

SMALL groups



***A new ministry serving God's people at
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church***

What are small groups?

Small groups are relationship-building groups of 6-12 people who meet regularly around a specific goal.

What is the church's vision for small groups?

The vision is to feature small groups as an important part of our strategy for "making disciples," as we gather to grow in spiritual maturity through God's word and to develop supportive relationships in which we encourage each other in lives of Christian faith and love.

How can small groups be a blessing?

- The Church is designed to be relational (Acts 2:42); in fact, to be as closely connected for the common good as parts of a body are all connected (1 Corinthians 12:27).
- We live in a culture where many feel disconnected and lonely, and long for genuine, close relationships.
- Gathering around the word of God in small groups reflects our core "grow" value. Small groups can help us grow closer to each other in supportive relationships and grow closer to God in faith.
- Small groups can help those new to our church family connect with us in ways that meet their particular needs.

What types of groups might there be?

Small groups can take many forms, such as:

- a. **Life or Growth groups:** These groups meet weekly to discuss God's word and how it relates to their lives, to pray for each other, and support each other in the walk of faith. While the word of God is involved in these meetings, the purpose is not strictly or solely Bible study. "Doing life together around the word of God" has been used to describe these groups.

- b. **Study groups:** These groups meet weekly to study a particular book, doctrine, or religious/faith-related topic.
- c. **Support or Enrichment groups** meet regularly (not always weekly) to provide mutual support for common life situations or challenges (e.g., parenting, grieving, addiction recovery, caregiving, chronic illness, mental health, etc.)
- d. **Demographic groups:** These groups may be kids, teens, young adults, parents, moms, seniors, women, or men.
- e. **Common interest groups:** These groups may gather for a fun outing or event or around a common interest (game night, camping, canoeing, biking, crafts, participation in a sport or watching a sport, etc.) These groups may not necessarily meet weekly.
- f. **Projects or ministries groups** (e.g., sewing group, crews doing fix-up or maintenance projects, funeral luncheon team, preparing mailings, planning and operating a congregation event, etc.).



When and where will small groups meet?

- We see these groups meeting for 6-8 weeks in the fall (finishing by the end of November), in the winter (after the holidays and ending before Lent), and again in spring (after Easter), with the possibility of “backyard barbecue Bible studies” as we have had in the past during the summer. Some groups, like support groups, may meet year-round.
- Typically, groups meet in member homes, but not always.

How can I get involved?

Fill out one of the small groups forms available in print form at church or online on our website. Use the form to let us know if you are interested in a new group and specifically what type, or if you are interested in an existing group. Please also let us know if you are willing to lead the group, host the group, or help get the group started.

You will be contacted regarding your interest in a group and be given the opportunity to help get the group formed or simply to participate in it.

Information about group meeting places, dates, times, etc. will be passed on to you before the group launches.

Please contact J.J. Stiefel for more information at 517-899-6301 or jstiefel1985@gmail.com.