



Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church

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## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

When facing the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, it's easy to feel alone and unsure. Never before has a virus shut down the entire. While this has never happened before, I find comfort in understanding that Christians throughout history have dealt with difficulties and afflictions.

If you were raised in the Lutheran Church, you might know the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." It's usually sung on Reformation Sunday with the focus being the persistence of the Gospel against Satan's attacks. However, I recently found out that Luther's personal struggles reveal a deeper meaning.

It's believed that Luther wrote this hymn from 1527-28. In the fall of 1527, a plague broke out in Wittenberg, where Luther lived. Most of the town was shut down and many moved to the country to get away from the plague. Luther stayed in Wittenberg and was willing to continue preaching God's Word and administering the sacraments to God's people, even if it meant that he was to die of the plague.

In December 1527, Luther had a daughter, Elizabeth, born sickly. In May of 1528, she died. Luther spent a great amount of time asking God to heal his sick newborn girl. For reasons we are unable to understand, God chose not to heal her. Luther writes at this time that he was spiritually and emotionally exhausted. The long nights of prayer and suffering never ceased.

It was at this time Luther was writing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Read through the last stanza with this in mind.

*God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!*

While our present circumstances are unique, I find encouragement in the struggles and faith Christians have had. For some, this COVID pandemic has brought afflictions that are too much to bear. If this is you, find comfort in what God continues to do for you. This pandemic, just like many other "devils' afflicting us, is indeed too much for us to bear. But we have Christ who fights for us and promises to be close to each of us.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor David Edge

# Board of Lay Ministry

Pending Approval Minutes – May 21, 2020

**BOLM members present** via Zoom meeting: Sarah Anderson, Kyle Hackett, Bev Gerads, Keith Peterson, Pastor David Edge, Dave Perleberg, Curt Kvamme, Deb Erdman Absent: Wayne Peterson, Wayne Anderson Meeting was called to order by at 7:05 pm and opened with prayer. The mission statement was read by Kyle.

**Treasurer's Report** – April income was \$17,327.43 and expenses were \$19,669.52. Curt applied for and received a \$29,100 SBA loan from Bremer Bank which was received in April. Deb made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Sarah seconded. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report** – Deb made a motion to accept the Secretary's report as written, seconded by Dave. Motion carried.

**Pastoral Activity Report** – Pastor David reported on his activities in the month of April while the stay at home continued. He has been using the analytics available to see how often the videos for service and children's message are used. Pastor David will be on vacation June 22 through July 3 with Pastor John Beck from Messiah in Sartell will fill in.

## Old Business

Policy Binders – This topic was tabled to our next in person meeting.

Early Communion is postponed.

Confirmation Date – Reformation in late fall may be a good time to hold our Confirmation Service.

VBS – We are waiting for guidelines from the state to be released to decide when to have VBS.

New Members – Two new families are interested in joining. Pastor will schedule this with them when in person meetings are reasonable.

## New Business

The worship shepherd schedule was reviewed through July 19<sup>th</sup>. Next BOLM meeting will be on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm with praise and prayer at 6:30pm God willing.

Properties – Keith reported that the parking lot has been swept. Keith and Pastor ran a wire for a live feed to a monitor in the fellowship hall for sanctuary overflow. Spring lawn work is complete. He will review some small projects with the committee when group meetings are allowed again.

Copier Proposal – Julie and Pastor presented the options we have. Going with Metro in September will be the most economical option for our office. Our current lease ends in October. A lease through Metro would be 60 months long. Our current copier has a tiered schedule of costs based on the number of copies made. Metro copies are priced based on color or black & white. Motion was made by Bev to change to Metro Sales for copier service in September seconded by Deb. Motion carried.

Marriage Night – SOTP will be hosting a Right Now Media presentation. Couples can register for \$30.00. Right Now Media will refund half of the registration money to the church for hosting this presentation. Suggested date is September 12<sup>th</sup> (live stream at 6:30pm) or later in the month. This topic was tabled to our next meeting to decide on a definite date.

Quilters – Request to leave tables set up to encourage people to come in and work on quilts as time allows. The BOLM talked about the request and decided it will be granted for the summer months. Keith is available for set up if needed.

Return to Worship plans – Julie shared the MN Governor's phases for returning to Worship. Pastor David and Julie had prepared guidelines from the synod and reached out to the city and county regarding our church services. The BOLM discussed the preparations and the timing of opening, given the Governor's latest

guidance. Sarah made a motion to open SOTP for worship on May 31<sup>st</sup>, Kurt seconded. Motion carried. Pastor David, Julie, Wayne Peterson and Bev will work on the safety protocols.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bev, seconded by Deb. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:39 pm. Meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Anderson, BOLM Secretary

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## Shepherd of the Pines Protocols for Beginning Onsite Worship Services During Covid-19 Crisis

### APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF THE LAY MINISTRY

### MAY 26, 2020

We believe Worship services and other celebrations are essential (e.g. baptisms, weddings, and funerals) Also, small group studies and support meetings would be allowed. We want to remind you that if you are feeling sick or you are concerned to stay home as Online Worship Services will still be available.

We feel that we can open safely and follow guidelines to manage the risk for the spread of the virus.

- ✦ One Worship Service 9am Sunday Morning.
- ✦ Please complete the questionnaire before you come on the next page.
- ✦ The doors will be propped open on Sunday morning.
- ✦ We ask that you do not greet each other by touching.
- ✦ Hand sanitizer will be available outside before walking into church as well inside church in 3 areas (wall outside of sanctuary, inside the sanctuary, and in the fellowship hall by the kitchen door). There will also be hand sanitizer in the musician area and the projection area.
- ✦ We will not have paper bulletins. We will have everything available on the screen. Also, we will have our announcements on the website, and they are emailed out each Friday.
- ✦ Chairs every other row will be removed. The rows that are left we ask member to have 4 empty chairs between each family.
- ✦ We will have the fellowship hall set up and available for extra spacing. The TV in the Fellowship Hall will have the same slides as the projector in the sanctuary.
- ✦ Quiet bags have been removed, you are welcome to bring items from home to occupy your children
- ✦ Window and doors will be open when weather permits to help with ventilation. (NO Ceiling fans)
- ✦ We will put signs on the door about following social distance, washing hands or using sanitizer.
- ✦ **Adults will temporarily be required to wear a face mask.** We have some cloth available as well as disposable ones. You will be asked to leave if you choose not to follow this.
- ✦ An offering plate will be set up on a stand and not passed around.
- ✦ For communion, we have prefilled individual cups with wafers. Gluten free is also available. Pastor will wear gloves and pass them out before service. We will do communion as a group at the end of service.
- ✦ Choir will not be meeting or performing until the fall.
- ✦ Signs and other instructions will encourage normal safe practices necessary to stop the spread (e.g. cough or sneeze into a shirtsleeve, handkerchief, or tissue; avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth to help slow the spread of germs).
- ✦ Bibles have been removed. We ask you to bring your own or just follow along on the screen.
- ✦ We will do Prayer and anointing with oil on the 5th Sunday of the month. We ask that if you choose to participate, you social distance and Pastor David will change gloves after each person.
- ✦ We ask that one family uses the restroom facilities at a time.
- ✦ The sanctuary and fellow ship hall will be cleaned and sanitized after each service.

We want to remind you that if you are feeling sick or you are concerned to stay home Online Services will still be available

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# SHEPHERD OF THE PINES

## SELF-ADMINISTERED HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you have any of the following symptoms that you cannot directly attribute to another health condition? If you answer YES to any of the following questions, please stay home and listen to the service on the website.

Do you have:

- Fever (100.4°F or higher), or feeling feverish? Chills?
- A new cough?
- Shortness of breath?
- A new sore throat?
- New muscle aches?
- New headache?
- New loss of smell or taste?
- Diarrhea ?

Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 ?

Have you been in close contact with anyone or cared for anyone who has been diagnosed or have any of the symptoms listed above within the last 14 day

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We're here for you. Our church recognizes some of these measures are inconvenient. These recommendations are adapted from the Minnesota Department of Health as well as the Minnesota North District - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. These precautions are temporary for this conditional opening and we're looking forward to a full unrestrictive opening of our church in the near future.

We understand that not everyone will want to come back to church right away. If you're more vulnerable to the virus or if you have any of the symptoms listed above we ask that you stay home. Likewise, if you're not ready to come back to church until some of these restrictions have been lifted, we also understand that.

Our Board of Lay Ministry has labored over these protocols. Our meetings have gone through different people's perspectives and inputs on these points. If you feel strongly on any of these protocols, I want you to know:

- First, we value the safety of all of our members, especially the most vulnerable.
- Second, if you would like to talk with me over any of these points, I welcome your feedback. Our Board and I are here to serve this congregation so we want to know how best to serve you within the new restrictions the pandemic has put us in.

None of us have ever been in a situation like this so I ask for your grace as our leaders and I work to reopen our church. We're probably not going to get everything right the first Sunday so these protocols will be adjusted as the needs of our church changes and as the information on COVID changes. I look forward to seeing you back in person on Sundays and if you would like to contact us regarding our reopening, feel free to contact me (Pastor David) or you can email Kyle Hackett, our church's president.

Grace and Peace

Pastor David Edge

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# Education / Small Group Team

Greetings to you all!

As we navigate through this time it brings me a peace knowing that Jesus has the wheel of life...where would we be without that? Many things are not happening in our church family that we all truly do miss, but my team and I will begin meeting together to plan for IF we have a later VBS, what would that look like or do we do a big "back to Sunday School" in the fall. The whole not knowing makes it very hard to plan for sure! We want to thank all those dads who are so very special to all of us. Jesus is our Heavenly Father, but these guys fill the shoes this side of heaven! So "Thank you" Dad's!!! Hope you have a great day!

We will continue to keep you posted of things that could be happening and keep checking the website for any updates! Hope you all have a great June!!

Sincerely,

Brenda Hackett

Small Group/Edu Team

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## June Birthdays

Davis	Mickelson	June 01
Charyl	Walberg	June 01
Shawn	Hackett	June 03
Cynthia	Ollman	June 05
Stephanie	Loidolt	June 07
Debi	Popp	June 08
Paul	Tschida	June 08
Michael	Kiraly	June 08
Jillian	Edge	June 12
Shane	Smallfield	June 12
Levi	Brenny	June 14
Rylie	Hoeft	June 15
Leah	Saldana	June 16
Alex	Ostendorf	June 20
Sandie	Resch	June 20
George	Freese	June 22
Glen	Gertken	June 22
Stacie	Madoll	June 24
Rebecca	Elliott	June 25
Luke	Billmeyer	June 26
Carla	Hunter	June 26
Al	Gerads	June 28
Shelby	Hovland	June 28
Richael	Weinand	June 28
Julie	Clasen	June 30
David	Edge	June 30

## June Anniversaries

David & Sandi	Koep	June 02
Armon & DuReine	Matheny	June 03
Milton & Marlene	Popp	June 04
Steve & Karen	Wood	June 05
Rolland & Mary	Adkins	June 07
Jim & Ardelle	Amundson	June 07
Mike & Carla	Hunter	June 07
Mark & Julie	Clasen	June 08
John & Annette	Elliott	June 09
Al & Bev	Gerads	June 14
Brent & Jennifer	Betker	June 16
Joshua & Sarah	Anderson	June 20
Dan & Ellie	Cairns	June 21
Dale & Linda	Dirks	June 21
Howard & Nancy	Forer	June 24
Jerry & Jane	Nelson	June 24
George & Cara	Freese	June 25
Dale & Terri	Skajewski	June 29

## Join us as Shepherd of the Pines Serves a Meal at Place of Hope!!

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month

1:30pm-6:00pm

(We will serve on [June 12<sup>th</sup>](#))

This is a servant opportunity that is sure to fill you up in many ways. A great opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus! Cooking begins at 1:30, circle prayer at 4:30, and serving at 4:45. You can choose to work the whole time or simply pick the first or second half of the timeframe. If interested, please contact Sandie Resch at 360-4563. Please prayerfully consider.

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## April's Church Income Statement

	April	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$17,327	\$75,077
Expenses	<u>(\$19,669)</u>	<u>(\$78,934)</u>
Excess/(Shortfall)	(\$2,342)	(\$3,857)

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Let's support our local church members' businesses in these tough times. They might have a bit of a limited menu, but their food is still good. If we have missed a business, please let us know and we will email out the information.

Jordies, Bowlus MN  
320-584-8193  
[www.jordiestrailside.com](http://www.jordiestrailside.com)

Creamery, Rice MN  
320-393-4100  
[oldcreameryricemn.com](http://oldcreameryricemn.com)

Janski Greenhouse is open  
320-393-2136

[Janski Greenhouse on Facebook](#)

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QUILTING!  
QUILTING!  
QUILTING!

We will not be quilting in June as of right now, we will keep you posted with any changes. Contact Ardelle with any questions at 656-5858.

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## June NOISY OFFERING!

We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**, for the **Foley Area Care**. Thank you for your support and your generous donations!

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## Rice Area Food Shelf

June Distribution is  
Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>  
from 3:00-5:30pm

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## Pastor David Vacation

Pastor David will be on  
vacation from June 22<sup>th</sup>  
through July 3<sup>rd</sup>

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## Julie out of office.

Will be out the office June 15<sup>th</sup>  
through June 17<sup>th</sup>

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## Worship Shepherds

June 7 Bev Gerads  
 June 14 Dave Perleberg  
 June 21 Sarah Anderson  
 June 28 Wayne Anderson



**Fellowship Hour will be postponed until further notice.**

June 7 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 14 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 21 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 28 9AM Volunteers Needed



June 7 Dennis Arntson  
 June 14 Jerry Nelson  
 June 21 Steve Ree  
 June 28 Pastor David



June 7 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 14 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 21 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 28 9AM Volunteers Needed



Musicians  
 June 7 Lyric Music  
 June 14 Lyric Music  
 June 21 Lyric Music  
 June 28 Lyric Music

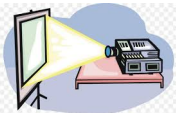


June 7 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 14 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 21 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 28 9AM Volunteers Needed



## PROJECTIONISTS

June 7 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 14 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 21 9AM Volunteers Needed  
 June 28 9AM Volunteers Needed



## JUNE

Dennis Arntson & Scott Manea



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 June we will be praying for:**

June 7- Gary & Sherry Kapsner  
 June 14- Keith & Evie Kirchner  
 June 21 - Michael Kiraly & Julie Robinson  
 Daughter: Cecilia  
 June 28 - Mary Kivi



## JUNE

Sandie Resch, Nancy Anderson,  
 Joan Ramey

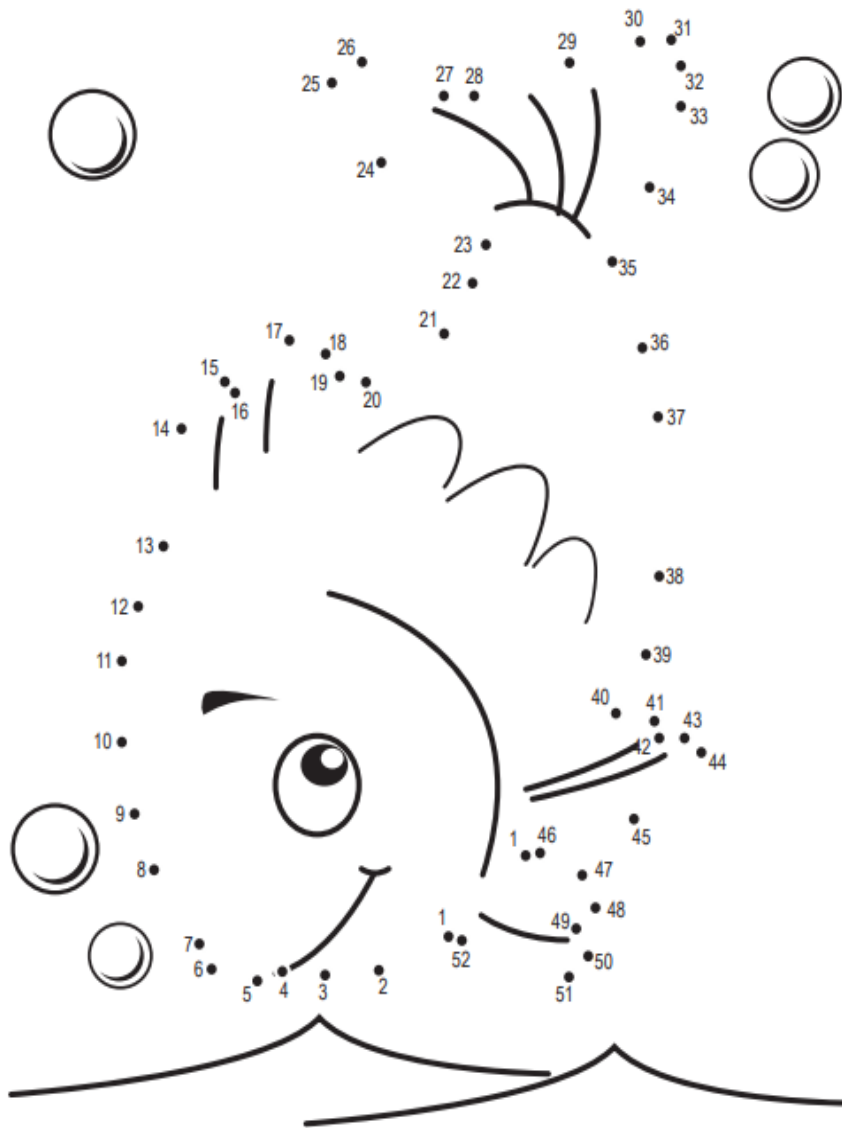
June 7 - Genesis 1:26-2:4  
 Acts 2:22-36  
 Matthew 28:16-20  
 June 14 - Exodus 19:2-8  
 Romans 5:6-15  
 Matthew 9:35-10:8  
 June 21 - Jeremiah 20:7-13  
 Romans 6:12-23  
 Matthew 10:5, 21-33  
 June 28 - Jeremiah 28:5-9  
 Romans 7:1-13  
 Matthew 10:34-42



# Peter Catches a Big Fish

## CONNECT THE DOTS

Begin at number 1 and draw a line to each number after that to connect all of the dots. When you finish you will have a picture you can color too!



# Peter Goes Fishing

## Word Scramble

The letters of the words below are mixed up. Unscramble them to make words from the story "Peter Recognized Jesus."

TOBA

\_\_\_\_\_

PLEDSCII

\_\_\_\_\_

TREEP

\_\_\_\_\_

SHIFNIG

\_\_\_\_\_

CLAIRME

\_\_\_\_\_

MONSI

\_\_\_\_\_

ERTWA

\_\_\_\_\_

TSNE

\_\_\_\_\_

NAWDRE

\_\_\_\_\_





RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



**Shepherd of the Pines**

**Lutheran Church**

1950 125<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Rice, MN 56367

*Jesus smiles on..*

**Pastor David Edge**

**Church Phone:** 393-4295

**Email:** office@sotpministries.com or david@sotpministries.com

**Church Website:** [sotpministries.com](http://sotpministries.com)

**SOTP BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY/ELDERS**

Sarah Anderson, Secretary 267-2628; Wayne Peterson, 249-3986; Deb Erdmann, 249-4804; David Perleberg, Vice President 360-5147; Wayne Anderson 393-2128; Curt Kvamme Treas. 393-3353; Kyle Hackett, President 266-1700; Bev Gerads 761-1894

Keith Peterson, Church Properties 292-4007

**EXECUTIVE MINISTRY TEAM**

Brenda Hackett – Education & Small Group Team Leader, Keith Hackett - Worship Team Leader, Jen Ollman- Service 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.