

Newsletter

April 2025



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Pg 6, 7 & 8

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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Huntley, IL sotp.org 847/669-9448

Photo: First Communion Chalice Painting

March Note

From Pastor Mark

Every year we are privileged to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We are privileged to live resurrection!

The forty days of Lent is time spent in reflection. We reflect on our own journey.

We repent for the pain we have caused and the ways we've become separated from God. We remember the darkness and sorrow of the crucifixion, and we become intentional about living resurrection. As has been suggested over these past few weeks, we consider what one thing we can add, change, or let go of in order to walk more closely with Jesus.

When Jesus calls us, it's personal. He pays an incredible price to give us the gift of living resurrection. We can live each day filled with love, and pass on that love to those around us. We can live each day walking in his footsteps. We can see life open like a blossom around us. We can let the unexpected bless our day. We can lean on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, so that our eyes are open to the world God wants us to see.

Remember, Jesus does not call us to live in the darkness of his death or to live in fear of what may never happen.

As you reflect on your life as a Christian, can you see the growth spurts? Do you

recognize times of struggle and the gifts you received as you healed?

Are you thankful for the lives of your children, grandchildren, siblings, friends and extended family who care for and love you? Do you remember how they have graced your life? Do you take the time to hold them up in daily prayer, and ask God to meet their daily need? This is how we live resurrection.

As Easter people, we do not have to live in the fear that the disciples experienced, because we are lucky enough to read the next part of the story, and experience the resurrection. Even in the midst of our own fear and sadness, we can look to the promise of the empty tomb. We can live resurrection!

So, what are we waiting for? Let's live resurrection as we step into the rhythm of grace Jesus provides, and dance with the Spirit in God's Kingdom today. I look forward to our Easter celebration together!

Grace and Peace to You!

Pastor Mark



Ministry Musing

By Donna Kelly

April 2025 – Matthew 23:37-39

As Matthew tells the story of Jesus during the last week of his life (we call it

Holy Week), Jesus is often in the Temple courtyards teaching the people. The

(Continued on page 3)



Ministry Musing

By Donna Kelly

*(Continued from
page 2)*

religious leaders work to set traps for him; asking questions that

they believe no matter how Jesus answers, he can either be accused of treason against Rome or turn the people away from following him. But each time he surprises them with his answers. He sees what they are up to and spends several chapters calling them out.

But in verses 37-39, Jesus shows his love for the people of Jerusalem. He has come to show them the way to peace, God's way of love and justice. He knows that if they don't follow him, Jerusalem is facing certain doom. He tells them he has wanted to "gather them 'under his wings as a mother hen gathers her chicks'". The people were looking for a strong warrior to lead them in a righteous rebellion against Rome. The picture God offers here is one of a protective mother hen, yearning for her chicks to come to her for safety and protection. Yet the people of Jerusalem aren't looking for that kind of God; they were looking for a strong warrior to lead them in a righteous rebellion against Rome. Jerusalem couldn't see the way Jesus laid out for them.

And sometimes, you and I are Jerusalem. Often, we are blind and deaf to the promises of God and closed off to the future. It comes as a result of our hanging onto and defining

ourselves by past hurts, guilt or losses and refusing to look into ourselves or considering something new for our lives. We can find we are Jerusalem-like when we are suspicious and cynical and when we circle the wagons, draw lines in the sand or refuse to welcome others who see things differently than we do. It occurs when we let fear overwhelm us and allow power, security, control and self-sufficiency to become our principal values. It's what lies behind our refusal to listen to others and when we believe that our way is not only the best way, but the only way or when we allow structure, rule or law to become the ends rather than the means.

Matthew invites us to contemplate Jesus as a mother hen whose chicks don't want her. Her wings are empty. She is a mother bereft, struggling with futility. At the moment, all Jesus could see were chicks scurrying off in the opposite direction, taking no notice of the approaching danger, nor of the urgent warnings of the one who longed to give them and us safety.

The good news of life in Christ is that he is always coming to us, in thousands of ways, every moment of every day. The promises have, do now, and will always remain. God never runs out of room under his wings and never, ever gives up on us. Jesus will always be waiting for us to reopen our hearts, and be ready and willing to say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Donna

Lenten Dinner Church

Join Us & Help Needed

Dinner Church continues this year for Lent on **April 2nd & 9th**. As last year, we will need many soups each week.

For more information contact: Donna Kelly or the church office, 847/669-9448. Or, you can sign up online at www.bit.ly/SOTPsoup25



*Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpsoup.com*

Easter Flower Orders

Order by April 6th

Easter Flower Orders will be due by **April 6, 2025**. Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils, and Hyacinths are offered. Cost is \$16 per plant. Order online at


www.bit.ly/SOTPeaster25 or pick up an envelope on the tables outside of the main office.



*Contact: Diane Mollis
dem910@outlook.com*

Barnabas Caregiving

Ministering to the Homebound




For current Barnabas Ministers & those interested in information

Caring for our fellow members.

More information & sign up:
www.bit.ly/SOTPbarnabas0424

Quarterly Meeting
TUESDAY
April 8
2:30pm



Volunteers Needed

how to care for with our aging Care Receivers, especially as some may be showing signs of beginning dementia.

If you have other topics you would like to discuss, please let me know ahead of time if possible.

Our quarterly meeting is coming up on **Tuesday, April 8th at 2:30 pm** in the Maple Room. Please try to attend as we will be taking care of some business, sharing our great moments with our Care Receivers, and helping each other with the difficulties we have faced. We will talk about empathy and

It would be helpful to know who is attending, please register on the Church Center ap or at:


www.bit.ly/SOTPbarnabas0424

Any questions? Contact: Donna Kelly by email or calling the church office at 847/669-9448.

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com


Lent Offerings

Helping Those in Need




SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025
Lent Offerings
Are Being Donated to:



Lutheran Social
Services of Illinois



www.bit.ly/SOTPlentoffering25

In 2024 LSSI served more than 50,000 people including:

- 15,352 receiving mental health access
- 2,607 children placed in foster homes
- 1,391 families enrolled in intact family services
- 2,399 folks for alcohol and substance abuse
- 1,447 people for affordable housing

Maundy Thursday

Living Last Supper



A poster for Maundy Thursday featuring a group of people in robes seated at a long table with a white cloth, set against a stone wall background. The table is decorated with greenery and a purple cloth. The text is centered in a light beige banner.

Maundy Thursday
LIVING LAST SUPPER
April 17, 2025
7PM

In person & on-line



Good Friday

Worship



A poster for Good Friday featuring a silhouette of three crosses against a sunset background. The text is centered in a dark purple circle.

Good Friday
Worship

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025
7:00 PM



Lent Bible Study

Friday Mornings



A graphic for the Lent Bible Study. It features the word "LENT" in large, stylized letters. The 'L' is a white outline. The 'E' is a green palm frond. The 'N' is a white cup. The 'T' is a brown, textured surface. To the right of "LENT" is a small white box with the text "With Jan Spees". Below "LENT" is the text "7 Week Adult Study Series" in white, followed by "24 Hours That Changed the World" in a smaller font. Below this is a QR code and the text "Fridays at 11am Starting March 7" and "More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPLENT25".

feature Adam Hamilton speaking from one of the sites in Jerusalem traditionally associated with the events the Gospels record as taking place during Jesus' final 24 hours.

**Seven Fridays at
11:00 AM - 12:00**

The aim of this study is to help better understand the events that occurred during the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life; to see more clearly the theological significance of Christ's suffering and death; and to reflect upon the meaning of these events for your life.

We'll explore this twenty-four hour period through reflections on biblical foundations, video presentations and discussions. The video segments

PM from March 7 - April 18.

- **April 4** - The Torture and Humiliation of the King
- **April 11** - The Crucifixion
- **April 18** - Christ the Victor

Contact: Jan Spees
janetspees@gmail.com

**The book, "24 Hours That Changed the World", is not required but available as an option on Amazon*

Easter Offering



A graphic for the Easter Offering. It features a central image of a sunrise over a landscape with three crosses. Below this image is the text "EASTER OFFERING" in large, bold, pink letters. To the left of this text is a small logo with a blue and yellow flame. Below the main text is a QR code and the text "Your offerings are a blessing." and "Donate Online: www.bit.ly/SOTPEASTER25". To the right of the central image is a list of organizations: "Exodus World Service", "New Hope Habitat for Humanity", and "Turning Point".

Easter Egg Hunt

Register Now



All children in 5th grade & younger are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt at Shepherd of the Prairie **Saturday, April 19th at 10am.**

Please register at www.bit.ly/SOTPEGG25 so we have enough eggs for all.

Contact: Jill Gillming
jill@sotpmail.com

Easter Sunday

Worship



Wednesday Night Dinners

After Easter



you need to do is come hungry, gather at the tables, and enjoy! Kitchen support is needed to arrive at 5:15pm, serve and clean - we should be done around 7pm. Free will offerings will be encouraged to

SOTP has got dinner covered on Wednesday nights!

These meals are open to all, especially those of you who have children in Adventure Club, Confirmation, or Youth Group.

Volunteers will prepare the meals, so all

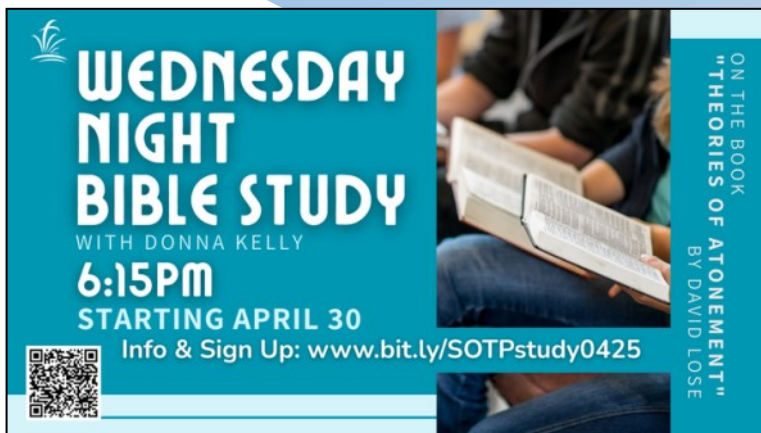
help support this ministry. Sign up at: www.bit.ly/SOTPwed0425

Please register ahead of time if possible so we know approximately how many we are cooking for each week.

Contact: Pastor Ryan Mackey
pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Weds Night Bible Study

With



We will be studying "Theories of Atonement" by David Lose. Books available for \$15, but not required.

April 30 - June 11, 2025, 6:15pm

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

Family Painting

For Kids (K-5) & Parents

Kids and parents come and paint a beautiful masterpiece with Ms. Donna. There will be one picture for the kids to paint and a separate one for the adults within the same theme.

Space is limited to 10 kids, register now at www.bit.ly/SOTPpaint0525

Please bring:

- 1 hair dryer per family

- 1 paint shirt for each person
- \$5 per person to cover the cost of supplies (unless paid online)

Contact: Jill Gillming
jill@sotpmail.com



FAMILY PAINTING

Kindergarten - 5th Grade & Parents
Register Now
Limited Availability for Kids

PAINTING WITH MS. DONNA FOR KIDS & PARENTS





THURSDAY, MAY 1, 6:30 PM

More info & signup:
www.bit.ly/SOTPpaint0525 **\$5 Fee**

Artist Series Concert

Youth Jazz Ensemble of DuPage



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ARTIST SERIES
proudly presents

THE
YOUTH JAZZ ENSEMBLE OF DUPAGE

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025
4:00 PM





NEW YORK SEND OFF CONCERT
More Info bit.ly/SOTPartist0525

Ways to Give to Church Without Paying Taxes



STEWARDSHIP TEAM

FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

"Five Ways to Give to the Church Without Paying Taxes"

Sunday, May 4
10:20am & Noon

More info: www.bit.ly/SOTPfinance0525

Is Shepherd of the Prairie in Your Financial Plan? Come Join us on **Sunday, May 4 at 10:20am & Noon.** "Five Ways to Give to the Church without Paying Taxes"

The Stewardship Team will sponsor an informational gathering on Sunday, May 4. The gathering will convey information related to Required

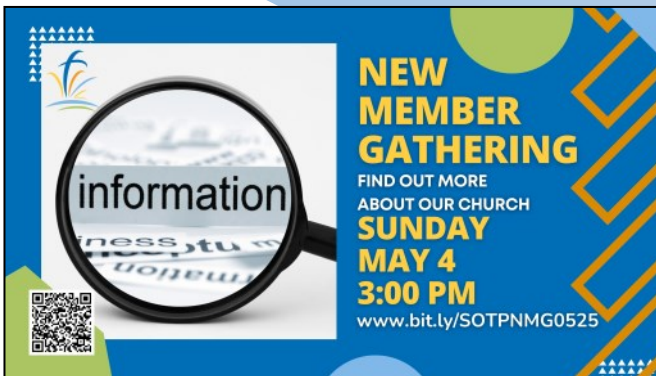
Minimum Distributions, Wills, and Trusts, along with tax changes for 2025. We will also share information related to the Endowment Fund of SOTP. Thanks to Joe Anderson, John Drafall, and Matt Drafall for joining us on this day. This is purely an

informational meeting, intended to encourage good stewardship.

Please join us following both worship services in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 4th, to unlock the joy of generosity in your life!

Contact: Ralph Wehnes
ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net

New Member Gathering Find Out More About Us



NEW MEMBER GATHERING

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

SUNDAY MAY 4 3:00 PM

www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0525

will be holding the gathering on **Sunday, May 4th, from 3 - 5:30pm.** This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the life and ministry of SOTP and for you to consider prayerfully whether or not you want to formally become a member of the SOTP family. Sign up now

If you have been worshipping with us at SOTP in person or online and would like to know more about us as a worshipping community, we would love to have you join us at our New Member Gathering. We

at www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0525 If you have any questions, contact Donna.

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

Collecting Donations

For Grafton Food Pantry

The Community Outreach team is celebrating the amazing workers from the Grafton Food Pantry on May 6th for all that they do for those in need. We are also taking up a collection of their most needed items – see list below. The Grafton Food Pantry is a giving organization - let's show them how giving SOTP can be!!

We ask that you bring your donation to the regular first of the month collection day on **May 4th**, so all of the collected donations can be dropped off together on the 6th. If you have questions, please contact Tara Mackey.

Most Needed Items:

- Feminine Hygiene products



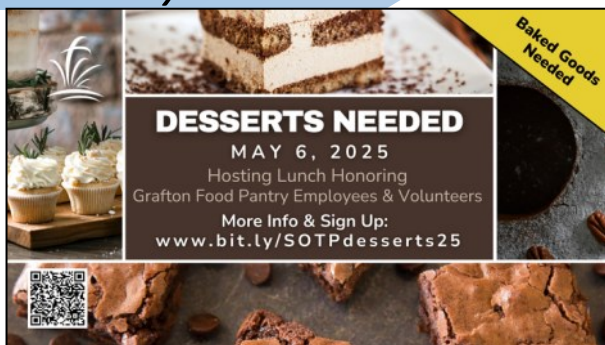
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Razors
- Toilet paper
- Paper Towels
- Tissues
- Cereal

Contact Tara Mackey
rtmackey10@yahoo.com

Baking Help Needed

For Grafton Food Pantry Lunch

Calling all bakers and non bakers too!! The Community Outreach team will be celebrating the good works happening at the Grafton Food Pantry on **May 6th**. We are asking for 10 donated baked (or store bought works too!) goodies as a sweet treat for all of the employees and volunteers. Please sign up at www.bit.ly/SOTPdesserts25, on Church Center or the SOTP website. All goodies should be handheld, pre-cut for easy eating.



If you have any questions, please email Tara.

Contact Tara Mackey
rtmackey10@yahoo.com

Vacation Bible School

Save the Date!



Recycling Plastic

New Year, New Bench

A poster for the "Recycling Plastic Bags Creating a Bench" program. The background is a green circular area with a white recycling symbol on the left. In the center, it says "Recycling PLASTIC BAGS Creating a BENCH" in white and yellow text. Below this, it says "With NexTrex" and "MORE INFO: www.bit.ly/SOTPbench". On the right, there is a white wooden bench. A red thermometer graphic on the right side shows a level of 211 lbs as of 2/12, with the text "Donations Needed" above it. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner. The background of the poster shows a green field with a white recycling symbol and a white bench.

This year, we have decided to keep the bench we earn to use wherever needed around the church.

One month in and we have weighed, bagged, and dropped off 211 pounds of plastic for the NexTrex recycling program!! Be sure to check the progress at the Welcome Center desk.

If you are interested in joining the plastic collection team, please contact Tara Mackey.

Contact: Tara Mackey
rtmackey10@yahoo.com

Little Lambs Preschool

2025/2026 Registration Open

One Day Per Week:

Your 2 (by Sept. 1) year old children can join us on Wednesday from September through May from 9 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. for structured time that is fun and developmentally appropriate. They will enjoy circle time, calendar and weather activity, a math/ language lesson, snack, Bible story, craft, music time, and free play. These activities will help children develop a love of Bible stories and acknowledge that God loves us. Class size will be limited to 10 students and 2 teachers. Children do not need to be potty trained. Your children will have fun learning and playing, and you can go enjoy your time too!

Two Days Per Week:

Your 3 (by Sept. 1) - 4-year-old children can join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from September through May, from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Our class time will be very similar to the One Day Per Week schedule, but with 2 days we will include many more Kindergarten readiness activities. We will do phonics, cutting, prewriting, and pre- reading activities. Class size will be limited to 12 students with 2 teachers.

Three Days Per Week:

This program is designed for children that will be entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2026. Students will attend class Tuesday, Wednesday, and



Thursday from September through May, from 9am-12:00. We will focus on Kindergarten readiness including reading, writing, and math skills. This program is a great opportunity to give students more time in the classroom which will make their transition to Kindergarten much easier.

Tuition Information

- 1 day/week morning program (Wed.), 9:00 a.m.- noon, \$90/ month
- 2 day/week morning program (Tues., Thurs.), 9:00 a.m.- noon, \$160/month
- 3 day/week morning program (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), 9:00 a.m.- noon, \$230/month

Non-refundable Registration Fees \$50 first child or \$75 for a family with more than one child, plus last month's (May) tuition. The remaining tuition payments are paid on the first of each month, September through April.

Typical Dailey Schedule

(Continued on page 15)

Little Lambs Preschool

Continued

(Continued from page 14)

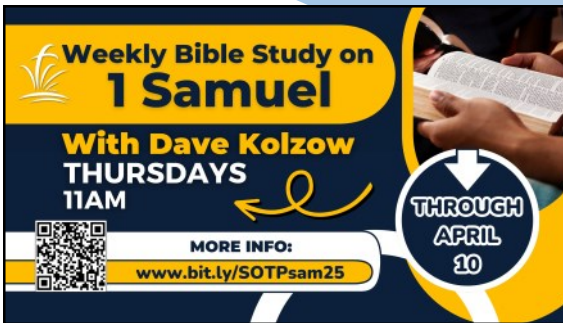
- GREETING/FREE PLAY TIME
- CIRCLE TIME (Calendar, Weather, Sharing, Bible Story, Songs)
- CENTERS (Craft, Learning Activities, Book/Puzzles, Bathroom Break)
- SNACK
- RECESS/LARGE MOTOR SKILLS
- QUIET TIME/REST

- CIRCLE TIME (Music, Movement, Games, Books)
 - CLEAN UP AND DEPARTURE TIME
- Are you and your child ready for Little Lambs Early Learning Program? Please contact us to check availability of our program and for enrollment information. We hope you'll join us! Blessings!

*Contact: Jill Gillming
Director of
Children and Family Ministry*

1 Samuel Bible Study

Thursday Mornings



This first book of Samuel lays the foundation for the nation of Israel moving from theocracy to monarchy. Samuel was the last of the judges who became the high priest of the of this kingdom.

We will explore the importance of the ark of the covenant (think about the 1981 movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark"), the rise and fall of Saul who was the first king of Israel, and David's

emergence as a God-fearing leader and mighty warrior.

We will witness how the Lord constantly cares for His people, despite their failings. He hears their prayers and calls them to repentance again and

again. Ultimately, He raises them up as a unified nation under His servant, David, the prophet-king.

This is a fascinating story that sheds much light on God's grace and everlasting mercy, clarifying God's covenant relationship with us found in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

*Contact: Dave Kolzow
at drkolzow@gmail.com*

Welcome Center Ministry Needs You!

I remember my first visit to SOTP. Someone noticed I was new and alone and came up to me to welcome me. They invited me to walk over with them to the Welcome Center so I could give them my contact information.

Once there, someone greeted me, took my info and gave me a coffee mug filled with candy kisses. They told me I had been officially mugged!

The best part was that someone welcomed me and made me feel at home.

Those few moments at the Welcome Center made me want to know about this place. I came back again, and the person who originally welcomed me called me by name and invited me to the New Member Gathering that afternoon, and I was hooked! I couldn't wait to join this friendly, welcoming group of people.

The Welcome Center Ministry needs your



help! We need people to serve behind the Welcome Center desk for about 20 minutes after worship services, maybe once a month.

We hold important here that all are welcome. And our Welcome Center Ministry is part of that. And it is a ministry. Won't you consider helping out at the Welcome Center.

If you would like to be a part of the important ministry, please sign up at www.bit.ly/SOTPwelcome for more information or contact Donna Kelly. donna@sotpmail.com, or Tara Mackey, rtmackey10@yahoo.com.

*Contact: Tara Mackey
rtmackey10@yahoo.com*

Book Club Read With Us

Do you enjoy reading? Looking for a way to connect with others? Then you just might enjoy our new Book Club. We will take turns reading several different genres such as mystery, biography, fiction, non-fiction, religious. We will meet once a month on the first Thursday at 1pm.

We plan to pick books that are either available at the library or discount bookstores. If you have a Kindle or tablet and library card, you can have the library set you up with being able to "borrow" the book to read on your tablet.

⇒ April's choice is The Color of



Water James McBride---
autobiography.

Registration at www.bit.ly/SOTPbook23 recommended but not required.

*Contact: Dottie Bobzin
dbinil@att.net*

Transitions

Journey Through Loss



relationship; empty nesting; divorce; loss of health; loss of purpose? We have begun a new loss support group meeting in the church Library **Tuesdays from 7 to 8 pm**. If you would like more information please contact Donna Kelly, through the church office, 847-669-9448.

Are you going through a deep loss: death of a loved one; job loss; loss of a

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

Grief Journey

All Are Welcome



Mortgage Craft Table

Donate Money &/or Crafts



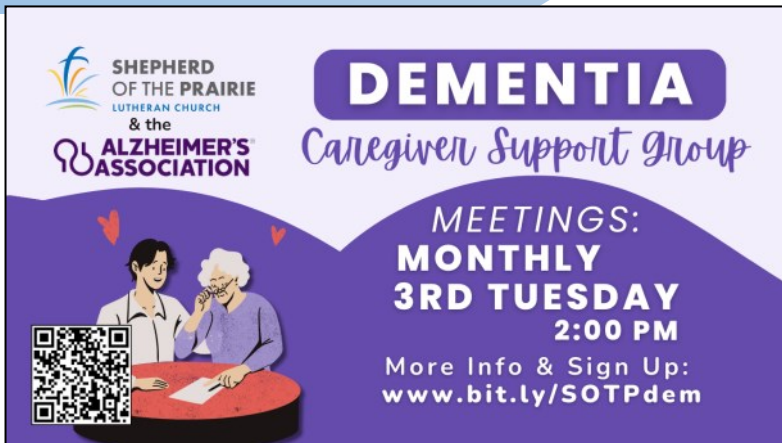
Dementia Caregivers Support Group

In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, we will be offering a support group for caregivers for friends and/or family members with Dementia.

Our support group here at SOTP will meet every **third Tuesday of the month at 2pm** to learn and support each other. For more information,

contact Donna Kelly by email at donna@sotpmail.com, or through the church office.

*Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com*



The banner features the logos for Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church and the Alzheimer's Association. It includes an illustration of two women sitting at a table, one with a QR code. The text reads: **DEMENTIA** Caregiver Support Group, MEETINGS: **MONTHLY 3RD TUESDAY 2:00 PM**, More Info & Sign Up: www.bit.ly/SOTPdem.

Prairie Pointe Quilters & You Are Invited to Join Us

Spring is almost here with warmer weather. Two sessions the brave ladies came out in the bitter cold to make quilts! We're hopeful that the next time will be more bearable. We're always looking for more help - you'll learn something new, meet some new friends and have TREATS!!

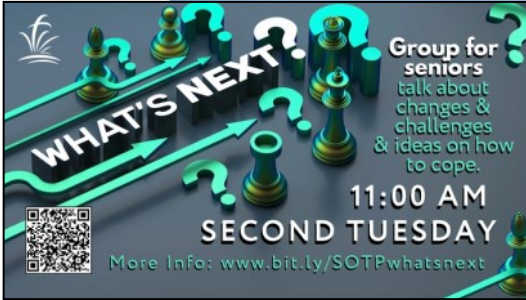


The banner features the Prairie Pointe Quilters logo and a photo of four women holding a quilt. The text reads: **Prairie Pointe Quilters**, Monthly on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 9:00 am, No Experience Necessary, More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPquilters.

We meet the **first and third Tuesdays of each month from 9:00 to about 11:30**, and you don't need to know how to sew. Hope to see some new faces in the near future.

*Contact: Bev Kenny
krkbjk@comcast.net*

What's Next? For Seniors



may begin to feel a loss of purpose and direction.

If you can identify with this, we invite you to come to our newest Small Group, WHAT'S NEXT.

This group is a place to come and talk together looking for ways to navigate the changes, challenges and joys that

this phase of our life can bring. There may not be "pat" answers for all of our questions, but together we can support each other as we travel this journey.

WHAT'S NEXT meets on the **second Tuesday of each month at 11am** in the SOTP Library. For more information contact Donna Kelly, donna@sotpmail.com or through the church office, 847-669-9448.

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

As we age, many of us find ourselves at loose ends, wondering now what? Our children are grown, maybe even our grandchildren. We've retired, so there is no longer that career to give us some focus. We may have lost our spouse and are living alone for the first time in our lives. We may find ourselves with physical limitations that we never expected. Our lives that had so much purpose and direction now may seem lonely. Even with friends and activities to keep us "busy", we

Ushers Needed—All Ages Serve Monthly at Favorite Service

Northern IL Food Bank

Thank You!

We had a small but mighty group of eight individuals for packing today at the Food Bank. We packed 500 bags of candy. Each bag contained 40 smaller bags of candy. In total we handled 1,194 pounds of candy or 20,000 bags.

Here is a group photo we took at the end and then some candid pictures.

Great time was had by all.

Contact: Elizabeth Trout
etrout411@comcast.net



Kids Connect Sundays

Join the Fun!



High School Youth Group

Wednesdays at 7:00pm



Contact: Pastor Ryan Mackey at pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Ministry Night

Find Your Place at SOTP



- Children, Youth & Family Ministry
- Community Outreach Team
- Mission Team
- Property Team
- Stewardship Team
- Worship Team

All are invited to Ministry Night!
Come and find out more about
and/or join one (or more) of these
ministries:

Meet in the Crossroads, outside of
the Fellowship Hall.

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com

Synod Retreat—Free

DeKalb, IL

All are welcome (*men and women*) to join the Northeast and South regions for a retreat on April 12, 2025. RSVP is not required but appreciated – but don't let that hold you back from coming!

Schedule:

- ⇒ 9:00 - 9:30 Registration
- ⇒ 9:30 – 10:30 Breakfast
- ⇒ 10:30 – 11:30 Storytelling & Music with Jen Miller and her band
- ⇒ 11:30 – 12:30 Closing – Pastor Megan Vaughan

*For more information and to
RSVP email Deb Quinn
(Northeast Rep)*

at debraquinn1@comcast.net

Storytelling with Jen Miller

Join Jen Miller from Jen Miller Music Collective for a morning of songs and stories about hope through depression and anxiety.

FREE WILL OFFERING
Katie's CUP

April 12, 2025
9:30 - 12:30
First Lutheran Church
324 N Third St
DeKalb, IL 60115
For more information visit www.nisynod.org/welca

This free event is hosted by the Northern Illinois Synod
WELCA of the Northeast and South Conferences



Friends Bible Study

For Women

FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED

MONDAYS
12:30 PM

More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPFriends



Synod Women's Retreat



Walking the Ancient Path

WELCA SPRING RETREAT 2025

"Thus says the LORD: Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."

Jeremiah 6:16

APRIL 26, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

LOMC Oregon, IL

\$30 per person

Scholarships are available

Program led by

PATHWAYS



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Northern Illinois Synod Women of
the WELCA Retreat Registration
Form-2025 "Walking the Ancient
Path" **Saturday, April 26, 2025 9:00
AM-3:00 PM**

Program and worship led by
PATHWAYS staff from Christ
Lutheran Church, Belvedere,
Illinois.

Registration fee includes coffee, snacks, lunch and materials.

Registration form available at:

[www.bit.ly/
SYNODretreat0425reg](http://www.bit.ly/SYNODretreat0425reg)

Half scholarships are available, to request a scholarship, go to:

[www.bit.ly/
SYNODretreat0425scholar](http://www.bit.ly/SYNODretreat0425scholar)

See What's Happening
And Join Us

SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ADULT EDUCATION
Faith & Mental Health
Shame, Guilt & Forgiveness
Sundays 10:20 am
Jan 15 - Feb 25
Contact: Pastor Roy Olden
oldenr12r@shcglobal.net

FLOWERS
ALTAR FLOWERS
"The flowers of the field and the grass will wither, but the word of the Lord will stand forever."
Contact: Donna Kelly donna@outmail.com

SOTP KIDS NEED YOU!
Ways You Can Help Sundays
Kids Connect - Opportunity to Help
SOTP Kids Grow in Their Faith

**EASILY VIEW CURRENT
EVENTS &
REGISTRATIONS**
www.bit.ly/SOTPsSignup

SOUP SUPPER WORSHIP
MARCH 5-6 PM
SET UP | BRING SOUP | CLEAN UP
www.bit.ly/SOTPsupper23
Contact: Donna Kelly donna@outmail.com

WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION
Resuming
January 11, 6:30 pm
Register:
<https://bit.ly/SOTPconfirm>
Contact: Youth Team
youth@stplm.com

Memory Bricks



Memory Bricks

Lining the walkway to the Memory Garden

- 4x8 \$80
- 8x8 \$150

Order forms in church office



More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPmembricks

LAST CHANCE
Final order will be sent for engraving July 1st

Memory Garden Niches



Available for Purchase

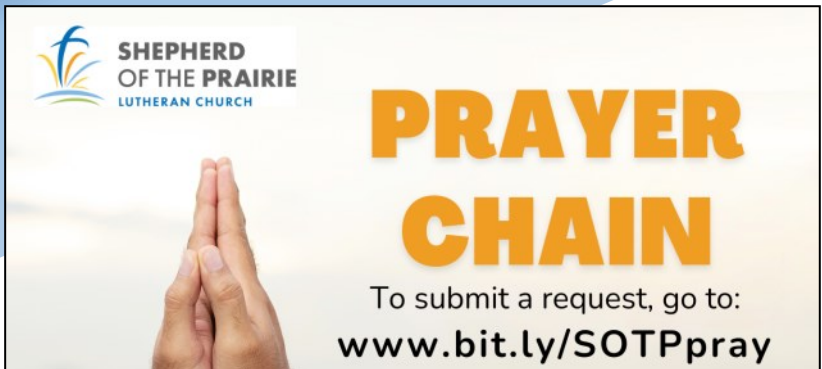
MEMORY GARDEN NICHES


for one or two



More Info Online at: www.bit.ly/SOTPmemgarden

Prayer Chain



 **SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRAYER CHAIN

To submit a request, go to:
www.bit.ly/SOTPpray



To become a member of our prayer chain and pray for those needing prayer contact Donna Kelly at donna@sotpmail.com.

Involvement Schedule

		April 5/6	April 12/13	April 19/20	April 26/27	Special Services
Counters	MON	Donna Turner, Diana Murphy & Howard Larson				
Greeters	SAT 5:00 PM	Phyllis Thomson				Maundy Thursday 7pm Carol Engstrom & Elaine Gillam
	SUN 9:00 AM	Linda & Ken Rotter	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin	11am Candace Beck Carol Engstrom	Laura Attaway Cyndi Monson	Good Friday 7pm Laura Attaway & Eileen Gerald
	SUN 10:45 AM	Carolyn & Bob Malm		Elaine Gillam	Carolyn & Bob Malm	
Ushers	SAT 5:00 PM	Karen Eckert Steve Murphy	Tom Cox Therese Cox	Carol Hartman Peggy Lynn Loiselle	Chuck & Carol Davis	
	SUN 9:00 AM	WALTER LEMKE Tim Bueschel Jeff Stangle Jeff Ottens Mickey & Cathy Kappel	JACK CONTI Cheryl Rotermund John & Patti Witt Carol Engstrom	VIK BEKERIS Wayne Schmidt Arja Kasper Dan Wentzlof Don Wickersham Andrew Lick	RALPH WEHNES Stan Crissman Jerry & Pat Darow George Attaway Chuck Zindel	
	SUN 10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE Annika Yndestad Mike & Patti Kargol	ANDREW SZEKELY Jim Stancl Mike Delich	11am DOUG NAGEL Don Koerner Judy Petropulos	BOB MOLLIS Diane Mollis Mike Delich	

Prayer Shawl Ministry



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**SECOND THURSDAY MONTHLY
9AM**

KNITTING & CROCHETING TOGETHER

INFO: WWW.BIT.LY/SOTPSHAWL




Regularly Scheduled



SUNDAYS

8:30-11am (1st Sun) **Food Drive for Grafton Food Pantry**

8:30am-Noon (4th Sun) **Craft Sales Table for Mortgage**

9:00 am **Traditional Worship**

9:00 am **Kids Connect**

10:45 am **Contemporary Worship**

10:45 am **Kids Connect**

1:00 pm **FBW**

MONDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**

9:00 am (3rd Mon) **Gazebo Valor Quilts**

10:30 am **FBW**

12:30 pm **Friends (Women's) Bible Study**

6:30 pm **Boy Scouts Troop 200**

7:00 pm (2nd Mon) **Ministry Night**

7:00 pm (3rd Mon) **Council Meeting**

TUESDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**

8:00 am **Men's Coffee** at McD's by Huntley Walmart

8:30 am **Staff Meeting**

9:00 am (1st & 3rd Tues), **Prairie Pointe Quilters**

9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**

9:15 am **AL-ANON Meeting**

10:00 am **Grief Journey Group**

2:00 pm **Next Step for Seniors**

6:30 pm (1st Tues), **Scout Troop 200 Committee**

6:30 pm (1st Tues), **Boy Scouts Patrol Leader's Council**

7:00 pm **Transitions Journey Through Loss**

7:00 pm **FBW**

7:00 pm **AL-ANON Meeting**

7:00 pm **Adult Bells Rehearsal**

WEDNESDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**

9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**

10:30 am **Women's FBW**

11:00 am **Adult Bible Study with Pastor Mark**

11:00 am **God's Girls (Del Webb) Bible Study**

5:45 pm **Wednesday Night Dinners**

7:00 pm **Confirmation**

7:00 pm **High School Youth**

7:00 pm **Adventure Club**

7:00 pm **Adult Choir Rehearsal**

THURSDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**

9:00 am **Little Lambs Preschool**

9:00 am (2nd Thurs), **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

1:00 pm (1st Thurs) **Book Club**

6:30 pm (2nd Thurs), **Lions Club**

7:00 pm **Cub Scouts**

Times Vary **Volunteers at Habitat for Humanity ReStore**

FRIDAYS

7:30-8:30 am **Morning Movement**

10:00 am **Women's Coffee** at McD's by Huntley Walmart

10:30 am **FBW**

5:00 pm **Girl Scout Troop 779**

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm **Worship**



Special Events

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 Last Day for
Easter Candy Collection for Easter
Egg Hunt

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 LAST DAY TO
ORDER EASTER FLOWERS
www.bit.ly/SOTPeaster25

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 Quarterly
Barnabas Meeting, 2pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPbarnabas0424

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 18 Last Day of
Weekly Lenten Study, 11am
www.bit.ly/SOTPLENT25

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
Good Friday Service, 7pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
Easter Egg Hunt, 10am
www.bit.ly/SOTPEGG25

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 Easter Sunday
Traditional Service, 9am
Contemporary Service, 11am

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 Wednesday
Night Dinners Resume, 5:45pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPwed0425

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 Wednesday
Night Bible Study with Donna
Kelly, 6:15pm

THURSDAY, MAY 1 Painting with
Ms. Donna, 6:30pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPpaint0525

WEENEND OF MAY 3 & 4 COLLECTING
DONATIONS FOR GRAFTON FOOD
PANTRY—FOR CELEBRATION LUNCH
www.bit.ly/SOTPGRAFTON0525

SUNDAY, MAY 4 Financial
Workshop: Is SOTP in Your
Financial Plan? "Five Ways to Give
to the Church Without Paying
Taxes" 10:20am & Noon
www.bit.ly/SOTPfinance0525

SUNDAY, MAY 4 Artist Series
Concert Youth Jazz Ensemble of
DuPage Send off concert for 30th
Anniversary Duke Ellington
Festival, 4pm

TUESDAY, MAY 6 Baked Goods
Donation for Grafton Food Pantry
Celebration Luncheon
www.bit.ly/SOTPdesserts25

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 Confirmation
End of the Year Celebration,
6:30pm

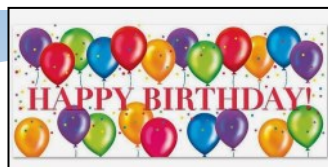
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 Little Lambs
End of Year Celebration, 6pm

SUNDAY, MAY 25
New Member Gathering, 3pm
www.bit.ly/SOTPNMG0525

TUESDAY, MAY 27 Grief Journey &
Transitions NOT MEETING This
Week

Birthdays

April



1-Apr Pattie Bueschel	10-Apr Camden Dean	18-Apr Alan Torkelson
2-Apr Mary Tabatt	12-Apr Frank Cesario	Caitlyn Stech
3-Apr Dave Frederickson	Robert Wichtendahl	19-Apr Luke Palermo
4-Apr Penny Shaw	Elloise Torkelson	Angela Crase
Samaira Minz	Andrew Ressler	20-Apr Troy Fleener
5-Apr Mary Lee Rishel	13-Apr Jack Conti	Zachary Ulmer
Marilyn Wilhelm	Andrew Padget	21-Apr Noah Sparks
Ben Kindle	14-Apr Marc Piskule	22-Apr Dan Wentzloff
Ivan Frake	William Black	Allison McCann
Kellin Kusch	Catherine Johnson	23-Apr Jeff Roberts
6-Apr Janet Suski	Cecilia Ramey	Jeff Stangle
Jessica Monahan	15-Apr Kim Frendreis	Kyle Frendreis
7-Apr Larry Scimeca	Jianna Trevino	Matthew Kann
Glenn Nissen	16-Apr Roberta Seroni	Lucas Monson
Lynn Moran	Dennis Schwartz	24-Apr Doris Pizzillo
8-Apr Lindsay Sparks	Linda Dungey	25-Apr Robert Mollis
9-Apr Mitchell Flanagan	Jill Behm	Carol Larson
Carol Forsythe	Jennifer Huston	Carol Didricksen
Judy Krawczyk	Priyanka Minz	26-Apr Janice Burseth
Edward Cuttle	Jake Witt	Wayne Grayczyk
Dave Ressler	Lila Stegge	Kelvin Walker
Cole Raines	Charlotte Symbal	Rebecca Hennessy
Addison Raistrick	17-Apr Kathy McGuine	Jamison Mathiesen
10-Apr William Ball	Seth McCulloch	27-Apr Darlene McGuigan
Donald Kundich	18-Apr Fred Wilhelm	Ronald Elam
Tom Koegel	John Boehler	Andrew Brown
	Marcie Schlachta	29-Apr Leah Walker
		30-Apr Ken Lemke





GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Are you looking for ways to use your talents and participate in our church family?

Here are some ideas and who to contact for more information for each one:

- Adult Choir—Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Adventure Club—Jill Gillming jill@soapmail.com
- Annual Church Picnic – Donna Kelly— donna@sotpmail.com
- Assisting Minister (9am) – Sue Sroka —dssroka5@gmail.com
- Artist Series – Jane McMullen jane@sotpmail.com
- A/V Team – Josh Harding— josh@sotpmail.com
- Barnabas Ministry—Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com
- Bell Choir (Adult) —Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Bell Choir (Kids & Youth) – Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Communion Assistants—Sue Sroka— dssroka5@gmail.com
- Communion Bread Baking—Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Communion Set Up & Take Down— Jane McMullen, jane@sotpmail.com
- Community Outreach—Tara Mackey, rtmackey10@yahoo.com
- Counters—Ralph Wehnes, ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net
- Crafting Gifts for Sr. Citizens & Homeless Blankets—Alice Hallett, agrndmom3@gmail.com

Get Involved

Ways to Serve

- Greeters—Elaine Gillam, suggillam@aol.com
- Habitat for Humanity – Sandy Hupert sandyhupert@gmail.com
- Kids Academy—Amy Stech amc_stech@yahoo.com
- Kids Connect—Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com
- Mission Team – Sandy Hupert sandyhupert@gmail.com
- Newsletter Mailing Prep—Michelle Rankin, michelle@sotpmail.com
- Next Step Fellowship (Single Seniors Fellowship) – Dave Stangle, dstangle.ds@gmail.com or Phyllis Thomson, phyllisthompson@aol.com
- Property Team—Mark Frendreis, SOTPPROPERTY@gmail.com
- Prairie Quilters—Bev Kenny krkbjk@comcast.net
- Prayer Shawls—Jeanne Henley, cjhenley2003@yahoo.com
- Public Relations—Matt Morrison, matt@sotpmail.com
- Readers—Sue Sroka— dssroka5@gmail.com
- Small Groups—Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com
- Ushers—Ed Cuttle edschn28@comcast.net
- Vacation Bible School – Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com
- Welcome Center—Tara Mackey, rtmackey10@yahoo.com
- Worship Band (Singing & Instrumental)—Jeff Moore, jeff@sotpmail.com

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2025

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND

	MONTHLY ACTUAL	MONTHLY BUDGET	MONTHLY ACTUAL VS. MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL VS. YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	YTD PERCENT RECEIVED	YTD PERCENT EXPENDED
February 1, 2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 417,863.24								
Monthly Income	62,401.48	70,942.00	\$ (8,540.52)	179,359.19	180,771.00	\$ (1,411.81)	\$ 1,008,800.00	17.78%	
Monthly Expenses	89,461.53	81,374.00	\$ 8,087.53	168,411.20	162,748.00	\$ 5,663.20	\$ 1,008,800.00		16.69%
Income vs. Expenditures	(27,060.05)	(10,432.00)		10,947.99	18,023.00				
February 28, 2025 Ending Balance	\$ 390,803.19								
Average Monthly Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 84,066.67								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	4.65								

MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND

	MONTHLY ACTUAL	MONTHLY BUDGET	MONTHLY ACTUAL VS. MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL VS. YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	YTD PERCENT RECEIVED	YTD PERCENT EXPENDED
February 1, 2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 51,688.11								
Monthly Income	18,491.35	18,807.00	\$ (315.65)	52,889.12	37,614.00	\$ 15,275.12	\$ 225,684.00	23.44%	
Monthly Expenses	18,807.00	18,807.00	\$ -	37,614.00	37,614.00	\$ -	\$ 225,684.00		16.67%
Income vs. Expenditures	(315.65)	-		15,275.12	-				
February 28, 2025 Ending Balance	\$ 51,372.46								
Average Monthly Expenses	\$ 18,807.00								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	2.73								

Respectfully submitted,
George Attaway, Treasurer



SOTP Emails

Let's Stay in Touch



STAY CONNECTED & PERSONALIZE YOUR

Email Selections

www.bit.ly/SOTPEMAIL

Friday
Flourish

Newsletter





SOTP Staff

Pastor Mark Boster

Senior Pastor
pastormark@sotpmail.com

Pastor Ryan Mackey

Pastor
pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Kendra Coots

*Assistant Teacher—
Little Lambs Preschool*
kendra@sotpmail.com

Jill Gillming

*Director of Children and Family
Ministry*
jill@sotpmail.com
LittleLambs@sotpmail.com

Josh Harding

A/V and Office Support Staff
josh@sotpmail.com

Donna Kelly

Director of Connections Ministry
donna@sotpmail.com

Jane McMullen

*Traditional Music & Worship
Director*
jane@sotpmail.com

Jeff Moore

Contemporary Music Director
jeff@sotpmail.com

Matt Morrison

Operations Manager
matt@sotpmail.com

Michelle Rankin

*Operations and Communications
Assistant*
michelle@sotpmail.com

Dave Shotick

Accounting Administrator
accounting@sotpmail.com

Church Council

Kathy McGuine, President
Bob Mollis, Vice-President
George Attaway, Treasurer
Ellen Nissen, Secretary

Jim Puls
Christa Serpe
Jim Stancl
Lisa Wondriska

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@shepherdoftheprairie



@sotpmedia10805

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
is a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

“A Growing Church, For Growing People”

For information, please call (847) 669-9448
or go to our website at sotp.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am Traditional
& 10:45 am Contemporary

*Worship with us in person
or online at sotp.org
and Facebook Live*

Shepherd of the Prairie
Lutheran Church
10805 Main Street
Huntley, IL 60142



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