



2024

Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church

1950 125th Street NW

Rice, MN 56367

Phone: 393-4295

Email: office@sotpministries.com

Church Website: sotpministries.com

Dear friends in Christ,

Here's one of the things about reading God's Word that is truly a blessing. It's simply this. Each time you read it...no matter how familiar it is to you or how many times you have read it...there is always something new to see and to learn!

That happened to me again the other day. I was reading Psalm 23, probably for the proverbial "umpteenth time." In fact, and it is probably the same for you – I've read this Psalm so many times that I don't need to read it. I know it by heart.

Well, as I said, no matter how many times you've read a portion of the Bible, there is always something new to see and to learn. And this time, when I came to verse 6, to these words, I said to myself: "Wait a minute! Did you see that? Did you catch that?"

What was it? Here's the verse. I am wondering if you see what I saw. "Surely goodness and love (mercy) will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

So, in verse one the Lord is leading me. He is out in front as my Shepherd. In verse four, He is walking beside me as I face danger. And now in verse six, He is behind me. "Surely goodness and mercy will FOLLOW me."

The Lord is behind me! As they would say in some circles, that means He's got my back and whatever it is in life that has me looking over my shoulder...whatever it is that I fear might be chasing me or hunting me down. He's back there for me! He's back there to protect me. He's back there to assure me that He will not let anything surprise me from behind. And best of all, He's back there so that I can keep looking ahead and keep focused on His promise. That's where the last words of this Psalm direct us. "And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Oh, and one more thing. When I look back on my life, instead of seeing all of the mistakes I've made...all the "should haves...could haves...would haves." What's back there for me to see is His grace and forgiveness of my past. "Surely goodness and love (mercy) will follow me all the days of my life."

Maybe you've already seen all the things I just saw in that moment when the Lord opened my eyes to see something in His Word that I hadn't seen before...at least not in this particular verse. Maybe, like me, this was your first time to see those truths in this verse.

But either way, it is my prayer that each of us will continue to read God's Word and be on the look-out for the new things, the new blessings, and the Holy Spirit, who wants to open our eyes and our hearts to see for the very first time.

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 27th

Greetings to you all and Happy Mother's Day to all the moms!

My goodness, we are in May and 1 month from VBS! We currently have 85 children pre-registered and that is amazing, since we have almost 5 weeks to go! God is good!!! We are asking for helping hands...for the volunteer spots to guide the children from station to station. We have anywhere from 3 to 4 adults/and or older kids for each grade with 1 adult for sure per grade level. That being said...we need more helping hands! If God is moving your heart, it is amazing to see these little people sing and learn about Jesus for 5 days! The sign-up sheet is on the counter in the Narthex. There is also a sheet for food donations as we give the kids a snack each night. We ask for prayers for this next month as we prepare for this big event. We reach so very many children that do not have a church home, and some don't even know who Jesus is!!! What a great opportunity to spread a ray of light to them! See the sheets on the counter! We will have an ALL VOLUNTEER Meeting on Tuesday May 21st at 7pm.

We also close our Sunday School year on May 5th with a "Sundae Sunday" to send the kids off to summer! Ice cream and toppings will be served during fellowship time, and there will be NO class that day! This year we have been blessed with amazing teachers and subs again! My heart is full for all you have done for our kids! Thank you for being such an important part of their learning life!

I will be setting plans into motion in summer for the fall. We are blessed beyond measure here, and I appreciate all the dedication to our kids!
May God bless your May and our mom's!

Brenda Hackett
Education Team Leader



Well, we begin May with kicking off for the garage sale! The youth garage sale will be May 16-18 this year! Youth parents and youth please come to church the 13th – 15 to help sort and prep the items for the sale. I will be at the church during the entire day 8:00 to 8:00, so if you have time, please lend a hand. The proceeds will go to the Youth Group and the activity for later this summer/fall. We will be making plans for that after the garage sale. We have had changes to the group, and it looks different. The large group will be broken down into Jr. High (6th - 8th Grade) and Sr. High (9th – 12th Grade) so that means we need some leadership to step forward to make this successful. It is a great opportunity to be a role model to them and connect in group activities. They are a good group of young people; let's give them a hand! Talk to me if you are interested in being part of the team. I would like 2 for each group....

We will continue to meet once a month for an activity night through the summer so watch your emails and the church bulletin for updates. Again...because of the sudden change, we are in the planning process for this too. I am open to suggestions so give me a call or stop me at church! Looking for fun ideas for the youth events!

Brenda Hackett
320-267-6472



Worship Team

2024 Worship Team Schedule

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.



We would like to welcome new members.

Robert & Darby Cervenka Son: Cal Charles & Doreen Dressel
Adam & Cristina Freimund Shawn Hackett
Tami Hackett Dana & Laura Persson
Don & Gail Reginek Tyler & Keri Smith Children: Evelyn & Emmett
Katie Tyge Children: Brielle, Ireland & Toby

March's Church Income Statement

	March	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$26,230	\$65,780
Expenses	(\$16,338)	(\$46,060)
Over/(Shortfall)	\$9,892	\$19,720

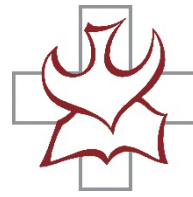
May will have 2 NOISY OFFERING!



We will be taking up our noisy offering on **Sunday, May 5th for Dream High Group and on Sunday 19th**, for the **Rice Elementary Staff**.

Rice Area Food Shelf

May Distribution is
Thursday, May 9th
from 3:00-5:30pm
at the Old Village Hall!



Congratulations
Confirmation Class of
2023

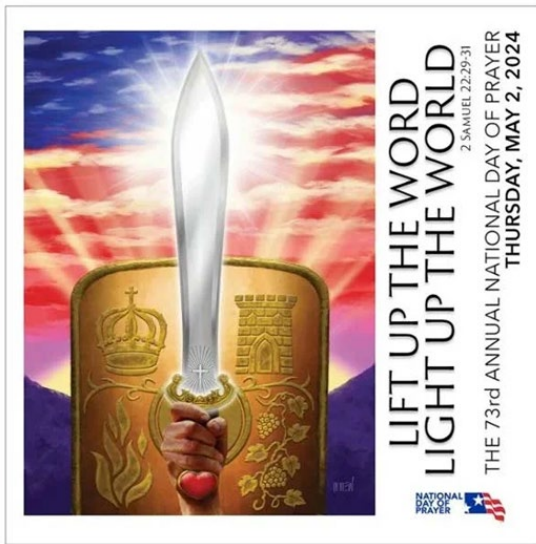
Confirmation Sunday will be
May 19th

May the Holy Spirit continually pour His love, comfort, and guidance in the lives of our confirmands!

Lacey Brenny
Joselynn Dubbin

Luke Brenny
Isabella Ramey

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



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 WORD, 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!

SOTP Youth Group

BIG GARAGE SALE



Garage Sale

May 16th & 17th

9am – 5pm

May 18th 8am-noon

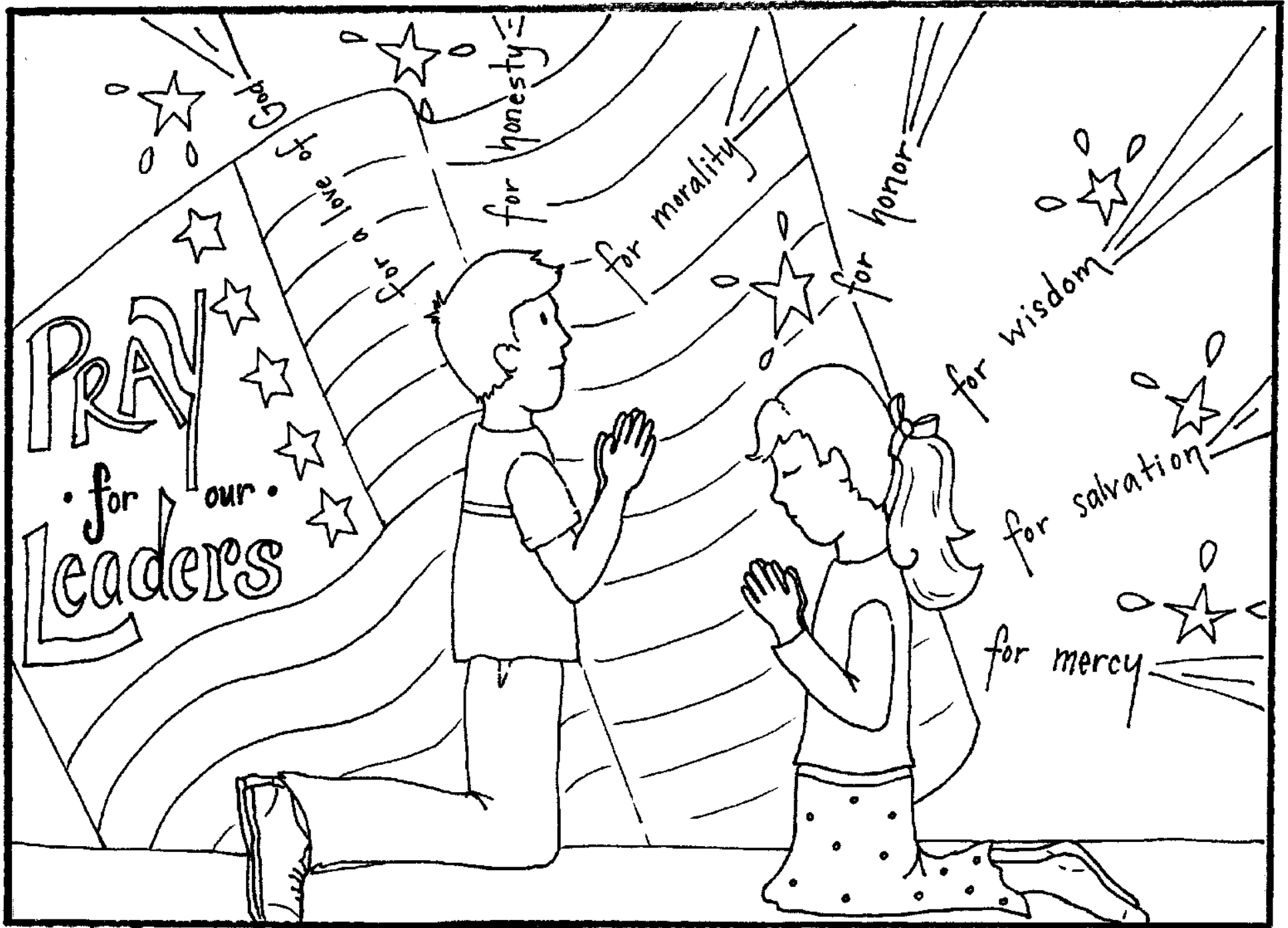
We welcome your donations for the Sale Any time up until May 13th. (No TVs Please)

This garage sale will benefit the SOTP youth on the next Youth Group Adventure.



God,

I am
thankful
for
Mommy!



Mandy Groce '10

ministry-to-children.com

Worship Shepherds

May 5th Ron McKeever/Paul Tschida
 May 12th Joanny Ramey
 May 19th Ron McKeever
 May 26th Bev Gerads



May 5th Keith & Kathy Craft
 May 12th Ron & Barb McKeever
 May 19th Jeff & Joanny Ramey
 May 26th Bruce & Sandie Resch



May 5th Julie Kiraly
 May 12th Mackenzie Ramey
 May 19th Levi Brenny
 May 26th Keith Hackett



May 5th Wyatt Alstrup
 May 12th Dennis Arntson
 May 19th Ruth Brutcher
 May 26th Karen Ellefson



May 5th Bev & Al Gerads
 May 12th Keith & Brenda Hackett
 May 19th Jeremy & Candance Dingmann
 May 26th Brian & Heather Statz



May 5th Jane Nelson
 May 12th Jane Nelson
 May 19th Steve Ree
 May 26th Jerry 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 May we will be praying for:**

May 5th Mark Larson
 May 12th Wayne & Audrey Larson
 May 19th † Denise & Dan Leahy
 May 26th LuAnn Legatt

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!



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
June 2nd
A. Gerads, S. Manea, R. Weinand
June 9th
D. Arntson, R. Woods, B. Jasmer
June 16th
J. Ramey, M. Kiraly, G. Welle
June 23rd
Ke. Hackett, Ky. Hackett, S. Hackett, T. Hackett
June 30th
R. McKeever, J. Nelson, L. Popp, D. Reginek

Musicians

May 5th Heather
 May 12th Gabby
 May 19th Praise Team
 May 26th Gabby



MAY

Curt Kvamme, Deb Erdmann,

MAY

Mary Bulthuis, Joan Ramey
 & Kathy Arntson



May 5th
 Acts 10:34-48
 1 John 5:1-8
 John 15:9-17



May 19th
 Ezekiel 37:1-4
 Acts 2:1-21
 John 15:26-27 & 16:4-15

May 12th
 Acts 1:1-11
 Ephesians 1:15-23
 Luke 24:44-53

May 26th
 Isaiah 6:1-8
 Acts 2:14, 22-36
 John 3:1-17

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

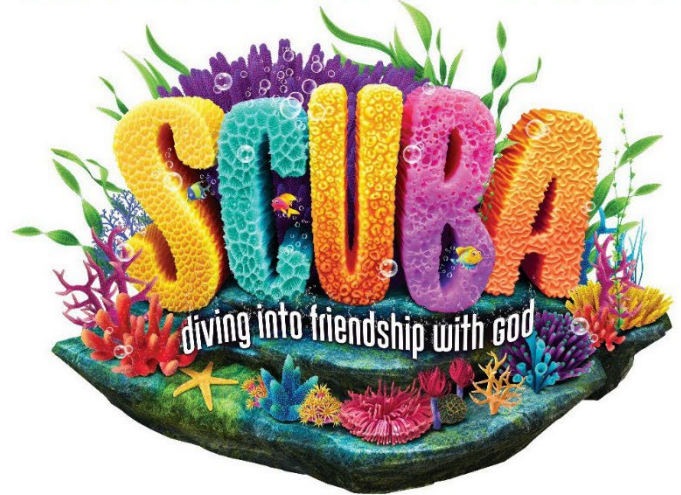
Note: Update on VBS 2024! It is scheduled for June 2nd-6th, for children 4 years old- 5th grade. If your child is 4 yrs. old through the completion of 5th grade in 2024, we look forward to seeing you! We have a couple of requests for the parents. First, we are asking that you pre-register if possible, so we can see the numbers we are looking at. We are able to facilitate 130 children **(we have reached our max for 4 year olds, we have 44 spots left)**, 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](#)

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

May Birthdays		
Shaunna	Johnson	May 01
Emma	Taylor	May 01
Harley	Johnson	May 02
Nicole	Novitzki	May 02
Ken	Feia	May 03
Cara	Freese	May 03
Sandra	Froelich	May 03
Laura	Popp	May 03
Madison	Jasmer	May 04
Mary	Campion	May 07
Bonnie	Loidolt	May 08
Ben	Cole	May 09
Randy	Klaphake	May 09
Jane	Nelson	May 09
Mason	Novitzki	May 10
Garry	Loidolt	May 11
Pat	Rolph	May 11
Michael	Barringer	May 13
Teegan	Sauer	May 14

May Birthdays Continued		
Bradley	Jasmer	May 15
Levi	Popp	May 16
Joan	Ramey	May 17
Randy	Kreifels	May 19
Reed	Kreifels	May 19
Janet	Maleska	May 23
Avie	Manea	May 23
Duane	Ott	May 24
Mary	Adkins	May 26
Jeremiah	Pressnall	May 26
Rolland	Adkins	May 28
Geri	Ott	May 28
Jim	Amundson	May 29
Brielle	Elyea	May 29
Sebastian	Gertken	May 30
Josh	Anderson	May 31
Jami	Kreifels	May 31

May Anniversaries		
Don & Jan	Klinker	May 07
Scott & Peg	Manea	May 09
Mike & Diane	Barringer	May 12
John & Peggy	Herman	May 17
Kelly & Ileana	Merten	May 19
Gary & Sherry	Kapsner	May 21
DelRoy & Marlene	Shane	May 27
John & Raquel	Alstrup	May 29
Gayle & June	Plumski	May 29

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



MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			9:30 Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation	 9:00 Quilters 5-6:15 Supper 6:30 National Day of Prayer Service 7:00 AA		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Noisy Offering Dream High Group Music: Heather 8:00 Prayer Time 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship & Suda Sunday	7:30 Small Group Study	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 Music: Gabby 8:00 Prayer Time 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship	7:30 Praise Team 7:30 Small Group Study	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation	 Youth Garage Sale 9am-5pm 9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY NOISY OFFERING Rice Elementary Music: Praise Team 8:00 Prayer Time 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Bible Study	7:30 Small Group Study	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon 7:00 VBS ALL VOLUNTEERS Meeting	9:30 Bible Study	9:00 Quilters 6:30 Elder's Meeting 7:00 BOLM Meeting 7:00 AA		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Music: Gabby 8:00 Prayer Time 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:20 Bible Study	 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 Small Group Study	9:00 Quilters 6:00 Al-Anon	9:30 Bible Study	9:00 Quilters 7:00 AA		

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



Shepherd of the Pines

Lutheran Church

1950 125th St. NW
Rice, MN 56367

Jesus inspires...

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, Dennis Arntson, 333-6019

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.