



Shepherd's Scroll

March 2024

Weekly Worship Services

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 8:30am & 10:00am
8:30am Service is Livestreamed
Nursery Available

Sunday Social Hour

9:15am - 10:15am
Coffee and snacks

Office Hours & Phone

Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday
9:00am - Noon

404 N. Green Street
McHenry, IL 60050

Phone: 815-385-4030

www.shepherdofhills.org

Church Council

Carol Janssen
Christina Johnson
Jackie Huddleston
Paul Morgan
Barb Nalley
Bob Preston
Jay Quinlan
Jason Vanick

Our Mission

To LOVE people wherever they are,
To LIVE the grace of God in Jesus Christ and
To GROW in faith and service.

Our Vision

Growing disciples of Jesus
that will change the world.

Our Values

Belonging, Welcoming, Fellowship, Integrity

FROM THE PASTOR

*Dear Fellow Disciples at Shepherd of the Hills,
Yesterday was the 2nd week of Lent, the first of SOTH's Wednesdays of Lent.*

The disciples of Jesus who gathered for this day, joined me in considering one of the Opportunities Mid-Week Worship provides for Spiritual development.

The hymn for the day was "I Wonder as I Wander" which became the opportunity to consider one of the questions that comes to mind—often unbidden—as we wander through the days of our lives. Yesterday we considered the commandment that Jesus identified as the First and Greatest Commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart mind and spirit" and a 2nd Commandment which is like it "Love your Neighbor as yourself."

A question that we often ask in our wondering is Why did this happen? Often that can become Why did you do this to me, my family, my friend etc.? The wondering that is directed toward the Lord our God whom we are to love with our entire being. This is a profound question, a puzzling question, and a question for which we seek an answer.

The answer one finds to this question can seriously alter one's relationship with the God of our faith. If our Heavenly Father does bring hurtful things to us, how then do we direct all encompassing love toward that God? A couple of answers to this question were offered.

One suggested answer to our 'why' was, "instead of asking Why did this come to me, one might ask, "Why Not Me"? That is an opened ended question that can lead to a broader view of a painful situation. Another suggestion was to approach the present issue from the stance that Our Heavenly Father is not the author or bringer of whatever difficulty that has befallen us, but is rather a God who suffers with us, stands by us, and does answer our wondering with Spiritual Wisdom beyond all human understanding. While the Father/Mother is not the author of hurt, our Heavenly Parent can and will not leave a negative a negative, but is able to work even the worst for good.

How can that be? Yes that is a further wondering.

During the weeks of Lent let's give ourselves the opportunity to wander a little and wonder some as we do so.

At the remaining Mid-Week worship opportunities, you are invited to anonymously offer a personal wondering to be lifted up and shared. In the sharing we will listen for the Spirit's wisdom as we hear some of Jesus' teachings.

Thank you for being a Disciple of Jesus with me at Shepherd of the Hills.

Blessings,

Pr. Rob



Buzzing in and about SOTH



Sunday Stewards

Barb & Jay Nalley, Ruth Paddock, Roberta Bass, Bert Denley, Amanda Deubel, Bob & Bev Fluger, Nevie Gamble, Barb Gaskell, Kevin Harrington, Lee Hartwig, Jackie & Dave Huddleston, Carol Janssen, Debby Krause, Bert Young, Jill Holtz Kropf, Jeff Lichte, Sue Murphy, Lois Randall, Ron Jones, Pam Schilf, Lee & Sue Borresen, Dave Olsen, Betty Thompson, Sandy Orlando, Karen O'Neill, Breine Patton, Ann Tilling, Cindy Ziessow

Flower Sponsors



February 4: Pam Schilf
February 11: OPEN
February 18: Jill Holtz Kropf, In memory of Phil Holtz
February 25: OPEN
March 3: Pam Schilf
March 10: OPEN
March 17: Ron & Lynne Jones, In celebration of their anniversary
March 24: OPEN
March 31: OPEN

The new 2024 flower and refreshment sponsor list is available for sign-up on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Refreshment Sponsors

February 4: Jay & Barb Nalley
February 11: Pam Schilf
February 18: Judy Beyer & Kelly Boettcher
February 25: Kathy & Chuck Chamberlain
March 3: Dick & Gail Anderson
March 10: Pam Schilf
March 17: OPEN
March 24: OPEN
March 31: Kathy & Chuck Chamberlain



Snow Shovelers

If needed would you be able to help shovel and/or salt the sidewalks leading into the building on the day of services to keep our members safe? Your help would be greatly appreciated. Questions please contact the office.



Holy Week Service Schedule

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 23, 2024 - 5:00pm

Sunday, March 24, 2024 - 8:30am & 11:00am

Maunder Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 2024 - 11am & 7pm

Good Friday

Friday, March 29, 2024 - 11am & 7pm

Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 30, 2024 - 5:00pm

Easter

Sunday, March 31 - 8:30am & 10am

Memorials Received
In Loving Memory of Barry Fluck
Given by Jill Holtz Kropf

"You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever."



Vanessa Marie Vrakas, Baptized February 4, 2024 — Parents: Haralambous and Erin Vrakas. Vanessa's sponsors were Kelly and Aaron Boettcher.

Blake Arness Huff, Baptized February 11, 2024 — Parents: David Huff and Jilian Vetter. Blake's sponsors were Lindsay Maddock and Pat Lamz.

Shepherd's Fellowship Events - February



Shepherd's

UPCOMING EVENTS



Check out our website at www.shepherdofhills.org

Children's Bible Presentation

For 1st and 6th Graders
Sunday, March 3, 2024
Both Sunday Services



Questions contact Heather
hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org

BUNCO

Sunday, March 3, 2024
11:15 am
Fellowship Hall

Bring a dish to pass
Sign up in the Narthex

hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org

adult night out

Ethereal CHOCOLATE MAKING CLASS & TOUR

Saturday, March 16 at 6pm

\$30/person
Limited spots

We will be making truffles and chocolate pretzels this year.

R.S.V.P. by March 1
to Heather at hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org



Monday, March 25, 2024
Feed My Starving Children
742 E Park Ave, Libertyville, IL 60048
7:00-8:45pm

**You can meet us there or carpool from the church.
We will leave at 6pm from SOTH, let Heather know if you need a ride.

Must register by 3-10-24 contact Heather
hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org

Watch at the Cross

March 28-29, 2024

8:00pm-9:00am

Sign up in Narthex
for an hour of reflection

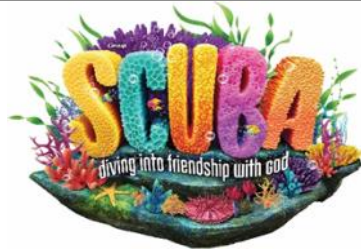
For more information contact Heather
hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org



SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024
HUNT STARTS PROMPTLY 1:00 PM

Please place your
Easter Egg and Candy donations
in the box in the Narthex.

For more information contact Heather
hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org



VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

June 10 - 14, 2024

8:30am-12:30pm

Registration Now Open

Contact Heather for more info.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Connecting faith & finances for good.

Thank you to our Thrivent members who have designated Shepherd of the Hills as their Choice Dollars recipient. In 2023 we received \$1,199.00 in Thrivent grant money! Just a reminder that Choice Dollars must be designated each year by March 31. Please prayerfully consider naming Shepherd of the Hills as your charity of choice for 2024.

Contact Jerry Doran, our Thrivent representative at 847-271-8632 with any questions or if you need assistance.

Ladies' Breakfast

the first Saturday of every month,
8:00am @ Kim & Patty's Restaurant

Men's Breakfast

the first Saturday of every month,
8:00am @ Buddy Z

FAITH

**Do you have questions about faith
or
why we do certain things in church?**

Now's your chance to ask!

Write your question anonymously below and return to metal drop box outside the church office. One or two of these will be chosen for reflection during Lenten services.

Singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
Colossians 3:16-17

Help share the love
by donating a hymnal
in honor or memory
of a loved one.

\$30.00 per hymnal
Fill out a dedication form in the Narthex.

Contact the office with any questions.

FIRST WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP



McHenry County State's Attorney, Patrick Kenneally will be our guest speaker discussing the legalization of marijuana, as well as the Sage-T-Act, in McHenry County.

March 6, 2024

12:30 pm

Joyful Harvest Church
McHenry, IL

**FOR INFORMATION
WWW.JOYFULHARVEST.ORG**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS *Volunteer Day* FOR TRACK & FIELD GAMES

**FRIDAY, MAY 3
8AM-12PM**

EDGEBROOK ELEMENTARY, MCHENRY

VOLUNTEER SPOTS HAVE ALL BEEN FILLED

Information contact Heather hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org



SKIP - Shepherd's Kids in Praise

Kindergarten - Grade 5

2nd & 4th Thursdays of every month

NEXT DATES: 3/14

5:30pm Simple Dinner 6:00 - 7:30pm Program

Interested in volunteering? Contact Heather



Summer Camp Registration Now Open!

815-276-6829

[www.shepherdofhills.org/
beforeandaftercareandsummerprogram](http://www.shepherdofhills.org/beforeandaftercareandsummerprogram)



BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

Check out the website for 2024-2025

Registration and information

<https://www.shepherdofhills.org/brightbeginningspreschool>



Call Committee Update

We are grateful to all who participated in the Shepherd of the Hills Pastoral Call Questionnaire.

Three of the questions that were asked of the congregation from the call committee to help them complete the ministry site profile offered the opportunity for members to share individual concerns, suggestions, and perceptions on specific topics. Below you will find the most common themes captured from the data for question #9

Question #9 – List any obstacles, you think, a new pastor might experience at Shepherd of the Hills.

By far the theme that had the most responses was that of members worrying about people being generally resistant to change. There were many comments on the fondness members held for past or present pastors, Pastor Roger Schneider, Pastor Tom Rogers and Pastor Rob Kinnear. Many commented on the need for a new pastor to rapidly connect with members before and after services by being himself and quickly establishing loyalty and trust with members.

Another theme with several responses centered around the decline in church membership and the lower than desired attendance at the worship services. Fallout from the Covid pandemic, the length of time without a permanent pastor, a remote option for worship service or alternate online options and societal priorities were listed as obstacles that a new pastor and the church will need to overcome to regrow the congregation.

A challenging task for a new pastor will be striking a balance of pleasing both current membership and attracting new membership as well as pleasing all age groups associated with our church. A shared perception was that the attendees at the three different worship services were like having three separate congregations. Several comments were made about the need to rebuild our youth program, including the confirmation program, and engaging the youth by having them participate in the services again as acolytes.

The last theme where several members showed shared concern was that of a new pastor being spread too thin to accomplish the tasks expected of him with not enough volunteer support from the congregation.

Again, the call committee appreciates everyone's input which has helped us greatly with our task of completing the ministry site profile.

Three of the questions that were asked of the congregation from the call committee to help them complete the ministry site profile offered the opportunity for members to share individual concerns, suggestions, and perceptions on specific topics. Below you will find the most common themes captured from the data for question #10.

Question #10 – What is the number one thing you want in a new pastor?

By far, the top two responses to the above question were first, have a new pastor that was able to interact with all people and different age groups by showing kindness and understanding and making all feel welcome; and second, being relatable and able to apply scripture to everyday life through a good sermon that will carry people through the week.

Another theme was someone who is able to keep the congregation energized and excited to serve the lord. Someone who has the energy and stamina to recruit new members especially young families and that can teach the word of the lord to both young and old. Someone who is very knowledgeable about bible scripture.

Other descriptive characteristics that were mentioned were: charismatic, dynamic, a good administrator, someone who shows love, someone who is youthful, someone who is trustworthy and committed to Shepherd of the Hills, someone with traditional values with an open mind to the future, and someone who is able to combine old and new methods for the best outcome.

Again, thank you to all who participated in the questionnaire. It was a tremendous help to the call committee in completing the ministry site profile required by the synod as we go forward in the search for a permanent pastor at Shepherd of the Hills.

The Pastoral Call Committee has completed the final version of the Ministry Site Profile. The document has been submitted to the Church Council for approval on February 22nd. Once the Church Council has approved it, the Pastoral Call Committee will then submit the MSP to the Northern Illinois Synod for their approval and online activation.





Good Friday Music - by Randy Casey

On Good Friday, March 29th, the Shepherd of the Hills choir will be pleased to present a work for choir and organ entitled **A Service of Darkness** by American composer Dale Wood (1934-2003). The subtitle of this piece is "Seven Choral Meditations on the Last Words of Christ," making this an appropriate offering on this most somber day of the liturgical year. The choir has been rehearsing on this work since last summer and we would be delighted for you to come and hear the fruits of our labor.

I will be playing the organ for the **Service of Darkness** and we will have a guest conductor by the name of Steve Szalaj. Steve is the conductor of a community chorus in Crystal Lake and I have been the accompanist for his group for the past 23 years. I am more than happy to vouch for Steve's musicianship and for the positive spirit he will bring to leading the singers.

The congregation will be given the simple and straightforward words for you to follow along as we sing. And although it may look like a lot of words, the truth is that the piece only lasts between 20 and 25 minutes. There is actually a suggested order of service given in the front of the music score to provide a possible format for this choral presentation.

The music of Lent and especially of Good Friday is powerful and can be even emotional because humanity understands suffering all too well. One of the greatest choral works ever composed, the Passion According to St. Matthew, was for the service on Good Friday of 1727 at St. Thomas Church of Leipzig by Johann Sebastian Bach. Both of Bach's parents died when he was 9 years old, to illustrate only one reason why this greatest of all composers of sacred music was able to portray the plight of the suffering Jesus so well.

Although your church choir has enjoyed some rewarding moments over the past several months, this **Service of Darkness** by Dale Wood will be the pinnacle of our achievement until, frankly, next Good Friday. Try beginning a family tradition this year of experiencing the finest music your church choir has to offer at the end of Holy Week, March 29th.

In closing I will just say that it is a pleasure for me to work with singers in your church choir. They have sung every piece I have handed them, even though I have stretched them to musical limits they did not know were possible. Our rehearsals are fast-paced and a bit intense and people leave smiling. If you would like to add an unexpected spark to your routine, please feel free to join us.

In the meantime, let us have a blessed Holy Week together.
In the meantime, we hope to see you on Good Friday.

Mary Martha Circle/Bible Study
is the second Tuesday of every month,
1:00 - 3:00pm in Room 5.



Please bring your Bible and
a copy of the publication
"The Gather" if you have one.

Questions? Please call or email:
Sharie Moy,
815-236-2642
or teacup76@comcast.net.

**Monday Night Zoom
Prayer Group**
is every Monday, 7:00pm

Meeting ID: 872 3148 3009 **Passcode:** 562505
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87231483009?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87231483009?pwd=mBO5orb9vGU2LhCJxmKDVRv16fhRKe.1)
[pwd=mBO5orb9vGU2LhCJxmKDVRv16fhRKe.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87231483009?pwd=mBO5orb9vGU2LhCJxmKDVRv16fhRKe.1)

Questions? Please call or email:
Barb Nalley
815-354-4322 or nalleybarb@gmail.com

Refreshment Sponsors are needed for Sunday morning social hour. Interested? Cost is \$30.00

Sponsor Flowers in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, in memory of loved ones or "just because". Cost is \$30.00 per arrangement. Sponsors are encouraged to take their floral arrangement home after the 10:00am service.

Sign-up and forms are located in the hallway outside the church office. Any questions give the office a call at 815-385-4030.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						8am: Ladies B'fast @ Kim & Patty's 8am: Men's B'fast @ Buddy Z 5pm: Worship
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30 & 10am: Worship & Sunday School 8:30am: Confirmation 11am: BUNCO	9:30am: Quilters 6pm: Girl Scouts 6:30pm: TOPS	BUZZ 6:30pm: Cub Scouts 7pm: Praise Band	11am: Lenten Worship 7pm: Confirmation 7:30pm: Shepherd's Bells	2pm: HS Parent Meeting 4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 6pm: Girl Scouts 7pm: Shepherd's Voices		5pm: Worship
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30 & 10am: Worship & Sunday School 8:30am: Confirmation Super Bowl Sandwich Pickup	9:30am: Quilters 6:30pm: TOPS	BUZZ 1pm: Mary Martha Circle 7pm: Praise Band	11am: Lenten Worship 1pm: Prayer Shawls 6pm: Cub Scout 311 7pm: Confirmation/Yth Grp. 7:30pm: Shepherd's Bells	12pm: Staff Mtg 4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 5:30pm: SKIP 7pm: Shepherd's Voices		5pm: Worship 6pm: Adult Night Out-Ethereal
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30 & 10am: Worship & Sunday School 8:30am: Confirmation	9:30am: Quilters 6:30pm: TOPS	BUZZ 5am-8pm: Election Day Polling 6:30pm: Cub Scouts 6:30pm: High School Youth Grp 7pm: Praise Band	11am: Lenten Worship 11:30am: P.S. Lunch 6:30pm: McH Garden Club 7pm: Confirmation 7:30pm: Shepherd's Bells	7:30am: HS Picture Day 4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 6pm: Council Mtg. 6pm: Girl Scouts 6pm: Cub Scouts 7pm: Shepherd's Voices	5pm: PS Daddy & Me 5pm: O'Neil Wedding Rehearsal	3pm: O'Neil Wedding 5pm: Worship
PASSION/PALM SUNDAY 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30 & 10am: Worship & Sunday School 8:30am: Confirmation EASTER 31 8:30 & 10am: Worship & Sunday School 8:30am: Confirmation	9:30am: Quilters 6:30pm: TOPS	BUZZ 10am: Fellowship Cmte. 11am: WELCA 7pm: Praise Band	6pm: Cub Scout 131 7pm: Confirmation 7:30pm: Shepherd's Bells	11am & 7pm: Worship 4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 7pm: Shepherd's Voices	GOOD FRIDAY 11am & 7pm: Worship	1pm: Easter Egg Hunt 5pm: Worship
					8PM - Watch at the Cross - 9AM	