SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2026 NOVEMBER

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
NEWSLETTER

THE YOUTH ROOM IS NOW **THE SHEPHERD'S LOUNGE**



UNVEILING AND BLESSING OF **THE SHEPHERD'S LOUNGE** OCTOBER 18, 2026



SEE THANK YOU ON PAGE 3

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

Returning to Give Thanks!
Luke 17:11-19



Next month, many of us will gather around tables with familiar foods, well-worn stories, and perhaps someone reminding us that we really do not need another helping of pie. Thanksgiving invites us to pause and remember that the food before us, and the people beside us, are gifts.

Luke's Gospel offers that same pause. Ten people living with leprosy, cut off from family and community, call out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus sends them to show themselves to the priests, and as they go, they are made clean.

Notice what comes first. Jesus does not ask whether they are thankful enough or make them prove they deserve his attention. Grace comes first. That is at the heart of our faith: our gratitude does not purchase God's love; it grows from receiving it.

All ten are healed, but only one turns back to give thanks—a Samaritan, the one many would have considered an outsider. He returns to the feet of Jesus, where mercy has made a place for him. Turning around to give thanks doesn't mean pretending this has been an easy year. For some, this year's table will have an empty chair. Others carry worries about health, finances, family, or what lies ahead. We can be grateful and grieving at the same time. The Lord who heard the cry of those ten people hears ours, and his mercy reaches us in sorrow as surely as in celebration.

When we return to Christ in thanksgiving, he opens our eyes to the people around us. Who needs a place at our table this year? Who needs someone to listen, an invitation to dinner, help with groceries, or reassurance that they still belong?

At Shepherd of the Prairie, we often speak of being a place to belong even before you believe. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to make that welcome tangible. Because God has been generous toward us, we are free to be generous toward others. Our gratitude can become an open door.

May the grace that came first follow you to your table, deepen your gratitude, and widen your welcome.

Join us for Friendsgiving Dinner at 5:30 pm and then/or

Join us for Thanksgiving Eve Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 25
Come return to give thanks together. Bring a friend—there is room for everyone.

I'll see you in worship,
Pastor Mark

MINISTRY MUSING, DONNA KELLY



This month would have marked my husband's and my 56th wedding anniversary. As I was thinking of this the other evening, I not only missed him and wished he were sitting beside me; I also felt an overwhelming gratitude for our years together and the love we share. I thought about our life together, remembering things about him that made me smile, and how am I a better person for his loving me. My evening was filled with memories, tears and a lot of laughter.

As the evening went on, I began to think of the many things in my life for which I am grateful. The first things I thought of were the big things: my family and friends, living in a free country, Shepherd of the Prairie, my health, my gifts and talents, my job of service here at SOTP, God's love, Jesus' life, death and resurrection, the Spirit's guiding and leading...

While I'm always thankful for the big things in life, I'm most often appreciative of the little things that are in my life every day: my neighbor who walks by and waves every evening, the cool white moon in the night sky, a beautiful sunrise or sunset, the last blooming daisy of the season, the sound of children playing outside my door, the crisp fall air, the joy of the first snowflake, that first cup of coffee in the morning, my cozy warm bed on a cold night, an engaging book to read, listening to music I enjoy, a favorite movie, starting a new painting, the taste of my favorite cookie...

And then there are the things I take for granted: the ability to pay my bills each month, my home, being able to use technology to keep in touch with those important to me, my dishwasher, the life I shared with my husband and the new life God has given me after Russ' death, living as the person whom God made me to be...

So, in this month of Thanksgiving, I invite you to take some time to think about the things for which you are grateful. The big things, the little things, and the things you take for granted. May you discover that you are truly blessed (to be a blessing)!

Donna

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

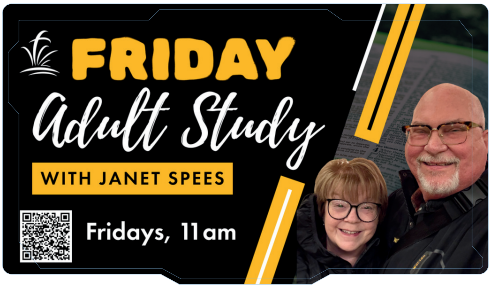
We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped bring The Shepherd's Lounge to life! From generous donations and countless hours of time to painting, decorating, assembling furniture, and supporting our vision, your contributions made this welcoming space possible. We look forward to all the fellowship, connection, and memories to come!

Mia

FRIDAY & SUNDAY ADULT STUDY

Through 11/20

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS Wrestling With Questions People Ask by Adam Hamilton





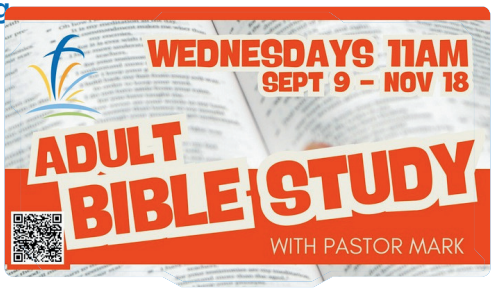
This 6 week study is a video-based small-group study and outreach program that explores four major world religions – Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism – and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. This study deals openly and honestly with questions people ask about other religions, including why we should believe the claims of Christianity over those of other faiths.
As part of the study, author and presenter Adam Hamilton interviews a religions leader from each tradition. He treats the world religions with great respect, recognizing the unique contributions of each.

Come join us! New faces and ideas are always welcome!

Contact: Dan Spees at dlspees@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Finding Home: Grace, Belonging and the Book of Ruth



Join us for a five-session Adult Bible Study exploring the book of Ruth. Together, we'll follow Ruth and Naomi through loss, friendship, and a search for home, and discover how God's grace takes shape through ordinary acts of courage and care. We'll read this Old Testament story through a Lutheran lens and make plenty of room for conversation. Whether you're new to Bible study or have joined us before, there's a place for you at the table.

Contact: Pastor Mark Boster at pastormark@sotpmail.com

HANDBELL RINGERS & CHOIR SINGERS





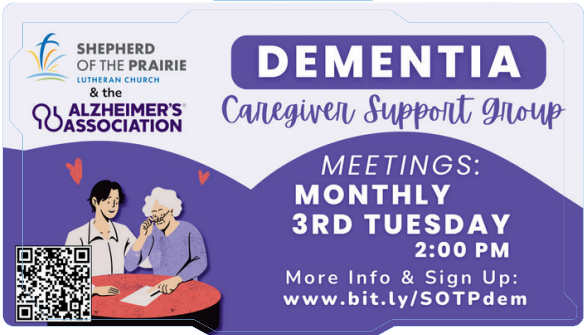
FAITH ON TAP



SUPPORT GROUPS









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

WILL YOU JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST?

There Is a Place at the Table for You!



Join us for a special Celebration After 9am worship or before 10:45am worship on **Sunday, November 1,** as we bring our fall stewardship emphasis to a joyful conclusion. On All Saints Sunday, we will celebrate the theme "The Table Keeps Growing"—giving thanks for the saints who made room for us, celebrating the ministry we share today, and looking with hope toward all those God will welcome through Shepherd of the Prairie in the years ahead.

Come enjoy good food, warm fellowship, and the joy of gathering around the table with your church family. Whether you've been part of Shepherd of the Prairie for many years or have only recently found your place among us, there is a place at the table for you!

Please sign up so we know how many people to prepare breakfast for.

RECEIVE EMAILS FROM SOTP



FRIENDSGIVING DINNER



Join us for dinner on Thanksgiving Eve before worship. Sign up now to let us know you're coming and what dish you will be bringing for the pot luck.

For more information contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP



KIDS IN NEED GIVING TREE

New for 2026:
Kids in Need
Giving Tree



Alongside our gift-card ornaments for Grafton Food Pantry and Turning Point Domestic Violence Services, we're adding a tree with ornaments representing individual children in McHenry County.

Each tag includes a want + need—please return gifts unwrapped with the tag by December 7.

Contact: Patti Witt at patti_witt@outlook.com

FOOTSTEPS MORNING WALKING



PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Huntley BSA Troop 200 Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Join us at the **Huntley American Legion, 11712 Coral St!**

Sunday, November 22 9-11 a.m.



- $10 Adults
- $5 Kids, Veterans and First Responders

Pictures with Santa!

Contact: Kelly Gschwend at kelly.gschwend@troop200huntley.org

NEW MEMBER GATHERING



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, November 8th, beginning at noon.** 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.

Contact: Donna Kelly at donna@sotpmail.com

ARTIST SERIES FUNDRAISER



Requesting Gift cards of any amount and any kind to add to gift baskets for fundraiser.

Contact: Lynn Broederdorf at lynn1409@comcast.net

Join the Artist Series on December 6th for their biggest fundraiser of the year - the annual Christmas Gift Basket Silent Auction.

Contact: Lynn Broederdorf at lynn1409@comcast.net



POINSETTIA ORDERS



Brighten the sanctuary for the holidays with a beautiful 8-inch pot featuring 3 red poinsettia plants for $32.00 each.

Orders will be accepted November 3–22. You can purchase your poinsettia at the cash/check table outside of the office or conveniently pay online.

Contact Jane McMullen at jane@sotpmail.com.

ARTIST SERIES CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Enjoy “A Swingin’ Ella Christmas” as Alexis J Roston sings Ella Fitzgerald.



Have a yule that’s cool right here in Huntley! Award-winning actress Alexis J Roston of Artists Lounge Live salutes the Queen of Jazz, Ella Fitzgerald with a free performance at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran on **Sunday, December 6 at 5:00pm**.

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

Blending a festive cocktail of holiday hits and signature songs, Roston captures the angelic sound and irresistible joy that made Ella an American treasure. Her salute to Ella includes “Jingle Bells”, “Sleigh Ride”, “It Don’t Mean a Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing”, as presented by Artists Lounge Live.

Actress, director, and playwright Roston won acclaim for her mesmerizing portrayal of Billie Holiday in Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill, winning Chicago’s Jeff Award, a Black Theatre Award, and the Black Excellence Award. She has rave reviews from Public Television Chicago WTTW with cheers that, “Roston’s powerhouse voice, megawatt sparkle, and emotional exuberance lights up the stage”.

The company, Artists Lounge Live, presents timeless popular music performed by singular talents in captivating concerts marked by superb musicianship and intimate storytelling. The Chicago-based company is created and produced by married team Michael and Angela Ingersoll. Michael Ingersoll is an all-around entertainer and producer. Angela Ingersoll is an Emmy-Award nominated actor, singer, and writer. She previously performed her popular “Get Happy: Angela Ingersoll Sings Judy Garland” at the Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, sponsored by the Artist Series.

BLUE CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



ONLINE SOTP LOGO APPAREL STORE



Our online store is available all the time moving forward so feel free to browse online at: **bit.ly/SOTPgear**

While on the site, you may see that in some places, it asks about "players." The company we are using provides services to a lot of sports teams so that is why that word is there. Please skip any request to enter "player" info.

SHIPPING OPTIONS:

- **Flat Rate ($11.00)**
  - Shipped to your house (3 weeks time)

- In Store Pickup (Schaumburg, IL) ($0.00)
  - European Sports, 830 E Golf Rd Suite A, Schaumburg, IL 60173
  - You would need to pick (3 weeks time) OR
- You can wait for the church to make a bulk pickup
  - For this option, you can expect to recieve your items by the end of following month of purchase
  - IE all purchases in August, you will recieve towards the end of September
- In Store Pickup (Glen Ellyn, IL) ($0.00) at European Sports, 936 Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
  - You would need to pick up (3 weeks time)
- In Store Pickup (Naperville, IL) ($0.00) at European Sports, 4931 Illinois Rte 59 Suite 123, Naperville, IL 60564
  - You would need to pick up (3 weeks time)

All purchases help SOTP provide our outreach t-shirts for events like parades and events in the community.

Contact: Matt Morrison matt@sotpmail.com

HELP NEEDED AT THE PANTRY

Clients are now able to come into the Pantry to select items. The scheduling changes to improve our assistance of clients will be flexible as we see the needs.



The new shift hours are as follows;

- Monday 2:30 to 5pm and 4:30 to 7pm
- Wednesday 12:30 to 4pm
- Friday 12:30 to 4pm

These are the volunteer areas that need help;

- Waiting area and Donation Room… 2-3 Volunteers
- Aisle 1 Meat and coolers area…3 Volunteers
- Aisle 2 Groceries area…1 Volunteer
- Aisle 3 Paper goods…1 Volunteers
- Breads and Desserts area…1 Volunteer

We are here to assist and be friendly. Volunteers MUST BE TRAINED. When they are trained they sign up for shifts weekly. I would think the Managers would prefer folks who could be somewhat consistent in their commitment.

If interested, please **call the pantry at 847-495-0922** and ask for information about volunteering at their location 11481 Allison Ct., Huntley.

Contact: Annette Petersen at petersenannette12@gmail.com

PRAYER CHAIN



KIDS NEEDED!



KIDS CONNECT - JOIN US!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Nov Tracy McDuffee
1-Nov Kylie Rankin
1-Nov Lee Gollhardt
1-Nov Emerson Arndt
2-Nov Beverly Pinnelli
2-Nov Luke Brockman
3-Nov Diana Reincke
3-Nov Sherry Roberts
4-Nov Debby Ulrich
4-Nov Shipra Minz
5-Nov Emily Ernst
5-Nov Christian Larson
6-Nov Joseph Trevino
6-Nov Amy Brittain
6-Nov Maggie Rojas
7-Nov Lucy Panvino
7-Nov Jenny Hollabaugh
7-Nov Nancy Morbeck
7-Nov Carol Gerhardt
7-Nov Jonathan Perez
7-Nov Tammy Haman
8-Nov Linda Jarvis
8-Nov Fred Turner
9-Nov Marcia Ball
9-Nov Sarah Frederickson
9-Nov Wayne Wagner
10-Nov Kenneth Rotter
10-Nov Carrie Gundersen
10-Nov Nathaniel Reincke
10-Nov Carrie Gronau
10-Nov David Johnson
10-Nov Mike Kasal
11-Nov Carol Legel
11-Nov Jake Scalise
11-Nov Jeffrey Case
11-Nov Jocelyn Doden
11-Nov Dana Ullrich
11-Nov Merrily Burkland
12-Nov Monica Dase
12-Nov Paul Marx
12-Nov Randi Dawson
12-Nov Thor Forsythe
13-Nov Melissa Juergensen
13-Nov Don Koerner
13-Nov Paul Lemke
13-Nov Alexander Stenson
14-Nov Jill Brown
14-Nov Mark Boster
14-Nov Don Schneider
14-Nov Elise Dean
14-Nov Ava Lick
16-Nov Michael Lehmann
17-Nov Gina DeBolt
17-Nov Rylen Jacobs
17-Nov Emory Wildermuth
18-Nov Kristine DeBolt
18-Nov Barbara Pagano
18-Nov Tom Cox
19-Nov Kimberly Szekely
19-Nov Diane Peterson
19-Nov Cassidy Serpe
20-Nov Dick Maiman
21-Nov David Kann
21-Nov Jen Raines
21-Nov Art Ryden
22-Nov William Christ
22-Nov Lesley Beallis
22-Nov Elizabeth Johnson
22-Nov Joyce Thompson
23-Nov Cathy Dimucci
24-Nov Michael Malczewski
24-Nov Charlie Dirks
25-Nov Pamela Sandberg
25-Nov Janet Thunholm
26-Nov Therese Gallivan
27-Nov Laura Gaszynski
27-Nov Don Wickersham
27-Nov Geri Lynn Schlichting
27-Nov Ruth Mecklenburg
28-Nov Carlene Moeller
28-Nov Beth Brockman
28-Nov Casey Coots
29-Nov Terry Halpin
29-Nov Richard Juergensen
29-Nov Jim Rhode
30-Nov Lisa Caddoo
30-Nov Madelyn Brittain
30-Nov Stefanie Kindle

STAFF

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Pastor Ryan Mackey
PASTOR
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TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING September 30, 2026

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
September 1, 2026 Beginning Balance	$ 467,760.98								
Monthly Income	$ 94,499.02	$ 84,854.00	$ 9,645.02	$ 824,145.54	$ 779,426.00	$ 44,719.54	$ 1,059,057.00	77.82%	
Monthly Expenses	$ 91,497.73	$ 84,757.00	$ 6,740.73	$ 750,053.34	$ 782,699.00	$ (32,645.66)	$ 1,059,057.00		70.82%
Income vs. Expenditures	$ 3,001.29	$ 97.00		$ 74,092.20	$ (3,273.00)				
September 30, 2026 Ending Balance	$ 470,762.27								
Average Monthly Expenses (Budgeted)	$ 88,254.75								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	5.33								

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
September 1, 2026 Beginning Balance	$ 63,800.82								
Monthly Income	$ 16,954.48	$ 18,807.00	$ (1,852.52)	$ 168,541.08	$ 169,263.00	$ (721.92)	$ 225,684.00	74.68%	
Monthly Expenses	$ 18,807.00	$ 18,807.00	$ 18,807.00	$ 169,263.00	$ 169,263.00	$ -	$ 225,684.00		75.00%
Income vs. Expenditures	$ (1,852.52)	$ -		$ (721.92)	$ -				
September 30, 2026 Ending Balance	$ 61,948.30								
Average Monthly Expenses	$ 18,807.00								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	3.29								

Respectfully submitted, Robert Mollis, Treasurer

ONLINE GIVING



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

		November 1	November 7/8	November 14/15	November 21/22	November 28/29
Communion Bread	Sun	Ann Malandruccolo	Tom Noesen Bev Pinnelli	Alice Dabelow	Linda Wright	Sally Houghton
Counters	Mon	Doug Nagel, Donna Turner, Lori Malczewski, Cheryl Adams				
Greeters	SUN 9AM	Carol Engstrom, Elaine Gillam	Eileen ...Gerald... Terry Halpin	Susan Blumer Dottie Bobzin	Laura Attaway Cyndi Monson	Eileen ...Gerald... Terry Halpin
	SUN 10:45 AM	Bob & Carolyn Malm				
Ushers	SAT 5PM		Gordon .....Leahy..... Lynn Meyer	Tom & Therese Cox	Carol Hartman Peggy Lynn Loiselle	Steve Murphy Scalise
	SUN 9AM	BILL VALLE Tim Bueschel Jeff Stangle Mickey & Cathy Kappel Joe Lillie Tim Gallivan	STAN CRISSMAN Cheryl Rotermund John & Patti Witt Carol Engstrom Sue Blumer	MIKE MALCZEWSKI Arja Kasper Jeff Ottens Sandra Schuessler Jim Saletta Dan Wentzloff Wayne Schmidt	GEORGE ATTAWAY Don Wickersham Jerry & Pat Darrow George Attaway Paul Marvin	GEORGE ATTAWAY Don Wickersham Jerry & Pat Darrow George Attaway Paul Marvin
	SUN 10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE Tim & Karen Doyle	JIM STANCL Mike & Patti Kargol	VIK BEKERIS Don Koerner Judy Petropulos... Max Wondriska	BOB MOLLIS Diane Mollis Monca Wichtendahl	BOB MOLLIS Diane Mollis Monca Wichtendahl
Welcome Center	SUN 9AM	Tara Mackey	Elizabeth Liotus	LuAnn Munneke	Elizabeth Liotus	Tara Mackey
	SUN 10:45 AM	Martha Jacobson		Elizabeth Trout	Judy Petropulos	Sandy Hupert

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