



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND CHILD CARE

Pastor Chris' Weekly Ministry Update

February 20, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A blessed Thursday to you! "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!" (Psalm 118:24)

1. **Outreach Forum** – The Outreach Forum is 3-5 p.m. this Sunday! You may RSVP [here](#). At our weekly staff meeting Tuesday, I shared the results of the outreach survey with church staff, and we had a good discussion. Digesting the survey results will be a part of the Outreach Forum, along with time in the Word, a video about our current outreach ministries, fellowship with friends, and gift card giveaways! See you there!

2. **New member welcome** – This weekend, we have the joy of welcoming 24 new members during worship services. These individuals attended the recent Rooted church information class. We're blessed to have them joining our church family! When you see them, please give your own personal welcome to: Matthew, Cora, Esmee, Thomas, and Theodore Balsitis; Michael, Angela, Sarah, Allis, and Elizabeth Brohammer; John and Donna Kah; June Kah; Eric, Penelope, and Wyatt Lenz; Peter de Neergaard; James, Amanda, Adalynn, Raelynn, and Oaklynn Palacios; David and LeAnn Wade.

3. **Director of Youth Ministry update** – Congregational nominations for Director of Youth Ministry have now been submitted to the LCMS Texas District office. The district timetable is one to two weeks to provide us with a list of candidates. Once I receive the list, which includes an information packet for each candidate, I'll distribute the packets to the search team, and then we'll gather to decide which candidates to interview. The search team includes staff, parents, youth, young adults, board members, and experts in hiring and management. Team members are: John Hennessy, Amelia Hessong, Margaret Pedraza, Matthew Smith, Bethany Turner, Asher Biedinger (youth representative), Maryn Villarreal (youth representative), Lauren White, Pastor Andy, and Pastor Chris. Please continue to keep the search process in your prayers as we seek God's will for our youth ministry.

4. **Gifts for police program** – At school chapel yesterday, SAPD officers visited us and collected donations of stuffed animals, our January chapel offerings. These stuffed animals are given to distressed children as part of the San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) program.



5. **Facilities update** – If you missed Jeremy Gawf's latest update, please click [here](#). He notes 2024 campus projects and some projects in the works for 2025.

6. **Basketball state tournament** – It was exciting to witness the Lutheran schools state basketball tournament last weekend in Houston! My son Caleb is on the middle school boys team. They played very well, earning seventh place in the gold division. The girls team also had a strong showing, achieving third in silver. On Sunday morning, my family attended worship at Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, one of the tournament host sites. A friend on Salem's school staff gave us a tour of

the facilities. It was educational to see how their ministry operates. I'm happy to be back with you this weekend! There's no place like home – Shepherd of the Hills!





7. **This weekend** – Can you believe we're halfway through the *NEXT* campaign? This weekend we'll review the vision for *NEXT* and how it applies to our church and our individual lives. God has been doing amazing things in our midst over the past 18 months. By His grace, more great things are coming! Read ahead: **Philippians 3:8-14**.

See you at church!

God's blessings,
Pastor Chris













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