

August 2020



Dear Parents of 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Graders,

Welcome to Shepherd's D.O.G.s ("Disciples of God" confirmation program) at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Thank you for supporting your child as he or she develops and strengthens his or her personal relationship with Jesus. As partners, we pray that we can guide each youth to be passionate for Jesus Christ. **This year, our format has been altered. I encourage you to read the attached letter with the COVID guidelines from SHLC.**

Parent orientation will be held on **Wednesday, August 19 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm** in the MMC. This will be an opportunity for all 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade parents to turn in the registration form, pay fees and sign up for service opportunities. Important information regarding the upcoming year will also be shared. **If you are able to, please wear a mask. Children do not need to attend. If you are not able to make it, please contact Sarah Ring.**

The fees for the 2020-2021 school year are listed on the following page. Due to COVID impacting our program last spring, we have an excess in the meal fund. DOGs meals fees were reduced for this year **ONLY**. If the fees present a hardship, please contact Pastor Chad or Pastor Steve. Contact Debbie Hunter if you plan on using your Scrip funds to cover the cost of the program.

The first night of D.O.G.s for all students is **Wednesday, September 2, 2020 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Dinner and small group fellowship begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. After dinner, students will attend large group. The night will conclude with small group. Please pick up your child promptly at 8:00 p.m. **Please see the attached letter regarding our COVID guidelines.**

The dinner time allows your child an opportunity to fellowship with his or her shepherd and small group. However, it is not mandatory that you purchase the meals. If you do not purchase the meals, your child is welcome to bring his or her own lunch, so he or she can still participate with the group. This year pizza will be served every week. Dinner **WILL NOT** be self-serve.

Please bring your 2020-2021 school year calendar to orientation night. – You will have the opportunity to sign up yourself and student for volunteer opportunities. Your child will need to serve within the church 8 times per year through acolyting, childcare, or ushering. Other service opportunities will be discussed at the orientation. As a parent, you will need to help serve at least 3 of the meals or monitor the door on Wednesday nights.

Please bring the registration form, the fee schedule, money, and your 2020-2021 calendar to orientation night. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail the administrator at dogs@shepherdhills.org.

In His Name,
Sarah Ring, DOGs administrator

Shepherd's D.O.Gs - Registration Fees

Student's Name _____ Grade '20-'21 _____

Additional DOGs aged children

Name _____ Grade '20-'21 _____

Name _____ Grade '20-'21 _____

- Catechism book needed** (Please check this box if your child is in fifth grade or is new to the program. He or she will then receive a copy of Luther's Small Catechism.)

Number of book(s) needed _____

Please check **only one** of the following boxes.

- D.O.G.s Program Fee With Meal**

\$15 Material Fee

\$50 Meal Fee (Due to excess in fund last year, this number is decreased.—will increase next year.)

\$65

\$65 x number of children _____ = _____ **Total**

Meal includes pizza sides, and a drink.

OR -----

- D.O.G.s Program Fee Without Meal (both for online/in person)**

\$15 Material Fee

\$15 x number of children _____ = _____ **Total**

Payment Method

check (List the check number.) _____

cash

Scrip money used (Must contact Debbie Hunter) _____

Date: _____



Shepherd of the Hills

FALL 2020 REOPENING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

For all ministry at SHLC:

1. **Each one of us is responsible for our own health and safety decisions, and no matter what anyone else does, we take a risk by interacting with other people.**
2. We also have a responsibility for the well-being of our brothers and sisters in Christ, according to the Lord Himself. Therefore:
 - a. you should not attend public gatherings if you are not feeling well, have been in direct contact with someone who has COVID-19, are especially susceptible to the virus, or are fearful that you may transmit or become infected by the virus.
 - b. You should continually wash/sanitize your hands, wear a mask when possible, and maintain social distancing.
3. In keeping with God's Word and the Meaning of the Fourth Commandment in Luther's Small Catechism, we will abide by the recent state mandate for wearing masks in indoor public gatherings. We will also recognize and respect the exemptions noted in the order. We will revisit our policies and procedures when the order expires on September 28, or if the order is overturned or rescinded beforehand.
 - a. All staff, volunteers and official representatives of SHLC will wear masks when carrying out their ministries in the presence of other people. The exceptions to this policy, in keeping with the order, will include preachers, worship leaders, and musicians when they are leading worship and maintaining a safe distance from worshipers. Also, those who are working alone or outside do not need to wear a mask.
 - b. We will not be directly policing the state's order, nor will we prevent participation or expel from participation anyone who is not wearing a mask. This aligns with the Meaning of the Eighth Commandment, in which we are not to assume or assign motive or reason to our brother's or sister's actions, but we will "put the best construction on everything" by acknowledging that our brother or sister has a legitimate reason for not wearing a mask.
4. In the event that anyone in the SHLC Family tests positive for the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, we ask that you please self-quarantine (staying at home at all times) for two weeks under the direction of your health care provider. You may then return to active in-person ministry when you are symptom free and your health care provider determines that you are no longer a risk to others.
5. Our ministry consultant, Dr. James Galvin, has advised us that we should plan for taking extra precautions until such time as a vaccine for COVID-19 is developed and is readily available. Therefore, we will need to continually reassess our policies as new developments warrant. **During that time, every member of the SHLC Family is hereby exhorted by the Senior Pastor to offer up in daily prayer to our God and Savior our petition to send a cure, to end the strife and bitterness this situation has elicited, and to restore peace and unity among all people.**

For Worship at SHLC:

1. All official helpers and servants in worship – paid staff and volunteers – will wear masks before, during and after worship. Those who are leading worship, serving as lectors, preachers and musicians are excepted from the mask requirement.
2. Worshipers should wear masks, unless they have a legitimate reason not to. Children under 5 are not required to wear a mask. Please keep the mask properly fitted over mouth and nose while speaking or singing as you participate in worship, as those activities cause an even greater spread of microscopic droplets. Masks may be lowered to receive Communion.
3. Selected rows of seating will continue to be closed during worship, and worshipers are encouraged to maintain social distancing from non-family members at all times. This includes entering and leaving the Worship Center, as well as casual fellowship before and after worship. If you'd like to stop and visit for a while, please do so outside. We will not be serving any refreshments or beverages until all social distancing precautions have been dismissed.
4. Please make generous use of the hand sanitizer stations around the Worship Center and Atrium.

Sunday School COVID Policies

The guidance document has been designed for use in conjunction with the overall policy of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and local public health directives. Advice of the state and local public health units will be followed, even in the event that it contradicts this document. This document will be reviewed and modified as applicable when COVID-19 restrictions can be lifted and/or amended to reflect new advice as it is given.

While the focus of this policy is on maintaining healthy operational measures for children's and youth ministry at Shepherd of the Hills, please note that every effort will be made to uphold a welcoming and caring environment for our children, students, families, and staff.

Though we will attempt to take proactive preventative measures to ensure safety and cleanliness, we acknowledge that risk of exposure is possible and may result in temporary dismissal or omission from ministry events. All public activities, including participation here at Shepherd of the Hills, remain at your own risk.

We strive to work closely with our families, local government, and national government to safeguard and protect our children and youth as closely as possible, trusting ultimately in the Almighty God who guards our steps. We know that the Lord is our refuge and strength, an "ever present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). We look forward to Sunday School starting on September 13th.

A. Check-In

- a. Students will check in at the table for their age group starting at 9:15am. 3K-K will check in off the Atrium by the staircase/ramp. 1st-4th grade will check in by the MMC doors. When checking in, we ask that you follow the 6ft apart markers on the floor and wear your mask. At the table, students will:
 - i. Be greeted with a smile and parents will be asked if they have completed the Well-Student Check listed below.
 - ii. Be checked in (name-tags for the first couple weeks).
 - iii. Be directed to small group within the MMC or A107.
- b. Hand sanitizer will be provided at the check-in table
- c. Staff at the check-in table will be required to wear masks. They will wipe down high touch surfaces between use.

- d. You will be asked to exit after dropping off your child. (If you know your child will have separation issues, please let us know and we will make accommodations for that to ensure that they feel comfortable and safe. Please let us know if you have tips to help us with this transition.)

B. Check-out

- a. Parents will gather at 10:30am at the check-out for their child's age group. These will be the same as the check-in spots. When checking out, we ask that you follow the 6ft apart markers on the floor and wear your mask. We will then:
 - i. Ask your child's name and have you sign them out.
 - ii. Call into their designated area for them to be brought out to you.
- b. We love having fellowship with you after picking up your child but to help flow of traffic -- we ask that fellowship happens outside of the building.

C. Masks

- a. All students and teachers will be required to follow state guidelines regarding masks inside their designated area. Students are excused from wearing a mask if:
 - i. They are in our 3K-K classes - due to the 5 and under not required. (encouraged but not required)
 - ii. They have a medical condition that makes them unable to wear a mask for long periods of time
 - iii. They have psychological or personal reasons that don't allow them to wear a mask.
- b. If the state removes the required mask rule, all teachers will continue to wear masks until such time as the pandemic is deemed over. Masks will still be strongly encouraged for students, but not required. Decisions will be made by parents of the student.

D. Required Sanitization

- a. All surfaces in the classroom must be sanitized after use. This includes tables, chairs, counters, light switches, and doorknobs. Sanitizer and paper towels will be provided in those areas. We will ask students to help us by wiping down their areas before they leave.
- b. Students and teachers will use sanitizer upon entry into their designated area. They will also use sanitizer prior to exiting.

E. Program Changes

- a. Due to spacing limitations and in order to keep social distancing, students and teachers will gather in the MMC or Red/Orange Room (A107) for the entire class time, except to use the restroom. We will be social distancing into small groups there.
- b. We will have supply bags per child and not be using communal supplies for the group. Each child will have a bag filled with crayons/colored pencils, scissors, glue stick, pencil, highlighter, hand sanitizer, and wet wipes. They will keep them here at Shepherd of the Hills and place their bag in a pick up/drop off location when they come in.
- c. For those families that are not comfortable with coming in person, we will be having large group available for families through a new Facebook Page dedicated to Child, Youth, and Family Ministry and other family resources sent out via Flocknote.

F. Communication with Families

- a. We will continue to communicate to families with all updates, adjustments, and health concerns that arise through Flocknote.

G. Well Student Policy:

- a. For the protection of all children, staff, and leaders in our ministries, we would ask that you please adhere to these guidelines when considering if you should bring your child/student to events.
- b. A healthy child does not display any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose
 - Nasal congestion
 - Headache
 - General feeling of unwell
 - Unexplained rashes
 - Vomiting or diarrhea currently or within the last 24 hours
 - Skin or eye infections
 - Chicken pox, mumps, measles, etc.
- c. If a child/student currently has any of the above symptoms:
 - i. Please do not bring your child/student to the ministry event. Instead, we encourage you and your family to join us online, via our website or social media outlets.
- d. If a child/student develops any of the above symptoms while in our care:
 - i. We will ask you to pick your child/student up immediately.
 - ii. We will not administer medication of any kind.
 - iii. We may ask you to follow up with us and report any possible infectious illnesses so that we can inform other families or staff about possible risk exposure.
 - iv. We will follow our own protocol regarding sanitation and communication of possible infection to involved individuals and local health care organizations, if necessary.

We love having your family join us and hope to bring the light of Jesus into their lives, especially during this uncertain time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and ensures the safety of all the children, staff, volunteers, and families here at our church! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Shepherd's DOGs Confirmation Ministry COVID Policies

The guidance document has been designed for use in conjunction with the overall policy of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and local public health directives. Advice of the state and local public health units must be followed, even in the event that it contradicts this document. This document will be reviewed and modified as applicable when COVID-19 restrictions can be lifted and/or amended to reflect new advice as it is given.

While the focus of this policy is on maintaining healthy operational measures for children's and youth ministry at Shepherd of the Hills, please note that every effort will be made to uphold a welcoming and caring environment for our teens, volunteers, families, and staff.

Though we will attempt to take proactive preventative measures to ensure safety and cleanliness, we acknowledge that risk of exposure is possible and may result in temporary dismissal or omission from ministry events. All public activities, including participation here at Shepherd of the Hills, remain at your own risk.

We strive to work closely with our families, local government, and national government to safeguard and protect our youth as closely as possible, trusting ultimately in the Almighty God who guards our steps. We know that the Lord is our refuge and strength, an "ever present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). We look forward to DOGs meeting every week starting on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd from 6pm-8pm.

A. Activities

- a. We intend to implement our regular DOGs program schedule each Wednesday night, as follows:
 - i. 6:00 pm Meal Together (pizza each week; no self-serve food items; grade groups separated)
 - ii. 6:30 pm Large Group Lesson
 - iii. 7:15 pm Small Group Discussion
 - iv. 7:45 pm Dismissal
- b. We will stagger the transition times to avoid congestion in the main hallway.
- c. We ask parents to please refrain from coming into the building, unless they have an urgent need to do so.
- d. For those families who opt out of in-person participation in DOGs, we will livestream the large group lessons for each grade level, and shepherds will try to include those students in small group discussion by phone or other device. We will set up a DOGs Facebook page to facilitate at-home participation.

B. Masks and other precautions

- a. In keeping with the current state emergency order, all shepherds and students will wear masks during all indoor group activities. This is especially vital when sitting with their small groups, as it will be difficult to maintain social distancing.
- b. Students are excused from wearing a mask if:
 - i. They are eating;
 - ii. They have a medical condition that makes them unable to wear a mask for long periods of time.
 - iii. They have psychological or personal reasons that don't allow them to wear a mask.
- c. Each grade level will eat meals in separate corners of the MMC, with each small group having their own table.
- d. While small groups may be in close proximity for short periods of time, we encourage social distancing whenever possible.

- e. During large group lessons, each small group will be distanced from the other groups. Small group discussions will be in isolated locations. We will not have any recreational activities for the entire program until restrictions are lifted/modified.

C. Communication with Families: We will continue to communicate to families with all updates, adjustments, and health concerns that arise through Flocknote.

D. Well Student Policy:

- a. For the protection of all youth, staff, and leaders in our ministries, we would ask that you please adhere to these guidelines when considering if you should bring your youth to DOGs.
- b. A healthy child does not display any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose
 - Nasal congestion
 - Headache
 - General feeling of unwell
 - Unexplained rashes
 - Vomiting or diarrhea currently or within the last 24 hours
 - Skin or eye infections
 - Chicken pox, mumps, measles, etc.
- c. If a child currently has any of the above symptoms, please do not bring your teen to the ministry event. Instead, we encourage you and your family to join us online, via our website or social media outlets.
- d. If a child/student develops any of the above symptoms while in our care:
 - i. We will ask you to pick your child/student up immediately.
 - ii. We will not administer medication of any kind.
 - iii. We may ask you to follow up with us and report any possible infectious illnesses so that we can inform other families or staff about possible risk exposure.
 - iv. We will follow our own protocol regarding sanitation and communication of possible infection to involved individuals and local health care organizations, if necessary.

We love having your family join us and hope to bring the light of Jesus into their lives, especially during this uncertain time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and ensures the safety of all the children, staff, volunteers, and families here at our church! We look forward to seeing you soon!

High School Youth Ministry COVID Policies

The guidance document has been designed for use in conjunction with the overall policy of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and local public health directives. Advice of the state and local public health units must be followed, even in the event that it contradicts this document. This document will be reviewed and modified as applicable when COVID-19 restrictions can be lifted and/or amended to reflect new advice as it is given.

While the focus of this policy is on maintaining healthy operational measures for children's and youth ministry at Shepherd of the Hills, please note that every effort will be made to uphold a welcoming and caring environment for our teens, volunteers, families, and staff.

Though we will attempt to take proactive preventive measures to ensure safety and cleanliness, we acknowledge that risk of exposure is possible and may result in temporary dismissal or omission from ministry events. All public activities, including participation here at Shepherd of the Hills, remain at your own risk.

We strive to work closely with our families, local government, and national government to safeguard and protect our youth as closely as possible, trusting ultimately in the Almighty God who guards our steps. We know that the Lord is our refuge and strength, an "ever present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). We look forward to the High School Youth Group meeting every week starting on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd from 6pm-8pm.

E. Activities

- a. We will host outside activities until no longer able to or weather permitting with social distancing in place and guidelines being followed.
 - i. We will meet back by the fire-pit for games, bible study, activities and more.
 - ii. If we have inclement weather, we will be meeting in the new high school youth room in the new building.
- b. Hand sanitizer will be provided.
- c. We will be having low-touch food options available with pizza being provided each week and individually wrapped snack options. If you don't prefer to partake, please bring your own food or eat before coming.

F. Masks

- a. All youth and volunteers will be required to follow state guidelines regarding masks when inside. Students are excused from wearing a mask if:
 - i. They are eating;
 - ii. They have a medical condition that makes them unable to wear a mask for long periods of time.
 - iii. They have psychological or personal reasons that don't allow them to wear a mask.
- b. If the state removes the required mask rule, all volunteers will continue to wear masks until such time as the pandemic is deemed over. Masks will still be strongly encouraged for youth, but not required. Decisions will be made by parents of the youth.

G. Communication with Families

- a. We will continue to communicate to families and youth with all updates, adjustments, and health concerns that arise through the Remind App and email.

H. Well Student Policy:

- a. For the protection of all youth, staff, and leaders in our ministries, we would ask that you please adhere to these guidelines when considering if you should bring your youth to events.
- b. A healthy teen does not display any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose
 - Nasal congestion
 - Headache
 - General feeling of unwell
 - Unexplained rashes
 - Vomiting or diarrhea currently or within the last 24 hours
 - Skin or eye infections
 - Chicken pox, mumps, measles, etc.

- c. If a teen currently has any of the above symptoms:
 - i. Please do not bring your teen to the ministry event. Instead, we encourage you and your family to join us online, via our website or social media outlets.
- d. If a child/student develops any of the above symptoms while in our care:
 - i. We will ask you to pick your child/student up immediately.
 - ii. We will not administer medication of any kind.
 - iii. We may ask you to follow up with us and report any possible infectious illnesses so that we can inform other families or staff about possible risk exposure.
 - iv. We will follow our own protocol regarding sanitation and communication of possible infection to involved individuals and local health care organizations, if necessary.

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