

Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church 1950 125th Street NW Rice, MN 56367 Phone: 393-4295 Email: <u>office@sotpministries.com</u> Church Website: sotpministries.com

EnJOYing Spiritual Conversations

On January 19 I did a sermon titled "Sacred Conversations" where we looked at how God brings people to Jesus through everyday conversations by everyday people. Often, we think of spiritual conversations as hostile debates that are tense and full of anger. Lutheran Hour Ministries partnered with Barna Research, an Evangelical research company, to look at how people have spiritual conversations.

This began in 2018 as a three year study. The first year's findings have been published and if you're interested in looking into this then you go visit their website here:

https://www.lhm.org/barna

I listened to a podcast where one of the researchers was interviewed and he was asked what surprised him in the survey results. The researcher said that he was surprised to learn that the majority of spiritual conversations (60%) had laughter in it.

At first, this might seem unusual in a spiritual conversation, but think about some of the times you've talked with friends or neighbors about things that matter to you whether it's your family, your career, your community or your faith. I imagine that most of these conversations involve genuine moments of relief, peace and even laughter at times.

In the Bible the word "Joy" comes up 210 times. There should be no surprise that Christians are called to have a kind of joy in their lives. In our various vocations, God has given us people to serve and this gives us a joy we can share with others.

2 Corinthians 2:3 "I wrote as I did, so that when I came I would not be distressed by those who should have made me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy."

We are called to share Christ's joy to others. God has given us new life and he pours into our hearts His joy. We get to enter into the presence of God which means we truly get to enjoy the gifts God has given us. We then share that joy with others as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 2:3.

I pray that you can enJOY the conversations you have with others as they too can share in your joy!

Grace + Peace, Pastor David Edge **BOLM members present:** Sarah Anderson, Kyle Hackett, Pastor David Edge, Dave Perleberg, Curt Kvamme, Wayne Anderson, Deb Erdman, Keith Peterson, EMT leaders: Brenda Hackett, Keith Hackett, Jen Olman Absent: Wayne Peterson, Bev Gerads Meeting was called to order by at 7:06 pm and opened with prayer. The mission statement was read by Dave.

EMT Leader Reports:

Worship – Keith reported that Pastor reviewed the new church management system with the worship volunteers. Changes are happening on the volunteer schedule daily, but are going smoothly. Lenten service will move to 7pm instead of 6:30pm this year. The BOLM & EMT discussed the possibilities of different worship service times. For the summer months, history has shown that attendance declines more when we go to one service versus keeping two worship services.

Education and Small Group – Brenda reported VBS is in the planning stages with a railroad theme this year. Sunday school attendance has been steady. There were 16 people who attended the One Month to Live Bible study. There are 13 people signed up for the Case for Christ Bible study starting next week.

Service – Jen reported her progress with the service opportunities at SOTP. The noisy offering schedule has been set and she is coordinating representatives to speak for each group when the offering is taken. Lenten meals are coming up and the congregation is invited to participate. Jen shared a list of new ministry ideas for the summer months.

Properties – The Nursery room is being painted and new shelving will be installed. The door will be changed to a one piece door. A monitor will be installed to display from the projection system for the nursery. Keith suggested putting in a LED monitor in the entry way for scrolling announcements to replace our unused bulletin board cabinet. He also noted the light bulbs will be replaced in the sanctuary.

Pastoral Activity Report – Pastor David reported on his activities for the month of December including advent and Christmas activities. His current projects are Confirmation Retreat and training with the new church secretary. Pastor David also reviewed a Confidentiality Agreement of SOTP Lutheran Church with the leadership.

EMT & Properties were excused.

Treasurer's Report – December income was \$30,489.20 and expenses were \$20,907.59. Wayne made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Dave seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Wayne made a motion to accept the Secretary's report as written, seconded by Deb. Motion carried.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Membership– Pastor David recommended Marlys Skudlarek be reinstated onto our membership roster following a Profession of Faith. Sarah moved to accept the recommendation and reinstate Marlys onto our membership roster, Wayne seconded. Motion Carried. Jim & Beth Brouns have requested a peaceful release from membership. Dave moved to release Jim and Beth from membership, seconded by Deb. Motion carried. We will keep these families in our prayers.

Next BOLM meeting will be on February 27th at 7pm with praise and prayer at 6:30pm.

The worship shepherd schedule was reviewed through March. Lenten & Holy week worship services will be at 7pm starting February 26th through April 1st. Lenten Soup Suppers will start at 5:45pm. BOLM will be serving on March 4th. Easter Sunday Worship Services will be at 6am, 8am and 10:30am. The Youth Group will be helping with the Easter Breakfast.

Early Communion classes will be April 29th to May 20th with First Communion on May 24th. Confirmation Sunday will be April 26th at 10:30am service, there are currently 4 confirmands.

Election of Officers – Wayne Anderson nominated Kyle Hackett for President, Dave Perleberg for Vice President, Sarah Anderson as Secretary. Kyle asked for any other nominations. Kyle entertained a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Pastoral Vacation – Pastor David will be on vacation February 17th through 24th, Pastor Franzmeier will be filling in. Pastor David will be at the MN Pastor Conference May 13-15. July 5th and August 22nd are other summer dates that Pastor David is planning to be away from SOTP.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Sarah, seconded by Deb. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm. Meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Anderson, BOLM Secretary

Education / Small Group Team

Greetings Everyone!

May this month that we celebrate love fill your hearts! The Bible is so full of how, why, and to what extent the Lord loves each one of us...it amazes me each time that I read those lines! I am excited to be into the Bible study "The Case for Christ" this month also! We have about 4 weeks left of the six and so much more to cover! It is exciting to see how scripture tells us and proves beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Jesus Christ is real and His love for us is true, His word is truth and just how GRACE works! Lee Strobel was a man who didn't believe...that is until he did his detective work to find evidence against the Bible....turns out, he was converted from a non-believer to a Christian!!!

We also begin to stretch our imaginations for VBS! If you would like to participate with hands on helping prepare, just let me know and I will keep you updated on the times and needs. Be watching in the next month as to what we may be in need of for crafts, decorations, and prayers! We hope to reach more children this year for a fun week on the Rail Road!!!

The Youth Group will be having their Sweetheart breakfast on the 9th! We will NOT be having Sunday School that morning but we will have it the following week. I apologize for the confusion and look forward to a great breakfast!!

This month we also begin or close out with Ash Wednesday...that means the Easter Breakfast is not far off. We will be using the donations from the breakfast for the VBS ministry and the Youth Group. Please watch for sign up sheets on the counter in the Narthex. This year I will be training in Mary Kivi and Beth Roles as new leads and I am excited these two women stepped up to take a new roll!! Thanks again Ladies!

I encourage any and all to take time to ponder what gift you have been given from Jesus and volunteer! It is a rewarding heartwarming soul satisfying adventure. We never know what God has instore and until you try, it remains a hidden unused gift! In closing...may God's love for you be felt each and every day and may you know how much He loves you!

Serving for the Lord Brenda Hackett Small Group/ Education Team Leader



Hi Everyone!

Youth Group is busy planning and doing some fun events. Of course we are still learning and growing in our faith too. Currently we are studying in the book of Proverbs and finding that there are many good life lessons and rules to follow in there.

We would like to invite you all to the annual sweethearts breakfast on February 9th. We will

be serving pancakes, sausage and fruit between services. We will also be serving two soup suppers during Lent. Ash Wednesday and March 18th. All proceeds will be going to help fund the 2022 National Youth Gathering trip to Houston TX.

On Friday March 6th we have been invited over to the Graham Church for a game night with their youth group from 6-9pm and are looking forward to a fun evening.

Thank you for your prayers and support, Jennifer and Candace

Join us as Shepherd of the Pines Serves a Meal at Place of Hope!! 2nd Saturday of every month 1:30pm-6:00pm (We will serve on February 8th)

This is a servant opportunity that is sure to fill you up in many ways. A great opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus! Cooking begins at 1:30, circle prayer at 4:30, and serving at 4:45. You can choose to work the whole time or simply pick the first or second half of the timeframe. If interested, please contact Sandie Resch at 360-4563. Please prayerfully consider.

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 February we will be praying for:

February 2– Linda Grainger

- February 9 Judy & Shawn Hackett Children: Logan, Noah, Tanner, Tyler
- February 16 Keith & Brenda Hackett
- February 23 Kyle & Ashley Hackett Children: Kallan, Kinslee, Koriana



We will be quilting on February 12th and 26th at 5:00 also 13th and 27th at 12:30 the church. Contact Ardelle for info at 656-5858. Anyone is welcome to stop in and join us!



FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING!

We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday**, **February 16th**, for **Bags of Love**. Thank you for your support and your generous donations!

Rice Area Food Shelf

February Distribution is Thursday, February 6th from 3:00-5:30pm at the Old Village Hall

- February 2 Micah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12
- February 9 Isaiah 58:3-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20
- February 16 Deuteronomy 30:15-20 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37
- February 23 Exodus 24:8-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9





Movie Night At SOTP

Saturday, February 15 at 6:00pm *"Adventures of Dally and Spanky" (Kid Night!)*

Friday, February 28 at 7:00pm *"Overcomer" (Family Night!)*

Feel free to bring your own snacks, beverages, and blankies. Please be mindful of the church when picking your snacks and beverages, we want to keep it neat and clean. NO colored juices. Hope you can join us!



Lenten Soup Suppers

We need your help to continue the tradition of SOTP Lenten Soup Supper nights! Looking for people and/or small groups to volunteer to sign up and provide soups, sandwich ingredients and to serve dinner. Dinner is from 5:15pm-6:45pm. Proceeds from the free will donation will go to support the ministry of your group's nomination. *Sign-up sheets in narthex.*

Women's Winter Gathering Sunday, March 1st 3:00pm Jordie's Trailside Café \$10.00 Buffet (Please bring food shelf

donation) Sign-up sheet in the narthex!

Recycling at SOTP

Look for the blue collection cans by our regular garbage can.

We can recycle all CLEAN empty bottles, cans, paper and cardboard. Keep foods, liquids, and plastic bags out of the recycling.

Sweetheart Breakfast

Sunday, February 9th at 9:15am

The Youth would like to invite you to a Sweetheart Breakfast! We will be serving pancakes with strawberries, sausages and fresh fruit. There will be a free will offering with proceeds going to help fund those going to the National Youth Gathering this Houston 2022. We appreciate the support and prayers that you provide our Youth!

ANNOUNCING Church and Community Prayer and Worship

All are welcome to join the Board of Lay Ministry Members and Pastor David at **6:30pm on February 27th** for a time of prayer and worship songs where we will lift up our church and community!

This prayer and worship time will continue each month the half hour prior to our BOLM Meeting!!



December's Church Income Statement

	December	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$30,489	\$234,183
Expenses	<u>(\$20,907</u>)	<u>(\$247,926)</u>
Excess/(Shortfa	ll) \$9,582	(\$13,743)



Hello again. It is cold and snowy...must be January(or 1 of about 8 other months).

I would like take this time to welcome Janet Maleska to the worship team. Thank you for joining Brent, Pastor David and myself. We look forward to this new year of worship!

We have the volunteer roster filled out thru the end of April. There was also a volunteer meeting on Jan. 5th to go over the new church management program and how it works. There was good attendance, questions asked, and answers given. We also had a few items that were asked to be looked into so I could see having another meeting in a couple weeks as we get those answers. Just a reminder that if you are not able to help out for a Sunday, please check out the Coordinators Worship Directory and look to switch with someone and then let us know if that cannot be done. You can do so by calling the church and giving Julie the message or connecting with myself and we will try to find a replacement.

We are also looking for more people to volunteer to help with the worship services, especially the 10:30 service. These are simple tasks and the new management program is making it easy to build around your schedule. I ask that, if God is leading you to help with the services, you contact a worship team member. Thank so much for those of you that are helping, you are appreciated!!!!!

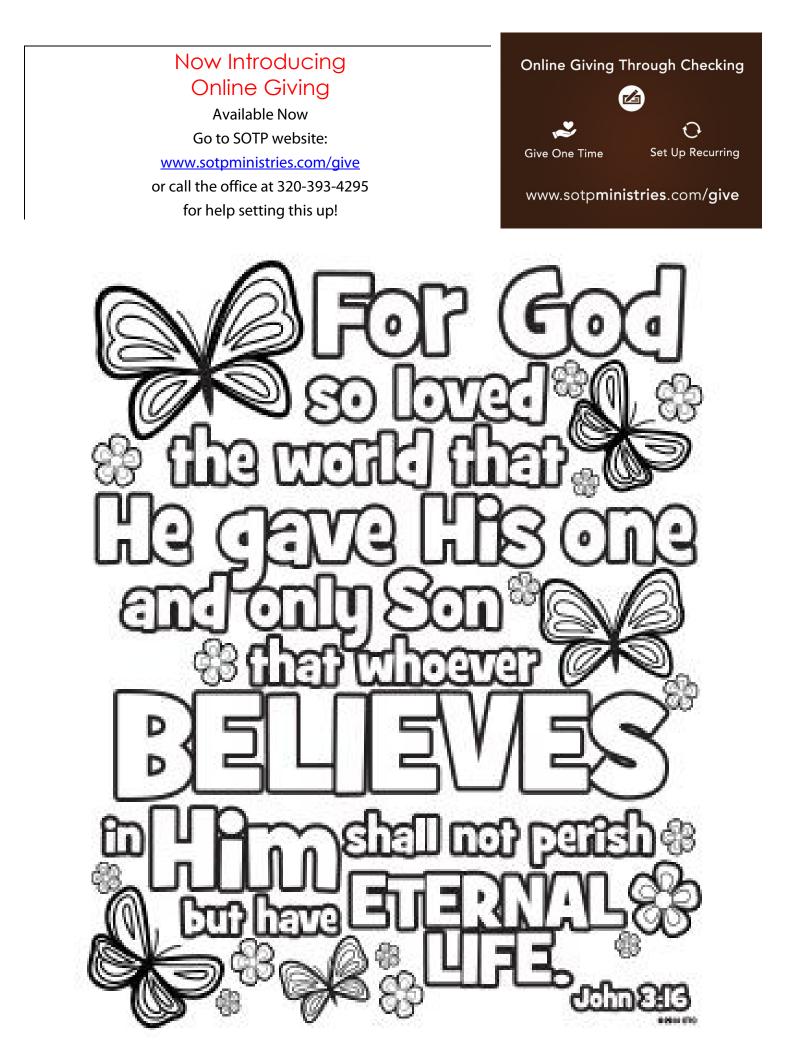
Keith Hackett

Worship Help Schedule

EBRUARY	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
		Wayne & Colleen			Brent & Jennifer	
2/2/20	8:00am	Peterson	Sarah Anderson	Lois Perleberg	Betker	Pastor David
		Bruce & Sandie				
	10:30am	Resch	Denise Leahy	Cara Freese	Keith & Kathy Craft	
		Jeremy & Candace			Bonnie Gottwalt &	
2/9/20	8:00am	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Levi Brenny	Jeff Ramey	Charyl Walberg	Dennis Arntsor
		Bruce & Sandie				
	10:30am	Resch	Cynthia Ollman	Pastor David	Keith & Kathy Craft	
					Kevin & Janet	
2/16/20	8:00am	Scott & Peg Manea	Aaron Betker	Jeff Ramey	Maleska	Jerry Nelson
	10:30am	Keith & Kathy Craft	Cal Ollman	Celeste Ollman	Travis & Marlys Lenarz	
		Kevin & Janet			Wayne & Colleen	
2/23/20	8:00am	Maleska	Isabelle Cairns	Jordie Stay	Peterson	Steve Ree
					Bruce & Sandie	
	10:30am	Dean & Karie Giese	Cynthia Ollman	Sandie Resch	Resch	
						WORSHIP
MARCH	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	LEADERS
		Deb Erdmann &			Keith & Roxanne	
03/01/20	8:00am	Jordie Stay	Dennis Arntson	Brenda Hackett	Peterson	Pastor David
					Travis & Marlys	
	10:30am	Tom & Jen Ollman	Cal Ollman	Howard Forer	Lenarz	
		Brenda & Keith				
03/08/20	8:00am	Hackett	Aaron Betker	Janet Maleska	Steve & Roxann Ree	Jane Nelson
		Brenda & Keith			Wayne & Colleen	
	10:30am	Hackett	Denise Leahy	Pastor David	Peterson	
		Keith & Roxanne			Keith & Brenda	
03/15/20	8:00am	Peterson	Gabby Dingmann	Ruth Brutcher	Hackett	Steve Ree
	10:30am	Travis & Marlys Lenarz	Keith Hackett	Pastor David	Bruce & Sandie Resch	
	10.50411	LCIIGIZ			ING3UII	
	1		1			

March	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSIP LEADERS
				Ostendorf	Brian & Heather	
03/22/20	8:00am	Shelly Pintok	Sarah Anderson	Family	Statz	Pastor David
		Howard & Nancy				
	10:30am	Forer	Cal Ollman	Sandie Resch	Tom & Jen Ollman	
					Jeremy & Candance	
03/29/20	8:00am	Barb Zapzalka	Keith Hackett	Lois Perleberg	Dingmann	Dennis Arntson
		Bruce & Sandie		Celeste		
	10:30am	Resch	Denise Leahy	Ollman	Keith & Kathy Craft	
						WORSHIP
April	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	LEADERS
		Milton & Marlene				
4/5/20	8:00am	Рорр	lan cairns	Ruth Brutcher	Barb Zapzlka	Pastor David
					Travis & Marlys	
	10:30am	Keith & Kathy Craft	Cal Ollman	Howard Forer	Lenarz	
4/12/20	8:00am		Easter Sunday			
	10:30am		Volunteers			
		Ron & Barb			Brent & Jennifer	
4/19/20	8:00am	McKeever	Dennis Arntson	Garry Loidolt	Betker	Jerry Nelson
	10:30am	Dean & Karie Giese	Cynthia Ollman	Celeste Ollman	Wayne & Colleen Peterson	
					Evie Kirchner &	
4/26/20	8:00am	Scott & Peg Manea	Aaron Betker	Lois Perleberg	Lilyana Gerjets	Steve Ree
	10:30am	Tom & Jen Ollman	Denise Leahy	Sandie Resch	Bruce & Sandie Resch	

FEBRUARY	
February 2, 2020	K. Maleska, A. Betker, K. Huhne, J. Popp, D. Dubbin, B. Roles
February 9, 2020	***********Sweetheart's Breakfast************
February 16, 2020	K. Kirchner, R. Brutcher, G. Hendrickson, B. Novitzki, B. Betker
February 23, 2020	K. Peterson, D. Skajewski, L. Legatt, S. Manea, G. Loidolt
MARCH	
March 1, 2020	S. Ree, D. Perleberg, M. Popp, D. Newman, R. McKeever
March 8, 2020	K. Hackett, T. Hinderschied, W. Peterson, T. Morgan, M. Kiraly/Robinson
March 15, 2020	D. Erdmann, K. Craft, L. Grainger, J. Anderson, D. Koep
March 22, 2020	B. Gottwalt, J. Brouns, B. Statz, B. Resch, M. Kivi, D. Dirks
March 29, 2020	C. Anderson, T. Omann, R. Kreifels, B. Jasmer, A. Ostendorf
APRIL	
April 5, 2020	T. Billmeyer, K. Giese, T. Hovland, L. Walburn, R. Hemple
April 12, 2020	**************************************
April 19, 2020	D. Arntson, B. Zapzalka, W. Anderson, G. Plumski, C. Kvamme
April 26, 2020	J. Ramey, J. Clasen, S. Pressnall, C. Dingmann, M. Campion



Worship Shepherds February 2 Wayne Peterson February 9 David Perleberg February 16 Deb Erdmann February 23 Wayne Anderson				
February 2	8:00am 10:30am			
February 9	8:00am	Bonnie Gottwalt & Charyl Walberg		
February 16	10:30am 8:00am 10:30am	Keith & Kathy Craft Kevin & Janet Maleska Travis & Marlys Lenarz		
February 23	8:00am 10:30am	Wayne & Colleen Peterson Bruce & Sandie Resch		
February 2	8:00am 10:30am	Lois Perleberg Cara Freese		
February 9	8:00am 10:30am	Jeff Ramey READERS Pastor David		
February 16	8:00am 10:30am	Jeff Ramey Celeste Ollman		
February 23	8:00am 10:30am	/		
February 2	8:00am 10:30am	Wayne & Colleen Peterson Howard & Nancy Forer		
February 9	8:00am 10:30am	Jeremy & Candace Dingmann Bruce & Sandie Resch		
February 16	8:00am 10:30am	Scott & Peg Mana Keith & Kathy Craft		
February 23		Kevin & Janet Maleska Dean & Karie Giese		

FEBRUARY Dennis Arntson, Scott Manea





FEBRUARY

Deb Erdmann Joan Ramey



If it is your turn to serve fellowship, please bring some treats to share and arrive early to help set up. If your name is first on the list, please arrive 30

minutes prior to the 8:00am service to make coffee. The directions for making coffee are posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen. When you serve fellowship, please plan on serving coffee and treats and cleaning up the kitchen after the first service. The

others serving with you would appreciate it!

February 2 – K. Maleska, A. Betker, K. Huhne, J. Popp, D. Dubbin, B. Roles

February 9 – Sweetheart's Breakfast

February 16 – K. Kirchner, R. Brutcher, G. Hendrickson, S. Douvier, B. Betker

February 23 – K. Peterson D. Skajewski, L. Legatt S. Manea, G. Loidolt

February	2 -	Pastor David	
February	9 -	Dennis Arntson	
February 1	16 -	Steve Ree	
February 2	23 -	Jerry Nelson	Wo

	<u>Muscians</u>		
February	2	Heather	
February	9 Bethany &		
		Gabby	
February	16	Lyric Videos	
February	23	Praise Team	



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PROJECTIONISTS

February	2	8:00am	Sarah Anderson	
		10:30am	Denise Leahy	
February	9		Levi Brenny Cynthia Ollman	
February	16	8:00am	Aaron Betker	
		10:30am	Cal Ollman	
February	23		Isabelle Cairns Cynthia Ollman	

February Birthdays

Tyler	Hackett	February 1st
Nolan	Morgan	February 1st
Lila	Tschida	February 1st
Tanner	Hackett	February 6th
John	Herman	February 7th
Joshua	Elliott	February 8th
Keith	Kirchner	February 8th
Celeste	Ollman	February 9th
Eric	Skajewski	February 9th
lleana	Merten	February 14th
Evie	Seppelt	February 14th
Juli	Рорр	February 15th
Henry	Donabauer	February 17th
Trinity	Blommer	February 20th
Muggs	Newman	February 20th
Breyden	Bemboom	February 21st
Rebecca	Peterson	February 21st
Liam	Seppelt	February 22nd
Jennifer	Bemboom	February 24th
Braxton	Dumonceaux	February 25th
Carol	Rolph	February 27th
Zachary	Elliott	February 28th
Heather	Statz	February 28th

Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.

 K Y D S N G E G I P B E E E H

 U P A E M L G A A V E A B O N

 W R T V Q F P R R J A T P W E

 U E I E Z J R B R Z R E O P Z

 U N R I G H T E O U S N E S S

 N E B L B Q P P G F M H C J K

 N S Q E K E R S A V P P R P X

 E J E B C O P T N C M L C X Q

 R N S C V O N E T N X J J T C

 D P D O I E M D E R E F F U S

 Y N K U I O R I J E A L O U S

 R E I T R D J O N F L C G V K

 D R A K F E Z E A G X M K O F

 Z P Y Z D A S R R R L S R A W

 Q T K X B W R E V E N Y Y C N

Does Not Take Into Account A

Is **PATIENT**

Wrong SUFFEREDIs KINDDoes Not Rejoice In
UNRIGHTEOUSNESSDoes Not JEALOUSUNRIGHTEOUSNESSDoes Not BRAGREJOICES With The TruthIs Not ARROGANTBEARS All ThingsDoes Not Act UNBECOMINGLYBELIEVES All ThingsDoes Not Seek Its OWNHOPES All ThingsIs Not PROVOKEDENDURES All Things

© Crafting The Word Of God

February Anniversaries

James & Laurie	Madoll	February 9th
Davis & Jessica	Mickelson	Febuary 12th
Greg & Beth	Roles	Febuary 15th
Jeff & Stephanie	Loidolt	February 17th
Wayne & Judy	Anderson	Febuary 24th
Shawn & Jennifer	Bemboom	Febuary 29th



Jesus loves...

Pastor David Edge Church Phone: 393-4295 Email: office@sotpministries.com or david@sotpministries.com Church Website: sotpministries.com

SOTP BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY/ELDERS

Sarah Anderson, Secretary 267-2628; Wayne Peterson, 249-3986; Deb Erdmann, 249-4804; David Perleberg, Vice President 360-5147; Wayne Anderson 393-2128; Curt Kvamme Treas. 393-3353; Kyle Hackett, President 266-1700; Bev Gerads 761-1894

Keith Peterson, Church Properties 292-4007

EXECUTIVE MINISTRY TEAM

Brenda Hackett - Education & Small Group Team Leader, Keith Hackett - Worship Team Leader, Jen Ollman- Service 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 <u>Great</u> <u>Commission</u> (Matthew 28), namely first of all to <u>Go</u>. 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 <u>Make Disciples</u> or in the words of St Paul, "<u>To equip the saints</u>" (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 <u>Baptize</u> 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, <u>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you</u>. 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 <u>rule and norm</u> 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 <u>Make Disciples</u>.