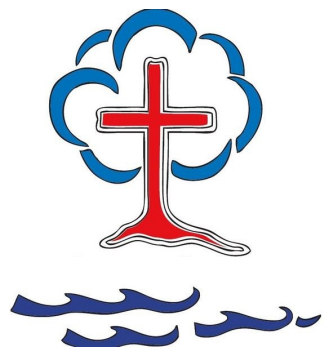




News From The Pews

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church—ELCA
Pastor Phillip Vickers

143 Chota Center, Loudon, TN 37774

www.shepherdofthelaketn.org

(865) 816-4756

October 2025

A Christian community sharing God's love with the world.

Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.

In Person
and
Online

On the website:

Bulletins
Announcements
Sermons
Newsletters
Livestream

Church Council

Tom Tisch
President

Otto Stutz
Vice President

Julie Claus
Secretary

Eric Bondy
Treasurer

Claire Moxim
Vivian Snellman
Members-at-Large

Office
Manager
Sandy Hagan
Shepherdofthelake13@gmail.com



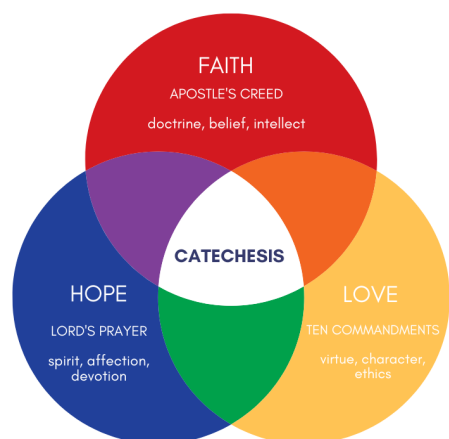
Pastor Phil's Page

Recently, we refocused our Wednesday educational time away from the lectionary and to a catechism for adults. Catechism means “instruction” and in our Lutheran tradition this has often taken the form of question and answer. Many of us have memories of confirmation lessons that include the phrase “what does this mean?”

Teaching has been a part of my ministry since the beginning. When I was a Pastor of Family Life Ministries in Hutchinson Kansas, I taught many a confirmation class. I still remember asking myself questions about how to make the study of the Bible and the Lutheran tradition applicable to young people growing up in that time and place. That is a question that everyone who seeks to pass on the faith asks themselves in some way. What are we trying to pass on? What is most important and what is not so important anymore? Are there new ways of speaking about the faith that we need to take on, and old ways that we need to let go?



Pastor Phil Vickers



Here at Shepherd of the Lake, I have found many folks hungry to take another look at the teachings of the Church. They might have learned about the faith when they were young and now are coming to a new appreciation of doctrine. Or, they may have stayed deeply engaged in the study of the faith since youth. Folks come hungry to the banquet for many reasons, and I have found that those reasons lend a great variety to our discussions. The questions I get during catechism are wonderful, rich, and complex. I don't always have the answers. In fact, on some days, it seems that I don't even have most of the answers. But I am thankful that the Holy Spirit shows up in our discussion and in our wrestling with the big questions of faith, discipleship, prayer, service, devotion, and learning.

Education is one way that Shepherd of the Lake lives out our calling to be disciples of Jesus Christ. It is a blessing to be a part of this aspect of our life together, as well as all the other ways we answer God's call. If you would like to talk about how you can be more deeply involved here at Shepherd of the Lake, please call and come visit me at the office where the door is always open and a cup of strong coffee is never far away. Blessings and thanks,

Pr. Phil

October

Birthdays

01	Tom Schemberger
02	Sue Schemberger
02	Lloyd Arrowood
04	Cherie Oswald
09	Tom Lillestolen
10	Mark Funderburk
12	Charlie Schubeck
15	Richard Sawinski
16	Dan Mandro
24	Ingrid Schalk
28	Carol Becker
30	Elaine Gott
31	Robert Bly

Anniversaries

07	Sue & Ray Nowak
07	Kris & Rod Rowe
17	Ingrid & Tim Schalk
19	Donna & Frank Navratil



President's Column



I often write about sharing our faith as we worship God together as a church family at Shepherd of the Lake. Bringing our faith with us on extended trips away from Tellico Village is equally important as distance doesn't exist in God's glorious realm.

Susan and I recently visited the Scottish Highlands, a pilgrimage of sort, as Susan's pedigree is Scottish and English. We joined our youngest son, Paul, and his girlfriend Bianca, in Edinburgh where our exciting journey together began.

The Scottish Highlands bear witness to God's magnificent creation. There are many splendid places on earth where vistas can take one's breath away, the Highlands perhaps providing some of the most spectacular on planet Earth. Nestled within the valleys of rugged brush and moss-covered mountains, or near cascading waterfalls, sometimes adjacent to rolling emerald-green glens, some bordered by misty lochs or aside rocky cliffs facing the north

Atlantic's pounding surf, are many quaint villages comprised of ancient structures, many of which predate the colonization of the Americas. In virtually each of these lovely places is an old stone church, a church that would have been one of the first major building projects undertaken by early residents centuries ago after Christianity found its way to the British Isles and pagan eyes were opened to the Truth as they learned about and accepted Jesus. These churches provided the village inhabitants a place to worship God together, as family, no differently than we do today at Shepherd of the Lake.

As we rapidly down-shifted into these picturesque villages, we sometimes stopped to admire some of the churches and adjacent graveyards, often filled with very old Celtic cross markers...old markers, but curiously few or no newer ones. To our chagrin, many of these beautiful churches had padlocked doors and no signage listing service times. On further inspection, some of these structures were in disrepair with shuttered windows and overgrown with brush. The towns were well inhabited as people walked the streets, children joyfully played together, local merchant establishments were busy. The venerable church building, once the town center where baptisms and weddings were celebrated, where loved ones were tearfully put to rest, where families reverently worshiped God as one communal family, seemed to cast a profound shadow of absence. In some of the larger towns, once magnificent churches were presented more as museums, places of curiosity, as unchurched, possibly faithless and empty-hearted tourists could only wonder why they existed in the first place.



During these explorations I began to ponder why these communities of faith that once filled these churches led to eventual emptiness. Was it heresy? Was it political interference? Was it social change or the idolatry of materialism, lack of clergy, or did people simply stop sharing their faith with one another? Then I lamented on the Michigan church I grew up in. It wasn't ancient, it was chartered sometime in the 1930s and founded by immigrants who were drawn to the area by abundant but arduous work opportunities provided by local foundries and mills. As a young boy I always experienced the warm feeling of being happily *at home* whenever I attended services with my family as we worshiped and honored God with a multitude of other families. In 2023 that church was decommissioned and is now for sale as general real estate. The town, once a vibrant "blue collar" community, had lost the foundries and mills that once provided work. Although the population hadn't changed all that much, it seems as if God had left town with the jobs.

The places of worship in Scotland and in my Michigan hometown were not merely buildings, they were places where faith communities gathered as a greater family, a family in Christ, that shared belief in a great, sacred power.

Some recent studies indicate that more than 50% of folks in the United States with prior Christian heritage claim to have no religious affiliation, especially within the younger generations. The same is true in Scotland and all of the UK, along with much of Europe. Once again, what has led so many people to abandon religion, perhaps even their faith in God?

These days it's more important than ever to live our faith as we worship the Trinity together as family. And, as our faith grows, so do we, as it attracts others searching for the same. There are many walking among us who are looking for the Christian love we share. Together, as members of God's family, we can do his work by simply living as Jesus teaches and extending open hands to those looking for the comfort and blessings from the Highest of all Power.

That brings me full circle to Shepherd of the Lake, which is also snuggled in the lap of God's awesome creation. Shepherd of the Lake is the vibrant ELCA church in the heart of beautiful Tellico Village whose focus is on the Word and sacraments, and whose doors are always open to anyone wanting to step in and discover what awaits.

Tom Tisch

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Join Our PLACE for the Walk2Remember and Community Support!

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church has been a proud partner of Our PLACE, Adult Day Center, since its inception. **Our PLACE**, located opposite Food Lion, provides compassionate care and therapeutic activities for individuals affected by dementia-related diseases.

Walk2Remember & Car Show - Join us Saturday, October 4, 2025, at Lenoir City Park, 6707 City Park Drive, for the 3rd Annual Walk2Remember & Car Show! The walk begins at 10am and offers both 1-mile and 2-mile options. The car show runs from 9am to 1pm and features music, food trucks, and family-friendly fun.

How Can You Help?

- **Volunteers:** We need people who are willing and able to represent our church and join the walk.
- **Donate:** We need people to pledge financial support.
- For those who would like to pledge their financial support and not walk, please write your check out to **Our PLACE** and either give it to Susan Tisch or during the week leave it in the church office with Sandy Hagan

Register: This year the Participation Waiver Release of Liability form is on-line. By scanning the QR code you can fill out the form and make a donation.

On behalf of Shepherd of the Lake and **Our PLACE**, we sincerely thank you for your support. Questions?? Contact Susan Tisch at 847-894-5255 or susan.m.tisch@gmail.com

Let's walk together to create more "Moments of Joy" for families impacted by dementia.



The House That Mercy Built

The House that Mercy Built is located at 184 Bank Street in Tellico Plains, TN. It is a non-profit faith-based residential program that provides a safe environment for women to be transformed from the inside out. The goal is to be a place that helps women bring order and accountability where there has been chaos, lack of boundaries and instability. They provide tools and opportunities for women to become a productive member of both their family and community. Volunteers are welcome in many areas, including driving and child sitting. You can contact Director Roma Payne at 423-519-7472 or housethatmercybuilt@gmail.com for more information.

Donations of canned food, paper towels, toilet paper, new pillows, twin sheet sets, socks, hair brushes, combs, gloves, toboggans and feminine products. Gift cards to Dollar General or Walmart can be used when a new woman comes in with nothing to her name. Donations can be dropped off at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran church, 143 Chota Center in Tellico Village, Monday-Friday from 9 am-3 pm.

Water to Thrive—October Outreach

October is the perfect month to highlight W2T. It was nine years ago that our congregation became supportive of W2T by funding three wells in 2016. The response was overwhelming to us and we continue to be grateful for the support that our congregation gives to W2T. Now, nine years later, our congregation has funded a total of 24 wells and there are funds toward the 25th well. Pastor Ingrid and I did a presentation a few weeks ago, so I won't go into the history of W2T again. Of course, if there are ever any questions, please ask me.

The following is a note about one of the beneficiaries that is benefiting from our 19th well that was funded in December, 2023 and is serving a minimum of 500 people.

Forence Namuli is 39 years old and is excited about having access to clean and safe water.

Previously, she fetched household water from a swamp because the nearest borehole was over a mile from her home. This is what she said: "I would not get time to go far to fetch water for drinking," Mrs. Namuli said. "So, I would just fetch water from the swamp, leave it to settle, and pour it in the pot for drinking because I had a lot of work to do at home." However, Mrs. Namuli realized that her family members kept on suffering from typhoid. She recalled, "The little money we would get from farming would all be spent on medical bills.

This affected my family economically because we were not able to save enough money to afford other basic needs. This frustrated my husband and we would have frequent quarrels at home. We were not a happy family at all." Since the community borehole was rehabilitated, Mrs. Namuli and her family are happy. They are no longer visiting the health facility frequently. They can now afford basic needs and are planning to start other projects. After the borehole was rehabilitated, a Water Committee was formed and trained. Mrs. Namuli serves as the caretaker of the borehole, which means she is actively involved in the community. As she shared, the community is "...working together to ensure that we maintain our water source properly such that we do not suffer again."

Our congregation has changed the lives of a minimum of 11,000 people. As Pastor Phil taught us in Bible study, when you give expecting nothing back, that is sacrificial giving. If this sacrificial giving speaks to you, please make your check payable to So+L with Water to Thrive as the designation.

Let us keep the water flowing!!

Kandie Shubeck



Bringing Hope to Hurting Children: A Gift That Matters



In August, our church extended a heartfelt gift of \$345 to The Child Advocacy Center (CAC)—a beacon of hope for children who have experienced the trauma of abuse. This donation is more than a number; it's a lifeline for young survivors and a powerful reminder that healing begins with compassion.

The CAC provides critical services such as forensic interviews, counseling, and advocacy in a safe, child-friendly environment. Every dollar helps ensure that children are met with care, dignity, and the resources they need to begin their journey toward restoration.

Our support tells these children:

You are not alone. You are seen. You are loved.

We are grateful to be part of this mission. Thank you to everyone who makes outreach like this possible—your generosity is changing lives.

Church News & Events

Women's Fellowship Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 16

8:15am

Carpool leaves from church or meet us at the Schokolad Chocolate Factory in Turkey Creek (10944 Parkside Drive in Farragut) by 9am. We will learn how chocolate is made, see a demonstration, and get a chance to make some ourselves. Cost is: \$24.95

After visiting Schokolad, we will be meeting for lunch (11am) at Chili's, located at 11454 Parkside Drive. Feel free to join us just for lunch.

Saturday, November 8

9:00am-12:00pm

Vonore Mug Project

Mug project for Vonore Elementary's Christmas Shop.

Jean Clesen is collecting gently used or new coffee mugs before the 8th. Mugs do not need to be Christmas-themed.

Breakfast snacks provided!



Thursday, December 11

11:30am

Women's Fellowship Christmas Potluck Lunch in Friendship Hall. More information to follow!

Vonore Santa's Christmas Bag Project



On Saturday, September 13, we had a wonderful turnout for our 3rd Annual Vonore Christmas Bag Project. Twenty-one ladies, (including several guests) attended this morning event. We had several groups gluing Christmas card fronts on different size white lunch bags. One group was using ink pads and Christmas stamps to decorate large bags for bigger gifts. There was lots of conversation and camaraderie throughout the morning. We managed to finish over 800 bags in about 1 1/2 hours. WOW! There was even time for breakfast muffins, juice, and coffee or tea. We all agreed we would be willing to continue this outreach project for Vonore Elementary School next year. We'd like to thank Eileen and Steve Dormer for their donation of a Thrivent Grant which covered most of the cost of supplies.



Kiddie Kingdom Reading Ladies



The Reading Ladies took a summer break from reading at Kiddie Kingdom. They started back on September 23 for the new school year. The theme for the morning was Fall.

Susan Tisch read the book *"Little Squirrel's Special Nest."* Penny, Susan and Sandy helped the children with gluing a tree to blue paper and decorating with colored leaves and a squirrel. We provided snacks and then Susan led the children with her energetic Dino Dance. To end our visit, Sandy called Santa Claus on her phone. The children gave him a heads up as to what was on their Christmas list. Yes, the season is creeping up on us.

The Reading Ladies

VETERANS DAY



Please note that our 2025 list of So+L veterans, family and friends will be on the entrance table in the narthex beginning Wednesday, October 1-31. Please review to verify whether your name and branch of service is on our list.

Also check for the names you have added to the list. This list includes military veterans and veterans of agencies of our government such as the Peace Corps.

If you add a family member or friend, please list the branch of service, their address and your name.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Opsal or Carol Becker.

Sunday Servants An Invitation to Join In

Each Sunday, our worship experience is made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers who serve with grace and generosity. From Assisting Ministers to Communion Assistants, Greeters to Sound Techs, every role is a vital thread in the fabric of our church family.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all who serve as:

- Assisting Ministers
- Lectors
- Communion Assistants
- Altar Care
- Greeters
- Ushers
- Sound and Video Techs
- Counters
- Fellowship Hosts
- Flower Providers

Your presence and service make a difference—thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ.

If you're new to So+L and feel called to get involved, we'd love to welcome you into one of these roles. Training is available, and there's a place for everyone. Simply contact the church office, and we'll help you find your fit.



Let's continue to serve together, lifting one another up in love and purpose.

Bible Reading Spotlight

For those that don't know me, my name is Glenn Froese and I must confess that I didn't see this one coming. As a member of the Communications Team, I mentioned to the team that I had spent about the last ten years reading the Bible and various reference books and wanted to know if Shepherd of the Lake had a library and would my collection of books be of interest. Well, after some discussion, it was suggested that I write about my Bible reading experience and everyone thought this was a great idea (except possibly me), and as they say 'the rest is history'.

So, let me first explain that my background is engineering (electrical, to be specific). This was a great career for me (spent 38 years creating computer chips for IBM) and one that was well suited for my talent (which didn't include reading or writing). As you can see, writing an article about my experience was something I wouldn't normally volunteer for, but, such is life, and here we go.

But before I tell my story, let me also state that if you know me, you'll likely say I'm a well-mannered, somewhat intelligent individual that enjoys having a good time but usually isn't in the spotlight. As such, I don't talk to friends, neighbors or even family about politics. In the same light, I usually don't discuss religion, unless someone asks or appears interested. My foray into Bible reading would likely come as a surprise to most people who know me. They may know that I fish, travel, play golf or enjoy an occasional bourbon, but most people would say, "Glenn, I know him, he's not very religious".

The truth of the matter is that I think religion is a very personal thing (like politics). Form your opinion, share it if asked, but don't wear it on your sleeve. I do view myself as a religious person, however I don't advertise it and I'm careful about who I share it with. Since this article is for the members of Shepherd of the Lake, I'll share by Bible reading experience (and not my political viewpoints).

My wife, Mary Lee, and I bought a home in Tellico Village back in 2014 and became permanent residents in 2019. We live in the Toqua neighborhood and thoroughly enjoy the lifestyle that east Tennessee has to offer. Prior to moving down here, I was cleaning up some old books and came across several bibles and religious books that I accumulated up until that point in my life. Several of the books/bible were from my confirmation days. Several were 'hand-me-downs' and one or two, I actually purchased sometime in the last 50 years or so.

To add to this story, I also think that as we go through life, we see ourselves differently. I remember my dad was also an engineer but after his retirement, he became an amateur artist and sold several of his paintings. He also developed an interest in Egyptian history (not sure how that came about) however, while I was looking at the reference material in front of me, it occurred to me that I never read the Bible from cover to cover. In fact, maybe coincidentally, I had this urge to better understand the history associated with the Bible. I guess you can say, I became interested in the history of the Bible and not that I was looking for inspiration (or for any religious purpose). I just wanted to better understand the history of mankind and thought starting with the Bible was a good idea.

With that thought in mind, it was time to act. I selected two versions of the Bible (The Revised Standard Version and The Good News Bible). I then selected three reference books and figured I'd read one chapter a day in each Bible and then the associated sections in the three reference books. I did some research on the internet and found that there are three ways you can read the Bible. The first was to read them in the order they are printed in the Bible. The second was to read them in chronological order and the third was to read them in the order they were written. Being the logic-oriented guy that I am, I chose to go with the chronological approach. Little did I know that this was going to be more complicated than I thought as I found there was a fair amount of overlap between 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles. I had so many bookmarks in each of the books that I had to use my cell phone reminder feature to let me know which book and chapter I completed and then what to read next.

I've heard that misery loves company, so I had a desire to understand Biblical history however I wasn't an avid reader and already had two Bibles and three reference books ahead of me to read. I'm not sure what possessed me, but I decided to add to my reference collection. I started ordering books from Amazon based on the particular Bible book I was reading or based on a collection of Bible books (Prophets, for example). Now that I've finished my reading, and looked back, in addition to the two versions of the Bible, I realized that I've also read 15 other books all associated with biblical history.

So, what did I learn? I learned that the Bible is a long book and takes a while to read. I'd have to check when I ordered my first book from Amazon (on Genesis) but would venture to guess that reading adventure lasted about 12 years. I also learned that parts of the Bible are boring but there are times when many names run together and being an engineer and not a poet, I'm not sure I appreciated all of the Psalms and Proverbs. However, I persevered and never skipped a chapter. On a positive note, I did feel spiritually enlightened and somewhat gratified as each reading provided some inspiration (similar to the feeling you get when going to church) but my memory cells kicked in, and I started connecting stories from the Bible with memories I had when I was younger and going through religious education. I started remembering old friends, youth pastors, retreats I went on and other favorable memories.

Did I learn anything? Absolutely. It was a great refresher for me. Having a family with two active sons pulling on my time, I had forgotten some of the stories from the Bible. I forgot some of the messages. I felt that I not only got a little 'smarter' but I also had a little more appreciation of life and an inner sense of joy.

Would I do it again? Maybe but probably with a few less books. What I have found is that reading the Bible (and associated supporting literature) has created a spark to learn more about certain aspects of history. I'm not exactly sure what my next venture will be, however you may find me digging deeper into the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the Bible).

So, in conclusion, I found out that Shepherd of the Lake has a small library however it's uncured, meaning that the books have not necessarily been deemed consistent with Lutheran beliefs. The reference books I've collected likely fit into that category however, they are all based on Christian beliefs so you may (or may not) find some of them in the church library. It was a more significant endeavor than I initially expected but I'm glad I did it and hopefully I'm a little wiser. I feel a lot more appreciative for the life we have and the world we live in.

Best wishes, your friendly engineer,
Glenn Froese

Meet Sharon D'Ambra (Newest Member)

Born in Chicago on December 15, Sharon D'Ambra spent her early years in the northwest suburbs—Elmhurst and Barrington—alongside her older sister and two younger brothers. Summers were often spent at Gregory Beach near Dowagiac, Michigan, where family memories were made in the sun and sand.

After graduating from Barrington High School, Sharon attended the University of Illinois, earning a B.S. in Animal Sciences and later a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Her career as an associate veterinarian took her to Jacksonville, NC; Omaha, NE; and Pensacola, FL.

Sharon married Craig D'Ambra on May 16, 1981, while he was stationed with the Marine Corps. During Craig's deployments as a CH-46E pilot, Sharon returned to Illinois to complete her degree. Together, they've lived in Quantico, VA; Omaha, NE; and Lake Forest, CA, where Craig served with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

They are proud parents of three daughters—Katie, Elizabeth, and Jenny—and share their home with Mae, a rescue dog, and Dorsi, a crested gecko. Though they don't have grandchildren, their hearts are full with grandpups, grandcats, and a rotating cast of beloved animals to babysit in Atlanta and Orlando.

Sharon's hobbies include reading, gardening, cross stitching, motorcycle touring, and DIY projects. Over the years, she's fostered countless puppies, kittens, and dogs—though she admits only two were successfully fostered without becoming permanent family members. Their home has also welcomed a Ball python, a Senegal parrot, and various pocket pets, often courtesy of their daughters (with a little encouragement from Sharon herself).

Since the early 1990s, Sharon and Craig have visited her parents, Ruth and Bill Sittler, in Tellico Village. After her parents passed, they purchased the family home and watched Shepherd of the Lake grow from a satellite campus of Faith Lutheran Church into a vibrant congregation. We're proud to now be official members of this thriving community.



RECURRING EVENTS

So+L has many recurring activities throughout the month. They are on our website should you wish to check them out and just maybe participate. See below what's happening! Go to the website and select:

GET INVOLVED — COMING EVENTS.

Wkly.	Al-Anon Meeting	Mon	10:00am
Wkly.	Women's AA Meeting	Mon	11:30am
Bi-Wk.	Dream Study Circle	Tues	2:00pm
Wkly.	Bible Study	Wed	10:00am
Wkly.	Small Group	Thu	3:00pm
Mthly	Card Making Ministry	2nd Thu	10:00am
Mthly	Creative Hands	2nd Thu	9:30am
Mthly	Women's Fellowship	3rd Thu	11:30am
Bi-Wk.	Sisters in Sobriety (SIS)	Fri	11:30am
Mthly	Men's Fellowship B'fast	3rd Sat	8:30am



SAVE THESE DATES

Oct. 2	5:00 pm	Annual Church Picnic Toqua Pavilion
Oct. 4	10:00 am	Walk2remember Lenoir City Park
Oct. 5	10:15 am	New Grief Support Group Women's Fellowship Schakolad Chocolate Factory
Oct. 16	9:00 am	Top Notes Dance Band Yacht Club
Oct. 16	7:00 pm	Vonore Mug Project
Nov. 8	9:00 am	Women's Fellowship Christmas Potluck Lunch
Dec. 11	11:30am	



**Saturday,
October 18 at 8:30am
Friendship Hall**

Join the men for coffee and breakfast items of your choice as they fellowship together.

Go to SignUpGenius and make your reservation and select the food you plan to bring. It will be a great time to socialize.

Men's Fellowship: Men's Fellowship Breakfast
(signupgenius.com)

For questions, call Sandy in the church office
865-816-4756 or
email shepherdofthelake13@gmail.com



Women's Fellowship Come and join us!

Go to SignUpGenius and be a participant.

[Women's Fellowship: Women's Fellowship \(signupgenius.com\)](http://signupgenius.com)

Thursday, October 16	Schakolad Chocolate Factory 9am
Saturday, November 8	Vonore Mug Project 9am-noon
Thursday, December 11	Women's Fellowship Christmas Potluck Lunch 11:30am

Upcoming Card-Making Gatherings

Our card-making ministry continues to be a beautiful way to share love, encouragement, and seasonal cheer with those who need it most. Over the next two months, we invite you to join us for two meaningful gatherings:

Thursday, October 9 – We'll create heartfelt **Veteran's Day cards** to honor and thank those who have served our country with courage and sacrifice.

Thursday, November 13 – We'll craft **Christmas cards** for our homebound members and those facing health challenges, reminding them they are deeply loved and remembered.

This year, we will not be making Christmas Ornaments. Instead our sanctuary tree will be adorned with special decorations. Come be part of the joy, the fellowship, and the quiet ministry of encouragement.

Questions: contact Carol Opsal at 936-520-2271 or email csopsal@gmail.com

4 Ways to Give

Mail



Offering
Plate



Drop off
at.....

**Shepherd of the Lake
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

OFFICE

Online



Finding Hope After Loss: A New So+L Support Group

Grief comes in many forms—the loss of a loved one, a pet, a place, or even a chapter of life that once brought comfort. Whatever the source, sorrow can feel isolating. But healing begins when we gather, share, and lift one another up.

We're forming a new group where hearts can speak freely and faith can guide us forward. Through shared stories, quiet strength, and spiritual encouragement, we'll walk together toward hope.

First Gathering:

Location: Sanctuary

Time: Sunday, October 5, at 10:15am

Details: Come as you are—coffee in hand, heart open.

Whether your grief is fresh or long-held, you are welcome here. Let's begin this journey together.



Mountain Views Article

On a recent Sunday at Shepherd of the Lake, we welcomed guest speakers during the fellowship hour from The House That Mercy Built, a ministry with which Shepherd of the Lake has partnered for some time. This ministry provides housing and support for women recovering from substance use disorder, helping them get back on their feet. One of the young women who spoke was a graduate of the program. She shared how, just two years ago, she was in the bondage of deep addiction—but today she is working and living substance-free. It was moving to realize that through our church's donations we are helping to support people whose lives have been turned around by God's grace. What struck me most about her testimony was the way she spoke, just as my preaching professor once advised: she used God as the subject of active verbs. "God delivered me," she said. That short sentence is a sermon all by itself. It acknowledges that God is real, that God is active, and that she is both a witness to and a recipient of God's grace-filled action.

In recovery, one of the important steps is to acknowledge a higher power. This is necessary because, at times, life takes us so far astray that we finally recognize we cannot fix everything on our own. We need God to open our eyes to new realities and give us the strength to do what is sometimes the hardest thing of all: to change. Our struggles may not be the same as those of the women at The House That Mercy Built, but our lives go astray, too. We fall into apathy, depression, isolation, fear, and all the other traps of this life. And we, too, need our eyes opened to what God is doing to set us free. We, too, need stories where God is the subject of active verbs: God delivered me. God set me free. God comforted me. God gave me meaning. When our lives are filled with these short sermons, they add up to a life of deep and rich faith. And it's not because of how good we are, but because of how good God is. Thanks be to God for the witness of lives touched and transformed by grace in so many different ways. -

Pastor Phil Vickers



The poster features a large, bold title "TOP NOTES BIG BAND DANCE" in maroon. Below it, the date and time "OCTOBER 16, 2025 6 PM" are displayed. A large, detailed illustration of a trumpet is positioned diagonally across the lower half of the poster. Musical notes are scattered around the trumpet. In the top right corner, there is a logo for "Top Notes Big Band" featuring a treble clef and a top hat, with the text "Est. 1997" above it. A maroon box in the bottom right corner contains the text "Tellico Village Yacht Club", "Doors Open 6 pm", "Band plays 7 pm - 9 pm", and "Cash Bar, Food Available". Another maroon box at the bottom center contains the text "\$10 Cover Charge at Door", "Reserved Tables available for \$80", and "Call 417-257-4430".

**TOP NOTES
BIG BAND
DANCE**

**OCTOBER
16, 2025
6 PM**

**Tellico Village
Yacht Club**
Doors Open 6 pm
Band plays 7 pm - 9 pm
Cash Bar, Food Available

\$10 Cover Charge at Door
Reserved Tables available for \$80
Call 417-257-4430

SAVE THE DATE Top Notes Big Band

– Get ready for a toe-tapping evening of music, dancing, and community spirit!

- ☐ **Date:** Thursday, October 16
- ☐ **Time:** Doors open at 6 PM | Band plays from 7–9 PM
- ☐ **Location:** The Yacht Club
- ☐ **Cost:** \$10 per person at the door
- ☐ ☐ **Reserve a Table:** \$80 per table

☐ ☐ Enjoy delicious food and a lively cash bar while the Top Notes Big Band fills the night with swing and soul.

☐ Many of the talented musicians are students from **Lenoir City High School and Middle School**, and all proceeds will support their music programs.



2025 Study

Bible Study Opportunities

Adult Catechism with Pastor Phil Vickers
Wednesdays at 10am, in Friendship Hall

For any questions
call the church office 865-816-4756.

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Small Group Ministry

The small group ministry will begin
October 7, with *The Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr.
We meet in Friendship Hall the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 3:30pm
For questions contact: Shari and Tom Lillestolen
865-603-9467

SCHEDULE FOR OUTSIDE GROUPS AT SO+L

- ⇒ **Monday (1st) Top Notes Rehearsal, 5pm to 9pm (FH)**
- ⇒ **Monday (Weekly) Alanon, 10am to 11am (FH)**
- ⇒ **Monday (Weekly) Women's AA, 11:30am to 12:30pm (FH)**
- ⇒ **Monday (4th) —GFWC Women 2:30pm to 5:30pm (FH)**
- ⇒ **Tuesday (2nd)—GFWC Book Club & Board Meeting, 10am (CR)**
- ⇒ **Tuesday (1st & 3rd) —Lions Club of TV, 8am to 10:30am (FH)**
- ⇒ **Tuesday (1st & 3rd)—Kiwanis Club of TV, 11am to 1:30am (FH)**
- ⇒ **Friday—(Weekly) Sisters in Sobriety, 11:30am to 12:30pm (FH)**

November Newsletter



OCTOBER 27