

Newsletter

March 2024

Holy[†]Week

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 28 Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm Living Last Supper
March 29 Good Friday	7:00 pm
March 30 Saturday Evening Worship	5:00 pm
March 31 Easter Sunday	Traditional 9:00 am Contemporary 11:00 am

And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

Mark 16:2-3

They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

**Artist Series—Wayne
Messmer** Pg 19

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Easter Egg Hunt & Candy
Pg 13

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Huntley, IL sotp.org 847/669-9448

Photo: January Movie Night @ SOTP

A Note From Pastor Mark



Our Wednesday night Lenten services have been focused on short video clips from the TV Movie series “Chosen.” In particular we noticed Jesus interaction with certain biblical characters like Nicodemus, The Woman at the Well, Peter and others. Our Sunday morning stories have also been keen interactions with Jesus and different sorts or people. Those interactions have been in big and small ways. Of course, it is the big ways that often get the most attention but I’d like to remind you that God’s involvement in our lives is mainly in the small ways.

Do we sometimes spend so much time looking for big, dramatic stories of hope and healing that we miss what’s right in front of us?

Do our stories have to be big and dramatic in order to make a difference? Why, or why not?

Read these words from theologian David Lose in his workingpreacher.org column called No Small Gestures:

“Discipleship doesn’t have to be heroic. Like all the small acts of tenderness, and forgiveness that go largely unnoticed but tend the relationships that are most important to us, so also the life of faith is composed of a thousand small gestures. Except that, according to Jesus, there is no small gesture. Anything done in faith and love has cosmic significance for the ones involved and, indeed, for the world God loves so much. ...Can you imagine that? That each and every act of mercy rings through the eons and across the universe imbued with Christ’s love for the world, a love we can share anytime and anywhere with gestures that may seem small in the

eyes of the world but loom large in the life of those who witness them?”

What do you think?

Is the life of faith composed of a thousand small gestures? Is your faith only about what you do? Is this simply about accumulating good deeds, or is it about a way of living?

Can a small gesture have cosmic significance for the people involved?

Have you ever been on the receiving end of a small gesture of hope and healing? How did that feel? Did it seem enormous? Did it make a difference in your life? Can small gestures add up to something really big? Does every act of mercy “ring through the eons and across the universe”?

As we prepare once again to marvel at the great hope and healing cosmic event of the death and resurrection of Jesus, lets remember that “each and every act of mercy given out of love for Jesus,” trickles out in ways beyond our knowing.

What are the implications of that in our lives? Are we still, today, sharing in the healing from this ancient story? Does it still bring us hope and healing, so many years later? What hope and healing can you unleash in the world that will ring through the eons?

I’ll look forward to joining with you and your family in celebrating Easter at SOTP!

Pastor Mark

A Note From Pastor Ryan



“What are you giving up for Lent?”

This is a question very often heard at the start of

Lent each year and it invariably leads to a follow-up questions a few weeks later; “How are you doing with your sacrifice?”

I can remember first learning about the practice of sacrificing something for Lent when I was kid, and I remember not fully understanding what the practice meant, only that it was something Christians did every Lent. I can also remember being very surprised some years later when someone shared with me that they were actually adding something to their lives during that year’s Lenten journey. “Is that possible? Is that allowed?” I thought to myself. The idea led me into my first exploration of the meaning of Lent and its practices. It didn’t take me long to see the beauty in adding something to one’s life, either in addition to, or in place of a sacrifice.

Lent is a season of preparation for Easter. Like Advent, it is a time during which we take stock of our lives and do some “spring cleaning” to make more room for God’s activity in our lives. The idea is that we set ourselves up to receive the Resurrected Jesus on Easter Sunday with hearts bursting with joy.

In order to do that, we take time to cut something out of our lives may be distancing us from a deeper faith, a closer relationship with God, and a keener ability to sense movement of the Holy

Spirit in our lives. This can be done by either subtraction or addition. For example, cutting out excessive screen time can open our minds and our eyes to see the beauty of creation or the needs of others or God showing us something new. Cutting out junk foods can improve our health, helping us to take better care of our bodies (temples) to God. Likewise, adding some time for devotion, setting a goal to read the Bible every day, or beginning a new learning opportunity can also serve to bring us closer to Jesus during the Lenten season.

Lenten practices are not a one-size-fits-all. There are so many ways to engage in a Lenten practice that makes room for God’s activity and draws us closer to Jesus that there is almost no wrong way to do it...as long as our motives are good. Does giving up chocolate (for example) really accomplish this (if so, great!), or is it simply a goal to check of the list and feel proud of? Are we giving up certain things to be healthier? Great! But I also encourage you to think about what sort of spiritual element accompanies your practice.

With that, I ask, “What is your practice for this Lenten journey?”

I wish you well this Lenten season and eagerly await the day we can once again share the news that Jesus is risen indeed! May your journey be fruitful, and may God bless you every day.

Peace,

Pastor Ryan

Ministry Musings

With Donna



Recently I have been walking with several people through a season of sadness, and we have certainly had a season of sadness here at SOTP as we have several members die, and some of our members have had loved ones die. One thing I hear often from them and others is the idea that being sad is somehow a bad thing. Sadness is a very valid and appropriate emotion to feel when we have experienced some type of trauma or loss. That loss could be the death of a loved one, loss of a job, a relationship that has been broken, the loss of physical health, a financial set back, the loss of a pet, a dream that has ended and many other things.

When we experience a loss, we often think that showing our sadness is a sign of weakness. My late husband's father died when Russ was only 8 years old. When he started to cry at the visitation, he was taken aside by a family member who told him roughly to stop crying because Kellys don't cry! He learned early that sadness was weakness. (Luckily as an adult he learned it wasn't true).

Unfortunately, so many of us do believe sadness is weakness to be true. In the past, society, especially our northern European cultures tell us to "chin up", "stand tall", "don't let it get the best of us", "be strong", and "put on a happy face". We think we are doing well when we don't let our emotions show.

But sadness is just as essential an emotion as joy or hope.

Granted sadness is not as pleasurable to go through as feelings we deem more positive; but sadness is important and even valuable to experience during an appropriate time in our lives.

When you are grieving any kind of loss, it is normal to feel sad, in fact it might even be necessary to feel that sadness. Sadness gives us time to slow down, pause and experience our loss for what it is. I believe the only true path to the healing of our heart, mind and spirit after a trauma or loss is to embrace the painful feelings, give ourselves permission to feel them and then to begin letting go of them. The pain and sadness that goes alongside loss doesn't just go away because we decide it's time to do so. Grief and sadness often come in waves, like the waves in the ocean. Sometimes the waves are high and mighty and wind driven, and they knock us down when they hit us. At others times they may be gentler and just tickle our feet as they come in. As time goes on and we begin to heal, the waves that come tend to be more of the gentler kind and there are fewer high and crushing waves.

Part of sadness is tears. As I walk with those in sadness, I encourage them to

(Continued on page 5)

Ministry Musings

With Donna

(Continued from page 4)

give way to their tears. Tears are like a cleansing agent. When we allow ourselves to cry, the tears can be like taking a refreshing shower, where we empty ourselves of the stored-up pain and anguish, take a deep breath and take a few steps forward. And don't forget to give yourself permission to feel ok or even good when that's how you are feeling. Feeling happy at times during or following a trauma is just as valid as the sadness.

I have found that more quickly and deeply you can embrace your sadness, the more quickly you can learn how to live with it or move past it. So, embrace your sadness so that soon you can embrace your joy!

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

Adventure Club

Resumes April 3

A promotional graphic for Adventure Club. The background is dark green with white clouds and a yellow sun setting behind a mountain range. A rainbow arches over the mountains. The text '4TH & 5TH GRADERS' is in a white speech bubble. The text 'Join us Wednesdays at 5pm' is in yellow and white. The text 'Adventure CLUB' is in yellow and white. A QR code is in the bottom left corner. The text 'Info & Register: www.bit.ly/SOTPadv2324' is in white on a yellow background at the bottom.

4TH & 5TH GRADERS

Join us
Wednesdays
at
5pm

Adventure
CLUB

Info & Register:
www.bit.ly/SOTPadv2324

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.**

- **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 began on Wednesday February 21st and will continue **each Wednesday evening through March 20th**. 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 to this link: **www.bit.ly/SOTPdinner24** or use secure 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!

*Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com*

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
rtmackey10@yahoo.com*

The bench below is the prize!



SOTP Logowear



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Online Apparel Store

www.bit.ly/SOTPlgowear

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/SOTPlgowear

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 March 3



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.

Contact: Annette Petersen
petersenannette12@gmail.com

Small Groups

The Heartbeat of SOTP



What are small groups?

Gatherings of 4-12 people for learning, sharing, fellowship, service and more. Jesus had many disciples or followers, but he had his special small group of 12. As his apprentices, they learned to live and serve as he did.

7s GROUPS

- Monday 1pm at SOTP
Annette Petersen
petersenannette12@gmail.com
Study: THE CHOSEN
- Thursday 6:30pm
(Group is Full)
Jim & Kim Stancl's home
kstancl@comcast.net
Study: THE CHOSEN
- Thursday 7pm
Steve & Carol Legel's home
svet@yahoo.com
STUDY: THE CHOSEN
- Thursday 6pm –at SOTP
Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY

- A study for women of all ages
Mondays at 12:30 pm
Linda Dungey
lindajsd88@gmail.com

NEXT STEP FELLOWSHIP

- Join with other Seniors for fellowship activities or outings.
Fourth Saturday of each month
10am
Phyllis Thompson
phyllisthomson@aol.com

BOOK CLUB

- Come join the fun as we enter into new adventures through books!
First Thursday of each month-
at SOTP– Candace Beck,
candybeck48@gmail.com

HOLY SMOKERS

(Group is full)

- Men's Bible Study Group meets
Tuesday 7pm via Zoom

COFFEE FELLOWSHIPS

- Women's Coffee Fellowship—
Friday 10am –McDonalds in front
of Walmart in Huntley
- Men's Coffee Fellowship—
Tuesday 8:30am -McDonalds in
front of Walmart n Huntley

*For more information on small groups,
contact: Donna Kelly at
donna@sotpmail.com*

Congregational Resourcing

You Are Invited...

2024
CONGREGATIONAL
RESOURCING
EVENT
March 16th 9am - 4pm
Dixon, IL
INFO & REGISTRATION:
WWW.BIT.LY/SOTPCRE24

Open God's Story
NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD
CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING EVENT 2024

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 contact: *Donna Kelly at donna@sotpmail.com 847-669-9448*

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

Adult Bible Study

With Pastor Mark

BIBLE STUDY
WITH PASTOR MARK

WEDS AT 11:00 A.M.

Info:

www.bit.ly/SOTPaded23



You
are
invited



Barnabas Ministry

Caring People Needed



TRAINING
SATURDAY
May 4
10am - 1pm

For current Barnabas Ministers & those interested in information

Caring for our fellow members.

More information & sign up:
www.bit.ly/SOTPBarnabas0424

One of the ways we care for our these brothers and sisters in Christ is through our SOTP Barnabas Caregiving Ministry. This is a ministry of love and listening for our shut-ins; those who are in their homes, in care facilities or in the hospital.

Our Barnabas Ministers make in person visits where possible about once a month and take communion to our care receivers. In addition, we conduct 4 services each month at various area care facilities. When we cannot visit in person, we make phone calls to catch up and see that all is good.

We would like to invite you to come and find out more about this exciting ministry. No special requirements, other than a caring heart and a listening ear are needed. We are

hosting a training session **on Saturday, May 4th from 9 to 1pm**. Come and see what Barnabas is all about and if this is a good ministry fit for you. You can register for the training at www.bit.ly/SOTPBarnabas0424, on the Church Center App, the SOTP website, or at the registration kiosk in the welcome area.

For more information, please contact Donna Kelly by email or or through the church office, 847-669-9448.

*Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com*

Easter Candy Needed

For Easter Egg Hunt



A poster for an Easter Candy Collection. The background is a colorful, abstract design with large circles in orange, blue, green, and pink. 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 sotp.org'. The main text 'EASTER CANDY COLLECTION' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below that, 'FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 24' is in white, and 'FOR EGG HUNT MARCH 30' is in yellow. At the bottom, it says 'Drop off in boxes in gathering area' in white. A QR code is on the left side. A yellow banner in the top right corner says 'Donations Needed'.

SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH sotp.org

EASTER CANDY COLLECTION

FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 24
FOR EGG HUNT MARCH 30

Drop off in boxes in gathering area

Donations Needed

Easter Egg Hunt

All Are Invited—Register Now



A poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. The background is light blue with various colorful Easter eggs (polka dots, stripes, checkered, etc.) and small flowers. In the top left is the logo for Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church. The main text 'EASTER EGG HUNT' is in large, dark blue letters. Below that, 'Saturday, March 30 10 a.m.' is in white on a dark red banner. At the bottom, it says 'Register online: www.bit.ly/SOTPegg24' and 'All are welcome! Invite your friends to register!'. A QR code is on the left side. A yellow banner in the top right corner says 'Volunteers Needed'.

SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday,
March 30
10 a.m.

Register online:
www.bit.ly/SOTPegg24

All are welcome! Invite your friends to register!

Volunteers Needed

All children in 5th grade & younger are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt at Shepherd of the Prairie.

Please register so we have enough eggs for all

Contact: Jill Gillming
jill@sotpmail.com

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.

- 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

Holy Spirit 101

With Pastor Bill



come?

What does this Holy Spirit do?

Is this Holy Spirit the same as the Spirit of Jesus?

Or is the Holy Spirit a thing that stands apart?

Is the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament or only in the New?

We say it every Sunday: "I believe in the Holy Spirit..." It's part of our confession of faith--an important part! But what do we mean?

Who is this Holy Spirit?

Or, what is the Holy Spirit?

From where does this Holy Spirit

We'll explore these and other questions in our next "101 Saturday Series"

On **Saturday, April 6, 10:00-2:00.**

Be sure to sign up at www.bit.ly/SOTPholy24! And do it today!

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

Next Step Fellowship

For All Seniors



Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Noon

NEXT STEP FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Group for Single Seniors



Registration Requested for Lunch:

www.bit.ly/SOTPnext0324

Northern IL Food Bank

Distribution at ECC



The poster features a green and white background with a yellow banner in the top right corner that says "Volunteers Needed". The main text is in large, bold, green and red fonts. A QR code is on the left, and a red starburst says "No sit down jobs". Another red starburst on the right says "Dress appropriate for the weather". The NIFB logo is in the top left, and a small "NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK" logo is in the top right. The background includes a photo of trees and a photo of a snowy winter scene.

NIFB OUTDOOR
DRIVE-UP GROCERY DISTRIBUTION
HELP NEEDED
AT ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SATURDAY
MARCH 9
8:15-11:15AM

No sit down jobs

Volunteers Needed

Dress appropriate for the weather

Sign Up & Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPNIFBecc24

Volunteers are needed to assist in:

- loading pre-packed boxes into vehicles, trucks, or backseats
- directing traffic flow of vehicles in and out of the parking lot

This is an outdoor grocery distribution to help our neighbors, so please dress for the weather fully enclosed shoes must be worn.

Age 12 and older are invited to join us! There are no sit-down jobs you will be on your feet the whole three hours.

Volunteer parking, please enter campus entrance off of Spartan Drive. Park in Lot G Nearest Chipman Circle, Drive or in Lot K and want to volunteer check-in area , check in and volunteer table when you arrive.

Sign up www.bit.ly/SOTPNIFBecc24

Contact: Ronda Shoemaker
rondapatton313@gmail.com

Thrivent Choice Dollars

For Thrivent Members

Matt & John Drafall will be at church on Saturday March 9th and Sunday March 10th to assist you with directing any Choice Dollars you may have accrued. They need to be directed by March 31st, or the money will be lost.

In the past 10 years, Thrivent Financial has

sent SOTP an average between \$5,000.00 & \$6,000.00 each year.

Contact: Ralph Wehnes
ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

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

Vacation Bible School

Save the Date

**ALL
NEW
VBS
2024**

START
the
PARTY

**SAVE
THE
DATE!
JULY
8-12**

Celebrate the Good News



Ministry Night

Help Always Needed!



SECOND MONDAY MONTHLY
7:00 pm



MINISTRY NIGHT

Monday, March 11th, 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 Team

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.

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

Easter Offering Distribution

SOTP has a heart to reach out to others needs.

In response this year's Easter offering will be going to:

- ⇒ Feed My Starving Children
- ⇒ Habitat for Humanity
- ⇒ Northern IL Food Bank



- ⇒ Turning Point

Contact: Sandy Hupert
sandyhupert@gmail.com

The Artist Series Presents

The Wayne Messmer Quartet





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

FREE
Donations
Appreciated

THE
**WAYNE
MESSMER**
QUARTET

Friday, April 19, 2024
7:00 PM

10805 Main St.
Huntley



One of Chicago's most celebrated voices, Wayne Messmer brings his outstanding group of fellow musicians for a concert at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church on **Friday, April 19, 2024 from 7:00 to 8:30pm.**

Sponsored by the SOTPA Artist Series, the public is invited to hear this entertaining performance. No tickets are required and freewill donations are gratefully accepted.

Messmer is equally comfortable in singing jazz classics to standards and Broadway favorites. His versatile vocal stylings, impeccable phrasing, and unique interpretations have won the praises of audiences for years in a variety of concert venues.

Joining Messmer on stage are veteran performers, pianist Chris White, bassist Scott Mason, and Dick Daugherty, on sax, flute and clarinet.

Visit the church website at www.bit.ly/SOTPARTIST for further information on the Artist Series or email at artistseries@sotpmail.com

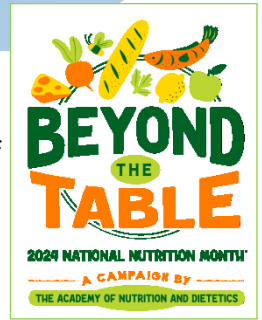
National Nutrition Month

10 Health Tips

March is National Nutrition Month:
10 Health Tips

*Food, Nutrition and Health Tips
from the Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics*

- 1. Eat Breakfast** Start your day with a healthy breakfast that includes lean protein, whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Try making a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs, low-fat cheese, and a whole wheat tortilla or a parfait with low-fat plan yogurt, fruit and whole grain cereal.
 - 2. Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetables** Fruits and vegetables add color, flavor and texture plus vitamins, minerals and dietary fiber to your plate. Make 2 cups of fruit and 2 ½ cups of vegetables your daily goal. Experiment with different types including fresh, frozen and canned.
 - 3. Get to Know Food Labels** Reading the Nutrition Facts panel can help you choose foods and drinks to meet your nutrient needs.
 - 4. Drink More Water** Quench your thirst with water instead of drinks with added sugars. Stay hydrated and drink plenty
- of water, especially if you are active, an older adult or live or work in hot conditions.
- 5. Fix Healthy Snacks** Healthy snacks can sustain your energy levels between meals, especially when they include a combination of foods. Choose from two or more of the MyPlate food groups: grains, fruit, vegetables, dairy, and protein. Try raw veggies with low-fat cottage cheese or hummus, or a tablespoon of nut or seed butter with an apple or banana.
 - 6. Reduce Added Sugars** Foods and drinks with added sugars can contribute empty calories and little or no nutrition. Review the new and improved Nutrition Facts Label or ingredients list to identify sources of added sugars.
 - 7. Eat Seafood Twice a Week** Seafood—fish and shellfish—contains a range of nutrients including healthy omega-3 fats. Salmon, trout, oysters and



(Continued on page 21)

National Nutrition Month

10 Health Tips

(Continued from page 20)

sardines are higher in omega-3's and lower in mercury.

8. **Experiment with Plant-Based Meals** Expand variety in your menus with budget-friendly meatless meals. Many recipes that use meat and poultry can be made without. Vegetables, beans, and lentils are all great substitutes. Try including one meatless meal per week to start.

9. **Slow Down at Mealtime** Instead of eating on the run, try sitting down and focusing

on the food you're about to eat. Dedicating time to enjoy the taste and textures of foods can have a positive effect on your food intake.

10. **Explore New Foods and Flavors** Add more nutrition and eating pleasures by expanding your range of food choices. When shopping, make a point of selecting a fruit, vegetable or whole grain that's new to you or your family.

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

New Member Gathering



The graphic features a blue background with white geometric patterns on the right and top. A magnifying glass is positioned over the word 'information' on a document. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner. The text 'NEW MEMBER GATHERING' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, in smaller white text, is 'FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH'. The date and time 'SUNDAY MAY 5 3:00 PM' are also in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, the website URL 'www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0524' is written in white.

NEW MEMBER GATHERING
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH
SUNDAY MAY 5 3:00 PM
www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0524

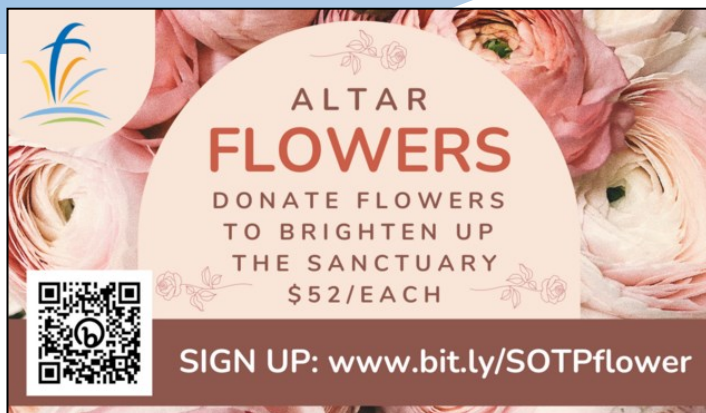
Altar Flowers

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*

T-coil Hearing Aid? Use our Loop System

Ask your hearing care professional how. Some hearing aids are set up where they might have an app on your cellphone that says "telecoil mode", and you'll activate that. You might have the ability to adjust the volume up and turn down for the microphone level. But again, talk to your hearing care professional, they

should be able to show you all those options, and then play around with it, when you're in church.

Contact: your hearing aid professional



Grief Journey

Journey Through Loss

A poster for the Grief Journey Group. It features a background image of a mountain range with snow. In the top left corner, there is a logo consisting of a stylized 'f' with three curved lines below it. The text is centered in a semi-transparent grey box. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the poster.

**GRIEF JOURNEY
GROUP**

**TUESDAY MORNINGS
10AM**

Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPgrief

Transitions

Journey Through Loss

A poster for Transitions. It features a background image of a sunset over a body of water. In the top left corner, there is a logo consisting of a stylized 'f' with three curved lines below it. The text is centered in a semi-transparent white circle. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the poster.

TRANSITIONS

**A JOURNEY
THROUGH LOSS**

**STARTING
APRIL 2**

**TUESDAYS
7:00 PM**

More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPtrans

As many of you know, SOTP hosts a grief group on Tuesday mornings at 10am. Recently we have had some interest in an evening grief group. Beginning on **Tuesday, April 2nd**,

there will be an evening group that will meet from **7-8pm**. We will meet in the church Library.

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

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**
- 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**
- 5:45 pm **Dinner Church** (Lent)
- 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**
- 10:00 am (2nd Thurs), **Barnabas**
- 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



SUNDAY, MARCH 3 Food Drive for Grafton Food Pantry, 8:30-11am

TUESDAY, MARCH 5
<<CANCELLED>> Grief Journey Meeting, Resuming Next Tuesday

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 NIFB - Drive-Up Grocery Distribution at Elgin Community College, 8:15 am
www.bit.ly/SOTPNIFBecc24

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

MARCH 9 & 10
First Communion Weekend

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 16
CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING EVENT, www.bit.ly/SOTPCRE24

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 ALL Seniors—Spring Luncheon, Noon
www.bit.ly/SOTPnext0324

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 LAST DAY Collecting Donations of Easter Candy for Easter Egg Hunt

THURSDAY, MARCH 28
Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 29
Good Friday Service 7pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
Easter Egg Hunt, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPegg24

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
Saturday Evening Worship 5pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 31
Easter Services
Traditional 9am
Contemporary 11AM

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 <<NEW>>
Grief Journey Evening Meeting Added, 7pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 Adventure Club Resumes, 5:00 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 4
Kids' Academy-Quilting, 4:30 pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPkidsA24

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 Holy Spirit 101, 10am www.bit.ly/SOTPholy24

Birthdays

March



- 1-Mar Joe Jones
Darren Walloch
- 2-Mar Brendan Hollow
Gayle Holzwarth
Ruth Glennon
Taylor Ramey
William Glennon
- 3-Mar Jill Hoffman
- 4-Mar David Bishop
Dawn Johnson
- 5-Mar Lucille Connelly
Michele Marx
Matthew Behm
- 6-Mar Tamara Uteg
Hollie Lindgren
Martha Jacobson
Savanna Kramp
- 7-Mar Christine Tinney
Kathy Burns
Cathy Walthers
Timothy Ramirez
Tamara Polzin
Madison Black
- 8-Mar Carol Bletz
Dina Wagner
Taylor Dean
- 10-Mar Skyla Geller
Jaime DeBlicke
Merlyn Thompson
Pamela Perrott
Kendall Wolf
Emily Rossman
Vivian Kasal
Alyson Johnson
- 11-Mar Denise Gartzke
Arja Kasper
Sandy Werner
Jaina Farnam
- 12-Mar Joanne Schwartz
Nicholas Liotus
Alice Hallett
Jaxson Thomas Domenz
- 13-Mar Ronda Shoemaker
- 14-Mar Bentley Jacobs
Lisa Piskule
- 15-Mar Lauren Flanagan
Scott Fiandalo
- 16-Mar Ashlyn Grabs
Jason Walker
Brooke Grabs
Grant Jahr
Hannah Dobrolinsky
- 17-Mar Colt Luedtke
Debbie Cook
- 18-Mar Kathy Strang
John Sturz
Alexis Kowalski
Skylar Wondriska
- 19-Mar Jim Hunt
Dee Jones
John Robinson
Phyllis Thomson
Seth Conroy
Annabel Johnson
- 20-Mar Marcy Coffman
Richard Paeth
- 21-Mar Jeff Bala
James Rice
Braden Turk
Jason Farnam
- 22-Mar Stan Crissman
Derek Reincke
Devan Turk
Payton Marx
Ed Richard
Bennett Buesing
- 22-Mar Thomas Hollabaugh
- 23-Mar Erin Linton
Zachary Ethan Powe
Annika Yndestad
Cecelia DeBolt
Lillian DeBolt
Michael Hoch
- 24-Mar Sara Solem
Karen Ankerberg
Chad Juergensen
- 25-Mar Rob Lindsey
Marcia Cahill
Gavin Lehmann
- 26-Mar Emmett Luedtke
Noreta Walker
Charlie Burian
Sandi Stewart
- 27-Mar Jennifer Trevino
Kylie Golembeck
Eric Larson
Mike Dahlin
Evan Mackey
- 28-Mar Toby Kembrowski
Christopher Stopka
Rachel Miller
- 29-Mar Curt Gerald
Wayne Schmidt
Arnie Didricksen
Bob Peterson
- 30-Mar Amy Johnson
Jennifer Powe
Kay O'Shanna
- 31-Mar Orion Samuelson
Alixandria Rhode
Lois Grayczyk
Amanda Juergensen
Randall Joos





**GOD'S
WORK, OUR
HANDS**

Get Involved

Ways to Serve

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@sotppmail.com
- Adventure Club—Jill Gillming
jill@soapmail.com
- Annual Church Picnic – Sharon Little
skl55little@mac.com
- Assisting Minister (9am) – Donna Kelly—donna@sotppmail.com
- Artist Series – Jane McMullen
jane@sotppmail.com
- A/V Team – Mike Yndestad,
mike@sotppmail.com
- Barnabas Ministry—Donna Kelly
donna@sotppmail.com
- Bell Choir (Adult) —Jane McMullen,
jane@sotppmail.com
- Bell Choir (Kids & Youth) – Jane McMullen, jane@sotppmail.com
- Communion Assistants—Donna Kelly, donna@sotppmail.com
- 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
- Habitat for Humanity – Sandy Hupert sandyhupert@gmail.com
- Kids Academy—Amy Stech
amc_stech@yahoo.com
- Kids Connect—Jill Gillming
jill@sotppmail.com
- Mission Team – Sandy Hupert
sandyhupert@gmail.com
- Newsletter Mailing Prep—Michelle Rankin, michelle@sotppmail.com Si
gn up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPFolders
- Next Step Fellowship (Single Seniors Fellowship) – Dave Stangle,
dstangle.ds@gmail.com or Phyllis Thomson, phyllisthomson@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@sotppmail.com
- Readers—Donna Kelly,
donna@sotppmail.com
- Ushers—Ed Cuttle
edschn28@comcast.net
- Vacation Bible School – Jill Gillming
jill@sotppmail.com
- Welcome Center—Tara Mackey,
rtmackey10@yahoo.com
- Worship Band (Singing & Instrumental)—Jeff Moore,
jeff@sotppmail.com

Involvement Schedule

March 2024



		March 2 & 3	March 9 & 10	March 16 & 17	March 23 & 24	March 30 & 31
Counters	Mon	Doug Nagel, Dottie Bobzin & Marilyn Wilhelm				
Greeters Interested in Serving Here? Contact: Elaine Gillam suggillam @aol.com	SAT 5:00 PM	Phyllis Thomson				
	SUN 9:00 AM	Ken & Linda Rotter	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin	Dottie Bobzin Candace Beck	Cheryl Adams Elaine Gillam	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin
	SUN 10:45 AM	Carolyn & Bob Malm				11am Elaine Gillam
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 Diana Murphy	Steve Murphy Peggy Lynn Loiselle	Jim & Diana Murphy
	SUN 9:00 AM	WALTER LEMKE Art Ryden Tim Bueschel Jeff Stangle Julian Stangle Kappel's [A]	JACK CONTI Pete Thompson Cheryl Rotermund Jeff Ottens Vik Bekeris Carol Engstrom [A]	NANCY WILSON Wayne Schmidt Arja Kasper Dan Wentzlof Mike Malczewski [A]	RALPH WEHNES Jerry & Pat Darow Stan Crissman George Attaway Ed Cuttle	WALTER LEMKE Art Ryden Jeff Stangle Tim Bueschel
	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	11am BOB MCDUFFEE Andrew Szekely Annika Yndestad

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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

SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 31, 2024

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND

	MONTHLY	MONTHLY		YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
January 1, 2024 Beginning Balance	\$ 370,953.52					
Monthly Income	106,780.68	\$ 105,064.00	\$ 1,716.68	106,780.68	\$ 105,064.00	\$ 1,716.68
Monthly Expenses	77,732.36	\$ 77,430.00	\$ 302.36	77,732.36	\$ 77,430.00	\$ 302.36
January 31, 2024 Ending Balance	\$ 400,001.84					
Average Monthly Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 80,500.00					
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	4.97					

MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND

	MONTHLY	MONTHLY		YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
January 1, 2024 Beginning Balance	\$ 43,128.74					
Monthly Income	31,397.67	\$ 18,807.00	\$ 12,590.67	31,397.67	\$ 18,807.00	\$ 12,590.67
Monthly Expenses	18,807.00	\$ 18,807.00	\$ -	18,807.00	\$ 18,807.00	\$ -
January 31, 2024 Ending Balance	\$ 55,719.41					
Average Monthly Expenses	\$ 18,807.00					
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	2.96					

Respectfully submitted,
George Attaway, 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

Kathy McGuine, Vice President

George Attaway, Treasurer

Christa Serpe, Secretary

Mike Luecht

Ellen Nissen

Jim Puls

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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