

## Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church 1950 125<sup>th</sup> Street NW

1950 125<sup>th</sup> Street NW Rice, MN 56367 Phone: 393-4295 Email: <u>office@sotpministries.com</u> Church Website: sotpministries.com

Dear friends in Christ,

Lent is going to be the same this year. And, Lent is going to be a little bit different this year.

It will be the same in that our focus will be on Jesus and His death on the cross for us. It will be different in that we will have only 4 midweek services rather than 6.

The reason for four weeks of Lent rather than six is due to the fact that Karen and I will be in Arizona beginning February 14 through March 14. This is something we had planned already a year ago. And actually, this will be our 4<sup>th</sup> February/March month-long stay in Arizona in order to be near our kids and grandkids. We really do look forward to this month of family and warmth!

So I approached the SOTP leadership about shortening Lent due to the fact that Ash Wednesday falls on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and we will still be in Arizona. They were in agreement that this could be done. And so, our "Ash Wednesday" will be on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be providing the Ash Wednesday service times of several nearby congregations should you desire to attend a service that day.

Karen and I thank you for your flexibility!

So that's how Lent will be different. But yet, Lent will be the same. Our focus will be on the conversations Jesus had with the two men who were crucified on either side of Him. The overall theme for our 4 midweek services (3/16 - 3/23 - 3/30 - 4/6) will be "Guaranteed!"

March 16 – Guaranteed: You are loved unconditionally!

March 23 – Guaranteed: You are not your past!

March 30 – Guaranteed: This is not on you!

April 6 – Guaranteed: You will live with Him forever!

My prayer is for God's continued blessings as we go forward seeking to be His people in this place, reaching out to our friends and neighbors and community with the Good News of Christ!

In Christ,

Pastor Dave Strohschein

Ash Wednesday Services for nearby Churches.

Love Of Christ Service @ 7PM Messiah Service @ 6:30 Trinity Services @ 4pm & 6Pm

#### BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY AND EMT MEETING PENDING APPROVAL MINUTES January 20, 2022

Members present were Pastor Dave, Kyle Hackett, Colleen Woods, Deb Erdmann, Ron McKeever, Dave Perleberg, Joanny Ramey, Garry Loidolt, Bev Gerads on zoom, and EMT members Keith Hackett and Brenda Hackett. Absent were Keith Peterson and Jen Ollman.

**Meeting was called to order** at 7:15pm by Kyle Hackett. Pastor Dave opened with prayer. Kyle Hackett read the mission statement.

#### **EMT REPORTS**

**Worship**- Keith Hackett reported the hard drive in the computer upstairs crashed. If the hard drive can be replaced and the computer updated it would be cheaper than purchasing a new computer. Total estimated cost of \$400-\$500.

Take a look at the sign-up sheets in the narthex. Prayerfully consider helping with ushers and greeters. Also, older children to serve as Acolytes.

**Education**-Brenda Hackett reported VBS will be June 5-10<sup>th</sup>. More information to come. Pastor Mark Marxhausen is writing a program for Fishing for Life. He would like to use the church space for the test program. There will be 12 students of various ages participating in the test program. When the program is completed, SOTP could open the program to all children. Motion was made by Ron and seconded by Deb to allow Pastor Mark to use the church for 3 Tuesdays in February from 6-7pm. Motion passed. Brenda also spoke about inviting Natasha Barber from the SR Herald to events we have at church. This would be great outreach and advertising for the church.

**Small Groups**-Colleen Woods informed the board that there are currently 3 Bible Study groups. She encourages people to join a group or start a new study. Contact Colleen for more information. Colleen would also like to start up triad groups.

**Service Team**- Jen Ollman was not present but she is working hard on the Daddy-Daughter Dance. It will be Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30pm. There will be a DJ, photo booth and crafts to work on. Bring you daughter, granddaughter, niece or friend. This is open to the public...spread the word.

**Pastoral Activity Report**- Pastor Dave reported on his activities this month. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month will be Anointing with oil Sunday.

Installation of Board Members will be Sunday January 23rd.

The marriage class was a success with 4 couples present. Pastor Dave is working on a retreat for Sr. High youth this summer.

Pastor will be on vacation February 12<sup>th</sup> - March 14<sup>th</sup>. He has lined up Pastors to fill in for him. Confirmation classes will continue via zoom during that time.

Closed with prayer by Pastor Dave. EMT/ Properties excused.

**Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ron McKeever. Motion by Dave and seconded by Bev to accept the report. Motion carried.

#### No properties report.

**Secretary's Report** was reviewed. Motion by Ron and seconded by Deb to accept the report. Motion carried.

#### Old Business:

**Church camera**. Colleen has been looking into a camera that would serve the needs of our church. Garry made a motion and Joanny seconded it to allow Colleen to purchase a camera up to \$500. Motion carried.

**Gifts for Visitors**. Gift bags will be put together and given to visitors of the church. Inside will be a Shepherd of the Pines visitor guide, logo pen, and pencil. Along with a Portals of Prayer and a \$10 Creamery gift certificate.

**Open Position**: We still have an open position for a Wedding Coordinator. If interested contact any board member. There are 3 weddings already scheduled for 2022 and 1 in 2023.

**BOLM Members:** Welcome Bev and Colleen as our newly elected board members. They are both serving their second term.

**New Business**: Worship Shepherd schedule was reviewed. Next BOLM meeting will be Thur. February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Special Request**: Lin Hancock (retired teacher) from Chicago will be traveling through the area raising money for a nonprofit. He is asking to spend the night at the church. More information is needed before a decision can be made.

**Update on church activities.** Christmas Caroling was canceled due to weather. Woman's Gathering canceled due to lack of interest. Movie Night will be January 21<sup>st</sup>. Daddy/Daughter Dance February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter Schedule:** Pastor Dave will be on vacation February 12- March 14. Lent services will start Wednesday, March 16th at 6:30pm...this day will be our Ash Wednesday service. If you would like to attend Ash Wednesday service on March 2<sup>nd</sup> please feel free to visit another church in the area.

Maundy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> both at 6:30pm.

Soup Suppers are back!!! March 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:15pm. Sign-up sheets will be on the counter in the narthex.

Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Easter Breakfast will be served from 8:00am-9:15am. Easter services will be 7:00am and 9:30 am.

Early Communion class for those in 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders will be Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>. First Communion Sunday will be April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Confirmation Sunday will be May 1<sup>st</sup> during our 9am service.

**Election of Officers**. Nominations for President: Garry, Dave and Kyle. Garry declined the nomination. Kyle Hackett was elected President. Nominations for Vice President: Garry and Dave. Dave Perleberg will be serving as Vice President. Nominations for Secretary were Deb and Bev. Deb respectfully declined. Bev was elected Secretary in a unanimous vote.

Ron McKeever, Colleen Woods and Dave Perleberg petitioned the Board for a special congregational meeting to extend Pastor David Edge's severance package. Also, to discuss at the meeting will be the call process for calling a new Pastor. A special congregational meeting will be February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.

**Leader's comments**. Garry mentioned at it was a little difficult to hear Pastor last Sunday. Mic should be moved up a bit on lapel. Also, would like to have a sign by the Noisy Offering Canister.

Bev made a motion to adjourn the meeting followed by a second from Colleen. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Close with prayer from Pastor Dave.

# Education / Small Group Team

Respectfully submitted by Deb Erdmann, acting Secretary. Greetings and Blessed February to you all!

Well, it is cold outside but this is the month to keep the heart warm! We have lots of plans underway to warm many hearts so here we go!!! First we have begun the first steps of VBS!!! This year's title is "Monumental" and is it a desert theme! I DO need lots of helping hands and so please let me know if you can help!!! It turns out that the time we do VBS is the first Sunday right after the kids get out from school which is the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. Our plans remain to be VBS June 5-9, however, we have a wedding on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the church. I am asking for helping hands to come Saturday afternoon after the wedding to help complete the Preschool room and carry items in from the garage. The more hands we have, the faster we can get things done. Then as always, we take down the sanctuary after service on Sunday and set up the main area. Again, helping hands would be very appreciated!

Second, we have the Sweetheart Breakfast on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February! Please consider helping the youth provide a breakfast for you and your sweetheart! And that being said, the Easter Breakfast will look a little different this year. As we have had so much change over the last few years, the time of church has us adjusting how we can do breakfasts! We will be serving right after Sunrise service about 8:00 (service is at 7:00 a.m.) and we will go until 9:15 (Easter service being at 9:30). There will not be food after service so all can get home to do Easter lunch with your families. This window of serving is for one hour and 15 minutes, so please come and support VBS and have Easter breakfast between church services! We will go back to our original choices of eggs, sausage, fresh fruit, rolls, and beverages. A free will offering will be available for VBS 2022!

Then just some dates to keep in mind here for Sunday School. **February 6<sup>th</sup> is a Special Congregational Meeting and so we will have large group in the Fellowship hall** for the kids. That way the teachers can attend the meeting and we will have other things for the kids to do. As **February 13** is the Sweetheart Breakfast, we **will NOT have class** that day so the kids too can eat. **No class on Easter Sunday**.

In closing, I pray that Jesus fills your heart, and you KNOW how much He loves you daily!

Serving to Learn, Education Brenda Hackett

There are 3 Bible Studies currently meeting in addition to Pastor's Sunday Morning Study on the book of James. Powerful things happen as we gather to study God's word. If you are interested in starting another study or joining one in progress contact Colleen Woods, 320-685-4389, or pick up a copy of small group samples on the Narthex counter.



Another powerful way to connect with others is through triads, choosing 2 others to meet regularly, preferable each week to lift each other up in prayers. For more information on triads contact Jeff Ramey.

Small Group Colleen Woods



## FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING!

We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday, February 20**<sup>th</sup>, for **Lutheran Island Camp**. Thank you for your support and your generous donations!

## December's Church Income Statement

[	December	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$27,727	\$237,045
Expenses	<u>(\$19,581</u> )	<u>(\$220,821)</u>
Excess/(Shortfal	l) \$8,146	\$16,224

#### Area Homeless Shelters



Homeless Shelters is in dire need of flat and fitted sheets, they do not need matching sets. – No stains, no tears and fitted sheets must have

good elastic. Please donate clean with no fragrances (for people with allergies). As always, towels are needed. Please give items to Ardelle or leave in the Evelyn's sewing room. Thank you!

## Rice Area Food Shelf

February Distribution is Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:30pm at the Old Village Hall



Movie Night @ SOTP! Join us on February 18<sup>th</sup> for Luca. Come in Pjs, bring a blanket, and snacks if you would like. Some snack available .to share as well.



Dads, Grandpas, and Uncles bring your daughters, granddaughters, and nieces to a fun night of Dancing (with a DJ), Crafts, Photo Booth and Snacks.

#### Friday, February 11 6:30pm-8:30pm

#### Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church

1950 125th St NW Rice, MN 56367

This is a Free Event!! If you would like a picture on the slideshow during the dance, please email it to the church @ office@sotpministries.com

If you would like a picture on the screen during the dance, please send them to the church office email. <u>Office@sotpministries.com</u> by February 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am

### 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

Dírect your Thrivent Choice Dollars



Today!

designated, and give the form to Curt or Church Secretary Julie. Members should apply for their Choice Dollars before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

#### Lenten Worship Schedule

<u>Lenten Services – 6:30pm</u> March 16<sup>th</sup> -April 6<sup>th</sup>

Maundy Thursday Service April 14<sup>th</sup> , 6:30pm

> Good Friday Service April 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

Easter Sunday Services April 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00am & 9:30am

\*\*\*Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am \*\*\* Easter Fellowship Breakfast 8am-9:15am

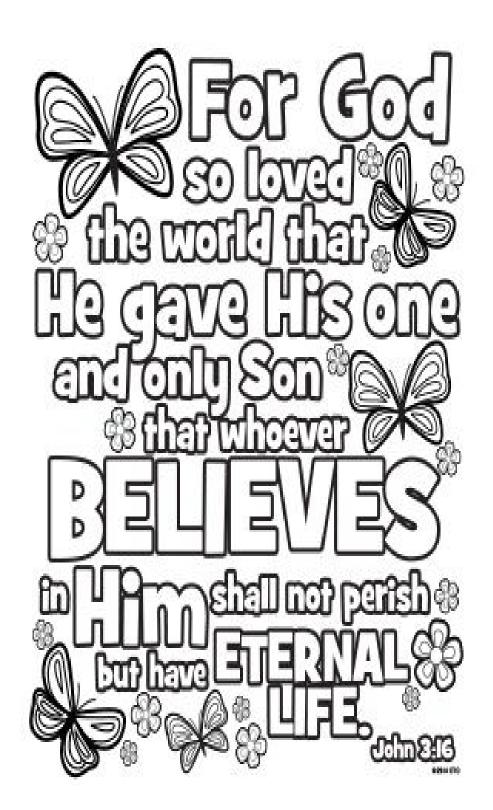
# Worship Help Schedule

	Wa	orship	T	eam	
Fobruary	SEDVICE	GREETERS		DDO IECTIONI	e

February	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
02/06/22	9:00am	Travis & Marlys Lenarz	Isabelle Cairns	Dennis Arntson		Dennis Arntson
02/13/22	9:00am	Kevin & Janet Maleska	Dennis Arntson	Jane Nelson		Jane Nelson
02/20/22	9:00am	Milt & Marlene Popp	Cal Ollman	Janet Maleska		Steve Ree
02/27/22	9:00am	Deb Erdmann	Cynthia Ollman	Peg Manea		Jerry Nelson
March	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
03/06/22	9:00am	Shelley Pintok	Denise Leahy	Jerry Nelson		Jerry Nelson
03/13/22	9:00am	Charlie & Nancy Anderson	lan Cairns	Ron Woods		Dennis Arntson
03/20/22	9:00am	Brenda & Keith Hackett	Levi Brenny	Lois Perleberg		Steve Ree
03/27/22	9:00am	Scott & Peg Manea	Sarah Anderson	Ruth Brutcher		Keith Hackett
April	SERVICE	GREETERS	PROJECTIONISTS	READERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS
04/03/22	9:00am	Barb Zapzalka	Isabelle Cairns	Peg Manea		Brenda Hackett
<b>04/10/22</b> Palm Sunday	9:00am	Ron & Barb McKeever	Dennis Arntson	Jane Nelson		Jerry Nelson
04/17/22 Easter	9:00am	Bruce & Sandie Resch	Cal Ollman	Janet Maleska		Steve Ree
04/24/22	9:00am	Jen & Tom Ollman	Cynthia Ollman	Richael Weinand		Dennis Arntson

If you can help in any area please reach out. We would like to start bringing back ushers! 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



# Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.

**KYDSNGEGIPBEEEH** UPAEMLGAAVEABON WRTVQFPRRJATPWE UEIEZJRBRZREOPZ UNRIGHTEOUSNESS NEBLBQPPGFMHCJK NSQEKERSAVPPRPX EJEBCOPTNCMLCXQ RNSCVONETNXJJTC DPDOIEMDEREFFUS YNKUIORIJEALOUS ITRDJONFLCGVK RE DRAKFEZEAGXMKOF ZPYZDASRRRLSRAW Q T K X B W R E V E N Y Y C N

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Is <b>PATIENT</b>
Is KIND
Is Not <b>JEALOUS</b>
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

<u>Worship</u>	Sher	pherc	<u> s</u>			
February	6	Collee	en Woods			He
February	13	Kyle F	lackett			for
February	20	Deb E	irdmann			caı scł
February	27	Garry	Loidolt			SCI
February	6	9AM		N IT		tre
February	13		Jane Nelso	10 N		
February	20	9AM	Janet Male	RF	EADERS	
February	27	9AM	Peg Mane	a		
February	6	9AM	Marlys & T			
February	13	9AM	Kevin & Ja			
February	20	9AM	Milt & Mar	-	р	1
February	27	9AM	Deb Erdm	ann	zreete	196
	FEBR	RUAR	<u>Y</u>	S	51000	10
Dennis Arı	ntson, S	cott Ma	anea, & Lau	rie 👗		
	M	adoll		OFFER		
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February 6						Fe
February 1	3– Ron &	Colleer	n Woods			Fe
February 2	0 –Josh 8	& Kalley	Wright			
February 2	7- Barb Z	Zapzalka	a			Fe
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ALTAR GUILD	Jo	anny Ra	amey			<u> </u>
February 6 <sup>t</sup>	.h		February 2	20 <sup>th</sup>	_	_
Isaiah 6:1-8			Genesis 45			Fe
1 Corinthiar	ns 14:12-	20	1 Corinthia	ns 15:21-2	28	Fe
Luke 5:1-11	A		Luke 6:27-3	88		Fe
February 1	3 <sup>th</sup>	Scripture	February 2	2 <b>7</b> <sup>th</sup>		Fe
Jeremiah 17		Scripture Readings	Deuterono		2	
1 Corinthiar		20	Hebrews 3:			
Luke 6:17-20			Luke 9:28-3			

#### **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!



in early, serv						
February 6 <sup>th</sup>						
J. El		laleska, K.Huhne/Popp				
		ebruary 13 <sup>th</sup>				
Sw		's Breakfast Tentative				
		ebruary 20 <sup>th</sup>				
J.		on, M. Popp, B. Statz				
3		ebruary 27 <sup>th</sup>				
-		M. Kiraly, J. Alstrup March 6 <sup>th</sup>				
R		R. Woods, T. Ollman				
		March 13 <sup>th</sup>				
Α.		. Manea, M. Hinderscheid				
		March 20 <sup>th</sup>				
D.E	rdmann, .	J. Brenny, D. Mickelson				
	I	March 27 <sup>th</sup>				
	Hackett,	Ky. Hackett, J. Hackett				
ebruary	6	Dennis Arntson				
- ebruary	13	Jane Nelson 🛛 🕌				
- ebruary	20	Steve Ree				
- ebruary	27	Jerry Nelson Worship				
	ML	usicians 🖌 🖌				
- ebruary	6	Heather Statz				
- ebruary	13	Bethany Mears				
- ebruary	20	Praise Team				
- ebruary	27	Gabby Dingmann 🗾				
PROJECTIONISTS						
- ebruary	6	9AM Isabelle Cairns				
- ebruary	13	9AM Dennis Arnts 🏹 🔔				
-ebruary	20	9AM Cal Ollman				
ebruary	27	9AM Cynthia Ollman				

# Quilting News!



Quilters donated 1,758 quilts in 2021 they went to homeless shelters, VA Facilities, Food Shelves, and Drug Treatment Facilities

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."



Youth, age 5th grade and up, if you haven't already, please check your email

for a link to a SOTP church survey sent in December and respond to it. We would like to offer activities that appeal to you!

High school students are welcome to join us for Bible Study in the youth room on Sunday mornings at 10:15am. We would love to have you join us for a video study and conversation.

The Sweetheart Breakfast will be put on by SOTP youth on February 13<sup>th</sup> following worship service. Please call the church office or Sarah at 320-267-2628 to volunteer.

Please watch your email for new events to be scheduled in 2022! Sarah Anderson Youth Group Leader

Women have begun to study "The Power of Praying for Your Adult Children" on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11am. There is a small group



meeting in homes on Monday evenings, and another group meets to study "Raising Your Children with Love and Logic".



Men's Bible Study will resume on February 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday's Evenings at 7:00pm.

	February					
Anniversaries						
James & Laurie	Madoll	February 9th				
Davis & Jessica	Mickelson	February 12th				
Greg & Beth	Roles	February 15th				
Jeff & Stephanie	Loidolt	February 17th				
Wayne & Judy	Anderson	February 24th				
Shawn & Jennifer	Bemboom	February 29th				

	February Birthda	ays		
Tyler	Hackett February 1st			
Nolan	Morgan	February 1st		
Lila	Tschida	February 1st		
Tanner	Hackett	February 6th		
John	Herman	February 7th		
Joshua	Elliott	February 8th		
Keith	Kirchner	February 8th		
Celeste	Ollman	February 9th		
Eric	Skajewski	February 9th		
lleana	Merten	February 14th		
Evie	Seppelt	February 14th		
Juli	Рорр	February 15th		
Henry	Donabauer	February 17th		
Trinity	Blommer	February 20th		
Muggs	Newman	February 20th		
Breyden	Bemboom	February 21st		
Rebecca	Peterson	February 21st		
Liam	Seppelt	February 22nd		
Jennifer	Bemboom	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 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5
stries.com ail: ninistries.com day 9:00-3:00	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon 8	9:30-11:00 Woman Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation zoom	9:00 Quilters	11	12
,	0	/	10		12
7:30 Praise Team	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30-11:00 Woman Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation zoom	9:00 Quilters	Daddy Daughter Dance Daddy/Daughter Dance 6:30pm-8:30pm	
14	15	16	17	18	19
Cod's Love Happy St. Valentines Day!	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30-11:00 Woman Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation zoom	9:00 Quilters 6:30 Elder's Meeting 7:00 BOLM Meeting	Movie Night 6:30pm	
21	22	23	24	25	26
7:30 Praise Team 7:30 Small Group	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30-11:00 Woman Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation zoom	9:00 Quilters		
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## Jesus loves...

**Church Phone:** 393-4295 **Email:** office@sotpministries.com **Church Website:** sotpministries.com

#### 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, Jen Ollman- 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 <u>Great</u> <u>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>.