

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming, strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

ENDOWMENT/ ESTATE PLANNING

Please remember *Shepherd of the Hill* in your will. For more information, please contact:

Timothy Urness
Regional Gift Planner, ELCA
331-444-3120, or
tim.urness@ELCA.org.

SOTH OFFICE STAFF

Jon Pedersen
Pastor

[Pastor.jon.pedersen@
gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.jon.pedersen@gmail.com)
714-335-2216
815-838-0708

Dawn Virva
Parish Office
Administrator
[SOTH.office@
shepherdofthehill.com](mailto:SOTH.office@shepherdofthehill.com)
815-838-0708

Megan Selle
Volunteer Coordinator
[SOTH.VCoord@
shepherdofthehill.com](mailto:SOTH.VCoord@shepherdofthehill.com)

ENDOWMENT BALANCE

\$71,413.66



COUNCIL

Fern Kinder—*President*
fernk@comcast.net

Dan Rogan—*Vice
President*
Peanut17233@comcast.net

Jean Soderstrom—
Treasurer
smiling7878@gmail.com

Amber Nickel—*Secretary*
anickel@psd202.org

Council at Large:
Linda Bunting
[linda-
bunting01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linda-bunting01@sbcglobal.net)

Mike Cole
mjcole87@yahoo.com

Diana Lewandowski
vargo678@hotmail.com

Brad Rosynek
brad.rosynek@icloud.com

Deborah Silic
debdoodie@aol.com

John TerHorst
anjhorst@yahoo.com

Cheryl Zacharias
mrszach@comcast.net

Pastor Jon Pedersen
[pastor.jon@
shepherdofthehill.com](mailto:pastor.jon@shepherdofthehill.com)

WELCOME VISITORS!

Thank you for visiting Shepherd of the Hill. We would love to remain in contact with you. Please fill out a communication card that you will find near the Bibles and hymnals in the pews. You can then give your card to Pastor, or drop it in one of the 3 collection boxes that are hanging on the back wall (east side) in the church. Thank you!

NURSERY IS OPEN!

If you have young children that would like to attend our nursery while you enjoy church services, please locate our nursery which is in the north hallway. This is a service that we provide for all families.

OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

November 26, 2023

Attendance 109 / Online 28

General Fund	\$3,177.50
Memorial Fund	100.00
Music/Bells	<u>100.00</u>

Weekly Total \$3,377.50

***This does not include receipts
from our SimpleGive online
giving.**

Principal Mortgage Balance:
\$217,070.29



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

925. E. Ninth Street, Lockport, IL 60441
815-838-0708
www.shepherdofthehill.com

First Sunday of Advent—Hope

December 2/3, 2023

Today's Altar Flowers Are For:

In Honor of Family and Friends

By: Chris & Leslie Applegate

Flower order forms are on the table in narthex; cost is \$35 per vase.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Saturday at 5pm

Sunday at 10am

**JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE SERVICE
ON FACEBOOK / YOUTUBE**

Available 10am on Sunday

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

See note inside bulletin

CONTINUED PRAYERS

*Healing God, we lift up those of our community that need healing and wholeness—*Les Tindle, Rick Oltmanns, Ken & Karen Franz, Ron Helfert, John Teerling, Madelene Vargo, Marge Otis, Emily Vlk, Vinny Gincauskus, Bob Barwa, Jeannie Scalise, Bob Fanello, Wally Lewandowski, Toni Leonard, Rob Melbert, Mary Kay Matarelli, Philip Ackland, Nancy Roesing, Larry Soderstrom, Jessica Wallin, Briggs Whitehead, Mary Brauer, Donald Hoff, Ralph Heart, Lillianna Pelayo, Audrey Mormann, Michael Anderson, Lenny Coe, Ryan Irby, Leroy Foster, Rusty Jadron, Judy Rosynek, Nancy Wilkens, Juanita Gende, and Jason Haley.



WORLDWIDE PRAYERS

Those affected by wars in Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East

GIVE COMFORT TO THOSE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES

Jan Sleezer
Jane Petschow
Donna Huhnke
Marion Skelton



SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Michael Meyers, Dakota Novander, Anthony Kopel, Kaitlin Reed, Melanie Rigoni, Nico Arellano, Katerina and Lenny Casselman, John Schneider, Tom Schneider, John B. Momich, Caitlyn Grabenhofer, Megan and Daniel Sanchez, and Jack Superczynski.



HOMEBOUND

Ron Helfert
Norma McCall
Lily Mazeika
Janet Villacci



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES



Carols in the Round

Sunday, 12/17 at 6:30pm

Advent Services

Saturday, 12/9 at 5pm

Saturday, 12/23 at 5pm

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, 12/24 at 10am, and 10:30pm

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, 12/31 at 10am



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Twenty-five (25) red poinsettias have been ordered to decorate our altar for Christmas. You can sponsor as many as you like, and take them home after the last Christmas Eve service. Red envelopes are on the table in the narthex for this purpose. Please return them with your payment (mark “poinsettia” on your check) and **by Sunday, 12/17. Suggested donation is \$25 per plant.**



Advent Prayer

For the desert places in which
we walk, the streets we roam,
the paths we cross: Guide our feet.
Take us to places where you would go,
Give us words that you would use,
that in this Advent season
of promise and preparation
we might point the way
with John the Baptist
to the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!
Amen.



FOLDING TABLES FREE TO A GOOD HOME

We have two folding tables available to whomever would like them. One is a 6' and the other is an 8' heavy, press-board folding table. Please call Dawn in the office (or see Pastor) for more information, or to pick up one or both tables.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Thank you to all who filled a shoebox. We collected 23 boxes this year to be shipped to needy children overseas! Don't forget to pray for the recipient of your shoebox!



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Alcoholics Anonymous is meeting in Fellowship hall on Wednesdays; 6:30pm for new members, 7:30pm for current members. Contact Ken Franz: 815-838-7657 with questions.

JANE PETSCHOW PASSED AWAY

Jane Petschow was a past member of our church. She passed away on Monday, 11/27. Jane is the mother of Elizabeth and Adam Gerrity.



PRAYERS

We are happy to add your prayer requests to the bulletin. Sometimes we run out of room for all of our requests. Just tell us if we need to add someone back on, and if it's a long-term prayer request.



COAT DRIVE

Thank you to all who dropped off coats for the needy. We were able to help with coats for 34 people! Box will be available for a few more weeks.



HELPING THE LOCAL NEEDY

We are in need of more \$10 gift cards for:

Speedway
Circle K
Murphy's
Gas & Wash
Burger King
McDonald's



These are for our local down-on-their-luck neighbors that come to the church looking for help. The cards can be dropped off in the church office. Thank you to all those who have so generously given gift cards already.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

This Sunday, we will be asking for volunteers to help decorate for Christmas. Karen and Keith Pintoy will "direct traffic" so that we know where to get all the decorations, and where they are normally placed. Thank you for helping to decorate your church.

MILNE GROVE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

We are working with the social workers of the Milne Grove school, to provide gifts for several families. Purchase a \$25 gift card(s) to any of the following *suggested* stores: Walmart, Target, Amazon, Kohls, Meijer, Jewel and Berkots. **Return your gift card(s) to Shepherd of the Hill by Sunday, 12/10.** There is a box next to the white tree, designed specifically for your gift card donations.



ELCA GOOD GIVING TREE

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the church-wide ministries of the ELCA. Take a card to go with your ornament to tell a loved one about the gift given in their honor. (if you so choose to do honor someone). Choose an ornament off the tree, return your check (*payable to ELCA*), to Shepherd of the Hill before January 8. For more information, see ELCA.org/GoodGifts.



ELCA GOOD GIVING PIGGY BANKS

Make it easy (and fun!) for your family and your community to say "goodbye" to traditional gift-giving and "hello" to meaningful gifts that really make a difference in the world. Tell your children about those living in far away lands that could use their donation at this time of the year. Deposit your donation of \$30 (check, made payable to ELCA Good Giving, or cash) and return to the church office.



COLLECTING CARDS

Thank you to all who so generously gave cards already! This Sunday, 12/3, after service we invite all who wish to stay and help write messages of love, hope and peace to those this holiday season in nursing, assisted living, and veterans homes, to join us.

Our new Tithes & Offerings Boxes

located next to each door of the sanctuary.



If you are interested in helping out with the next Habitat Build, which will be on Saturday, 12/9, please contact Pastor Jon at 714-335-2216 or pastor.jon.pedersen@gmail.com. Or sign up on our website.



Will-Grundy

Mental Health Support Groups

Free & Confidential

CONNECTION SUPPORT
FOR ANY ONE EXPERIENCING
SYMPTOMS OF A MENTAL ILLNESS

FAMILY SUPPORT
FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING A LOVED
ONE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS

3rd Thursday of Each Month

6:00 to 7:30 pm – SOTH

Next meeting for NAMI is
Thursday, December 21

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is normally open Monday thru Friday 8:30am-2:30pm. It's a good idea to call the office to be sure the person you need is working that day.



Do you know someone who needs help with:

- financial assistance
- finding food
- finding low-cost medical services
- substance abuse
- copng with mental illness
- escaping domestic violence

Check out:

lockportresource.org/community-resources

Ordination

BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE CALL OF THE
CHURCH

Suzanne Hoff

WILL BE ORDAINED TO *WORD AND SACRAMENT* IN
CHRIST'S ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, AND APOSTOLIC
CHURCH

JANUARY 6TH @ 2 PM CST

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

675 N. MULFORD ROAD

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61107

ALL INVITED. WILL ALSO BE OR LIVE-STREAMED

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, December 17, right after the 10am service. We will be approving the 2024 operating budget.

2024 GIVING ENVELOPES

Don't forget that you will receive your quarterly 2024 giving envelopes in your home mailbox. As always, we thank you for your continued donations to Shepherd of the Hill.

"Pray continually." 1 Thessalonians 5:17