



**SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**2026
APRIL**

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

- Easter Egg Hunt
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MORE INFO



ARTIST SERIES CONCERT

Jenny Lind Ensemble
from Augustana College
March 2026

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

Love Outpoured: The Risen Christ Draws Near

Matthew 28

Our Lenten theme, “Love Outpoured” is certainly part of Matthew’s Easter story.

As the day begins, the world still feels heavy with grief. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb early in the morning. Their hearts are still weighed down by the events of Good Friday. Jesus, the one they loved and followed, has been crucified. His body has been sealed in a tomb. The story seems finished.



But God is not finished.

Matthew tells us that suddenly there is a great earthquake. An angel descends from heaven, rolls away the stone, and sits upon it. The guards tremble with fear. The angel speaks to the women: *“Do not be afraid...He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.”*

With those words, the impossible becomes reality. Death has been defeated. The grave has lost its power. The love of God—love outpoured on the cross—now bursts forth in resurrection life.

But notice something else in this story: God’s love is not distant. It is near.

The women do not encounter resurrection from a distance. They experience it up close. The angel speaks directly to them. The empty tomb stands before them. And then, as they run to tell the others, Matthew says something remarkable: “Suddenly Jesus met them.”

The risen Christ draws near.

This is one of the most beautiful dimensions of Easter. God’s love is not simply declared from heaven—it comes close. Jesus does not remain hidden or far away. He meets them on the road. He speaks to them. They take hold of his feet and worship him.

Love outpoured is proximate.

(continued)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

(Continued)

Throughout the resurrection story, Jesus keeps drawing close to people. He meets the women on the road. Later, he gathers his disciples on a mountain in Galilee. Matthew tells us that when they see him, they worship—but some doubt. Even in that moment of uncertainty, Jesus does not withdraw.

Instead, Jesus comes nearer.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me,” he says. And then he gives them a mission that will shape the future of the church:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

That promise reveals the heart of Easter. The risen Christ does not simply send his followers into the world; he remains close to them. His presence accompanies them (and us) wherever they (we) go.

Easter reminds us that God’s love is stronger than death, deeper than despair, and closer than we often imagine.

Because of Easter, the risen Christ still meets people on the road.

Because of Easter, we are never alone.

And because of Easter, love continues to be poured out—through Christ who draws near, and through us as we carry that love into the world.

Pastor Mark

A NOTE FROM PASTOR RYAN

Resetting Your Algorithm

It is likely that, by the time you read this, Lent will be over and that the celebration of Christ's resurrection will be in full swing! I hope your Lenten journey was one of deep reflection and that you came out of it with a renewed sense of the intimate relationship you have with Jesus.



As you are, no doubt, well aware that we live a world driven by social media. Forty years ago, it took about 24 hours for news to break and spread into our lives. Now it takes only minutes. And there is certainly no shortage of opinions on everything. Scholars have been studying the effects of the rapid news cycle and the effects of social media and artificial intelligence (AI) on our psychological, social, and educational health, and the outlook is not good. However, that does mean it is too late for us to do something about it.

Social media and AI use complex algorithms to analyze what we're interested in and how we think and use that information to continue to show us more of those things. The dangerous part is that this can lead us into spiral, a bubble that only includes a particular perspective. This has led us, as a collective society, to get lost in isolated bubbles without access to broader world views.

We witnessed this very acutely after Charlie Kirk was killed. Part of the world saw him as kind, open, and collaborative while part of the world saw him as a harsh, confrontational, and closed-minded. Much of this was due to the social media feeds people we exposed to. Charlie, like the rest of us, was a mixture of both, but social media didn't always allow people to see all sides of him. After his death, I heard a story of two friends who got into an argument over him, but they took a moment to show each other they're social media feeds. Each was completely surprised. Neither recognized the Charlie they were seeing because neither had been allowed to see both sides of him before. They need to reset their algorithm.

I have an uncle with whom I regularly engage in deep, respectful, albeit challenging discussions about politics. We have some differing beliefs, but it doesn't stop us from engaging in very

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR RYAN

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meaningful dialogue. We had one of these conversations about a month ago, and he said something I'll never forget. Something I want to lift up to you as suggestion we might all take to heart.

As we were saying goodbye, he said to me, "My algorithm has gotten all screwed up. I'm only seeing one side of everything. Whenever you find well thought-out posts, can you send them to me? I need to adjust my algorithm. I'll do the same for you."

It would be great if more people would take that approach.

We do it very naturally in other areas of our lives without even thinking about it. For those of you who listen to music streaming services, you know what I'm talking about. You may be listening to a playlist or series of random songs and get tired of the artist or genre. What do you do? You pick a new song or genre to change it up, and the streaming service goes down a new path. Before music streaming services it was as easy as putting on a new record or inserting a new cassette or CD.

This past Lent, you likely attempted (and hopefully succeeded) at a reset of one of your life algorithms. Maybe you gave up a type of junk food to help you get healthier. Perhaps you added journaling to improve your mental health. Or maybe you began a devotional series to improve your spiritual health. These are all ways of resetting our algorithm.

Portico, the benefits arm of the ELCA, uses a Wholeness Wheel to illustrate the areas of our wellbeing. The areas are intellectual, social, emotional, physical, financial, and vocational, and at the center of it all is spiritual wellbeing. One, several, or all of those areas may need a reset at any given point in our lives. Every day is opportunity for a reset.

How is your algorithm? Are you being exposed to a broad spectrum of thoughts and ideas? Are you seeking them out? How are your areas of wellbeing? Do any need tweaking? We may be out of Lent, but that means we are in spring cleaning season!

May you the wholeness and renewal of Jesus Christ this Easter season and beyond,

Pastor Ryan

MINISTRY MUSING, DONNA KELLY

This Lent I have been a book by Rachel Billups titled, “An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story”. It focuses on the people who stand on the ‘edges’ of the Crucifixion story; the servant girl who calls out Peter, Simon of Cyrene who carries Jesus’ crossbeam in the book of Luke, Barabbas, Mary of Bethany, and Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, but the group that caught my imagination was, “The Women at the Cross”.



All four Gospels mention the women who stood by Jesus while he was on the cross; different names are listed, but they were there. The author says. “They remind us that discipleship is about showing up, staying close, and loving Jesus with a devotion that refuses to turn away. It is a different kind of faith, a faith of one who stays with Jesus, no matter the cost.” She then talks about the difference of being an admirer of Jesus and a follower of Jesus. She defines an admirer as one who stands at a distance, agreeing with Jesus’ teachings, enjoying the comfort of his words; and a follower as one who has the courage to stand with Jesus in the hard places, to follow him even when it costs them, to love him with courageous and unwavering devotion.

“Following Jesus means allowing our hearts to break for what breaks his, and then letting those broken pieces guide our hands and feet toward healing and justice. Following Jesus means we stop waiting for others to fix what’s broken and instead we partner with God to take up the work of restoration”.

And what breaks Jesus’ heart? Anything that is not filled with love for one another: Matthew 25:34-36, “Then the ruler will say to those on his right, come you are blessed by my Father; Take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

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MINISTRY MUSING, DONNA KELLY

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The courage of these women who stood with Jesus at the cross stands as a challenge to you and me today. It's easy to follow Jesus when the cost to do so is small, when our faith is comfortable and stays within the lines. But when the reality of the cross hits us and discipleship asks us to be in uneasy and difficult places, to stand against injustice, to love when that love costs us, to follow Jesus into sticky or maybe even unpleasant situations, what do we do then? Are we admirers or followers?

“This is a holy moment of courage. The Cross is not just a symbol of suffering; Is the place where our commitments become real. This act does not mean people will have all the answers or even all the courage they need. But it does mean they are committed to start the process. And sometimes the most powerful faith begins when people simply say, ‘I’m willing’.”

Donna Kelly

RECEIVE EMAILS FROM US



The graphic features a background of torn white paper revealing a blue landscape with mountains. In the top left corner is the logo for Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, which includes a stylized 'f' and the text 'SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH'. The main text reads 'STAY CONNECTED & PERSONALIZE YOUR Email Selections' with 'Email Selections' in a large, bold, yellow font. Below this is the URL 'www.bit.ly/SOTPEMAIL'. On the left side, there is a QR code and the text 'Daily Devotionals'. On the right side, there is the text 'Friday Flourish' and 'Newsletter'.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP



Palm Sunday
Worship

8:30AM Organ & Hymns
10:30AM Worship Band



Sunday, March 29
PALM SUNDAY
8:30 AM Traditional
10:30 am Contemporary

Thursday, April 2
MAUNDY THURSDAY
Living Last Supper
7PM



Maundy Thursday
LIVING LAST SUPPER
April 2, 2026
7PM

In person & on-line



Good Friday
Worship

April 3, 2026 at 7pm



Thursday, April 3
GOOD FRIDAY
Worship
7PM

Saturday, April 4
HOLY SATURDAY
Worship
5PM



HOLY SATURDAY
WORSHIP
5:00 PM

April 4, 2026

In Person Only



Easter Sunday
Worship

8:30 am Organ & Hymns
10:30 am Worship Band

April 5, 2026



Sunday, April 5
EASTER SUNDAY
8:30 AM Traditional
10:30 am Contemporary

EASTER 2026

THE COURAGE TO STAY CLOSE

During the season of Easter we are doing a little thematic programming that we want to share with you. Below is the proposed theme for each week.

April 5 - Matthew 28:1-10 - Resurrection Sunday (Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb)

Theme: The Courage to stay close to the place marked by grief, loss, and confusion

Easter begins—not with certainty, but with people who choose to stay close.

April 12 - John 20:19–31 (Doubting Thomas) - *Easter 2*

Theme: The Courage to Stay Close to Doubt

Even in fear, locked doors, and unanswered questions, Jesus comes near. Thomas reminds us that doubt doesn't disqualify—it can deepen faith when we stay close long enough to encounter Christ.

April 19 - Luke 24:13–35 (Road to Emmaus) - *Easter 3*

Theme: The Courage to Stay Close on the Journey

Jesus walks with us even when we don't recognize him. Staying close means continuing the journey, trusting that Christ is present in conversation, Scripture, and the breaking of bread.

April 26 - John 10:1–1 - *Easter 4*

Theme: The Courage to Stay Close to the Shepherd's Voice

In a world of competing voices, staying close requires discernment. We learn to recognize, trust, and follow the voice that leads to life.

May 3 - John 14:1–14 *Easter 5*

Theme: The Courage to Stay Close When the Future Feels Uncertain

"Do not let your hearts be troubled." Jesus calls us to trust even when the path ahead is unclear, reminding us that closeness to him anchors us in hope.

May 10 - John 14:15–21 (Mother's Day) - *Easter 6*

Theme: The Courage to Stay Close in Love That Remains

Love is not distant—it abides. This text beautifully connects to the nurturing, enduring, presence-centered love we often celebrate on Mother's Day: a love that stays.

May 17 - John 17:1–11 (Jesus' Prayer) LSSI Sunday - *Easter 7*

Theme: The Courage to Stay Close as One

Jesus prays for unity—"that they may be one." Staying close includes remaining connected to one another, reflecting God's love through community.

WEDNESDAY LENT ADULT STUDY

Bible Study Every
Wednesday beginning
4/15/2026 ending on
5/27/2026

Signs of the Kingdom:
Studies in Matthew

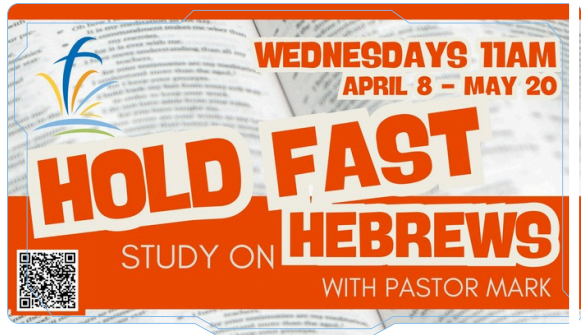
Cost of book: \$10.00 -
scholarships are
available



For questions, contact Donna Kelly at donna@sotpmail.com

HOLD FAST, STUDY ON HEBREWS

Theme - Hebrews teaches not how to climb to God, but how God comes to us in Christ - through promise, Word and Sacrament. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23



Hold Fast — A Study in the Book of Hebrews
Life has a way of shaking our confidence — in ourselves, in the future, even in faith. The book of Hebrews was written to people who felt that same weariness and wondered if following Christ was worth it. Instead of telling them to try harder, Hebrews point them to Jesus: our faithful High Priest who holds us even when our grip is weak. In this six-week study we'll explore how God meets us with grace, replaces performance with promise, and gives us a hope we can truly hold onto. Come discover why we can hold fast — because Christ holds us first.

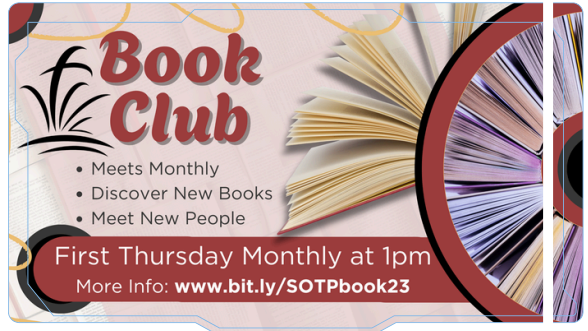
Contact: Pastor Mark Boster at pastormark@sotpmail.com.

BOOK CLUB

Do you enjoy reading?
Looking for a way to
connect with others?
Then you just might enjoy
our Book Club.

We take turns reading
different genres. Books
being discussed:

- April: MAD HONEY by Jodi Picoult, a family story about a contemporary social issue.
- May: CABIN FEVER, a non-fiction narrative, tells the story of a cruise ship that set sail from South America just as the COVID shut down occurred. No port in this storm!



Contact: Dottie Bobzin at dbinil@att.net

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

Would you like to know
more about SOTP; what
we believe, our history,
and all of the
opportunities for
fellowship, worship,
learning and service?
We are hosting a New
Member Gathering on
Sunday, May 3rd at
3pm. Attending the

Gathering is not a commitment to become an “official member”; but just a chance to get to know SOTP and its people better. There will be time for talking with some of our ministry leaders so you can find out more details about how their ministries work.

We hope you can join us on May 3rd. If you cannot be here on the 3rd but would like to become a member, please let me know and we can schedule a time for us to get together and talk about membership. Also, if you need childcare please let us know as well. If you have any questions, please contact me; my information is below..

Contact: Donna Kelly at donna@sotpmail.com



SUPPORT GROUPS



GRIEF JOURNEY GROUP

TUESDAY MORNINGS
10AM

Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPgrief

QR code

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR SUPPORT GROUPS, MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.

Grief Journey is for those mourning the death of a loved one.

Transitions is for those 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.

Dementia Caregiver Support is in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, a support group for caregivers, friends and/or family members with Dementia.

What's Next is a group for seniors to talk about changes and challenges in life and ideas on how to cope.

For more information on any of our support groups, reach out to Donna:

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com



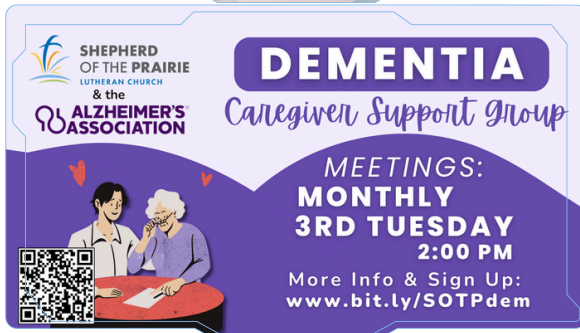
TRANSITIONS

A JOURNEY THROUGH LOSS

TUESDAYS
7:00 PM

More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPtrans

QR code



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH & the ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

DEMENTIA
Caregiver Support Group

MEETINGS:
MONTHLY
3RD TUESDAY
2:00 PM

More Info & Sign Up:
www.bit.ly/SOTPdem

QR code



WHAT'S NEXT?

Group for seniors talk about changes & challenges & ideas on how to cope.

11:00 AM
SECOND TUESDAY

More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPwhatsnext

QR code

PLASTIC RECYCLING

Just a reminder of what plastic products are appropriate:

- Stretchy plastics
- Recycle 2 or 4 on bag
- Clean and dry
- No food residue

Products NOT appropriate:

- Hard, non stretchy plastics
- Crunchy cellophane
- Anything that is a container
- Anything that has the Not Recyclable symbol on it



Contact: Tara Mackey rtmackey10@yahoo.com

WOMEN OF THE ELCA RETREAT

"Raising Our Voices:
Proclaiming the Gospel
When the World is Loud"

REGISTER BEFORE APRIL 1

Proclamation isn't shouting louder than hate...it's speaking, living and standing in love, truth, and justice as people claimed in Christ.

More information and registration paper at:
www.bit.ly/ELCAWELCA2026

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP



MEN'S COFFEE
McDonald's by Huntley Walmart

Tuesdays at 7:30 am



A group of approximately 15 men are gathered around a table in a McDonald's restaurant. They are sitting and standing, some holding coffee cups. The background shows the interior of the restaurant with large windows.

WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP



Women's Coffee Gathering
Fridays 10am

MCDONALD'S BY HUNTLEY WALMART



A group of about 12 women are posing for a photo in a McDonald's restaurant. They are standing and sitting at a table, some holding coffee cups. The background shows the restaurant's interior and a window looking out onto a parking lot.

MEMORY GARDEN NICHES

Have you seen our Memory Garden on the West end of the church building?

As of November 2025, there are still 15 Niches available that will hold one or two urns.

For more information, contact Stan Crissman, or Ralph Wehnes.

Contact: Ralph Wehnes at ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net



Available for Purchase

MEMORY GARDEN NICHES

for one or two

More Info Online at: www.bit.ly/SOTPmemgarden

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Every Wednesday night, SOTP has got your dinner covered! All are welcome to join us at 6:00 pm for a family friendly meal. The meal is free, but a free will donation of \$4/meal is encouraged.

- 4/8 Subs
 - 4/15 Mexican
 - 4/22 Pasta
 - 4/29 End of Year Pizza Party with Sundae Bar
- *All subject to change

Please register at www.bit.ly/SOTPwed0426 ahead of time if possible so we know approximately how many we are cooking for each week.

Contact: Pastor Ryan Mackey at pastorryan@sotpmail.com



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

6PM DINNER

APRIL

MENU SIGN UP & MORE

TURNING POINT DONATIONS

After Easter through May 17th we will once again be collecting hygiene products to make up comfort kits for new residents at Turning Point. This year we will also need kits for both men and women and a few items for children (ages 3 months – 15 years old.) The children's items would be things to keep them quiet and busy at the center that they are living at. Not every resident has a child so just a few bags for them to have on hand would be good.



Below are suggestions for all:

For Men:

- disposable razors
- shaving cream
- shampoo
- body wash
- deodorant

For Women

- shampoo
- body wash
- deodorant
- hairbrush/comb
- body lotion
- hair clips

For Children:

- washable stuffed toys
- activity books
- puzzles
- age-appropriate reading books

All items need to be full size; no travel or hotel size will be accepted

There will be donations boxes set up in the hallway by the office and one by the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you again for helping us bring some comfort to these residents. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Marty Jacobson. We hope to deliver these kits to Turning Point in the later part of May.

Contact: Marty Jacobson at marthajacobson4@gmail.com



Confronting Domestic Violence

in McHenry County

ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Keep Huntley Beautiful: SOTP participates in the Village of Huntley's Adopt-A-Highway Program!

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 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

This Spring's clean up date will be **Saturday May 16**. 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 at jsaletta@sbcglobal.net

YOUTH JAZZ ENSEMBLE OF DUPAGE

Youth Jazz Ensemble of DuPage, jazz trumpeter Derrick Gardner and local students to perform in Huntley Jazz up the year and enjoy a free concert and return of the talented Youth Jazz Ensemble of DuPage (YJED) with guest artist jazz trumpeter Derrick Gardner at Shepherd of the Prairie on **Sunday, April 26 at 4pm.**



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 YJED is composed of 28 members. This select group includes two local District 300 high school students, Josmar Teran (Trumpet) and Damien Roque (Bass), from Dundee-Crown High School in Carpentersville.

The concert preludes their exciting trip to New York City to compete in the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival to be held later that week on April 30-May 2, 2026. This marks the ensembles third consecutive year receiving this honor, and the fifth time in YJED's history being accepted into this prestigious national competition.

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.

Born in Chicago, Gardner is a performer, composer, and arranger. He has performed on multiple recordings with the Count Basie Orchestra and has played four sessions with Harry Connick, Jr. among his many other accomplishments. Gardner is a sought-after educator, clinician, and guest artist at high schools and universities across the world. His music offers a funky and soulful swing sound.

His fifth recording as leader, "Pan Africa" by Derrick Gardner & The Jazz Prophets was released in January 2023 on the Impact Jazz label. This recording draws its inspiration from his tour of Ghana and is a blending of West African musical culture and jazz.

FMSC COMES TO ALGONQUIN

Light of Christ in Algonquin is hosting a Mobile Pack event for Feed My Starving Children on **Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18**. SOTP and other area Churches have been invited to join Light of Christ for this special event.



This is a fun and rewarding opportunity to meet new people and work together to package food for the neediest children around the world.

Shift Options: Choose the 2 hour shift that works best with your schedule:

- Friday, April 17: 4:00 – 6:00 PM / 6:30 – 8:30 PM
- Saturday, April 18: 9:00 – 11:00 AM / 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Sign up for a time slot at www.bit.ly/FMSCLOC26

If you're unable to make it to this event, mark your calendar for June 13th, we will be heading to the FMSC Schaumburg location for a packing day at noon.

PRAYER CHAIN

 **SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRAYER CHAIN

Submit a request online:
www.bit.ly/SOTPpray

Join the chain & pray for others, email:
donna@sotpmail.com

NORTHERN IL FOOD BANK

Join us for a Food Sort & Pack shift at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva, IL on **May 16th at 9am.**

The shift activities will primarily be sorting, inspecting and repacking food for our neighbors.



MUST SIGN UP BY 5/1 AT:
www.bit.ly/SOTPNIFB0526

Volunteer Notes:

- Volunteers must wear fully-enclosed (toes and heels) shoes in order to participate.
- Volunteers must be at least 8 years of age.
- Volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older.
- One adult for every four youth ages 8-12 with a group; one adult for every ten youth ages 13-15.

For questions, email John Witt.

Contact John Witt at john_witt@outlook.com

FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS – VBS INFO!



KIDS CONNECT – HOLIDAY TIMES

9:45-10:20 am March 29 & April 5



KIDS
connect

SPECIAL TIME PALM SUNDAY & EASTER



PreK-5th Grade

Kids Connect resumes to regular 10:10am start on April 12th.

EASTER EGG HUNT



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR

EASTER
EGG HUNT
2026

SIGN UP NOW!

5TH GRADE
& YOUNGER

SATURDAY
April 4 at 10am



5TH GRADE NIGHT AT CONFIRMATION

Come see what Confirmation is all about! All 5th graders are invited to join Confirmation on April 8, 6:45-8pm, to see what awesome activities await them as they prepare to move up to 6th grade next year! Participants will get to see what a typical night of Confirmation is like and meet other youth and our leaders.



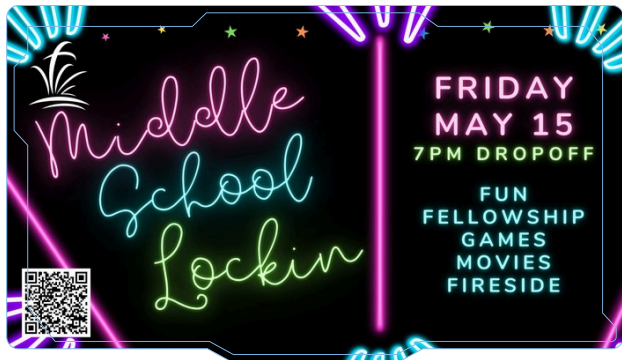
For questions, contact Pastor Ryan at pastorryan@sotpmail.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCKIN

Lock-in night for all 6th to 8th graders.

Parent Drop off:
5/15 7pm
Parent Pick up:
5/16 8am

Join us for fun and fellowship with movies, games, and a fireside chat.



Bring everything you'll need for sleeping in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact: Pastor Ryan at pastorryan@sotpmail.com

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



High School
**YOUTH
GROUP**

THURSDAY NIGHTS
6:30 - 8:30 PM

www.bit.ly/SOTPHSYOUTH



MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFIRMATION



SUPPORT **FRIENDS** **SERVE**

LEARN **FAITH** **PURPOSE**

6TH, 7TH & 8TH GRADE

CONFIRMATION **INSPIRE**

FUN **COMMUNITY** **JOY**

CONNECT **BELOING** **GROWTH**

HOPE



HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- PALM SUNDAY SERVICES, 8:30 & 10:30 AM

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

- MAUNDY THURSDAY, LIVING LAST SUPPER, 7PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

- GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP, 7PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

- EASTER EGG HUNT, 10AM
- HOLY SATURDAY WORSHIP, 5PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

- EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES, 8:30 & 10:30AM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

- KICKOFF OF HOLD FAST, HEBREWS STUDY WITH PASTOR MARK, 11AM
- WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS KICKOFF, 6PM
- 5TH GRADE NIGHT AT CONFIRMATION, 6:45PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

- KICKOFF OF SIGNS OF THE KINDDOM, MATTHEW STUDY WITH DONNA, 6PM

WEEKEND OF APRIL 17 & 18

- FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN, MOBILE EVENT AT LIGHT OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

- ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS YOUTH JAZZ ENSEMBLE OF DUPAGE, 4PM

VIEW ALL:



REGULARLY SCHEDULED

SUNDAYS

- 8:30-11AM (1ST) FOOD DRIVE
 - 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP *
 - 10:10 AM KIDS CONNECT *
 - 10:20 AM ADULT EDUCATION
 - 10:45 AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP *
 - 1:00 PM FBW
- *(PALM SUN & EASTER DIFFERENT TIMES)*

MONDAYS

- 9:00 AM (3RD) 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) MINISTRY NIGHT
- 7:00 PM (3RD) COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAYS

- 7:30-8:30 AM MORNING MOVEMENT
- 8:00 AM MEN'S COFFEE (MCD'S BY HUNTLEY WALMART)
- 9:00 AM (1ST & 3RD), PRAIRIE POINTE QUILTERS
- 9:00 AM LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL
- 9:15 AM AL-ANON MEETING
- 10:00 AM GRIEF JOURNEY GROUP
- 2:00 PM (2ND) WHAT'S NEXT FOR SENIORS
- 2:00 PM (3RD) DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT
- 6:30 PM (1ST), SCOUT TROOP 200 COMMITTEE
- 6:30 PM (1ST), BOY SCOUTS PATROL LEADER'S COUNCIL

- 7:00 PM TRANSITIONS JOURNEY THROUGH LOSS
- 7:00 PM CUB SCOUTS, TIGERS
- 7:00 PM FBW
- 7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING
- 7:00 PM BELLS REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAYS

- 9:00 AM LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL
- 10:30 AM WOMEN'S FBW
- 11:00 AM GOD'S GIRLS (DEL WEBB) BIBLE STUDY
- 11:00 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
- 5:45 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS
- 7:00 PM CONFIRMATION
- 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), PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
- 1:00 PM (1ST) BOOK CLUB
- 6:30 PM (2ND), LIONS CLUB
- 6:30 PM HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
- 7:00 PM CUB SCOUTS

FRIDAYS

- 10:00 AM WOMEN'S COFFEE (MCD'S BY HUNTLEY WALMART)
- 10:30 AM FBW

SATURDAYS

- 5:00 PM WORSHIP

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1-Apr Pattie Bueschel
2-Apr Mary Tabatt
3-Apr Dave Frederickson
4-Apr Samaira Minz
Penny Shaw
5-Apr Ben Kindle
Kellin Kusch
Ivan Frake
Marilyn Wilhelm
6-Apr Janet Suski
Jessica Monahan
7-Apr Lynn Moran
Larry Scimeca
Glenn Nissen
8-Apr William Vallee
9-Apr Carol Forsythe
Addison Raistrick
Edward Cuttle
Dave Ressler
Judy Krawczyk
Mitchell Flanagan
Cole Raines
10-Apr Donald Kundich
Camden Dean
William Ball
Tom Koegel
11-Apr Oaklynn Bonilla

12-Apr Robert Wichtendahl
Andrew Ressler
Elloise Torkelson
13-Apr Jack Conti
Andrew Padgett
14-Apr Marc Piskule
Catherine Johnson
William Black
Cecilia Ramey
15-Apr Kim Frendreis
Jianna Trevino
16-Apr Charlotte Symbal
Roberta Seroni
Jill Behm
Linda Dungey
Priyanka Minz
Dennis Schwartz
Jake Witt
Lila Stegge
17-Apr Declan Arndt
Seth McCulloch
Kathy McGuine
18-Apr John Boehler
Alan Torkelson
Marcie Schlachta
Fred Wilhelm
Caitlyn Stech

19-Apr Angela Crase
Luke Palermo
20-Apr Zachary Ulmer
Troy Fleener
22-Apr Allison McCann
Dan Wentzloff
23-Apr Kyle Frendreis
Matthew Kann
Jeff Roberts
Lucas Monson
Jeff Stangle
24-Apr Doris Pizzillo
25-Apr Carol Didricksen
Carol Larson
Robert Mollis
26-Apr Wayne Grayczyk
Rebecca Hennessy
Kelvin Walker
Jamison Mathiesen
Janice Burseth
27-Apr Andrew Brown
Darlene McGuigan
Ronald Elam
29-Apr Leah Walker
Frank Schweda
30-Apr Harrison Bradstreet
Ken Lemke

STAFF

Pastor Mark Boster

SENIOR PASTOR
pastormark@sotpmail.com

Pastor Ryan Mackey

PASTOR
pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Kendra Coots

ASSISTANT PRESCHOOL TEACHER
kendra@sotpmail.com

Jill Gillming

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND
FAMILY MINISTRY
jill@sotpmail.com

Josh Harding

A/V AND OFFICE SUPPORT
josh@sotpmail.com

Donna Kelly

MINISTRY
donna@sotpmail.com

Jane McMullen

DIRECTOR
jane@sotpmail.com

Jeff Moore

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC DIRECTOR
jeff@sotpmail.com

Matt Morrison

OPERATIONS MANAGER
matt@sotpmail.com

Michelle Rankin

OPERATIONS AND
COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR
michelle@sotpmail.com

Dave Shotick

ACCOUNTING ADMINISTRATOR
dave@sotpmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2026

| UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND | MONTHLY | MONTHLY | MONTHLY ACTUAL | YEAR TO DATE | | YTD ACTUAL | ANNUAL | YTD PERCENT | YTD PERCENT |
|--|---------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | ACTUAL | BUDGET | VS. MONTHLY BUDGET | ACTUAL | BUDGET | VS. YTD BUDGET | BUDGET | RECEIVED | EXPENDED |
| February 1, 2026 Beginning Balance | \$ 437,193.63 | | | | | | | | |
| Monthly Income | \$ 100,426.39 | \$ 71,642.00 | \$ 28,784.39 | \$ 228,742.59 | \$ 193,375.00 | \$ 35,367.59 | \$ 1,059,057.00 | 21.60% | |
| Monthly Expenses | \$ 96,290.12 | \$ 86,360.00 | \$ 9,930.12 | \$ 184,082.76 | \$ 172,720.00 | \$ 11,362.76 | \$ 1,059,057.00 | | 17.38% |
| Income vs. Expenditures | \$ 4,136.27 | \$ (14,718.00) | \$ 44,659.83 | \$ 44,659.83 | \$ 20,655.00 | | | | |
| February 28, 2026 Ending Balance | \$ 441,329.90 | | | | | | | | |
| Average Monthly Expenses (Budgeted) | \$ 88,254.75 | | | | | | | | |
| Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance | 5.00 | | | | | | | | |
| MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND | | | | | | | | | |
| | MONTHLY | MONTHLY | MONTHLY ACTUAL | YEAR TO DATE | | YTD ACTUAL | ANNUAL | YTD PERCENT | YTD PERCENT |
| | ACTUAL | BUDGET | VS. MONTHLY BUDGET | ACTUAL | BUDGET | VS. YTD BUDGET | BUDGET | RECEIVED | EXPENDED |
| February 1, 2026 Beginning Balance | \$ 79,866.79 | | | | | | | | |
| Monthly Income | \$ 24,792.39 | \$ 18,807.00 | \$ 5,985.39 | \$ 60,795.96 | \$ 37,614.00 | \$ 23,181.96 | \$ 225,684.00 | 26.94% | |
| Monthly Expenses | \$ 18,807.00 | \$ 18,807.00 | \$ 18,807.00 | \$ 37,614.00 | \$ 37,614.00 | \$ - | \$ 225,684.00 | | 16.67% |
| Income vs. Expenditures | \$ 5,985.39 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 23,181.96 | \$ - | \$ - | | | |
| February 28, 2026 Ending Balance | \$ 85,852.18 | | | | | | | | |
| Average Monthly Expenses | \$ 18,807.00 | | | | | | | | |
| Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance | 4.56 | | | | | | | | |


Respectfully submitted, Robert Mollis, Treasurer

DONATE ONLINE



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OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

OnlineGiving




www.bit.ly/SOTPGIVING

CHURCH COUNCIL

Kathy McGuine, President
 Jim Puls, Vice-President
 Bob Mollis, Treasurer
 Lisa Wondriska, Secretary

George Attaway
 Carrie McCabe
 Susan Sroka
 Jim Stancl

INVOLVEMENT SCHEDULE

|  | | April 4/5 | April 11/12 | April 18/20 | April 25/27 |
|---|--------------|---|--|--|---|
| Communion Bread | Sun | Ann Malandrucolo Jill Brown | Lori Paeth | Eileen Gerald | Debra Smith |
| Counters | Nov. | Donna Turner, Diana Murphy & Lori Malczewski | | | |
| Greeters | SUN 9AM | 8:30am Carol Engstrom, Elaine Gillam, Barb Davis, Alice Miller, Carlene Moeller | Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin | Dottie Bobzin Susan Blumer | Cyndi Monson Laura Attaway |
| | SUN 10:45 AM | 10:30am Carolyn & Bob Malm | Bob & Carolyn Malm | | |
| Ushers | SAT 5PM | Lynn Meyer Carol Hartman Ron Mudge | Tom Cox Therese Cox | Carol Hartman Peggy Lynn Loiselle | Steve Murphy Jim Murphy |
| | SUN 9AM | 8:30AM ED CUTTLE Bill Vallee Stan Crissman | JACK CONTI Cheryl Rotermund John & Patti Witt Carol Engstrom Sue Blumer | STAN CRISSMAN Wayne Schmidt Arja Kasper Dan Wentzloff Jeff Ottens Andrew Lick | RALPH WEHNES Don Wickersham Jerry & Pat Darrow George Attaway Chuck Zindel |
| | SUN 10:45 AM | 10:30AM ANDREW SZEKELY Don Wickersham | JIM STANCL Mike & Patti Kargol Andrew Szekely | DOUG NAGEL Don Koerner Judy Petropulos Max Wondriska | BOB MOLLIS Diane Mollis Monca Wichtendahl |
| Welcome Center | SUN 9AM | 8:30AM Elizabeth Liotus Rick Miller | | | |
| | SUN 10:45 AM | 10:30AM Martha Jacobson Deanne Byers | | | |

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

10805 MAIN STREET
HUNTLEY, IL 60142
(847)669-9448 SOTP.ORG