

# THE VOICE



This year the RMS Synod Assembly was held in El Paso, TX May 16-18. Diana Biggs and I were the voting members for SOTH, Dave Jarvis also attended representing Rainbow Trail. It was an awesome experience for all of us. On Wednesday, everyone participated in an immersion location.

There were about 30 different sites, including a trip into Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. None of the 3 of us were participants to the Mexico site. I was at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, an ELCA congregation which ministers to the immigrant population in El Paso. I was blessed to hear stories first hand from immigrants from Mexico, Venezuela, and Ecuador. Each one of them

had stories of suffering and desperation I cannot even begin to imagine. Most of them are recent immigrants, and one had been here almost 20 years. All of them overcame incredible circumstances and hardships to find hope in the USA. All of them also have skills and determination to be self-supporting in their native countries if it had been possible for them to remain there.

One man worked more than full-time and earned \$60/month for it. One of his children has a seizure disorder that can be corrected with \$8000 surgery, but he would never have been able to earn that kind of money at home. He left his wife and children and came here to earn the money to help his son. Another was politically persecuted for opposing the Venezuelan government. He did not plan to come to the US, but rather stay closer to home. Corrupt governments and police continually would “shake him down” to the point of homelessness, so he continued to make his way north. What happened to him and his sister on the way were horrific. Your imagination will probably not be too far off. One man worked 13 hour days in his native country and his daily pay was a bag of rice. Another couple came from Ecuador and the man’s hope is to be able to get to the point where he can bring his grandparents here so that his grandmother can get care for diabetes. We heard so much more than can be contained on one page.

All of the people we heard from were clear that all they want is to be able to work, pay their bills, and find safety for their families. They want the same things I do. Whatever you hear from your news outlet of choice is not the complete truth, so please be careful in passing along what you hear. Media outlets are in the business of making money, so they emphasize what they think their audience wants to hear or read. It is a good idea to hear from both conservative and liberal leaning media to get closer to the truth.

I know immigration is a hot button right now, and there certainly is a crisis. It is a complicated problem that will take compassion and creativity to ease. In the weeks ahead you will have the opportunity to hear more about what Dave, Diana, and I saw and heard first-hand. When Dave is able to get away from camp in a few weeks, we will be available after worship to speak to you and answer questions if we can. I hope that you are able to attend. Watch the Thursday emails for information. In the meantime, please pray for the people seeking refuge, for Pr. Rosemary and the people of Cristo Rey, and for the elected officials in the US, Mexico, Central and South America. People are suffering and it can be alleviated. *¡Bendiciones! Blessings! Pastor Chris*

P.S. In the photo above is a message on a hill in Juárez and facing the USA. It is translated: The Bible is the truth, read it.

## You're invited

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAY MORNINGS

**Traditional Worship**

In-person: 9:00 am

Online: [youtube.com/](https://youtube.com/@sothservices1386)

[@sothservices1386](https://youtube.com/@sothservices1386)

## Our mission

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is a reflection of God's love and grace. Our mission is to grow in faith and love, connect with community, and share and serve with compassion.

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

801 N. Sheridan Ave.

Cañon City, CO 81212

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[sothlutherancc.com](https://sothlutherancc.com)

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# CHURCH COUNCIL

**Stewardship is off to a realistic start in meeting the January Budget Adoption**  
**Below are updates on three special intents:**



WE have set a Goal of one evening a month for SOTH to participate in meal preparation for the shelter—approximately 55 meals. Ingredients are furnished. Clients provide post meal clean-up. Youth and adults are encouraged to consider forming a core group of 8-10 to rotate or fill in. Watch Thursday announcements for final details.

River Watch: An opportunity, tentatively in July, for youth and members to participate in an active and educational experience pertaining to Arkansas River water quality. Watch Thursday announcements for the final date.



Sixty (60) hygiene kits were assembled by members and youth and have been sent to Ukraine.

Thanks to Carol Reppert for leading this project.

There will be future projects.



# CHURCH COUNCIL

Online contributions for pledges can be set up through Vanco. This option is helpful as it enables us to count on a reliable income stream for the financial obligations of our church. If you are on a trip or, otherwise unavailable, your contribution is made automatically. You may select weekly, biweekly, monthly, whatever meets your needs. Thanks for considering this easy option.

Vanco secure website: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z5RF/home>

The mobile app invite code is **BBTCEY**.

Checkout the church website at **sothlutherancc.com** –for information and options.

Church phone is 1-719-275-6797.

Also available is the QR Scan code for your phone.



**As summer is typically a time of diminished income, as we are about and busy, the ease of these options will enable a reliable, steady stream of income now and in the future.**

**Thanks for participating and enjoy your summer.  
Charlene Coulson Stewardship Committee**

Thanks to Lois Petersen-Kelley for serving many years as our treasurer and assisting in budget planning. Jennifer Corkill, who is serving as interim treasurer, has gone above and beyond in updating and transferring information to a new web-based program—PowerChurch.

Dear Pastor Chris, Church Council, and members of Shepherd of the Hills,

I wish to thank all of you for the beautiful gifts, the card, and messages you gave me. It was so kind, and thoughtful of you. My many years of producing the church newsletter, "The Voice," were wonderful years. I loved every minute of it. The work was a blessing to me, and I thank you for that also.

Health issues prevent me from being there with you on Sundays, but I am there, watching the service digitally on my t.v. I am so thankful for this technology.

Please know that all of you are always on my mind and in my heart.

Love and Hugs, Shirley Kramer

# FAITH FORMATION

*The Faith Formation team's mission is to encourage, guide, and support lifelong learning of God's Word for all ages so that we may grow in knowledge, service, and love towards God and all people.*



During summertime, our Faith growth opportunities shift in June and July. Sunday school and Catechism classes are suspended and our youth go up the mountain to Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp! Eleven students will be going up to camp for a week. Atalia plans to be there all summer as a camp counselor! Thanks to our loving congregation for supporting these 11 kids in their life and faith changing experiences gained there through the Campership Program.

Noisy Offering for the '22/'23 school year ended in May with \$59.69 collected to help with children's mental health. The 3 grads chose this recipient due to the fact that May is Mental Health Awareness month. April's donations of change went to Lila Mae's House in Sioux City, Iowa. This is a non profit organization that supports "women who have been trafficked and are often lost, helpless, and forgotten" according to their thank you note information. Our next Noisy Offering collection will be in September.

Milestone ministries have honored our Confirmed Students Kellie, Etta, and Tucker on Easter Sunday. Then on Mom's Day our 2023 high school grads were blessed in prayer and showered with gifts and cards. Their mom's brought in and served a lovely cake, donuts, fruit, cheese and crackers. Our church family is blessed to have had these families in our midst for so many years. Let's not forget our college youth and please continue to pray for them.

**NOTE to all families/parents who have children ages 3 through 16  
SAVE THE DATE - July 30th!**

The Faith Formation team is planning a PARENT'S HAPPY HOUR & BBQ at Pastor Chris' lovely home! Dena has Thrivent Action seed money to help finance this important gathering. We hope to discuss the meaning of attending church as well as bringing our kids to worship, confirmation meetings, and Sunday school. More details to come, but mark the date and time (3 o'clock) NOW.

Jesus is always with us. We are His people, a royal priesthood. How are we sharing Jesus' presence with those we meet? Don't take a vacation from your faith this summer. Keep in touch with all happenings at Shepherd of the Hills- fellowship, service projects, and meaningful worship.

**The next Faith Formation Team meeting will be July 12th at 5 pm.**

# SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Opportunities to make a difference through the giving of your time, talent, and treasure

**Christmas in July** – The Mission Team has chosen New Creations Inn as the beneficiary of the Christmas in July project. We'll be collecting items they need through the month of July. There will be boxes or baskets where donated items may be placed on the Mission Team table. Thank you in advance for supporting this project. Items needed are: linens for single beds, pillows, toilet paper, tissues, cleaning supplies for the rooms, towels, washcloths and various hygiene items such as shampoo, hair conditioner, soap, deodorant, laundry detergent and dryer sheets.

**Good News That's Better Late Than Never** – The spring issue of Thrivent Magazine included the following information about "Giving Tuesday", which took place the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Throughout the U.S., Giving Tuesday brought in more than \$1.3 million, including a \$315,000 Thrivent match in 2022. These funds support the missions of more than 32 nonprofit organizations nationwide. Thrivent's motto is "Live Generously". Thrivent members are committed to helping others. As a fraternal membership organization, Thrivent is a catalyst for generous action, and with Thrivent's help, members are inspired, and their generosity is multiplied. SOTH has been blessed in various ways by the many Action Teams led by our church's Thrivent members and associate members over the years.

## **The Gift of Goats in Nepal – ELCA World Hunger at Work**

During the Easter season we celebrated new life — and all the ways our siblings in Christ experience it around the world. For Ram Kala Kadha in Nepal, new hope and new life arrived in the form of four goats. After Ram Kala's husband died, she wasn't sure how she would support her four children. "I just did traditional farming," she says. "I worked hard, but the land only produced enough for four months." She worried about how she would keep food on the table and support her children in the future. She often went to bed on an empty stomach.

Then, a few years ago, Ram Kala connected with the Ekikrit Bikash Manch (EBM) organization. EBM partners with the United Mission to Nepal, which is supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Through EBM's food security program Ram Kala received training in home garden management, financial literacy, climate change adaptation and more. Eventually she was selected to receive four goats and goat-keeping training.

Ram Kala's goats, along with the vegetables from her home garden, have increased her income and helped her create a stable future for her children. She has been able to pay for their schooling and support her daughter's work toward a bachelor's degree. Ram Kala now has six goats and plans to continue increasing her herd. Any season you can share more hope and new life through ELCA Good Gifts. Your gift of a goat (or two or three) will help people such as Ram Kala care for their families and build stronger communities around the world.

# June & July Birthdays

Dylan Bendt	6/1	Mary Reder	6/15	Lois Goodman	7/8
Ryan Williams	6/2	Bernie Mann	6/16	Mark Huffington	7/9
Thor Johnson	6/3	Chris Hjelmstad	6/17	Kim Huffington	7/13
June Ver Sluys	6/5	Carol Reppert	6/24	Ted Weskamp	7/18
Kaitlin Romano	6/8	Daryl Robinson	6/25	Sheila Foley	7/24
Jane Schuh	6/11	Sharon Knotek	7/1	Brad Putzer	7/28
Cindy Stumph	6/12	Aurice Worley	7/5	Linda Stanley	7/28
Cassie Norden	6/13	Grant Halter	7/6	Daniel Salyer	7/29
		Lori Varner	7/7	Charlene Coulson	7/31



We wish continued blessings for the Corkill family as they relocate



Each part of the Rocky Mountain Synod has at least one Veterans Home. The Veteran Servant Corps Project (VSCP), a ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod, is currently offering regular worship services at three of these homes. VSCP pays **\$200** plus expenses to ordained clergy for each of these services.



Veteran Servant Corps Project is a **self-funded** ministry of the RMS. As such, a minimum of **\$600 in monthly donations** is needed to enable VSCP to continue offering these worship services.

**Please prayerfully consider donating.** This is a marvelous opportunity to honor a Military Member

and/or Veteran in your life as Memorial Day 2023 approaches.

At [rmselfca.org/veteran\\_servant\\_corps](https://rmselfca.org/veteran_servant_corps), look for the button pictured below.

**MAKE A DONATION TO THE VSCP**

Once this button is selected, find Veteran's Service Corps on the drop-down, and proceed with the donation.

If you would prefer to send a check, please send it to the Rocky Mountain Synod, (7375 Samuel Drive, Denver, CO 80221), noting that the donation is for the Veteran Servant Corps Project. **Thank you.**

# NEWS & NOTES

## Crafting for Christ

The Crafting for Christ Ladies have once again started a craft sale— with a twist. It is a “Year Round Mini Craft Sale” and is currently posted on the wall beside the Free Table. Look for the red display in the corner with items hanging on hooks.

Various items will be available for purchase all year long and will be changed out as they sell or just keeping things interesting. We have been working diligently to come up with ideas for items to sell so something is bound to be displayed that will catch your eye or your fancy.

Come by frequently and take a look. An Honor Bucket is available for ease in paying. Cash / checks will be accepted but please make any checks out to SOTH. Funds raised will go towards Church Expenses.

## Meals on Wheels

Please join SOTH every other Monday morning to package food for Meals on Wheels. Meet us in the St. Thomas More kitchen at 9:00 am and we will be done by 10:30. We will meet June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24th.

## Shepherd of the Hills Men’s Fellowship and Bible Study Group

The meeting is open to all men of faith, meeting every Saturday starting at 8AM, and finishing up at 9. Some stay later to continue the discussion, but those with a busy schedule know that at they are free to head out at 9...The cooking and meeting leadership is shared on a voluntary basis, with contributions collected to make the group fully self-supporting. We check our politics and controversy at the door, welcoming all brothers to grow in Christ and in fellowship with their brothers. With any questions, please contact Ian Forbes at [iansteri@aol.com](mailto:iansteri@aol.com).

## A Thrivent Tradition Continues

For nearly three decades, Thrivent has created unique calendars by—and for—their membership. Thrivent clients and friends submit the featured photos in response to social media posts and articles in *Thrivent Magazine*. *Thrivent* is looking for your original photos or artwork that reflect the theme of the 2024 calendar: **Perspective.**

**Submit your entry by June 30, 2023.** Be sure to include a description of what’s in the photo and how it represents your perspective. If *Thrivent* chooses your entry for the calendar, your description could appear with it on a page. All entries must be original artwork or photography and submitted electronically using the online Entry Submission Form at <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/calendar>. Entries will be reviewed and selected by the end of August.

# NEWS & NOTES

## Thank God For Our Families

[Jesus was dying on the cross.] When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." -John 19:26-27

Last month we celebrated mothers and mother figures, and then in June we celebrate our fathers and father figures. What a wonderful opportunity to honor the strong bond between parents and children. How strong? The first use of the word "love" in the Bible,

Genesis 22:2, describes the connection between Abraham and his son, Isaac.

Family is a cherished gift from God that we are entrusted to treasure, love and nourish.

As parents, we are responsible for raising children to become healthy adults. And as children, we are responsible for caring for our aging parents.

As Jesus indicates in the passage above, there need not be a blood connection for a parent-child relationship. In Matthew 12:46-50, Jesus redefines family, saying that all who love and follow him are mothers, brothers, sisters, fathers. So, all of us are parent, child and sibling to one another. Now THAT'S some family!

As we honor the mother and father figures this spring, we can also challenge ourselves to be better stewards of the family bonds God has given us. We can explore how we can support families in our personal circles, our congregation and community – especially families that are troubled by great need, crises or dysfunction. God ordained families to be the fundamental unit of human life. We can be good stewards of family relationships by caring for one another and helping everyone to grow into the faith family God intends.

--Rob Blezard

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**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to the offerings made at the Wednesday night Lenten suppers and Wednesday night Lenten services. SOTH's focus during Lent is always on hunger. A total of \$342 was donated and sent to the ELCA for the World Hunger Appeal. Also, our "Get Your Can to Church" project during the Lenten season brought in a total of 168 pounds of food for Loaves & Fishes. A very generous anonymous donor of SOTH also donated \$200 to enable Loaves & Fishes to purchase even more food!!!

# Kids and the Bible: Drawing Children into the Christian Story

*Having kids connect the words of the Bible with images not only evokes their curiosity and imagination, but also calls forth their creativity and gifts.*



Terri L. Elton, Associate Professor and Director of Children, Youth and Family at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

As a kid my grandparents repeatedly told (and retold) the story of our heritage, of our Scandinavian ancestors and their roots. Over the years grandma and grandpa made the stories come alive with various traditions and practices. Now years after my grandparents have died, I can truly appreciate their **commitment to connect me and my story to our family's larger story.**

**As I think about accompanying kids in their journey of faith, my motivation is similar to my grandparents'.** I want children to know who and Whose they are. And I long for children to see that their story is connected to a larger story. For this to happen it is critical to draw kids into the Bible.

How do we (as adults, parents, pastors, or ministry leaders) draw children into this Christian story?

This question is especially pressing in our religiously pluralistic and digitally mediated culture. Here are three points to start with:

Curiosity is a powerful motivator, and something natural for kids. Yet, ministry with children most often focuses on teaching the biblical story, rather than evoking curiosity about the biblical story. In **an age overloaded with information, where the paradigm for learning has shifted and the teacher's** role changed, we have an opportunity to rethink how to connect kids with the Bible. Might we draw young people into the Christian story by evoking curiosity?

Tip #1: One simple, but transformational practice ministry leaders can adopt as they share biblical stories is to ask more questions — questions which are open and invite children to engage their imagination. Such questions are not focused on facts or information, but on connecting them with the story. Such questions might include:

What was your favorite part of the story?

What would you have done if you were in this story?

Where do you think this story took place?

How do you think this person felt? Why? Have you ever felt that way?

What did this story remind you of? Why? Have you had a similar experience?

Who else might want to hear this story? Why? Questions open up conversations and provide insights into what aspects of the Christian story are of interest to the child. Listening to their responses gives clues to places of further exploration.

Images, more than words, **are the primary medium of communication in today's culture.** Images capture attention, hold complex ideas, help us remember and invite new ways of thinking, Scripture is filled with images — images which come alive through story, songs and visions. How might we tap into this communication medium as we draw kids into Scripture and open up their curiosity? Might we help young people explore biblical images in ways meaningful for them? Having kids connect the words of the Bible with images not only evokes their curiosity and imagination, but also calls forth their creativity and gifts.

Tip #2: One idea for incorporating images into the life of a congregation is to create an art gallery. Kids, **families, teenagers, and senior adults can create “images” which bring the biblical story to life.** Using various media — photographs, watercolors, sculptors, songs and poems — the gallery could connect with the worship message or season of the church year. And this public display of images could be an opportunity for sparking conversations around biblical stories and how they are meaningful to various people.

Grounding our story in a larger story is more important today than it has been for past generations. In a society where mobility and innovation are valued, and so much of life is disposable, it is easy for our stories to become detached and our meaning called into question. Our worth as human beings is not disposable, not based on the latest fad or on any achievement. This message is counter to the prevailing culture and children need to hear about this counter narrative. All of us have a story we find ourselves in. How do we help kids, and their families, share their stories as they also connect them with **God's larger story?**

Tip #3: Digital tools are now readily available, and digital storytelling has become one way people are telling important stories. Digital storytelling requires bringing images, sounds and words together to tell a story in a meaningful way. Inviting kids of all ages to tell biblical stories through digital storytelling pushes them to interpret the story for themselves, look for meaning within the story, and then share it with others. For more on digital storytelling see:

<https://storycenter.org>

<https://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/page.cfm?id=27&cid=27>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKZiXR5qUIQ>

Conclusion: **Recently I traveled to my grandparent's homeland and I was amazed at how deeply I understood the story of my ancestors.** The minute I got off the plane, I knew it. These were my people. Throughout the week I noticed practices our family shared with these families and I heard stories that were similar to my own.

**As I returned home my appreciation for my grandparents' storytelling grew and I was awakened to how our family's larger story had both given me roots and opened me up to new ideas about faith and life.**

**Children need roots and wings. They always have and always will. And while that commitment doesn't change,** the ways we foster it does. As you commit yourself to connecting kids to the Bible, be open to experiment, imagine, listen, and learn. And as you do, enjoy the ride.

# June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
					9 AM Peace In	8 AM Men's Break-
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	9 AM Peace In Motion	1 PM Majong			9 AM Peace In Motion	8 AM Men's Break- fast
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Noisy Offering	9 AM Peace In Motion 9 AM Meals On Wheels	1 PM Majong 6 PM Council Meet- ing	Flag Day  1 PM Crafting for Christ 2 PM Book Club	1 PM Book Club	9 AM Peace In Motion	8 AM Men's Break- fast
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day	9 AM Peace In		Summer Begins		9 AM Peace In	8 AM Men's Break-
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	9 AM Peace In Motion  9 AM Meals On Wheels	1 PM Majong	1 PM Crafting for Christ		9 AM Peace In Motion	

# July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
						8 AM Men's Breakfast
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9 AM Peace In Motion	Independence Day Office Closed 1 PM Majong			9 AM Peace In Motion	8 AM Men's Breakfast
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Noisy Offering	9 AM Peace In Motion 9 AM Meals On Wheels	1 PM Majong	2 PM Book Club	1 PM Book Club	9 AM Peace In Motion	8 AM Men's Breakfast
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	9 AM Peace In Motion	1 PM Majong			9 AM Peace In Motion	8 AM Men's Breakfast
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	9 AM Peace In Motion 9 AM Meals On Wheels	1 PM Majong			9 AM Peace In Motion	8 AM Men's Breakfast
30	31					
Joint Worship @ Christ Episcopal	9 AM Peace In Motion					

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
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The Voice is published bi-monthly to keep you connected to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Newsletter announcements can be submitted to [sothnewslettersubmission@gmail.com](mailto:sothnewslettersubmission@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month.

If you no longer wish to receive the church newsletter, please inform the church office at 719-275-6797 or [sothoffices@gmail.com](mailto:sothoffices@gmail.com)

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