

Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church

1950 125th Street NW Rice, MN 56367

Phone: 393-4295

Email: office@sotpministries.com

Church Website: sotpministries.com

Dear church family of SOTP,

"This is what He came to do!" Jesus put it this way. "The Son of Man came, not to be served, but to serve and to give His life for many." (Mark 10:45)

There were several times during His earthly ministry when Jesus, in essence, took His disciples aside and told them – "This is what I came to do!" He was pointing them to His then impending death on the cross. Those conversations will be at the center of our six mid-week Lenten services this year, beginning with Ash Wednesday February 22nd and continuing through March 29th with Holy Week the following week.

"This is what He came to do!" And to that statement let me draw you into the picture by adding just two words: "for you!" He came, not to serve, but to give His life on the cross for you! This is what He came to do for you!

I invite and encourage you to gather with your SOTP church family each Wednesday at 6:30p.m. for worship and time in God's Word. You'll also want to come before to enjoy a soup supper and fellowship time!

In Christ, Pastor Dave

"RAISE RIGHT" is coming to SOTP on Sunday, February 26th! What is "Raise Right"? It is an opportunity for you to support Prince of Peace Lutheran School by purchasing gift cards to give as gifts or for your personal use. Gift cards are available for 45 different dining, retail, gas and grocery locations. You pay the face value of the card, and the school receives a percentage of the value for every card. This will be available after the service that morning. Copies of the order form will be available in advance so you can see what the various merchants are. Talk with Pastor Dave or Karen for more information.

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY/EMT JOINT MEETING January 19, 2023 PENDING APPROVAL MINUTES

Members Present: Kyle Hackett, Ron McKeever, Deb Erdmann, Dave Perleberg, Joanny Ramey, Paul Tschida and Pastor Dave Stroschein. **On zoom**: Colleen Woods and Bev Gerads. Also present Keith Hackett and Brenda Hackett EMT and Julie Kiraly. Absent was Keith Peterson.

Kyle Hackett called meeting to order at 7:05pm. Paul opened with prayer.

Kyle read Mission Statement.

EMT Reports:

Worship- Keith Hackett reported that the speaker in the front of the church was fixed. The DVD player up front has been out for a long time. Keith will take a look at it. Looking into the cost and how to start video recording our Worship services. Possibly going FB live, then downloading that to our church website. Mike Karl former director of the Crusade Choir now has his own group. He's interested in coming to perform sometime. Also getting scheduling figured out to have Teen and Adult Challenge also come to perform for us.

Sunday School- Brenda Hackett stated that attendance has been very consistent thus far. She is ordering SS materials as needed instead of having a bunch leftover at the end of the year. She has a great number of SS subs, which is a blessing. VBS will be June 4-8th. Working on getting things ordered. Brenda has applied for grant money from both the Rice Lions and Benton Communications. Plans are being made for the Easter breakfast. Looking into purchasing a heating/AC unit for the guilters and hospitality rooms.

Bible Study- There's a couple current bible studies' happening. If you're interested in attending or leading a study contact Colleen Woods

Service Team- Open position. Movie night January 20th, Daddy /Daughter Dance February 10th, Sweetheart Breakfast put on by the youth February 12th.

Pastoral Activity Report: Report on Pastoral activities was reviewed.

Nomination of Officers. Ron McKeever nominated Kyle Hackett for President. After asking 3 times no other nominations. Paul Tschida motioned to close nominations seconded by Deb Erdmann. Motion passed. Colleen Woods motioned for a unanimous vote, Ron McKeever seconded motion passed.

Bev Gerads nominated Dave Perleberg for Vice President seconded by Deb Erdmann. After asking 3 times no other nominations. Bev Gerads motioned to close nominations and call for a unanimous vote seconded by Paul. Tschida Motion passed.

Paul Tschida nominated Bev Gerads for secretary and Deb seconded it. Asking 3 times and hearing no other nominations Deb Erdmann asked to close nominations and call for a unanimous ballet. Dave Perleberg seconded and motion passed.

Treasurer's report was reviewed. Bev made a motion to accept the treasurer's report followed by a second from Colleen. Motion approved.

Property report- Keith P. was absent. Joanny Ramey said the inside of the church needs a good spring clean up.

Secretary's Report: The report was reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes by Ron McKeever and seconded by Bev Gerads. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- * **Call Process:** President Finnern was here on January 8th. It was a very productive meeting. President Finnern is working on a new list for call committee. More info about the committee to come.
- * Open Service Team Leader position and altar guild if interested reach out to the board.
- * Kyle Hackett read the confidentiality statement to the new board. Welcome Paul to the BOLM.

New Business:

* Worship schedule reviewed. Next BOLM meeting will be February 16th at 7pm.

- * **Easter Schedule.** Lent Services Wednesday's February 22nd March 29th 6:30...soup suppers 5-6:15. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Service at 6:30. Easter Sunday services at 7am & 9:30 with breakfast severed from 8-9:15am. Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday April 8th.
- * Confirmation Sunday April 30th 9am.
- * Pastor Dave will be out of the office March 6-13th.
- * Ron McKeever made a motion seconded by Paul for a **peaceful release of Pam Fuchs**. Motion carried. Paul motioned to **welcome Daniel & Elli Reginek and family as new members of SOPT**. Dave Perleberg 2nd motion carried.

Ron McKeever made a motion to adjourn the meeting followed by a second from Paul Tschida Motion carried at 8:45pm.

Pastor Dave closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Deb Erdmann Acting Secretary



Happy Valentine's Day to you all!!

It is the month to celebrate those we love and oh how Jesus loves each and every one of you! **We will not be having Sunday School on Feb 12** because the Youth will be serving a Sweetheart Breakfast after service! Come join them and have some family time! Sunday School will resume the following week. Thanks again to all the Substitutes for filling in for teaching! I truly appreciate your willingness to lend a hand!

We begin the planning for VBS 2023 and we are off and running! "Stellar" is the title and it will be "out of this world" about how Jesus loves us!!! If God is moving your heart to lend a hand, we sure will be in need! I will have the sheets and things ready to come out in April, but if you would like to lend a hand putting things together just let me know and I will keep you informed as to when we will be having our meet times to work!

Easter breakfast is planned for this year also. We will be serving after Sunrise service (8:00) up until 9:15 with service following at 9:30. This is what we did last year and being we only have 2 services and not 3, this is what we will do again. The sign-up sheets will be coming out Ash Wednesday for helping hands and food donations. Proceeds from the breakfast will go to the VBS program.

May God bless this month for you and your family and each and every day may you see His love for you!

Serving for the Lord,

Brenda Hackett

Education Team Leader

There are 3 Bible Studies currently meeting in addition to Pastor's Sunday Morning 9:30am Wednesday Mornings meets in Hospitality room study is "Mothers & Daughters" Led by Marlene Popp

9:30am Wednesday Mornings Lois Perleberg continues to lead a study group at church

Sunday Moring at 10:30am Pastor Dave leading bible study in the Sanctuary

Sunday Morning at 10:30am Richael Weinand leading a bible study for parents of Sunday School children.

You are welcome to join a study or suggest a new one. Contact me with ideas or questions.

Small Group Leader Colleen Woods 320-685-4389



Worship Team

Worship Help Schedule

February	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
02/05/23	9:00am	Lenarz Family	Julie Kiraly	Dennis Arntson	Bonnie Gottwalt &	Dennis Arntson
					Charyl Walberg	
02/12/23	9:00am	Kevin & Janet Maleska	Denise Leahy	Jane Nelson	Keith & Brenda Hackett	Jane Nelson
02/19/23	2/19/23 9:00am Milt & Marlene Popp		Cal Ollman	Janet Maleska	Keith & Kathy Craft	Steve Ree
02/26/23	02/26/23 9:00am Deb Erdmann		Keith Hackett	Lois Perleberg	Jeremy & Candace Dingmann	Keith Hackett
March	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
03/05/23	9:00am	Shelley Pintok	Sarah Anderson	Jerry Nelson	Brian & Heather Statz	Jerry Nelson
03/12/23	9:00am	Charlie & Nancy Anderson	Mackenzie Ramey	Peg Manea	Lenarz Family	Paul Tschida
03/19/23	9:00am	Brenda & Keith Hackett	Dennis Arntson Ron Woods	Keith & Roxanne Peterson	Steve Ree	
03/26/23	9:00am	Scott & Peg Manea	Levi Brenny	Richael Weinand	Brenda & Keith Hackett	Keith Hackett
Amail	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
April 04/02/23	9:00am			READERS Ruth Brutcher	Deb Erdmann & Grandchildren	Brenda Hackett
Palm Sunday	9:00am	Barb Zapzalka	Cynthia Ollman	Ruth Brutcher	Deb Erdmann & Grandchildren	втепиа паскец
04/09/23	9:30am	Ron & Barb McKeever	Julie Kiraly	Paul Tschida	Keith & Roxanne Peterson	Jerry Nelson
Easter	3.554111		ound i many			,
04/16/23	9:00am	Bruce & Sandie Resch	Denise Leahy	Dennis Arntson	Ron & Barb Mckeever	Steve Ree
04/23/23	9:00am	Jen & Tom Ollman	Cal Ollman	Jane Nelson	Jeremy & Candace Dingmann	Dennis Arntson

If you can help in any area please reach out. There are opportunities for children and youth to volunteer. The children can help with holding the bin at the end of the communion line and youth can volunteer to Acolyte (light the candles at the altar), projectionist, or read. Sign up or reach out to church office or me.

Keith Hackett Worship Team Leader

2023 ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

Deb Erdmann

MARCH

Roxanne Peterson

JANUARY

Roxanne Peterson

	_ •			
Juli Popp	Joan Ramey	Juli Popp		
Joan Ramey	Gloria Hendrickson	Joan Ramey		
APRIL	MAY	JUNE		
Deb Erdmann	Mary Bulthuis	Mary Bulthuis Joan Ramey		
Joan Ramey	Joan Ramey			
Gloria Hendrickson				
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER		
Mary Bulthuis	Deb Erdmann	Julie Clasen		
Joan Ramey	Joan Ramey	Charyl Walberg		
-	Gloria Hendrickson	Brenda Pressnall		
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER		
Julie Clasen	Julie Clasen	Roxanne Peterson		
Charyl Walberg	Charyl Walberg	Juli Popp Joan Ramey		
Brenda Pressnall	Brenda Pressnall			
	much activity. Any help that yo nuch appreciated. If you have an nks Joan Ramey			
We are in need 5 more individu	als for our groups.			
May June & July 1	2			
February April & August 1	2			
January March & December 1.				
Altar Guild requires Minimal ti	me commitment. Non communio	n Sundays less than one half hour		
for dusting, vacuuming and wat	ering plants. Communion Sunday	ys require about one hour of your		

time. Altar Guild also decorates for holidays and change of paraments and banners. We work as

a team and you always have a backup if you are unable to cover your assigned weekend.

Thank you to all who participated on January 18th to put together our calendar of events through the summer months! We encourage all SOTP youth sixth through twelfth grade to join us! This is the list we talked about:

February 12th Sweetheart breakfast, set up will be on Feb 11th and cooking on the 12th. Let's show our appreciation and love for the congregation by cooking and serving them a fantastic meal! The menu will be pancakes and sausage with fresh fruit and strawberry topping. Please volunteer for specific times on the sign-up sheet on the counter in the church narthex.

March 8th Lenten Soup Supper. We discussed bringing dishes other than soup to share. We'll have a sign up out in late February for this service event.

March 10th-11th Youth Group Lock In at church. We'll start with a taco supper together at 5:30pm. Taco meat and shells will be provided; everyone should bring a taco ingredient. We'll continue the night with movies, games and other fun activities. You are encouraged to bring a movie or game to share with the group that night. We'll finish by making breakfast and have the spaces we used cleaned up by 9am on Saturday.

April 8th Easter Egg Hunt. Please mark your calendars to help with this annual event. This is a great event to reach out to the younger kiddos in our community. We'll have a sign up out in late March for this service event.

April 19th will be a regular Youth Group meeting at SOTP at 7:30pm. As soon as weather permits, we will have a campfire for our activity.

May 7th with start our set up for the Youth Group Garage Sale on May 11-12-13. Please watch for more details to come on when donations can be dropped off at church and what times we need volunteers throughout the week and for the sale. We're raising funds to attend Youth Camp together at Camp Shamineau this fall.

May 21st will be a regular Youth Group meeting at SOTP at 7:30pm.

June 4-8 is VBS! Please mark your calendars and let Brenda Hackett know that you plan to volunteer for this event. This is also a great event to reach out to the younger kiddos in our community.

June 21st will be a regular Youth Group meeting at SOTP at 7:30pm...unless we decide to go to the 12:05pm Rox baseball game together...stay tuned!

July 19th will be a regular Youth Group meeting at SOTP at 7:30pm.

August 16th will be a regular Youth Group meeting at SOTP at 7:30pm.

September 17th Youth Group Sunday Study starts for the school year at 10:30am Sundays in the Youth Room.

September 20th will be a regular Youth Group meeting at SOTP at 7:30pm.

Oct date TBD Fall Fling Youth camp weekend at Camp Shamineau. Watch your email for details!

October 18th will be a regular Youth Group meeting at SOTP at 7:30pm.

Josh & Sarah Anderson Youth Group Leaders

SOTP

FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING!

We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday**, **February 19**th , for **Pregnancy Resource Center**. Thank you for your support and your generous donations!

December's Church Income Statement

[December	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$29,496	\$251,505
Expenses	(\$12,082)	(\$191,272)
Excess/(Shortfal	l) \$17,414	\$60,233

Rice Area Food Shelf

February Distribution is Thursday, February 9th from 3:00-5:30pm at the Old Village Hall



Movie Night @ SOTP! Join us on February 16th at 6:30pm for Zootopia. Come in Pjs, bring a blanket, and snacks if you would like. Some snack available .to share as well.



If you would like a picture on the screen during the dance, please send them to the church office email.

Office@sotpministries.com by February 9th at 9:00am

Donations Needed for Sweetheart Breakfast

There is a sign-up sheet for donations that are needed for the Sweetheart Breakfast. Please look it over and help where you can. Donations need to be at church by Friday, February 10th. Sweetheart breakfast will be served by the Youth on February 12th.

The Youth Invite You To the

Sweetheart Breakfast

Sunday February 12th @ 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

We will have Freewill offering to support the Youth Group

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Apply for Thrivent Choice Dollars during February by phone at 1-800-847-4836 or online at Thrivent.com. Fill out the form in the Church Entrance to indicate how you would like your choice dollars





designated, and give the form to Curt or Church Secretary Julie. Members should apply for their Choice Dollars before March 31st, 2023

Worship Shepherds **February** 5 Paul Tschida **February** 12 Colleen Woods **February** 19 Paul Tschida <u>February</u> 26 Deb Erdmann 5 **February** 9AM Lenarz Family Kevin & Janet Maleska **February** 12 9AM Milt & Marlene Popp **February** 19 9AM Deb Erdmann **February** 26 9AM 5 **Julie Kiraly February** 9AM **February** 12 9AM Denise Leahy Cal Ollman **February** 9AM 19 Projectionist **February** 26 9AM Keith Hackett **February** 5 **Dennis Arntson** 9AM **February** 12 9AM Jane Nelson **February** Janet Maleska 19 9AM **February** 26 9AM Lois Perleberg **February** 5 9AM Bonnie Gottwalt & USHERS Charyl Walberg Keith & Brenda Hackett **February** 12 9AM 9AM Keith & Kathy Craft **February** 19 **February** 26 9AM Jeremy & Candace Dingmann **February** 1 **Dennis Arntson**



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!



February 5th

S. Wood & B. Novitizki February 12th **Sweetheart Breakfast** February 19th

J. Clasen, D. Giese, T. Hovland February 26th

D. Erdmann, J. Brenny, D. Mickelson March 5th

S. Pressnall, C. Walberg, D. Cairns March 12th

M. Barringer, L. Saldana, K. Peterson March 19th

> **B. Jasmer & A. Ostendorf** March 26th

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

Musicians

Heather Statz

Praise Team

Volunteer/Lyric

Volunteer/Lyric



February

February

We have been praying for our church families each week as we go through our church February 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:

Jane Nelson

Keith Hackett

Steve Ree

February 5- Connie Efraimson

8

15

22

February 12-Drew & Jessica Efraimson

Children: Piper, Quinn, & Wyatt

February 19 – Andy & Hannah Eggert

Children: Barrett & Lauren

OFFERING COUNTERS

February

February

February

FEBRUARY

Dennis Arntson & Scott Manea



5

12

19

26

FEBRUARY

Deb Erdmann, & Joanny Ramey

February 26- Barbara Ellefson

February 19th February 5th Isaiah 58:3-9 Exodus 24:8-18 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 1 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 5:13-20 Matthew 17:1-9 February 12th February 26th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Genesis 3:1-21 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 5:21-37 Matthew 4:1-11



Feb. 22 (Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:12-19 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-2



Feb. 22 (Ash Wednesday)



Joel 2:12-19 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March-April will be posted and available soon

Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday 6:30pm
February 22nd
Lenten Services – 6:30pm
March 1st -March 29th

<u>Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm</u> April 6th

Good Friday Service 6:30pm April 7th

Easter Sunday Services April 9th , 7:00am & 9:30am

***Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 8th at 10am *** Easter Breakfast 8am-9:15am

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			
Caleb & Mikayla	Jasmer	February 26th			
Shawn & Jennifer	Bemboom	Febuary 29th			

February Birthdays				
Tyler	Hackett	February 1st		
Nolan	Morgan	February 1st		
Lila	Tschida	February 1st		
Zachary	Pressnall	February 3rd		
Ella	Salzburn	February 3rd		
Benjamin	Campion	February 4th		
Tanner	Hackett	February 6th		
John	Herman	February 7th		
Joshua	Elliott	February 8th		
Keith	Kirchner	February 8th		
Celeste	Ollman	February 9th		
Eric	Skajewski	February 9th		
Blakelyn	Gangl	February 11th		
Hudson	Reginek	February 13th		
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		
Liam	Seppelt	February 22nd		
Jennifer	Bemboom	February 24th		
Braxton	Dumonceaux	February 25th		
Carol	Rolph	February 27th		
Zachary	Elliott	February 28th		
Heather	Statz	February 28th		



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



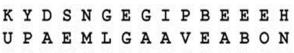
February 2023

	***		Ji Odiy Z	020	4 春	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Website:sotpministries.com Email: office@sotpministries.com Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00			9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Music: Heather 9:00 Worship 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 5:30 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA	Daddy Daughter Dance Daddy/Daughter Dance 6:00pm-8:00pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Music: Lyric Videos 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sweetheart		Dayl St. Valentines Plows me awail Plows use awail			ZOOTOPIA	
Breakfast Served by the Youth No Sunday School/Bible study	7:30 Praise Team 7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	9:00 Quilters 6:30 Elder's Meeting 7:00 BOLM Meeting 7:00 AA	Movie Night 6:30pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Noisy Offering: Pregnancy Resource Center Music: Praise Team 9:00 Worship 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 5:30 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 5-6:15 Soup Supper 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
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 5:30 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	By this work love, because Christ laid of life for Jesus Leve	se Jesus Hown His Tus. 1John 346 BE	SO LOVED THAT HE ONLY BEGOT SON, SO THAT WHO LIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT P OT HAVE ETE JOHN 3	THE WORLD E GAVE HIS TEN DEVER 1 FERISH ERNAL

Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.



WRTVQFPRRJATPWE

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

NEBLBQPPGFMHCJK

NSQEKERSAVPPRPX

EJEBCOPTNCMLCXQ

RNSCVONETNXJJTC

DPDOIEMDEREFFUS

YNKUIORIJEALOUS

REITRDJONFLCGVK

DRAKFEZEAGXMKOF

ZPYZDASRRRLSRAW

QTKXBWREVENYYCN



Is KIND

Is Not JEALOUS

Does Not BRAG

Is Not ARROGANT

Does Not Act UNBECOMINGLY

Does Not Seek Its OWN

Is Not PROVOKED

Does Not Take Into Account A Wrong SUFFERED

Does Not Rejoice In UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

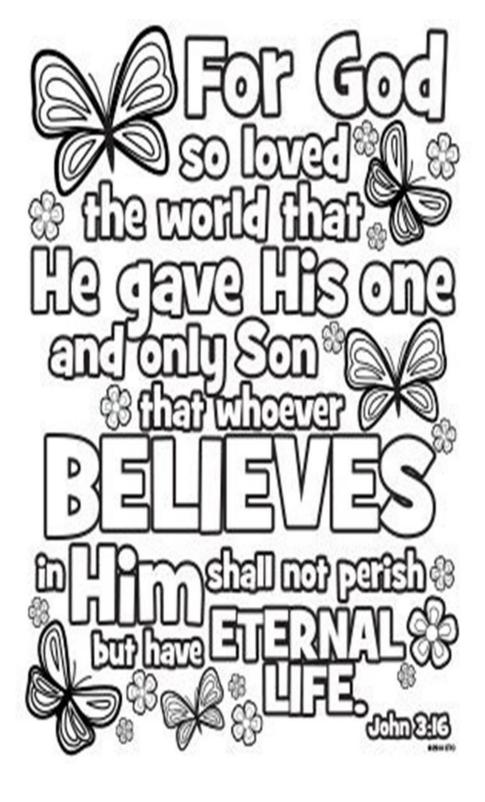
REJOICES With The Truth

BEARS All Things

BELIEVES All Things

HOPES All Things

ENDURES All Things





Jesus loves...

Church Phone: 393-4295
Email: office@sotpministries.com
Church Website: sotpministries.com
SOTP BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY/ELDERS

Kyle Hackett, President 266-1700; David Perleberg, Vice President 360-5147; Bev Gerads, Secretary 761-1894; Joan Ramey 393-3342; Ron McKeever Treas. 393-2524; Colleen Woods 685-4389; Deb Erdmann, 249-4804; Paul Tschida 360-5241

Keith Peterson, Church Properties 292-4007

EXECUTIVE MINISTRY TEAM

Keith Hackett - Worship Team Leader, Jen Ollman- Service Team Leader, Brenda Hackett - Education & Colleen Woods Small Group Team

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 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 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.