

# Newsletter

February 2025



**Artist Series Judson  
Concert, Pg 5**

**Kids Movie Night, Pg 10**

**Worship Assistant  
Training, (Current & New) Pg 7**

**NEW! Craft Mortgage Table  
Pg 8**

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church**  
Huntley, IL [sotp.org](http://sotp.org) 847/669-9448

*Photo: 10:45 am Worship Band—Online View*

# ***December Note***

## ***From Pastor Mark***



The parable in Luke 11:5-13 text immediately follows the account of what we call “The Lord’s Prayer.” It is a parable about persistence in prayer and only Luke tells this story.

Its message is that if you are going to pray to God, be bold. Audacious. Persistent.

In this parable, someone’s in need. He knocks on his neighbor’s door late at night. Of course, the neighbors don’t hear him! They’re sleeping.

Have you ever experienced someone knocking on your door or making a lot of noise late at night? How did you react? Would you get up late at night to answer the door? Is there a difference between a late-night emergency and noise with no apparent purpose?

In this parable, the knocking has a purpose. A need is being expressed. Yet the neighbor is irritated.

He gives excuses; he doesn’t want to be bothered. But eventually, he does respond. He comes to the door and gives his neighbor what he needs.

Jesus teaches that we can be audacious and bold in our prayer. Asking boldly for what you need is like knocking on your neighbor’s door late at night in search of bread to feed someone who’s hungry.

This parable also implies that the asleep neighbor is motivated to help you rather than harm you.

God wants to help us, to respond to the needs expressed in our prayers.

God isn’t going to give us poisonous snakes or scorpions instead of bread.

God desires to hear our prayers and to help us.

So, when we pray, we should not doubt God’s good will and purpose, even when it’s the dead of night and our cries for help seem disregarded.

The King James translation reads: “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asks receives, and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.”

“Ask, Seek, Knock.” That’s what it’s all about. Keep praying. Be bold.

Approach God as a loving parent. Though I must admit, being older as I am, I wonder if God doesn’t take out his hearing aids at night, sometimes.

I say that with the hope that God has a sense of humor. God must, God created us, right?

So, let’s keep pounding on the door and I’ll look forward to being with you in worship!

***Pastor Mark***



# Ministry Musing

## By Donna Kelly

A Story From A  
Stephen  
Minister:  
One cold  
December  
evening a pastor

was leading a meeting of his congregation's Stephen Ministers. As they began to end their meeting with prayer, the door opened, and a street woman hobbled in wearing torn clothes and shoes with so many holes they were falling apart.

She apologized for interrupting and said she was looking for a church that could give her a pair of shoes. The minister closest to her asked her what size she wore. When she replied she wore an 8.5 the Stephen Minister bent down, untied one shoe and gave it to the woman to try on. The woman did so and said it felt wonderful. The minister then took off the other shoe and gave it to her as well. The woman remarked that she couldn't take this minister's shoes but was assured by the minister that she had another pair at home. The street woman took the shoes, thanked her and said, "God bless you".

As the street woman left, the room was filled with stunned silence. Another Stephen Minister asked the one who had given up her shoes how she was going to get home as it was cold and wet outside. She replied that she had on thick socks and that she did have a pair of shoes to wear. She then put on the tattered

shoes the woman had left behind and proceeded to walk outside. The shoes were badly worn and caused her to limp as she walked. The other minister warned her to be careful and to not fall and get hurt. As she hobbled out, she remarked, "Now I really know what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes".

What else is there to say? May God help us to be as generous and caring as this woman was to share God's love and grace with our neighbors.

"I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:35-36 (The Message)

*Donna*

# Wednesday Dinners

## All Are Welcome



 **SHEPHERD  
OF THE PRAIRIE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# FEBRUARY

## Wednesday Night Dinners

5:45 - 6:45 pm

**Volunteers Needed**

**JOIN US FOR DINNER  
ALL ARE WELCOME**

**More Information & Sign Up:**  
**[www.bit.ly/SOTPwed0225](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPwed0225)**  
Registration Appreciated

Suggested minimum donation of \$4 per meal. All are welcome. Please sign up at [www.bit.ly/SOTPwed0225](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPwed0225)

so we know how many to cook for.

Contact: Pastor Ryan Mackey at  
[pastorryan@sotpmail.com](mailto:pastorryan@sotpmail.com)

# Judson University Choir

## Artist Series Event

Utilizing a variety of instruments from a full contemporary praise band to brass and chamber orchestral instruments, the 40+ members of the Judson University Choir will provide an outstanding choral performance and worship experience at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, 10805 Main Street, Huntley, on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Under the direction of choir director Dr. Warren Anderson, a 1986 graduate of Judson, the Judson University Choir will be joined by Reverend Dr. Huntley Brown, international Christian Concert Pianist, who is a Judson alum ('88) and its

first-ever Artist-in-Residence at the Elgin University's DeMoss Center for Worship in the Performing Arts.

Sponsored by the SOTP Artist Series, the public is invited to attend this free performance. No tickets are required and freewill donations are gratefully accepted.

The Judson University Choir has enjoyed a long and fruitful ministry founded by Dr. Edward Thompson during Judson's first year, 1963-64. Members of the Choir are part of the Judson University Community

*(Continued on page 5)*



# Judson University Choir

## Artist Series Event



**SHEPHERD  
OF THE PRAIRIE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ARTIST SERIES  
PRESENTS





**JUDSON**  
UNIVERSITY  
CHOIR



with Special Guest  
*Huntley Brown*



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025**  
**7:00 PM**

*(Continued from page 4)*

School of Musical Arts.

Choir Director Dr. Anderson has taught at Judson University since 1991 and has served as the University Choir Director since 2012.

The Choir has served as one of the primary “faces” of the University for nearly 60 years. The Choir has performed in Eastern and Western Europe, the Caribbean, and part of Asia. The Choir performs nationally three times per year and overseas bi-annually with Reverend Dr. Brown. This past May, the Choir and Rev. Dr. Brown ministered in Jamaica, his home country.

The Rev. Brown, who was ordained by the Evangelical Church Alliance International, is a concert pianist and recording artist who regularly partners with some of Christianity’s well-known ministries,

including the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Additionally, he has served as an artist-in-residence for CTS-TV in Seoul, South Korea; played for thousands at Carnegie Hall; been inducted into the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame; and holds a black belt in martial arts.

*Contact: The Artist Series*  
*artistseries@sotpmail.com*

# ***New Adult Ed Series***

## ***The Human Vessels of Faith***



# **ADULT EDUCATION**

**WITH PASTOR ROY OLSON**

## **THE HUMAN VESSELS OF FAITH**



**FEB 9 - MARCH 16**

**Sundays at 10:20 am**

**Info: [www.bit.ly/SOTPadultED0125](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPadultED0125)**

As professing Christians, we share a common faith. Yet each of us carries it in a unique way—in the vessel of our personality, shaped by our genetic inheritance, our physical and psychological development and our life experiences. Our goal will be to better understand the uniqueness of each of our vessels.

We will explore six different models that hopefully will give us greater insight into our individual uniqueness. The first model is that of Walter Wink who suggests that across the vast expanse of known history, five different world views have provided vessels for faith. Second, we will explore the spiritual implications of Erik Ericson's nine stages of human development. Third up will be James Fowler's seven stages of faith development. The fourth session will look at a model of four temperaments/ four spiritualities derived from the Myers-Briggs personality theory. In the fifth session we will explore a four spiritual-types-model developed by Corinne Ware

which she illustrates in the Spirituality Wheel. In our final session we will visit one more stages-of-faith development model by John Westerhoff and then try to put together what best describes the unique vessel that God has given each of us in which to carry our faith.

- **February 9** - Five World Views of Walter Wink
- **February 16** - Nine Stages of Human Development of Erik Erikson
- **February 23** - Seven Stages of Faith Development of James Fowler
- **March 2** - Four Temperaments/Four Spiritualities based on the Myers-Briggs Temperament Indicator
- **March 9** - Four Spiritualities and the Spirituality Wheel of Corinne Ware
- **March 16** - Four Stages of Faith Development of John Westerhoff

*Contact: Pastor Roy Olson  
[olson612sr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olson612sr@sbcglobal.net)*

# New Member Gathering

## Find Out About Our Community



**NEW MEMBER GATHERING**  
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH  
**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16**  
**3:00 PM**  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0225](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0225)

- **5:30pm.** This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the life and ministry of SOTP and for you to consider prayerfully whether or not you want to formally become a member of the SOTP family.

If you have been worshipping with us for a while here at SOTP in person or online and would like to know more about us as a worshipping community, we would love to have you join us at our New Member Gathering. We will be holding the gathering on **Sunday, February 16, from 3**

like to attend, please contact Donna Kelly; [donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com) or 214-676-1788. You can also sign up on our website under the "SERVE" tab - Events & Registrations. Registration is not required.

Contact: Donna Kelly  
[donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com)

# Worship Assistants Training

## New Assistants Needed



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TRAINING**  
• Readers  
• Assisting Ministers  
• Communion Bread & Wine Servers  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2025 7PM**  
Sign Up & More Info: [www.bit.ly/SOTPasst0225](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPasst0225)

Volunteers Needed

Servers, and Readers. If you are interested and not certain if God is calling you to this ministry, come and see. The training will take place in the Sanctuary on **Thursday, February 20 from 7 to 8 pm.**

As part of SEE WEEK, we will be hosting a training session for ALL worship assistants; Current, New or Potential. This training is for Assisting Ministers, Communion

information contact Donna Kelly.

Contact: Donna Kelly  
[donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com)

# **NEW! Mortgage Craft Table**

## *Donate Money &/or Crafts*



**CRAFT TABLE**  
PAYING DOWN OUR  
**MORTGAGE**

**4TH SUNDAY MONTHLY**

- **Donate crafts**
- **Pay what you can to purchase crafts**

*Crafts are donated so every penny goes directly to paying down our mortgage.*

**More Info: [www.bit.ly/SOTPCrafts](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPCrafts)**



Starting **February 23rd & 24th**, monthly on the weekend of the 4th Sunday we will all have the opportunity to painlessly lower our SOTP mortgage debt.

Before & after services, we will have a Mortgage Craft Table in the hallway outside the Little Lambs classroom filled with handmade crafts.

You will be able to select what you want to buy and donate what you can to purchase the crafts.

### **ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS...YOUNG AND OLD**

What is your favorite craft? How do you share your craft? When is the last time you gave your special craft to someone? Have you thought how your special talent is able to make a huge difference for our church? It's a wonderful feeling to use your special talents to make

a big difference to others and especially to our wonderful church. We all have the opportunity to help SOTP pay down our OVERSIZED mortgage. Use your talent to create something for our mortgage table. Starting on the 4th weekend in February (and continuing each 4th weekend of the month) we will have our Mortgage Craft Table set up in the hall outside the Little Lambs room before and after each service.

We all have the opportunity to be a large part of sharing our talent and at the same time help to put a dent in our mortgage.

Every penny will help us pay down our SOTP mortgage.

Thank you so much for your donations (financially and crafts).

*Contact: Alice Hallett  
[agrndmom3@gmail.com](mailto:agrndmom3@gmail.com)*



# ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

*Help Needed*



**PRAYER SHAWL  
MINISTRY**  
SECOND THURS MONTHLY  
KNITTING & CROCHETING  
TOGETHER 9AM



# ***Northern IL Food Bank***

*Packing Day*

 	<p><b>Saturday March 15 9:00 am</b></p> <p><i>Registration Closes September 6th</i></p>	 	<p><b>Volunteers Needed</b></p> <p><b>Pack for Neighbors in Need</b></p>
<p><b>Serve With Your Church Family</b></p> 		<p><b>Register Now:</b> <a href="http://www.bit.ly/SOTPNIFB0325">www.bit.ly/ SOTPNIFB0325</a></p>	

# Kids Movie Night

## Sign Up Now!

On **February 21st**  
from **6:30-8:15 pm**  
we will be hosting  
a movie night.  
Have your child  
come in their  
pajamas and bring  
a sleeping bag or  
blanket to get cozy  
in the Fellowship  
Hall.

We will have  
popcorn and some movie candy for  
the kids to "order" and have delivered  
to them.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

- 5:30 Tables and chairs moved out of the way in Fellowship hall and cross roads, organize and set up candy, make popcorn
- Youth to help take orders and serve



snacks to kids. (6pm - 9pm)

**DONATION OPPORTUNITY:** Juice boxes, movie size boxes of candy, water bottles. **PLEASE DROP OFF BY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH.**

Please register asap!

Contact: Jill Gillming  
[jill@sotpmail.com](mailto:jill@sotpmail.com)

# Lenten Dinner Church

## Help Needed



# **CRE 2025—Join Us!**

## **Congregational Resourcing Event**

# **2025**

## **CONGREGATIONAL**

## **RESOURCING**

## **EVENT**

**March 22nd 9am - 4pm**

**Dixon, IL**



**INFO & REGISTRATION:**  
**[WWW.BIT.LY/SOTPCRE25](http://WWW.BIT.LY/SOTPCRE25)**

Registration closes March 10th



**CRE**

March 22, 2025

## **Growing Disciples**

Northern Illinois Synod 2025

The annual CRE is scheduled for **Saturday, March 22, 2025 at Sauk Valley College in Dixon, IL from 8:30 am to 3:15 pm.**

This event is a wonderful time to get together with leaders and members of other congregations in our Northern Illinois Synod to exchange ideas and to learn about viewpoints and concerns in the ELCA as a whole and our Synod in particular.

There will be time for gathering as a large group and for worship as well as the opportunity to attend three workshops of your choice on various topics as well as workshops for Church Council Leaders. There are also workshops on personal faith and growth. The leaders of these workshops are clergy and lay persons with expertise in these areas. There is also an opportunity for lunch.

Several members from here at SOTP went last year and found it a valuable asset to their continued ministry. We invite members to attend again this year. We should have the formal list of workshops, costs and times shortly and I will pass that info on to all. If you are interested in being part of this great day or have any questions, please contact Donna Kelly at the church office at 847-669-9448 or at [donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com).

*Contact: Donna Kelly*  
*[donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com)*

# Huntley EXPO

## Help Needed at SOTP Booth

It's that time again! The Huntley Business Expo is right around the corner, and the Outreach team could use your help!

On **Saturday, March 15th**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., grab a friend and help us share what makes SOTP an amazing place.

- **Set up/ first shift: 8:45 - Noon** (set up booth with game/swag/pamphlets/ helping man the booth, talking to people and playing games)
- **Second shift/take down: Noon -**

**HUNTLEY BUSINESS EXPO 2025**

**SATURDAY / MARCH 15**  
8:45-NOON -OR- NOON-3:30

Information & Sign Up:  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPexpo25](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPexpo25)

**SOTP Booth Needs You!**

**Volunteers Needed**

**SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**3:30** (helping man the booth, talking to people and playing games/take down booth)

Sign up online: [www.bit.ly/SOTPexpo25](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPexpo25)

Contact: Tara Mackey  
[rtmackey10@yahoo.com](mailto:rtmackey10@yahoo.com)

## View ALL Current Events And Register Easily

**SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Me Check-In Signups Groups More

**ADULT EDUCATION**  
Faith & Mental Health  
Shame, Guilt & Forgiveness  
Sundays 10:20 am  
Jan 15 - Feb 26  
Contact: Pastor Roy Olson  
olson612@shcpglobal.org

**EASILY VIEW CURRENT EVENTS & REGISTRATIONS**  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPsignup](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPsignup)

**ADULT EDUCATION - Faith & Mental Health - Shame, Guilt & Forgiveness**  
January 15, 2023

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

**SOTP KIDS NEED YOU!**  
Ways You Can Help Sundays

**Kids Connect - Opportunity to Help SOTP Kids Grow in Their Faith**

**SOUP SUPPER WORSHIP**  
MARCH 5:45 PM  
SET UP | BRING SOUP | CLEAN UP  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPsupper23](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPsupper23)  
Contact: Donna Kelly [donna@otgmail.com](mailto:donna@otgmail.com)

**6th, 7th & 8th Grade WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION**  
Resuming  
January 11, 6:30 pm  
Register:  
<https://bit.ly/SOTPconfirm>  
Contact Youth Team  
[youth@sotpsm.com](mailto:youth@sotpsm.com)



# ***Transitions***

## *Journey Through Loss*



# **TRANSITIONS**

**A JOURNEY  
THROUGH LOSS**

**TUESDAYS**

**7:00 PM**



*More Info: [www.bit.ly/SOTPtrans](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPtrans)*

Are you going through a deep loss: death of a loved one; job loss; loss of a relationship; empty nesting; divorce; loss of health; loss of purpose?

We have begun a new loss support group meeting in the church Library from 7 to 8

pm. If you would like more information please contact Donna Kelly, through the church office, 847-669-9448.

*Contact: Donna Kelly  
[donna@sotgmail.com](mailto:donna@sotgmail.com)*

# ***Grief Journey***

## *All Are Welcome*



# **GRIEF JOURNEY GROUP**

**TUESDAY MORNINGS  
10AM**



*Info: [www.bit.ly/SOTPgrief](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPgrief)*

# ***Dementia Caregivers***

## ***New Support Group!***

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church and the Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter are pleased to announce the launch of a new Caregiver Support Group for those caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and all other forms of dementia.

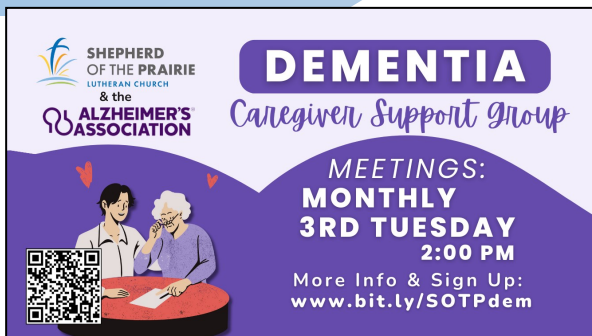
The group held its first meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 2:00 PM, featuring a special presentation of the "Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's" by Alzheimer's Association Community Educator David Rohlwing.

The Caregiver Support Group will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, located at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church. These meetings provide caregivers with a safe space to share experiences, gain emotional support, and learn valuable strategies for navigating the caregiving journey.

"Caregivers often face significant challenges, and this support group is a way to connect them with resources, information, and a community that understands their journey," said Donna Kelly, the group's facilitator.

Donna Kelly serves as the main contact for the group and can be reached at [donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com) or by phone at 847-669-9448.

The kickoff session and ongoing group meetings are free and open to the



**DEMENTIA**  
*Caregiver Support Group*

**MEETINGS:**  
**MONTHLY**  
**3RD TUESDAY**  
**2:00 PM**

More Info & Sign Up:  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPdem](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPdem)

public. For additional information, visit the church's website at <https://shepherdoftheprairie.churchcenter.com/> or to register at [www.bit.ly/SOTPdem](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPdem)

This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts by Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church and the Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter to provide support and education to caregivers in Huntley and surrounding areas.

### **About Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church**

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church is dedicated to serving the community with programs and services that provide spiritual, emotional, and practical support to individuals and families in need.

### **About the Alzheimer's Association**

The Alzheimer's Association provides free information, programs, and services to support families facing Alzheimer's disease. To learn more, visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) or call the free 24-hour Helpline at 800.272.3900.

*Contact: Donna Kelly*  
*[donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com)*

# Recycling Plastic

## New Year, New Bench



Recycling  
**PLASTIC**  
Creating a  
**BENCH**  
With **NexTrex**

MORE INFO:  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPbench](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPbench)

Donations Needed

QR Code

Recycling Symbol

desk.

This year, we have decided to keep the bench we earn to use wherever needed around the church.

If you are interested in

IT'S OFFICIAL.....

Our next collection window has opened for the NexTrex recycling program!! We have already weighed, bagged, and dropped off 101 pounds of plastic in 2 weeks!! Be sure to check the progress at the Welcome Center

joining the plastic collection team, please contact Tara Mackey.

Questions?

Contact: Tara Mackey  
[rtmackey10@yahoo.com](mailto:rtmackey10@yahoo.com)

## Food Drive—February 2

### Grafton Food Pantry

SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE HOSTS



**GRAFTON PANTRY  
FOOD DRIVE**



10805 MAIN ST. HUNTLEY



**MONTHLY  
1ST SUNDAY  
8:30 - 11AM**

**Collecting in Car Outside Main Office Entrance**

# Memory Garden

## Niches Available

Have you seen our Memory Garden on the West end of the Church building. There are still 21 Niches available that will hold one or two Urns. For more information, contact the Church office, Stan Crissman, or Ralph Wehnes.



Contact: Ralph Wehnes at [ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net)

# Quilters Need Sheets

## & You Are Invited to Join Us

Happy New Year from the quilters! We keep working on quilts, they take a while to make each one, but we're up to 20 now. The ladies are great about putting them together and making (most of them) look really nice. Then we get down to our "onesies" where there are only one 11" square of each different fabric.

We can always use more help and flat sheets for the backings. We always love visitors to come in and see how we put the quilts together. We're there the first and third Tuesdays of each month

### Prairie Pointe Quilters

**Monthly on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays**  
**9:00 am**

*No Experience Necessary*




(depending on the weather). Any questions, please call me at 847-828-9050 or email [krkbjk@comcast.net](mailto:krkbjk@comcast.net).

Contact: Bev Kenny  
[krkbjk@comcast.net](mailto:krkbjk@comcast.net)



# What's Next? For Seniors

Seniors Join Us to Find Out

## What's Next?



A new group for seniors to talk about changes and challenges in life and ideas on how to cope.

**TUESDAYS**  
**11:00 AM**

Sign up & more information:  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPwhatsnext2024](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPwhatsnext2024)

friends and activities to keep us “busy”, we may begin to feel a loss of purpose and direction.

If you can identify with this, we invite you to come to our newest Small Group, WHAT’S NEXT. This group is a place to come and talk together looking for ways to navigate

As we age, many of us find ourselves at loose ends, wondering now what? Our children are grown, maybe even our grandchildren. We’ve retired, so there is no longer that career to give us some focus. We may have lost our spouse and are living alone for the first time in our lives. WE may find ourselves with physical limitations that we never expected. Our lives that had so much purpose and direction now may seem lonely. Even with

the changes, challenges and joys that this phase of our life can bring. There may not be “pat” answers for all of our questions, but together we can support each other as we travel this journey.

WHAT’S NEXT meets on **Tuesday mornings at 11am** in the SOTP Library. For more information contact Donna Kelly, through the church office,

*Contact: Donna Kelly*

## Ushers Needed—All Ages Serve Monthly at Favorite Service



OUR TEAM  
NEEDS YOU

# USHERS NEEDED

MORE INFO:  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPusher](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPusher)

# Welcome Center

## Help Needed



### WELCOME CENTER MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

I remember my first visit to SOTP. Someone noticed I was new and alone and came up to me to welcome me. They invited me to walk over with them to the Welcome Center so I could give them my contact information.

Once there, someone greeted me, took my info and gave me a coffee mug filled with candy kisses. They told me I had been officially mugged!

The best part was that someone welcomed me and made me feel at home.

Those few moments at the Welcome Center made me want to know about this place. I came back again, and the person who originally welcomed me called me by name and invited me to the New Member Gathering that afternoon, and I was hooked! I couldn't wait to join this friendly, welcoming group of people.

The Welcome Center Ministry needs your help! We need people to serve behind the Welcome Center desk

for about 20 minutes after worship services, maybe once a month.

We hold important here that all are welcome. And our Welcome Center Ministry is part of that. And it is a ministry. Won't you consider helping out at the Welcome Center.

If you would like to be a part of the important ministry, please sign up at [www.bit.ly/SOTPwelcome](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPwelcome) for more information or contact Donna Kelly. [donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com), or Tara Mackey, [rtmackey10@yahoo.com](mailto:rtmackey10@yahoo.com).

*Contact: Tara Mackey  
[rtmackey10@yahoo.com](mailto:rtmackey10@yahoo.com)*

# Book Club—February

## All Are Welcome



## Book Club

Meets Monthly  
First Thursday at 1pm



More Info:  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPbook23](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPbook23)



available at the library or discount book-stores. If you have a Kindle or tablet and library card, you can have the library set you up with being

Do you enjoy reading? Looking for a way to connect with others? Then you just might enjoy our new Book Club. We will take turns reading several different genres such as mystery, biography, fiction, non-fiction, religious. We will meet once a month on the first Thursday at 1pm.

We plan to pick books that are either

able to “borrow” the book to read on your tablet.

Book selection for **February 6th**: The Sleeping Car Porter by Suzette Mayr.

Registration at [www.bit.ly/SOTPbook23](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPbook23) recommended but not required.

Contact: Dottie Bobzin  
[dbinil@att.net](mailto:dbinil@att.net)

# SOTP Kids Need YOU

## One Hour on a Sunday



KIDS  
CONNECT  
HELP  
NEEDED



More Info & Sign Up:  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPKChelp24](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPKChelp24)



# Emails From Us

Receive Only What You Want

STAY CONNECTED & PERSONALIZE YOUR

Daily Devotionals

Friday Flourish

Newsletter

## Email Selections

[www.bit.ly/SOTPEmails](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPEmails)



## Prayer Chain



SHEPHERD  
OF THE PRAIRIE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



# PRAYER CHAIN

To submit a request, go to:  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPray](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPray)

To become a member of our prayer chain and pray for those needing prayer contact Donna Kelly at [donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com).

## Kids Connect Sundays

Join the Fun!



Preschool  
through  
5th Grade

# KIDS CONNECT

Register Now:  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPKIDS](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPKIDS)





# Involvement Schedule

## February 2025

		Feb 1/2	Feb 8/9	Feb 15/16	Feb 22/23
Communion Bread	Sat	Sandy Scalise			
	Sun	Eileen Gerald	Tom Noesen Bev Pinnelli	Linda Wright	Nancy Morbeck
Counters	MON	Doug Nagel, Cheryl Adams & Diana Murphy			
Greeters	SAT 5:00 PM	Phyllis Thomson			
	SUN 9:00 AM	Linda & Ken Rotter	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin	Dottie Bobzin Candace Beck	Laura Attaway Elaine Gillam
	SUN 10:45 AM	Carolyn & Bob Malm			
Ushers	SAT 5:00 PM	Karen Eckert Lynn Meyer	Tom & Therese Cox	Carol Hartman Peggy Lynn Loiselle	Chuck & Carol Davis
	SUN 9:00 AM	<b>WALTER LEMKE</b> Tim Bueschel Jeff Stangle Mickey & Cathy Kappel	<b>JACK CONTI</b> Cheryl Rotermund John & Patti Witt Jeff Ottens Carol Engstrom	<b>NANCY WILSON</b> Wayne Schmidt Arja Kasper Dan Wentzlof Mike Malczewski	<b>RALPH WEHNES</b> Stan Crissman Jerry & Pat Darow George Attaway Chuck Zindel
	SUN 10:45 AM	<b>BOB MCDUFFEE</b> Annika Yndestad Mike & Patti Kargol	<b>ANDREW SZEKELY</b> Jim Stancl Mike Delich	<b>DOUG NAGEL</b> Don Koerner Judy Petropulos	<b>BOB MOLLIS</b> Diane Mollis Mike Delich

# Regularly Scheduled



## SUNDAYS

8:30-11am (1st Sun) **Food Drive for Grafton Food Pantry**  
9:00 am **Traditional Worship**  
9:00 am **Kids Connect**  
10:45 am **Contemporary Worship**  
10:45 am **Kids Connect**  
1:00 pm **FBW**

## MONDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**  
9:00 am (3rd Mon) **Gazebo Valor Quilts**  
10:30 am **FBW**  
12:30 pm **Friends (Women's) Bible Study**  
6:30 pm **Boy Scouts Troop 200**  
7:00 pm (2nd Mon) **Ministry Night**  
7:00 pm (3rd Mon) **Council Meeting**

## TUESDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**  
8:00 am **Men's Coffee** at McD's by Huntley Walmart  
8:30 am **Staff Meeting**  
9:00 am (1st & 3rd Tues), **Prairie Pointe Quilters**  
9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**  
9:15 am **AL-ANON Meeting**  
10:00 am **Grief Journey Group**  
2:00 pm **Next Step**  
6:30 pm (1st Tues), **Scout Troop 200 Committee**  
6:30 pm (1st Tues), **Boy Scouts Patrol Leader's Council**  
7:00 pm **Transitions Journey Through Loss**  
7:00 pm **FBW**  
7:00 pm **AL-ANON Meeting**  
7:00 pm **Adult Bells Rehearsal**

## WEDNESDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**  
9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**  
10:30 am **Women's FBW**  
11:00 am **Adult Bible Study with Pastor Mark**  
11:00 am **God's Girls (Del Webb) Bible Study**  
5:45 pm **Wednesday Night Dinners**  
7:00 pm **Confirmation**  
7:00 pm **High School Youth**  
7:00 pm **Adventure Club**  
7:00 pm **Adult Choir Rehearsal**

## THURSDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**  
9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**  
9:00 am (2nd Thurs), **Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
1:00 pm (1st Thurs) **Book Club**  
6:30 pm (2nd Thurs), **Lions Club**  
7:00 pm **Cub Scouts**  
Times Vary **Volunteers at Habitat for Humanity ReStore**

## FRIDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**  
10:00 am **Women's Coffee** at McD's by Huntley Walmart  
10:30 am **FBW**  
5:00 pm **Girl Scout Troop 779**

## SATURDAYS

5:00 pm **Worship**



# Special Events

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1** Feed My Starving Children, Noon  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPFMSC0225](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPFMSC0225)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1**  
Judson University Choir with Huntley Brown, Piano Presented by the Artist Series, 7pm  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPartist0225](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPartist0225)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9**  
Adult Education:  
The Human Vessels of Faith with Pastor Roy Olson, 10:10am  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPadultED0125](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPadultED0125)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16**  
New Member Gathering, 3pm  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0225](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0225)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**  
Worship assistants training (Assisting minister, readers, bread & wine servers), 7pm  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPasst0225](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPasst0225)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
Kids Movie Night, 6:30 pm  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPmovie0225](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPmovie0225)

**FEBRUARY 23 & 24**  
Kickoff of Craft Sale Weekend of Every 4th Sunday,  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPcrafts](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPcrafts)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5** Ash  
Wednesday Services, Noon & 7pm

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7** Wartburg College Castle Singers and

Kammerstreicher Presented by the Artist Series, 7pm

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12** Weekly Lenten Dinner Church Begins, 5pm  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPsoup25](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPsoup25)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15**  
Huntley Business Expo—SOTP Booth, 8:45am & Noon  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPexpo25](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPexpo25)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15** Northern Illinois Food Bank, 9am  
[www.bit.ly/SOTPNIFB0325](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPNIFB0325)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22**  
Congregational Resourcing Event 2025 [www.bit.ly/SOTPCRE25](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPCRE25)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8** Quarterly Barnabas Meeting, 2pm

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17**  
Maundy Thursday

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19**  
Good Friday

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19** Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 am

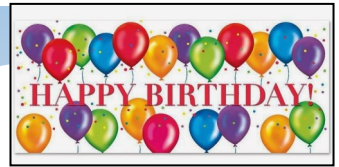
**SUNDAY, APRIL 20** Easter Sunday Services

**FRIDAY, JULY 4**  
SOTP in 4th of July Parade

**JULY 7—JULY 11**  
Vacation Bible School Week

# Birthdays

February



1-Feb Barbara Hoch	14-Feb Sydney Patel	19-Feb Dave Shotick
2-Feb Noel Lemke	Colin Glosson	Gregory Gillming
3-Feb Ivan Suski	Susan Barta	Linda Jahr
4-Feb William Kamphausen	Logan Glosson	Ralph Scalise
5-Feb Jody Linton	Judy Lindsey	20-Feb Jack Voss
6-Feb Emma Stegge	15-Feb Judy Luecht	Halie Gartzke
7-Feb Bradley Linton	Elizabeth Raines	21-Feb Susan Blotch
8-Feb Dorothy Scrocco	Silvia Forsythe	Patty Driscoll-Shaw
9-Feb Brigitte Pelka	16-Feb Arlene Kraaz	Patty Opfer
Conner Gillming	Alexa Piskule	22-Feb Julia Hoving
Jordan DeBolt	Annette Kandell	Jerry Frank
10-Feb Ryan Gartzke	Sheila Nichols-Lappe	Lillian Perez
Joshua Symbal	17-Feb Amy Koegel	24-Feb Laura Attaway
Mark Kowalski	Francis Christ	Rich Douglas
Judith Corole	Maggie Kemblowski	25-Feb Raquel Lemke
Carol Fiandalo	Karen Doyle	26-Feb Tim Papka
Betty Tazbier	Samuel Coots	27-Feb Charlie Powe
11-Feb Abby Gillming	Ingeborg Heidorn	Alan Busch
Annika McNeal	Karen Schimmel	Nicole Flanagan
Zachary Serpe	Donna Kelly	Rachel Kalamaras
12-Feb Pat Darow	Gail Barnard	Judy Kolzow
Addison Buesing	18-Feb Eileen Gerald	28-Feb Lois Jensen
Aileen Zei	Karin Arndt	Joan Rice
Grace Boster	Kim Kowalski	Orville McElfresh
13-Feb Judith Petropulos	Robert Buesing	
Zachary Zeimen	19-Feb Elaine Gillam	
	Carter Dean	







## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS**

**Are you looking for ways to use your talents and participate in our church family?**

**Here are some ideas and who to contact for more information for each one:**

- Adult Choir—Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Adventure Club—Jill Gillming jill@soapmail.com
- Annual Church Picnic – Donna Kelly—donna@sotpmail.com
- Assisting Minister (9am) – Sue Sroka—dssroka5@gmail.com
- Artist Series – Jane McMullen jane@sotpmail.com
- A/V Team – Josh Harding—josh@sotpmail.com
- Barnabas Ministry—Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com
- Bell Choir (Adult) —Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Bell Choir (Kids & Youth) – Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Communion Assistants—Sue Sroka—dssroka5@gmail.com
- Communion Bread Baking—Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Communion Set Up & Take Down—Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Community Outreach—Tara Mackey, rtmackey10@yahoo.com
- Counters—Ralph Wehnes, ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net
- Crafting Gifts for Sr. Citizens & Homeless Blankets—Alice Hallett, agrndmom3@gmail.com
- Greeters—Elaine Gillam, suggillam@aol.com
- Habitat for Humanity – Sandy Hupert sandyhupert@gmail.com
- Kids Academy—Amy Stech amc\_stech@yahoo.com
- Kids Connect—Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com
- Mission Team – Sandy Hupert sandyhupert@gmail.com
- Newsletter Mailing Prep—Michelle Rankin, michelle@sotpmail.com
- Next Step Fellowship (Single Seniors Fellowship) – Dave Stangle, dstangle.ds@gmail.com or Phyllis Thomson, phyllisthompson@aol.com
- Property Team—Mark Frendreis, SOTPProperty@gmail.com
- Prairie Quilters—Bev Kenny krbjk@comcast.net
- Prayer Shawls—Jeanne Henley, cjhenley2003@yahoo.com
- Public Relations—Matt Morrison, matt@sotpmail.com
- Readers—Sue Sroka—dssroka5@gmail.com
- Small Groups—Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com
- Ushers—Ed Cuttle edschn28@comcast.net
- Vacation Bible School – Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com
- Welcome Center—Tara Mackey, rtmackey10@yahoo.com
- Worship Band (Singing & Instrumental)—Jeff Moore, jeff@sotpmail.com

# ***Get Involved*** *Ways to Serve*

# Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND

	MONTHLY ACTUAL	MONTHLY BUDGET	MONTHLY ACTUAL VS. MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL VS. YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	YTD PERCENT RECEIVED	YTD PERCENT EXPENDED
December 1, 2024 Beginning Balance	\$ 393,775.96								
Monthly Income	96,082.02	102,964.00	\$ (6,881.98)	981,947.58	966,000.00	\$ 15,947.58	\$ 966,000.00	101.65%	
Monthly Expenses	110,002.78	77,442.00	\$ 32,560.78	973,045.90	966,000.00	\$ 7,045.90	\$ 966,000.00		100.73%
Income vs. Expenditures	(13,920.76)	25,522.00		8,901.68	-				
December 31, 2024 Ending Balance	\$ 379,855.20								
Average Monthly Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 80,500.00								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	4.72								

MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND

	MONTHLY ACTUAL	MONTHLY BUDGET	MONTHLY ACTUAL VS. MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL VS. YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	YTD PERCENT RECEIVED	YTD PERCENT EXPENDED
December 1, 2024 Beginning Balance	\$ 31,860.94								
Monthly Income	23,043.40	18,807.00	\$ 4,236.40	218,652.60	225,684.00	\$ (7,031.40)	\$ 225,684.00	96.88%	
Monthly Expenses	18,807.00	18,807.00	\$ -	225,684.00	225,684.00	\$ -	\$ 225,684.00		100.00%
Income vs. Expenditures	4,236.40	-		(7,031.40)	-				
December 31, 2024 Ending Balance	\$ 36,097.34								
Average Monthly Expenses	\$ 18,807.00								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	1.92								

Respectfully submitted,  
George Attaway, Treasurer

*faith and*  
**finances**

# SOTP Logowear

## Online Apparel Store





**SHEPHERD  
OF THE PRAIRIE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Online  
Apparel Store**

[www.bit.ly/SOTPlgowear](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPlgowear)





# SOTP Staff

## **Pastor Mark Boster**

*Senior Pastor*  
pastormark@sotpmail.com

## **Pastor Ryan Mackey**

*Pastor*  
pastorryan@sotpmail.com

## **Kendra Coots**

*Assistant Teacher—  
Little Lambs Preschool*  
kendra@sotpmail.com

## **Jill Gillming**

*Director of Children and Family  
Ministry*  
jill@sotpmail.com  
LittleLambs@sotpmail.com

## **Josh Harding**

*A/V and Office Support Staff*  
josh@sotpmail.com

## **Donna Kelly**

*Director of Connections Ministry*  
donna@sotpmail.com

## **Jane McMullen**

*Traditional Music & Worship  
Director*  
jane@sotpmail.com

## **Jeff Moore**

*Contemporary Music Director*  
jeff@sotpmail.com

## **Matt Morrison**

*Operations Manager*  
matt@sotpmail.com

## **Michelle Rankin**

*Operations and Communications  
Assistant*  
michelle@sotpmail.com

## **Dave Shotick**

*Accounting Administrator*  
accounting@sotpmail.com

# Church Council

**Bob Mollis**, President  
**Kathy McGuine**, Vice President  
**George Attaway**, Treasurer  
**Christa Serpe**, Secretary

**Mike Luecht**  
**Ellen Nissen**  
**Jim Puls**  
**Sara Wolf**

# Follow Us Social Media



**@shepherdoftheprairie**



Follow us on  
**Instagram**



**YouTube**

**@sotpmedia10805**

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church  
is a congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**“A Growing Church, For Growing People”**

For information, please call (847) 669-9448  
or go to our website at [sotp.org](http://sotp.org)

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Saturday 5:00 pm**

**Sunday 9:00 am Traditional**  
**& 10:45 am Contemporary**

*Worship with us in person  
or online at [sotp.org](http://sotp.org)  
and Facebook Live*

Shepherd of the Prairie  
Lutheran Church  
10805 Main Street  
Huntley, IL 60142



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