



Children's Christmas Message

December 17, 2023

Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church

1950 125th Street NW

Rice, MN 56367

Pastor Dave Strohschein

Office Phone: 320-393-4295

E-mail: office@sotpministries.com

Church Website: sotpministries.com

Welcome to Shepherd of the Pines!

About Our Worship Service

We're glad that you're here. Our order of service is in this bulletin and the lyrics to the songs will be on the screen. Our service is semi-casual and easy to follow along.

What About My Kids?

We encourage children to sit with their parents in the church service since the parents model worship and faith to their children (Deuteronomy 6:7). However, small children can get a little restless, so we have a nursery that is in the back of the Fellowship Hall. Ask an usher or greeter to help you find the nursery, and they will gladly show you around.

Do I Have to Give an Offering?

If you're visiting with us, we don't want you to feel obligated. We are glad that you are here. You are welcome to give financially if you wish.

Can I Take Communion?

Along with the historic church, our church teaches that not only is bread and wine present in communion, but also it is the true body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:29).

If you believe that communion is the true body and blood of Christ and you are repentant of your sins, we welcome you to our table.

Thank you for visiting with us. Please sign our guest book. You are welcome to take a visitor guide also.

December 17, 2023

9am Worship Service Children Christmas Message

10am Fellowship

10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group

Praise Team Musician

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Pastor: Throughout all of human history, God's promise has stayed the same.

Congregation: "I will be your God, and you will be my people."

Pastor: This day we worship our God, whose name "Emmanuel" reminds us of the promise:

Congregation: God-with-us. We give thanks for God's abiding presence among us.

Pastor: Let us worship God.

Opening Song

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Invocation (from Matthew 18:1-5)

Pastor: At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked,

Congregation: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Pastor: He called a little child and had him stand among them. And He said:

Congregation: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Pastor: Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Congregation: And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."

Pastor: Welcome in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Together let us make confession of our sins and seek God's forgiveness in Christ.

Congregation: Holy God, I need to confess that I have forgotten what this story is about – the story of the birth of Jesus. I've been confused, and so I have wrapped myself up with so much planning, and shopping, and gift giving and sending, that I haven't left any time to quietly sit and consider the Incarnation, the gift of Your Son in the flesh, and to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. Use the message of the children today to remind me of what this is all about, and turn me around and set me in the right direction. Heal me, I pray.

Pastor: Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Congregation: Amen. O come, let us adore Him.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Page 739)

Epistle – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (Page 1171)

Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28 (Page 1049)

Sermon Song

“The First Noel”

“The Christmas Message from our Children”

Offering Announcement

Noisy Offering: The noisy offering today will be given to the Giving Tree, which is set up to help families in Rice in need and Rice Elementary school.

Offering Song

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Prayer (Family this week: Mike & Carla Hunter)

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

The Benediction

Closing Song

“Mary’s Boy Child”

Next Week’s Readings:

2 Samuel 7:1-11

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



We are glad to have you with us today! Please sign our guest book, and join us for fellowship after Service.

Online Giving



Available Now, Go to SOTP website: sotpministries.com or call the office at 320-393-4295 for help setting this up.

Keep Eyes open for upcoming events!

- Children's Christmas Program December 17th
 - Donations for the Giving Tree should be brought to the church by December 17th
 - Sunday School at 10:20
 - Wednesday morning Bible study 9:30am
 - Advent Supper 5-6:15pm Service at 6:30pm
 - Al-Anon meets Tuesday at 6pm, & AA meets Thursday at 7pm
 - Thursday Elder's meeting 6:30pm BOLM meeting 7:00pm
 - December 22nd and December 25th Church office closed for Christmas.
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Greetings,

We want to take a moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas. We will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy; we pray that all four of these will fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond. As in all previous years, we celebrate "Immanuel" (God with us) this Christmas. Without Christ's presence among us, we would be lost. Instead, we are healed, transformed, reconciled, and made whole through God's presence working within us. We pray that you have a fantastic Christmas!

There will be a Christmas Giving Tree in the month of December. There are several items on the tree that are needed for families in need in our community. Please consider choosing a card or making a monetary donation to the giving tree. Items need to be at SOTP church office by **Today, December 17th**.

Blessings to you all!

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, comprised 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.

Third, 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 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.

Board of Lay Ministry/Elders

Kyle Hackett, Pres.	266-1700	Joan Ramey	217-4431
David Perleberg V.P.	360-5147	Colleen Woods	685-4389
Bev Gerads Secretary	761-1894	Deb Erdmann	249-4804
Ron McKeever Treas.	492-5043	Paul Tschida	360-5241

Keith Peterson - Church Properties

Executive Ministry Team

Jami Kreifels - Activity Team Leader

Brenda Hackett - Education & Colleen Woods Small Group Leader

Keith Hackett - Worship Team Leader

December Altar Guild: Roxanne Peterson, Juli Popp, & Karen Ellefson

December Counters: Ron McKeever & Wayne Anderson



Shepherd of the Pines

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worship Shepherd has a clipboard for prayer requests. You will find the clipboard in the narthex before you enter the church sanctuary. Prayer requests are important, and we encourage you to get your requests on the prayer list so they can be included in the worship prayer time.



Please keep our baptized children in your prayers...

Child's Name	Date of Baptism
Bryce Nathan Leyk	December 18, 2022
Maverick Lee Wolff	January 8, 2023
Coen Maxwell Line	January 8, 2023
Cal Nicholas Cervenka	January 29, 2023
Barrett James Eggert	February 5, 2023
Amelia Rose Wentland	February 26, 2023
Joel Richard Page IV	May 14, 2023
Rosalynn Grace Hall	May 21, 2023
Barrett Charles Cole	October 8, 2023
Louise Lee Dumonceaux	December 10, 2023
Rowen Wes Skajewski	December 10, 2023

UPDATE TO FELLOWSHIP!!



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

December 17th P. Dahl, S. Wood, B. Novitzki

December 24th No Fellowship

December 31st Volunteers Needed

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

Holiday Worship Schedule

Advent Services –

December 20th 6:30pm

Children's Christmas Message- Today!

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th 9am with Holy Communion – and

Candlelight Services at 3:00pm and 5:00pm



ADVENT: A Time for Prayer.

Advent services will be on December 20th with each service beginning at 6:30 p.m. Our theme this year will focus on prayer, as prayer is a great way to prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth.

December 20th – Praying to walk faithfully

Supper will be served from 5pm to 6:15pm.

The Service will be at 6:30pm.

December 20th Event Team

This Week at Shepherd of the Pines

Sunday, December 17th (Music-Praise Team)

Children's Christmas Message

8:00 AM	Prayer Time
9:00 AM	Worship
10:00 AM	Fellowship
10:20 AM	Sunday School
10:30 AM	Bible Study

Monday, December 18th

7:30 PM	Bible Study – in homes
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Tuesday, December 19th

6:00 PM	Al-Anon Meeting
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Wednesday, December 20th

9:30 AM	Bible Study
5:00-6:15 PM	Advent Supper (Event Team) NO Confirmation
6:30 PM	Advent Service

Thursday, December 21st

9:00-Noon	Pastor Dave Strohschein in the office
6:30 PM	Elder's Meeting
7:00 PM	BOLM Meeting
7:00 PM	AA meeting

Friday, December 22nd Church Office Closed for Christmas

Sunday, December 24th (Music-Gabby) Christmas Eve

8:00 AM	Prayer Time
9:00 AM	Worship
3:00 PM	Candlelight Service
5:00 PM	Candlelight Service

SOTP Worship Team Serving, This Sunday
December 17th

9:00am Worship:

Greeters: Dean & Karie Giese
Projectionist: Sarah Anderson
Reader: Paul Tschida
Ushers: Jeremy & Candance Dingmann

Worship Leader: Steve Ree

Worship Service Shepherd: Kyle Hackett

Fellowship P. Dahl, S. Wood, B. Novitzki

SOTP Worship Team Serving, Next Sunday
December 24th

9:00am Worship:

Greeters: Keith & Brenda Hackett
Projectionist: Sarah Anderson
Reader: Volunteer Needed
Ushers: Lenarz Family

Worship Leader: Volunteer Needed

Worship Service Shepherd: Paul Tschida

3:00pm Worship:

Greeters: Volunteer Needed
Projectionist: Volunteer Needed
Reader: Lois Perleberg
Ushers: Volunteer Needed

Worship Leader: Volunteer Needed

Worship Service Shepherd: Dave Perleberg

5:00pm Worship:

Greeters:	Volunteer Needed
Projectionist:	Volunteer Needed
Reader:	Ruth Brutcher
Ushers:	Volunteer Needed

Worship Leader: Volunteer Needed

Worship Service Shepherd: Joan Ramey