

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Knoxville, TN

A 50-Year History

July 2026

Introduction

Our national church body, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), began exploratory work to establish missions in Tennessee in 1970. “Mission status” was granted to Rock of Ages Lutheran in the Nashville area in 1971. By 1973, another mission, Gloria Dei Lutheran, was established in Memphis. A few years later Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran followed. Today there are 10 WELS churches in Tennessee plus one new mission church.

All living pastors, those who served full-time, as well as during vacancy, were contacted to gain their personal recollections of their times at Shepherd of the Hills. Most details, however, come from historical files and recollections from past and present members. An effort is made to help anchor the congregation’s history to familiar points to help readers make connections. Context matters to history. That’s why certain secular events are included, as well as a variety of statistics, graphs, and illustrations to provide perspective.

Shepherd of the Hills’ story is not a record of steady progress. There are challenges, struggles, disappointments. Insights are hard to grasp because cause and effect is difficult to know. Mostly, it’s sinful human beings led to fear, love and trust in God as they follow Jesus to advance the cause of the gospel.

1976: Exploration

During the 1976 bicentennial, Americans are treated to a series of celebrations, observations, and festivities designed to restore national unity and optimism. Reverend Raymond L. Wiechmann, the first administrator for WELS Board for Home Missions and the first president of the South Atlantic District, shares that optimism as he visits Knoxville. A gifted synod leader, Wiechmann conducts an initial worship service for several families at one



of their homes on August 15th. After surveying neighborhoods and holding meetings with area families, he recommends and the synod grants "exploratory status" to the Knoxville area in November. Wiechmann (1918-1995) then guides the core group (estimated at 30-40 souls) in the process to call a pastor.

1977-1983: Settlement

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary graduate Scott Stone is ordained and installed as first resident pastor in June 1977. Worship services are held in member homes.



Later in the year worship services are held at the Tennessee Motor Inn on Papermill Road. By November "mission status" was granted by the Wisconsin Synod's Board for Home Missions and the church is incorporated as Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran.

Next year, the young congregation finds more expansive accommodations and worship services are held at Mann Heritage Chapel, 6200 Kingston Pike. Meanwhile, a search for suitable land to build a church is underway.

With a loan from the Wisconsin Synod's Church Extension Fund, a three acre site on Kennard Drive is purchased for \$66,000 in December 1978. Expectations are that population growth in West Knoxville due to thriving retail areas would complement this location, be central to all members and that the site would someday be surrounded by a residential area. The site was also suitable for a future chapel and school or parsonage.

In spring 1979, planning begins to construct a church building. Worship services move again when member growth occurs, this time to the Cedar Bluff Middle School. A number of young families are attending, and by fall, Pastor Stone confirms the first youth class.

Expectations rise when construction of a 2,100 sq. Ft. worship-education-fellowship (WEF) unit begins in September 1981. A WEF is a popular and economical church-like structure suitable for multiple functions. Its cost will be \$104,000, supported by a mortgage from the synod.

“Eventful” could describe 1982. PC’s are beginning to lay the foundation of the Internet and *Time* magazine names the personal computer its “Machine of the Year.” The World’s Fair comes to Knoxville, attracting 11 million visitors. At Shepherd of the Hills, the young congregation and resourceful pastor dedicate its new WEF unit to God's glory with a special worship service. Near the Pellissippi Parkway, the church address is 10212 Kennard Drive (later to become 10231 Sherrill Boulevard). Who knows, maybe some World’s Fair attendees worshipped in the new WEF.

During the spring of 1983, pastor Stone accepts a call to a new mission field and challenge in California. The congregation calls for another seminary graduate. In the interim, Pastor Joel B. Schroeder of Rock of Ages, Nashville, serves as vacancy pastor. The vacancy is brief and by July, candidate Timothy P. Henning is installed as full-time pastor.

1984-1989: Kingdom Work

To provide a home for Pastor Henning, the congregation embarks on the second stage of their building plans. In 1984, construction begins on a 1,500 square foot parsonage adjacent to church. Cost is \$150,000.



Timothy P. Henning

Early next year, the new parsonage is completed, and Pastor Henning and his family settle in. With all building plans now completed, church members and the pastor redouble efforts to continue the Lord’s kingdom work to spread the gospel.

Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH) is on the Tennessee Technology Corridor, which stretches between West Knoxville and Oak Ridge. The church and parsonage is among a variety of businesses and research and development firms so outreach efforts extend to residential areas several miles away. Many members live far from the church. Despite long drives by some, average weekly worship attendance reaches 60 by the end of 1989, according to WELS statistics.

Planning ahead, the congregation spends \$25,000 to purchase a one acre plot behind the church for future development. Years later, 0.25 acre of its primary frontage is sold to the state of Tennessee for construction of Sherrill Boulevard.

1990-1995: Outreach

Pastors are in great demand, and Pastor Henning, who had declined several calls to serve in other WELS churches, eventually accepts a call to Milwaukee in early 1990. Pastor Keith C. Kruck of Rock of Ages, Nashville, arrives to serve the vacancy while the congregation calls for another full-time pastor.

Because of distance from Nashville and time zones, Reverend Kruck conducts worship and Bible class in person every other Sunday. He helps with council meetings and holds confirmation classes in the basement of the parsonage behind the church.



Accepting the congregation's call, Pastor Kenneth H. Engdahl is installed to be the next full-time pastor in the spring of 1990. During his years at SOTH, Engdahl recalls fond memories of his service tending to the flock and seeing God's Word at work in the lives of adults and children. By 1995 weekly attendance averages 52 worshippers, and total membership reaches 114.

Reverend Engdahl also gained great personal joy in extending outreach beyond Knoxville. He helped start a new church in the Tri-Cities area, now known as Living Word in Grey, Tennessee.

In early 1996, Pastor Engdahl accepts a call to Toledo, Ohio. Pastor Tom Kock, of Living Word, serves as vacancy pastor for several months as the congregation enters the call process for another pastor. Reverend Robert M. Krueger, serving in the ministry nearly 20 years, most recently in Florida, answers the call and is installed as pastor in October.

1996-2000: Growth

Despite facts that the church is in a non-residential, commercially zoned area and 73% of members live more than 5 miles away, SOTH begins to outgrow its

space. From 1996 to 2000 average worship attendance



grows over 40%, and the WEF, nearing capacity, gets crowded. Navigating folding chairs and narrow

aisles, members faithfully assemble to hear Pastor Krueger share God's Word.

In early 2000, the "dot com" market crash occurs due to speculative market growth from widespread adoption of the Internet and World Wide Web. A general glut in the job market begins to affect SOTH families, and membership declines as some move away.

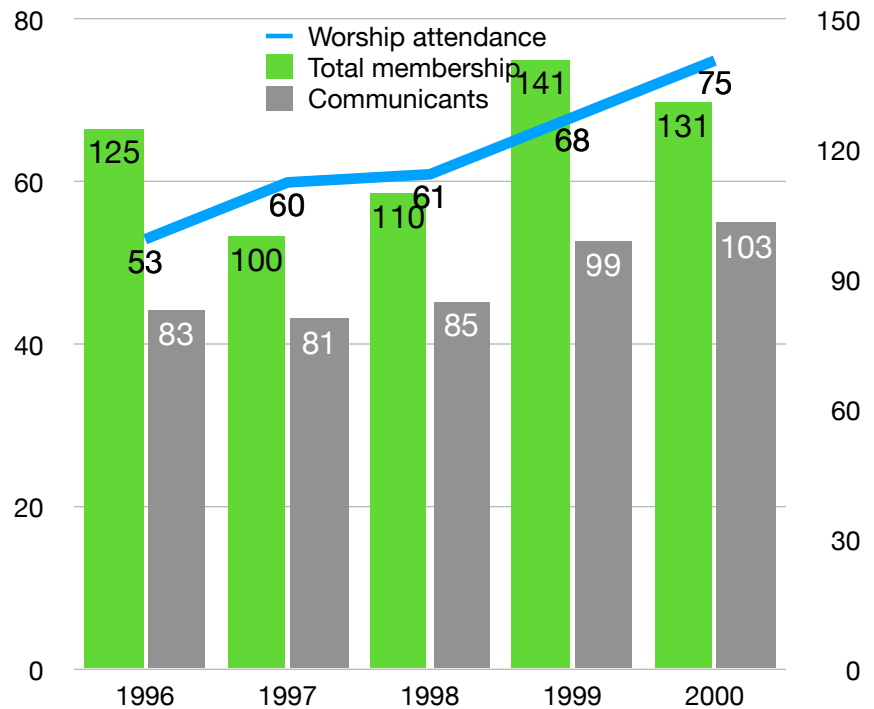


Fig. 1.—Worship and Membership, 1996-2000
(Source WELS Statistics)

2001-2007: Struggles in Transition

September 11, 2001, marks a "defining event" in history when attacks of an Islamic terrorist group occurs on US soil. Foreign terrorism becomes a major security issue and anxiety arises among citizens regarding future attacks. Mindful of their Savior's promise that his words will never pass away (Luke 21:33), SOTH members continue to pursue their plans.

A building program begins in December to remodel and expand the church by over 3,400 square feet. Cost: \$480,000, partially funded by the synod's Church Extension Fund. During the construction process the WEF is rendered unusable. Worship services continue, however, and are held at a small chapel on the campus of All Saints Catholic Church on Fox Lonas Road in Knoxville. Unfortunately, Pastor Krueger and his family suffer hardships and displacement when adjacent construction projects cause parsonage waterline breakages.

Eager to move back into their expanded church, the congregation works hard with many helping hands and generous support. New church doors are donated by the Appalachian Door Company, and pews and altar furnishings are refinished offsite at member's homes, some 50 miles away.

The expanded church dedication occurs in June 2002, along with celebration of Pastor Krueger's 25th year in the ministry. "Although we build a church structure," he said, "our real project is building on the promises of God. We use the gifts God gave us to build on God's foundation, which is Jesus Christ."

Work continues. The parsonage is re-shingled, stairs replaced, a privacy fence installed, and classrooms painted. It's a busy time; there are 9 "official" workdays during 2002 to accomplish the tasks.

Outreach continues too. A program called "Beautiful Feet" encourages members to put their feet on the streets in surrounding neighborhoods, seeking people without a church home. Accompanied by special mailings and canvass-travel-witness teams, these efforts generate prospect lists for follow-up calls.

Generous members help limit the negative financial impact from national economic uncertainty. But job losses precipitate a membership decline, along with effects from off-site worship inconveniences and member exhaustion during the building program.

Average worship attendance drops in 2002, exacerbated by family difficulties. Pastor Krueger cites challenges in communication, planning, purposeful actions,

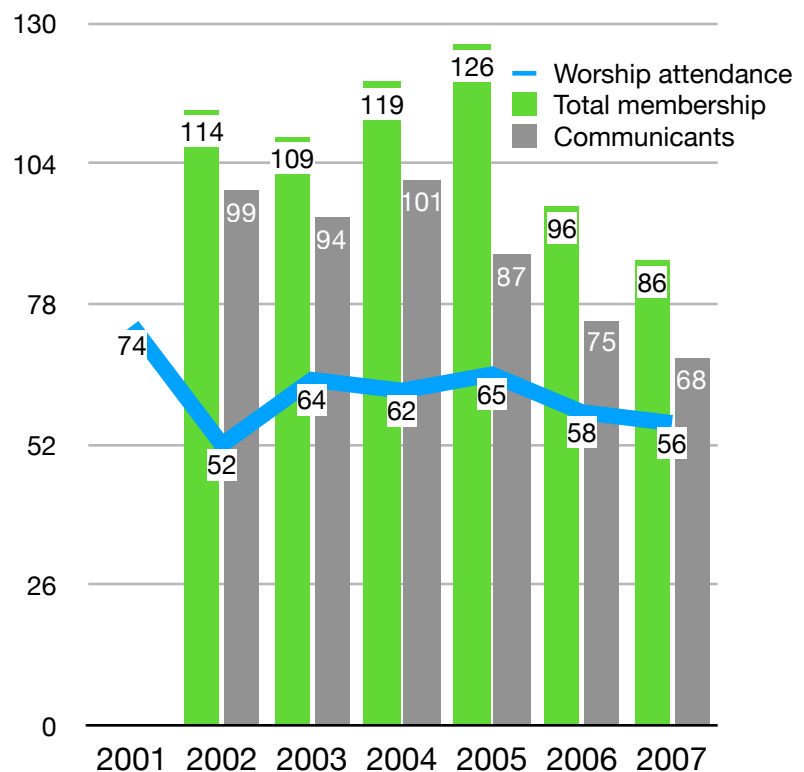


Fig. 2. — Worship and Membership, 2001-2007 (Source: SOTH and WELS Statistics)

and fellowship—but with confidence that “God will help and bless us to accomplish things pleasing in his sight.”

2003 is a transition year as the congregation adjusts to a larger property with more maintenance and expenses. Andi Krueger, pastor’s wife, organizes and leads a small choir group to enhance worship. Yet, attendance slumps by year-end, hastened by more member job relocations from the area. The church’s financial situation deteriorates, resulting in deficit of over \$8,000.

The fiscal health of the congregation improves temporarily in 2004 through increased generosity of new and existing members. Pastor Krueger and Andi purchase their own home; this leaves the parsonage available for other uses, such as classrooms and possible lease.

Outreach activities continue with mailings, personal calls and invitations distributed to neighborhoods. SOTH sponsors a travel-canvass-witness team of students to develop prospects for follow-up. The Lord blesses a successful stewardship program to help reduce the deficit and encourage more willingness to serve.

By 2006 the parsonage is rented to a tenant with a one-year lease agreement. Additional revenue is realized when Holy Cross Anglican Church begins using the church on a temporary basis.

“Walking Together for 30 Years” is SOTH’s theme to celebrate its 30th anniversary. The church develops a mission statement: *To know, live, and share peace through Jesus.*

Outreach continues in nearby neighborhoods with mailings, personal calls, and advertising. Another travel-canvass-witness team helps generate more prospects, and SOTH members ride a float in the Farragut July 4th parade, distributing worship invitations along the route.

Nevertheless, a 17% loss in total membership threatens future cash flow. An ad-hoc committee is formed to address the impacts of continuing membership relocations due to job changes. To improve financial viability, the congregation explores several options, including sale or lease of the entire property. Instead, the plan is to investigate a sale of peripheral property to reduce expenses. By

God's hand, 2006 ends with a sizable surplus due to generous anonymous gifts from members.

The iPhone debuts in 2007, and a multi-trillion dollar app economy begins to emerge, fueled by a pocket-sized phone with a screen. At Shepherd of the Hills, however, members cannot be distracted.

Since 44% of envelope offerings were eliminated by numerous job transfers, SOTH is forced to move quickly in 2007 to sell property. Negotiations occur and a neighboring industrial park buys 1.25 acres for \$250,000. Proceeds are used to refinance debt, reduce mortgage expenses and invest remaining funds.

Offerings decline 20%. Projected deficits in WELS and SOTH require renewed focus on financial stewardship. A series of every-member-visits is launched to inform and encourage personal and God-pleasing responses.

Outreach efforts increase. A "Ministry Area Profile" is generated to determine area demographics, trends, and values. Pastor Ed Schuppe, district mission counselor, visits to share ideas on effective outreach. Sunday worship time is changed to 10:30 a.m. from 9:30 to broaden appeal to local neighborhoods.

Outreach extends beyond Knoxville when potential to establish a "daughter church" emerges in Crossville, Tennessee. Pastor Krueger is asked to initiate exploratory worship services. By year-end the Crossville core group numbers about 25 and the synod approves start of a new church, Ascension Lutheran.

2008-2016: Moving On

In early 2008, Pastor Krueger accepts a call to Ascension in Crossville. Reverend Tom Kock of Living Word in Grey, Tennessee again serves as vacancy

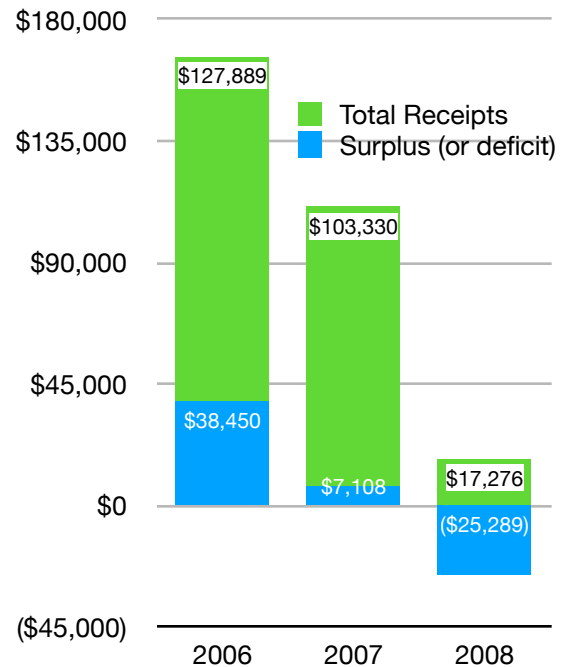
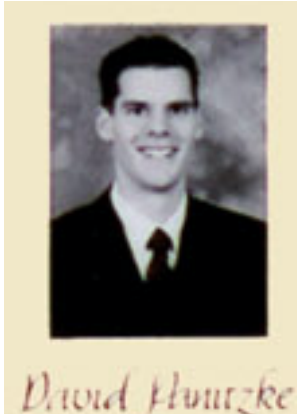


Fig. 3.— SOTH Financial Situation, 2006-2008
(Source: SOTH Treasurer Reports)

pastor at SOTH. Shepherd of the Hills requests a seminary graduate for its next pastor.

Candidate David A. Panitzke is installed as pastor in July. His father, Reverend Peter A. Panitzke is guest preacher. David served his vicar year at Faith Lutheran in Sharpsburg, GA.



It's not long before a major worldwide financial crisis occurs, centered in the United States. Governments around the world deploy massive bailouts to prevent an economic collapse of the global financial system. In September the stock market crashes and unemployment rises.

Despite economic uncertainty, lingering SOTH financial deterioration, and a substantial year-end deficit of \$25,000, Pastor Panitzke exudes confidence, youthful zeal, enthusiasm and energy. He reminds the congregation of Moses' words to the Israelites when trapped between the sea and Pharaoh's army closing in: "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today....Then the LORD said...'Move on.'" (Exodus 14:13,15)

The congregation does move on. During the year, evangelism efforts continue with twilight canvass calls to find the unchurched, lay evangelism training, mass mailings, advertising, and follow-up calls on prospects. By Advent, worship is enhanced with music from a digital piano purchased with funds from a member of Sola Fide Lutheran in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Membership momentum carries through to the next year and beyond.

Mornings with Mommy, an early childhood program developed by Jessica Panitzke, pastor's wife, is launched in 2009, attracting new moms and their children to creative and educational activity sessions at the church.

Outreach efforts in surrounding neighborhoods continue. More widespread community involvement includes SOTH participation with another float in the Farragut July 4th parade. In downtown Knoxville, SOTH holds an outdoor Sunday worship service called, "Praise in the Park" at the World's Fair Park

Amphitheater. Koine, a 6-member indie-rock band, plays familiar hymns for attendees.



The Mornings with Mommy program, attracting hundreds of families, leads to consideration of forming a preschool. A Preschool Launch Committee develops plans. Anticipating demand from attendees of the Mornings with Mommy program, the aim is to have a self-supporting preschool from Day One.

An architect is retained, and plans drawn up. The parsonage is razed, and site prepared for a 3,650 sq. ft. Education Wing. Construction begins in 2013. Cost: \$250,000 for site preparation; \$540,000 for the building. A call is extended for a preschool director.

By 2014, as the school nears completion, Mornings with Mommy sessions are operating 6 days per month. Over 650 different families have attended since the program began 5 years ago. Five families from the program join the church. Soon, preparations are completed to furnish the school, hire support staff, prepare collateral materials and pass state inspections.

The Education Wing is dedicated and preschool for 2-year, 3-year, and 4-year olds opens in August. 80% of the preschool children come from Mornings with Mommy.

With renewed member growth up 13-14% over years 2009-2014, and a sizable group attending from the Maryville area, plans soon evolve to build another education facility there. The idea is to follow-up

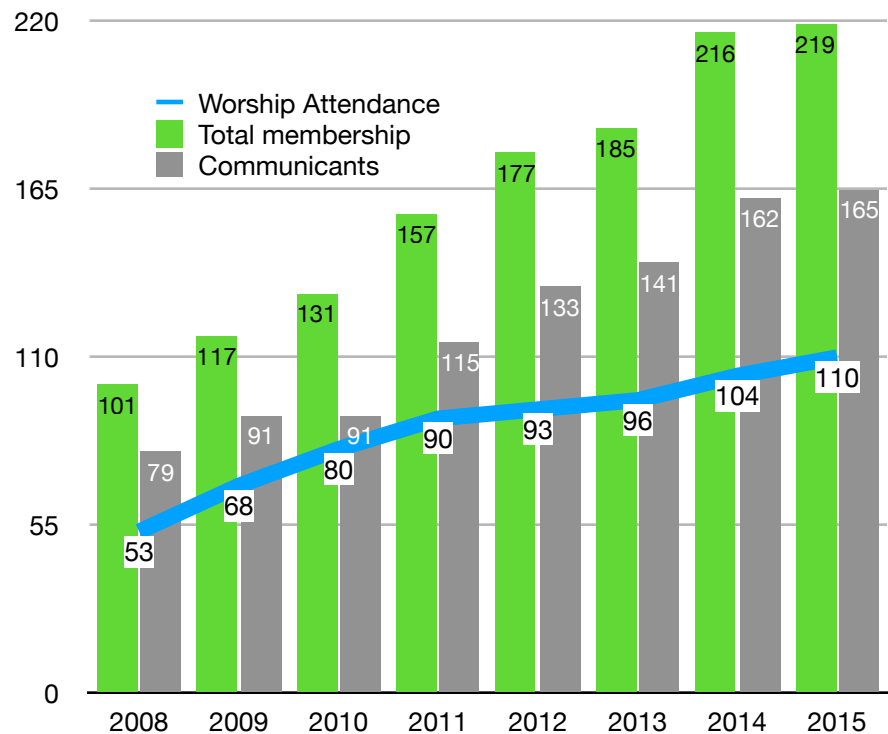


Fig. 4.—Worship and Membership Statistics, 2008-2014 (Source: WELS Statistics)

years later with a 2nd phase, including a worship facility. Pastor Panitzke intends to serve in both Knoxville and Maryville with help from a potential resident vicar.

The District Mission Board and Board for Home Missions authorize the Phase 1 request. A 5.8 acre property is purchased in Maryville for \$300,000, supported by a partial grant from the synod.

SOTH's preschool operates 3 days per week. By 2015, enrollment totals 24, supported by 2 teachers, 2 aides, and volunteer substitutes. More enrollment is projected. To support the proposed Maryville plans, funding is procured from a foundation, an anonymous giver, and another church. A stewardship program is launched in March to close the remaining gap with funds from local offerings.

But Satan is prowling, and circumstances turn. After a hired consultant visits for a week and makes a critical evaluation of the preschool, the director resigns. She is placed on leave with full pay and benefits. Several families (about 25 people) leave, uncomfortable with the changes.

The financial situation worsens. By November, the checkbook balance is only \$2,000; funds are insufficient to pay the mortgage; other obligations are not paid. Special offerings from members are given to "keep the church afloat." Pastor Panitzke, stressful and health deteriorating, is given paid leave for 8 weeks to foster his recovery from the turmoil.

An ad hoc committee is tasked to review the ministry and mission of the church and submit a report. Advisory assistance is provided by district president John Guse and circuit pastor Duane Rodewald. Using a survey, the committee identifies perceived shortfalls in communications and planning.

Meanwhile, Pastor Panitzke returns to full-time service in early 2016. But financial difficulties worsen. By mid-year, the deficit is over \$10,800 and is projected to triple in the next fiscal year. Pastor says that money is lacking to pay him. In August, Panitzke submits his resignation.

	FY 2015-16 (Actual)	FY 2016-17 (Projected)
Total income	\$249,244	\$229,980
Church expenses	(\$192,199)	(\$197,165)
Preschool expenses	(\$67,131)	(\$64,074)
Deficit	(\$10,806)	(\$31,259)

Fig. 5.—SOTH Financial Situation at 30 June 2016 (Source: SOTH Treasurer Report)

The congregation is stunned. The church council asks all to reach out to David and his family “with words of love, encouragement, and sincere appreciation for his hard work in caring for souls.”

Several visiting pastors supplied by the synod fill the vacancy during this interim. Retreating from a bold and aggressive plan, the church council begins efforts to sell the Maryville property. Meanwhile, numerous lay members volunteer to keep various church functions viable.

In October, pastor Mark J. Lenz, retired Martin Luther College professor, arrives to serve as vacancy pastor for a limited time. The synod provides subsidy for vacancy expenses. Calls for a full-time pastor are terminated because offerings are insufficient to support a full-time pastor.

Pastor Lenz provides stability and calm to SOTH’s operations. One could draw a parallel to the skills of a firefighter. In fact, Pastor Lenz recalls a tragic fire in the Gatlinburg area of the Smokies during his time in Knoxville. From the vantage point of the church he could often smell and see smoke in the distance.

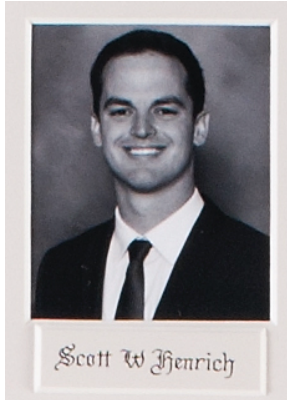
The Maryville property is sold in February 2017 for \$260,000. Vacancy pastor Lenz completes his assignment in May, having provided preaching, teaching, encouragement, guidance, and blessings during uncertain times.

Retired pastor Richard H. Schleicher arrives in early spring to serve the next vacancy. The financial situation continues to deteriorate; counseled by the district president, the congregation asks the Church Extension Fund for a loan modification to temporarily lower SOTH payments.

At mid-year voters decide to suspend operation of the preschool, currently operating with a projected loss of about \$8,300. Pastor Schleicher works with the council to assess needs, change the bylaws, and strengthen the lay leadership. In a report to the synod, he affirms the need for a Knoxville church presence and suggests three years of decreasing subsidy. It’s time to “fish or cut bait” he says.

2018-Forward: Expectations

Pastor Mark Gabb, District Mission Board chair, after visiting SOTH in 2018, recommends the synod's Board for Home Missions approval of subsidy for SOTH in amounts of \$40K, \$35K, and \$20K, for the next 3 fiscal years. The subsidy allows calling for a full-time pastor. Additional relief comes when the synod's Church Extension Fund significantly reduces SOTH's loan payments.



Candidate and seminary graduate Scott W. Henrich is installed as pastor in July. He served his vicar year at Christ Lutheran in Denver, Colorado. His father, Pastor Mark W. Henrich, delivers the installation sermon.

Voters elect an almost entirely new church council and expand it to 9 men. Pastor Henrich sets expectations for council participation and procedures, and proceeds to conduct every-member-visits, Faith Foundations classes, confirmation classes, and Bible studies. Mornings with Mommy sessions continue with help from church members, and spouse Sarah

Henrich, a talented pianist, begins "Music Maker" classes for toddlers in the Knoxville area. She also delivers a baby.

Because of SOTH's precarious financial condition, the church council decides to explore leasing the Education Wing to generate revenue. Subsequently, worship attendance grows and member engagement increases. By September 2019, the Education Wing is rented to PEER Academy, a local organization teaching autistic children. SOTH retains use of the facility on week-ends.

Few people knew, but the ides of March 2020 was the last in-person worship at SOTH that year. A nationwide Covid-19 pandemic is declared and people are urged to use face masks and avoid large scale gatherings. Video technology allows widespread use of live-streamed video for many religious and secular organizations. SOTH is an early adopter, using the technology to reach members and others with the gospel through worship services and Bible classes. In person worship resumes in 2021 and attendance moves sharply upward, bringing more families and children.

Beginning in late August, an 8:15 worship time is added to the 10:30 service to accommodate increased numbers. Adult Bible classes and children's Sunday

School grow as well. The synod subsidy ends; thanks to God, SOTH is back on its feet. As one pastor observed, statistical recovery is always Christ's prerogative. We simply give God glory through faithful mission efforts and zealous ministry.

A planning process begins called "Future Church," designed to accommodate and sustain growth. Grounded in the church mission—to know, live, and share peace through Jesus—focus is on opportunities to sustain growth trends for worship attendance, education, faith life, and outreach. Options considered include optimizing the current facility, starting a second congregation, building, or buying an existing structure. A survey indicates the latter two options least favorable because of cost.

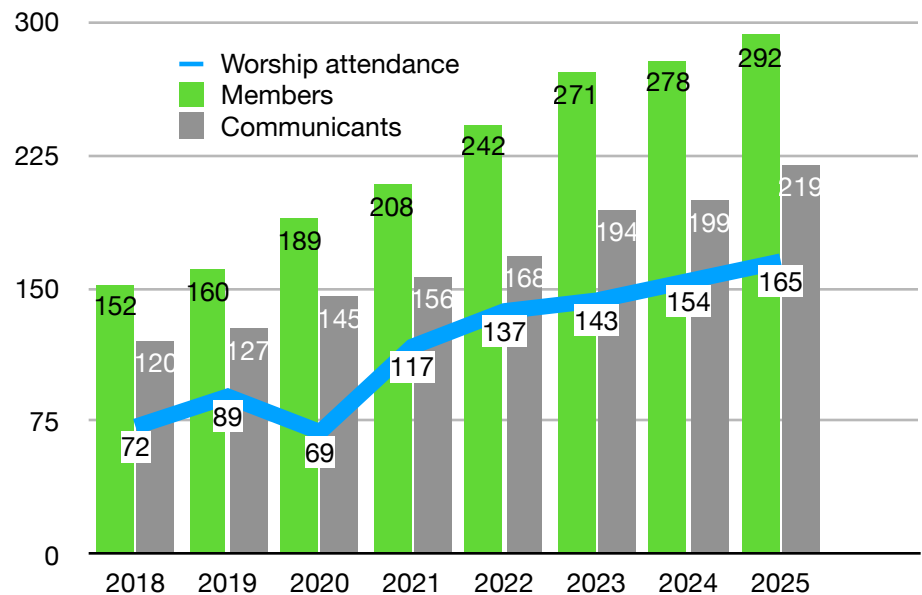


Fig. 6. — Worship and Membership, 2018-2025 (Source: WELS Statistics)

Meanwhile PEER Academy builds their own facility and moves in 2023, freeing space in the Education Wing. The parking lot is expanded where possible to accommodate increased attendance. Live-streaming of worship continues as an effective tool for members and for outreach. The congregation grows with many forms of musical talent including a choir of about 15 voices led by Sarah Henrich who introduces variety and new choral arrangements.

As Pastor Henrich said in his 2025 report, "God saw fit to grow our church significantly. However, if you remember your younger years, it takes a while to get used to know how tall you are! Numerical growth needs to be accompanied by growth in spiritual maturity, relationships, service, generosity, ownership of ministry. While those things take time, we have come a long way!"

In 2026, SOTH's 50th year, 100-200 people gather to be strengthened by Jesus with strong, gospel-rich worship every week. Mid-sized, the church aims to be rock-solid, valuing the gospel message above all. It seeks to gather people in worship to know their Savior, growing and living in faith and fellowship. Equipped as disciples, they go into the community to share the good news about Jesus.

SOTH expects to receive its first vicar, Mr. Max Nordlie, in August. Later this year, the church plans to celebrate its 50th anniversary with a joint worship service to remember God's faithfulness to his promise that the gospel will be preached until Jesus returns (Matthew 24:14). Meanwhile, we are comforted knowing that we have Jesus' same blessing that he gave to his disciples, "You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:9).

"We can't always expect to grow with plans that turn out in ways we want. But we can expect God's blessing. He will continue to bless us and our church to give us exactly what we need."—Pastor Henrich



Promise and Prayer

Looking back at Shepherd of the Hills' history, we see that there were times of growth and periods of near collapse. Dedicated pastors shared our joys and encouraged us in our struggles. Our national church body generously and graciously provided timely human and monetary resources. Faithful Christians gave of their service and substance.

Looking forward, our history leads us to confess our shortcomings, repent of our sins and trust our heavenly Father, relying on his grace for forgiveness and strength to follow Jesus. He gives us this promise: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." (John 10: 27-28)

So we sing:

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Flee the world which would deceive us and in sin our souls allure.
Ever in his footsteps treading, body here yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me, Savior lead; I follow thee.

—Sigmund von Birken (1626-81);
tr. J. Adam Rimbach (1871-1941)

Dear Heavenly Father,

You sent your Son to be our Shepherd; he laid down his life for us, restoring us as your people, empowering us to live in confidence, joy, and peace that comes from knowing you. May Jesus, our Shepherd, fill us with his Holy Spirit that we might always hear his voice and follow. In the name of Jesus, our good Shepherd, and through the power of his Spirit we pray. Amen.

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Pastors Who Served Shepherd of the Hills, 1976-Present

Name	Dates	Background
Raymond L. Wiechmann	August 1976-June 1977	Establishing pastor and president of the South Atlantic District, WELS
Scott J. Stone	June 1977-May 1983	Recent seminary graduate
Joel B. Schroeder	May-July 1983	Vacancy pastor from Rock of Ages, Nashville, TN
Timothy P. Henning	July 1983-January 1990*	Recent seminary graduate
Keith C. Kruck	January-May 1990*	Vacancy pastor from Rock of Ages Nashville
Kenneth H. Engdahl	May 1990*-February 1996	Pastor with five years experience
Thomas D. Kock	February-October 1996	Vacancy pastor from Living Word, Grey, TN
Robert M. Krueger	October 1996-April 2008	Pastor with 20 years experience, called from Merritt Island, FL
Thomas D. Kock	April-July 2008	Vacancy pastor (again)
David A. Panitzke	July 2008-August 2016	Recent seminary graduate
Mark J. Lenz	October 2016-May 2017	Vacancy pastor, retired professor of Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Richard H. Schleicher	May 2017-May 2018	Vacancy pastor, retired from full ministry in 2012; served 4 previous vacancies
Scott W. Henrich	July 2018-Present	Recent seminary graduate
	*Some dates are estimated	