

Shepherd of the Desert
Lutheran Church
Monthly Newsletter
November 2026



Church Council

President: Keith LaShier

Vice President: Sheri Thirkell

Treasurer: Nancy Hempy

Council Secretary: Jane Hansen

Council Member: Nancy Fisher

Council Member: Kim Barnes-
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Church Staff

Senior Pastor: John Maroni

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Admin Secretary: Kristen Wood

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Finance Secretary: Judy Yates

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For more information about
Shepherd of the Desert or if you
would like to watch Sunday
Service go to www.sdaz.org

Harvest, Gratitude, and Fellowship

As the calendar turns to November, our hearts naturally shift toward a season of harvest and giving thanks. Across fields and gardens, the fruit of hard work and patient waiting has been gathered. In our own lives, November offers us a quiet, welcome space to look back over the past year, count our blessings, and give thanks for God's steadfast faithfulness and abundant provision.

Gratitude is more than a seasonal feeling—it is a practice of opening our hearts to recognize how God works through our community and through our hands. This month, we have a wonderful opportunity to put that thankfulness into action and celebrate together as a church family.

Please mark your calendars for **November 21 and 22**, when we will be hosting our **Special Thanksgiving Services**.

During these services, we will take time to wrap our prayers and gratitude around tangible acts of love. We will be holding a special blessing over the **"quilts, hats, and items made by hand"** crafted with care by members of our congregation throughout the year. These handmade gifts represent warmth, comfort, and the practice of serving others.

Following the services, the celebration continues! We invite everyone to stay and **share in pie together** for a sweet time of fellowship. If you are able to bring a homemade pie to share, please let me know so we can plan accordingly!

May this month of November fill your home with warmth, your heart with peace, and your spirit with overflow of thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you always.

Pastor John Maroni

Ongoing November Church Activities

Monday Morning Bible Study

10:00 a.m. in the Founders Room. Remember to bring your Bible and a beverage. We will be reading the lessons for the upcoming weekend services.

Choir rehearsals Choir rehearsals will be Tuesday's at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. If you like to sing come and join us!

November First Wednesday Bingo Join us for the last Bingo night of the year we will have door prizes 50/50 raffle and Pizza. Make sure to sign up so we can plan on enough food Thanks!

November Paint Night November 11th at 5:30 p.m. Please make sure to sign up so we can plan on snacks and supplies. Bring a beverage there is snacks provided. This is the painting for November Paint Night.



Pancake Breakfast

Saturday October 31st 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Walton Hall. The price is right FREE!!! This is a free breakfast for the community and S.O.D.

Nov. 21 & 22 we will be having our Thanksgiving Services. Following those services we will have a Pie Social. This weekend will also be Blessing all handmade things. Annual Reports will also be available to review.

Game Night will resume in January 2027

Council Presidents Message – November 2026

As I write this newsletter message, many of our members are preparing for the annual Trunk and Treat event, which is being held on Wednesday, October 28th. We expect to see many decorated vehicles adorned with Halloween themes. Our greater community has traditionally turned out with a good-sized crowd to enjoy getting Halloween candy handed out to them and partaking in other benefits. There will be games available to the children who visit us, and a hot dog meal offered free to everyone. Walton Hall will be a gathering place for everyone to enjoy other benefits offered them.

A few days later (Saturday, October 31st) other volunteers from SOD will host our monthly pancake breakfast. We have seen a steady attendance of participants who look forward to sitting in Walton Hall and conversing with others. The pancake and sausage breakfast is appreciated by everyone who attends.

Luke Tradup and Jessica Engan, members of SOD will be married at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary on October 31st and have invited all members to join them at this ceremony.

Another key event occurs on Wednesday, November 2nd when we host a free Bingo event. This event was nicely attended this summer and those who are working behind the scenes to put it together are appreciated for their efforts.

New Director Photos

When you attend an upcoming church service you may be asked to stop at the library (next to the Founders Room) and allow us to take a photo of you for our church directory. Please take the time to take the photo as we would like to update our church directory with photos and contact information for our members.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting on December 2, 2026 will provide us an opportunity to enjoy a great meal prepared by Council members. The agenda for this meeting will include updates on many topics which we believe you will want to hear about. The Annual Congregational Meeting written report will be provided everyone prior to the meeting to give you a chance to read and review the material beforehand.

SOD Volunteer Opportunities

Pastor John in a recent sermon commented on and thanked the many members of SOD who work behind the scenes to keep our church operating. Each year we may have Church Council terms end and need to fill 1-2 positions. This year is no different. We prayerfully ask our members to consider offering yourself to be considered as someone who can offer your time and talents to become a “leader” and fill a congregationally selected position. Pastor John and I would be happy to discuss such opportunities with you.

Thank you for your support to Shepherd of the Desert.

God’s peace to you,

Keith E. LaShier – Council President



The Church office is working on a new updated directory. Please look for Judy Yates either before or after services to get your new photo. All photos are taken in the Church Library which is right by the Founders Room. Thank you!



November 2026: Shepherd's Adopted Families for Christmas

Every year at Christmas time we sponsor families in need. These names are given to us from a local elementary school.

These funds are used to bless these families at this special time of the year.





Jerry Pokrandt	11/2
Bruce Goudy	11/14
Pat Pokrandt	11/15
Mary Nordeen	11/16
Betty Bishop	11/18
Betty Diaz	11/20
Denise Wessels	11/20
Delma Ellis	11/23
Polly Getten	11/24

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekend Total</u>
October 3 & 4	30	44	74
October 10 & 11	18	36	54
October 17 & 18	27	49	76
October 24 & 25	35	52	94