

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Parish Paper of Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road (Corner of Santa Barbara)
Naples Florida 34113

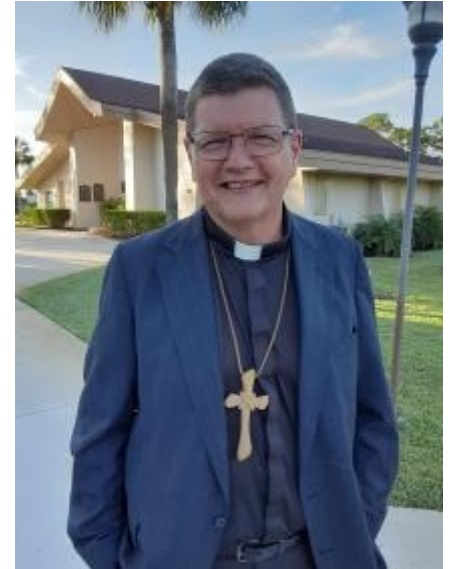
JUNE, 2026
Volume 29- Issue 6
Editors: Deanna Colbert & Lynn
Dickerman



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

Happy Father's Day! Did you know that Father's Day has been a national recognized holiday since 1966 when President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation establishing the third Sunday in June as Father's Day? In 1972 President Richard Nixon signed it into law, making Father's Day a permanent federal holiday. Mother's Day had been an official federal holiday since May of 1914! That means that we celebrated an official holiday celebrating Mothers Day fifty two years before Father's day was created! Why did it take fifty two years before there was such a thing as Father's Day? The history behind this story is rather interesting. Mother's day was viewed as feminine. Women received flowers and gifts for Mother's day, and men did not want to be viewed as effeminate.



Although President Woodrow Wilson said that Mother's Day is a way to recognize "that tender, gentle army—the mothers of America," men viewed Mother's Day as a feminine commercial gimmick and wanted nothing to do with a holiday called Father's Day. So what changed that made Father's Day eventually become officially celebrated on the third Sunday of June?

According to almanac.com, the cultural shift happened because of the daughter of a widowed father of 6 children. Sonora Smart Dodd was inspired by Mother's Day church service and thought of her widowed father. Her father was a veteran of the Civil War and was a single parent who raised 6 children on his own. She believed he deserved the same recognition mothers receive on Mother's Day. She convinced the local ministerial association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday Worship service to honor fathers. She proposed June 5th, her father's birthday. But the ministers said they wanted more time between Mother's Day and Father's Day to prepare their sermons. The third Sunday in June was chosen, and the concept of honoring fathers on Father's Day was created. The first "Father's Day" bill was introduced in congress in 1913, but it would take fifty three years before President Johnson signed an executive order and six more years before President Nixon signed a law recognizing Father's day. Six years after Father's Day became a reality. Sorora Smart Dodd died at the age of 96. So Happy Father's Day to all Dads. Your children love and appreciate you. I hope Father's Day doesn't make you feel too effeminate!

One reason I share this history with you is that it demonstrates that change in culture takes time. It may begin with the passion of one person, or it may take as many as 12. But a cultural change does not happen easily or quickly. The first disciples faced a world that viewed followers of Jesus Christ as a cult. The Jewish faith interpreted the followers of Jesus as people who worshipped more than one God. Followers of Jesus Christ were viewed as blasphemous! Others viewed followers of Jesus as weak, and so they bowed down to Roman imperial culture and power. But now, over 2,000 years later culture has changed drastically and

PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .

there are an estimated 2.6 billion believers in Jesus Christ. Nothing can prevent the Good News of Jesus and his love from growing. We believe in the triune God who became human and lived among us. We do not worship three gods. We worship One God in three persons. The early disciples had a difficult task to convince others that Jesus Christ is the one true God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Change in culture only comes through persistence, prayer, and time. Even though Sonora Smart Dodd faced much resistance, she was persistent with her message that fathers should be honored. She believed that everyone should recognize and value the gift of fathers. She shared her belief until others began to change their view. And eventually a new culture was birthed and that culture celebrates Father's Day every year. Persistence in sharing the Good News that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah who came into the world to set us free from sin and death is something we believe in even when society doesn't want to hear what we have to say. God's unconditional love of all people is also difficult for society to accept. But we have experienced the love of our Father, God. May we remain persistent in proclaiming that we celebrate our heavenly Father's Day every Sunday, and we hope others will join the celebration!

+Pastor Jeff

CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Family of Beverly Adams	Michelle Hubb	Family of Patty Musielak
Annie	Nadine Kelly	Matthew Popp
Family & friends of Merlyn Bowers	John LaBate	Family of Vernon Rasmussen
Wayne Cokes	Lake County Flood Victims	Carole Richards
Family of Ellie	Anita & Nick Lehr	Dede Rowe
Family of Barbara Gega	Patricia Lussky	Susan Schacht
Ana Maria Gilliam		Dean Welch
Family of Joanne Hogan		Family of Nikki Wykstra

Please let us know when someone should be added or removed from the Prayer list.

AA & NA GROUPS . . .

Two Mixed AA Groups meet in Hanson Hall. One holds their meetings at noon on Mondays and the other meets at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Women's AA Group meets in Hanson Hall at 10:00 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Group meets in Hanson Hall at 9:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

If you or someone you know wishes to attend, please contact the office for more information.

COUNCIL CORNER . . .

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH APRIL 14, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Members in attendance: Pastor Unga, Penny Morken, President, Bill Nicklay, Vice-President, Pam Bhathena, Secretary, Scott Krenz, Treasurer, Mary Winsor, Director for Discipleship, Council Members, Sandra Haberman, Sue Kautz, Becky McDanel, and Barbara Tommingo. Absent: Brad Caulder and Tom Dunlop, Council Members.

Call to order by President Penny Morken

Devotions: Mary Winsor, Director for Discipleship

A motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2026 was made, seconded and approved.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor reported on the following attended meetings: *Endowment Committee *Weekly Friday Staff meetings *Weekly Tuesday text study *Caloosa Conference pastor's meeting *Regular communication and coordination of Hanson Hall with Pastor Orlando Ramirez of Iglesia Conexion and Pastor DJ of Eglise Baptist Church. * NA group *Friday Women's AA group *Attended additional required educational ZOOM meetings and coaching regarding Dinner Church history and ideas for starting this new ministry. * Movie matinee at church

Holy Week Services and Easter were all well attended. Easter Sunrise had a record 60 people in attendance. There were young children at all 3 services. There were over 300 people at the services in person and 47 online. The improved attendance was attributed to new banners and signage purchased from a local company, which made the church more visible to passing traffic.

Bible studies: Wednesday bible study continues to meet weekly at 10:30 AM in Hanson Hall. At this time, we are recording the bible study as someone who is not available at that time watches it online later in the day. Marcia Schacht continues to lead the women's bible study the fourth Friday of every month at 10 AM and it continues to be very well attended.

Memorial service for non-member Virginia "Ginger" Jones will be held on Saturday, April 25th at 11 AM. The memorial service for Joanne Hogan is tentatively set for May 16th at 11 AM. Anyone available and willing to help with these services would be greatly appreciated.

Wedding Laszlo Popp & Linda Eichler Saturday March 14th, 1 PM

Pastoral Calls - March 10th- April 14th Congregation home visits/member visits (5) Homebound communions (4) Hospital/clinic/rehab visits (8) Hospice visits (2).

Director of Discipleship Report:

Mary Winsor, director of discipleship, reported to Council on her activities this past month, which included - Put together the third round of Blessing bags with the help of the congregation after service one Sunday. Made 120. - Took a trip to Iowa to visit Wartburg Seminary for their Considering Your Call weekend. Was able to meet staff, faculty, and other new students who will also be starting in the fall. - Finished up the Holden Evening Prayer Lenten services and soup suppers in Hanson Hall.

- Delivered Easter baskets to a few of our homebound members. - Present for and helped lead all three Easter Sunday services. - Continue to schedule the ushers and communion assistants for each Sunday. - As of now, we have had our two Dinner Church coaching sessions and are gearing up for the first Dinner Church evening at the end of this month.

COUNCIL CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .

Pastor clarified that while church members are welcome to attend, the primary goal is to reach people who don't currently have a church community. - Have chatted with Penny about the Grace Place backpack storage. We need to find a suitable spot to store them until they are picked up in June. - This month I have a few days of scheduled vacation time off. - I have been notified by Churchwide that they have awarded me the 'Fund For Leaders' scholarship. - My plan for ending my time here at Shepherd of the Glades is still to finish up at the end of June. This would make Sunday, June 28th, my final Sunday with you all, with a couple of days in the office to close up my time here as I prepare to move up to Iowa for seminary at the end of the summer.

Treasurer's Report:

The monthly financials were reviewed by Scott Krenz, treasurer. The Treasurer reported that expenses slightly exceeded revenue for March. This was largely due to three expense items - a repair of the office air conditioner; Council approved upgrade of the AV system; and a periodic true up of the Church's electric bill. Revenues exceeded expenses year to date. The Treasurer also reported that the transition of the Church's reserve funds from Truist to Vanguard has been completed.

Committee Reports:

Endowment Committee Report was submitted by Sandy Haberman. The Endowment Committee met on 03/29/2026. We discussed a large, pending contribution to the Fund by a member of our congregation. We also discussed and approved grant requests (scholarships) for Elizabeth Cianflone and Mary Winsor, which are now submitted to Church Council for final approval. We also tentatively approved an anticipated grant request from Luther Springs Bible Camp (Florida), which is still pending final submission of a grant request form. That request can be brought to Council for approval at this time as well, or pended until the paperwork is received, depending on the Council's preference. A motion was made to approve two scholarship recipients: Mary Winsor and Elizabeth Cianflone (her fourth year of funding) of \$2,500 each, and a grant of \$1,000 to Luther Springs Bible Camp. Motion was seconded and approved by Council.

Evangelism Report: Sew Sews Report was submitted by Becky McDanel. We have between 45-50 quilts finished to date. The Blessing of the Quilts is scheduled for church on April 19th, finished quilts will be displayed for the congregation to see. Thanks to everyone who continues to donate.

Education Committee: Pastor Jeff continues with his Wednesday morning Bible Study. It is held in Hanson Hall. Women's Bible Study is the 4th Friday of every month. Marcia Schacht teaches this class. Sunday School is available to all children during the Sunday worship service. The lessons are taught by Charlotte Wahlig. The Easter Egg Hunt was held after the 8:30 Easter worship service. Around 10-12 children participated. A big thank you goes out to Lori Bernabei for coordinating this fun event. Submitted by Becky McDanel

Worship & Music: Report for this committee submitted by Barb Tommingo. We received many positive comments on our music during the Easter Services. Members requested to have more special music for regular Sunday services. Megan Cianflone, Chairperson and Organist, has arranged a quartet of flautists on the Sunday of April 19th. We hope all will enjoy the music.

Local Mission Report: Non-perishable food continues to be generously donated by the congregation. The food is blessed and delivered to St. Matthew's House for distribution

COUNCIL CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .

monthly. Submitted by Pam Bhatena.

Property Committee: Report for this committee submitted by Bill Nicklay. Repairs have been completed on the two West fire doors. Painting will be scheduled soon. Pastor explained the air conditioner in the office is now working. A big thank you to all those that helped distribute the mulch throughout our property. Pastor also raised important issues about the fire alarm system, noting that the current provider hasn't been inspecting as required and that the system uses outdated technology. He recommended switching to Cintas, a more reputable company. This committee will address the issue.

Fellowship Committee: Report for this committee submitted by Sue Kautz. This committee is always busy cooking as we finished the last of our Lenton Soup Suppers and we next have the 'Till We Meet Again' Brunch. We have 65 people signed up for this event. Thank you to all the people who helped with these gatherings.

A motion to approve the Pastor's Report, Treasurer's Report, and all Committee Reports were made for approval, seconded and passed.

Old Business:

Church Safety Committee: Report for this committee submitted by Barb Tommingo. Met with Elder in charge of Safety at Christ The King Church to review safety/security plan. Met with Director of Operations of NCH to review safety/security plan. Joined free online church Safety & Security Program. Drafted a preliminary SOTG Fire Safety Policy. Made contact with Collier County Risk/Security Specialist Officer to make future site assessment visit. Barb updated the council on church safety initiatives, including fire safety policies and potential security improvements like additional cameras and AED placements.

Next meeting: May 12, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Devotions: Pam Bhatena

Closing Devotions: Pastor Ungs

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Pam Bhatena, Council Secretary

THANK YOU . . .

As chair of the Fellowship Committee I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members, as well as all the members of the congregation, that have supported the committee events throughout the season 2025-2026.

We are a successful church because of everyone's contributions to these events, and this contribution may look different for some of us. But without our cooks, bakers, soup makers, event set ups and clean up, weekly donuts and fellowship coffee, to name a few, we would not be able to offer such important fellowship. Some events are happy and some are sad but we are able to organize events because of all of you who volunteer so generously.

On behalf of the Committee and from the bottom of my heart, I wish you all a great summer, wherever you may be, and until we meet again, have a safe and healthy time.

Cordially,

Lynne Gervais

NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

June 5	Brad Caulder
June 6	Fred Hasse
June 9	Peter Krehan
June 12	Lynne Gervais
June 14	Bruce Tillman
June 16	Brett Karlsen
June 21	Donna Read
June 21	Everett Bernabei
June 22	Judy Ripke
June 26	Adam Cowles
June 28	Doc Lofthouse
June 30	Tom Dunlop

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES . . .

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

June 1	Ron & Sharon Eickhoff
June 8	Frank & Gail Pacchiarotti
June 9	Randy & Karen Kuzel
June 17	Lee & Barb Collins
June 18	Bruce & Cindy Tillman
June 19	Larry & Beverly Spees
June 20	Thomas & Renna Knotek
June 24	Nick & Anita Lehr
June 26	David & Christine Willits
June 27	William & Jacqueline Masterson
June 29	Ray & Barbara Keith

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the office so we can update our information and not miss you next time! YOU are special to us!

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS . . .

Wow! This first wireless communication is wonderful. We can thankfully report the prayer requests have been granted in one way or another. God is always listening and wanting for us to draw closer with our most authentic self. Thank you to all who pray and those who share their concerns. I have found that the praying for others encourages a deeper relationship with the Creator. All are welcome to join in this journey. If interested please contact the office. Thank you to all the prayer warriors.

REMEMBER THOSE IN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY . . .

Staff Sergeant Adam Crown
Airman Corey Malinowski
Marine Tom McJilton
Army Sergeant Kendra Stofflet at Ft. Campbell Army Base, KY
Warrant Officer Robert Stofflet at Ft. Campbell Army Base, KY
Lieutenant Sterling Payne, 205 Ming St. Warrensburg, MO



SUMMER AT SOTG . . .

Memorial Day, the traditional start of summer, is behind us. As we look around, the Sanctuary is noticeably more empty. We truly miss our seasonal friends. It is gratifying how many of you continue to stream our Sunday services from your northern homes.

Yes, summer has arrived in Southwest Florida. But the work of the ministry of Shepherd of the Glades continues year around. There are still people each Sunday eager to hear the word of Christ preached. There are still many people who suffer from food insecurity. The homebound and ill still look forward to the comfort of a visit from our clergy. The several support groups that call Shepherd of the Glades home meet throughout the summer. And with the coming of the wet summer storm season, the Church building needs, if anything, even more attention.

Whenever the Church has a need, we are blessed by a generous congregation that always steps up. We cannot thank you enough.

Residing in a seasonal community, managing the ups and downs of attendance and revenue can be a challenge. This is why I encourage you to consider online giving. It is an easy way to support the work of Shepherd of the Glades even while away. It simplifies giving even for those who are full-time residents. Signing up is easy, quick, and simple. Just use your phone camera to access the QR code below and follow the directions.



All of us at Shepherd of the Glades wish you a safe and fruitful summer. We eagerly look forward to your return in the Fall.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Scott Krenz
Treasurer

FINANCIALLY, HOW ARE WE DOING? . . .

PERIOD: Five Months Ended May, 2026

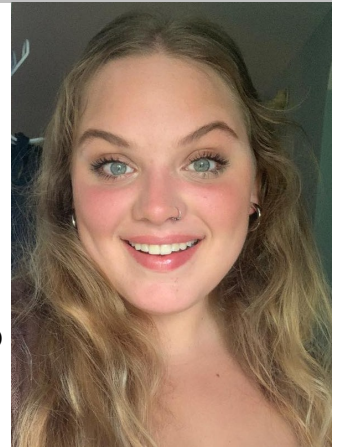
	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$151,219	\$200,095	(\$48,876)
Operating Expense	\$164,317	\$172,784	\$8,467
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$13,098)	\$27,311	(\$40,409)

This month we continue with expenses exceeding our income year to date. Our expenses are below budget but not enough to offset the short fall in giving. We are so appreciative to our faithful and generous supporters of the mission and ministry of SOTG!

FROM OUR DIRECTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP . . .

Hello SOTG!

Wow, it's so hard to believe that this is my final newsletter with you all. I would like to start off by stating how fast this year and a half has been! It feels like I just recently moved to Naples and started here. Throughout my time here, I have learned so much. I knew that taking this position would help me to discern my future vocational steps, as well as provide additional help and leadership for the congregation alongside Pastor Jeff. I'd like to think I was successful with both! By learning and growing in my leadership here, I have discerned my call to seminary and rostered leadership within the ELCA. As I begin the transition to being a student in the classroom once again, I remain so grateful for my time here. I know that I will carry all that I have learned here with me into seminary and my career afterward. I hope that in serving you all, the congregation has been able to grow as well, knowing that even though change can be a bit scary at times, it often leads to a renewed sense of purpose and vision. I would also like to thank the Endowment Committee for their generosity in the form of a grant, which will aid in the cost of my returning to school full-time. I will forever be grateful to the Holy Spirit for leading me here to all of you for this short time. The people I have met and the genuine connections we have made will always remain the most important and most cherished. I give my most heartfelt thanks to this congregation for the chance to serve you all, knowing that all we do is done in the name of the One who has given us everything.



Blessings to you all,

Mary

AV IMPROVEMENTS AT SOTG . . .

Thanks to the financial support of the Endowment Fund and memorials, Shepherd of the Glades has installed a new listening device system that allows for Bluetooth connection directly to your hearing aid. If you do not have Bluetooth

hearing aids, there are headphones you can wear to improve your worship experience.

We also installed two new microphones to pick up congregation responses and singing, as well as two new cameras to improve our online worship experience. We are still learning how to use a new software program for the cameras, so be patient. The improvements to online worship are coming soon!



ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM AVAILABLE

RECEIVERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST OR JOIN WITH YOUR OWN AURACAST™ ENABLED DEVICE

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Happy June 2026!

**Among other observances this month, June is also
Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and Men's Health Month**

If you're thinking "it won't happen to me" when it comes to needing help as you age, you aren't alone. But the need for care often comes anyway. That's why it's important to put a plan in place to help safeguard your finances from the cost of potential care needs. Long-term care insurance can be an important part of that plan. If you're considering long-term care insurance or simply want to learn more, we recommend setting up a complimentary meeting with your local Thrivent representative to discuss this important topic.

ALL MONTH| VIDEO ON DEMAND

In case you missed it, review the recent Market and Economic Update from April and watch out for the next one to see how the market is progressing.

Markets are moving, economic signals are evolving, and energy is back in focus. Follow the link below for Thrivent's Market & Economic Update—a recording of our recent 60-minute virtual event featuring insights from Thrivent investment leaders who will share perspectives on current events, inflation, interest rates, and shifting market behaviors. You'll get practical guidance to help you feel more confident navigating today's markets. Click or follow: <https://bit.ly/AprilMarket2026>

No products will be sold at our events. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://www.thrivent.com/social).

We help Christians find financial clarity, enabling lives full of meaning and gratitude. All are welcome to attend our free virtual events. Feel free to share these events with your friends and family.

Want to know more about Thrivent?

Call Thrivent Financial Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL . . .

Summer is the perfect season to recalibrate, offering an abundance of daylight and a natural invitation to slow down. Use these thought-provoking themes to reset your personal compass, deepen your connections, and make the most of the slower, sun-soaked months.

- **Intentional living: Redefine rest. Let laziness find respectability!**
- **Exploring your surroundings: Explore locally and enjoy evening reflections!**
- **Personal growth: Embrace softer goals. Identify what holds you back.**
- **Nurturing connections: Encourage Al Fresco gatherings! Make time for friends.**

HUMOR IS MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL . . .

What did the ocean say to the beach? Nothing - It just waved!

Why do seagulls fly over the sea? Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be bagels!

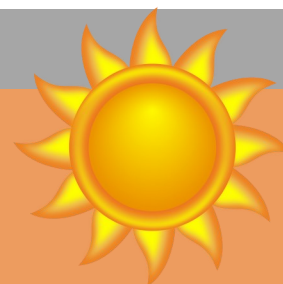
Why did the beach blush? It saw the seaweed!

Why do bananas wear sunscreen? Because they peel!

What happens when ice cream gets angry? It has a meltdown!

MONTH AT A GLANCE . . .

JUNE, 2026



SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00-10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	2 NO SEW-SEWS	3 9:00-10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:30 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	4 7:30-8:30 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	5 9:00-11:00 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP 9:00 A.M. NEWSLETTER MAILING	6 9:00 P.M. N.A. GROUP MEETING
SYNOD ASSEMBLY						
7 SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	8 9:00-10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	9 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	10 9:00-10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:30 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY 2:00-3:30 P.M. GRIEF SUPPORT	11 7:30-8:30 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	12	13 9:00 P.M. N.A. GROUP MEETING
14 THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	15 9:00-10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	16 NO SEW-SEWS	17 9:00-10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:30 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	18 7:30-8:30 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	19 9:00-11:00 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	20 9:00 P.M. N.A. GROUP MEETING
PASTOR ON VACATION						
21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP MARY WINSOR PREACHING	22 9:00-10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR JULY & AUGUST NEWSLETTER	23 NO SEW-SEWS	24 9:00-10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:30 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	25 7:30-8:30 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	26 10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	27 5:00 P.M. DINNER CHURCH 9:00 P.M. N.A. GROUP MEETING
PASTOR ON VACATION						
28 FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	29 9:00-10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	30 NO SEW-SEWS				

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Dated material mailed June 5, 2026
Please deliver between June 5—9, 2026

Current Resident or

**This Parish Paper is from:
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Email: sotg6020@gmail.com**

**Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.**

**Pastor Jeff Unga, Pastor [cell phone: 641-529-2479]
Mary Winsor, Director for Discipleship
Megan Cianflone, Director of Music
Penny Morken, Council President
Deanna Colbert, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor
Lynn Dickerman, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor**