

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

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



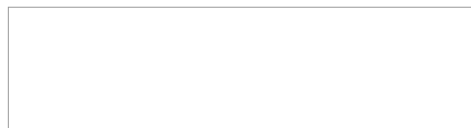
Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we
share God's love with all creation.

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

July 2026

To the family of:



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Detroit Mission Trip 2026: Tiny House Restoration

This year, eleven HSLC members traveled to Detroit to rehab homes. From June 17-20, our team tackled a wide variety of projects including drywall, plumbing, painting, and outdoor maintenance on two houses in Cass Community Social Service organization's "Tiny Homes Detroit" program.



After long days of hard work, participants unwound with fellowship at the St Paul of the Cross retreat center, and hearty meals at local restaurants. Many more photos will appear in the July Shepherd's Staff email newsletter, be sure to check them out too!



July 2026

*O Lord, our
Lord, how
majestic is
your name
in
all the
earth!
You have set
your glory
above the
heavens.*

Psalms 8:1

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.



In observance of
Independence Day, the church
will be closed on Friday, July 3rd.

Red Cross
Blood
Drive

HSLC Fellowship Hall
Friday, July 24th
noon - 5pm

Sign
up
here!



The need
for blood
doesn't take
a summer
break.



FROM THE PASTOR

Faith and the Fourth of July

Along with lots of other Americans, I'm hoping for a particularly festive Fourth of July as we mark 250 years of independence. As a Christian, a pastor and an American, I think from time to time about how God fits in with this celebration, and more broadly, what role God has in this grand experiment we as Americans are participating in - testing whether a nation can hold together through ideas about freedom and justice rather than a monarch or any other traditional notion of being one people.

Looking back 250 years, it's clear the people who had a hand in setting a course for the country believed in God and affirmed God's role as creator. The Declaration of Independence begins, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

So there's certainly a sense of God's guidance in this foundational document. Yet by the time the Constitution was written and ratified, the First Amendment included the line, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." So looking to the Constitution for guidance about where and how God fits in doesn't get us far. Of course, as Christians, the bible is our foundational document, and America does not come up in scripture.

That said, we are not left all on our own in looking for guidance about where and how God fits in with how we as people of faith live as Americans. For me, a key verse for thinking about how faith and the Fourth of July go together is found In Jeremiah. God tells his people, "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jeremiah 29:7). So certainly, we turn to God to ask for guidance and blessing for the country as we celebrate America's 250th anniversary. We are part of the body of Christ, and because Christ's body dwells in America, we pray for the country. We celebrate the times we live up to our ideals, and we repent for the times we fail to live up to our ideals, because in doing so we are seeking the welfare of this place and its people.

So as part of my celebration of Independence Day, I'm planning to offer a prayer of thanks to God for this nation where we are free to live together as the body of Christ. I'm planning to pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the body of Christ here in America to share the gospel in word and deed for the good of our neighbor and our nation. I'm planning to pray for guidance about how we as a nation can pursue peace and justice the ways the bible understands those words - with everyone having what they need to flourish and people standing on an equal footing because each and every one of us is made in the image of God. I'm planning to ask God to bless America, and to show us how we can share that blessing with one another and with the world God loves so much.

In Christ,
Pastor Eric





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 hsclclaura@gmail.com

July Financials

Income	May-26	YTD
Operating fund	\$ 31,336.00	\$ 183,077.00
Expenses	May-26	Expenses YTD
Operating Fund	\$ 33,879.00	\$ 191,900.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 250.00	\$ 9,500.00
Total	\$ 34,129.00	\$ 201,400.00
Restricted Funds Income	May-26	Balances 5-2026
Altar Flowers Gifts	\$ 238.00	\$ 1,081.93
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 6,209.00	\$ 99,796.00
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	\$ 25.25	\$ 50.50
Memorial	\$ -	\$ 1,075.00
Nat. Youth Gathering	\$ 85.25	\$ 12,740.00
Nipsco Gift of Energy	\$ -	\$ 277.30
Offsite Service Team	\$ 900.00	\$ 9,055.43
Prime Timers	\$ -	\$ 755.42
Shepherd's Suppers	\$ 25.00	\$ 4,628.62
Staff Gift Collection	\$ -	\$ 350.02
Sunday School	\$ 65.85	\$ 325.64
Seasonal	\$ 53.00	\$ 2,769.10
VBS	\$ (258.55)	\$ 1,365.85
Women's Service Group	\$ 25.25	\$ 9,148.14
Youth Fellowship	\$ 25.25	\$ 2,552.38
Benevolences	May-26	Balances
Mission of the Month	\$ 2,017.35	\$ 5,021.12
Major Mission	\$ 465.55	\$ 1,815.45
ELCA Synod Benevolence	\$ 3,133.65	\$ 6,478.75



SACRED PLACES & SPACES

NWI ISLAMIC CENTER TOUR

SUNDAY, JULY 19TH, 11AM

9803 S. COLORADO, CROWN POINT



Sign up and let others know if you need a ride or can give a ride.

Lake Etta County Park Ecumenical Service & Picnic



Sunday, August 16th, 10:30am

MISSION of the MONTH

FOR JULY

Our Mission of the Month turns toward a neighbor close to home: an elderly St. John resident living alone, without family nearby to call on. Health challenges keep him homebound, and he gets by solely on Social Security. St. John Township has been working alongside NIPSCO to keep his utilities on, but he would so grateful for our extra help. Let us be the hands and heart of Christ for someone who has no one else to turn to. Our gift can mean light, warmth, and dignity for a man who deserves to know he is not forgotten. God has promised to never leave or forsake us--let's celebrate that gift and help our neighbor!

Please consider supporting him this month and indicate "Mission of the Month" on the pew envelope or in your electronic giving, and thank you!



July Collection of the Month: Pet Food for St John Animal Care & Control



Every creature is part of God's good creation, and right now, some of our four-legged neighbors need a little help. St. John Animal Care & Control cares for animals who are lost or surrendered, and a steady supply of pet food makes all the difference in keeping them healthy and comfortable while they wait to go home. Please bring pet food items to the narthex and drop it off in the collection bins. Thank you for sharing God's love with all of His creatures, great and small!

"Never believe that animals suffer less than humans. Pain is the same for them that it is for us. Even worse, because they cannot help themselves." --Jane Goodall

- Needed:
- Dry & canned food for adult dogs & cats
 - Dry & canned food for puppies & kittens
 - Dog and cat treats

July - September Major Mission Emphasis:



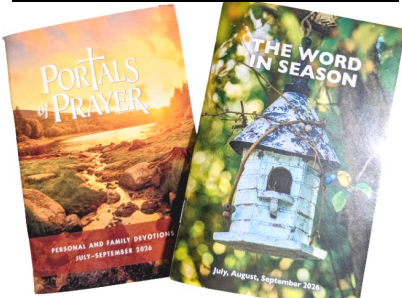
Pack Away Hunger is a non-profit organization working to eliminate hunger in Indiana and around the world by providing free, nutritious food, hunger education & service opportunities.

PACK AWAY
HUNGER
Life. Changing. Nutrition.

Donate using a "Major Mission Emphasis" pew envelope, or our QR code, choose "Major Mission."



Devotional Prayer Books Now Available



Free! Find them in the rack on the table outside the office.



COUNCIL



Summer Is Calling

As spring gives way to summer, we are surrounded by many reminders of the beauty of God's work. Spring blossoms, greening trees, and the warmth of longer days are all examples of the beauty of new life. In creation, we are reminded of the promise we celebrate in Christ: "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation

21:5).

We experienced the fresh beginnings of spring in many ways. Aside from new growth in our gardens and fields, we have seen growth in our congregation as well through worship, fellowship, service, and the many ways God continues to work among us. Each season brings its own blessings, and during this time of transition, let us reflect on where God has been leading us.

As we move into summer, we will see changes within our congregation as well. Schedules may slow down, vacations may cause us to miss some worship services, and the pace of daily life may feel a bit different. God's call remains steady, however. Summer offers us opportunities for rest, renewal, and reconnection with God, with family, and with one another. Just as spring reminds us of resurrection and new beginnings, summer invites us to carry that newness forward. It is a time to live out our faith with joy as we gather in worship, continue to serve our neighbors, and share the love of Christ in simple and meaningful ways.

May this new season be one of gratitude, growth, and grace for each of you. As the days continue to grow brighter, may we continue to walk in the light of Christ, trusting in His faithfulness from season to season.

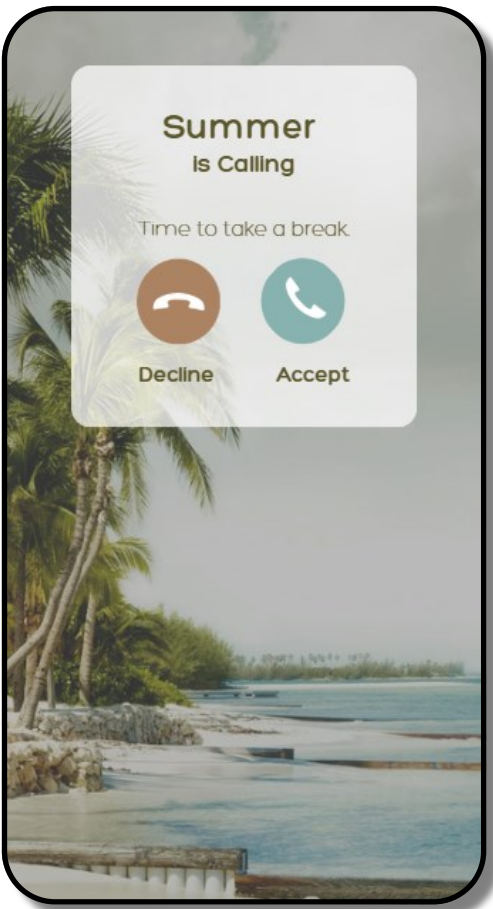
Blessings as we enter this summer together,
Kimm Maznaritz, Council Secretary

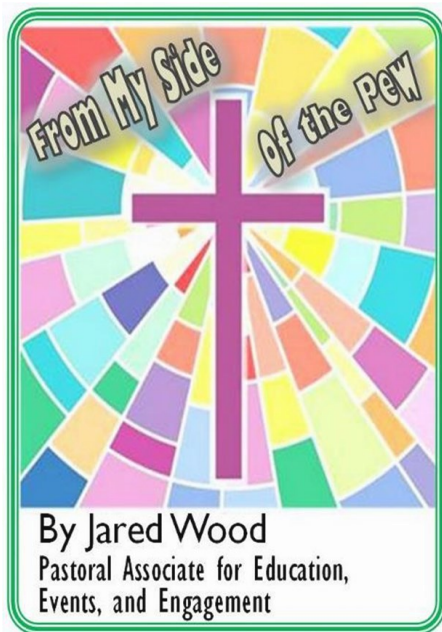


Upcoming Dates:

- July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6pm: Summer Choir rehearsals
- July 4: Independence Day
- July 4: **no Saturday night 5pm service**
- July 5, 8:30am, Indoor traditional service
- July 5, 10am, Outdoor contemporary service
- July 6: Independence Day (observed), church closed
- July 12, 4pm: Shepherd's Supper
- July 19, 11am: Sacred Places & Spaces: NWI Islamic Center
- July 24, noon-5pm: Red Cross Blood Drive
- August 2, 8:30am: Summer Choir sings
- August 9, 11am: Broadway Music & BBQ
- August 9, 4pm: Shepherd's Supper

- August 16, **no Sunday 10am service**
- August 16, 10:30am: Lake Etta Park ecumenical service & picnic
- September 6: 10am outdoor service
- September 7: Labor Day, church closed
- September 13, 11am: Rally Day
- September 20, Sunday School resumes
- September 26: Rummage Sale
- October 10: Pack Away Hunger, CPHS
- October 23: Red Cross Blood Drive
- October 25, 11am: Fall Fest Trunk or Treat
- November 1: All Saints Day
- November 26: Thanksgiving Day, church closed
- November 27: Black Friday, church closed
- November 29: Advent begins!





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I sit down to write this month's newsletter article, I find myself reflecting on how blessed I am to be part of this congregation. One of the greatest gifts of serving at Holy Shepherd is witnessing the genuine care and devotion that our members have for one another. Time and again, I see people showing up for each other in moments of joy, difficulty, celebration, and need. The love of Christ is not simply something we talk about during worship services, it is something I see lived out through the relationships that make this church family so special.

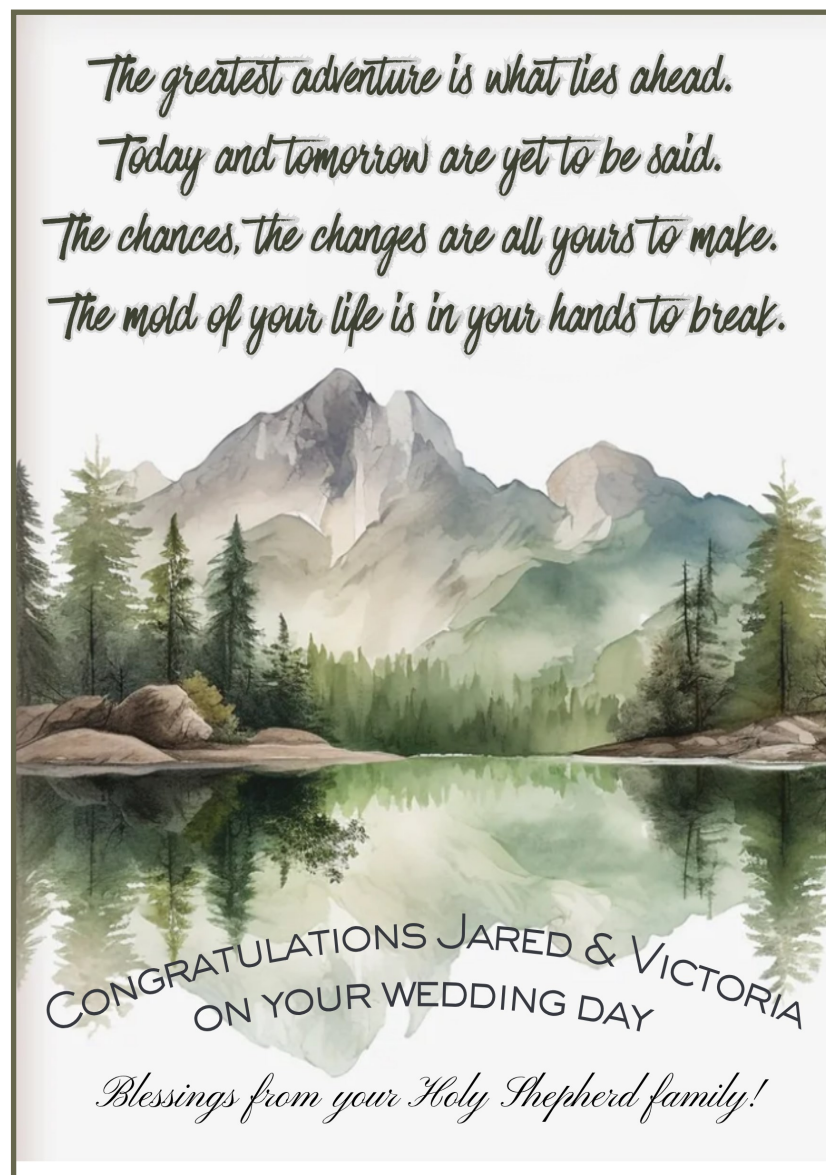
That spirit of care was especially evident at Victoria's bridal shower. I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who attended, helped organize, contributed, prayed, sent cards, or offered words of encouragement. The generosity and kindness shown to Victoria and me were truly humbling. We felt deeply loved and supported, and it was a wonderful reminder of the blessing it is to belong to a congregation that celebrates life's milestones together. Thank you for making that day so meaningful for us.

Experiences like that continue to remind me that the church is much more than a building or a collection of programs. It is a family of faith. It is people caring for one another, bearing one another's burdens, rejoicing in one another's blessings, and walking together as followers of Christ.

As we continue through the year, I am excited to see how God will continue to work through the people of Holy Shepherd. There are so many opportunities before us to grow in faith, strengthen relationships, and serve others. I look forward to exploring new ways we can support one another within our congregation while also reaching beyond our walls to share Christ's love with our neighbors and community.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your encouragement, and the countless ways you help make Holy Shepherd a place where people can encounter God's love through the care of His people. It is a privilege to serve alongside you, and I look forward to all that God has in store for us in the months ahead.

Blessings, Jared



MUSIC NOTES

By Will Akins, Director of Arts and Worship

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have had a VERY active storm season lately with several communities being affected in various different ways. While I love music ministry, and the ministry part of my job, I am at heart a musician first. When I see life, I see instant comparisons to music and musicality. Music is life in a way in which our ears perceive. There is so much music that poetically uses storms as a device to discuss various different themes, but the music captivates feelings words cannot express, emotions that we only feel, and moments we seem to only experience in real time. It's said that in music we use major chords to describe happy feelings and we use minor chords to describe everything else.

When crafting a song, or any piece of art, we must create some form of tension. In music we do this by moving away from the tonal center. Let's use visual art terms to explain. In movies you usually start in a happy or neutral place, then we talk about how "the thing" is going to happen, the robbery will take place, the date will happen; this is not the climax but more the set up to the climax. Then you back peddle a little and something prevents the preclimatic event, this is what fuels the climatic event. Musically this is the dominant chord. We then need a resolution to this climax and in music we return to that tonal center. We can take this route a multitude of ways but the general arc is similar across genres and styles.

In music we don't enjoy the resolve without tension, we don't get to see how the notes all work together until we hear them clashing and sitting next to each other. The storms of life come through and we have to experience them but they help us resolve. In the craziness, the sounds, the emotions, we are brought closer together. We resolve, God resolves our troubles and carries us through life's storms.

Yours in spirit, Will Akins

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



August newsletter deadline: July 22nd. Email Laura: hslclaura@gmail.com

SUMMER CHOIR

Rehearsals every Wednesday, starting July 1st,
6:00-6:45pm.

We'll sing at the 8:30am service on August 2nd.



You Can Go, But Be Back Soon!

As summer brings travel and busy schedules, we know it's easy for regular church attendance and giving to be put on the proverbial back burner. But HSLC's ministries don't take a summer break! Whether we're gathered together or scattered across the country, please consider tuning into a worship service via the live stream (click on "live stream" at www.holy-shepherd.com webpage), as well as setting up online or automatic giving so your church participation and offerings continue even while you're away. It's easy to contribute electronically via the QR code below. Or, simply remember to catch up when you return.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity, which allows HSLC to keep serving our congregation and community all throughout the year!

