child Care Supervisor*
Julie Handy *Custodian*

Your Church Council

Please feel free to contact any church council member with any question or concern you have.

Steve Christensen, President (715)412-0180
Richard Madson (715)572-5621
Jolene Nollenberg (715)281-9641
Becky Peterson (715)281-9152
Gary Prell, Vice Pres. (715)281-4409
Lucas Schick (920)862-0064
Karen Siewert (715)258-6994
Dennis Stuyenberg (920)867-4067
Bill Zimmermann (715)258-8059

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8:00am–4:00pm



"Reach the Lost and Help the Hurting"