



2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ!

You all know what they say about old dogs, don't you?

Well, not to necessarily compare myself to an old dog, but it is my prayer as we enter a new year that our gracious Lord will teach me! **"Teach me to number my days aright, that I may gain a heart of wisdom."** (Psalm 90:12)

What exactly am I asking for? A good part of my answer comes from these words of Paul in Ephesians 5. **"Be very careful then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity."** (Ephesians 5:15-16)

The heart of wisdom I want is to keep on knowing that Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord...that He loves me unconditionally and gave His life to redeem me...that I am His forgiven and redeemed child...and that the moment my life here on earth comes to an end my eternal life in heaven begins!

I also am asking for the wisdom or discernment to know and to recognize and then to seize and make the most of the unique moments and opportunities the Lord will give to me each day. All too often I can become wrapped up in stuff that truly doesn't matter at the expense of missing a moment or an opportunity that does matter and is special and unique. Those moments don't always jump up and say, "Hey you...pay attention here...don't miss this!" Sometimes they can be as subtle as a sunset or the sound of a bird singing or the quiet smile of a grandchild or the opportunity to hold Karen's hand. I want to make the most of those moments! Make me wise, Lord! Teach me!

Here's another verse that comes to mind which I pray the Lord will use to teach me to number my days aright and to not miss out on the important moments. It's the words of Psalm 118:24. **"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."**

Maybe you would like to join with me as we enter the year of our Lord 2024 and make this your prayer as well.

Lord, teach me to number my days.

Teach me to apply my heart unto wisdom... to know You as my Savior and Lord.

Help me to be careful as to how I live...to live wise...

To see the small things which may in fact be huge blessings.

Teach me to live one day at a time and to know that this day that I've been given – called "Today" –

You've made it! And to know that what You make is always "Good!"

In Jesus' name. Amen!

Pastor Dave

**The SOTP Church Office will be closed on
Monday January 1st (For New Years)**



SHEPHERD OF THE PINES LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2023

President Kyle Hackett called the meeting to order to 10:30am.

Pastor Dave Stroschein opened with prayer.

Joanny Ramey read Mission Statement.

Kyle Hackett read the introduction statement.

Acting Secretary Deb Erdmann read the minutes of the 2022 Congregational Meeting. Bruce Resch motioned to accept the minutes as read and second by Roxanne Peterson. Motion passed. The congregation reviewed the minutes from March 5, 2023 and June 25, 2023 Special Congregational Meetings along with the minutes from the September 17, 2023 Pastoral Call Voters Meeting. There were no questions. Bruce Resch made a motion to approve the minutes as presented in lieu of reading Ron McKeever second. Motion passed.

President Kyle Hackett read the qualifications for elections of BOLM members. Ron McKeever was the only nomination for Treasure. Kyle Hackett asked the congregation if there were any other nominations 3 times. Bill Paradeis closed the nominations and called for a unanimous vote followed by a second from Bruce Resch. Motion passed. President Kyle explained that in the by-laws the BOLM must consist of at least 4 men. Nominations for the 3-year term are Paul Tschida and Josh Anderson. Kyle asked 3 times if there were any other nominations. Seeing none Jim Amundson made a motion to close nominations and called for a unanimous vote. Keith Hackett second. Motion passed. Nominations for the other 3-year team were Richael Weinand, Janet Maleska and Joanny Ramey. Kyle Hackett asked the congregation if there were any other nominations 3 times. Bruce Resch made a motion to close the nominations and Ron McKeever seconded it. Motion passed and ballots were passed out.

Treasures Report: Ron McKeever wanted to express great thanks to Curt Kvamme for all he does. Janet Maleska and Barb McKeever completed the audit. Ron reported we are still in the black but that's with no full time Pastor salary. Thanks go out to Julie Kiraly and Curt Kvamme for keeping things running smoothly. Keith Hackett motioned to accept the Treasurers report and Dennis Arntson seconded it. Motion passed.

New Business: The budget was explained. Inflation is up. The cost of lawn mowing and snow removal is up. To meet our current budget we need \$4700 per week and to meet our 2024 budget we'll need \$5300 coming in weekly. Going forward increase your donation would be appreciated. When calling a Pastor we need to be above the middle line for salary. Looking at \$100,000- \$150,000 per year plus family insurance and retirement package. Bruce moved to accept the budget report. Peg Manea second. Motion passed.

Call Process: There is a meeting tonight. Narrowed down to 4 Pastors.

Properties: Keith Peterson reported the parking lot project is completed. He's looking to replace windows in the choir room and the nursery next year. Windows are running about \$600 each. If anyone has an idea for a bigger project let Keith know. Sometimes it takes awhile to budget for that. Scott Manea inquired on the shingles and Keith said they were good.

Worship Team Leader: Keith Hackett asked if you're not already volunteering please consider it. We always need more help. The music videos are pulled from online and the volume may be a little off on them.

Bruce Resch wanted to express appreciation to Kyle for all he's done.

The votes were in and Joanny Ramey will continue on the BOLM.

Peg Manea motioned to destroy the ballots and Bruce Resch second. Motion passed

Duane Ott moved to adjourn the meeting and Art Betker second. Meeting adjourned 11:04 AM.

Pastor Dave Stroschein closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Deb Erdmann Acting Secretary



Education / Small Group Team

Happy New Year to All!!!

My goodness, it seems as though we just started 2023 and here we are in 2024! May God bless this new year for you! I would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to all the Sunday School teachers and assistants who did an amazing job with the kids message for Christmas! You were given a 2 week task and the kids did a great job! Any member who would like to work or organized the program for this year, please connect with me if you have any ideas! It seem that we are always in crunch time mode so if you have some ideas, please connect with me!

We begin to prep and plan for VBS 2024 with an underwater theme "SCUBA" !!! Again we look for helping hands and it is such a fun event! If you would like to be on the planning team or design team, please connect with me!!

We will resume Sunday School on January 7 and continue to learn more about the love and lessons of Jesus! Please...bring your kids to Sunday school! You never have enough knowledge of our Lord! I also encourage you to get involved in a Bible Study! Life can throw us some pretty good curve balls and the Bible is a great catcher's mitt for our souls! It is never too late, your never too old, and you are smart to know how much the Lord can and does do for us each day! Grab your Bible and dive into healing!!!!

May the Lord keep you safe and may His plans for this new year guide and protect you all!

Serving the Lord,
Brenda Hackett
Education Team Leader



2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Happy New Year! What marvelous things has God prepared for us in 2024? What are you hoping for this year? What are your goals this year? We hope you are Strong in the Lord, Mighty in prayer, Bold in your witness, and compassionate with yourself and others as you grow and learn.

Thank you to all who helped at the Advent Supper. The group raised \$165 which will go towards future activities.

Our regular meetings in January will be on the 3rd and 17th. We're planning a lock-in for January 19th to 20th. We'll start at 6pm with pizza supper. Text Sarah at 320-267-2628 to let her know you are attending so that we can plan for enough pizza. Please bring a movie or game and a snack to share with the group that night. We'll continue the night with movies, games and other fun activities. We'll finish by making breakfast and have the church cleaned up by 10am on Saturday.

February 7th will be a regular meeting. February 11th will be the Sweetheart breakfast, prepared and served by the youth group (that's you!). Please mark your calendars to be at church that morning! February 21st will be a regular meeting after the Lenten service.

High School Youth are invited to the youth room on Sunday mornings at 10:20am.

Josh & Sarah Anderson
Youth Group Leaders

Happy new year to everyone!

Just a reminder, we are still looking for volunteers to help make the service run smoothly. Greeters, ushers, readers, and projectionists are needed. If interested contact me or Julie at the church office so we can get you on the schedule!

Thank you to all who are currently helping in these volunteer positions! Your time is very appreciated!

Keith Hackett
Worship Team Leader

January	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
01/07/24	9:00am	Kyle & Ashley Hackett Family	Sarah Anderson	Wyatt Alstrup	Brenda & Keith Hackett	Jerry Nelson
01/14/24	9:00am	Keith & Roxanne Peterson	Mackenzie Ramey	Ron Woods	Travis Lenarz Family	Jane Nelson
01/21/24	9:00am	Jeff & Joan Ramey	Dennis Arntson	Richael Weinand	Deb Erdmann & Grandchildren	Steve Ree
01/28/24	9:00am	Garry Loidolt	Levi Brenny	Ruth Brutcher	Keith & Roxanne Peterson	Dennis Arntson
February	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
02/04/24	9:00am	Travis Lenarz Family	Julie Kiraly	Dennis Arntson	Bonnie Gottwalt & Charyl Walberg	Keith Hackett
02/11/24	9:00am	Kevin & Janet Maleska	Denise Leahy	Jane Nelson	Ron & Barb Mckeever	Jane Nelson
02/18/24	9:00am	Milt & Marlene Popp	Mackenzie Ramey	Janet Maleska	Keith & Kathy Craft	Steve Ree
02/25/24	9:00am	Deb Erdmann	Keith Hackett	Lois Perleberg	Jeremy & Candace Dingmann	Brenda Hackett
March	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
03/03/24	9:00am	Shelley Pintok	Julie Kiraly	Wyatt Alstrup	Brian & Heather Statz	Jerry Nelson
03/10/24	9:00am	Charlie Anderson	Mackenzie Ramey	Peg Manea	Travis Lenarz Family	Dennis Arntson
03/17/24	9:00am	Brenda & Keith Hackett	Dennis Arntson	Ron Woods	Keith & Roxanne Peterson	Steve Ree
03/24/24	9:00am	Scott & Peg Manea	Levi Brenny	Richael Weinand	Brenda & Keith Hackett	Keith Hackett
Palm Sunday						
03/31/24	9:00am	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Easter						

November's Church Income Statement

	November	Year-to-
Date		
Contributions	\$19,462	\$228,137
Expenses	(\$47,988)	(\$181,915)
Excess/(Shortfall)	(\$28,526)	\$46,222

Rice Area Food Shelf

January Distribution is

Thursday, January 4th

from 3:00-5:30pm

at the Old Village Hall!

Thank you everyone, the giving tree was a huge success, you are amazing and truly appreciated.

With deepest Gratitude,

We would like
to *Thank you*
and Wish You
Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year!



New South America Immigrants are in need of:

1. Size L or smaller clothes for men & woman
2. Kids clothes
3. Hand lotion, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc
4. Towels & hand cloths

Please leave items in the sewing room any questions reach out to Ardelle 320-656-5858

JANUARY NOISY OFFERING!



We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday, January 21st**, for the **F. A.C.T (Feed Area Children Together)** Thank you for your support and your generous donations!



Have you asked yourself, "How can I have a variety of inspiring Bible based information and teaching on many topics & issues for kids, teens and adults available on my smartphone, I-Pad, TV, computer, etc?" Shepherd of the Pines offers you, for no charge, all of that on RightNow Media. [Just Send us your Email Address](#) and you will be able to use all this wonderful stuff to help you grow in your faith! You can refer your friends and family members too!

A huge thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gifts, I truly appreciate everything. My family is blessed by SOTP. Thank you!

Julie Kiraly



The Sunshine Group at SOTP will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, and we will be sending out birthday cards.

We are looking for volunteers and unused birthday cards with matching envelopes. Our next meeting will be **January 17th at 10am**. Please reach out to Gloria Hendrickson 393-2698 or Evelyn Kirchner 320-290-5478.

Worship Shepherds

January	7	Colleen Woods
January	14	Paul Tschida
January	21	Dave Perleberg
January	28	Deb Erdmann



January	7	Kyle & Ashley Hackett
January	14	Keith & Roxanne Peterson
January	21	Jeff & Joan Ramey
January	28	Garry Loidolt



January	7	Sarah Anderson
January	14	Mackenzie Ramey
January	21	Dennis Arntson
January	28	Levi Brenny



January	7	Wyatt Alstrup
January	14	Ron Woods
January	21	Richael Weinand
January	28	Ruth Brutcher



January	7	Keith & Brenda Hackett
January	14	The Lenarz Family
January	21	Deb Erdmann & Grandchildren
January	28	Keith & Roxanne Peterson



January	7	Jerry Nelson
January	14	Jane Nelson
January	21	Steve Ree
January	28	Dennis Arntson



We have been praying for our church families each week as we go through our church directory from A to Z. As you go about your daily tasks lift a prayer for the family of the week as the Lord brings them to mind. **In January we will be praying for:**

January	7	Hunter & Amanda Jasmer
January	14	Jan Johnson
January	21	Rodney & Lori Johnson
January	28	Chris & Shaunna Johnson

Portals of Prayer are available on the narthex counter.

UPDATE TO FELLOWSHIP!!

Here is the schedule for this Winter for Fellowship. We ask that if you can't serve the Sunday that you are scheduled, please find a group to switch with. Each group is to bring in treats, serve, and clean up. Thank You!



January 7th

J. Clasen, D. Giese, T. Hovland, A. Ostendorf

January 14th

D. Erdmann, J. Brenny, D. Mickelson

January 21st

S. Pressnall, C. Walberg, D. Cairns

January 28th

M. Barringer, L. Saldana, K. Peterson

February 4th

J. Eillot, K. Maleska, K. Huhne/Popp

February 11th

Sweetheart Breakfast

February 18th

J. Amundson, K. Ellefson, B. Statz

February 25th

A. Gerads, S. Manea, R. Weinand

Musicians

January	7	Heather Statz
January	14	Lyric Videos
January	21	Praise Team
January	28	Lyric Videos



JANUARY

Curt Kvamme, Deb Erdmann, & Sandi Resch



JANUARY

Roxanne Peterson, Juli Popp & Karen Ellefson



January 7th

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12



January 21st

Jonah 3:1-5,10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 14th

Psalms 139:1-10
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

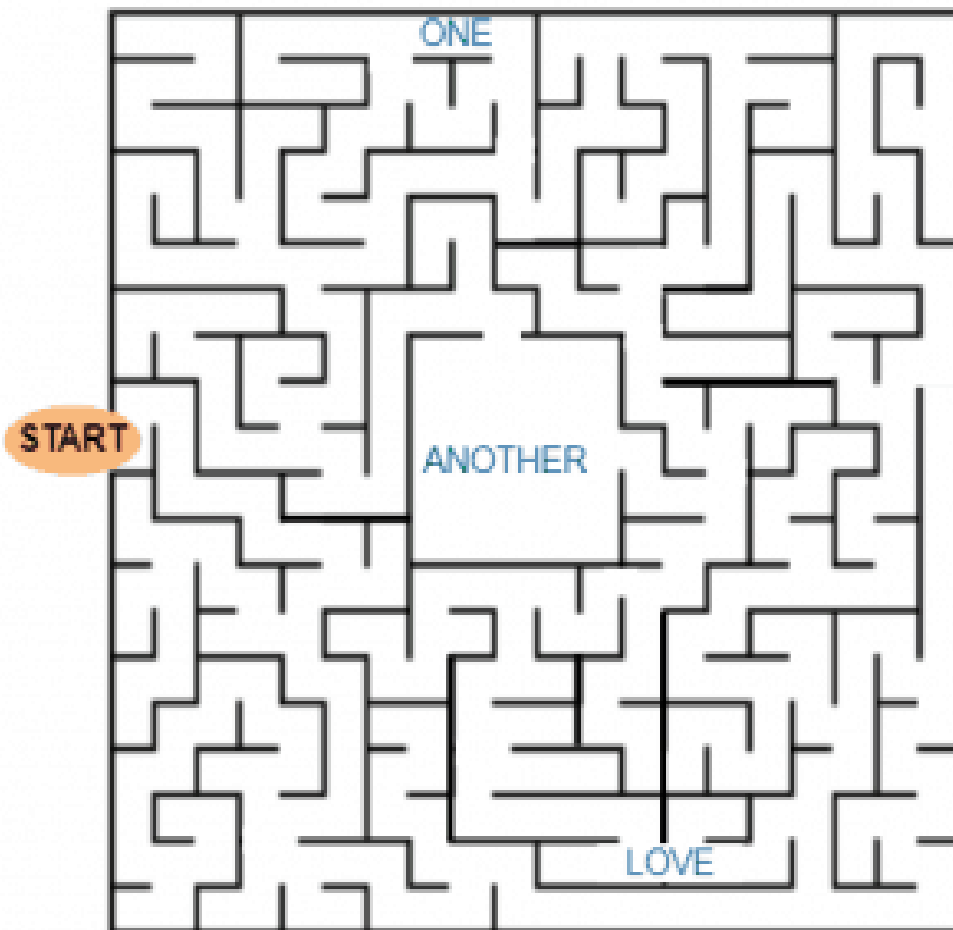
January 28th

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Love One Another Word Maze

Find your way from the start of the maze and connect the words from the answer phrase in their correct order.

Love one another. John 15:17b HCSB



January Birthdays		
Kyle	Hackett	January 01
Edris	Weinand	January 01
Devin	Popp	January 02
Charles	Anderson	January 03
Emily	Morgan	January 03
Korra	Mickelson	January 06
Ellie	Radika	January 06
Mary	Kivi	January 08
Kalley	Wright	January 09
Kennedy	Madsen	January 10
Paulette	Dahl	January 11
Peyton	Soltis	January 12
Kevin	Maleska	January 14
Haiden	Manea	January 14
Stephanie	Pekarek	January 14
Gabriel	Gertken	January 16
Waylon	Dingmann	January 17
Jaylene	Newman	January 18
Beth	Roles	January 18
Jennifer	Betker	January 19
Lillian	Brannen	January 19
Sara	Lemke	January 19
Jerome	Nodo	January 19
Jenalyn	Ostendorf	January 19
Kathy	Arntson	January 21
Drew	Efraimson	January 22
Julie	Plumski	January 22
Kayla	Plumski	January 22
John	Brenny	January 24
Connie	Efraimson	January 24
Sarah Jean	Folkerts	January 24
Rita	Buck	January 25
Lauren	Eggert	January 25
Steffen	Hicks	January 26
Barret	Novitzki	January 26
Kinslee	Hackett	January 27
Jeff	Ramey	January 28
Karen	Wood	January 29
LuAnn	Legatt	January 30
Logan	Madsen	January 31



Daddy/Daughter Dance

Dads, Grandpas, and Uncles bring your daughters, granddaughters, and nieces to a fun night of Dancing (with a DJ), Crafts, Photo Booth and Snacks.

Friday, February 9, 2024
6:00pm-8:00pm

Hosted at



Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church

1950 125th St NW Rice, MN 56367

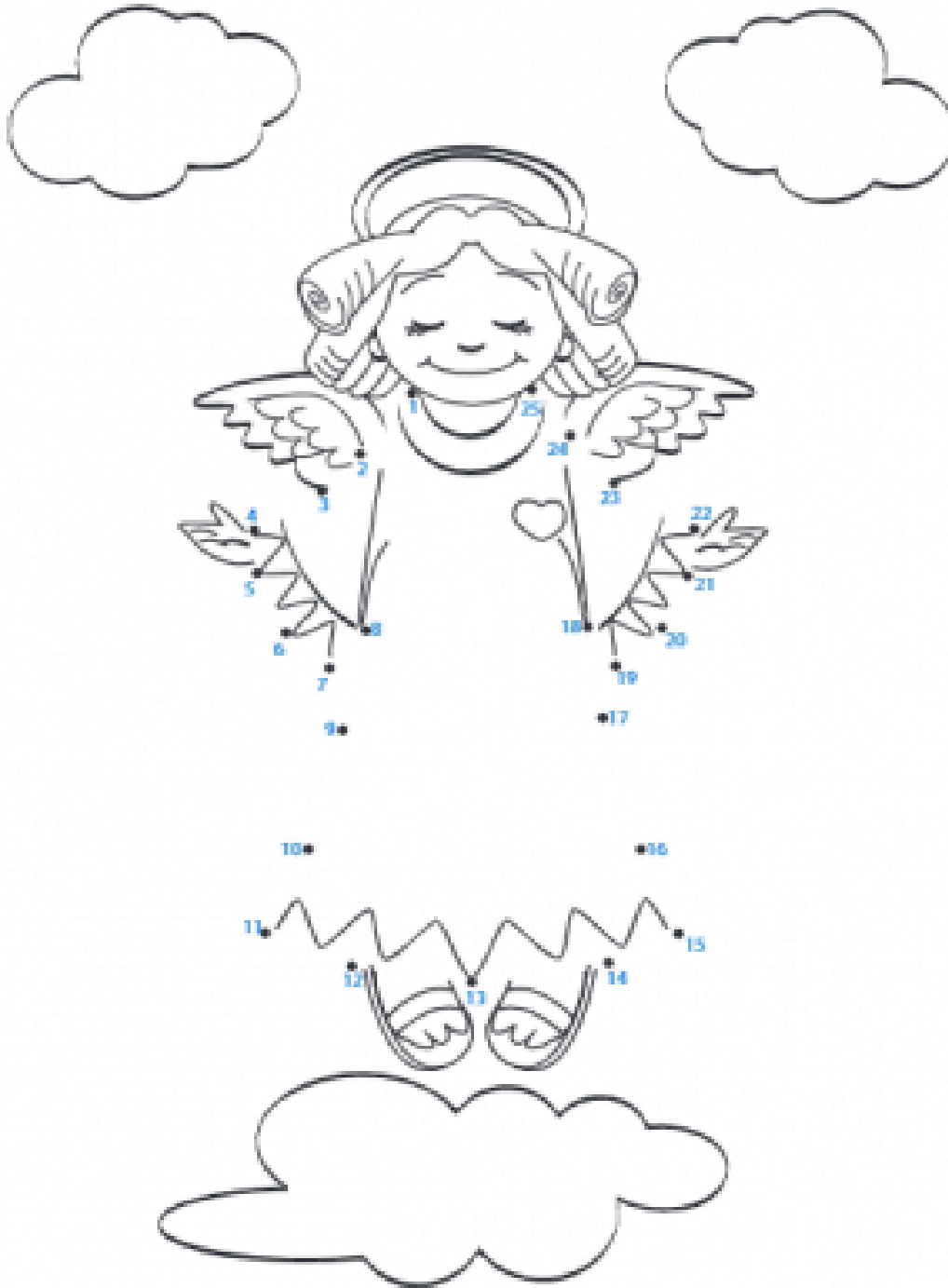
This is a Free Event!

If you would like a picture on the slideshow during the dance, please email it to the church @ office@sotpministries.com

January Anniversaries		
Adam & Nikki	Taylor	January 7th
Randy & Donna	Klaphake	January 11th

Angel Connect the Dots

Begin with number 1 and draw a line to the next highest number to complete the puzzle. After that, you can also color the angel!





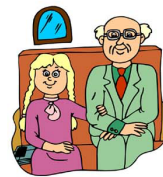
New Years Resolutions



I will learn more about God.



I will help my family with _____



I will invite someone to my church.



I will give some of my money to _____



I will tell a friend about Jesus.

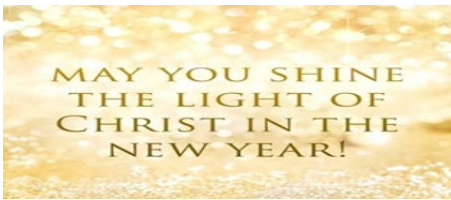


I will learn _____ new Bible verses.



I will pray for others.

I will.....



Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church
 1950 125th Street NW, Rice, MN 56367
 Church Office: (320) 393-4295



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Office Closed  7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	No Confirmation	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Music: Heather 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:30 Bible Study	7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation by Zoom	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Music: Lyric Videos 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:30 Adult Bible Study	7:30 Praise Team 7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation by Zoom	9:00 Quilters 6:30 Elders Meeting 7:00 BOLM Meeting 7:00 AA		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Noisy Offering F.A.C.T. (feeding area children together) Music: Praise Team 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:30 Adult Bible Study	7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation by Zoom	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
28	29	30	31	Email: office@sotpministries.com Website: sotpministries.com Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00		
Music: Lyric Videos 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:30 Adult Bible Study	7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	6:30 Bible Study No Confirmation			



Shepherd of the Pines

Lutheran Church

1950 125th St. NW
Rice, MN 56367

Jesus guides...

Church Phone: 393-4295

Email: office@sotpministries.com

Church Website: sotpministries.com

SOTP BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY/ELDERS

David Perleberg, Vice President 360-5147; Bev Gerads, Secretary 761-1894; Ron McKeever Treas. 393-2524;
Joan Ramey 217-4431; Colleen Woods 685-4389; Deb Erdmann, 249-4804; Paul Tschida 360-5241; Josh Anderson 320-260-0808

Keith Peterson, Church Properties 292-4007

EXECUTIVE MINISTRY TEAM

Keith Hackett - Worship Team Leader, Leader, Brenda Hackett – Education & Colleen Woods Small Group Team,
Jami Kreifels Activity Team Leader

*In case of church cancellation due to bad weather listen to, 98 COUNTRY 98.1, SPIRIT 92.9, KCLD 104.7, WJON
1240, or call the church office and listen to the message.*

Shepherd of the Pines Mission Statement: Connecting People to God...To Others...and To Service

The purpose of this congregation is mandated for us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as found in the words of the Great Commission (Matthew 28), namely first of all to Go. To leave our walls of refuge, going into all the world, comprising of our families and neighbors. We plan to achieve our purpose by identifying persons with whom we are particularly well-equipped to serve and reach with the challenge of becoming Disciples of Christ.

Second, to Make Disciples or in the words of St Paul, “To equip the saints” (Ephesians 4:12). This is to be understood as helping people to live the Christian life here on earth. Preparing and encouraging young and old alike to find and to use their God given gifts and abilities for the extension of His Kingdom, and to grow in fervent love for God and for others.

Thirdly, to Baptize as commanded by Jesus Himself. As God reaches down to mankind with His means of grace, He would have us baptize His people, bringing them into His family and Kingdom, granting to them life, forgiveness of sins, and eternal salvation.

And lastly, to continue steadfast in His Word, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. A continued zeal for the study of His Word, the Bible, is necessary for the growth of any Christian congregation. Thus, the Word of God will be taught and studied in full measure and His Word shall be the rule and norm of this congregation’s faith and life.

To that end, our every effort and energy will be used in motivating, training, and putting to use our time, and talents and treasures to Make Disciples.