



2024

1950 125th Street NW

Rice, MN 56367

Phone: 393-4295

Email: office@sotpministries.com

Church Website: sotpministries.com

Dear friends in Christ,

I find it a bit ironic with Easter falling on March 31 this year that the day after Easter will be April Fools Day! By the way, a "fool" according to the dictionary is "a person who acts unwisely; a silly person" as in "what a fool I was to do this."

That's basically what Paul had in mind when he wrote this in 1 Corinthians 15 about someone or anyone believing in Jesus if in fact, Jesus had not risen from the dead. "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead...If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." (Paraphrasing all of that: We have been fools!)

"But." There's that little word again...that little word which when it is used in the Bible...that when it is used, it is introducing the Gospel...a moment in time when God stepped in and with His grace and power totally changed the direction of where things were headed. "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead; the First Fruits of those who have fallen asleep."

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!"

And now your direction and my direction, where we are ultimately headed and where we will ultimately end up for all of eternity...has been changed! Yes, you and I will die. "But" we will rise again - for Christ is the firstfruits meaning there will be more resurrections to follow His - including yours and mine and those of all of our loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord! And at that moment and in that moment, our souls will be reunited with our bodies, and we will be taken by Jesus to live forever with Him in heaven!

That's no "foolin!"

In Christ, and Him risen!

Pastor Dave

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY MEETING

Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:00 P.M.

President Paul Tschida, Joanny Ramey, Deb Erdmann, Ron McKeever, Pastor Stroschein, Dave Perleberg, Colleen Woods, Julie Kiraly, and Keith Hackett... Absent; Bev Gerads

President Paul Tschida called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. Pastor opened with **Prayer**, followed by reading of our **Mission Statement** by Joanny Ramey.

Worship: Keith has been in contact with MN Adult and Teen Challenge to arrange a date for them to share with our congregation. Of the two dates available, BOLM chose Sunday, July 28, with a Pot Luck to follow the service. Communion will be moved to Sunday, July 21 instead of the 28th. Also, additional banners or quilts will be hung in the sanctuary for optimal sound that day.

Readers sometimes use the version of the Bible they are most familiar with, but then the words on the screen do not match. The Board approved a request to purchase Pro Presenter programs for two additional versions at \$15 each.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Deb, seconded by Joanny; it was approved.

Property's Report: Insurance is increasing. Inquiries have been made with other insurance companies, but our current agency still provides the best option for us, so we will continue with them. Parking lot lighting improvements will come.

Secretary's Report: Approved by a motion from Ron and second from Deb.

Pastoral Activity Report: We reviewed Pastor Dave's activity on Sunday and midweek services, plus Confirmation classes, a funeral, visitations in person and/or by phone, Circuit meeting, and a youth activity.

Pastor Dave informed us that Josh and Sarah stepped away from leading the youth as they consider their options of moving South. Brenda Hackett is working with Pastor to find the right people for this position. For Sunday School, David and Lois Perleberg will be teaching 7th-12th grade on the book of Malachi.

OLD BUSINESS

Call Process: Two candidates are being considered. The committee re-watched our August Introduction with Pastor Zellmer. We have read the PIFS and SETS for Pastor Schiller and look forward to our Zoom Introduction with him on Wednesday evening. **The congregation is encouraged to continue to pray for us to find God's choice for SOTP at this time.**

Easter Schedule: SERVICES: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 6:30pm, and two services on Easter Sunday at 7am and 9:30am. ACTIVITIES: Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday; Easter Breakfast on Sunday between services.

Confirmation Sunday- likely on May 19 - Pentecost. At 9 am; members from three families will be confirmed.

Caring.com: At our last BOLM meeting we were given information to consider working with this organization. Tonight we voted not to do so.

New Membership Class: Thursday, April 11 6:30-8:30. Gabby Dingmann has volunteered to watch the children while adults take the class. Pastor requested a few Board members start the class by giving new members information on what makes SOTP work for us, as well as opportunities for them to become involved in their areas of interest. Deb, Paul, Joanny, and Ron volunteered.

Marriage Class: Pending date - April 26-27 from 7-8:30PM with a possible meal on Saturday evening before class.

NEW BUSINESS: Next BOLM meeting will be April 18 at 7pm.

New Member: Kathy Gummert was welcomed back to SOTP by a motion from Joanny and a second from Ron and a unanimous vote.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 8:05pm by Ron, seconded by Deb. Motion passed.

Colleen closed with **Prayer**.

Respectfully submitted by, Colleen Woods acting Secretary.



Education / Small Group Team

Greetings All and welcome to Spring!

As I begin this, many changes have happened. I begin by thanking Josh and Sarah Anderson for the work they did with getting our Youth Group on board. They put in a lot of time and energy to our kids and we wish them many blessings on their new journey. That being said, we will continue to do Youth Group as is through the end of this school year. Over the summer we hope to have a couple adventures (to be determined yet) and in the fall we will kick off with a Jr. High (6th – 8th) Youth and a Senior High (9th-12th) Groups. We are in the process of asking for leaders, so please keep this process in your prayers! We will meet as scheduled for April, and then in May we will have the Garage sale set for May 16-18th at the church. You can bring in items starting April 28th but please not sooner because we still have Sunday School going on. We ask for NO tv's because we had to pay to get them gone last year.

Sunday school is only for this month of April. 4 more class times and then on May 5th we will have our Sundae Sunday with the kids and possibly just a fun outside activity time. But the last CLASS day will be April 28th!

VBS is just 2 short months away. This year's theme is "SCUBA" and I am in the process of calling the past volunteers or asking them in person if they would like to help out again this year. There will be sign-up sheets on the counter in the Narthex for this for volunteers and items needed for VBS (food). VBS will be June 2nd-6th from 6:30 to 8:30! We will have teamwork nights on the following Wednesday nights in May (all BUT the 15th) from 6:30 -8:00, and then for April it will be the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights. We will begin with prop making and go from there. Please check out the sheets and as your heart is moved, volunteer! We have received a grant from Benton Phone and a **very nice** amount from the Rice Lions Group for helping purchase items for VBS! Without these 2 community organizations' help, we would have a very tight budget. We are blessed to offer this event at no cost to the parents! What a blessing!!!

In closing, may God bless this spring for you! May He keep you safe in the fields and gardens; may He bless your days with joy!

Brenda Hackett
Education Team Leader



April meetings will be April 3rd and 17th. All youth, 6th through 12th grades, are welcome to join us for the fun activities.

High School Youth are invited to join Dave & Lois Perleberg in the Hospitality room for a study on the book of Malachi on Sundays at 10:20am.

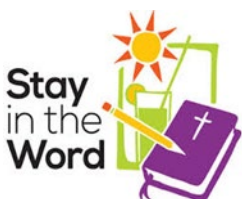
If you've been collecting things for the Youth Group Garage Sale: We have the garage sale in May; items can be brought to the church starting April 28th. Garage Sale items should be placed in the first Sunday School room off the fellowship hall at that time. The garage sale will be May 16,17, & 18. If you have any questions about the garage sale, please contact Brenda Hackett 320-267-6472

BIG GARAGE SALE



Bible Studies

Snowbirds, welcome back!!!



Wednesday Morning Bible Studies continue at 9:30am at church. Current study will be the book of Malachi.

RICE AREA COMMUNITY VBS
Registration is open!!
4YR OLDS TO 5TH GRADE



WWW.SOTPMINISTRIES.COM/VBS

JUNE 2ND - 6TH
6:30-8:30 PM

1950 125TH STREET NW
RICE, MN 56367

Join us for our free VBS. This is for all who are 4 years old through 5th grade.

Note: Update on VBS 2024! It is scheduled for June 2nd-6th, for children 4 years old- 5th grade. If your child is 4 yrs. old through the completion of 5th grade in 2024, we look forward to seeing you! We have a couple of requests for the parents. First, we are asking that you pre-register if possible, so we can see the numbers we are looking at. We are able to facilitate 130 children (max of 20 four year old's), so we will go on a first come, first serve basis. Second, VBS can't happen without you! We need 50 volunteers to make this a successful, safe, smooth flowing time, so PLEASE volunteer!!! Let's give the children a week of the Holy Spirit filled with laughter, fun, and food, that we ALL so need!!! Contact church 393-4295, Brenda @ 267-6472, or online at the church website! Blessings on your day!

[Click Here to Register Your child/children](#)

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

[Click Here to Update your Background Check](#)



Worship Team 2024 Worship Team Schedule

We are always looking for additional help for Sunday Service. Volunteers, if you are interested please reach out to myself or Julie in the office. Also, to help with the worship service, and so it is easier for the congregation to follow along with the scripture readings, please let Julie know what version of the Bible you will be using when you read.

Keith Hackett

April	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
04/07/24	9:00am	Joyce Saldana	Mackenzie Ramey	Ruth Brucher	Deb Erdmann & Grandchildren	Brenda Hackett
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

MAY	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
5/5/2024	9:00am	Keith & Kathy Craft	Julie Kiraly	Wyatt Alstrup	Bev & Al Gerads	Dennis Arntson
05/12/24	9:00am	Ron & Barb McKeever	Mackenzie Ramey	Dennis Arntson	Keith & Brenda Hackett	Jane Nelson
05/19/24	9:00am	Jeff & Joan Ramey	Levi Brenny	Ruth Brucher	Jeremy & Candace Dingmann	Steve Ree
05/26/24	9:00am	Bruce & Sandie Resch	Keith Hackett	Karen Ellefson	Brian & Heather Statz	Jerry Nelson

JUNE	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
06/02/24	9:00am	Travis & Marlys Lenarz	Dennis Arntson	Richael Weinand	Bonnie Gottwalt & Charyl Walberg	Brenda Hackett
06/09/24	9:00am	Kevin & Janet Maleska	Denise Leahy	Ron Woods	Travis & Marlys Lenarz Families	Janet Maleska
06/16/24	9:00am	Milt & Marlene Popp	Julie Kiraly	Lois Perleberg	Brad & Holly Jasmer	Steve Ree
06/23/24	9:00am	Scott & Peg Manea	Mackenzie Ramey	Peg Manea	Ron & Barb McKeever	Dennis Arntson
06/30/24	9:00am	Kyle & Ashley Hackett Family	Levi Brenny	Wyatt Alstrup	Bev & Al Gerads	Keith Hackett



Save the Date!!! Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge will be joining us this year on July 28th.

April Birthdays		
Ron	Folkerts	April 01
Heather	Ostendorf	April 01
Travis	Lenarz	April 03
Jodi	Dumonceaux	April 04
Anthony	Omann	April 04
Lilyana	Gerjets	April 05
Brittany	Lenarz	April 05
DelRoy	Shane	April 06
Kyle	Cecil	April 08
Roxann	Ree	April 08
Jeffrey	Loidolt	April 09
Spencer	Novitzki	April 09
Ronita	Walburn	April 09
Dane	Morgan	April 11
Wyatt	Efraimson	April 13
Wendy	Hicks	April 13
George	Welle	April 13
Arthur	Betker	April 15
Howard	Forer	April 15
Jon	Pressnall	April 15
Michael	Erdmann	April 17
Scott	Manea	April 18
Helen	Rotar	April 19
Skylar	Sauer	April 19
Erica	Erdmann	April 21
Kallan	Hackett	April 22
Wyatt	Johnson	April 22
Jenna	Gangl	April 23
Colleen	Peterson	April 23
Jess	Mickelson	April 24
Keith	Craft	April 26
Denise	Leahy	April 26
Barb	McKeever	April 26
Sophie	Gangl	April 29

The Art of Marriage

Marriage Class

Fri, April 26th 7-9pm

Sat, April 27th 9-2pm

Sign-up on the Narthex or reach out to Julie in the office

PLEASE NOTE the CHANGE TO the MARRIAGE CLASS.

We will be having a marriage class on April 26th from 7-9pm and April 27th from 9-2pm. Lunch will be provided on Saturday. This class is for anyone getting married soon, or if you are married and you would like to join this class as a study. Please let Pastor Dave or Julie in the office know.

April Anniversaries		
Travis & Brittany	Lenarz	April 1
Lloyd & Ronita	Walburn	April 11
Lloyd & Deb	Erdmann	April 27
Chris & Shaunna	Johnson	April 27
Ronald & Colleen	Woods	April 27
Richard & Robin	Hemple	April 28
Tom & Jen	Ollman	April 28
Steve & Brenda	Pressnall	April 28
Dave & Dannette	Brannen	April 29
Brian & Tonya	Soltis	April 29
Scott & Kris	Schlichting	April 30

February's Church Income Statement

	February	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$20,282	\$39,550
Expenses	(\$14,761)	(\$29,722)
Over/(Shortfall)	\$5,521	\$9,828

APRIL NOISY OFFERING!



We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday, April 21st**, for the **Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity**.

Thank you for your support and your generous donations!

Rice Area Food Shelf

April Distribution is
Thursday, April 4th
from 3:00-5:30pm
at the Old Village Hall!

Rice Area Community Spring Blood Drive



**American
Red Cross**

The spring Rice Area Blood Drive is coming up on **Monday, April**

22, 1:00 – 6:45 at Shepherd of the Pines Church in Rice. The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control in accordance with CDC guidelines. Appointments are highly recommended as we may not be able to accept walk ins if all appointments are filled, which we hope they will be. Sign up by going to the Red Cross

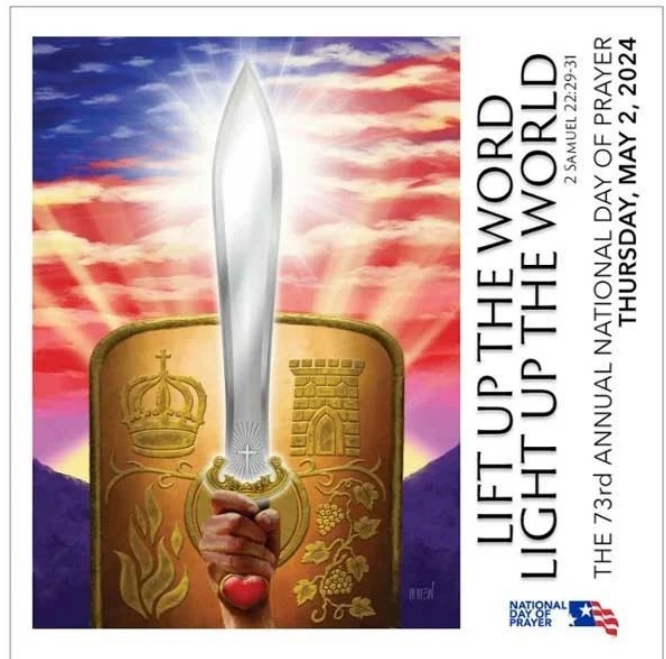
website: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html> and enter 56367 or call Lora at 320-393-2701

Membership Class

Thursday, April 11th 6:30-8:30pm

- *The Bible as the Word of God
- *The person and work of Jesus
- *The means of Grace and the work of the Holy Spirit
- *Prayer
- *God as our Creator
- *Living a life of faith

This is a class for anyone interested in membership at SOTP or current members who would like to use this as a study for refresher of their faith.



The 73rd Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 2nd. Millions will unite in prayer as thousands of events will take place from coast to coast. Our theme for the 2024 National Day of Prayer is **“LIFT UP THE WORLD, LIGHT UP THE WORLD”**. The theme comes from the words of David in 2 Samuel 22:29-31 “For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness. For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall. As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. [Please join us on Thursday, May 2nd](#), at SOTP for the Rice National Day of Prayer. We will have supper from 5:00-6:15pm. If you feel the tugging of the Holy Spirit to be involved with others in praying for God to move and work in our Community, you are invited!

We will have Membership class on April 11th from 6:30-8:30pm. If you are interested or would like to sign up for the class please let Julie know in the office. Current members can use this as a study for a refresher of their faith. Topics will include what we believe about:

- ✝ The Bible as the Word of God
- ✝ The person and work of Jesus
- ✝ The means of Grace and the work of the Holy Spirit
- ✝ Prayer
- ✝ God as our Creator
- ✝ Living a life of faith.

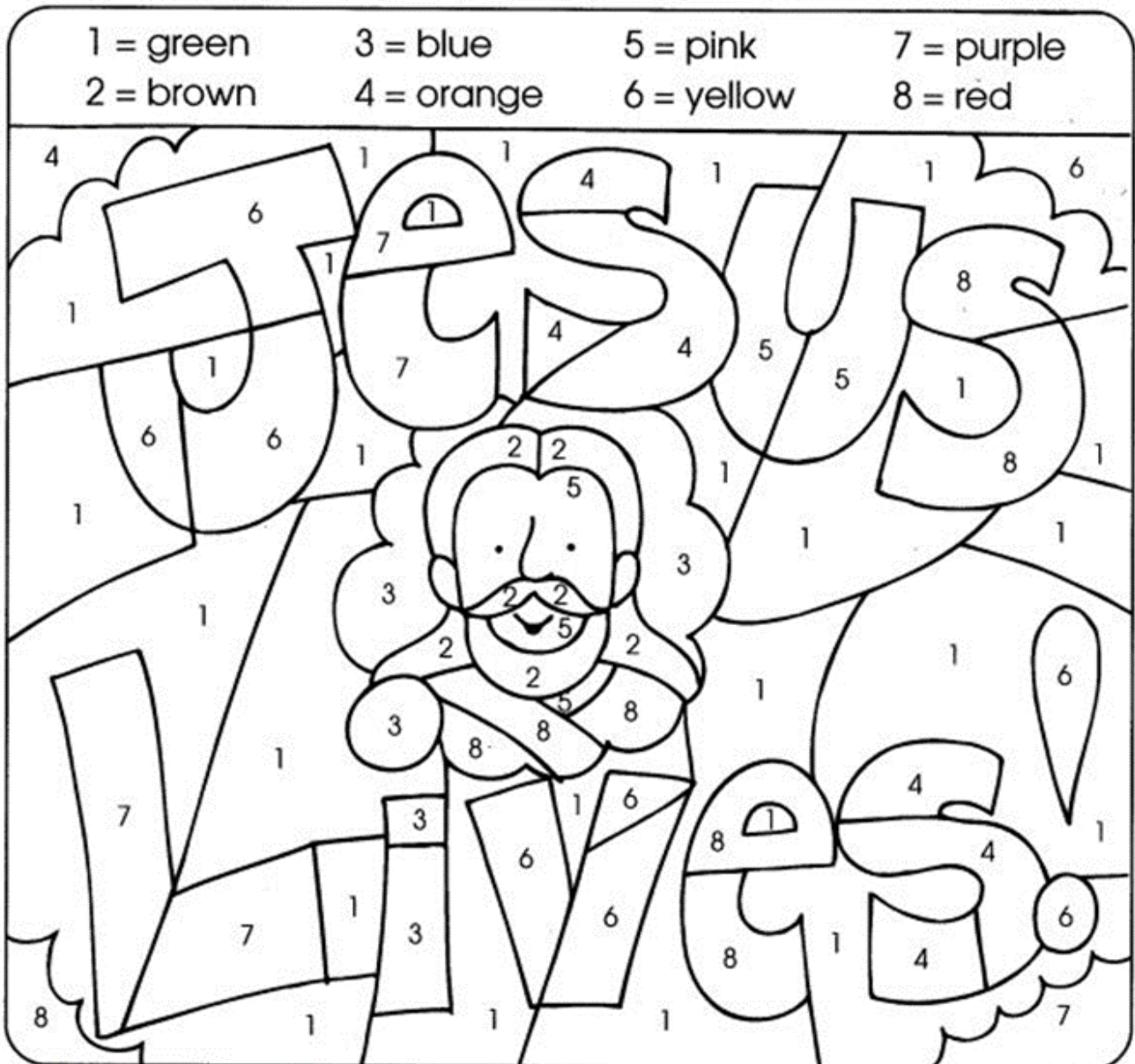
Childcare will be available during this class.

Jesus Is Alive!

(John 20)

At the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene talked to a man. She thought he was a gardener. But then she saw that the man was really Jesus! He had risen from the dead and was alive again!

Color the picture using the code. Cut it out and tape it up so you can be reminded of this wonderful truth!



Jesus is Alive Color by Number

Color each section by the colors shown in the list at the bottom of the page.
If you don't have all of the colors listed or find an area that's not numbered, make your best color choice.



1.Flesh 2.Pink 3.Yellow 4.Light Blue 5.Purple 6.Light Gray 7.Medium Gray 8.Black 9.Light Brown 10.Brown 11.Dark Blue 12.Medium Green 13.Light Green 14. Dark Green

Worship Shepherds

April 7 Colleen Woods
 April 14 Paul Tschida
 April 21 Dave Perleberg
 April 28 Deb Erdmann



April 7 Joyce Saldana
 April 14 Ron & Barb McKeever
 April 21 Bruce & Sandie Resch
 April 28 Kyle & Ashley Hackett



April 7 Mackenzie Ramey
 April 14 Levi Brenny
 April 21 Denise Leahy
 April 28 Keith Hackett



PROJECTIONIST

April 7 Ruth Brutcher
 April 14 Wyatt Alstrup
 April 21 Denise Arntson
 April 28 Jane Nelson



READERS

April 7 Deb Erdmann & Grandchildren
 April 14 Keith & Roxanne Peterson
 April 21 Ron & Barb McKeever
 April 28 Jeremy & Candace Dingmann



April 7 Brenda Hackett
 April 14 Jerry Nelson
 April 21 Steve Ree
 April 28 Jane Nelson



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 April we will be praying for:**

April 7th - Kyle Koep & Daughter Sophia
 April 14th Randy & Jami Kreifels
 sons: Nolan & Reed
 April 21st Noah Kuehl
 April 28th Curt Kvamme

PORTALS of PRAYER
 are available on
 the narthex counter



UPDATE TO FELLOWSHIP!!

Here is the Spring Fellowship schedule. 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!



April 7th
P. Dahl, S. Wood, B. Novitzki, T. Smith

April 14th
J. Clasen, D. Giese, T. Hovland, A. Ostendorf

April 21st
D. Erdmann, J. Brenny, D. Mickelson

April 28th
S. Pressnall, C. Walberg, D. Cairns

May 5th
M. Barringer, L. Saldana, K. Peterson

May 12th
J. Elliott, K. Maleska, K. Huhne/Popp

May 19th
J. Amundson, K. Ellefson, B. Statz

May 26th
K. Kirchner, R. Brutcher, P. Tschida, G. Hendrickson

Musicians

April 7 Heather
 April 14 Gabby
 April 21 Praise Team
 April 28 Gabby



APRIL

Dennis Arntson & Scott Manea



APRIL

Deb Erdmann, Judy Hackett & Gloria Hendrickson

April 7th
 Acts 4:32-35
 1 John 1:1-2:2
 John 20:19-31



April 21st
 Acts 4:1-12
 1 John 3:16-24
 John 10:11-18

April 14th
 Acts 3:11-21
 1 John 3:1-7
 Luke 24:36-49

April 28th
 Acts 8:26-40
 1 John 5:1-8
 John 15:9-17

Email: office@sotpministries.com

Website: sotpministries.com

Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00

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



April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 7:30-8:30 Youth Group	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Music: Heather 8:00 Prayer time 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 10:00 meeting to watch introduction video with Pastor Schiller 6:30 Confirmation 6:30-8:30 VBS Work night 6:30 meeting to watch introduction video with Pastor Schiller	 9:00 Quilters 6:30- Membership Class Daycare available 7:00AA		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Music: Gabby 8:00 Prayer Time 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:20 Special congregational voters meeting	7:30 Praise Team 7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 7:30-8:30 Youth Group	9:00 Quilters 6:30 Elders Meeting 7:00 JOINT BOLM/EMT Meeting 7:00AA		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
NOISY OFFERING: Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity Music: Praise Team 8:00 Prayer Time 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:30 Adult Bible Study	 1-6:45 Rice Area Blood Drive 7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 6:30-8:30 VBS Work night	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		Marriage class 9-2 lunch provided
28	29	30				
Garage sale Items can be dropped off at SOTP Music: Gabby 8:00 Prayer time 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				

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



Shepherd of the Pines

Lutheran Church

1950 125th St. NW
Rice, MN 56367

Jesus brings joy to...

Church Phone: 393-4295

Email: office@sotpministries.com

Church Website: sotpministries.com

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

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 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.