



# Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America

2903 State Hwy. 155, Sayner, WI 54560 715-542-3701

Website: [www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org](http://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org)

## MINISTERS: THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

LLM: William Wendorf 715-617-6477

Council President: Sharon Geist 715-892-7486

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## WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Please let us know if we can serve you in any way. Everyone is welcome to Holy Communion at Shepherd of the Lakes. Come forward as ushers direct, receive the wafer in your hand and move to the wine which is served in individual portions. We offer grape juice as an alternative to wine. Gluten-free wafers are also available at your request from communion servers when you partake.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

## Recorded Services:

All Saturday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on YouTube, usually by 9 AM Sunday morning. Go to the Church website at [shepherdofthelakeschurch.org](http://shepherdofthelakeschurch.org) and look for the  symbol. Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

Giving Report July 10, 2020		Attendance
Thrivent Choice Dollars	113	00
Total	113	00

Giving Report July 12, 2020		Attendance
General	2,095	00
Food Pantry	5	00
Frederick House	10	00
ALWM (Vital Links)	20	00
Weekend Backpack Program	125	00
WELCA	23	00
Building Fund	10	00
Reimbursement for Portico Damage 2019	1,850	00
Total	4,138	00

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 6 PM

## Worship services:

**Saturday at 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday at 9:00 a.m.**

**Outdoor Services: Sunday 9:00 (Weather Permitting)**

July 26, 2020

August 16, 2020

August 30, 2020

**Children's bulletins** are available in the narthex. These have been designed to assist children in worship. Each page is based on the Gospel lesson.

# PRAYER REQUESTS



*(Please note: "Current issue" listings remain in the bulletin for three weeks and then are removed unless instructions are received to move that listing to the "ongoing health issues" list.)*

## **Pray for those dealing with current issues:**

**Continue to pray** for those in the world affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for our world leaders, church leaders, and Shepherd of the Lakes leaders so that they may help to meet the needs of those they serve as we move forward in these everchanging times.

**Pray for those with ongoing health issues:** Ray Burlingame-Goff, Carolyn, Carson Petersohn, Scott Stephens, John Dyke, Adrienne, and Jerry Kehl.

**Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:** Jeff Hammer, Brian Kriek, Adam & Brittany Reecob, Brooks Maines, Will Schmidt, Sgt. Keara Kangas, Alex Bauer, Jared Mann, Noah Storasli, and Zachary Raatz.

**Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:** Ramona Schaeffel, Mel & Barb Harvey, Elisabeth Jacobsen, and Elsie Turner.

## **Pray for the family of:**

Bea Baccus who passed on last weekend.

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Please email Bill Wendorf at pastor@SOTLsayner.com or Jean Maines at secretary@SOTLsayner.com if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list. Prayer requests are sent out via email. Those who are enrolled and do not have email are called via the telephone.

If anyone is interested in being the contact person for the prayer chain, please contact Bill Wendorf or Sharon Geist.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8**

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

or **Wisdom 12:13, 16-19** [not printed]

**Psalm 86:11-17**

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25**

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the

**Impossible Purity**

Maybe you have bought or been offered bottled water recently. Did it say “purified” on it? Did you assume that meant the water was totally pure? What if you learned that bottled water, even purified, always has some contaminants in it? Would you still drink it? You probably did.

Jesus’ parable of the weeds among the wheat reminds us of our desire for purity. It is tempting on first reading the parable to immediately ask ourselves, *So, who is a weed and who is wheat?* We might wonder if the people we don’t like much are weeds. We might also be anxious to know whether *we* are wheat, children of the kingdom. Sorting it all out now and purifying the field would make things simpler.

Except everything in the parable says we don’t get to sort things out! Surprisingly, Jesus lowers our sense of urgency to sort out good from bad in life. Jesus says it is better to live with ambiguity, better to accept impurity, than to try so hard to clean everything up now. Why? Because we risk great harm to others in trying to obtain a level of purity we can never have in this life.

The desire for purity, especially among religious persons, can be strong. For some, this means getting rid of people who fail to live up to certain moral standards. For others, it means judging people based on who we label them to be. But total purity never exists in nature, nor in humanity as a whole, nor in any single person.

Rather than worrying about whom to get rid of, with Jesus’ help we trust that we are children of the kingdom by God’s grace. We are included. When we know we are included and loved, we don’t need to worry about another’s status. That’s for God to worry about. We are free to love others and ourselves, and to let God sort out the rest.

*Gospel continued*

weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

**Next Sunday’s Readings:** 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

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