



## Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church

1950 125<sup>th</sup> Street NW

Rice, MN 56367

Phone: 393-4295

Email: [office@sotpministries.com](mailto:office@sotpministries.com)  
Church Website: [sotpministries.com](http://sotpministries.com)

**2022**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

These are Christmas memories that I cherish.

I cherish the memory of the Christmas Eve Candlelight service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Prior Lake. It was during that service that we had our Sunday School Christmas program. I close my eyes, and I can still see the candles glowing. I close my eyes and I can still remember the bag of treats we each received following the service...peanuts, oranges, and candy!

Since my Dad was the pastor, I also remember this. I remember waiting impatiently for him to come home after the service so that we could open our gifts. I often wondered... "Why do people need to talk to my Dad after church? Don't they know we are waiting to open our presents?"

When we would leave for church (we lived right next door in the parsonage), my Mom would always find a reason to stay behind. She didn't need to be there early as we did; she wasn't in the program. So, when we would leave to walk over to the church, there was never a single present under our tree. And then miraculously, when we walked in the door after church, there were more presents than could be counted beneath the tree! Where did they all come from?????

Then there was Christmas Day at my Grandma and Grandpa Marohn's in Annandale. The day after was Christmas at my Grandma and Grandpa Strohschein's in Howard Lake. Being with family was important. Too many memories to count of times with grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousins.

I share all of this for this reason. It's to encourage each of us to create some lasting memories of celebrating the birth of Jesus. Create the memories of being in worship. Create the memories of family gathered around the tree and around the table, united not only by a family name or heritage, but also by a shared faith in the Babe of Bethlehem. Create memories by passing the story of His birth on to your children and grandchildren and let them see how much the story means to you.

Those are but a few suggestions. There are so many ways to create memories and so many memories waiting to be created as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

In Christ,

Pastor Dave

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY MEETING  
NOVEMBER 17, 2022 7 P.M.  
PENDING APPROVAL

**PRESENT:** Kyle Hackett, Bev Gerads Joan Ramey, Colleen Peterson, Deb Erdmann, Ron McKeever, Garry Loidolt, Dave Perleberg, Pastor Dave Strohschein, also present Julie Kiraly

Meeting called to order at 7:05 P.M. Pastor Dave opened with prayer. Colleen Woods read the Mission Statement.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Income was the best of the year at this point. There were 5 Sundays in October. We paid our bills, expenses were low. Bev Gerads made a motion to accept the Treasurers report, Colleen Woods second.

**PROPERTY REPORT:** There wasn't a property report. The fans were fixed and should be left on.

**SECRETARYS REPORT:** The report was reviewed. Deb Erdmann made a motion to accept as read, Ron McKeever second.

**PASTORAL REPORT:** The report on Pastoral Activity was reviewed. Worship, Education, Regular Meetings, Official Acts, Visitation, Circuit and District Activity.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The **Christian Scholarship** Fund had two 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays this year and raised \$1885.19 .

We learned that **Pastor Bass did decline our call**. He believes that he is still needed in the current congregation. There will be another congregational meeting to discuss the next steps. The President of Missouri Synod North District will come on a Sunday and present the next steps for the SOTP congregation. **The date will be announced, likely January.**

**A Service Team is being sought to organize and manage** activities. The Out Reach Trunk or Treat was a huge success. We had roughly 430 kids, and with adults around 900 people. A thank you to all who contributed in any way to make this activity a wonderful success.

The **Altar Guild** is seeking more volunteers; See Joan Ramey.

**BOLM Vacates:** Deb Erdmann and Dave Perleberg are nominated and have finished their first term. They are eligible to be elected for another full term and Paul Tschida is also a nominee. If there are no more nominees these 3 will serve after the vote with the new term beginning January. One individual will serve out a 1 year term due to the position opening with the stepping down of Garry Loidolt. We are grateful for the service that Garry has given the congregation as a member of the BOLM team. We reviewed the budget. The details will be in the annual report to be reviewed at the Annual meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

We reviewed the **Worship Shepherd Schedule**.

Our next BOLM/EMT meeting will be **December 15 at 7:00 P.M.**

**Christmas Advertisements** to local newspapers were Morrison County Record \$32, Sauk Rapids Herald \$40. There will also be advertising on social media. Ron McKeever made a motion to accept, Garry Loidolt second.

Duties for the Annual meeting were set.

We voted in our new members. Bev Gerads made a motion to accept, Deb Erdmann second.

Kudos to Curt Kvamme who does a great job keeping our books and payroll In order.

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dave Perleberg second.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M. Pastor Dave Strohschein closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Bev Gerads BOLM Secretary

## Bible Studies

### ✝ After service Sunday mornings

A study of the Scriptures of the day led by Pastor Dave Stroschein

### ✝ 9:30 Wednesday mornings

The Book of Matthew, led by Lois Perleberg - all are welcome!  
"Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak" led by Marlene Popp

### ✝ ON OUR RADAR:

Sunday mornings during Sunday School  
A study for parents led by Richael Weinand



I encourage everyone to join a **Small Group** this winter! Whether it be connecting with two others to form a **Triad** to pray for each other, joining a **Bible Study**, starting a **Bible Study**, working on a **Mission project**, such as quilting, joining with others to serve a meal once a month at **Place of Hope**, gathering with others to **pray for children in public schools...**

### Talk to me about your ideas, interests, and concerns!

320-685-4389 - Please leave a message if there is no answer.  
Colleen Woods

Greetings all and Merry "Christ"mas!!!

Oh what a wonderful time of the year to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior! We will be having a Sunday Children's Christmas Message on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

There will be no Sunday School on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

May the blessings fill your hearts and homes this year, the thanks and praise for even the smallest of blessings and challenges for this last year be remembered, and may His peace lead you into 2022!

Serving the Lord,  
Brenda Hackett, Education



Children's Christmas Message  
December 18th  
at 9:00am Service



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 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 an item or making a monetary donation to the giving tree. Items need to be at SOTP church office by **December 19<sup>th</sup>**.

Blessings to you all!

## October Church Income Statement

	September	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$29,389	\$203,270
Expenses	(\$11,579)	(\$166,949)
Over/(Shortfall)	\$17,810	\$36,321



## December NOISY OFFERING!

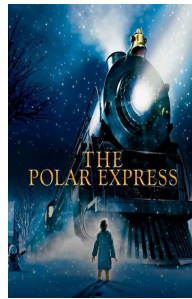
We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, for the **Giving Tree**. We are a week earlier this month in order to have time to pick up items that need to be purchased. Thank you for your support and your generous donations!

## Rice Area Food Shelf

December Distribution is  
Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
from 3:00-5:30pm  
at the Old Village Hall!



Movie Night @ SOTP! Join us on December 16<sup>th</sup> for a double feature The Star & Polar Express. Come in Pjs, bring a blanket and snacks if you would like. Some snacks are available to share as well.



## ALTAR GUILD TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

We have openings for Altar Guild. This will introduce you to belonging to a group with minimal time commitment. We currently have 4 teams that each cover 3 months per year. We would like to have at least 4 individuals on each team. Please contact me, and we will go over what would be required....we also are responsible for decorating the church for all seasons which is really fun. See me at church or call me at 320 217-4431  
Joanny Ramey



## Congratulations First Communion Class of 2022

May the Holy Spirit continually pour His love, comfort, and guidance in the lives of those who are taking Communion for the first time.

Wyatt Alstrup  
Koriana Hackett  
Teegan Sauer

Brielle Elyea  
Awbrilynne Manea

**Galatians 5:22-23** <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

## Open Position Event Team

We are looking for a group of people to be on the service team. This group would help plan and organize events at SOTP. Please speak to a board member if this is something that you would be interested in, or if would like more information. Our next event will be **Daddy/Daughter Dance in February.**



## Are you interested in Choir??

SOTP Choir will meet on Wednesday after Advent service in the choir room. They will decide what day will work best for meeting once Advent is over. We invite anyone to join choir. Any questions please reach out to Heather Statz.





All youth 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome to participate in youth group events! Thank you to all who helped decorate after the Thanksgiving Eve service! Thank you to those who have volunteered to help during the Advent services! It's wonderful to see you be a part of our church's preparation for Christmas!

On Dec 4th, Country Manor-Assisted Living invited us to help put up Christmas decorations and get into the Christmas spirit with the residents. If you are available to participate in this event, please join the group from 1:30-3:30pm. We will also do a gift exchange that night after the service, so the students should each bring a \$5-10 gift which could be for a male or female.

Our next meeting will be January 18th, at 7:30pm. The youth expressed interest in having an overnight lock-in at church. If there are any Friday-Saturday's during January, February or March which would work best for your family for this activity, please let me know.

High School Youth are invited to the youth room on Sunday mornings during Sunday School. We are studying "Philippians - Learning to Lead as a Disciple of Jesus" together on Sunday mornings. This Bible study dives deeply into this love letter to a people that the apostle poured his heart and soul into. It will give you fresh insight into familiar verses and point you to the path of real influence. And it all starts at the feet of Jesus. We're excited to walk this new adventure with you. See you on Sunday morning!

Josh & Sarah Anderson  
Youth Group Leaders



# Worship Team

## Worship Help Schedule

Hello again. Here we are in December. We will continue to have 1 worship service at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday mornings. We also are having Advent services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 P.M.

We will have 2 services on Christmas Eve. They will be at 3:00 P.M. and at 5:00 P.M. A very big thank you to all the volunteers who are helping with the worship services. The help is appreciated .

Christmas is on Sunday this year, so we will have Christmas Service at 9am. Volunteers are needed!!

As we go through this month and look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior on Christmas, may we all see those around us who we can help to have a better Christmas season.

Keith Hackett  
Worship Team Leader

December	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
12/04/22	9:00am	Tom & Jen Ollman	Julie Kiraly	Janet Maleska	Brenda & Keith Hackett	Brenda Hackett
12/11/22	9:00am	Milton & Marlene Popp	Denise Leahy	Lois Perleberg	Brad & Holly Jasmer	Jerry Nelson
12/18/22	9:00am	Dean & Karie Giese	Cal Ollman	Paul Tschida	Jeremy & Candace Dingmann	Steve Ree
12/25/22	9:00am	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer

## Baby Jesus and the Shepherds Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

A S T R U D D O L O R E M V E  
N F E T F A D I T F I U A C I  
G L T S A V I O R E F D R L I  
S O N I M F D A L E S S Y N T  
F C O F D O L N R T I S I T F  
D K T F Q U A G E T F W I S I  
F S L A N F I E L D S F I H C  
I P H E R A T L U T F W I E F  
J O S E P H N I S F A U T P T  
I S F M E D O L O B O R F H U  
S T R U D P E R F A M F N E L  
L U T B E T H L E H E M F R L  
A N D R E M F A F V E L F D O  
L U M F Z Z R I L I T Q U S T  
I E F M O L E S E F J E S U S

ANGEL  
BETHLEHEM

FIELDS  
FLOCK

JESUS  
JOSEPH

MARY  
SAVIOR

SHEEP  
SHEPHERDS

## Worship Shepherds

December 4	Deb Erdmann
December 11	Kyle Hackett
December 18	Colleen Woods
December 25	Volunteer Needed



## Advent Services

November 30 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Kyle Hackett
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Ron McKeever
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Joanny Ramey
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 pm	Bev Gerads

## December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

3:00 pm Dave Perleberg 5:00 pm Deb Erdmann

December 4	9AM	Janet Maleska
December 11	9AM	Lois Perleberg
December 18	9AM	Paul Tschida
December 25	9AM	Volunteer Needed



December 4	9AM	Tom & Jen Ollman
December 11	9AM	Milt & Marlene Popp
December 18	9AM	Dean & Karie Giese
December 25	9AM	Volunteer Needed



## DECEMBER

Ron McKeever & Wayne Anderson



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 December we will be praying for:**

December 4-	Don & Gail Diehl
December 11-	Jeremy & Candance Dingmann Children: Gabby & Waylon
December 18 -	Dale & Linda Dirks
December 25-	Gary Donabauer Children: Grant & Henry



## DECEMBER

Roxanne Peterson, Juli Popp, & Joanny Ramey

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Isaiah 11:1-10  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Isaiah 7:10-17  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Isaiah 35:1-10  
James 5:7-11  
Matthew 11:12-15

**December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Isaiah 10:10-14  
Titus 2:11-14  
John 1:1-14



## UPDATE TO FELLOWSHIP!!

Here is the schedule for this Winter for Fellowship. We ask if you can't do 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!



**December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**B. Jasmer & A. Ostendorf**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**J. Amundson, M. Popp, B. Statz**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**No Fellowship**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**P. Tschida & R. Brutcher**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**

**D. Arntson, R. Woods, T. Ollman**

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**J. Ramey, M. Kiraly, J. Alstrup, G. Welle**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Ke. Hackett, Ky. Hackett, J. Hackett**

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**R. McKeever, J. Nelson, L. Popp**

December 4	Brenda Hackett
December 11	Steve Ree
December 18	Jerry Nelson
December 25	Volunteer Needed



## Musicians

December 4	Heather Statz
December 11	Praise Team
December 18	Bethany Mears
December 25	Volunteer/ Videos



## PROJECTIONISTS

December 4	9AM	Julie Kiraly
December 11	9AM	Denise Leahy
December 18	9AM	Cal Ollman
December 25	9AM	Volunteer Needed

## Christmas Eve Service 3 & 5 pm

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 9:2-7

1 John 4:7-16

Luke 2:1-20

**Volunteers Needed for Advent Services Wednesday at 6:30pm**



**The SOTP Church Office will be closed on Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup> & Monday December 26<sup>th</sup> (For Christmas)**

**Confirmation is Wednesdays evenings from 6:00-6:30.  
Advent Service will be part of Confirmation.**

**Advent Services: 6:30pm  
"From the Beginning: A Closer look at Infancy Narratives of Jesus"**

**Holiday Worship Schedule**

Advent Services – November 30<sup>th</sup> December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup>  
6:30pm

Children’s Sunday Service- December 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00am

Christmas Eve Services – December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm and 5:00pm

Christmas Day Service - Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup> 9am

December Birthdays		
Kathy	Gummert	December 02
Bill	Paradeis	December 02
Blake	Taylor	December 02
Dennis	Arntson	December 03
Kathy	Craft	December 03
Bonnie	Gottwalt	December 04
Linda	Dirks	December 05
Nolan	Kreifels	December 05
Gary	Kapsner	December 06
Karie	Giese	December 08
Margaret	Manea	December 10
DeAnne`	Maslonkowski	December 10
Bruce	Resch	December 10
Alexa	Newman	December 13
Lacey	Brenny	December 14
Luke	Brenny	December 14
Keith	Hackett	December 15
David	Koep	December 15
Aspen	Cole	December 16
Maci	Radika	December 18
Keith	Huhne	December 19
Hunter	Brannen	December 20
Carson	Dumonceaux	December 20
Peggy	Feia	December 20
Craig	Maslonkowski	December 20
Cory	Brouns	December 21
Sandi	Koep	December 26
David	Perleberg	December 26
Hunter	Jasmer	December 27
Duane	Albrecht	December 28
Tonya	Soltis	December 29
Kiaya	Hoeft	December 30
Courtney	Petron	December 30
Quinn	Efraimson	December 31

**Advent Soup Supper**

Join us November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup> for Advent Soup Suppers.

Supper will be served from 5-6:15pm before 6:30 Advent Service.

Freewill Offering will be given to the ministry of the server’s choice.



**Looking for Groups/People to sign up for December 21st Advent Supper (5 to 6:15pm). Service will be at 6:30pm**

November 30<sup>th</sup> BOLM

December 7<sup>th</sup> Quilters

December 14<sup>th</sup> Youth

December 21<sup>st</sup> OPEN

December Anniversaries		
Don & Gail	Diehl	December 07
Jeremy & Ellissia	Manea	December 20
Brian & Heather	Statz	December 30





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

# December 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Email: <a href="mailto:office@sotpministries.com">office@sotpministries.com</a> Website: <a href="http://sotpministries.com">sotpministries.com</a>		 <p>GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,            AND ON EARTH PEACE,            GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.  <small>LUKE 2:14</small></p>		1	2	3
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 Study	7:30 Praise Team 7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 5:30 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	5-6:15 Advent Soup Supper 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Advent Service 7:05 Choir Praticce	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Noisy Offering</b> Music: Praise Team 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	5-6:15 Advent Soup Supper 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Advent Service 7:05 Choir Praticce	9:00 Quilters 6:30 Elder's Meeting 7:00 BOLM Meeting 7:00 AA	 <b>Movie Night 6:00pm</b> <b>Double feature</b>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>Children</b> <b>Christmas Message</b> <b>Music: Bethany</b> 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	6:00 Al-Anon	5-6:15 Advent Soup Supper <b>No Confirmation</b> 6:30 Advent Service 7:05 Choir Praticce	7:00 AA	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  3:00pm Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
 Christmas Day Music: Volunteer Needed 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion <b>No Fellowship</b> <b>No Sunday School</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  7:30 Praise Team 7:30 Small Group		9:00 Quilters 5:30 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	<b>No Confirmation</b>  9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		



## *Jesus was born for ...*

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**Email:** [office@sotpministries.com](mailto:office@sotpministries.com)

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### **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; Garry Loidolt 393-2097

Keith Peterson, Church Properties 292-4007

### **EXECUTIVE MINISTRY TEAM**

Keith Hackett - Worship Team Leader, Open Position- 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 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.