



Shepherd's Scroll

January 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

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

Congregation Council

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

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

Dear disciples at Shepherd of the Hills,

The council has designated January 2025 as the start of the capital appeal for the "Gift" given to Shepherd of the Hills in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the congregation. It was determined that monetary offerings received would be used to update the heating and cooling system for the existing building, replacement of the sidewalk lighting, revision of the parking lot lights, and relandscaping of the north entrance of the educational wing used by the Before and After and Bright Beginnings preschool ministries of the congregation. These capital improvements will be possible according to the total amount of the gifts given.

*Blessings,
Pr. Rob*





Buzzing in and about SOTH



Sunday Stewards

Lee & Sue Borresen, Helen Burlack, Bert Denley, Bob & Bev Fluger, Nevie Gamble, Barb Gaskell, Kevin Harrington, Jackie & Dave Huddleston, Carol Janssen, Christina Johnson, Ron & Lynne Jones, Debby Krause, Jill Holtz Kropf, Sue Larson, Jeff Lichte, Paul Morgan, Sue Murphy, Barb & Jay Nalley, Karen O'Neill, Sandy Orlando, Ruth Paddock, Breine Patton, Lois Randall, Sharon Rinard, Pam Schilf, Jake & Kristin Stemmen, Betty Thompson, Bert Young, Dan Umbarger, Cindy Ziessow

Flower Sponsors

January 5: OPEN
January 12: OPEN
January 19: Sue Reuss - In memory of Kurt Reuss
January 26: OPEN

Refreshment Sponsors

January 5: OPEN
January 12: Dave Olsen
January 19: OPEN
January 26: Chuck & Kathy Chamberlain



Shepherd's Fellowship Events - January

Children's Bible Presentation

For 1st and 6th Graders
Sunday, January 5, 2025
Both Sunday Services



Souper Sunday

January 12, 2025

Please sign-up in the Narthex for the soup you will bring to share.



Families will pick-up and make their Build-A-Bear kits.



FAMILY BINGO and WHITE ELEPHANT
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025
11:00am
Fellowship Hall



"In The Bleak Midwinter"

by Randy Casey

The tune and text constituting the carol "In the Bleak Midwinter" will be seen in two different guises during Epiphany at Shepherd of the Hills. Its initial appearance will be on a Sunday morning in January as the congregation sings hymn #294. The choir will then sing an arrangement of this melody on the first Sunday in February.

Easily the most memorable aspect of "In the Bleak Midwinter" is its third verse: "What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man I would do my part. Yet what I can I give Him---give Him my heart." These sensitive words were penned by the English poetess Christina Rossetti (1830 - 1894) who also wrote, by the way, the Christmas poem "Love Came Down At Christmas." What Rossetti accomplishes in this third verse of "In the bleak midwinter" is that of making us a part of the Christmas story. In reading the final line of the verse we learn that we too, like the shepherd and Wise Men, have something to offer the Christ child.

As yet, as beautiful as all the verses of "In the Bleak Midwinter" are, they would not be so well known were they not set to music so exquisitely by the English composer Gustav Holst (1874 - 1934). One sees that the poet's and the composer's lives overlapped by 20 years and lived in the same not large country, raising the question of whether they ever met. Frankly, I have no idea, but a more germane question might be to wonder how and when Gustav Holst found the poem at all. Did he discover it in some book he was randomly perusing?. Or did his friend and colleague Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872 - 1958) know the poem and suggest it to him as a musical possibility. We will probably never know, but the fact remains that this text and tune combination is nothing short of a masterpiece.

One might wonder why we are singing "In the Bleak Midwinter" during Epiphany since it is actually in the Christmas section of the ELW. Because there are technically only two Sundays in the Christmas season, we normally sing the more jubilant and well-known carols such as "Joy To The World" and/or "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!" during that short season of celebration. Of course, we also sing "Silent Night," which, come to think of it, one could deem a more popular, older sibling of sorts to "In the Bleak Midwinter."

"In the Bleak Midwinter" is an amalgam of lovely poetry and simple music that rather subtly attracts our attention. We hear its message during Epiphany and realize that its meaning dwells within us all year round.



From: Barb Nalley

As you've probably heard in past council presentations; council has 4 sub committees: Christian Education, Worship, Membership & Building.

Today, I am going to talk a little about Worship committee, which is the committee I am on.

- Worship committee talks about all things that are part of worship service.
- From this committee, came the idea for the Worship at Full Volume service. Worship at Full Volume was trialed for 3 months. The committee has decided to continue with it, after it takes a few months break. We want to advertise it more, and tweak a few things; hoping to welcome more of our community to come see the service AND our church. We will pick it back up In March. Watch for updates in the buzz, scroll & the worship folders.
- Praise Band: We want to make everyone aware of when Praise Band is playing at services; so their schedule will be posted in the Buzz & Scroll, 2 weeks in advance.
- Comment Cards: there are comment cards on the cabinets in the narthex. We encourage you, and look forward to, any feedback you have about any of our services. This is your church home. We want to hear what you have to say.
- The WORSHIP FOLDERS, are for the 5pm Saturday, and 8:30am Sunday services. They are yours. Please take them home, look them over, reread the readings and/or the gospel. And then the back page has all the events happening at the church, We are a very active church! Stick that page on the front of your refrigerator, so you don't miss out on any of those events or dates. The 10am service, because it is not the same as 8:30am, will have the events page separately; for those folks to take home. It's like the "what's going on part" of the Worship Folder, so the 10am peeps can get those dates in their calendars as well.

If you are interested in joining Worship Committee, or any of our 4 sub committees, please let the office, or one your council members know.

From: Jay Quinlan

Regarding the building, it is starting to show its age but is in very good shape thanks to the congregation and the front office staff.

During 2024 some of the major accomplishments were:

- Repaired defective lighting in the Sanctuary
- Added a relay link between the fire panel and the security system
- Repaired HVAC unit on the Roof
- Managed the loss of electrical feed to our church and subsequent damage done as a result.
- Renovated the Bathrooms in the Head Start Area
- Constructed the Audio-Visual booth in the rear of the sanctuary.
- Relocated the Youth Room to the main floor allowing Head Start to expand into that area.

We have many opportunities with which to share your talents and grow our congregation, I think I can say that in all capacities there is room for your help remembering anything we can do within our congregation will save us money that would need to be spent hiring contractors.

One thing I have been asked to bring up is the Congregation Resourcing Event (CRE) on March 22nd in Dixon Illinois. All members are invited to attend, please contact the church office if you are interested. This year's focus is "Growing Disciples at CRE". Check out the website for more information: <https://nisynod.org/programs/cre>

Shepherd's

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out our website at www.shepherdofhills.org



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

U.S. Wildfires | Lutheran Disaster Response

Thank you for sharing God's
love with your neighbors
when and where they need it most.

<https://give.elca.org/page/77859/donate/1>



2025 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan on attending the
Annual Congregational Meeting opening on
Saturday, February 1 at the 5:00 pm service
continuing through Sunday, February 2 at the
8:30 am and concluding at the 10:00 am service.



2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025

Following the 10am service
in Fellowship Hall



Contact Heather for more info.
hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org

10:00 AM

Worship

PRAISE BAND

SCHEDULE

2/2/25
2/23/25



ALL ARE WELCOME
TO COME WORSHIP



2ND ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SUB SANDWICH

YOUTH GATHERING 2027 FUNDRAISER

Order Forms in the Narthex.

Pick up your sandwich order
in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, February 9, 2025
between 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



CONTACT HEATHER FOR MORE INFORMATION
[HCASTAING@SHEPHERDOFHILLS.ORG](mailto:hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org)

S.K.I.P.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Questions contact Heather
hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org





Registration
Now for
Summer Camp!

815-276-6829

Contact Ashley Metcalf

ametcalf@shepherdofhills.org

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



**BRIGHT
BEGINNINGS
PRESCHOOL**

**Check out the website for 2025-2026
Registration and information**

www.shepherdofhills.org/brightbeginningspreschool

- Offering 3, 4, and 5 year old Classes
- Contact Jennifer Walker - jwalker@shepherdofhills.org



Check out our website at

www.shepherdofhills.org



**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.

Would you be willing to learn to serve as a Greeter? Usher? Liturgist? Communion Assistant? Help set up for communion? Please prayerfully consider serving your church family in one of these ways. Call the church office at 815-385-4030 to sign up.



Sing (or Ring) to the Lord a New Song!
Shepherd of the Hills offers several music ministries; Shepherd's Voices, Shepherd's Bells, Shepherd's Brass & Praise Band.



The groups perform at services, special programs, holidays and other church events. We welcome new members!

If you are interested please call the church office at 815-385-4030.

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

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						8am: Ladies B'fast @ Kim & Patty's 8am: Men's B'fast@ Buddy Z 5pm: Worship
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30 & 10am: Worship 8:30am: Confirmation 10am: Sunday School 11am-1:30pm: Chili Cook-Off	10am: Quilters 10:30am: WELCA 5:45pm: Girl Scouts 6pm: TOPS 7pm: Zoom Prayer Grp	6pm: High School Youth Group 6pm: Praise Band 6pm: Membership Com. Mtg. - ZOOM	6pm: Cub Scout 311 7pm: Confirmation 7:30am: Bells/Brass	2pm: HeadStart Parent Mtg. 4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 5:45pm: Girl Scout 772 7pm: Shepherd's Voices		5pm: Worship
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30 & 10am: Worship 8:30am: Confirmation 10am: Sunday School 9am-12pm: Super Bowl Sub Order Pick-Up	9am: Fellowship Mtg. 10am: Quilters 6pm: TOPS 7pm: Zoom Prayer Grp	6pm: Praise Band	11:30am: Preschool Valentine's Day Party 6pm: Cub Scout 311 6pm: Worship Com. Mtg. 7pm: Confirmation 7:30am: Bells/Brass	11:30am: Preschool Valentine's Day Party 12:30pm: Staff Mtg. 4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 5:30pm: SKIP 6pm: Cub Scouts 131 6pm: Executive Com. Mtg. 7pm: Shepherd's Voices		5pm: Worship
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30 & 10am: Worship 8:30am: Confirmation 10am: Sunday School	10am: Quilters 5:45pm: Girl Scouts 6pm: TOPS 7pm: Zoom Prayer Grp	6pm: High School Youth Group 6pm: Praise Band	6pm: Cub Scout 311 6:30pm: Garden Club 7pm: Confirmation 7:30am: Bells/Brass	4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 5:45pm: Girl Scout 772 6pm: Council Mtg. 7pm: Shepherd's Voices	1:30pm: HeadStart Parent Mtg.	4pm: Joseph Musical Show 5pm: Worship
23	24	25	26	27	28	
8:30 & 10am: Worship 8:30am: Confirmation 10am: Sunday School TBD: Are You Smarter than a Confirmation Student Event	10am: Quilters 6pm: TOPS 7pm: Zoom Prayer Grp	6pm: Praise Band	6pm: Cub Scout 311 7pm: Confirmation 7:30am: Bells/Brass	4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 5:30pm: SKIP 6pm: Cub Scouts 131 7pm: Shepherd's Voices		