

Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church

1950 125th Street NW

Rice, MN 56367

Phone: 393-4295

Email: office@sotpministries.com

Church Website: sotpministries.com

2024

Dear redeemed and forgiven children of God,

I don't usually greet people in that way, but it just seems to me to be the way I should greet you as we enter the month of February which brings with it the season of Lent. After all, the end result of all that Jesus did for us and of all that we will recall Him doing for us during Lent is exactly that! In Jesus and through Jesus, you and I are God's forgiven and redeemed children!

So, this year Ash Wednesday is also Valentine's Day! Talk about expressing love for someone! What greater valentine will any of us ever receive than the absolute expression of love that God our heavenly Father has given us than through the giving of His Son? "There is no greater love than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) "But God showed His love for us in this: while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) "This is love, not that we loved God but that He first loved us and gave His Son for us." (1 John 4:10)

This year as we observe Lent, I'd like to share a series of messages around the theme of "The Women of Lent." Some of them lived long before Jesus came to live among us and die for us, such as Eve and Ruth. Some of them encountered Jesus during His earthly ministry, such as Mary (Martha's sister), Anna (the prophetess), the Samaritan woman at the well, the woman who anointed Jesus' feet with oil and perfume (Luke 7), and Martha. And then there is the one woman who was involved in Jesus' live from beginning to end, His mother Mary. There's something we can learn from the faiths of each of these women that will be blessings to our faith in Jesus. I invite and encourage you to add the Wednesday worship services and fellowship time of an evening meal before each service to your walk with your Lord.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing Karen and I to spend the month of January in Arizona with our Arizona kids and grandkids! We had a great time with them and cherish being able to be a part of their daily lives! We also didn't mind the warmer climate either!

But, we are glad to be back home as well and look forward to our time together at the foot of our Savior's cross!

In Christ, Pastor Dave

"The Women of Lent"

It began with Eve. It continued with Ruth. We can also see connections to it in the lives of the prophetess Anna, Martha and her sister Mary, a Samaritan woman, an anonymous woman, and finally, in the life of Jesus' mother, Mary. Let's call them "The Women of Lent" as they each had something to do with God's promise to Eve that someday He would send a Savior to redeem the world from its fall into sin.

This will be the focus of a series of dialogue messages for our Lenten services beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 14th and continuing through Good Friday, March 29th and I have a favor to ask my sisters in Christ at SOTP. I would like to have at least two of you join me each week in presenting the message as part of a dialogue message. You would serve as a panel to help bring out insights into each of the women we will be studying. Your preparation would involve just spending some time in advance with the story each week of the woman we are focusing on and then joining me to talk about and share how these women help us each to see our Savior's passion and cross a little more clearly. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Dave and I can give you more details.

JOINT EMT/BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY MEETING Thursday, January 18, 2024 7:00 P.M. Pending Approval

The joint meeting of the BOLM/EMT meeting was January 18, 2024 was called to order by Vice President, Dave Perleberg, at 7:12pm (after resolving technical issues to include Ron McKeever who was joining remotely from Idaho.) Dave also led us in the opening prayer.

Shepherd of the Pines Mission Statement was read by Paul Tschida.

EMT Reports:

WORSHIP team leader, Keith Hackett reported that the volunteer slots are being filled but no extras. It would be nice to have more volunteers and we would welcome more youth involvement.

EDUCATION team leader, Brenda Hackett, reported that fundraising has been going well, most recently the calendar sales went well. The upcoming Easter Breakfast will contribute even more. The VBS theme this year is "SCUBA", under the sea. Sunday School is going well.

SMALL GROUPS leader, Colleen Woods reported there are two Bible studies active at this time, along with one Triad. Lois Perleberg is leading a study of the Book of Matthew on Wednesday mornings, and will soon begin studying the OT prophets and would welcome more to join the group of 5-7 who currently meet (one attends a different church in the Rice area.) Jeff Ramey leads a study of about 7 people, considering the series, "Is Genesis History?" by Del Tackett, with a possible future study "Wounded by Shame; Healed by Grace" by Jeff VonVonderen. There is also a TRIAD actively meeting for the last 20+ years, including some who do not currently attend Shepherd of the Pines. Deb Erdmann is interested in joining a study on a weekday afternoon at 3:35.

ACTIVITY leader, Jami Kreifels reported that Advent Soup suppers went well. The Giving Tree filled the needs of 22 people with extra funds providing gift cards for 4 families to purchase food and extras for Christmas. There are 27 registered already for the Daddy Daughter Dance. For this event the SOTP brochure includes future events and will be handed out to the participants. The Easter Egg Hunt is also being planned.

PROPERTIES: Keith reported ceiling fans have been cleaned in the Sanctuary. He and volunteers are in the process of changing out the part in the fluorescent fixtures to LED.

TREASURERS REPORT: Ron McKeever reported December was a very good month for donations. We were able to give a sizeable amount from the emergency fund to meet needs. One person commented when she came to get the money she realized she had been to our church for one of our "Trunk and Treat" events and has begun attending. He also commented that the Giving Tree donations made it possible for SOTP to be generous to those in need. Motion was made by Deb Erdmann, seconded by Colleen Woods to accept the treasure report motion passed

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion was made by Ron McKeever, seconded by Deb Erdmann and approved by the Board.

CALL COMMITTEE: The next meeting will be Sunday after Sunday School. There are about a dozen names on the new list just received from the District, including one name we have seen before. There was discussion that since Gabby is now out of state, we need a young adult to bring representation to the call committee.

SHEPHERD SCHEDULE: Changes: Joan Ramey will be Shepherd Sunday, March 3, while Josh Anderson will Shepherd Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30pm.

NEXT BOLM MEETING - Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7:00PM

MN Law: Dave Perleberg will ask Kyle how this new earned sick and safe time law affects employees.

Leader Comments: Suggestion that we do a written evaluation of the Secretary rather than a quick verbal one.

BOLM: Assigned Roles

- 1 President Paul Tschida (Needs to contact Concordia Benefit as new contact person)
- 2 Vice President Dave Perleberg
- 3 Secretary Bev Gerads
- 4 Treasurer Ron McKeever (Kurt Kvamme will stay on in current position)

EASTER SCHEDULE:

Changes to the proposed schedule:

Easter Sunday (is a 5th Sunday) Services 7:00am and 9:30am (to allow time for Easter Breakfast Soup Suppers every Wednesday 5-6:15pm for Lent Ash Wednesday BOLM will serve Easter Breakfast 8-9:15am.

Deb made a motion, seconded by Ron at 8:15 to adjourn, Dave Perleberg closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Colleen Woods acting BOLM Secretary Happy Valentine's Day to you all!!

February 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 11th 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 2024 and we are off and running! "Scuba" is the title and it will be "refreshing" 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

1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

In one of Pastor Cloeter's January sermons he talked about bringing others to Jesus. We want you to think of someone you know that doesn't know Jesus and take time right now to pray for that person. Ask God to show you how you can bring glory to him through your relationship with the person you chose.

February 7th will be a regular meeting. February 11th will be the Sweetheart breakfast, prepared and served by the youth group. Thank you to all who have signed up to bring a food donation or help in the kitchen! 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

Worship Team

Worship Help Schedule

February	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
02/04/24	9:00am	Travis Lenarz Family	Julie Kiraly	Dennis Arntson Bonnie Gottwalt &		Keith Hackett
			•	Charyl Walberg		
02/11/24	9:00am	Kevin & Janet Maleska	Denise Leahy	Jane Nelson	1	
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 Easter	9:00am	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Laster						
April	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
04/07/24	9:00am	Joyce Saldana	Mackenzie Ramey	Ruth Brutcher	Deb Erdmann &	Brenda Hackett
					Grandchildren	
04/14/24	9:00am	Ron & Barb McKeever	Levi Brenny	Wyatt Alstrup	Keith & Roxanne Peterson	Jerry Nelson
04/21/24	9:00am	Bruce & Sandie Resch	Denise Leahy	Dennis Arntson	Ron & Barb Mckeever	Steve Ree
04/28/24	9:00am	Kyle & Ashley Hackett Family	Keith Hackett	Jane Nelson	Jeremy & Candace Dingmann	Jane Nelson

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

RICE AREA MISSION QUILTERS

Shepherd Of The Pines Lutheran Church 1950 125th St NW – Rice, MN 56367

Project Needs Volunteers

Tie & Pin Quilts

Supplies

- 1. Fabric Yardage and Pieces
- 2. Yarn
- 3. Thread Partial Spools ok
- 4. Double Knit Fabric



- 5. Polyester Batting
- 6. Towels
- 7. Sheets & Pillowcases
- 8. Jeans & Denim Fabric

Quilts, Blankets, Sheets, Towels, Washcloths, Pillowcases, Lap Robes, Receiving Blankets & Hot Pads Are Donated To:

- † Centro Hispano† Adolescent Addictions Services† Anna Marie† Foley Food Shelf (CROSS)
- ♣ Salvation Army♣ Place of Hope♣ St. Cloud Vet Stand Down♣ Dream Center
- † Bags of Love † Catholic Charities
- **†** Global Health Ministries **†** Arch Angel
- ♣ VA Medical Center
 ♣ Lutheran World Relief
- ♣ Eagles Healing Nest
 ♣ Personal Ministry & Benefits
 ♣ Operation Christmas Child
- Teen & Adult Challenge Thomeless Helping Homeless
- † Country Manor † Hagen Ministry † Bridge Recovery † 180° Youth Shelter
- ♣ Wacosa
 ♣ Sharing and Caring Hands

Contact: Ardelle (320)656-5858 Cell: (320)333-5858 Cherie (320)393-4164 Cell: (320)420-4164

We appreciate any & all donations given!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Quilting News!

We have had a very productive year in Quilting! During the year 2023, we were able to deliver 1,737 queen and regular quilts, lap robes, Operation Christmas Child blankets, and receiving blankets. We also deliver miscellaneous pillowcases, sheets, towels, and washcloths free of charge to low-income families.

We want to thank everyone that has donated money, fabric, their time sewing tops and potholders, and ironing sheets. We have accomplished so much with everyone using their wonderful talents. We would really appreciate more people participating in the pinning and tying of the quilts. (We have a lot of fun and laughs!) No need to know how to sew!!

A special thank you to Rice Lions, Thrivent Financial, Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church, and Jordie's Trailside Café for supporting our purchase of sheets for our quilts.

We have a list on the back of all the agencies that have received our items. They are all very grateful for all the time and talents of everyone that has taken part in this mission.

FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING!

We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday**, **February 18**th,

for **Pregnancy Resource Center**. Thank you for your support and your generous donations!

December's Church Income Statement

	ecember	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$39,437	\$267,575
Expenses	(\$13,588)	(\$195,504)
Excess/(Shortfall) \$25,849	\$72,071

Rice Area Food Shelf

February Distribution is Thursday, February 8th from 3:00-5:30pm at the Old Village Hall

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

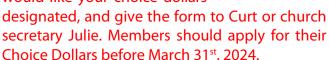
Apply for Thrivent Choice Dollars during February by phone at 1-800-847-4836 or online at Thrivent.com. Fill out the form in the church entrance to indicate how you would like your choice dollars

Direct your

Thrivent Choice

Dollars

Today!





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 8th 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 9th. Sweetheart breakfast will be served by the Youth on February 11th.

The Youth Invite You To the

Sweetheart Breakfast

Sunday February 11th @ 10am in the Fellowship Hall. We will have Freewill offering to support the Youth Group

Worship S	Shep	herds
February	4	Josh Anderson
February	11	Joanny Ramey
February Wed	14	Ron McKeever
February	18	Colleen Woods
February Wed	21	Paul Tschida
February	25	Dave Perleberg
February Wed	28	Deb Erdmann
February	4	Lenarz Family
February	11	Kevin & Janet Maleska
February	18	Milt & Marlene Popp
February	25	Deb Erdmann greeters
February	4	Julie Kiraly
February	11	Denise Leahy
February	18	Mackenzie Ramey
February	25	Keith Hackett PROJECTIONIST
February	4	Dennis Arntson

Jane Nelson

Janet Maleska

Lois Perlebera

Keith Hackett

Brenda Hackett

Jane Nelson

Steve Ree

Ron & Barb McKeever

Keith & Kathy Craft



READERS

USHERS

UPDATE TO FELLOWSHIP!!

Here is the schedule for this lowship winter's fellowship. We ask that if hOur 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 4th J. Elliott, 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 March 3rd D. Arntson, R. Woods, B. Jasmer March 10th J. Ramey, M. Kiraly, J. Alstrup, G. Welle March 17th Ke. Hackett, Ky. Hackett, J. Hackett, T.

Hackett March 24th R. McKeever, J. Nelson, L. Popp

March 31st **Easter Breakfast**

₫flMILY

February

February

11

18

25

4

11

18

25

4

11

18

25

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

Bonnie Gottwalt & Charvl Walberg

Jeremy & Candance Dingmann

them to mind. In February we will be praying for:

February	4	Gary & Sherry Kapsner
February	11	Michael & Julie Kiraly daughter Cecilia
February	18	Keith & Evelyn Kirchner
February	25	Mary Kivi



February	4	Heather Statz
February	11	Lyric Videos
February	18	Praise Team
February	25	Lyric Videos





FEBRUARY Dennis Arntson & Scott Manea

February 4th

Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-27 Mark 1:29-39

Scripture Readings

February 11th

Exodus 34:29-35 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6 Mark 9:2-9



Genesis 22:1-18 James 1:12-18 Mark 1:9-15

February 28th

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-16 Romans 5:1-11 Mark 8:27-38



FEBRUARY Deb Erdmann, Judy Hackett, & Karen Ellefson



Feb. 14th (Ash Wednesday)



Psalm 51:1-13 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Lent scriptures will be posted and available soon

Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday 6:30pm February 14th

<u>Lenten Services – 6:30pm</u> February 21st -March 20th

Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm March 28th

Good Friday Service 6:30pm March 29th

Easter Sunday Services
March 31st 7:00am & 9:30am

***Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30th at 10am *** Easter Breakfast 8am-9:15am

February Anniversaries					
James & Laurie	Madoll	February 9th			
Davis & Jessica	Mickelson	Febuary 12th			
Greg & Beth	Roles Febuary 15t				
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			
	Tschida	·			
Lila	+	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			
Ileana	Merten	February 14th			
Evie	Seppelt	February 14th			
Juli	Рорр	February 15th			
Henry	Donabauer	February 17th			
Trinity	Blommer	February 20th			
Breyden	Bemboom	February 21st			
Brayden	Dubbin	February 21st			
Liam	Seppelt	February 22nd			
Jennifer	Bemboom	February 24th			
Libbie	Seppelt	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



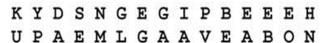
February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Web	site:sotpr	ninistries.				
	office@so					
		-				
Mor	nday - Fri	day 9:00-	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Music: Heather 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:30 Adult Bible		9:00 Quilters	9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Youth Group	9:00 Quilters	Daddy Daughter Dance	
Study	7:30 Small Group	6:00 Al-Anon	Meeting	7:00 AA 15	6:00pm-8:00pm	17
The Youth Invite You To the Sweetheart Breakfast Music: Lyric Videos 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sweetheart 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 5-6:15 Soup Supper 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	9:00 Quilters 6:30 Elder's Meeting 7:00 BOLM Meeting 7:00 AA	16	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 5-6:15 Soup Supper 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Lent Service 7:00 Youth Group Meeting	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
25	26	27	28	29	F	OR GOD
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	9:30 Bible Study 5-6:15 Soup Supper 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Lent Service	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA	SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, SO THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. JOHN 3:16	

Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.



WRTVQFPRRJATPWE

UEIEZJRBRZREOPZ

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

NEBLBQPPGFMHCJK

NSQEKERSAVPPRPX

EJEBCOPTNCMLCXQ

RNSCVONETNXJJTC

DPDOIEMDEREFFUS

YNKUIORIJEALOUS

REITRDJONFLCGVK

DRAKFEZEAGXMKOF

ZPYZDASRRRLSRAW

QTKXBWREVENYYCN

Is PATIENT

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
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SOTP BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY/ELDERS

Paul Tschida, President 360-5241; 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; 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 <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 <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>.