

# Shepherd's Voice



July 2015

## “CHASING RAINBOWS”

By Pastor Scott Searl

Driving home the other night, after a particularly difficult day, with some particularly difficult things still ahead... the isolated late afternoon thunderstorm that had developed blew past my traveling. The sunshine tore open the darkness and revealed the heavens of blue. In the midst of it, a broken, but double rainbow appeared on the backside of the dazzling white storm cloud as it passed into the western sky.

Earlier that day another pastor had reminded us all that the rainbow in the sky was not a child's reminder that God loves them, although there is nothing wrong with that thought. In the actual Biblical story the rainbow is to remind God that God has promised not flood the world again. The question is, “Why does God need to remind God's self of this?” That thought gives me a little twinge of fear... God needs a sky post-it-note to self that says, “remember, don't do that again...” Does God have a faulty memory?!

I don't know exactly what it means that God needs to remind God's self and it is sort of a terrifying thought that God might forget... But I know I need to remind myself, “people are for loving, not for hurting” as my mother would say after I punched my little brother in stomach, again. I know that I need reminders to forgive, to live in humility, to live with compassion, to act with kindness. And at this point of the passing storm, I sort of figure if God needs a reminder, well, how much more do I? If God even admits that God needs a physical expression of God's love and compassion and forgiveness and understanding... maybe it's okay for me to express my weakness and vulnerability to needing help, care, grace, and kindness too. Maybe it's okay that I need a physical reminder to act and live as God (and my mother) has hoped for me.

I saw the rainbow in this light as I drove home. God needed or wanted a reminder, and so do I... In fact, I see communion in this way every Sunday, physical reminders in bread and wine that God wins by loving and even losing... death on a cross. Bread and wine, physical reminders that being vulnerable, and weak is actually God and humanity's greatest strength. If God needs to rely on God's own reminder post-it-note in the sky, then maybe it's best if I too rely on God's promise of love, rather than my own wisdom, strength or understanding.

As I drove out of the thunder, but into trouble, the light of the rainbow lit my path. I took a deep breath and tried to envision breathing in God's Holy Spirit, a calm in the eye of the

*Pastor's Message continued on page 2.*

**Shepherd of the Hills  
Lutheran Church  
500 Blake Road South  
Edina, MN 55343  
(952) 935-3457**

#### Staff:

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pastors                     | Scott Searl & Joanna Mitchell |
| Intern Pastor               | Carleton Smee                 |
| Assistant/Visitation Pastor | Fred Jensen                   |
| Director of Music/Organist  | David Surdez                  |
| Shepherd's Song Director    | Emily Koski                   |
| Children's Choir Director   | Kent Goodroad                 |
| Administrative Assistant    | Shawn Wacholz                 |
| Custodian                   | Kevin Wicks                   |
| Parish Nurse                | Kaye Wothe                    |
| Center for Service Director | Katy Yannitelli               |

#### Church Council Members / Officers:

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| President             | Kathy Wiemer         |
| Acting Vice President | Mark Schultz         |
| Treasurer             | Quinn Driscoll       |
| Financial Secretary   | Dan Orlopp           |
| Secretary             | Augusta Thrift       |
| Service               | Scott Koelsch        |
| Worship & Music       | Allie Jensen         |
| Building & Facilities | Dave Wiemer          |
| Learning              | Shay Koski           |
| Growing Relationships | Christa Meland       |
| Caring                | Jodi Sheldon Rogness |
| LMCC                  | Hilary Nelson        |
| Evaluation            | Jason Miller         |

#### Telephone & Voice Mail Extensions:

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Worship Times               | 1  |
| Directions                  | 2  |
| Shawn Wacholz               | 11 |
| Pastor Scott Searl          | 12 |
| Pastor Joanna Mitchell      | 13 |
| Intern Pastor Carleton Smee | 14 |
| Emily Koski                 | 15 |
| Emergency Message Mailbox   | 24 |
| Kaye Wothe                  | 25 |
| Kevin Wicks                 | 26 |

#### Shepherd Online!

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pastor Scott Searl     | scott@sothchurch.com           |
| Pastor Joanna Mitchell | joanna.mitchell@sothchurch.com |
| Shawn Wacholz          | office@sothchurch.com          |
| Carleton Smee          | carleton@sothchurch.com        |
| Kaye Wothe             | kaye.wothe@sothchurch.com      |
| Church web site        | www.sothchurch.com             |
| Center for Service     | www.hopkinsvolunteers.org      |



## WHY WORSHIP?

*Submitted by Paul Drangeid, Minnetonka, MN*

Why do peoples around the world worship? What is the need? What are the needs? And why so very many ways to worship? Why are there “right” ways to worship and “wrong” ways to worship? Who decides? Is each person at some particular unique point in their life regarding worship? What might be the details in worship for each person? Why might the details not be the same for each person?

And what is the need for rituals?

Most would agree that each person, everywhere and for all times, is different from all others. Each is a unique entity in a community of some sort. But there can be great influences that make demands for conformity. These influences can range from faint subtleties to life and death ultimatums. Why?

We sense the world, and may wonder what may open ... the mind, the heart, the memory, the soul ... and then what may come from such openings.

Perhaps the following are some elements in worshipping ...

- ◆ Uncertainty about life — hope
- ◆ Concern about an afterlife—promises
- ◆ Questions about self and others—community
- ◆ Seeking understandings—assurances

One approach may be to deny any worshipping. Might that be a form of self-worship?

And so, why worship? What does it accomplish for each individual? Perhaps it is a pathway each must travel for themselves.



## PRESIDENT'S POST

By Kathy Wiemer, Church Council President

### Shepherd's New Website Unveiled!

One of our four strategic plan pillars is to use technology to allow our content to reach more people. We are very excited that our new and updated website is up and running, thanks to the hard work of the Growing Relationships ministry team led by Christa Meland. We hope you have already explored it but if you haven't, please check it out ([www.sothchurch.com](http://www.sothchurch.com)). We think you will find it easy to navigate and simple to find the information you are seeking. We also know that it will provide important, current information for guests and visitors to Shepherd. Shawn Wacholz will be keeping it updated along with the pastors. Please let us know what you think!!

### Main Level Kitchen Remodel

The Admin and Facilities ministry team led by Dave Wiemer (with assistance from Ed Edmundson and Mary Brubacher as well as staff members Kevin Wicks, Shawn Wacholz and Kaye Wothe) has been planning a major update of the kitchen on the main level. It will include new flooring, cabinets, countertops and appliances. The work is expected to happen in July, and the plan is to keep disruption in that area of the church to a minimum during that timeframe. Also many thanks to Matt Lily for his design work and expertise!

### Upcoming meetings on Future Capital Projects

The Church Council is discussing and considering some possible opportunities for a future capital appeal process. Your input and consideration is very important as we continue to care for our building and create a welcoming environment. We hosted a session on June 7th and will offer two more opportunities this summer for conversation: July 12th and August 9th—each conversation hosted at 8:30AM before worship in the adult forum room. Please join us as we continue to envision God's call toward our future.

### SOTH Block Party Coming on September 13th!!

Mark your calendars for our annual Block party where you can come and enjoy great food, fun, entertainment and games for the kids!! The planning is underway and is in the capable hands of Mark Schultz. Please think about inviting friends and neighbors to join you for the extravaganza under the big white tent!! It's a wonderful way we can celebrate God's blessings with our surrounding community.

Thanks for your continued support and prayers for your family of faith and your church council leadership. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about our life together please don't hesitate to contact me or any Council member.



## A NOTE FROM THE GARDENS AT SHEPHERD

All the flowers and plants are doing especially well this year. The cooler weather and abundant rain this spring has really helped. Of course, the weeds also grew and Mimi and Helga with much help from Naomi Peterson have been battling them and will have to continue to do so. We plan to spread more mulch to help with weed control.

We have planted four large pots and four smaller pots as well as areas on the north and south side of the church with 200 plus begonias and vincas. They seem to grow well and provide color all summer long. The hibiscus that spent the winter inside has been put outside for the summer.

The roses by the parsonage and on the west and south side of the church are blooming profusely and the lilies also are putting on a show. The spent flowers of the irises and peonies have been cut down, dead leaves of tulips and daffodils are being pulled to make the grounds look neat and orderly.

The soaker hoses have been hooked up and are saving us hours of watering by hand as warmer temperatures are coming. We are so grateful to have them.

Nature constantly surprises us, touches us with her beauty, lifts our spirit and makes us glad.



# Learning and Fellowship

**BREAKFAST** **GOOD COMPANY BREAKFAST**  
  
**FELLOWSHIP**  
Friday, July 17 at 9:00 am

## A Group for all ages!

Good Company will be meeting underneath the huge flag at Hwy 100 and 50th Street in Edina at the Perkins Restaurant on Friday, July 17 at 9:00 am. All church members and their guests are invited to come for a delicious breakfast and enjoyable conversation. Please notify Barbara Felker at 952-929-2813 or [dollroom@sprynet.com](mailto:dollroom@sprynet.com) if you are able to attend or simply come to the Good Company table that morning.



## WOMEN'S RETREAT AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 2015

Instead of going away for our retreat on August 7th and 8th we are going to stay at SOTH for a time of learning, fellowship and fun. A sign up is on the welcome center counter. We will gather for dinner on August 7th in the lounge at 6:00pm and begin our programming for the evening at 7pm. We will conclude our evening by 8:30pm and reconvene the next morning at 9:30am.

Our topic for our retreat is "Being Named." We will be looking at unnamed women in the bible and giving them names while also examining the meaning of our own names and what it means to be named and claimed by God. I hope you can come. Please sign-up today!



## SUMMER BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Come for Bible study, food, and fellowship! The Wednesday morning group meets at 9:30 am for coffee, treats and fellowship before they begin a Bible study. The Bible study begins at 10:00 am and is based on the following Sunday's sermon text. All are welcome. Upcoming Summer dates are July 15, and August 19.



## Sermons Are **SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

Being outside in the summer in Minnesota is awesome! Cabins, golf courses, lakes, and parks. We know that you and your family will take some time away from church this summer. But, you can still have church time! Download sermons from our website - available starting June 1st. Then, pick up a study guide that will complement our summer sermons. From May 24th to July 19th we'll focus on the book of Acts. Then from July 26th to August 30th we'll focus on the book of Hebrews. Study guides, that you can take with you on vacation, to the cabin, or wherever, are available for \$10 at the welcome desk. So enjoy the Minnesota summer, and still stay connected to your faith and your church family via the on-line sermons and available study guides!



## CENTER FOR SERVICE

Greetings! As the summer weather heats up and your schedule gets full, don't forget about our community organizations that need your help!

A great opportunity to beat the heat is available at Stages Theatre Company. STC has grown to become the third largest nonprofit theatre producer in Minnesota and one of the largest professional theatres for young audiences in the country. During the coming year, it will serve approximately 130,000 young people and their families from throughout the Twin Cities.

Volunteers play a vital role in the organization. STC has nearly 300 performances and about 95,000 audience members every year, each of whom needs to get from the parking lot to their seat. They rely almost exclusively on volunteers to make this possible. Usher responsibilities include tearing tickets, distributing show programs, assisting audience members to their seats, and quickly walking through the theater after performances to pick up programs. As a thank you, ushers are provided with ticket vouchers to see future Stages Theatre Company productions, an invite to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, along with other perks and benefits.

Upcoming Ushering Opportunities:  
Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.  
June 26 – August 2, 2015

Junie B. Jones, The Musical  
September 18 – October 18, 2015

There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom  
October 9 – November 1, 2015

A Charlie Brown Christmas  
November 20 – December 29, 2015

Please visit our website, [www.hopkinsvolunteers.org](http://www.hopkinsvolunteers.org), for more information about this position as well as many other opportunities.

As always, thank you for your support and for getting the word out about us! Please feel free to contact me with suggestions for organizations we can help, or for any other questions or comments you may have.

Katy Yannitelli  
hopkinsvolunteers  
A Minnesota Non-Profit Corp



## LOAVES & FISHES

Monday, July 13

Mark your calendar for our next serving date of Mon., July 13. We now prepare and serve an evening meal at St. Gabriel's Church (1310 Mainstreet, Hopkins). The change in location and serving on Mondays makes it easier for members of SOTH to help feed our community. Timing is as follows: 4:00 to prepare, 5:00 to serve and 6:00 for clean up. We are finished by 6:45.

If you would like more information or are able to volunteer, please contact the church office.



**God's work.**  
**Our hands.**

**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.**  
**Sunday, September 20**  
**Worship at 9:30am**  
**Service at 10:30am**  
**Save the Date and Join the Planning Team!**

We are in the beginning stages of planning for God's Work. Our Hands. This is a congregational event in which members of Shepherd of the Hills work together in order to serve other people in our local community and world.

If you have ideas about ways that we can serve our neighbors please join our planning team. Join the Service team for our next meeting on July 13 at 7:00 pm in the lounge or contact Pastor Joanna Mitchell at [joanna.mitchell@sothchurch.com](mailto:joanna.mitchell@sothchurch.com)

# Worship

## WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

| DATE      | TIME | LECTOR          | COMMUNION PRESENTERS     | COMMUNION ASSISTANTS     | ALTAR GUILD              | USHERS         |
|-----------|------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| July 5    | 9:30 | Fred Jesen      | A & K Boucher            | A & K Boucher            | K Iverson & K Wiemer     | Edmundson Team |
| July 12   | 9:30 | Rich Rinker     | R M Anderson & R Blank   | R M Anderson & R Blank   | N Broholm & J Grams      | Edmundson Team |
| July 19   | 9:30 | Bruce Nelson    | J Dosedel & N Broholm    | J Dosedel & N Broholm    | G Morseth & K Vevele     | Crouch Team    |
| July 26   | 9:30 | Dawn Jensen     | L Cushman & A Ford       | D & K Wiemer             | J Luers & K Boucher      | Crouch Team    |
| August 2  | 9:30 | Tom Peterson    | E Levernier & B Nelson   | E Levernier & B Nelson   | L Walker & M Bullemer    | Crouch Team    |
| August 9  | 9:30 | Colleen Rose    | S & L Edmundson          | S & L Edmundson          | L Lilly & K Schultz      | Stone Team     |
| August 16 | 9:30 | Diane Sands     | P & B Johnson            | P & B Johnson            | L Kopperud & B Edmundson | Stone Team     |
| August 23 | 9:30 | Reid Anderson   | A Gullickson & S Wacholz | W Wacholz & H Nelson     | A Lauer & G Morseth      | Stone Team     |
| August 30 | 9:30 | Gretchen Marble | E & B Edmundson          | S Peterson & E Edmundson | K Iverson & L Rosendahl  | Lilly Team     |

## GREETER SCHEDULE

|           |      |                                       |
|-----------|------|---------------------------------------|
| July 5    | 9:30 | Rose Marie Anderson & Jean Breitbarth |
| July 12   | 9:30 | Bob Helgerud & Quentin Weberg         |
| July 19   | 9:30 | Tom Sheldon & Jodi Rogness            |
| July 26   | 9:30 | Jean Wicks & Alice Schulz             |
| August 2  | 9:30 | Ed & Betty Edmundson                  |
| August 9  | 9:30 | Mark & Karen Schultz                  |
| August 16 | 9:30 | Eric & Julie Showers                  |
| August 23 | 9:30 | Sophie Deguisne & Kathy Stitt         |
| August 30 | 9:30 | Michelle & Dylan Braun                |

## HOSPITALITY HOSTS

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| Lori Rosendahl                     |
| Tracey & Keith Anderson            |
| Betty & Ed Edmundson               |
| Judy & Paul Anderson               |
| Lana Edmundson & Sandy Christensen |
| Laura Hanson                       |
| Geraine Morseth                    |
| Jean Wicks                         |
| Sharon Peterson                    |

# July 2015

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu | Fri   | Sat                                 |
|---|---|---|--|-----|---|-------------------------------------|
|   |   |   | 1  | 2   | 3<br>Office Closed                                    | 4                                   |
| 5<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Coffee & Fellowship                                | 6<br>1:00 Staff Meeting   | 7   | 8<br>6:30 Family Fun Event                 | 9   | 10<br>Office Closed<br>August Newsletter<br>Deadline  | 11                                  |
| 12<br>8:30 Forum: Council Update<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Coffee & Fellowship | 13<br>1:00 Staff Meeting<br>Loaves & Fishes<br>6:45 Shepherd's Song<br>Rehearsal<br>7:00 Troop Meetings | 14<br>5:30 Executive Team                         | 15<br>9:30 Fellowship<br>10:00 Bible Study | 16  | 17<br>9:00 Good Company<br>Breakfast<br>Office Closed | 18                                  |
| 19<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Coffee & Fellowship                               | 20<br>1:00 Staff Meeting  | 21<br>6:00 Council Supper<br>6:30 Council Meeting | 22   | 23  | 24<br>Office Closed                                   | 25<br>10:30 Family Reunion<br>Event |
| 26<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Coffee & Fellowship<br>6:00 Troop Meetings        | 27<br>1:00 Staff Meeting<br>6:45 Shepherd's Song<br>Rehearsal<br>7:00 Troop Meetings                    | 28  | 29   | 30  | 31<br>Office Closed                                   |                                     |

## Summer Worship Schedule

April 26 - September 20, 2015

9:30 a.m. Worship





## BLOCK PARTY!! Coming September 13th!

Save the date for our Annual Neighborhood Block Party!! We're inviting all our neighbors to join us on September 13th, to kick off our fall programs. The Block Party will start after our 9:30 am service that morning and run until 12:00 pm. Here's a preview of what's planned so far:

**Entertainment!**  
**Activities for kids of all ages!**  
**Food!**

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us! See you then!



## Fall Preview



### IMPORTANT FALL DATES & PROGRAM NOTES

#### Wednesday Evening Programming begins September 2nd.

First Wednesday of the month community meal from 5:30-6:30pm.  
Every Wednesday: Faith Formation Classes from 6:30-7:30pm.

**1st Wednesday of the month:** Cross-Generational Bible Study and Faith Formation Class led by Pastor Scott and Pastor Joanna. People of all ages from our elementary school students, to confirmation, high school, and adults will join together to study the bible and grow in faith.

**2nd Wednesday of the month:** Small Group Faith Formation. We will gather together in age specific groups to discuss our bible text and exploring our faith.

Small groups that will be meet:

WAM  
Faithful Parenting  
Confirmation  
Adult Faith Formation

**3rd Wednesdays of the month:** TED talks

Join us for one of our TED talks at Shepherd of the Hills. Topics to be announced.

Small Groups that will meet:

WAM  
Faithful Parenting  
Confirmation (will attend TED talk)

**4th Wednesday of the month:** Current Events and Faith

Reporter James Warden and Pastor Scott will be hosting a discussion about how our faith intersects with our world events. All are welcome to attend this discussion.

Small Groups that will meet:

WAM  
Faithful Parenting  
Confirmation (attends current Events and Faith)

**5th Wednesday of the month:** Cross-Generational Service Projects





## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RECAP & THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who made Vacation Bible School such a mountain-top experience for our kids.

Together we learned that God has the power to conquer big challenges and with God's love we can do that too.

God has the power to provide, comfort, heal, forgive and love us forever. These are such great promises and I am so thankful that our children know about how amazing God is.

It takes so many people in order to make Vacation Bible School a success: Thank you to the following people:

Set Design: Bethann Schmidt and Rich Rinker—from mountain tops to ice caves. You made our set unforgettable. Thanks!

Set Assemblers: Ed Edmundson, Dale Iverson, Jeff Mitchell, Alyssa Barott, Helena Mitchell and anyone else who helped out!!!

Station Leaders: Karen Vevle, Hilary Nelson, Sharon Peterson and Audrey Ford, Ethan Buss, and Pastor Carleton

Climbing Crew Leaders: Hildy Shank, Helena Mitchell, Joan Dillon, Clara Lauer, Chloe Bennett, Alysa Horsman, Angie Raney, Lauren Derfus, Lisel Smee, Greta Edmundson and Tallulah Johnson

Snacks and Pot-luck: Robin Blank

Acting as Trek: Pastor Scott

“Go-to” Helper Extraordinaire: Kevin Wicks

Special thanks to my family: My kids put in a ton of hours helping assemble name tags, and putting together the registration table. Each year they do more and more to make it easier on me. I really couldn't do it without them. You are the best. Thank you for your enthusiasm and love for VBS and your willingness to be leaders in our church. I love you!

~ Pastor Joanna



## SUMMER FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

2nd Wednesdays  
from 6:30-7:30pm

All are welcome and invited to join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Shepherd of the Hills for an evening of fun. We will gather for a time of food, fellowship and fun. Mark your calendars for upcoming dates: July 8th and August 12th. Please feel free to bring outdoor games to play. For more information contact Pastor Joanna at [joanna.mitchell@sothchurch.com](mailto:joanna.mitchell@sothchurch.com)

## BRING OUT THE STEEL

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. – Proverbs 27:17*

Have you ever tried to use a knife or ax that wasn't sharp? It can be dangerous. One false move and we might be calling you "Lefty" for the rest of your life. When I worked in restaurants, the cooks would often need help with prep work before the day began; especially if they were behind and so they would ask anyone to help with different tasks. The first thing they made sure of was that the knife they gave me would be sharp. Taking out a honing steel, they would work the knife to restore the edge, to make it better. As a future pastor I have found nothing but love and care from you as my church family these past eleven months. You have been my honing steel. You have done so well to keep track of my progress, to bring criticism when necessary, to offer encouragement and empowerment as I learn and grow. I can only pray that my first congregation whom I will have the honor of serving is just as mindful and purposeful in their care of me as you have been during my tenure.

I will also say, though, that the sharpening, the honing, does not end with me. It is there for the benefit of each of you too. Caring for one another. Keeping track of the suffering of others to help transform and strengthen each other. It may seem like a big job to do, but each of us impacts the other every day, even without knowing it. By waking up in the morning, going to the coffee shop, or the café, or to bible study, and smiling and saying "Hello," you become a small piece of iron that sharpens another person. Making them feel important, loved, and necessary.

Within the church this becomes part of the disciple-making process. Of guiding and forming people in faith. Eventually, through the work of the Spirit in all our lives, we can begin to see the discipleship of one another not as a duty, but as a joy. As a time of bonding and gathering one another together. Over the next year, Pastors Joanna and Scott have so many wonderful ideas planned of how to encourage this process and growth through fellowship and learning. I am excited to see all the things God is working through Shepherd of the Hills as the days move ahead, and I am sad that I won't be around to see it, but I know I will hear about it.

Meanwhile, as my period here comes closer to ending, I can honestly declare to you that my time with you has been nothing short of amazing. I will always have those parts of me, sharpened by your iron, that will go with me to my next church. I will always be able to look back on the memories and experiences and know the influence that so many have had upon me. I just hope that you also can look back and remember all the people here (past and present) who have helped mold you into the person of faith you have become, and who you will be later in the future. You never know when you will come across a dull blade that needs you. God's blessings be upon you, both now, and forever.

Your servant,  
Carleton Smee  
Intern Pastor



## FREEDOM

By Kaye Wothe, Parish Nurse



Freedom has taken on a new place of wonder and meaning for me this year.

I have wondered if someone who has never experienced a limitation in their freedom can really appreciate the glory of it?

My dad is a Korean war veteran. I always feel he is more acutely aware of the price of freedom and witnessed places where freedom was not part of life. He always says that he hopes he paid the price for all generations for his family's freedom so no one he loves has to serve. If it were not for his experience (and those service men and women I read about), I would take freedom even more for granted than I already do. What is it like to live in a place where you do not have freedom? It seems there is more fear, anxiety, less drive to succeed because of the limitations placed by the lack of freedom—or there is a huge drive to rebel against the establishment that limits one's freedom. There is a lack of inner peace that oozes out.

Martin Luther wrote a famous paper called "The Freedom of a Christian." My simple synopsis would be that Luther points out the depth of the freedom we have in God's gracious, merciful forgiveness and the ability to start each day new (we just need to get out of God's way and let that happen!) In this most complete and extreme freedom, we as Christians might be the free-est of all peoples! My favorite quote from this paper is: "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

In 1 Corinthians 9:19 Paul says, "Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone..."

This freedom I experience, when I allow myself to be forgiven, makes my soul feel light again and like I could soar, and in turn to serve others because of what has been done for me (us). This is the closest I can get to grasping the amazing freedom I have as an American. Yes, like my sin, this freedom came at a huge price. Once again, faith intersects with everyday life, God breaks into my everyday experience and I am amazed.

In the beauty of summer, as we enjoy less schedule and more freedom, take a minute to savor freedom. Take time to wonder about those who do not experience freedom. Pray for them. Pray for peaceful reconciliations. Ask God to enter in bringing forgiveness, peace and that ultimate freedom only God through Jesus can provide.

Happy 4th of July!!

Kaye Wothe, Parish Nurse

## THANK YOU

The biggest of heartfelt thanks to the community of SOTH for your support for me while I studied to earn my master's degrees in Congregation and Community Care from Luther Seminary over the past 4 years. I am thankful for the flexibility in my work schedule when classes and papers needed to be done, for loving inquiries of my progress and cheering me on, for allowing me to apply different class related practices and get your input or to interview you, for forgiving me when something was forgotten and so often affirming me as I journeyed through this time of intentional learning.

SOTH is the most amazing community of intergenerational, kind hearted and loving support I have ever experienced. Thanks for being who you are individually and as a community!

Thankful to be called and serving with you,  
Kaye Wothe

## Pastor's Message continued

storm. Reminding myself that I wasn't perfect, couldn't fix it, and that my best human self was a vulnerable one in need. Driving and praying I felt God's hope enter my heart. I felt filled up, and at ease. It doesn't always happen this way for sure. It's not usually so poetic or dramatic or clear. But once in a while, thanks be to God, the clouds part, the rainbow appears, and God saves humanity once again by reminding us of God's own needs and vulnerability... and in so doing, once again, God saves me too.

Chasing rainbows – Pastor Scott

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
500 Blake Road South  
Edina, MN 55343

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Dated Material



I have set my bow in  
the clouds, and it  
shall be a sign of the  
covenant between  
me and the earth.

~Genesis 9:13