



Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church

1950 125th Street NW

Rice, MN 56367

Phone: 393-4295

2023 Email: office@sotpministries.com

Church Website: sotpministries.com

Dear friends in Christ,

As best as you can, I want to ask you to put yourselves either in the shoes of Mary or the shoes of Joseph (I suppose I be asking you to put yourselves into their sandals because they didn't have shoes back then). So, put yourselves in their sandals and ask this question. Once they learned about what was going to happen to them...they were going to be the parents of the Messiah...how often do you think they prayed? And, what do you think they prayed for and prayed about?

I have to believe that they prayed a lot even though it's not stated specifically in the Bible that they did. Given they were both people of faith, I think they prayed a lot as they prepared for the birth of their son. They prayed when they felt overwhelmed. Quite possibly they prayed about God's timing in this whole matter. More than likely they prayed that they might be faithful to what God was asking them to do. And more.

We experience many of the same moments in our lives. We have moments when we are overwhelmed by what we are being asked to do. We have moments when we wonder about God's timing. And, we have moments when we ask the Lord for a faithful heart to follow and do what we think He is asking us to do.

Those moments will be the focus of our Advent worship services beginning December 6th at 6:30 p.m. Our theme is: "Advent- A Time for Prayer."

December 6th – Praying when you feel overwhelmed

December 13th – Praying for God's timing

December 20th – Praying to walk faithfully

I look forward to these services and worshipping with you as we prepare our hearts through prayer to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

On a personal note, Karen and I will be leaving for a family Christmas gathering in Arizona on Christmas Day. Following that our plan is also to spend the month of January in Arizona, returning to SOTP Sunday, February 4th Pastor Bob Trinklein will lead worship on December 31st and Pastor Paul Cloeter will have the services in January. I will continue to teach confirmation via zoom calls.

Praying for a blessed Advent season with you!

Pastor Dave

The
Church
Office



Will Be
Closed:

The SOTP Church Office will be closed on Friday December 22nd & Monday December 25th (For Christmas)

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY MEETING

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Present: Kyle Hackett, Dave Perleberg, Joan Ramey, Paul Tschida, Deb Erdmann, Ron McKeever, Bev Gerads, Colleen Woods, Pastor Dave Stroschein, also present Keith Peterson, Julie Kiraly.

Call Meeting to Order: President Kyle Hackett called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Pastor Stroschein opened with prayer. Dave Perleberg read the Mission Statement.

Treasurers Report: Ron McKeever reported expenses were normal and light this past month. We paid our bills. It was a larger giving month. Paul Tschida made a motion to accept the treasurers report as stated, Deb Erdmann second.

Property Report: Keith Peterson had metal shelving recycled from the garage. He will put up 3 shelves across the back of the garage. He will purchase a fertilizer spreader on sale to spread crystal salt in the winter months. Will purchase a 65 inch television for education purposes for Sunday School, Zoom Meetings etc.

Secretary's Report: The report was reviewed. Ron McKeever made the motion to approve as presented, Dave Perleberg second.

Pastoral Report: The Board reviewed the pastoral report as presented. Worship services, education, meetings, visitation/private communion and phone calls. Pastor Stroschein encourages if you are hospitalized make sure to call the church. Pastor Dave will be gone December 31 through all of January. Pastor Bob Trinklein will preach on December 31, Pastor Paul Cloeter will preach all of the January services.

Old Business: The Call Process reported the 2 week objection period has ended. At this point 4 of the 10 presented are open to a call. BOLM vacates have Kyle Hackett finishing his second term, Joan Ramey first term, Paul Tschida the vacated term and Ron McKeever first term (Treasurer Position) Nominations are Josh Anderson, Paul Tschida, Richael Weinand, Janet Maleska, Joan Ramey, Ron McKeever (treasurer). The voting process was reviewed. The Budget was approved for the coming year and our audit has been completed.

Holiday Services & Advent Schedule: Thanksgiving Eve November 22 at 6:30 P.M. Advent Service starting December 6, 13, 20 at 6:30 P.M. Christmas Eve 9A.M. Holy Communion Service, Candlelight Services at 3 P.M. and 5 P.M.

New Business: Bev Gerads informed the Board of a well organized Sunshine Group sending greeting cards to members for their birthday. If you have an address change please let the office know, Gloria Henderson or Evelyn Kirchner. We reviewed the Worship Shepherd Schedule and any changes were made. Our next BOLM meeting will be December 21 at 7 P.M. A gift card will be given for the use of property and tractor for our trunk or treat to the Janski family. Paul Tschida made a motion to accept, Deb Erdmann second. A 2024 worship schedule will be made up. Christmas advertisements to local newspapers were reviewed. Annual meeting duties were set. Ron McKeever made a motion to adjourn, Paul Tschida second. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M. Pastor Dave Stroschein closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Gerads BOLM Secretary

Merry Christmas to you all!

The close of the year is upon us and yet it seems to be the crazy time of year for all! May the peace of the manger fill your hearts this month!

We will be doing the children's message on the 17th of December in place of the sermon. Fellowship time includes a birthday cake for Jesus! We will be having Sunday School following service that day but then we will break for Christmas for the next 2 Sundays. If it falls that we have a congregational meeting moving forward for a Pastoral vote, we will still have class and the teachers will be able to vote. Please watch the bulletin as we begin for the weather to possibly cancel church and Sunday School.

We only have 20 calendars left and they would make great Christmas gifts, thank you gifts, and very nice to hang on your wall! Thank you to all who have supported VBS through your purchase of the calendars!

May God bless your travels this month and give you a calm and peace as we celebrate His birth!

Merry Blessed Christmas to you!

Brenda Hackett

Education Team Leader



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 a card or making a monetary donation to the giving tree. Items need to be at SOTP church office by **December 17th**.

Blessings to you all!

October Church Income Statement

	September	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$27,869	\$208,675
Expenses	(\$11,493)	(\$133,927)
Over/(Shortfall)	\$16,377	\$74,748



December NOISY OFFERING!

We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday, December 17th**, 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 7th
from 3:00-5:30pm
at the Old Village Hall!



Congratulations First Communion Class of 2023

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

Annalyse Dubbin
Joselynn Dubbin
Isabelle Lindeman
Skylar Sauer

Brayden Dubbin
Cecilia Kiraly
Ella Salzburn
Peter Seppelt

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



John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

All youth 6-12th grades are welcome to participate in youth group events! Thank you to all who helped decorate after the Thanksgiving Eve service!

On Dec 6th, we will serve the Advent Soup Supper. We will need to serve supper from 5pm to 6:15pm. Advent service is at 6:30pm. We will have a fun activity directly following the advent service on Dec 6th and 20th.

Our regular meetings in January will be on the 3rd and 17th. We're planning a lock-in for January 19th to 20th. Watch for more details to come!

High School Youth are invited to the youth room on Sunday mornings during Sunday school. We are studying prayer together.

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 3 services on Christmas Eve. They will be at 9:00 A.M. with Holy Communion, then Candlelight Services @ 3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. A very big thank you to all the volunteers who are helping with the worship services. The help is appreciated.

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
12/03/23	9:00am	Tom & Jen Ollman	Julie Kiraly	Janet Maleska	Brenda & Keith Hackett	Brenda Hackett
12/10/23	9:00am	Milton & Marlene Popp	Denise Leahy	Lois Perleberg	Brad & Holly Jasmer	Jerry Nelson
12/17/23	9:00am	Dean & Karie Giese	Sarah Anderson	Paul Tschida	Jeremy & Candace Dingmann	Steve Ree
12/24/23	9:00am	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
12/31/23	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



Silent Night

Worship Shepherds

December 3	Ron McKeever
December 10	Paul Tschida
December 17	Kyle Hackett
December 24	9AM Paul Tschida
December 24 th	Candlelight Services
3:00 pm Dave Perleberg	5:00 pm Joan Ramey
December 31	Deb Erdmann



Advent Services

December 6	6:30 pm Colleen Woods
December 13	6:30 pm Dave Perleberg
December 20	6:30 pm Ron McKeever

December 3	Tom & Jen Ollman
December 10	Milt & Marlene Popp
December 17	Dean & Karie Giese
December 24	Volunteer Needed
December 31	Volunteer Needed



December 3	Julie Kiraly
December 10	Denise Leahy
December 17	Sarah Anderson
December 24	Volunteer Needed
December 31	Volunteer Needed



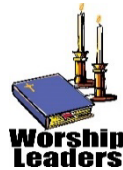
December 3	Janet Maleska
December 10	Lois Perleberg
December 17	Paul Tschida
December 24	Volunteer Needed
December 31	Volunteer Needed



December 3	Keith & Brenda Hackett
December 10	Brad & Holly Jasmer
December 17	Jeremy & Candance Dingmann
December 24	Volunteer Needed
December 31	Volunteer Needed



December 3	Brenda Hackett
December 10	Jerry Nelson
December 17	Steve Ree
December 24	Volunteer Needed
December 31	Volunteer Needed



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 3	Troy & Ann Hovland
	Children: Carter & Shelby
December 10	Keith Huhne & Juli Popp
December 17	Mike & Carla Hunter
December 24	Brad & Holly Jasmer
December 31	Caleb & Mikayla Jasmer

UPDATE TO FELLOWSHIP!!

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!



December 3rd
Ke. Hackett, Ky. Hackett, J. Hackett, T. Hackett

December 10th
R. McKeever, J. Nelson, L. Popp

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

		Musicians
December 3	Heather Statz	
December 10	Praise Team	
December 17	Praise Team	
December 24	Gabby Dingmann	
December 24 th 3pm	Lyric Videos	
December 24 th 5pm	Lyric Videos	
December 31	Lyric Videos	

DECEMBER

Ron McKeever & Wayne Anderson



DECEMBER

Roxanne Peterson, Juli Popp & Karen Ellefson



December 3rd

December 10th

Isaiah 64:1-9
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
 Mark 13:24-37

December 17th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28



Scripture Readings

December 24th 3 & 5pm

Isaiah 7:10-14
 1 John 4:7-16
 Luke 2:1-20

Isaiah 40:1-11
 2 Peter 3:8-14
 Mark 1:1-8

December 24th

2 Samuel 7:1-11
 Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

December 31st

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:22-40

Confirmation is Wednesdays evenings from 6:00-6:30 on December 7th & 14th.

Advent Service will be part of Confirmation.



Those moments will be the focus of our Advent worship services beginning December 6th at 6:30 p.m. Our theme is: "Advent- A Time for Prayer."

December 6th – Praying when you feel overwhelmed

December 13th – Praying for God's timing

December 20th – Praying to walk faithfully

Holiday Worship Schedule

Advent Services –December 6th, 13th, & 20th 6:30pm

Children's Sunday Service- December 17th 9:00am

Christmas Eve Services–December 24th 9am with Holy Communion
& Candlelight Services at 3:00pm & 5:00pm



Advent Suppers

December 6th Youth

December 13th Quilters

December 20th Event Team

December Birthdays		
Kathleen	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
Karie	Giese	December 08
Jeremiah	Pressnall	December 09
Peg	Manea	December 10
DeAnne`	Maslonkowski	December 10
Bruce	Resch	December 10
Alexa	Newman	December 13
Bob	Moon	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
Jennifer	Cecil	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

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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Email: office@sotpministries.com Website: sotpministries.com					1	2
3	4				5	6
Music: Heather 8:00 Prayer Time 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:30 Bible Study	7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 10:00 Pastor Kampfer Introduction video 6:00 Al-Anon 6:30 Pastor Kampfer	5-6:15 Advent Supper 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Advent Service 7:30 Youth Group	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Music: Praise Team 8:00 Prayer Time 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:20 Special Voters Congregational meeting	7:30 Praise Team 7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	5-6:15 Advent Supper 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Advent Service	7:00 AA		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Noisy Offering Children Christmas Message Music: Praise Team 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	6:00 Al-Anon	5-6:15 Advent Supper No Confirmation 6:30 Advent Service 7:30 Youth Group	6:30 Elder's Meeting 7:00 BOLM Meeting 7:00 AA	OFFICE CLOSED	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
 Music: 9am Gabby/3 & 5pm Lyric Video 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion No Fellowship No Sunday School Candelight Christmas Eve Service 3:00pm & 5:00pm	OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day	6:00 Al-Anon	No Confirmation	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
31						
 9:00 Worship Vounteers for Fellowship No Sunday School No Bible Study						

Jesus was born for ...

Church Phone: 393-4295

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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; Ron McKeever
Treas. 393-2524; Joan Ramey 217-4431; 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, 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.