Newsletter

May 2025



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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Huntley, IL sotp.org 847/669-9448

Photo: Maundy Thursday's Living Last Supper Team

A Note From Pastor Mark

When you were a kid, did you dig in the dirt? I remember planting the garden with my grandpa in the backyard, horsing around with my neighborhood friends, and doing a lot of digging in the dirt.

Who cared if you came home with a big smile on your face plastered from head to toe after a nice romp in a squishy mud hole? My mom did, of course; stains had to be washed out of my clothes, and if the caked mud wasn't on too thick, which meant I had to be hosed down outside, she would send me up for a bath and tell me to scrub until I was shiny again. Never mind the ring around the tub, that would come out too, thanks again to my redeemer at the time, mom. Thank God for mothers!!!

And then we grew up.

Dirt, however, was still there. This time it wasn't made from God's good earth. No, this was dirt of another kind: gossip, rumors, innuendos, broken promises, and cleverly disguised white lies.

One only has to pick up a daily newspaper or watch evening news broadcasts for examples of different types of dirt.

It runs from the playground right up into the highest offices of the land. And boy, do we eat it up. We love it, don't we? And blame! It's always someone else's fault. We had nothing to do with it, and besides, we only had a small part in it anyway, right? Cheating? Never! Not me, well, maybe once or twice but everybody else was doing it so...

Pontius Pilate washed his hands of any wrongdoing during Christ's trial, and what about the High Priest and the Romans, and what about the Jews who started the whole mess? What about all the dirt they dug up to throw at an innocent man,

Jesus, and then what about the disciples and their attitudes, along with Peter's denial of knowing Christ?



Who should we point the finger at here? Where was the accountability there?

What about today, where is our accountability for the dirt we so liberally throw at another created in God's image?

Are our deeds and motives honorable and done out of love for Christ and one another? Maybe we enjoy "digging up dirt" on another but, boy oh boy, how we holler when some of it falls on us.

Read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch found in Acts 8:26-40. In the beginning of the text, Philip finds himself in the desert. The Holy Spirit leads him to approach someone far different from him...and he does so faithfully.

Philip takes the opportunity to share the gospel with this man—someone whom he could have otherwise judged. But rather than "dig up that dirt," he chooses to focus on the good news.

For the kingdom's sake, he set aside differences and followed the leading of the Holy Spirit.

As we wait for Jesus to return, let's all step aside from the mud and dirt and stop pointing fingers. Let's simply extend an arm, lend an ear, and share the good news in love for another and try to walk in Jesus' footsteps.

I'll look forward to being with you in worship!

Pastor Mark



A Note From Pastor Ryan

"We believe in the Holy Spirt" It is tradition to switch to the Nicene Creed for the Easter season. It is a

longer, more in-depth creed than our regular Apostles' Creed and that is why we revisit it during our higher church seasons. You may have noticed something different this year. It is a small change that may seem insignificant on the surface but actually packs a lot of meaning. It has to do with our belief in the Holy Spirit.

On Easter Sunday, we confidently declared, "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified..." Notice anything different? I heard a few of you start to say the missing words on Easter. The old familiar words that are missing are "and the Son." Most of us have, for our entire lives, declared that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from the Father and the Son."

Did you know that those three simple words were not actually part of the original Nicen Creed? The Nicene Creed was developed at the Council of Nicaea in the year 325 and modified in Constantinople in 381 always without "and the Son", which is a clause known as the "Filioque Statement". It wasn't until the Council of Toledo (Spain) in 589 that this statement was officially adopted, and even then, it was only adopted into the Latin churches of the West. It wasn't approved by the Papacy of Rome until the 11th century. Until now, it has been a point of

contention and a source of fracture between the Eastern and Western Christian Churches (the Eastern churches have never included it in the Creed).

The reason the Western churches decided to add the Filioque was to combat a heretical view put for by Arius, one our early church fathers, who believed Jesus did not always coexist with God the Father. He essentially said, "There was a time when He was not." This has been deemed a heresy because we believe that Jesus has always coexisted with God. "Let us make humankind in our image." (Genesis 1:26) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being." (John 1:1-3a) It was thought that adding the Filioque would give some weight to the idea that Jesus existed in the beginning by suggesting that the Holy Spirit came from him as well.

The problem with this statement is that it makes the Holy Spirit seem subordinate to Jesus, when in reality all three persons of the Trinity are coequal and has always existed together. Jesus may not have always been in physical bodily form, but he has always existed. God eternally begets Jesus. Jesus is eternally begotten from God. Likewise, the Holy Spirit has always and does always proceed from God. God is God. Jesus is God. The Holy Spirit is God. Neither Jesus nor the Holy Spirit are created from God. That would make them

(Continued on page 4)

A Note From Pastor Ryan (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

creatures like us and would mean that we would be worshipping parts of God's creation. That would make them idols. That is why the words "begotten" and "proceeds" were carefully chosen by the authors of the Creed.

This is obviously a complex issue that I have tried to simplify as much as possible. And all of this is to say I come bearing good news! In May of 2024 the Lutheran World Federation decided to end the controversy, and in a spirit of unity, has removed the Filioque from the Nicene Creed. 1,000 to 1,500 years of division are over! The Lutheran World Federation and the Orthodox Church put forward a joint declaration regarding this new unity, affirming that we all believe in the coequal, coexistent persons of the Holy Trinity. We believe the Father, the

Son, and the Holy Spirit are all in intimate relationship with each other and are all one God.

This may seem like a small thing but is theologically a big deal. It may not change your everyday life, but for pastors, bishops, scholars, and educators of faith, this small change makes a difference in our understanding of this very complicated Triune (3-in-1, 1-in-3) God we worship and are in relationship with.

I hope you've enjoyed this little look behind the curtain of systematic theology as much as I've enjoyed sharing it with you!

May the peace and love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you always,

Pastor Ryan







Barnabas CaregivingMinistering to the Homebound

A few years ago, my husband and I were driving home to Texas from visiting family here in Illinois for

Christmas. The road was smooth, we had made our stops for restroom, snacks and a drink. We had even made it through the traffic maze know as St Louis. It looked like clear sailing ahead. We went around a curve in the road and there it was; a huge traffic jam. The lines of cars ahead of us looked never ending! Far up ahead we could see the blinking of what looked like a thousand emergency vehicle lights. We were stuck! There was a roadblock ahead and nowhere to go to get around it!

We started grumbling about the hold up and how we weren't going to be able to get to the motel we had booked a room in that night. After we had sat there for a while without moving, we went from frustrated to resigned to being stuck behind this roadblock. As we began to creep along, we could see that it was at least a mile to where the actual roadblock was. After about an hour (seemed like 10) we had moved forward enough to get to an off ramp. We had no idea where we were or how to get through St Louis and back on to the interstate beyond the roadblock. We had to make a decision, stay stuck where we were or venture out into the unknown and find another way. We couldn't just give up trying to get home, walk away, leave the car on the highway and go find a place to live in St Louis.

I haven't thought of this incident for years, but a few weeks ago my daughter and I were talking about her work. She works for a mental health system. They had a guest speaker who talked about personal and mental roadblocks. When we hit a roadblock in our lives, we tend to get stuck. We try the same technique or answer over and over and find it didn't work before and still doesn't. Often, we simply give up! "I'll never be able to finish school!" I'll never lose the weight I want!" "I'll never figure out how to make this relationship work!" "I'll never get past this hurt, or grief, or struggle!" So, we quit trying and let the roadblock beat us.

But what if we didn't give up and take a deep breath and keep on trying? Or venture out into the unknown and find a new highway to travel? We don't give up at a traffic roadblock and we don't just give up in life either. We can stay calm and persevere or find a new path.

By the way, we decided to venture off the highway and find another road around the roadblock caused by the accident. Luckily Russ had received a new thing called a GPS for Christmas and it worked like magic. We were through St Louis and past the roadblock in a matter of a few minutes.

When I find myself staring at a roadblock in life, I now try to remember this incident and look for the way around it.

Donna

Family Painting For Kids (K-5) & Parents

Kids and parents come and paint a beautiful master-piece with Ms. Donna. There will be one picture for the kids to paint and a separate one for the adults within the same theme.

Space is limited to 10 kids, register now at www.bit.ly/
SOTPpaint0525

Please bring:

- 1 hair dryer per family
- 1 paint shirt for each person



 \$5 per person to cover the cost of supplies (unless paid online)

Contact: Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com

Wednesday Night Dinners

After Easter

SOTP has got dinner covered on Wednesday nights!

These meals are open to all, especially those of you who have children in Adventure Club, Confirmation, or Youth Group.

Volunteers will prepare the meals, so all you need to do is come hungry, gather at the tables, and

enjoy! Kitchen support is needed to arrive at 5:15pm, serve and clean - we should be done around 7pm.

Free will offerings will be encouraged to help support this ministry. Sign up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPwed0425



Please register ahead of time if possible so we know approximately how many we are cooking for each week.

Contact: Pastor Ryan Mackey pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Artist Series Concert Youth Jazz Ensemble of DuPage



Youth Jazz Ensemble of DuPage returns to Shepherd of the Prairie in May Back by popular demand! The Youth Jazz Ensemble from DuPage returns to perform at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, 10805 Main Street, Huntley, on Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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. "We are pleased to welcome these very talented musicians back again," said Jane McMullen of the SOTP Artist Series. "This will be a send-off concert for The Youth Jazz Ensemble from DuPage, as they are one of 30 bands selected as finalists for the Essentially Ellington 30th Anniversary Competition and Festival."

The Jazz Ensemble from DuPage, directed by Robert Blazek, will perform at the House of Swing in New York City for the Essentially Ellington competition on May 7-11, 2025.

The Youth Jazz Ensemble of DuPage (YJED)

was founded by current director Robert Blazek in 1998 to provide the opportunity for the top high school jazz musicians in the 20+ high schools in DuPage County and surrounding areas to perform high-level jazz music literature in concert and in an annual studio recording. Since its founding, YJED members have had the privilege playing for highly prestigious events and with a number of jazz greats. The Illinois Music Educators Association auditions and selects a limited number of the top high school musicians to perform in its district festival called ILMEA. This year, 23 YJED members were chosen to be part of this select group. And 8 of those were picked to be in the jazz combo, which is the most elite group of district high school jazz musicians.

Contact: The Artist Series artistseries@sotpmail.com

Collecting DonationsFor Grafton Food Pantry

The Community Outreach team is celebrating the amazing workers from the Grafton Food Pantry on May 6th for all that they do for those in need. We are also taking up a collection of their most needed items – see list below. The Grafton Food Pantry is a giving organization - let's show them how giving SOTP can be!!

We ask that you bring your donation to the regular first of the month collection day on May 4th, so all of the collected donations can be dropped off together on the 6th. If you have questions, please contact Tara Mackey.

Most Needed Items:

• Feminine Hygiene products



- Shampoo
- Soap
- Razors
- Toilet paper
- Paper Towels
- Tissues
- Cereal

Contact Tara Mackey rtmackey10@yahoo.com

Baking Help NeededFor Grafton Food Pantry Lunch

Calling all bakers and non bakers too!! The Community Outreach team will be celebrating the good works happening at the Grafton Food Pantry on May 6th. We are asking for 10 donated baked (or store bought works too!) goodies as a sweet treat for all of the employees and volunteers. Please sign up at

www.bit.ly/SOTPdesserts25, on Church Center or the SOTP website. All goodies should be handheld, pre-cut for easy eating.



If you have any questions, please email Tara.

Contact Tara Mackey rtmackey10@yahoo.com

Ways to Give to Church Without Paying Taxes



Is Shepherd of the Prairie in Your Financial Plan? Come Join us on Sunday, May 4 at 10:20am & Noon. "Five Ways to Give to the Church without Paying Taxes"

The Stewardship Team will sponsor an informational gathering on Sunday, May 4. The gathering will convey information related to Required Minimum
Distributions, Wills, and
Trusts, along with tax
changes for 2025. We will
also share information
related to the Endowment
Fund of SOTP. Thanks to Joe
Anderson, John Drafall, and
Matt Drafall for joining us

on this day. This is purely an informational meeting, intended to encourage good stewardship.

Please join us following both worship services in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 4th, to unlock the joy of generosity in your life!

Contact: Ralph Wehnes ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net

New Member GatheringFind Out More About Us



If you have been worshipping with us 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, May 4th, from 3 - 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. Sign up

now at www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0525
If you have any questions, contact Donna.

Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

Little Lambs Preschool 2025/2026 Registration Open

One Day Per Week:

Your 2 (by Sept. 1) year old children can join us on Wednesday from September through May from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for structured time



that is fun and developmentally appropriate. They will enjoy circle time, calendar and weather activity, a math/language lesson, snack, Bible story, craft, music time, and free play. These activities will help children develop a love of Bible stories and acknowledge that God loves us. Class size will be limited to 10 students and 2 teachers. Children do not need to be potty trained. Your children will have fun learning and playing, and you can go enjoy your time too!

Two Days Per Week:

Your 3 (by Sept. 1) - 4-year-old children can join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from September through May, from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Our class time will be very similar to the One Day Per Week schedule, but with 2 days we will include many more Kindergarten readiness activities. We will do phonics, cutting, prewriting, and pre- reading activities. Class size will be limited to 12 students with 2

teachers.

Three Days Per Week:

This program is designed for children that will be entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2026. Students will attend class Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from September through May, from 9am-12:00. We will focus on Kindergarten readiness including reading, writing, and math skills. This program is a great opportunity to give students more time in the classroom which will make their transition to Kindergarten much easier.

Tuition Information

- 1 day/week morning program (Wed.), 9:00 a.m.- noon, \$90/ month
- 2 day/week morning program (Tues., Thurs.), 9:00 a.m.- noon, \$160/month
- 3 day/week morning program (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), (Continued on page 11)

Little Lambs Preschool Continued

(Continued from page 10)

9:00 a.m.- noon, \$230/month

Non-refundable Registration Fees \$50 first child or \$75 for a family with more than one child, plus last month's (May) tuition. The remaining tuition payments are paid on the first of each month, September through April.

Typical Daily Schedule

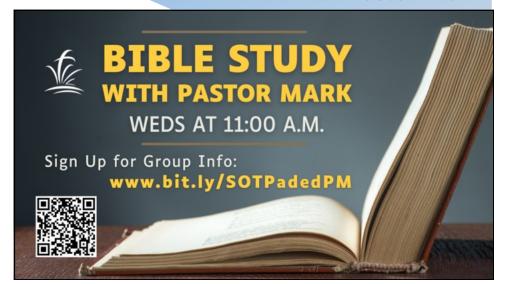
- GREETING/FREE PLAY TIME
- CIRCLE TIME (Calendar, Weather, Sharing, Bible Story, Songs)
- CENTERS (Craft, Learning Activities, Book/Puzzles, Bathroom Break)

- SNACK
- RECESS/LARGE MOTOR SKILLS
- QUIET TIME/REST
- CIRCLE TIME (Music, Movement, Games, Books)
- CLEAN UP AND DEPARTURE TIME

Are you and your child ready for Little Lambs Early Learning Program? Please contact us to check availability of our program and for enrollment information. We hope you'll join us! Blessings!

Contact: Jill Gillming
Director of
Children and Family Ministry
littlelambs@sotpmail.com

Wednesday Bible Study With Pastor Mark



Keep Huntley Beautiful SOTP Adopts-A-Highway

We Will Help Make a Visible Difference in Our Village

Looking for a way to give back to the community and help keep Huntley clean and beautiful? The Village of Huntley invites individuals, families, businesses, and community groups to participate in its Adopt-A-Highway Program!

We are pleased to announce that SOTP has "adopted" the stretch of Huntley roadway on Jim Dhamer Drive from Sandwald Rd. to Henning Rd.(.55mi) and has committed to keeping it free of litter. It's a great way to make a meaningful impact, enjoy time outdoors, and show pride in our hometown. This is a no cost volunteer program.

Here's how the program works: Participants agree to clean their assigned area at least **twice per year**

 The Village provides safety vests, gloves, and garbage bags. (There is a limited number of grabber extension tools. Bring your own if you wish)



- After each cleanup, filled bags are left roadside and collected by Public Works
- And yes—a sign recognizing SOTP's contribution will be placed along our route

Our initial clean up date will be **Saturday May 17**. We will meet at the parking lot of Huntley Fire Protection District Fire Station # 5 (13300 Henning Rd.) at **10 AM**. The project will take about 1- 1.5 hrs. We will need 10-15 volunteers.

Contact: Jim Saletta jsaletta@sbcqlobal.net

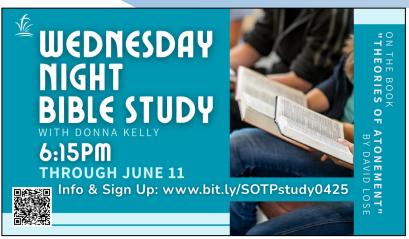
Prairie Pointe QuiltersExtra Hands Always Appreciated

Hope all of you had a blessed Easter. We in the quilt room have been getting quilts out as fast as we can. We have 48 quilts finished including the 3 that we donated to CASA. See the picture of us giving the quilts to the Director of CASA. We're planning to continue helping CASA with necessities for the foster children. It's so nice working with these ladies, they all enjoy helping others.



Contact: Bev Kenny at krkbjk@comcast.net

Weds Night Bible Study With Donna Kelly



We will be studying "Theories of Atonement" by David Lose. Books available for \$15, but not required.

April 30 - June 11, 2025, 6:15pm Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

Recycling Plastic New Year, New Bench



One month in and we have weighed, bagged, and dropped off 211 pounds of plastic for the NexTrex recycling program!! Be sure to check the progress at the Welcome Center desk.

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

If you are interested in joining the plastic collection team, please contact Tara Mackey.

Contact: Tara Mackey rtmackey10@yahoo.com

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 for more information or contact Donna Kelly. donna@sotpmail.com, or Tara Mackey, rtmackey10@yahoo.com.

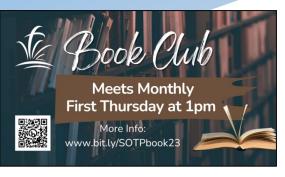
Contact: Tara Mackey rtmackey10@yahoo.com

Book Club Read With Us

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, nonfiction, religious. We will meet once a month on the first Thursday at 1pm.

We plan to pick books that are either available at the library or discount bookstores. If you have a Kindle or tablet and library card, you can have the library set you up with being able to "borrow" the book to read on your tablet.

⇒ April's choice is The Color of



Water James McBride---autobiography.

Registration at www.bit.ly/SOTPbook23 recommended but not required.

Contact: Dottie Bobzin dbinil@att.net

TransitionsJourney Through Loss



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 Tuesdays 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@sotpmail.com

Grief JourneyAll Are Welcome



Mortgage Craft Table Donate Money &/or Crafts



As well as the offerings on the Mortgage table special orders are taken and delivered each month.

A huge thank you to all the crafters and purchasers. You are a blessing.

Contact: Alice Hallett agrndmom3@gmail.com

















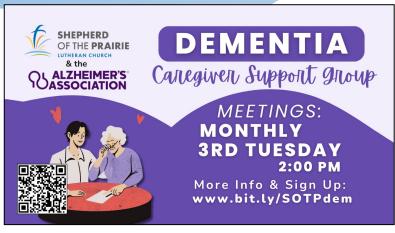






Dementia CaregiversSupport Group

In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, we will be offering a support group for caregivers for friends and/or family members with Dementia



Our support group here at SOTP will meet every third Tuesday of the month at 2pm to learn and support each other. For more information,

contact Donna Kelly by email at donna@sotpmail.com, or through the church office.

Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

Prairie Pointe Quilters& You Are Invited to Join Us

Spring is almost here with warmer weather. Two sessions the brave ladies came out in the bitter cold to make quilts! We're hopeful that the next time will be more bearable. We're always looking for more help - you'll learn something new, meet some new friends and have TREATS!!



We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 9:00 to about 11:30, and you don't need to know how to sew. Hope to see some new faces in the near future.

Contact: Bev Kenny krkbik@comcast.net

Group for seniors talk about changes & challenges & ideas on how to cope. 11:00 AM SECOND TUESDAY More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPwhatsnext

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 friends and activities to keep us "busy", we

What's Next? For Seniors

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 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 the second

Tuesday of each month at 11am in the

SOTP Library. For more information

contact Donna Kelly,

donna@sotpmail.com or through the church office, 847-669-9448.

Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

Ushers Needed—All Ages Serve Monthly at Favorite Service



Communion Bread

Bakers Needed

Baking communion bread can be a meaningful way to deepen your faith and spiritual connection, offering a tangible expression of Jesus's sacrifice. It ⇒Using hands, electric mixer, pastry allows for a personal and communal experience, transforming everyday ingredients into a symbol of grace and remembrance.

Try baking the bread at home and let me know if you're interested in baking some for worship. We need more bakers!

Communion Bread Recipe

- ⇒Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
- ⇒Measure the following ingredients into a microwaveable bowl (A small saucepan on low heat can also be used on the burner. Do not boil or scald the mixture.)
- •1/4 cup butter of 4T cut from stick of butter
- •1/2 cup honey
- •1 3/4 cup of milk (non-fat works okay)
- ⇒Heat ingredients together in microwave until milk is lukewarm. Stir until butter is melted.
- ⇒Let set while you prepare the dry ingredients.
- ⇒Mix dry ingredients together in a large bowl.
- •3 1/2 cups of wheat flour (you will need additional flour to dust counter surface and to knead into dough if too sticky)
- •1 cup white flour
- •2 teaspoons salt
- •2 tablespoons sugar
- •2 teaspoons baking powder

- cutter or large spoon slowly add the milk mixture (stir milk mixture prior to adding) to the dry ingredients—mix until a sticky ball forms.
- ⇒Lightly dust a clean, smooth surface with whole wheat flour and place dough on the surface. Knead the dough for about 1 minute or 30-40 kneads. Use additional whole wheat flour until dough no longer feels sticky.
- ⇒Roll dough into a log approximately 8 inches long. Check to make sure the end points of log are uniform in size to the middle of the log. Cut into 8 equal pieces.
- ⇒Flatten each piece of dough on a floured surface. Using your fingers, shape the dough into a 7 inch diameter circle as this is the size of the communion plate. If the loaf is too small and thick, it is difficult for the minister/assistant minister to break apart for serving.
- ⇒Place on a baking sheet (you may lightly grease the baking sheet) or us a silicone sheet.
- ⇒USING A KNIFE—MARK A CROSS ON EACH BREAD: be careful not to score all the way through the dough.
- ⇒Bake for 7-8 minutes. Watch closely as it bakes quickly.

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Communion Bread Bakers Needed

(Continued from page 20)

- ⇒Remove from oven. Place bread on wire rack for cooling.
- ⇒When cooled, place the loaves in a Ziploc bag for delivery to the church and storage in the refrigerator. Please mark the Ziploc bag with the date prepared.
- ⇒BREAD SHOULD BE AT CHURCH NO LATER THAN
 - •8:15 on Sunday morning.
 - •4:30 on Saturday evening

Thank you for your help in this ministry. If you need clarification or additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Contact: Judie Symbal judiesymbal43@gmail.com

BAKING COMMUNION BREAD Breath Prayer

INHALE: This is my Body, EXHALE: broken for you. 1 Corinthinans 11:24

O Bread of Life, The night before your death, You offered a meal to your disciples.

You fed bread to the ones You loved, and even to the one who would betray.

Be with me as I bake this loaf
For those I love (and for those who are
a struggle)
May this broad hind us together

May this bread bind us together And make us more like you. Amen.

Kendall Vanderslice, "Bake & Pray"

See What's HappeningAnd Join Us



Easter Flowers-Thank You!

Thank you Easter Flower Donations

CHERYL ADAMS In memory of Martin Adams & Adam McClane

GEORGE & LAURA ATTAWAY Dedicated to the Glory of God

JIM & BARB AUWERDA In memory of our mothers, Ina Auwerda, Betty Schule and Devin Cole Auwerda

MARCIA & BILL BALL Dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of their parents, Marcia's brother, Peter and Bill's sister, Marilyn.

GLORIA BENKENDORF In memory of Sol and Scott

SUSAN BLOTCH Dedicated to Donna Kelly for her faithful service to SOTP

SUSAN BLUMER In memory of Robert & Helen Chrysler and Chrislyn Blanchard

HARRISON & SARAH BRADSTREET

LYNN BROEDERDORF In memory of her son, Lenny Johnson

PATTIE & TIM BUESCHEL In memory of Stephanie Warner

MARCY COFFMAN Dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Rick Coffman

DEBBIE & JOHN COOK In memory of Dolores Dirks

TOM & THERESE COX In memory of Carole Schmidt

ED & CAROLYN CUTTLE Dedicated to their children, grandchildren and great grandson and in memory of their parents and Clif

PATRICIA DAROW Dedicated to Joanne Brickley

ROSALIND & JEFFREY ECKARDT

JANET FRY In memory of Ron Fry

ELAINE GILLAM In memory of her loved ones

SANDY JOHNSON & VINCE GIULIANO In memory of Dolores Dirks & Sarah Giuliano

JIM & JEANNE HENLEY In memory of our parents

MELISSA & TIM HOEFT In memory of Terrence Hoeft and Marge & Ray Suerth

MARTHA JACOBSON In memory of her husband, Jim Jacobson

GRACE & KATE JEDLICKA In memory of Robert Ptaszek

LOIS JENSEN In memory of Bob and Bill Jensen

TOESANA KAGDI

WILLIAM KAMPHAUSEN In memory of his wife, Susan Kamphausen

STEFANIE, TROY, BEN, & MORGAN KINDLE

GORDON LEAHY Dedicated to Margaret Sue Leahy and in memory of his wife, Sue

PAUL & SANDRA LEMKE In memory of their parents

SARAH LESLIE In memory of James Olson

JUDY & MIKE LUECHT Dedicated to our families

ANN MALANDRUCCOLO In memory of Daniel Fiala, Hugo & Emily, Annalyn & Thomas

Easter Flowers-Thank You!

hant you! Easter Flower Donations

ORV MCELFRESH In memory of Jayne & Gina McElfresh

KATHY & JIM MCGUINE In memory of Eileen & Lynne Partington
and Tom McGuine

CAL & SANDY MEYER Dedicated to their families

ALICE MILLER In memory of Frank Lechocki

CARLENE MOELLER In memory of William Moeller

NANCY MORBECK In memory of James Morbeck

DENISE MORET Dedicated to Norman J. Moret

DONA NICKLAS In memory of Irv Nicklas, Bob, Ron and Laura Vercruysse

ELLEN NISSEN

JEFF OTTENS Dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Laverne, Marian & Stephanie Ottens

JACQUI PANVINO In memory of Eileen Silianoff and Oclon Barlow

JEANNINE PENLEY In memory of Gail Wolfard and Richard Penley

SUSAN & JIM PULS In memory of Sally & Gene Larson and Betty & John Puls

CAROL SCHALEY & ART PUOTINEN In memory of Florence Kucharik

NINA RICHARDSON In memory of Kevin Richardson

RUTH ROPER In memory of Rick Coffman

MERILYN SCHNELL Dedicated to SOTP and in memory of Dick Schnell

SAWORA SCHUESSLER

DONNA SORENSEN In memory of Sid Sorensen

KIM & JIM STANCL With thankfulness for all their blessings

AMY STECH In memory of Jerry Robson and dedicated to Kathleen Robson

CAROL & JIM STONECIPHER In memory of Carol's parents, Melvin & Dorothy Wilkening

RON & SANDY TENGGREN In memory of Alexander Radford

ELIZABETH TROUT In memory of her parents, Richard and Marie Trout

VALERIE ULMER In memory of Aunt Emma Rupp

PASTOR BILL & CAROL WAXENBERG
With gratitude to God for our beautiful family

SUE & RALPH WEHNES In memory of Ralph & Louise Wehnes and Edward & Marguerete Huebl

DAN WENTZLOFF AND DONNA ALLEN In memory of their loved ones who have gone before us to be with God

WENDY WERNER In memory of her husband, Stan Werner and other family members

ROB & ALISON WOMAC AND FAMILY In memory of LeaAnn Voges Schwa Bernard & Virlea Voges, Willard and Kittie Griffin

RICK & LINDA WRIGHT In memory of Dorothy Wright and Mary Lukritz

CHUCK ZINDEL In memory of Carol Zindel

The Lakes Area Swing Band An Artist Series Concert



Vacation Bible School

Save the Date!



Involvement Schedule May 2025

		May 3/4	May 10/11	May 1 <i>7/</i> 18	May 24/25	May 31
	SUN 9:00 AM	-	-	-	-	
Acolyte SUN 10:45 AM		Abby Sarrault	-	-	-	
Communion	Sat & Extra					
Bread	Sundays	Jeanne Henley	Debra Smith	Chris Nack	Nancy Hammer	
Counters	MON	Donna Ti				
Greeters	SAT 5:00 PM	Lynn & Ken Rotter	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin	Dottie Bobzin Candace Beck	Laura Attaway Cyndi Monson	Chuck Davis Carol Davis
	SUN 9:00 AM	Lynn & Ken Rotter	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin	Dottie Bobzin Candace Beck	Laura Attaway Cyndi Monson	
	SUN 10:45 AM	Carolyn & Bob Malm				
Ushers	SAT 5:00 PM					
	SUN 9:00 AM	WALTER LEMKE Tim Bueschel Jeff Stangle Jeff Ottens Mickey & Cathy Kappel [A]	JACK CONTI Cheryl Rotermund John & Patti Witt Carol Engstrom	MIKE MALCZEWSKI Wayne Schmidt Arja Kasper Dan Wentzloff Don Wickersham Andrew Lick	RALPH WEHNES Stan Crissman Jerry & Pat Darrow George Attaway Chuck Zindel	
	SUN 10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE Annika Yndestad Mike & Patti Kargol	VIK BEKERIS Jim Stancl Mike Delich	DOUG NAGEL Don Koerner Judy Petropulos	BOB MOLLIS Diane Mollis Mike Delich	
Welcome Center	SUN 9:00 AM	Tara Mackey	Don Wickersham	Karen Broadsky Lisa Griffith, Tara Mackey	Don Wickersham	
	SUN 10:45 AM	Marty Jacobsen, Elizabeth Trout	Kim Stancl	Doreen Brangenberg Elizabeth Trout	Sharon Howell, Elizabeth Trout	

Regularly Scheduled You Are Invited



SUNDAYS

8:30-11am (1st Sun) Food Drive for Grafton Food Pantry 8:30am-Noon (4th Sun) Craft Sales Table for Mortgage 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

9:00 am (3rd Mon) Gazebo Valor
Quilts
9:00 am Staff Meeting
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 (2nd Tues) Gazebo Quilt
Guild
8:00 am Men's Coffee at McD's by
Huntley Walmart
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 for Seniors
6:30 pm (1st Tues), Scout Troop 200
Committee
6:30 pm (1st Tues), Boy Scouts

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

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 Wodposday Night Dippe

5:45 pm Wednesday Night Dinners (through May 7)

6:15 pm Wednesday Night Bible Study with Donna 7:00 pm Confirmation (through May 7)

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

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

10:00 am Women's Coffee at McD's by Huntley Walmart10:30 am FBW5:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 779

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm Worship



Special Events

Save the Date

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Painting with Ms. Donna, 6:30pm www.bit.ly/SOTPpaint0525 •

WEEKEND OF MAY 3 & 4

Collecting Donations for Grafton Food Pantry—for Celebration Lunch www.bit.ly/ SOTPGRAFTON0525

SUNDAY, MAY 4

- Financial Workshop: Is SOTP in Your Financial Plan? "Five Ways to Give to the Church Without Paying Taxes" 10:20am & Noon www.bit.ly/ SOTPfinance0525
- New Member Gathering, 3pm www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0525
- Artist Series Concert Youth Jazz **Ensemble of DuPage Send off** concert for 30th Anniversary **Duke Ellington Festival,** 4pm

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Baked Goods Donation for Grafton Food Pantry Celebration Luncheon www.bit.ly/ SOTPdesserts25

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Confirmation End of the Year Celebration, 6:30pm

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Adopt-a-Highway Program— Cleanup with SOTP, 10am

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Little Lambs End of Year **Celebration**, 6pm

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Grief Journey & Transitions NOT MEETING This Week

FRIDAY, JULY 4

SOTP in 4th of July Parade

JULY 7—JULY 11

Vacation Bible School Week

FRIDAY, JULY 11

Ice Cream Social & Car Show, 6:30pm

SATURDAY, JULY 19

The Artist Series Presents The Lakes Swing Band, 6pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

New Member Gathering, 3pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Annual Church Picnic, Noon

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The Artist Series Presents The Gibson Girls, 7pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Barnabas Minister Training & Refresh, 10am

Birthdays_{May}

			HAPP	YRI	RTHDAY
1-May	Donna Cygan				
1-May	Rick Miller				
1-May	Russ Motyka				1
1-May	Jessica Zeimen	12-May	Sharon Little		
2-May	Michelle Rankin	12-May	Brayden Patel	23-May	Zachery Boster
2-May	Noelle Schlachta	12-May	Laura Ramey	23-May	Jonathan Crase
Z-iviay	Noene Schlachta	12-May	Judith Sanford	23-May	Elizabeth McCann
3-May	Jan Koerner	12-May	Emma Stowasser	23-May	Wendy Werner
3-May	Steve Murphy	12-May	Alison Womac	24-May	Elana Spencer
3-May	Elise Padget	13-May	Harriet Thompson	•	·
4-May	Brian Buesing	14 May	III Dobok	25-May	Timothy Larson
4-May	John Dawson	14-May	Jill Dobek	25-May	Ashlyn Palm
4-May	Nelly Munoz	15-May	Grace Moretti	26-May	Aliyah Escareno
4-May	Amy Stech	15-May	Ashlyn Rankin	26-May	Calvin Meyer
		15-May	Lindsey Sarrault	26-May	Melanie Ressler
5-May	John Baumstark	15-May	Chris Solem	26-May	JoAnn Ward
5-May	Gloria Benkendorf				
5-May	John Thunholm	16-May	Dottie Bobzin	27-May	Joshua Harding
6-May	Benjamin Beallis	16-May	Evie Fetzer	27-May	Jack Schlachta
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	20.1,0	16-May	Dennis Lilla	27-May	Nicholas Wichtendahl
7-May	Alisa Lehmann	16-May	Tim Reicher	28-May	Andrew Behm
7-May	Lorraine Soosloff	17-May	Jeff Ottens	28-May	Sandy Hupert
8-May	Sharon Howell	10 May	Mark Fulsor	28-May	Arlene Petrine
		18-May	Mark Fulcer	28-May	Leah Stech
9-May	Marlene Boehler	18-May	Andrew Lick	20 May	Doris Graff
9-May	Jacqui Panvino	18-May	Ron Mudge	29-May	Laura Hinkle
9-May	Elaina Satalino	19-May	Pamela Schuett	29-May	Laura minkie
10-May	Emily Bradstreet	20-May	Nathan Allison	30-May	Carly Grace Domenz
10-May	Brayden Dailey	20-May	Tim Doyle	30-May	Thomas Domenz
10-May	Gavin Glosson	,	•	30-May	Jeni McCann
10-May	Samantha Schurhammer	20-May	Betty Ferina	30-May	Tony Moretti
	Schurhammer	21-May	Henry Gundersen	30-May	Kyle Sabie
11-May	Olivia Dahlin	21-May	Maverick Maraviglia	31-May	Elizabeth Case
11-May	Tyler DeBlieck	21-May	Jacque Stashwick	31-May	Alexa Hoving
11-May	, Kathy Kann	21-May	Eric Stopka	31-May	Hannah Stegge
11-May	Trace Kusch	21-May	Carol Waxenberg	31-iviay	Hamian Stegge
11-May	Sasha Suski	22.14	0.111		
•		22-May	Carl Hupert		



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

Get Involved

Ways to Serve

- 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, phyllisthomson@aol.com
- Property Team—Mark Frendreis, SOTPproperty@gmail.com
- Prairie Quilters—Bev Kenny krkbjk@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

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2025

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND

		MONTHLY	MONTHLY	MONTHLY ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	YTD ACTUAL	ANNUAL	YTD PERCENT	YTD PERCENT
	Г	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VS. MONTHLY BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VS. YTD BUDGET	BUDGET	RECEIVED	EXPENDED
March 1, 2025 Beginning Balance	3	390,803.19								
Monthly Income		85,790.96	82,368.00	\$ 3,422.96	265,150.15	263,139.00	\$ 2,011.15	\$ 1,008,800.00	26.28%	
Monthly Expenses		74,846.71	81,374.00	\$ (6,527.29)	243,257.91	244,122.00	\$ (864.09)	\$ 1,008,800.00		24.11%
Income vs. Expenditures	Ι	10,944.25	994.00		21,892.24	19,017.00				
March 31, 2025 Ending Balance	40	401,747.44								
	Ι									
Average Monthly Expenses (Budgeted)	\$	84,066.67								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	Т	4.78								

MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND

	Γ	MONTHLY	MONTHLY	MONTHLY ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	YTD ACTUAL	ANNUAL	YTD PERCENT	YTD PERCENT
	Γ	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VS. MONTHLY BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VS. YTD BUDGET	BUDGET	RECEIVED	EXPENDED
March 1, 2025 Beginning Balance		\$ 51,372.46								
Monthly Income		26,488.86	18,807.00	\$ 7,681.86	79,377.98	56,421.00	\$ 22,956.98	\$ 225,684.00	35.17%	
Monthly Expenses		18,807.00	18,807.00	\$ -	56,421.00	56,421.00	\$ -	\$ 225,684.00		25.00%
Income vs. Expenditures	Ι	7,681.86			22,956.98	-				
March 31, 2025 Ending Balance	10	\$ 59,054.32								
	Ι									
Average Monthly Expenses	1	\$ 18,807.00								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance		3.14								

Respectfully submitted,

George Attaway, Treasurer



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAISE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAY CONNECTED & PERSONALIZE YOUR Daily Devotionals Www.bit.ly/SOTPEMAJL Newsletter



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

SOTP Staff

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

Kathy McGuine, President Bob Mollis, Vice-President George Attaway, Treasurer Ellen Nissen, Secretary Jim Puls Christa Serpe Jim Stancl Lisa Wondriska

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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

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 and Facebook Live

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

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