

Newsletter

January 2024



Artist Series Concert

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Grief Special Event

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Wellness Team *(Walking)*

Pg 16

Annual Meeting

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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Huntley, IL sotp.org 847/669-9448

Photo: Children's Christmas Program

A Note

From Pastor Mark



Welcome to the New Year! As with every new beginning many of us ponder what might we might do to better ourselves and put ourselves in a better position to receive the good God wants to place in our lives.

Might I put a good word in for making worship a priority in the New Year.

The Prophet Isaiah begins our 2024 worship year with a bold statement “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1).

Have you ever found yourself in a pitch-dark place? You can’t see anything. It is difficult to sense your relationship to anything around you for you cannot see. When you cannot see it’s difficult to relate. You feel isolated and alone. At the beginning of the New Year the prophet Isaiah reminds us that it is in the midst of darkness that light shines.

It is God’s doing and action which brings light to total darkness. The dark days of exile in Babylon will be left behind. Then the purpose of God’s people will be fulfilled. All peoples will be drawn to them through the light of God. The prophet declares, “Nations shall come to your light” (Isaiah 60:3a).

Epiphany is the season of the church year when we celebrate the light that drew the Magi or Wiseman to the Christ Child. In the Christian story, people from other nations would come to see the light of the newborn child who comes to save.

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As we in the northern hemisphere live in a time of darkness with short winter days, we are

reminded that light is what gives us hope, too. We seek the light, both spiritually and physically. We have learned that without the light we literally become sad, even hopeless. But with light we grow strong and more hopeful.



The light of God’s grace comes to us and we are reminded again that we cannot live without it.

Just as Israel was renewed by God’s light, so there is renewal for us by God’s light that comes to touch our

lives. We certainly experienced this during COVID when we were forcibly separated from one another. Now we are able to gather again in community. Make worship a priority in this New Year. It is one of the best places to experience the light of God which comes to us in Word and Sacrament in community with God’s people.

Seek the light! It is essential for our life and salvation. Indeed, without the light from God’s creation we would not exist.

So, without the light of God’s salvation we likewise cannot live. We look forward to being with you in worship!

Pastor Mark

A Note From Pastor Ryan



Goodbye 2023.
Hello 2024!

I feel like we
say it every
year, but where
did the past

year go? I was reflecting on this question recently and felt some gratitude for the speed with which we experienced 2023. I believe this year went by so fast because of all that we do here at SOTP. Each month brings some big event or other. So many ministry groups engage in so many activities. Worship is always purposeful and innovative. All this adds up to a busy, but fulfilling experience that speeds by. "Time flies when you're having fun," as they say.

As we embark on a new calendar year, I am also reflecting, as I do each new year, on what I would like to accomplish in the next twelve months. Last year, I had our high school youth engage in a thought exercise known as "Scripture Resolutions." I would like to encourage you to try this exercise for yourself.

The concept is simple; think of your favorite Bible verse. Next, re-write the verse in your own words. Then, put yourself into the verse, and try to live it out. I'll give you an example.

Matthew 6:33 reads, "...seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things will be given to

you as well." (NRSV) After rewriting it in your own words and putting yourself into it, it may read something like, "I will always seek the things of God in all I do. And if I do this, all that need here on this earth God will give me."

Once you have your newly scripted verse, you have a new resolution to keep during the year. Very often people will enter a new year vowing to lose weight, learn something new, try something new, be a better person, or the like. These are noble goals, but a "scripture resolution" takes the resolution to the next level by grounding it in faith. Who knows, maybe your scripture resolution will even

support or reinforce a resolution you've already made!

If you are struggling to find a verse that is your favorite, or if your favorite verse doesn't lend itself well to this type of exercise, you could always start by reading through Proverbs or Psalms. Many of the verses in those books read like instructions or prayers and lend themselves well to being converted into goals. Likewise, there are passages in the books of the prophets, such as Isaiah, that can easily become goals.

2023 came with its ups and downs. 2024 will too, but like that verse in Matthew says, if we seek God's kingdom and keep Jesus' ways at the



(Continued on page 4)

A Note

From Pastor Ryan

(Continued from page 3)

center of our hearts and minds, we will make it through, and may even come out better and closer to God.

I pray that 2024 has great things in store for you and everyone you love.

I thank God for you every day, and pray that you feel the peace of Christ and the love of God always.

Peace,

Pastor Ryan

Ministry Musings

With Donna

Most of us were raised knowing the shortest verse in the Bible, “Jesus wept”. The gospel of John tells us that when Jesus stood at the grave of his friend, Lazarus, and saw the pain his loved ones were experiencing, “Jesus wept.” But I’m sure Jesus wept many other times in his life here on earth.

As a baby he cried like all babies do; when he was hungry, tired, cold, scared, needed a diaper change. I’m sure as a child he cried when he fell and scraped his knee or when other kids teased him. Certainly, he cried when his earthly father Joseph died.

Luke tells us that when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the day we call Palm Sunday, he paused at the top of the hill and wept over Jerusalem and the future he knew was coming to it. And I wonder if today he stands in the Holy

Land and weeps; as the bombs go off, and the tanks roll, and children scream, and widows and orphans cry, and people are hungry and afraid and oppressed. I wonder if

he weeps for Gaza and Israel. I wonder if he stands in battlefields and weeps for Russians and Ukrainians.

I believe Jesus weeps for all his people. He weeps in the refugee camps and homeless shelters, the crack houses, and the street corners. He weeps in the ghetto and on Wall Street, the inner city, and the suburbs. He weeps at the graveside as a beloved grandpa is laid to rest and a

(Continued on page 5)



Jesus
Wept

Ministry Musings

With Donna

(Continued from page 4)

three-year-old asks, "Where's Grandpa?" He weeps with those who mourn the death of their 34-year-old son, father, and husband. He stands and weeps with the 19-year-old who sees no other option for peace than taking his own life, and with their family. He weeps with the people of Lewiston, Maine over the loss of life and peace in a senseless shooting spree, and he weeps with the family of the shooter. And when Jesus weeps, I wonder who consoles him? Is there a way we can weep with him

and share his pain?

We just celebrated Christmas. We just rejoiced in the baby in the manger, but really, we are celebrating the incarnation of our God in Jesus, the incarnation of love. Love that knows no limits; love that embraces all. Love that we called to share into this world. Let us choose this year to welcome all, weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice, just as our Lord does.

Donna Kelly

Ministry Night

Join Us!



SECOND MONDAY MONTHLY
7:00 pm



MINISTRY NIGHT

Adult Education

Future Faith: Ten Challenges

Strong winds of change are blowing through the windows and doors of the Christian church, creating challenges of a

magnitude like those of the Reformation. Christianity is becoming a predominantly non-Western religion of the Global South. Will the church as we have known it die?

Denominational and international church structures struggle to find their purpose. How will the church overcome its divisions over social issues? What does our Creator want us to do about climate change? What happens to the church's message when it seeks political power rather than relying on spiritual power? How do we respond to increasing diversity and the vulnerable? What are people looking for when they visit a congregation? Wesley Granberg Michaelson in his book *Future Faith* (Fortress Press) has identified 10 challenges the church must face this century. We will examine one per week as listed below. Please plan to join us. Drop in when you can, even if you don't have the book, for these



ADULT EDUCATION

WITH PASTOR ROY OLSON

FUTURE FAITH:
TEN CHALLENGES



Sundays Starting
January 7th, 10:15 am

Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPadultED0124

weekly conversations on **Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM.**

- **January 7th:** Withering Congregations but ...
- **January 14th:** Embracing the Color of the Future
- **January 21th:** Seeing God's World through Non-Western Eyes
- **January 28th:** Perceiving the Cosmos as Sacred
- **February 4th:** Affirming Spirit-filled Faith Communities
- **February 11th:** Rejecting the Heresy of Individualism
- **February 18th:** De-Americanizing the Gospel
- **February 25th:** Defeating Divisive Culture Wars
- **March 3rd:** Belonging before Believing
- **March 10th:** Saving This World

Contact Pastor Roy Olson
olson612sr@sbcglobal.net

Adult Education

With Pastor Bill Waxenberg

We're ready for another "101" gathering!

On Saturday, January 27, 10am-2pm, we'll explore Judaism 101.

This introduction to the Jewish faith is a must! Why?

First of all, to really understand who Jesus was and is, we need to know something about the faith in which he was reared.

Secondly, after Jesus' death and resurrection, his first followers (called "Christians") were considered nothing more than another Jewish sect, like the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Third, two-thirds of our Bible is made up of the Jewish scriptures--what we call the Old Testament.

Fourth, almost all of the elements of the Christian faith have their roots in

Judaism--baptism (the Jewish rites of purification), Holy Communion (the Jewish Passover), monotheism (the belief in one God), the two greatest commandments according to Jesus (love of God from Deuteronomy 6 and love of neighbor from Leviticus 19); and our understanding what it means to be truly human--all from the Old Testament.

In addition, the rise in antisemitism today impacts us too as we speak up on behalf of our sisters and brothers from the House of David. So sign up today. We look forward to having you with us!

Register at:

www.bit.ly/SOTPjud101

Contact: Pastor Bill Waxenberg

bwaxenberg@gmail.comContact:



JUDAISM 101

With Pastor Bill Waxenberg

**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 27, 10AM-2PM**



Sign Up Now: www.bit.ly/SOTPjud101

Welcome Center & Registration Kiosk

Starting in January, the Welcome Center and Registration Desk are changing how you can sign up to help.

This process will be the same as if you were signing up to be an usher or reader.

With this upcoming change, the Community Outreach team has decided to hold two training sessions for those wanting to help at the Welcome Center.

- The first session is Wednesday, January 10th at 7 pm.
- The second session is Thursday, January 11th at 5pm.



Please register at www.bit.ly/SOTPwelcome0124. This training is for anyone – those who may need a refresher and those who have never been at the WC before. Bring a friend!

Contact: Tara Mackey
rtmackey10@yahoo.com

Next Step Fellowship

For Single Seniors



Painting: Saturday, January 20, 10am

NEXT STEP FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Group for Single Seniors

Registration Required



\$5 Fee



Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPnext0124

New Member Gathering

Join Us!



NEW MEMBER GATHERING
FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT OUR CHURCH
**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 4
3:00 PM**
www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0224

If you have been worshipping with us for a while here at SOTP in person or online and would like to know more about us as a worshipping community, we would love to have you join us at our New Member Gathering. We will be offering the gathering on **Sunday, February 4th, from 3 - 5:30pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the life and ministry of

SOTP and for you to consider prayerfully whether or not you want to formally become a member of the SOTP family.

If you have any questions **or would like to attend**, please contact Donna. You can also sign up here or at the Registration Kiosk on Sundays.

*Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com*



A BIG thank you to all who purchased gift

cards, personal checks or gave extra gift cards for the Giving Tree. We had 70 clients from Turning Point and 15 families from Grafton Food Pantry. That totaled 119 gift cards, plus the extra gifts. The need was

Giving Tree Thank You

VERY heavy this year and we could have taken more families. Hopefully, next year. I want to thank Alice and Bev for taking over this Mission work in 2024. Blessings to all and a Happy New Year.

*Contact: Alice Miller
amiller93@comcast.net*

Coming Soon!

Save Your Plastic

Coming Soon!!!

If your household is anything like mine, you probably have a bag full of plastic grocery bags. Maybe you have a good use for them or again, if you are like me, they just sit in a closet or under the sink – multiplying. Starting early 2024, SOTP will have the solution to all your unwanted plastic bag problems! The Community Outreach team will be enrolling SOTP in the NexTrex Recycling Challenge. Over the next 12 months, our goal is to reach over 1,000 lbs in approved plastic products, some of which are listed below. There will be labeled bins between the sets of doors leading into the church. As needed, the bins will be emptied, weighed, and taken to the nearest drop off location (Jewel) to be compacted and shipped to a Trex manufacturing plant. Trex is the maker of composite decking and railing. If we reach our goal within the year, will we be given a free Trex composite bench. The Community Outreach team is working with the Huntley Park District to see if we can donate the bench to the new park that will be built in the new neighborhood behind the church. More information will be going out about what products are and are not acceptable when the bins arrive. We hope you will help us reach our goal! More information will be coming to you soon, but you can find more information at

<https://nextrex.com/view/recyclingchallenge>

What can be recycled?

- Grocery bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Plastic shipping envelopes
- Bread bags
- Ziploc and other reclosable food storage bags
- Cereal bags
- Bubble wrap
- Dry cleaning bags
- Case overwrap (think the cover over a case of water bottles)
- Produce bags
- Salt bags (think water softener)
- Plastic wrap that covers paper towels/toilet paper

-The Community Outreach Team

*Contact: Tara Mackey
jane@sotpmail.com*

The bench below is the prize!



Budget Q&A

Pre-Annual Meeting



PRE-ANNUAL MEETING

BUDGET Q&A



SUNDAY

January 21, 2024



AT

10:00 am

WWW.BIT.LY/SOTPBUDGET24

Annual Meeting

January 28

IN PERSON & ONLINE

ANNUAL MEETING



JANUARY 28
NOON



SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Join Online: www.bit.ly/SOTPzoom

Passcode: 1234

sotp.org

Kids Academy

For Children & Youth



This program will provide workshops, classes and lessons in all sorts of areas. The SOTP Kids' Academy will offer various enrichment classes for kindergarten– 8th grade. The Academy is bringing together adults in our church with talents and passions that they are passing on to the younger members. Some classes will

have a small fee to offset the cost of supplies.

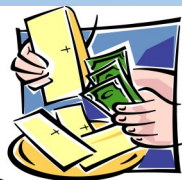
See all classes available and sign up at www.bit.ly/SOTPkidsac24 now, (space limited)

Contact: Amy Stech
amc_stech@yahoo.com

Offering Counters

Help Needed

We could use a couple of offering counters. We count on Monday morning at 8:00 or 8:30. It usually takes an hour. Once you have a little training you would sign up for a month of your choice. Some counters think the pay is so good they sign up for several months.



OFFERING COUNTERS

Contact: Ralph Wehnes
ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net

Feed My Starving Children

Age 5—Adult

**SATURDAY
MARCH 23**

9:00 - 11:00 am
Schaumburg



Register Now:

www.bit.ly/SOTPFMSC0324



You are invited to join us as we pack meal kits for others at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg.

Contact: Ronda Shoemaker
at rondapatton313@gmail.com

Artist Series—Event


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

**JANUARY
28
2024
4:00 PM**



**WORLD RENOWN
NORDIC
CHOIR**
FROM
LUTHER COLLEGE
DECORAH, IOWA
COMES TO
HUNTLEY

Kids Movie Night

Register, Donate, Volunteer

KID'S MOVIE NIGHT

Friday
Jan-19-2024
6:30pm

FREE ENTRY

Donations & Volunteers Needed

Register Now: www.bit.ly/SOTPmovie0124

January 19th Kid's Movie Night!!!

On **January 19th from 6:30-8:30** we will be hosting a movie night. Have your child come in their pajamas and bring a sleeping bag or blanket to get cozy in the Fellowship Hall. We will have popcorn and some movie candy for the kids to "order" and have delivered to them. Please register asap!

Candy Donations needed for our Kids Movie Night on January 19th.

Check out the registrations at www.bit.ly/SOTPmovie0124 to see what is needed.

Save the date, **Friday February 23rd** for "Shepherd's Open Mic Night"

If you have a special talent that you would like to share, singing, dancing, juggling, playing a musical instrument, or imitating bird calls please join us, and bring a friend!!! Registration will be coming soon.

We will have a coffee and hot chocolate bar set up for everyone to enjoy.

*Contact: Jill Gillming at
jill@sotpmail.com*

Join Us—Dinner Church & Help Needed

Join us on Wednesdays in Lent as we worship and dine together.

Help needed to set up & clean up and soups needed. Sign up online at:
www.bit.ly/SOTPdinner24



WEDNESDAYS
DURING
LENT
5:45 PM

Lenten
**Dinner
Church**

SET UP | BRING SOUP | CLEAN UP
www.bit.ly/SOTPdinner24

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

See What's Happening At Shepherd of the Prairie

A screenshot of the Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church website. The header shows the church logo and navigation links: Me, Check-In, Signups, Groups, More, and a user profile picture. The main content area features several event cards: 'ADULT EDUCATION Faith & Mental Health Shame, Guilt & Forgiveness Sundays 10:20 am Jan 15 - Feb 26', 'EASILY VIEW CURRENT EVENTS & REGISTRATIONS www.bit.ly/SOTPsignup', 'SOTP KIDS NEED YOU! Ways You Can Help Sundays 9:30-10:45 am', 'NEWSLETTER PREP', 'MARCH 5:45 PM Soup Supper Worship', and 'SOTP YOUTH'. A large blue overlay with white text is centered over the page, reading 'EASILY VIEW CURRENT EVENTS & REGISTRATIONS www.bit.ly/SOTPsignup'. A QR code is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

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

Contact: Michelle Rankin michelle@sotpmail.com

Walk the Halls With Us

From the SOTP Wellness Team

Health Benefits of Walking

Walking is one of the BEST things you can do for your overall health. It's low impact, safe (with a doctor's okay), and free! Many diseases, conditions, and ailments can be prevented or even healed by participating in regular physical activity.

Walking regularly is a great way to get the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity per week.

Walking regularly is a great way to get the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity per week.

Physical Health Benefits

- ⇒ Helps maintain a healthy weight
- ⇒ Lowers risk of heart disease and stroke
- ⇒ Lowers risk of several types of cancer
- ⇒ Regulates blood pressure and cholesterol
- ⇒ Helps prevent and manage type 2 diabetes
- ⇒ Helps ease arthritis pain and stiffness
- ⇒ Strengthens muscles and bones
- ⇒ Lowers risk of falls

Mental Health Benefits

- ⇒ Reduces stress and anxiety



- ⇒ Lowers risk of depression
 - ⇒ Improves mood
 - ⇒ Helps you sleep better
 - ⇒ Improves energy levels
 - ⇒ Improves cognition and creativity
 - ⇒ Lowers risk of dementia & Alzheimer's
 - ⇒ Improves overall quality of life
- Starting in January, we are excited to bring "Movement Morning" to the church.

Every weekday morning starting January 8th the church will be open from **7:30 to 8:30 a.m.** for those who would want to walk the hallways of SOTP.

Whether it's for the mental or physical benefits, we hope you're inspired to take a walk today.

*Contact: Jamie Patel
at jamie.patel@nm.org*

SOTP Logowear



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Online Apparel Store

www.bit.ly/SOTPlogowear



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.

Shepherd of the Prairie has an online apparel store!

Our online store is available all the time moving forward so feel free to browse here as well:

www.bit.ly/SOTPlogowear

While on the site, you may see that

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

Contact: Matt Morrison
matt@sotpmail.com

Food Drive January 7

SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE HOSTS



**GRAFTON PANTRY
FOOD DRIVE**



10805 MAIN ST. HUNTLEY



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

Collecting in Car Outside Main Office Entrance

Those from the Food Pantry want to relay their thanks for your generosity through the Christmas

season. Just a reminder that help is needed year-round and not just for the holidays.

Altar Flowers

A promotional graphic for Altar Flowers. It features a background of pink and white ranunculus flowers. In the top left corner, there is a logo with a stylized 'f' in blue and green. The central text is arranged in a semi-circle: 'ALTAR FLOWERS' in large red letters, followed by 'DONATE FLOWERS TO BRIGHTEN UP THE SANCTUARY \$52/EACH' in smaller brown letters. Below this, a QR code is shown on the left, and the text 'SIGN UP: www.bit.ly/SOTPflower' is displayed in white on a dark brown background at the bottom.

 ALTAR FLOWERS
DONATE FLOWERS
TO BRIGHTEN UP
THE SANCTUARY
\$52/EACH
SIGN UP: www.bit.ly/SOTPflower

Please consider signing up to donate flowers to brighten up the sanctuary. Each arrangement will be \$52.

The bouquets are delivered from the florist for the weekend worship services. The flowers are yours to keep after the Sunday services or you can pick them up on the Monday following. The church is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There are several ways to place an order for altar flowers. You can do so online here, you can also order the flowers on the church website or you can contact Diane on dem910@outlook.com. Payments can be made by credit/debit card or check/cash.

When you order the flowers, you will need to provide your name, the date you would like them, your phone number, and for whom the flowers are dedicated to or in memory of. You will receive a special offering

envelope for the payment in the mail if you choose to pay by check or cash. If you have any questions, please call Diane Mollis 224-654-6677.

Thank you for contributing to beautify the altar during our services at Shepherd of the Prairie.

*Contact: Diane Mollis
dem910@outlook.com*

Grief Journey

January 2nd Special Event



GRIEF JOURNEY GROUP

**TUESDAY MORNINGS
10AM**

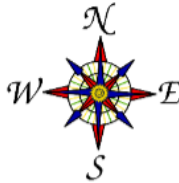
Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPgrief



The SOTP Grief Group is hosting a New Year Ceremony on Tuesday, **January 2nd at 10am.**

This is a ceremony of releasing the year behind us and walking into the new one. It consists of four stations signifying

the North, South, East and West directions with a simple activity at each station and a time for personal meditation and prayer. We would love for you to come and join us.



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

Memory Bricks

Paving the Path



The last order for Memory Bricks has been inserted in the Memory Garden Walkway. We may order additional bricks next year, but the minimum order is 5 of one size brick.

*Contact: Ralph Wehnes
ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net*

Regularly Scheduled



SUNDAYS

1st Sunday Monthly **Food Drive for Grafton Food Pantry**,
8:30-11am
9:00 am **Traditional Worship**
9:00 am **Kids Connect**
10:15 am **Adult Education** with
Pastor Roy
10:45 am **Contemporary Worship**
10:45 am **Kids Connect**
1:00 pm **FBW**

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**
(Walking—Starting Jan 8)
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 & Youth Bells**
7:00 pm **Cub Scouts, Tigers**
7:00 pm **FBW**
7:00 pm **AL-ANON Meeting**

WEDNESDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**
(Walking—Starting Jan 8)
9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**
10:30 am **Women's FBW**
11:00 am **Bible Study with Pastor Mark** (*last day 12/13*)
5:00 pm **Adventure Club**
6:30 pm **Confirmation**
6:30 pm **High School Youth**
7:00 pm **Adult Choir**

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**
(Walking—Starting Jan 8)
9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**
10:00 am **Women's Coffee** at McD's
by Huntley Walmart
10:30 am **FBW**

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm **Worship**

Upcoming Events



DEC 29-JAN 1, Church Office
Closed, New Years

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2 Grief Group
Special Event, 10am See Pg 19

RESUMING SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
Sunday Adult Education, Future
Faith: Ten Challenges, 10:15am
www.bit.ly/SOTPadultED0124

STARTING MONDAY, JANUARY 8
Morning Movement,
Walking at SOTP, 7:30—8:30 am
www.bit.ly/SOTPwalk

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10
Bible Study with Pastor Mark
Resumes, 11am

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 &
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11** Welcome
Center & Registration Kiosk
Training, Weds 7pm & Thurs 5pm
[www.bit.ly/
SOTPwelcome0124](http://www.bit.ly/SOTPwelcome0124)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
Kids Movie Night, 6:30 pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPmovie0124

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 KIDS'
ACADEMY-CARD MAKING, 9AM
www.bit.ly/SOTPkidsA24

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 Next Step
Fellowship for Single Seniors—
Painting Party, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPnext0124

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 Pre-Annual
Meeting Budget Q&A, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPBUDGET24

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
Judaism 101, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPjud101

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
Annual Meeting, Noon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 The Artist
Series Presents the Nordic Choir
from Luther College, 4pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 Kids
Academy-1st Class of Photography
Session, 4:30pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPnext0124

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 Kids
Academy-1st Class of Quilting
Session, 9am
www.bit.ly/SOTPnext0124

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 New
Member Gathering, 3pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0224

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 Shepherd's
Open Mic Night, Save the date,
more info coming soon

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 Ash
Wednesday Services, Noon & 7pm



Birthdays

January



1-Jan	Marlene Hunt Nellica Seibert	11-Jan	Lucy Dahlin Joan Doege	20-Jan	James Murphy Tim Torkelson
2-Jan	Ava Allison Evan Reincke Jim Zei	12-Jan	Noah Murray Caiden Luedtke Lanita Palermo	21-Jan	Mel Kling Dana Timmermann
3-Jan	Vik Bekeris Emmanuel Bozza Ezekiel Bozza Elise Brockman Phil Casablanca Riley Dobrolinsky Addilynn Grady Jessica Panella Gretchen Rossman	13-Jan	Alexander Linton	22-Jan	Bill Berens Melody Emery Shayne Piskule Hailey Trudeau Benjamin
4-Jan	Mark Miley	14-Jan	Kurtis Arndt	24-Jan	Bradstreet
5-Jan	Sandy Petersen	15-Jan	Dinah Lindsey Joyce Thompson	25-Jan	Kevin Hennessy Kate Kembrowski Annette Petersen Benjamin Sparks
6-Jan	Denis Minutillo	17-Jan	Rick Behm Christian Kasal Emilie Ulmer	26-Jan	Sophia Burian Denise Huntington
7-Jan	Heather Farnam	18-Jan	Steven Brown Connor Martin Joan Smith	27-Jan	Marilyn Schnake Pamela Walloch Dorothea Wills
8-Jan	Liss Kundich Barb Niemiec Elizabeth Rojas	19-Jan	Eliott Burg McKenzie Fulcer Jeff McNeal Quinn Murray Ruth Roper	28-Jan	Danielle Crespo Audrey Schmidt
9-Jan	Linda Murphy George Sebastian	20-Jan	Loretta Brindell Jared Davis Daniel Hibbeler	30-Jan	Patrick Fleener
10-Jan	Lynn Kapheim		Pam Luedtke	31-Jan	Connor Brittain

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:

- AARRK Garden – Ronda Shoemaker
rondapatton313@gmail.com
- Adult Choir—Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Adventure Club—Jill Gillming
jill@soapmail.com
- Annual Church Picnic – Sharon Little
skl55little@mac.com
- Assisting Minister (9am) – Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Artist Series – Jane McMullen
jane@sotpmail.com
- 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
- Communion Set Up & Take Down—Judie Symbol, judie.symbol@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
- Habitat for Humanity – Sandy Hupert sandyhupert@gmail.com
- Mission Team – Sandy Hupert sandyhupert@gmail.com
- Newsletter Mailing Prep—Michelle Rankin, michelle@sotpmail.com Sign up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPfolders
- Next Step Fellowship (Single Seniors Fellowship) – Dave Stangle, dstangle.ds@gmail.com or Phyllis Thomson, phyllisthompson@aol.com
- Prairie Crafters – Lori Paeth
- 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
- Ushers—Ed Cuttle edschn28@comcast.net
- Vacation Bible School – Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com
- Welcome Center—Tara Mackey, rtmackey10@yahoo.com
- Worship Band (Singing & Instrumental)—Jeff Moore, jeff@sotpmail.com

Involvement Schedule

January 2024



		January 6 & 7	January 13 & 14	January 20 & 21	January 27 & 28
Acolyte		William Womac	Maggie Rojas	Connor Brittian	Gavin Lehmann
Counters	Mon	Ralph Wehnes, Diana Murphy & Rick Miller			
Communion Bread		Alice Dabelow	Chris Nack	Nancy Hammer	Lori Paeth
		Saturdays: Therese Cox		Extra Bread: Jen Powe	
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				
	SUN 10:45 AM				
Ushers Interested in Serving Here? Contact: Ed Cuttle edschn28@ comcast.net	SAT 5:00 PM	Karen Eckert Lynn Meyer	Tom Cox Therese Cox	Carol Hartman Sue Mattiucci	Steve Murphy Peggy Lynn Loiselle
	SUN 9:00 AM	WALTER LEMKE Art Ryden Tim Bueschel Jeff Stangle Julian Stangle Kappel's [A]	JACK CONTI Pete Thompson Cheryl Rotermund Frank Cesario Jeff Ottens Carol Engstrom [A]	NANCY WILSON Wayne Schmidt Arja Kasper Dan Wentzlof Mike Malczew ski [A]	RALPH WEHNES Jerry & Pat Darow Stan Crissman George Attaway Ed & Carolyn Cuttle
	SUN 10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE Chuck Peterson Annika Yndestad	MARK FRENDREIS Sandy Stewart Jessica Panella	DOUG NAGEL Don Koerner Judy Petropulos	BOB MOLLIS Diane Mollis Krystal Smith

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Statement of Purpose >

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Stay Connected

**Do you receive
our email communications?**

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

To start receiving any (or all) of the above, please e-mail your request to Michelle Rankin at **michelle@SOTPmail.com**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Report as of November 30, 2023

General Fund Report: The Unrestricted General Fund Balance is \$367,012. Total income for the month was \$70,048 and total expenses for the month was \$78,246. Approximately 4.6 months of General Fund reserves.

General Fund reserves. Mortgage Service Fund Report: The Mortgage Service Fund Balance is \$47,442. Income for the month was \$22,555. The monthly mortgage payment is \$18,807. Approximately 2.5 months of Mortgage Service Fund reserves.

This Month

General Fund	Actual	Budget	Difference	Percentage
Income:	\$70,048	\$68,080	\$1,968	2.89%
Expenses:	\$78,246	\$78,804	(\$558)	-.71%

Year-to-Date

General Fund	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Percentage
Income:	\$859,530	\$876,236	(\$16,849)	-1.9%
Expenses:	\$861,277	\$871,931	\$10,654	1.2%

Mortgage Service Fund

Income for Month:	\$22,555
Income YTD:	\$187,809
Payments YTD:	\$206,877
Ending Fund Balance:	\$47,442

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McGuine
Congregation Treasurer

faith and
finances

SOTP Staff



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

Pastor Mark Boster

Senior Pastor
pastormark@sotpmail.com

Pastor Ryan Mackey

Pastor
pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Kendra Coots

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

Jill Gillming

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

Donna Kelly

*Director of Connections
Ministry*
donna@sotpmail.com

Church Council

Bob Mollis, President

Joyce Shotick, Vice President

Kathy McGuine, Treasurer

Cheryl Adams

Mike Luecht

Ellen Nissen

Christa Serpe

Sara Wolf

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

“A Growing Church, For Growing People”

For information, please call (847) 669-9448

or go to our website at sotp.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 pm

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

*Worship with us in person
or online at sotp.org
and Facebook Live*

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



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