

Newsletter

April 2023



Holy Week Worship

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7s Discipleship Groups

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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Huntley, IL sotp.org 847/669-9448

Photo: Wednesday Bible Study March 2023

A Note

From Pastor Mark



Living without hope, I think, is like suffering the death of a loved one. Everything appears bleak. You lose your direction and your purpose, your will to go on.

Proverbs 29:18 says: “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Encouraging those who have lost hope is not an easy task. Words don’t come easily and our mental attitude when we attempt to be of help to others may be different than theirs.

Also, our faith makes a huge difference in believing that whatever the problem, God is in control.

Do you remember times when you felt surrounded by darkness, worry, anger, and grief? Have you ever felt that nothing could ease the turmoil overwhelming you? Did you find comfort in a friend’s support, mental or spiritual, or did you rely on yourself to try and tough it out? If so, what was the result? How did that go?

While it was still dark on the morning of the third day, the followers of Jesus Christ were in distress. They were filled with a great deal of sorrow, disappointment, and confusion. Mary Magdalene doesn’t find the body of Jesus in the tomb where it is “supposed” to be. What does this mean?

Imagine the disciples’ mounting fear, anxiety and grief. They’re probably wondering why, only days before, the man they expected to be their king was instead arrested, treated like a

common criminal and put to death in the most degrading and cruel way.

But, suddenly, on this particular Sunday morning, despair changes to joy when they understand that Christ has risen from the grave and had appeared to a few of his followers.

Suddenly gloom changes to hope.

Suddenly they believe that all will be well, just as he had told them. Now they, too, can look forward to a new life.

I can recall Easter Sundays from my childhood when the sanctuary seemed like a flower garden. New dresses and hats, all in pastel colors, bloomed throughout the congregation. It seemed like spring had arrived, and everything felt fresh and alive.

Easter Sunday is like that. It’s a time of celebration, when we give thanks and rejoice at our new life in God’s Kingdom. This is a time of renewed hope.

I hope you and your family will join us on this journey of discovery this month (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday....) to once again be reminded that “He is risen, He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!!

Pastor Mark

A Note From Pastor Ryan



“...Jesus used the dinner table to reveal himself and embrace people in the kingdom of

God. It is little wonder that the first versions of the church assumed the dinner table as the time and place to gather, because it was there they expected Jesus to be with them in spirit in the same manner that he had been with them in body during the years he walked the earth.”

- Fosner, *Welcome to Dinner, Church*, 2017, p. 16

As we prepared to enter the Lenten season, Pastor Mark and I shared with you that we were going to experiment with something that would feel new, but would actually be very old. We shared that we were going to worship in a style known as dinner church. It is a style of worship that began to gain traction.

I first became aware of the movement in 2018 when pastors and youth leaders from across the ELCA gathered in Houston, Texas for our annual Extravaganza. We took a field trip to a dinner church known as Kindred and learned how an, otherwise ordinary, ELCA congregation evolved into a weekly dinner church that served a much broader community. Since that experience, I have seen and heard of dinner churches popping up all over the country.

The type of dinner church experience we have created at SOTP has been

fruitful on so many levels. For one, we are experiencing church in a way that is connected to how worship was experienced in the first centuries after Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Actually, we are experiencing “church” the way Jesus led it. Scholars have pointed out that it is very likely Jesus taught many of his parables while dinner was being served. He even chose dinner as the setting for making a new covenant with his followers; the promise of eternal life and his return to us in bread and wine.

Each of these worship experiences sets the scene for how the entire meal is our communion. We begin by blessing and sharing the bread. This is followed by the larger meal, and the whole worship centered meal is concluded with the blessing and sharing of the wine. We embody the Words of Institution, “after supper, he took the cup...”

More than that, the experience of dinner church at SOTP has begun to build many bridges. People from different worship services have come together around the same table, met each other (often for the first time), heard some scripture, engaged in discussions of faith and life, and gotten to know each other on a deeper level.

By the time you read this, we will have concluded our Lenten version of these worship experiences, but we intend to continue to build upon the momentum we have felt and will create similar experiences in the very near future. In the meantime, if you

(Continued on page 4)

A Note

From Pastor Ryan

(Continued from page 3)

have enjoyed the experience and find yourself hungry for more, I would recommend exploring our 7s Groups ministries as they offer a similar opportunity to connect with others (and some also include a

meal!). The kickoff for the next round of 7s Groups will be on April 16, so come check it out!

Thank you all for your faithful worship and ministry at SOTP!

Pastor Ryan

Ministry Musings

With Donna

Context is extremely important, no matter what we are discussing. I've experienced someone coming to me to tell me a story or ask a question and until they give me the context of their story or question, I have no idea what they are talking about. Context is important when we hear the Jesus stories as well.

Sometimes when we hear Jesus' words and don't know the context, we may understand them quite differently than those who actually heard him speak the words, and possibly very different from Jesus' intent when he spoke them.

The social order of Israel during Jesus' time was as a kinship society, where people's status or worth was determined thru honor/shame (someone gains status, self-image or meaning primarily through how others see them). Before we became urbanized and industrialized, this honor/shame society was how most people in the world lived. Many Asian cultures still live in an honor/shame tradition where it is vital not

to "lose face".

In Jesus' time, honor and shame were the moral values that people were compelled to follow. If a situation called for retaliation, honor obligated you to retaliate. To not retaliate would have been considered immoral and would bring shame upon you and your family. So, in Matthew 5 when Jesus tells his listeners to turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, love and pray for their enemies; these were truly radical and subversive words that shook their whole honor/shame foundations!!

What Jesus was trying to teach them was that their value is not in honor or shame, but in who we are in God; nothing more, nothing less. Who we are in God is a beloved child; we need no longer depend on our culture's or "in-group's" assessment of who we are. We are children of

(Continued on page 5)



Ministry Musings

With Donna

(Continued from page 4)

God, God's image bearers, salt and light to the rest of the world.

While we might say that honor/shame isn't our value system, many of us still live with it as the basis for how we see ourselves. We judge ourselves on what we see in TV commercials or social media. We decide if we are good enough, thin enough, rich enough, good looking enough; if we have accumulated not only the "right things" (the "right" house, car, clothes, education, job, friends), but if we have enough of them. Often, we set our worth on those things, and if we don't have them we feel shamed or "less-than" and tend to judge others by the same standards. People are often seen as unworthy or "less

than" due to what they own, where they live, the color of their skin, their gender identity or religious or political affiliation. We worry much about what other people think, rather than about who we and others are as beloved children of God.

In his "Sermon on the Mount", Jesus turned the society and world of those who heard him upside down by telling them that their value was in being a beloved child of God, not in all those other things.

I believe he is trying to turn our value systems upside down as well. So, where do you see your and others' value, how do you determine your and others' worth? Who are you? Who are they?

Donna Kelly



Faith & Mental Health

Adult Education

The third part of our series on Faith and Mental Health will focus on two issues: addiction and why is there evil and suffering in the world? We will review the basic facts of addiction and recovery, study the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and glean spiritual truths found in them and the Serenity Prayer. Finally, we will pursue answers to that most troubling question: why there is evil and suffering in our world.

- ⇒ **April 16** – Addiction and Recovery 101, Part 1
- ⇒ **April 23** – Addiction and Recovery 101, Part 2
- ⇒ **April 30** – The 12 Steps of AA and the Christian Faith
- ⇒ **May 7** – The Serenity Prayer
- ⇒ **May 14** – Answers to Why Is There Evil and Suffering, Part 1
- ⇒ **May 21** – Answers to Why Is There Evil and Suffering, Part 2

Contact: Pastor Roy Olson
olson612sr@sbcglobal.net

Psalms 101

With Pastor Bill

Psalms 101, here we come! We've explored the Bible and the Lutheran church in "101 classes", and now we're ready to take on the Psalms. Psalms 101 will be held **on Saturday, April 22, 10:00-2:00** at the church. This will be a grand opportunity to explore one of the most well-known books in all the Bible. Of course, we can't delve into all 150 psalms individually, but we will look at how the book of Psalms was put together, the many different types of psalms (there are at least 15!), the authors of these beautiful

hymns, and what to look for when we read them--all of which should give us a deeper understanding of the songs of Israel, and how they can shape our faith today. But **you need to sign up!**

You can do that by going online to **www.bit.ly/SOTPpsalms23**

I hope you will join us. A number of people have already put their names on the list. Add yours!

Pastor Bill

*Contact: Pastor Bill Waxenberg
bwaxenberg@gmail.com*

Psalms 101
Adult Education
With Pastor Bill Waxenberg
Saturday, April 22, 2023
10 am – 2 pm
More Info & Register:
www.bit.ly/SOTPpsalms23

Name Tags

Many members are wearing name tags. It really helps visitors and new members meet other members. The easy way to make everyone comfortable is to wear your name tag. New name tags are also in the

2023 envelopes in case you haven't picked them up yet. It also helps our pastors with names-our membership is over 1200. Need one?

*Contact: Michelle Rankin
michelle@sotpmail.com*

Preschool Registration

For 2023-2024 School Year



The banner features a blue sky background with a rainbow on the left and a green grassy area at the bottom. 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 title 'LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL' is written in large, bold, blue letters with a red outline. Below this, a red banner with white text reads 'NOW ENROLLING FOR 2023-2024' and '2, 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS' in yellow. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner. To the right of the QR code, the text 'Request Info:' is followed by the website 'www.bit.ly/SOTPLLInfo' in red and black, and the contact information 'Contact: Jill Gillming LittleLambs@sotpmail.com' in black.

LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL

NOW ENROLLING FOR 2023-2024
2, 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

Request Info:
www.bit.ly/SOTPLLInfo
Contact: Jill Gillming LittleLambs@sotpmail.com

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is now open!

- ⇒ 12 slots are available for a 2-day class being offered on T/Th (for children who have turned 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2023)
- ⇒ 10 slots are available for a 1-day class on Wednesdays (for children who are at least 2 by Sept. 1, 2023)
- ⇒ There is also the option for your child to attend 3 days (Tuesday/Thursday and Fridays). We do highly recommend students who will be entering Kindergarten in 2024 to attend for 3 days, so

they will be ready for Kindergarten the following year. Parents have been very pleased with their child's progress after having been in the 3-day class and felt the extra day was instrumental in Kindergarten preparation.

The registration fee is \$50.

Also, if you refer a new family that signs up to our program we will reduce their registration fee and yours to \$25!!!

To request more information, go to **www.bit.ly/SOTPLLInfo**

*Contact: Jill Gillming
LittleLambs@sotpmail.com*

7s Discipleship Groups

Kickoff & Group Signups

You're Invited!

7s Discipleship Groups Spring Kickoff Lunch

April 16, 2023 Noon

Sign Up: www.bit.ly/SOTPSpring237s

Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com



Did you attend our Dinner Church this Lent? If so, you experienced fellowship, discussion and worship around the table each Wednesday Evening. Well, that is a small glimpse of what our Small Groups-7s Discipleship Groups are like. People of faith, gathering together to hear a short scripture reading or message or watch a video and then engage in discussion. Just as we developed relationships at our Wednesday Dinner Church, so relationships are fostered in Small Groups. Our Small Groups -7s and interest groups will begin again right after Easter. Our Kick-off will begin with a potluck on April 16 th at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

We have several groups available:

- **Monday afternoon @ 1:30** – SOTP Library – Leader: Annette Petersen
- **Wednesday evening @ 6:00** – member homes – Leader: Jim & Kim Stancl
- **Thursday afternoon @ 3:00** – SOTP Library – Leader: Carol Bletz/Don Schneider
- **Sunday afternoon @ 4:00** – member homes – Leader: Mike & Julie Dahlin
- **TBD** – Leader: Alison Womac
- **TBD** – Leaders: Steve and Carol Legel

The exciting news is we have our first Interest Group beginning this spring. This group will be one where you can explore the creative side of you. It will meet:

(Continued on page 9)

7s Discipleship Groups

Kickoff & Group Signups

(Continued from page 8)

- **Monday morning @10am** – SOTP Music/Education Room – Leader: Annette Kandell

Sign Up for the Kickoff & Informational Event:

www.bit.ly/SOTPspring237s

Sign Up for a 7s Group:

www.bit.ly/SOTP23spring

For more information contact Donna Kelly, donna@sotpmail.com, or through the church office, 847-669-9448.

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

7s Discipleship Groups

Spring Group Registration
Sign Up: www.bit.ly/SOTP23spring
Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com



7s Discipleship Group Leaders

Alison Womack

Annette Kandell

Annette Petersen

Carol Bletz

Jim & Kim Stancl

Dahlin Family

Carol & Steve Legel

Adventure Club

Register 4th & 5th Graders



The banner features a dark green background with white clouds at the top. On the left, there is a logo for Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church (sotp.org) and a central graphic of a rainbow over a mountain range with the text "4TH & 5TH GRADERS" and "Adventure CLUB" in a stylized font. On the right, the text reads "Spring 2023 Session starting Wednesday April 12 5pm". At the bottom, a yellow banner contains a QR code, the registration link "www.bit.ly/SOTPadv23", and the contact information "Contact: Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com".

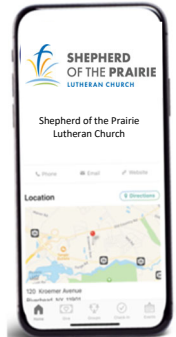
**Spring 2023
Session
starting
Wednesday
April 12
5pm**

Register: www.bit.ly/SOTPadv23
Contact: Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com

New Phone App

Stay Connected

church center
by planning center



Contact: Michelle Rankin michelle@sotpmail.com

Dinner Church Thanks!

A huge thank you to all who helped make our Lenten Dinner Church so successful! If you brought soup, helped to setup or cleanup, or

participated in any way, please know you are greatly appreciated!

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@outlook.com

Welcome to America

Helping Those in Need



Have you seen in the news of the awful situations in the Ukraine?

Did you know that through Exodus SOTP has recently been in contact with three different Ukrainian refugee families?

So many people from so many places need our help. Sooo, once again the Mission Team is collecting items for a Welcome to America Pack.

Who gets these items? We won't know until all items are collected and ready for delivery. Then Exodus will line us up with a new refugee family (Exodus does not sponsor these

families. Exodus's mission is to mobilize the Christians communities in the Chicagoland area to help refugees to make a successful transition in America.)

The Welcome pack includes sheets, pillows, shower curtains, pots & pans, Laundry soap etc. The complete list of items is then delivered and set up in the refugee's new home.

YOU can help by signing up to bring any of the brand-new items on THE WELCOME TO AMERICA list. Use the list on the blue tables in front of the office windows to sign up.

*Contact: Sandy Hupert
donna@sotpmail.com*

AARRK GARDEN

Helping Those in Need



AARRK GARDEN

HELP NEEDED

Building & Planting Beginning April/May

Contact: Vik Bekeris

vikbek66@yahoo.com



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 2, 2023



Palm
SUNDAY



**SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
solp.org

9:00 am Traditional
10:45 am Contemporary

Maundy Thursday



**SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
solp.org

April 6, 2023
Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm Service



Good Friday

A poster for Good Friday services. The background is a silhouette of a hill with three crosses of varying heights against a sunset sky. The text is in white and black.

 **SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
solp.org

**APRIL 7
2023**

**GOOD
FRIDAY
SERVICES**

10AM
CHILDREN &
FAMILY SERVICE

7PM
EVENING
SERVICE

Holy Saturday

**Holy Saturday Worship,
Saturday, April 8, 5:00 pm**

Easter Sunday

A poster for Easter Sunday worship. The background is a dark wood grain with a wooden cross and a palm frond on the left. The text is in white and black.

 **SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
solp.org

Easter
WORSHIP

Sunday, April 9
9 AM TRADITIONAL
& 11 AM CONTEMPORARY

Online Giving

Easily Donate Online



**YOUR OFFERINGS
ARE A BLESSING.
AND BLESSINGS
KEEP ON GIVING.**

Online Giving Available at:
www.bit.ly/SOTPGIVING

Questions?
Contact: Michelle Rankin
michelle@sotpmail.com

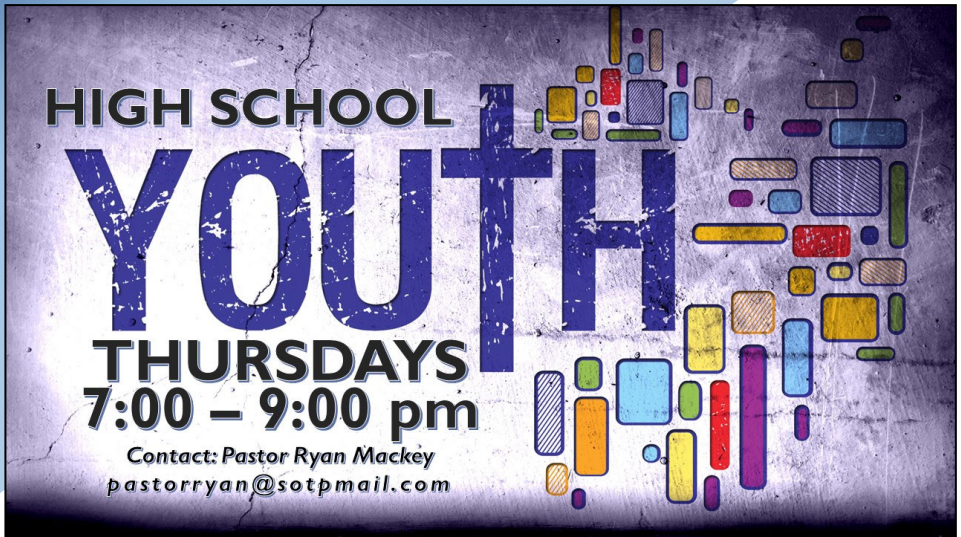


**SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact: Vik Bekeris vikbek66@yahoo.com

High School Youth

Thursday Nights at SOTP



**HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH
THURSDAYS
7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Contact: Pastor Ryan Mackey
pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Contact: Pastor Ryan Mackey pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Easter Egg Hunt

A light blue graphic for an Easter Egg Hunt. On the left, there are several colorful Easter eggs: one with a green and white checkered pattern, one with orange and white stripes, one with blue and white stripes, and one with a blue and white swirl pattern. There are also small yellow and blue flowers scattered around. In the top left corner, there is a logo for Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, featuring a stylized 'f' and the text 'SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH'. In the center, the words 'EASTER EGG HUNT' are written in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below this, a dark red banner contains the text 'Saturday, April 8, 2023 10 a.m.' in white. Underneath the banner, it says 'Register online: www.bit.ly/SOTPegg23' in red and black. At the bottom, it says 'All are welcome! Invite your friends to register!' in black. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the graphic.

**SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday,
April 8, 2023
10 a.m.

Register online:
www.bit.ly/SOTPegg23

All are welcome! Invite your friends to register!

Contact: Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com

Decorate the Church For Easter

A graphic for 'Decorate the Church For Easter'. The background is a light pinkish-orange color with a pattern of white, orange, and teal triangles. In the center, the text 'DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR EASTER' is written in bold, black, uppercase letters. Below this, the text 'Saturday, April 8 - Noon' is written in bold, black, uppercase letters. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code and the text 'Sign up: www.bit.ly/SOTPeaster23' in bold, black, uppercase letters.

**DECORATE THE CHURCH
FOR EASTER**

Saturday, April 8 - Noon

Sign up:
www.bit.ly/SOTPeaster23

Contact: Carolyn Cuttle ednca@comcast.net

Easter Offering Distribution



- Half of the offering will go to Lutheran World Disaster Relief (Middle East Crisis) - SOTP WILL BE A BIG HELP towards relief for survivors of the recent Syria/Turkey Earthquake.
- The other half of the offering will go to Habitat for Humanity NFV-New Hope Partnership.

other churches in our area?

Our group is currently working towards funding and building a house for this family at 708 Carlton Avenue in Elgin. It is really coming along quickly, we are currently in the drywall stage.

Did you know that SOTP is part of the New Hope Partnership with 7

Contact: Sandy Hupert
sandyhupert@gmail.com

Artist Series Save the Date



Saturday, JUNE 10 @ 7:30 PM



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA - CHAMPAIGN



ALUMNI CONCERT CHOIR
Chet Alwes, Director

Online Giving Distribution

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. EFT is used to automatically transfer

funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office or go online to www.bit.ly/SOTPGIVING

Contact: Michelle Rankin
michelle@sotpmail.com

Food Drive

For Grafton Food Pantry

FOOD DRIVE

Sat. April 22

8:30 am – 1:30 pm



SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

10805 Main St-Huntley

Collecting non-perishables,
cash, & checks made out to

**GRAFTON
FOOD PANTRY**



Needs this month:

- disinfectants sprays/wipes
- buckets
- magic erasers
- dish soap & pods
- laundry soap/pods
- all purpose cleaners
- personal hygiene products
- mouth wash
- toothpaste/brushes/floss
- deodorant
- band aids

Memory Bricks

Last Chance for 2023

Your last chance to order a Memory Brick and have it installed this year will be the end of April.

We will send the order in then. The next order will be in 2024 or 2025.

Order forms are available at the church office.

Contact: *Ralph Wehnes*
ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net



Financial Records

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church only keeps financial records on members and non-members that have envelopes assigned.

If you are not a member and want envelopes, contact the Church office.

Contact: *Michelle Rankin*
michelle@sotpmail.com

Quilters Corner

Happy Spring! The ladies are hard at work - we now have 70 quilts for Lutheran World Relief! We're hoping to have a large quilt gathering in September to make several quilts for



LWR. If you would like to join us please let me know. We'll need both sewers and non-sewers. I always say "the more the merrier".

Contact: Bev Kenny
krkbjk@comcast.net

New Member Gathering

Learn About Us



**SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Member Gathering

Learn More About
Our Community



www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0523

CONTACT: DONNA KELLY DONNA@SOTPMAIL.COM



SUNDAY
MAY 7

3:00 - 5:30 PM

Sign up:

Social Media



Follow us on
Instagram

@shepherdoftheprairie

Grief Journey *A Safe Place to Heal*

TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM

Grief Journey Group

Meet in SOTP Library

Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

Prayer Chain *Praying for Those in Need*

PRAYER CHAIN

RECEIVE
PRAYER REQUESTS:
ADMIN@SOTPMAIL.COM

SEND IN
PRAYER REQUESTS:
DONNA@SOTPMAIL.COM

Feed My Starving Children

Register by April 15th



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 9 AM
Sign Up: www.bit.ly/SOTPFMSC0423
REGISTER BY APRIL 15TH
Contact: Ronda Shoemaker rondapatton313@gmail.com

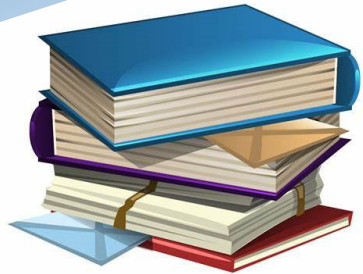
Friends Bible Study

Women's Bible Study

Spring has arrived and Friends Bible Study will begin reading and discussing a new book of the Bible.

April 3rd begins the study of Paul's letter to the Romans. We will be using the book *Be Right* by Warren Wiersbe.

"It can be argued that no book of the Bible has had a greater effect on Christianity than the book of Romans. Martin Luther described it as "the most important piece in



the New Testament".

Join us **every Monday from 12:30-2:00 pm** in the Willow Room at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church.

For more information contact Linda

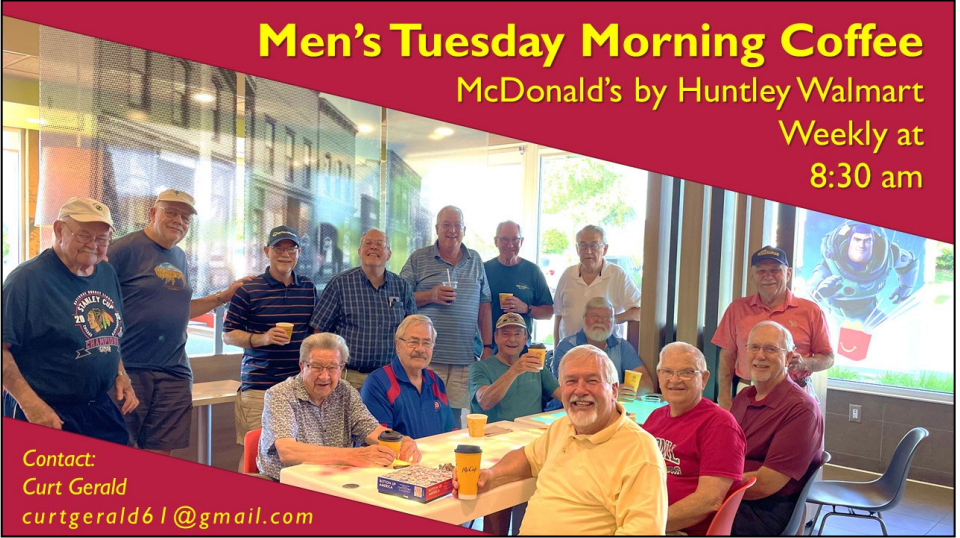
Contact: *Linda Dungey*
lindajs88@gmail.com

Men's Coffee Fellowship

Men's Tuesday Morning Coffee

McDonald's by Huntley Walmart

Weekly at
8:30 am



Contact:
Curt Gerald
curtgerald61@gmail.com

Women's Coffee Fellowship

NEW

Womens' Coffee Gathering

NEW TIME

Every Friday at 10:00 am

at the McDonald's by the Huntley Walmart



**JOIN US FOR
COFFEE**
YOU'RE INVITED TO FELLOWSHIP

Contact: Phyllis Thomson
phyllisthompson@aol.com

Electronic Giving Made Easy

Have you considered participating in a program designed to simplify giving at SOTP?

“Simply Giving” will enable every household or individual to make their church offering using electronic funds transfer.

You may already be using EFT to pay your mortgage, car payment or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account.

There is no cost to you for this giving option. And, when travel, illness, or

other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly, monthly, or quarterly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Your offering also will bypass the counting procedure.

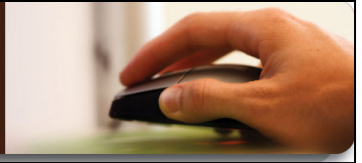
Sign up at:

www.bit.ly/SOTPGIVING

Contact the church office for more information.

Contact: Michelle Rankin
michelle@sotpmail.com

Online Giving



VBS—SAVE THE DATE



See What's Happening At Shepherd of the Prairie

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo for Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church and navigation links: Me, Check-In, Signups, Groups, More, and a user profile icon. Below the header are several promotional banners:

- ADULT EDUCATION:** Faith & Mental Health, Shame, Guilt & Forgiveness, Sundays 10:20 am, Jan 15 - Feb 26. Contact: Pastor Roy Olson, olson612sr@sbcglobal.net.
- ALTAR FLOWERS:** A banner with a QR code and the text "EASILY VIEW CURRENT EVENTS & REGISTRATIONS" overlaid.
- SOTP KIDS NEED YOU!** Ways You Can Help Sundays. Includes buttons for "Read Scripture and Lead Session", "Participate in Activities", and "Keep Children on Task". Contact: Jill Billings, jill@sotpmail.com.
- NEWSLETTER PREP:** A green banner with a white envelope icon.
- SOUP SUPPER WORSHIP:** MARCH 5:45 PM. SET UP | BRING SOUP | CLEAN UP. www.bit.ly/SOTPsupper23. Contact: Donna Kelly, donna@sotpmail.com.
- CONFIRMATION:** A blue banner with a QR code and the text "Register: http://bit.ly/SOTPconfirm" and "Contact Youth Team: youth@sotpmail.com".

Easily access current events & registrations at www.bit.ly/SOTPsignup

Contact: Michelle Rankin michelle@sotpmail.com

AV Team Serve with Us

JOIN THE AV TEAM

CREATING AN INVITING AND ENGAGING WORSHIP EXPERIENCE THROUGH

- SOUND
- VIDEO
- GRAPHICS
- LIGHTING

Contact: Mike Yndestad
mike@sotpmail.com

Regularly Scheduled



SUNDAYS

- 9:00 am **Traditional Worship**
- 9:00 am **Kids Connect**
- 10:45 am **Contemporary Worship**
- 10:45 am **Kids Connect**
- 1:00 pm **FBW**
- 4:00 pm **7s Group** (Mike & Julie Dahlin)

MONDAYS

- 9:00 am (3rd Mon) **Gazebo Valor Quilts**
- 10:00 am **Staff Meeting**
- 10:30 am **FBW**
- 1:00 pm **7s Group** (Annette Petersen)
- 6:30 pm **Boy Scouts Troop 200**
- 7:00 pm (2nd Mon) **Ministry Night**
- 7:00 pm (3rd Mon) **Council Meeting**

TUESDAYS

- 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 Meeting**
- 10:00 am (4th Tues), **Barnabas**
- 6:30 pm (1st Tues), **Scout Troop 200 Committee**
- 6:30 pm (1st Tues), **Boy Scouts Patrol Leader's Council**
- 7:00 pm **Adult Bells**
- 7:00 pm **Cub Scouts, Tigers**
- 7:00 pm **FBW**
- 7:00 pm **AL-ANON Meeting**

WEDNESDAYS

- 9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**
- 10:00 am **God's Girls**
- 10:30 am **Women's FBW**
- 11:00 am **Bible Study with Pastor Mark**
- 4:30 pm **Spirit Ringers** (Age 7-13)
- 5:20 pm **Joy Ringers** (Age 4-6)
- 6:30 pm **Confirmation**
- 7:00 pm **Adult Choir**

THURSDAYS

- 9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**
- 9:00 am (2nd Thurs), **Prayer Shawl Ministry**
- 5:30 pm (1st Thurs), **Girl Scouts**
- 6:30 pm (2nd Thurs), **Lions Club**
- 7:00 pm **High School Youth**
- 7:00 pm **Cub Scouts**
- Times Vary **Volunteers at Habitat for Humanity ReStore**

FRIDAYS

- 9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**
- 9:30 am **Sonshine Boys**
- 10:00 am **Women's Coffee** at McD's by Huntley Walmart
- 10:30 am **FBW**
- Noon **Help Serve Homeless Meals in Crystal Lake** (1st & 3rd Fridays, Contact: Vik Bekeris vikbek66@yahoo.com)

SATURDAYS

- 5:00 pm **Worship**

Upcoming Events



NOW Little Lambs Preschool
2023-2024 Registration Open,
www.bit.ly/SOTPLInfo

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 7 Good Friday
Services, 10am (Children's—all
are invited) & 7pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 Decorate
the Church for Easter, Noon
www.bit.ly/SOTPeaster23

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
Easter Egg Hunt, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPegg23

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 Easter Sunday
Services, 9am & 11am

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
Adventure Club Resumes, 5pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPadv23

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, Adult
Education, Faith & Mental
Health, Addiction and Why is
There Evil and Suffering,
Session 3 Kickoff, 10:20 am

SUNDAY, APRIL 16,
7s Kickoff, Noon
[www.bit.ly/
SOTPspring237s](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPspring237s)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 Food Drive
for Grafton Food Pantry,
8:30 am—1pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 Psalms 101
with Pastor Bill, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPpsalms23

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
Feed My Starving Children, 9am
www.bit.ly/SOTPFMSC0423

SUNDAY, MAY 7
New Member Gathering, 3pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0523

SATURDAY, JUNE 3 Northern
Illinois Food Bank, 9am

SATURDAY, JUNE 10 University
of Illinois Alumni Concert
Choir—Artist Series Event, 7:30
pm

JUNE 25—30 High School Youth
Group Service Trip
(Contact Pastor Ryan Mackey
pastorryan@sotpmail.com)

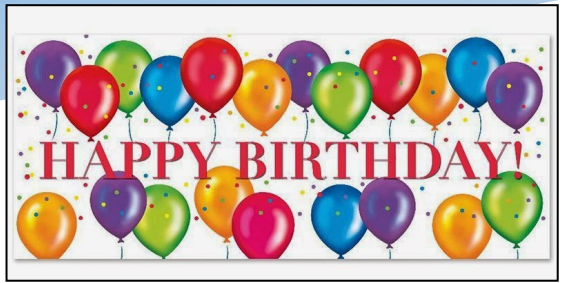
SUNDAY, JULY 2 What's More
American Than Broadway—
Artist Series Event, 7:00 pm

JULY 10—13 Vacation Bible
School, save the date

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13
New Member Gathering, 3pm

Birthdays

April



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Pattie Bueschel | | |
| 2 Roxanne Doremus,
Summer Riley, Nicole
Stoica, Mary Tabatt | 12 ... Colton Allegretti,
Frank Cesario,
Andrew Ressler,
Elloise Torkelson | 20 Troy Fleener, Zachary
Ulmer |
| 3 Robin Anderson,
Kristen Bala, Dave
Frederickson | 13 ... Suzanne Alpert,
Delainey Black, Jack
Conti | 21 Jeffrey Cordle, Noah
Sparks |
| 4 Amy Casablanca,
Penny Shaw | 14 ... Catherine Johnson,
Marc Piskule, Cecilia
Ramey | 22 Dean Dobrolinsky,
Allison McCann, Dan
Wentzloff |
| 5 Ivan Frake, Ben
Kindle, Mary Lee
Rishel, Darlene Soest,
Marilyn Wilhelm | 15 ... Kathleen Bloomfield,
Kim Frendreis, Jianna
Trevino, Wylder
Weston | 23 Kyle Frendreis,
Matthew Kann, Jeff
Roberts |
| 6 Jessica Monahan, Kay
Schumacher, Janet
Suski | 16 ... Jill Behm, Linda
Dungey, Jennifer
Huston, Dennis
Schwartz, Roberta
Seroni, Lila Stegge | 24 Doris Pizzillo |
| 7 Lynn Moran, Larry
Scimeca | 17 ... Dan Hollow, Seth
McCulloch, Kathy
McGuine | 25 Carol Didricksen,
Carol Larson, Kane
Luedtke, Robert
Mollis |
| 8 Lindsay Sparks | 18 ... John Boehler, Marcie
Schlachta, Caitlyn
Stech, Alan
Torkelson, Fred
Wilhelm | 26 Janice Burseth,
Wayne Grayczyk,
Rebecca Hennessy,
Jill Lamb, Jamison
Mathiesen, Kelvin
Walker |
| 9 Edward Cuttle,
Mitchell Flanagan,
Carol Forsythe, Judy
Krawczyk, Cole
Raines, Addison
Raistrick, Dave
Ressler | 19 Angela Crase, Luke
Palermo | 27 Andrew Brown,
Ronald Elam, Evelyn
Farnam, Darlene
McGuigan |
| 10 Paige Cordle, Camden
Dean, Tom Koegel,
Donald Kundich, Kerry
Miller | | 28 Walter Roth |
| | | 29 Leah Walker |
| | | 30 Ken Lemke, Megan
Librandt |

Our amazing heavenly Father knew you before you were born. May His precious love and care warm your heart as you celebrate another year.





Get Involved

Ways to Serve

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**—Pastor Mark Boster pastormark@sotpmail.com
- **ASSISTING MINISTER (9AM)** - Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com Sign up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPworship
- **A/V TEAM** - Mike Yndestad, mike@sotpmail.com
- **BARNABAS MINISTRY**—Donna Sorensen, sorensensid@comcast.net
- **BELL CHOIR (ADULT)** —Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- **BELL CHOIR (KIDS & YOUTH)** - Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**—Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com Sign up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPworship
- **COMMUNION SET UP & TAKE DOWN**—Judie Symbal, judie.symbal@att.net
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**—Tara Mackey, rtmackey10@yahoo.com
- **COUNTERS**—Ralph Wehnes, ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net
- **CRAFTING GIFTS FOR SR. CITIZENS & HOMELESS BLANKETS**—Alice Hallett, agrndmom3@gmail.com
- **GREETERS**—Elaine Gillam, suggillam@aol.com
- **NEWSLETTER MAILING PREP**—Michelle Rankin, michelle@sotpmail.com Sign up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPFolders
- **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**—Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com Sign up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPworship
- **USHERS**—Ed Cuttle edschn28@comcast.net
- **WELCOME CENTER**—Tara Mackey, rtmackey10@yahoo.com
- **WORSHIP BAND (SINGING & INSTRUMENTAL)**—Jeff Moore, jeff@sotpmail.com

Involvement Schedule

March 2023



		April 1/2	April 8/9	April 15/16	April 22/23	April 29/30
Assisting Minister	SUN 9:00	Interested in Serving Here? Sign Up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPWORSHIP				
Communion Assistants Interested in Serving Here? Sign Up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPWORS HIP	SAT 5:00 PM	Mary Holbrook	Barb Hoppensteadt	Barb Hoppensteadt	Karen Eckert	Sandy Scalise
	SUN 9:00 AM	Dave Shotick	Interested in Serving Here? Sign Up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPWORSHIP			
	SUN 10:45 AM	Steve Legel Marlene Boehler Donna Kelly Doreen Brangenberg	Donna Kelly	Donna Kelly	Donna Kelly	
Communion Bread Interested in Serving Here? Contact: Judie Symbal judie.symbal@att.net	Week end	Lori Paeth Marilyn Schnell	Jeanne Henley P.J. Knudsen	Tom Noessen & Bev Pinnelli Alice Dabelow	Barb Hoppensteadt Nancy Morbeck	Eileen Gerald Marilyn Wilhelm
Counters	Mon	Donna Turner, Diana Murphy & Marilyn Wilhelm				
Greeters Interested in Serving Here? Contact: Elaine Gillam suggillam@aol.com	SAT 5:00 PM	Interested in Serving Here? Contact: Elaine Gillam suggillam@aol.com				
	SUN 9:00 AM	Linda & Ken Rotter	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin	Dottie Bobzin Elaine Gillam	Laura Attaway Elaine Gillam	Terry Halpin Elaine Gillam
	SUN 10:45 AM	Bob & Carolyn Malm	Elaine Gillam	Bob & Carolyn Malm		
Newsletter Mailing Prep		For this Newsletter: Ronda Shoemaker & Lois Jensen				
Readers Sign Up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPWORS HIP	SUN 9:00 AM	Chris Solem	Chris Solem	Interested in Serving Here? Sign Up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPWORSHIP		

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms ” - 1 Peter 4:10 7



Involvement Schedule

March 2023

Chri		April 1/2	April 8/9	April 15/16	April 22/23	April 29/30
Ushers Interested in Serving Here? Contact: Ed Cuttle edschn28@comcast.net	SAT 5:00 PM	Karen Eckert Lynn Meyer	Diana Murphy Sue Mattiucci	Carol Hartman Sue Mattiucci	Steve Murphy Peggy Lynn Loisselle	Peggy Lynn Loisselle Ron Mudge
	SUN 9:00 AM	WALTER LEMKE Art Ryden Chris Solem Jeff Ottens Tim Bueschel	JACK CONTI Pete Thompson Cheryl Rotermond Frank Cesario Carol Engstrom [A] Kappels [A]	WAYNE SCHMIDT Nancy Wilson Arja Kasper Dan Wentzlof Mike Malczewski [A]	RALPH WEHNES Jerry & Pat Darow Ed & Carolyn Cuttle George Attaway	WALTER LEMKE Art Ryden Chris Solem Jeff Ottens Tim Bueschel
	SUN 10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Chuck Peterson Annika Yndestad	MARK FRENDEIS Sandi Stewart Jessica Panella Andrew Szekely	DOUG NAGEL Don Koerner Judy Petropulos	VIK BEKERIS Bob Mollis Diane Mollis Brandon Surma	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Chuck Peterson Annika Yndestad
Welcome Center	Interested in Serving Here? Contact: Tara Mackey rtmackey10@yahoo.com					
Worship Flowers	Interested in sponsoring weekend worship flowers? Contact Diane Mollis: dem910@outlook.com					

Do you receive our email communications?



Stay Connected

- Daily Devotionals (Food for the soul)
- Weekly Friday Flourish (Church info)
- Monthly Newsletter (More detailed information)

To start receiving any (or all) of the above, please e-mail your request to:
Admin@SOTPmail.com

If you aren't receiving other e-mail blasts from us, please reach out to Michelle Rankin at Michelle@sotpmail.com to be added.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2023

General Fund Report: The Unrestricted General Fund Balance is \$373,349. Total income for the month was \$62,845 and total expenses for the month was \$88,858. Approximately 4.6 months of General Fund reserves.

Mortgage Service Fund Report: The Mortgage Service Fund Balance is \$72,192. Income for the month was \$13,437. The monthly mortgage payment is \$18,807. Approximately 3.8 months of Mortgage Service Fund reserves.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>THIS MONTH</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Income:	\$62,845	\$69,856	(\$7,011)	-10.03%
Expenses:	\$88,858	\$80,644	\$8,214	10.2%

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u> <u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Income:	\$173,549	\$174,672	(\$1,133)	-.6%
Expense:	\$168,958	\$162,188	\$6,771	4.2%

Mortgage Service Fund

Income for Month: \$13,437
Income YTD: \$43,295
Payments YTD: \$37,614
Ending Fund Balance: \$72,192

Submitted by,
Kathy McGuine
Congregation Treasurer

faith and
finances

SOTP Staff



Pastor Mark Boster

Senior Pastor
pastormark@sotpmail.com

Pastor Ryan Mackey

Pastor
pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Kendra Coots

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

Jill Gillming

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

Donna Kelly

*Director of Connections
Ministry*
donna@sotpmail.com

Dennis Lilla

*Computer Applications &
Technical Support*
dennis@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

Mike Yndestad

Audio Visual Coordinator
mike@sotpmail.com

Church Council

Bob Mollis, President

Joyce Shotick, Vice President

Kathy McGuine, Treasurer

Cheryl Adams

Mike Luecht

Ellen Nissen

Christa Serpe

Sara Wolf