

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

MINSTERS: **THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**
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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.

*The kingdom
of heaven is
like yeast*

MATTHEW 13:33



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.)

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6 PM

Worship services:

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Outdoor Services: Sunday 9:00 (Weather Permitting)

Don't forget your lawn chairs!

- 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.

Congregational Meeting:

Sunday August 16, 2020 after service at 10:30 am

Only item on the agenda is the approval of the plans and costs of the building addition of a closed entryway on the south end of the building by the kitchen.

Recorded Services: All Saturday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube, usually by 9 AM Sunday morning. Go to the Church website at shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

and look for the  symbol. Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

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 Doug Tarkowski.

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

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:

Ramona Schaeffel, Mel & Barb Harvey, Elisabeth Jacobsen, and Elsie Turner.

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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: 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today." ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalms 119:129-136**SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

continued

As we make our way through Matthew's gospel, we often hear Jesus say, "The kingdom of heaven is like . . ." He uses everyday items and experiences to give us a glimpse of God's realm. Today as you stand for the reading of the gospel, God will use the voice of someone you know (your pastor, perhaps) to proclaim some comparisons Jesus made to the kingdom of heaven: a mustard seed, yeast, a merchant in search of fine pearls.

Our Lord says the kingdom of heaven is like things we already know and understand. It's like someone giving a wedding banquet (Matt. 22:2), a fishing net (Matt. 13:47), a gardener sowing seeds (Matt. 13:3). Instead of saying the kingdom is divine and far beyond our understanding, Jesus offers stories of ordinary things, pointing to how God's will is revealed in them.

Look around your worship space before the service. Whom or what has God brought you today that is like the kingdom of heaven? Is a retired man teaching a middle-schooler how to carry the top-heavy cross down the aisle? Are there people who use walkers alongside young ones who skip everywhere they go? Perhaps a newly widowed woman has new seatmates who don't want her sitting alone. Did someone bring a gluten-free dish to the potluck even though he is not gluten-sensitive?

Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to ordinary things because we live most often in ordinary moments and spaces. Again and again, he invites us to find the divine in the day-to-day, to glimpse the eternal in the temporal, and to recognize God's image in a stranger's face.

As worship begins, let yourself notice the altogether ordinary things God is using to reveal the kingdom in this place: human voices, handshakes and hugs, music, musicians, books, water, wine, bread. In the coming week, what might God use to reveal the kingdom in your home, your workplace, your school, or other spaces you inhabit?

Gospel, continued

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21.

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