

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

9770 Keilman St.
St. John, IN 46373
(219) 365-3803
hslc@sbcglobal.net
www.holy-shepherd.org



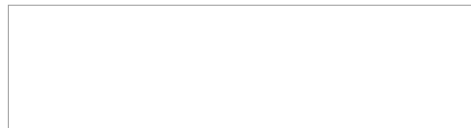
Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we
share God's love with all creation.

Weekly Communion Services:
Saturday 5pm, Contemporary
Sunday 8:30am, Traditional
Sunday 10:00am, Contemporary

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. John, IN
Permit No. 12

August 2026

To the family of:



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: AUGUST 19TH. EMAIL: HSLCLAURA@GMAIL.COM

IT'S TIME TO
smile!

The HSLC Photo Directory is Back -- Sign up today!

We're thrilled to announce that our long-awaited HSLC Photo Directory is finally being updated!

We want EVERYONE to be included. As a thank-you for participating, each individual or family who has their portrait taken will receive a FREE 8x10 photo and a copy of the directory.

With Christmas on the horizon, this is also a great chance to check something off your holiday to-do list. Purchase updated family portraits for gifts or your Christmas cards. Since sessions are in August, you'll have plenty of time before the holidays arrive.

Photography Dates & Times:

- Thursday, August 13, 2:00pm - 9:00pm
- Friday, August 14, 2:00pm - 9:00pm
- Saturday, August 15, 10:00am - 4:00pm

How to Sign Up:

 To prevent double-booking, choose only one option:

- * **Online** (Mon-Fri only): Visit www.ucdir.com or use the QR code:
Church Code: IN2075 - Password: 2075church
- * **In Person** (Sat & Sun only): Paper sign-up sheets will be available during worship services.



Please Note: Directories will only be distributed to those who participate. If you can't make any of the photography dates, you can still be included by submitting your own photo, just contact Kimm Maznaritz to coordinate.

Volunteers Needed! We need friendly faces to help host and keep things running smoothly during the photo sessions. Sign up at the Opportunity Table in the narthex for any of the photography days and times above.

Questions or Need Help? Contact Kimm Maznaritz at 219-789-4484 or kimmaz2@gmail.com



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2026 VBS in Pictures

The forty HSLC Vacation Bible School participants this year had a great time! The theme, Junkyard Redemption: God's Plan to Remake a Broken World, allowed us to teach the children about the hope we have in a God who restores, renews, and continues working through us. With all the smiling faces, we know God's presence is shining through!



Lake Etta County Park Ecumenical Service & Picnic



There will be no 10am service at Holy Shepherd on Sunday, August 16th, in order to join other Lake County Lutheran congregations at 10:30am to worship together at Lake Etta County Park, 4801 W 29th Ave, Gary. We will meet in the Large Group Pavilion. Bring folding chairs, hats, sunglasses, and whatever

else you need for your comfort. After the service, we will enjoy a bbq picnic lunch. We're asked to provide side dishes to share. Please sign up in the narthex to let us know you'll be there and what you'll be bringing. This will help with planning to make sure there is enough food for everyone. See you there!



August 2026

BACK TO SCHOOL
and the GOLDEN RULE



MISSION STATEMENT

To fulfill our mission as Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, we:

Trust in God for guidance and support,

Thank God in word and deed,

Teach the good news of Jesus, and

Tend those inside and outside the flock,

Because the Holy Spirit:

Ties us closer to God and to one another, and

Transforms us into devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

FROM THE PASTOR

Some Behind the Scenes Happenings

We’ve finally reached the part of the summer where it seems like things slow down a bit. We’re in between the flurry of activities, both at church and at home, that filled June and sending kids back to school in mid-August with all the busyness that comes with school. However, that means this is the time when more things are going on behind the scenes.

This is the time of year when planning and preparation for what’s coming in the fall is in high gear. For me, this means a lot of research and writing for the Wednesday adult education topics for the coming year. It means preparing and refining confirmation lessons that students will be using soon. It means looking toward events for the fall, with my eye particularly on our Year of Spiritual Growth events and Off Site Service opportunities between now and the end of the year.

But I wanted to lift up two other behind the scenes happenings that are a little more unique to 2026. The first is my appointment to the Indiana Kentucky Synod’s Candidacy Committee. When people want to become pastors or deacons in the ELCA, they are required to complete the candidacy process, a way of helping to assess if leadership in the church is the right fit for people and helping guide people as they pursue their education and training. In many places, the process is largely the same as when I went through it starting twenty years ago. However, the Indiana Kentucky Synod is one of a handful of synods (regional groups of congregations) that are testing a new process. I, for one, am all in favor of a renewed, revised way to help guide people into leadership in the church. I will be working with other

pastors and lay leaders from across Indiana and Kentucky to work on implementing the new process. The hope is that the new approach will be more competency-oriented and feel less like a series of gates to pass through. This is a way for me to serve the wider church, to help bring up new leaders and to continue to reflect on my own ministry. I hope it helps me grow as your pastor.

I’ve also begun a preaching mentoring program through Crossings, an organization that focuses on lifting up the Lutheran understanding of preaching law and gospel. This approach calls on people of faith to let the law



- any teaching about what is and is not pleasing to God - do its work by showing us the ways we come up short. It aims to help us understand that grace is for us because we truly need it. The gospel, then, is the response to the law, the promise that on the cross, Jesus

has brought us back into God’s good graces. This good news is the foundation of how we grow in faith and live lives that honor God. So far, this mentoring program has helped me pause and think a little more deeply about how I prepare my sermons, and some of the ways I try to connect what’s going on in scripture to what’s going on in our lives. My hope is that this will help me continue to grow into a better preacher.

As we prepare for school and for many of our activities as a congregation to pick up steam again heading into the fall, I’m grateful for this time to work behind the scenes. I hope and trust that the Holy Spirit is at work preparing the way for faithful ministry together going forward.

In Christ,
Pastor Eric



August Financials

Income	Jun-26	YTD
Operating fund	\$ 23,454.45	\$206,531.72
Capital Improvement	\$ 3,290.45	\$ 35,482.27
Expenses	Jun-26	Expenses YTD
Operating Fund	\$ 34,645.14	\$226,545.81
Capital Improvement	\$ 46,494.58	\$ 55,994.58
Restricted Funds Income	Jun-26	6/30/2026
Altar Flowers Gifts	\$ -	\$ 857.53
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 3,290.45	\$ 56,592.69
Coin Folders	\$ -	\$ 342.25
Community Garden	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,196.69
Fees, Hall Rental, other	\$ 214.00	\$ 2,445.00
Kitchen Supplies		\$ 78.02
Lutheran Disaster relief	\$ 90.25	\$ 140.75
Memorial	\$ -	\$ 1,075.00
Nat. Youth Gathering	\$ 150.00	\$ 12,890.00
Nipsco Gift of Energy	\$ -	\$ 277.30
Offsite Service Team	\$ 270.00	\$ 6,330.48
Prime Timers	\$ -	\$ 755.42
Seasonal	\$ -	\$ 2,769.10
Shepherd's Suppers	\$ 83.00	\$ 4,108.58
Staff Gift Collection	\$ -	\$ 350.02
Sunday School	\$ 45.85	\$ 371.49
VBS	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,238.62
Women's Service Group	\$ -	\$ 9,148.14
Youth Fellowship	\$ 25.25	\$ 2,577.63
Benevolence Expenses	Jun-26	Balances
Mission of the Month	\$ 1,852.25	\$ 1,706.23
Major Mission	\$ 546.40	\$ 2,361.85
ELCA Synod Benevolence	\$ 2,345.54	\$ 8,824.29

Capital Improvement expense, downpayment on roof materials to avoid price increase.



Last chance! The HSLC member directories will be updated soon. Have there been any changes to your name, address, phone number, or email? Just call or email Laura in the office to make sure we have your most current contact information! 219-365-3803 or hslclaura@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates:

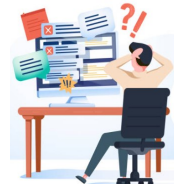
Aug 2, 8:30am: Summer Choir sings
Aug 8 & 9, all services, Backpack Blessing
Aug 9, 11am: Broadway Music & BBQ
Aug 9, 4pm: Shepherd’s Supper
Aug 13, 14, 15: Photo sessions for directory
Aug 16, **no 10am service** (see below)
Aug 16, 10:30am: Please attend Lake Etta County Park ecumenical service & picnic!
Sept 6: 10am, outdoor service
Sept 7: Labor Day, church closed
Sept 9: Growing with Music: Gospel Music
Sept 13, 11am: Rally Day

Sept 14 & 16: Choirs begin rehearsal
Sept 19, 8am: Rebuilding Together, South Lake County volunteer event
Sept 20, Sunday School resumes
Sept 20, 11am, Sacred Places & Spaces, SJE St John Log Cabin & Chapel
Sept 21-25: Set up Rummage Sale
Sept 26: 8am-2pm, Rummage Sale!
Sept 27: Tear down Rummage Sale
Sept 28: 5pm, Praying with Scripture: Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
Oct 10: Pack Away Hunger, CPHS
Oct 11: Shepherd’s Supper

Oct 14: Growing with Music: Hymns of Martin Luther, part 2
Oct 18: 11am, Sacred Places & Spaces: Shrine of Christ’s Passion, St John
Oct 23: Red Cross Blood Drive
Oct 25, 11am: Fall Fest Trunk or Treat
Oct 31: Reverse Trick or Treat (canned goods)
Nov 1: All Saints Day
Nov 1: Angel Tree tags begin
Nov 1: Poinsettia orders begin
Nov 26 & 27: Thanksgiving, church closed
Nov 29: Advent starts!
Dec 5: Secret Pals Luncheon

MISSION of the MONTH

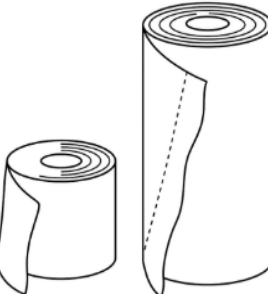
FOR AUGUST



This month we will help a senior citizen in Dyer. She has been in and out of the hospital with serious health issues that have made it impossible for her to continue working. She now lives with her adult daughter and grandchild, doing her best to get by while she navigates the long, slow, frustrating process of applying for Social Security disability benefits. St. John Township has been assisting her with the application process, as well as providing food pantry items and keeping her utilities from being shut off. However, the wait for disability benefits approval can stretch on for months with, and until then, a little extra support can make all the difference between getting by and falling behind. Please consider supporting him this month and indicate "Mission of the Month" on the pew envelope or in your electronic giving, and thank you!



St Jude House in Crown Point, a family violence center and shelter, needs paper towels and toilet paper. Let's stock their shelves and help their clients! Bring paper towels and TP to the narthex and place them under the Opportunity Table.



Two August Collections! HSLC Rummage Sale, and Paper Goods for St Jude House



Rummage Sale We need all types of clean, gently used, saleable items. Proceeds will benefit our HSLC 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering participants. Please call the office first before bringing items to the Fellowship Hall, 219-365-3803, so we can make sure the doors are open for you. Have a question about an item? Call first before lugging it here!

(Before donating, please ask yourself: Is it damaged, stained, or dirty? Does it smell? Is it dangerous? If any answer is yes, please don't donate it. Our volunteers thank you in advance!)

Clothing - all types & sizes, baby to adult. Purses, bags, backpacks; Halloween costumes; costume jewelry; ties, scarves; sunglasses; coats, jackets, snow pants, barely worn shoes. **Toys**: dolls & action figures; Lego & Duplo sets bulk; Fisher Price toys; bikes, scooters, skateboards, roller skates/blades; complete board games & puzzles; video game systems, games, controllers; comic books, sport cards, Pokemon, etc.; children's books; arts and craft supplies, coloring books. **Household**: dishes; glassware; pots & pans; decorative items & art; holiday décor; small kitchen appliances, garden décor, garden tools; vacuum cleaners; vintage items and antiques; books, books on tape/cd; crafts; picture frames; musical instruments, cases, accessories. **Small furniture**: end tables, nightstands, chairs, stools, gliders, etc. **Electronics**: DVD players, dvds, VCRs, videos, record players, records, cassettes, boom boxes, cds, speakers. **Sporting goods/outdoor items**: baseball bats, gloves, sport balls, tennis, hockey, sports equipment, golf, etc. **Fishing gear, camping gear**. **Tools**: power tools, garage workbench stuff, shovels, rakes, pruners, etc; home renovation supplies or extras; weights, exercise equipment. **PLEASE NO**: Large appliances; anything gas-powered; computers, laptops, tvs, monitors, computers; baby cribs; car seats; guns or knives.

July - September Major Mission Emphasis:



Life. Changing. Nutrition.



Pack Away Hunger is a non-profit organization working to eliminate hunger in Indiana and around the world by providing free, nutritious food, hunger education & service opportunities.

Donate using a "Major Mission Emphasis" pew envelope, or our Vanco QR code:



COUNCIL



Staying Connected through Prayer and Care

As we move through the seasons of life together, Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church remains a place where every person, at every age and every stage, belongs. In moments of joy, challenge, or uncertainty, please remember that you never have to walk alone. Pastor Eric and members of our numerous support groups and ministries are here to listen, pray with you, and support you in whatever way you need. Reaching out is not a sign of weakness but a beautiful expression of faith in community. If you ever feel overwhelmed, isolated, or simply in need of conversation, we encourage you to connect with Pastor and the members of our many support ministries. We are here for you!

Your prayer and care requests matter deeply to us. If you or someone you know needs prayer or personal support, we encourage you to use any of the following ways to reach out:

Prayer Cards: Fill out a prayer card during worship and place it in the offering plate.

Connect!

Our HSLC Office:

Office Administrator: Laura Aharrah
Email: hslc@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 219-365-3803

Pastoral Care:

Pastor: Pastor Eric Schlichting
Email: hslcpastor@gmail.com
Phone: 219-365-3803

Church Council:

President: Mike Lisac
Email: lisacmike7@gmail.com

Whether your need is urgent, or simply weighing on your heart, please reach out. We want to walk alongside you with compassion and care.

The Role of Church Council Members

Our HSLC council members continue to serve faithfully behind the scenes, offering guidance, prayerful leadership, and helping steward the ministries that shape our church's mission. We humbly represent the members of Holy Shepherd, and strive to be approachable, thoughtful servants of God in our congregation and our community. Council member names and photos are located in the church narthex. Please feel free to approach us in person, at worship, or reach out to us by phone or email with your ideas, questions, or needs. Our contact information is available in the HSLC member directory. If you prefer to send an email to the church office with council-related items, HSLC staff can share your messages with council members.

Your Gifts of Time and Generosity

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 Simply stated, THANK YOU! God has blessed Holy Shepherd in so many ways! We are reminded often that giving is not defined by age or ability--everyone has something valuable to share. Whether you're able to contribute time, skills, prayer, or financial support, each act of generosity strengthens our ministry and helps us reach those in need.

An Invitation to Gather In Person

Whenever you feel comfortable and are able, we warmly invite you to join us for worship and church activities in person. There is something special about being together, hearing voices lifted in praise, sharing fellowship, and feeling the closeness of a faith community. Your presence enriches our gatherings, and we look forward to seeing you.

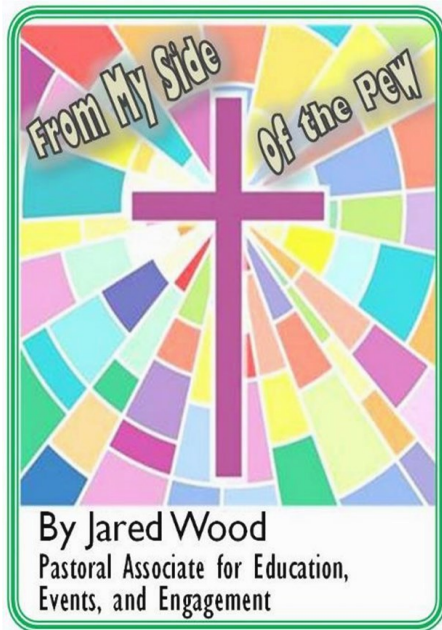
Do you need a ride to church or events? Are you able to drive others?

If transportation is a challenge, please let us know. We want to help make worship and activities accessible for everyone. If you're able to offer a ride, even occasionally, your willingness can make a meaningful difference for others who wish to attend but may not have a way to get there. Let the church office, council members, or Pastor Eric know, and we will work together to connect riders and drivers in our congregation.

May God lead our steps, encourage our hearts, and bring us together as we care for one another and live out our faithful commitment to Holy Shepherd and the wider world we are called to serve.

Kristin Wood, HSLC Council Member at Large





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I look back on this year's Vacation Bible School, I am filled with gratitude for everyone who helped make it such a meaningful and enjoyable week. Our theme, Junkyard Redemption: God's Master Plan to Re-make a Broken World, gave us an opportunity to teach the children about the hope we have in

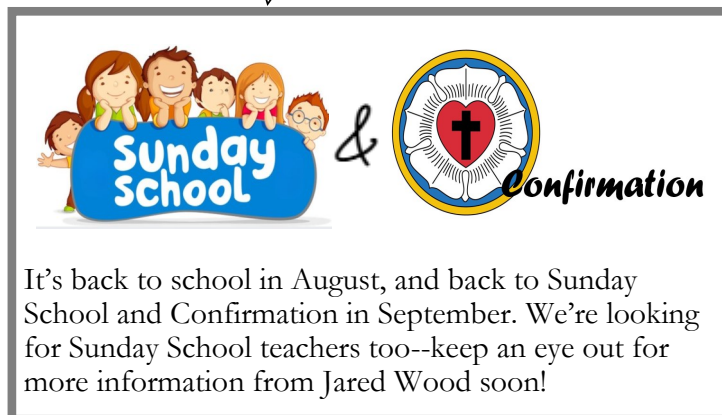
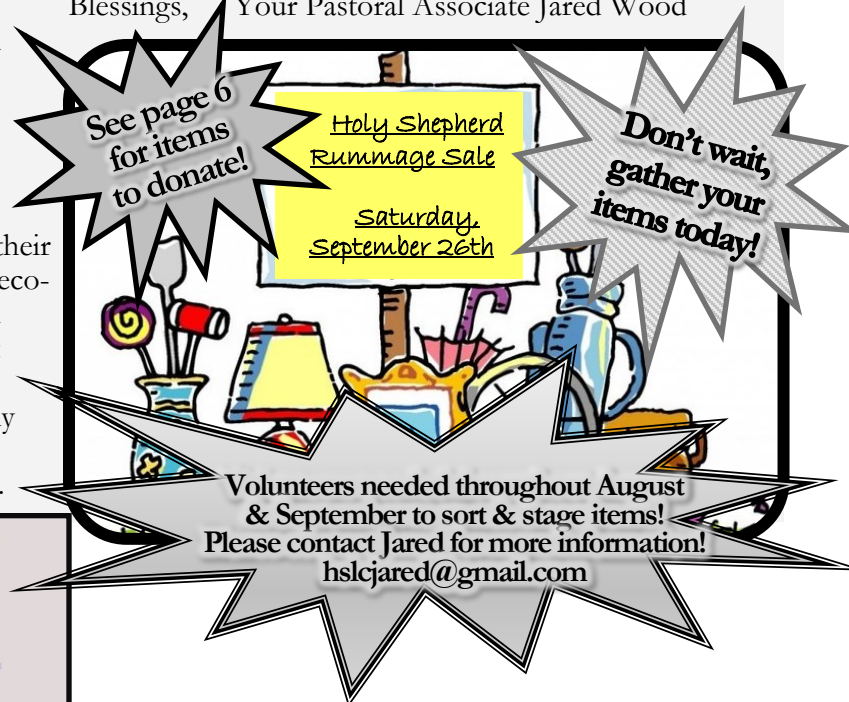
I also want to thank all of the parents and guardians who trusted us with their children. We do not take that responsibility lightly. Thank you for making VBS a priority, bringing your children each evening, and allowing us to be part of their faith formation. Your support means more than you may realize.

To all of the children who attended, thank you for being such wonderful students. You listened, participated, treated one another with kindness, and brought so much life into our church. It was a blessing to learn, worship, laugh, and celebrate with each of you.

My prayer is that our children's and youth ministries will continue to grow and reach more families within our congregation and throughout our community. VBS is only one week, but the relationships built and the seeds of faith planted during that week can continue growing long afterward.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make Junkyard Redemption such a successful and memorable experience. It is truly an honor to serve alongside you.

Blessings, Your Pastoral Associate Jared Wood



MUSIC NOTES

By Will Akins, Director of Arts and Worship

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Wow, that was fast! Summer is almost over and another program year is quickly approaching, and I am looking forward to all the things we are going to accomplish.

This year our music ministry theme "We've Come this Far by Faith: Singing, Praising, and Making a Joyful Noise to the Lord."

I am focusing on the church body as a collective, and how our family shares the love for not only the mass and body of Christ, but the world as a whole. With music planned that showcases generational praise and worship practices, I am programming music that will inspire happiness and sadness, joy and tears. I look forward to introducing the congregation to new ideas of music and arrangements of their favorite tunes.

If you are curious, returning, or convinced to be in the choir, I invite everyone to join us for our first rehearsal and social on Wednesday, September 16th at 6pm, with the social at 7:30pm.

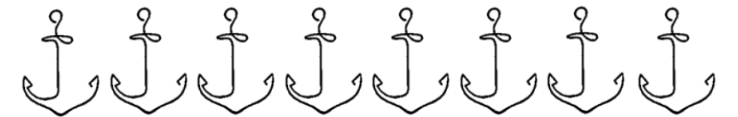
I invite you to try choir this year. It's a great way to bond with your church family, a great activity to do with your own personal family, or just one of the healthiest ways to blow off stress. You are always welcome to join anytime of year.

I am looking forward to this next program year with a bubbling excitement!

Also join us for monthly Growing with Music sessions that will also start up in September. They will be held every second Wednesday at 5pm, and cover different music topics related to religious music.

Yours in spirit, Will Akins

Song of the Month: My Soul has been Anchored in the Lord by: Douglas Miller



Holy Shepherd Choirs are forming now, and will begin rehearsals in mid-September. Sign up for our Adult Bell Choir, Children's Chimes, Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Women's Choir, and Men's Choir. Come and check out the first rehearsal and social on Sept 16th. Contact Will Akins if you have any questions. hslcwill@gmail.com

You Can Go, But Be Back Soon!

Summer travel is no reason to miss out! Tune into worship via our live stream at www.holy-shepherd.com, or set up online/automatic giving so your offerings continue while you're away. Scan the QR code to access Vanco, or simply catch up when you return. Thank you for your faithfulness!

