

Newsletter

February 2024



Lent—Dinner Church

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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Huntley, IL sotp.org 847/669-9448

Photo: January Movie Night @ SOTP

A Note

From Pastor Mark



The Lenten Season begins early this year and no less on Valentines Day. Lent affords us time to consider how we are caring for our hearts spiritually. In the 14th chapter of John's Gospel Jesus reminds us, "let not your hearts, be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me." We encourage you to participate in worship on Ash Wednesday as we begin a series entitled, "You are known, you are beloved and you are called!"

On Ash Wednesday, we will have two worship opportunities at 12 Noon and 7:00 pm. These services will be in the Sanctuary.

Beginning on Wednesday, February 21st and for the next 5 weeks we invite you to join us for Dinner Church. Our evening together will begin promptly at 6:00 pm and will be finished at 7:00 pm. Feel free to gather early for fellowship beginning at 5:45 pm. Our Dinner Church evening will begin around the dinner table and the celebration of the sacrament. Our worship together will center around selected video

clips from The Chosen series. After sharing a meal time together, we will dive into a video clip from

of the Chosen series followed by round-table discussion & prayer. Some have asked do I need to watch The Chosen to participate. The answer is "no." Not to

worry if you have not watched any of the series. We do hope to whet your appetite to watch if you have not had opportunity

Our time together is sure to strengthen your faith & teach you more about the life of Christ as we prepare for our Easter celebration. Connect on a deeper level with God & the Church as we seek Jesus in this Lenten season.

Grace and peace to you all as we begin our Lenten journey together!

Pastor Mark



Ministry Musings

With Donna



It's amazing to me all the many ways God can speak to us. an unexpected moment happened this past week.

I love mystery and police dramas, whether in print or on film. It's one of my favorite ways to relax and unwind. Some of you may remember the series, "Castle" from the 2010s.

Recently, it began streaming from the beginning and I have watched several episodes during our latest

(Continued on page 3)

Ministry Musings

With Donna



*(Continued from
page 2)*

snowstorms.

In one of the early episodes, a woman loses her mother to a home invasion. At the end of the hour, this young woman asks the female lead, Kate Beckett (who also lost her mother to violence), “How do you get over it?” Detective Beckett answers, “You don’t. But one day you wake up and find you don’t mind carrying it.”

While the line and the truth it speaks of was very profound, I was even more surprised and taken with the fact that even in a television show, God can speak a word of grace. We usually expect for God to speak to us through our Bible, the pastor’s message, a hymn or song, or a daily devotion we read.

But I was reminded of the fact that God speaks in many and various ways; ways that are often quite simple. God

speaks to each of us in diverse ways, a baby’s smile, a beautiful sunset, the song of a bird, or a rainbow after a storm. God speaks in the wisdom of a child, the words of a song, a hug from a friend or family member. God can speak in the words of a poem, or a social media comment, a greeting on Facebook, a phone call or a text, a card in the mail. Sometimes I receive an “I Love You” emoji from a friend or family member and it reminds me that God’s love is there for me too. We often can experience God’s love and comfort through a pet.

While God’s love comes through all these ways and more, we usually only hear and feel it if we are listening. God speaks, but we need to be open to hear God’s voice. So, for the next few weeks, open your heart and mind to listen for God’s speaking to you in a variety of ways . If you are open and listening, you may find God’s “I love you” every day.

Donna Kelly

Offering Counters

Help Needed



OFFERING COUNTERS

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.

*Contact: Ralph Wehnes
ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net*

Adult Education

Future Faith: Ten Challenges



ADULT EDUCATION

WITH PASTOR ROY OLSON

FUTURE FAITH:
TEN CHALLENGES



Sundays Starting
January 7th, 10:15 am

Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPadultED0124



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

- **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

Wednesdays in Lent & Calling All Soup Chefs



WEDNESDAYS
DURING
LENT
5:45 PM

Lenten
**Dinner
Church**

SET UP | BRING SOUP | CLEAN UP

www.bit.ly/SOTPdinner24

Our Lenten church suppers will begin on **Wednesday February 21st**. Our worship suppers will start **at 5:45 PM** in the fellowship hall. We will open with prayer followed by our soup and the chance to share the meal together. During our meal, we will sing and read a scripture passage, have a brief reflection from our pastors, share Holy Communion and close with song and a prayer.

We need to have 14 large crock pots of soup each Wednesday, so we need all of you to help by bringing soup for one or more of our Wednesday dinners. We also need people to help with setup and or clean up. You can sign up by going online to **www.bit.ly/SOTPdinner24** or use the QR code.

You can also sign up by going to the SOTP website, sotp.org, & signup by

clicking on events and registrations. Thank you in advance for taking part in our Lenten journey and we'll see you there!

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

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

First Communion Classes

Sign Up Now!

2nd - 5th grade



**FIRST
COMMUNION
CLASSES**



Sundays
Feb. 18-March 3
10:45-11:45 am

Register: www.bit.ly/SOTP1stcom24



This 3-session class will prepare 2nd-5th graders to join in the gift of receiving Holy Communion. They will discover what communion is, how it is God's gift to us, and that Jesus comes to us in the bread and wine (grape juice). They will learn key concepts about communion, create the chalice they will use as they receive their first communion, and bake communion bread.

There is a \$25 fee to cover the cost of supplies.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Classes are from **10:45 - 11:45 am** on:

- **Sunday, February 18**
- Sunday, February 25
- Sunday, March 3
- March 9th & 10th is First Communion weekend

Sign up now at:

www.bit.ly/SOTP1stcom24

Contact: Pastor Ryan Mackey
pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Prairie Point Quilters Scissors Needed



Happy New Year everyone! As always our ladies have been hard at work making some fun and some beautiful quilts. As you can see, this quilt isn't quite finished, but won't this be special for someone?

new, high quality fabric scissors to the quilters. We had one pair and they have gone missing. They are the only scissors that really cut the fabric for us.

Contact: Bev Kenny
krkbjk@comcast.net

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 at www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0224 or at the Registration Kiosk on Sundays.

*Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com*

Giving Tree

Thank You



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

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*

Collecting Plastic Now

Building a Bench

Now Here!

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 now, SOTP has the solution to all your unwanted plastic bag problems! The Community Outreach team will be enrolling SOTP in the NextTrex 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!



Mission Team

February Gazette



and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

Refugees apply to a country and are vigorously vetted before arriving and accepted into the country they have applied for.

THAT SAID, COULD YOU HELP

the mission team supply a newly arriving refugee family with an EXODUS welcome pack?

We have many items already, but still need Plastic Wrap, Set of 8 glasses, Twin Comforter, Dishwashing soap, Broom & Dust Pan and more. Please go to www.bit.ly/SOTPrefugee24 to register to purchase an item.

What else is the mission team a part of this month?

The Lenten offerings have been designated for AARK Gardens, Exodus World Service, Food cards for homeless in tent city and CRE-Reentry.

On **Monday Feb. 19th , 4 to 8 PM** **CULVERS' FUNDRAISER** to support local Habitat for Humanity.

*Contact: Sandy Hupert
sandyhupert@gmail.com*

What is the difference between a refugee, a migrant, an immigrant and an asylum seeker?

A "migrant" is a worker who comes over to work temporarily and returns to their home country each time.

An immigrant is technically some who comes to work permanently (i.e. green cards etc.)

Asylum seekers are when people flee their own country and seek sanctuary in another country, they apply for asylum – the right to be recognized as a refugee and receive legal protection and material assistance. (what is commonly now in the US referred to as immigrants.

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal

Congregational Resourcing Event



You are invited to the Congregational Resourcing Event on **March 16, 2024**, at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Illinois. This is hosted by the Congregational Life Committee. We will gather with worship. Then, we will participate in the keynote and discussion led by Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta, the Senior Director for New Ministry Development and Evangelism at the Churchwide Office of the ELCA.

The workshop listing will be shared as soon as it is ready. Registration is now

open and closes on March 2nd. The registration fee is \$25 for the event. This includes breakfast treats, coffee, and lunch. Scholarships are available.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about how you can be part of and share God's Story. We can meet at SOTP and carpool to Dixon.

To **register** or for more information let Donna know.

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com 847-669-9448

Open Mic Night You are Invited!

Fun evening filled with talent! Coffee & hot chocolate provided. Needed for this event:

- People to share their talents
- An audience to enjoy the evening (reservation not required)
- Desserts donated
- People to help clean up after the

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST
OPEN MIC NIGHT
SHOW US YOUR TALENT!
Singing, playing instruments,
stand-up comedy, baking, juggling...
what talents are at SOTP?
Sign Up & More Info:
www.bit.ly/SOTPmic0224

Friday
February
23
Fellowship
Hall
6:30 pm

Volunteers & Donations Needed

event

A/V will be provided. If you need anything else, you will need to provide it yourself.

Contact: Jill Gillming
jill@sotpmail.com

Feeding Homeless

Help Local Homeless
February 16, 2024

DONATE:

- Warm clothes
- Coats
- Boots

PROVIDE DINNER:

- Taco Items
- Desserts
- Volunteer

Sign Up: www.bit.ly/SOTPfeed0224

We will be serving tacos to about 85 to 90 people. See what donations are needed & when you can help serve at: www.bit.ly/SOTPfeed0224 9 o'clock. Donated items need to be at SOTP by 9 o'clock.

Next Step Fellowship For All Seniors



Cards: Saturday, February 24, 10am

NEXT STEP FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Group for Seniors

Registration Appreciated



Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPnext0224

Kids Academy

Kindergarten—12th Grade



This program will provide workshops, classes and lessons in all sorts of areas. The SOTP Kids' Academy will offer various enrichment classes for kindergarten— 12th 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.

- 2/1/24 (3 Week Thursday Session) / 4:30 - 6:00 pm / Photography with Dennis H / 4th—12th grade
- 2/3, 2/10 & 2/24/24 (3 Week Saturday Sessions) / 9:00 - 11:00 am / Quilting Class / \$5 fee / 3rd—5th grade
- 3/2/24, (Saturday) / 10:00-11:00 am / Science with Mr. T- The Joy of Toys taught by Tim Torkelson / 1st—5th grade
- 3/7/24 (Thursday) / 4:30 - 6:00

pm / Paper Beads / 2nd—5th grade

- 3/9/24, (Saturday) / 10:00-11:00 am / Science with Mr. T- The Joy of Toys taught by Tim Torkelson / 1st—5th grade
- 3/14/24 (Thursday) / 4:00 - 6:00 pm / Canvas Painting with Donna K / 3rd—5th grade
- 3/16/24, (Saturday) / 10:00-11:00 am / Science with Mr. T- The Joy of Toys taught by Tim Torkelson / 1st—5th grade
- 3/21/24 (Thursday) / 5:00-6:15 pm / watercolor art class with Julie K / Kindergarten—3rd grade
- & More

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

Contact: Amy Stech
amc_stech@yahoo.com

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

Ministry Night

Help Always Needed!



SECOND MONDAY MONTHLY
7:00 pm



MINISTRY NIGHT

More information on pg 15
under SEE Week.

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

Thank You!

Grafton Food Pantry

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!
We recently received a call from Harriet Ford from the Grafton Food Pantry expressing her sincere gratefulness for all SOTP's contributions in 2023. She shared that she wished more organizations would think of them throughout the year as SOTP does with our monthly collections and quarterly food drives.

On that positive note, let's show Grafton that we can go above and

beyond in
2024!!

Be sure to watch the newsletter for our first of the month collections and the first community food drive in February!

-Community Outreach and Mission Teams

Contact: Tara Mackey
rtmackey10@yahoo.com



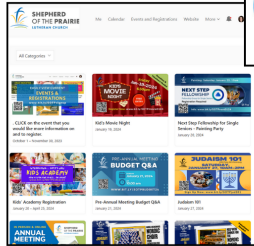
SEE Week & Ministry Night



SEE
Week

Monday
February 12
10:00 am & 6:00 pm

Bring Your Phone or
Tablet and Learn
How to Sign Up
for Events



Sign Up: www.bit.ly/SOTPcenter0224

Servant Engagement and Equipping week will kick off on Monday, February 12th at 7pm with **Ministry Night**. Come and see how you might get plugged into to helping on one of those teams ·

- ⇒ Community Outreach Team
- ⇒ Children/Youth and Family Team
- ⇒ Mission Team
- ⇒ Property Team
- ⇒ Stewardship Team
- ⇒ Worship Planning.

Everyone is welcome to visit Ministry

Night, whether you are brand new or longtime members, or just want to know more about SOTP ministry opportunities.

On that same date, we will have two “drop in” workshops on how to use both the Church Center App and how to sign up for events or to donate via our website. The first workshop will be that day, **Feb 12th at 10am and the second at 6pm.**

Sign up at:
www.bit.ly/SOTPcenter0224

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

Community Food Drive

February 24th from 9am-1pm is the Community Outreach's first Grafton Food Drive of 2024. Help us fill the shelves at the Grafton Food Pantry. Whether you choose to

donate items or give monetarily, all donations are greatly appreciated.

Contact: Tara Mackey
rtmackey10@hahoocom

Walk the Halls With Us

From the SOTP Wellness Team

February is Heart Month, a time to bring attention to the importance of cardiovascular health and what we can do to reduce our risk of cardiovascular disease.

What you eat makes a difference to your heart. A heart-healthy eating plan emphasizes vegetables, fruits, and whole grains, includes fat-free or low-fat dairy products, and limits foods high in saturated fat and sugar-sweetened beverages and sweets.

The Heart-Check Mark is a simple tool to help Eat Smart. Foods marked with the American Heart Association heart-check mark are required to meet specific criteria for:

- Nutrients
- Fat
- Sodium

There are 1000's of items stamped with this mark, which are always good options to look for.

This is some of what it takes to be Heart-Check certified*

Source of Nutrients

Beneficial Nutrients (naturally occurring): 10% or more of the Daily Value of 1 of these nutrients (vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, protein or dietary fiber)



Limited in Bad Fats

Saturated Fat-1 g or less per serving size and 15% or less calories from saturated fat; Trans Fat: Less than .5 g per label serving size and per standard serving size. Products containing partially hydrogenated oils are not eligible for certification.

Limited in Sodium

Sodium: one of four sodium limits applies depending on the particular food category: up to 140 mg, 240 mg, or 360 mg per label serving, or 480 mg per label serving and per standard serving size.*

To learn more visit heartcheck.org

Use Heart-Check's digital grocery list tool when creating your shopping list to make smart, heart-healthy choices easier at the grocery store. The digital grocery list is updated daily.

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 February 4



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.

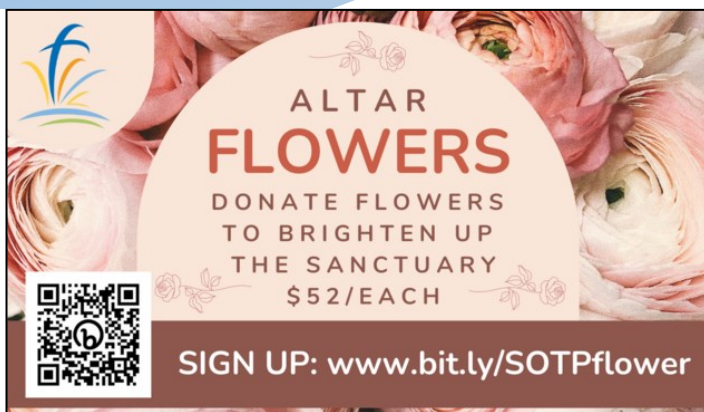
Altar Flowers

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

Vacation Bible School Save the Date!

VBS will be
July 8-12, 2024
SAVE THE DATE!

Grief Journey

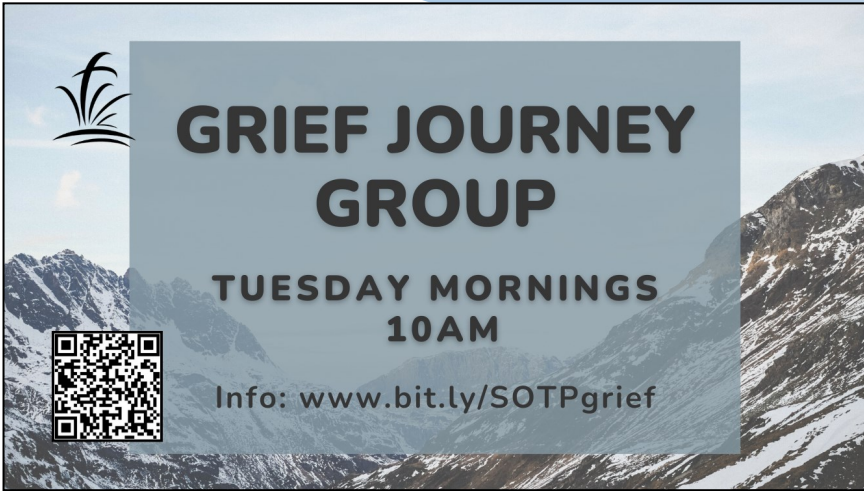

January 2nd Special Event



**GRIEF JOURNEY
GROUP**

**TUESDAY MORNINGS
10AM**

Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPgrief



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 **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**

1:00 pm (1st Thurs) **Book Club**

6:30 pm (2nd Thurs), **Lions Club**

7:00 pm **Cub Scouts**

Times Vary **Volunteers at Habitat for Humanity ReStore**

FRIDAYS

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



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

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 Food Drive for Grafton Food Pantry, 8:30-11am

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12 SEE Week Registration Training, 10am & 6pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPcenter0224

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 Feeding Local Homeless
www.bit.ly/SOTPfeed0224

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 First Communion Classes Begin, 10:45am
www.bit.ly/SOTP1stcom24

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 Lenten Wednesday Dinner Church, 5:45 pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPdinner24

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 Shepherd's Open Mic Night, 6:30 pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPmic0224

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 Next Step Fellowship for Single Seniors—Cards & Games, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPnext0224

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 Kids Academy-Paper Beads, 4:30 pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPkidsA24

THURSDAY, MARCH 7 Kids' Academy-Paper Quilling, 4:30pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPkidsA24

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 Kids Academy-Science with Mr. T, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPkidsA24

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 Kids' Academy-Canvas Painting, 4pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPkidsA24

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 Kids Academy-Science with Mr. T, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPkidsA24

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 Kids' Academy-Watercolor Art, 5pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPkidsA24

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 Feed My Starving Children, 9am
www.bit.ly/SOTPFMSC0324

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 Next Step Fellowship for Single Seniors—Spring Luncheon, Noon
www.bit.ly/SOTPnext0324

Birthdays

February



1-Feb	Barbara Hoch	10-Feb	Joshua Symbal	19-Feb	Linda Jahr
2-Feb	William Kamphausen		Betty Tazbier		Ralph Scalise
	Noel Lemke	11-Feb	Annika McNeal		Dave Shotick
	Ivan Suski		Zachary Serpe	20-Feb	Halie Gartzke
3-Feb	Jody Linton	12-Feb	Grace Boster		Carol Kalbas
4-Feb	Ryan Gartzke		Addison Buesing	21-Feb	Patty Driscoll-Shaw
	Bradley Linton		Aileen Zei		Patty Opfer
	Brigitte Pelka	13-Feb	Zachary Zeimen	22-Feb	Heidi Dunfrund
	Dorothy Scrocco	14-Feb	Susan Barta		Jerry Frank
	Emma Stegge		Colin Glosson		Julia Hoving
5-Feb	Pat Darow		Logan Glosson		Lillian Perez
	Abby Gillming		Judy Lindsey	23-Feb	Nikki Bach
	Judith Petropulos	15-Feb	Silvia Forsythe	24-Feb	Laura Attaway
6-Feb	Judy Luecht		Elizabeth Raines		Rich Douglas
	Sydney Patel	16-Feb	Annette Kandell	25-Feb	Justin Anderson
	William Trudeau		Alexa Piskule		Raquel Lemke
7-Feb	Brian Harvat	17-Feb	Gail Barnard		Krystal Smith
	Arlene Kraaz		Francis Christ	26-Feb	Tim Papka
8-Feb	Eileen Gerald		Samuel Coots	27-Feb	Alan Busch
	Amy Koegel		Ingeborg Heidorn		Nicole Flanagan
	Susan Leshner		Donna Kelly		Rachel Kalamaras
9-Feb	Susan Blotch		Maggie Kemblowski		Judy Kolzow
	Jordan DeBolt		Karen Schimmel		Charlie Powe
	Elaine Gillam	18-Feb	Karin Arndt	28-Feb	Jason Bloomfield
	Conner Gillming		Robert Buesing		Lois Jensen
	Jack Voss		Kim Kowalski		Orville McElfresh
10-Feb	Judith Corole	19-Feb	Carter Dean		Joan Rice
	Carol Fiandalo		Gregory Gillming		Mary Trodahl
	Mark Kowalski				

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) – Donna Kelly—donna@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—Donna Kelly, donna@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—Donna Kelly,
donna@sotpmail.com
- Ushers—Ed Cuttle
edschn28@comcast.net
- Vacation Bible School – Jill Gillming
jill@sotpmail.com
- Welcome Center—Tara Mackey,
rtmackey10@yahoo.com
- Worship Band (Singing & Instrumental)—Jeff Moore,
jeff@sotpmail.com

Involvement Schedule

February 2024



		February 3 & 4	February 10 & 11	February 17 & 18	February 24 & 25
Acolyte	9:00 AM	Taylor Dean	Elliott Burg	Bryce Parry	Julia Hoving
	10:45 AM	Kyle Wolf	Brayden Dailey	Lillian DeBolt	Evelyn Farnam
Counters	Mon	Cheryl Adams, Diana Murphy & Doug Nagel			
Communion Bread		Randy Dawson	PJ Knudsen	Jeanne Henley	Laura Attaway
		Saturdays: Sandy Scalise			
Greeters <i>Interested in Serving Here?</i> Contact: Elaine Gillam suggillam @aol.com	SAT 5:00 PM	Interested in Serving Here? Contact: Elaine Gillam at suggillam@aol.com			
	SUN 9:00	Linda & Ken Rotter	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin	Dottie Bobzin Candace Beck	Laura Attaway Elaine Gillam
	SUN 10:45	Carolyn & Bob Malm			
Ushers <i>Interested in Serving Here?</i> Contact: Ed Cuttle edschn28@ comcast.net	SAT 5:00 PM	Karen Eckert Lynn Meyer	Tom Cox Therese Cox	Carol Hartman Barb Hoppensteadt	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 Vik Bekeris Mike Malczewski [A]	RALPH WEHNES Jerry & Pat Darow Stan Crissman George Attaway Ed & Carolyn Cuttle [A]
	SUN 10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE Andrew Szekely Annika Yndestad	MARK FRENDREIS Sandy Stewart Jessica Panella	DOUG NAGEL Don Koerner Judy Petropulos	BOB MOLLIS Diane Mollis Krystal Smith

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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

2023 Year End Treasurer's Report

It has been my privilege to serve you this past year as your Church Treasurer and Council Member. The Church Treasurer is the financial officer, responsible for general oversight of all SOTP finances including contributions, expenditures, signing checks, fulfilling all Federal and State Tax obligations, and reporting to Church Council on the overall financial condition of the church. Our congregation was again faithful and generous in providing resources in 2023 for our ministry's programs.

I would like to thank Linda Dungy for her service as Contribution Secretary; she devotes many hours to ensure that donations are correctly accounted for. I would like to thank our Accounting Administrator, Dave Shotick for keeping our financial records accurate during the year. And finally, I would like to thank Bill Ball for his leadership as the Finance Team Chair. They have all made my job as Treasurer very easy and straight forward.

As of the end of the year our Fund Balances are as follows:

Fund Name	2023	2022	Change
General Fund	\$370,953	\$368,758	\$2,195
Restricted Reserves	\$142,019	\$116,021	\$25,998
Temporary Restricted	\$242,352	\$208,995	\$33,357
Endowment	\$12,842	\$12,218	\$624
Mortgage Services	\$43,129	\$66,511	(\$23,382)

The MIF mortgage principle decreased by \$102,431 in 2023.

The Finance Team has prepared a very thorough 2024 operating budget which the Council has approved and is submitting for your review and approval.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McGuine

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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