

THE CROSS CHRONICLES



Readings for the week of December 6, 2021

Advent

First Reading - Isaiah 40:1-11

Epistle - 2 Peter 3:8-14

Holy Gospel - Mark 1:1-8

Ctrl+Click this link for the Shadow of the Cross website:

SHADOWOFTHECROSSLC.ORG

and this link for secure electronic giving:

<http://stpaulsfarmington.com/give-st-pauls/>

Worship service livestream:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM0cM0gle1sMO4AbuYc5I7Q>

Sunday services are 8:30 a.m., and 11:00 am.

Fellowship hour with refreshments will follow the 8:30 am and 11:00 am services. Pastor Dupre's Sunday Bible study has begun and it is at 10:00 am. **Holy Communion** will be on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays during the 11:00 service and the 2nd and 4th Sunday during the 8:30 am service.

COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in the state and also here at SOTC. Social distancing and mask are still respected however they are not required. We ask if you have not been vaccinated please wear your masks. Please do not come to church if you have a fever, other flu like symptoms or if you have been around someone who has tested positive for the Corona Virus in the past two weeks.

Stealing Christmas

Christmas is coming! And so once again we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We do many things in preparation; decorate our homes and Christmas trees with bright and colored lights, bake holiday treats and tune in our radios to the stations playing Christmas music. It all helps to set the mood and gives a feeling of happiness and expectation.

Last week, I did something I usually do at this time of year to help myself get in the Christmas mood. I watched Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" for the forty-somethingth time. I'm a huge Dr. Seuss fan and this show is one of the signs of Christmas for me. When it's on, I know Christmas is coming.

But watching it this time, a thought came to mind that never had before. Surely, for all of us who understand that Christmas is not about the material gifts we give each other, but about the holy Gift God gave the world, surely we understand that no one can "steal" Christmas. And we surely know that there are no "Grinches".

But what if Christmas had never come? What if baby Jesus had not been born into the world? What if the Savior of the Nations had not come? What would this world be like then? Would we still be sacrificing animals for forgiveness?

Would we have to live the Law perfectly in order to be saved? If Jesus had never humbled Himself and come into the world as one of us, there would be no Gospel; no Good News; no Good Shepherd and we would still be slaves to sin, Satan, death and hell. We would not have the image of God that we lost at the Fall restored to us. We would not be washed clean by the blood of Lamb, therefore not righteous before God and therefore separated from Him eternally.

Do you see how dark it gets when you remove Jesus from our lives? Imagine how dark it is for those who reject Him. If Christmas can be stolen from us, it is by our own doing in rejecting Christ and the eternal blessings and light He brought down to this den of darkness. People talk about how Christ has been removed from Christmas. What they don't understand is NO ONE can "steal" Christ from Christmas because it is all about Him. If you are celebrating December 25th, and Christ is not in your celebration, then you are not celebrating Christmas; you are merely having a big party. But more seriously, you are also making a mockery of the birth of Christ, God's only Son, born into the world. And I would not want to be the one found guilty of that sin on the Last day!

Christmas is coming! Let us enjoy all the wonderful things that help put us in the "Christmas mood", but let us not forget Christmas without Christ, is not Christmas. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and may God continue to bless us all! – Pastor Dupre
The peace of the Lord be with you -Rev. Brian Dupre, Pastor, SOTC

Aaron Clark has created a SOTC YouTube channel and will be streaming the service. Please direct all questions to the church office 248 474-0675, Mon – Friday, 9:45 am – 2:00 pm. Thank you. Tuesday Bible Study is at 11:30 am. You can also join us via Zoom, contact the office for the information

- **SOTC Zoom Account**
Any chairperson needing to use the Zoom account for their ministry, please contact the

Church office. There is a sign-up sheet in the office to reserve your date and time.

The SOTC International Friendship Tuesday, November 16th was the last day for completing yarn art projects during the ESL social group time. The ESL group members will continue their dedicated time for Bible study after the arrival of the new year.

Thank you
Cen. ESL



Sunday school is back and we are meeting in person on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Our adult Sunday school will continue on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom and we hope to see you there. If you have any questions regarding our Sunday school please feel free to call any of the Sunday school staff, Dawn Kivimaki, Lori Smith, Laina Burk, Shirley Bowden, Myita Davis, Roderick McClure, Barbara Profit or the church office 248-474-0675. The Zoom link will remain the same until further notice.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6176422508?pwd=Rzdpd09PU05CWZCU1NROEI4bll5dz09>

Meeting ID: 617 642 2508, **Passcode:** 648947



Cream Cheese Pound Cake

1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
1 1/2 cups butter
3 cups white sugar
6 eggs
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions
Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F.

Grease and flour a 10-inch tube or Bundt pan.

In a large bowl, cream butter, and cream cheese until smooth

Add [sugar](#) gradually and beat until Fluffy.

Add eggs two at a time, beating well with each addition.

Add the flour all at once and mix in. Add Vanilla.

Pour into the pan. Bake for 1 hour And 20 minutes.

When the pound cake is ready, toothpick inserted into the center of the cakes will come out clean.

14 serving

HOLY HUMOR

* **Question:** What did God say after He created Adam?

* **Answer** "I can do better than that." And so, He created woman.

* **Question:** What is one of the first things that Adam and Eve did after they were kicked out?

* **Answer:** They really raised Cain

* **Question:** The ark was built in 3 stories. The top one had [a window](#) to let in light. How did the bottom two stories get light?

* **Answer:** They used floodlights

* **Question:** Who is the greatest baby-sitter mentioned in the Bible?

* **Answer:** David -- he rocked Goliath to sleep.

* **Question:** Which area of the [Promised Land](#) was especially wealthy?

* **Answer:** The area around the Jordan where the banks kept overflowing.

* **Question:** How do we know that Job went to a chiropractor?

* **Answer:** Because Job 16:12 says: "*All was well with me, but . . . he seized me by the neck*"

Bible Triva Questions

Question: On what day did God create man?

Answer: Sixth day

Question: This man wrote the first five books of the Old Testament

Answer: Moses

Question: From what part of Adam's body did God create Eve

Answer: Rib

Question: What did David use to defeat Goliath?

Answer: A sling and a stone

Question: What sea did Moses part to aid in his people's escape from the Pharaoh?

Answer: Red Sea

Question: What musical instrument did David play?

Answer: The harp (or lyre)

Mask Mandate: Oakland County health officials are requiring masks for students and staff in all preschools and K-12 public schools regardless of vaccination status.

Oakland County Health Division issued an emergency health order with immediate effect that will impact about 210,000 students across 28 public school districts and 22 charter schools academies. The order also applies to daycare centers and vocational schools.

A Message from the CDC on Covid-19 precautions: (updated regularly) click link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> COVID Data Tracker Find maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States, updated daily by 8 pm ET.

New Vaccination and Case Trends tab displays trends in people receiving at least 1 dose of vaccine and being fully vaccinated along with trends in cases, by age group. Users can now filter all maps on County View tab to display only metropolitan counties or only non-metropolitan counties

COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review

An interpretive summary of this week's data
COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review
Thumbnail

How Do I Find a COVID-19 Vaccine?
COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review
Thumbnail

Your Community. Stay up to date on the latest data in your community at the state and county level.

County View Track cases, deaths,

hospitalizations, and more for your community.

Community Profile Report

View key indicators for all regions, states, core-based statistical areas, and counties across the US. Community Profile Report - Forecasting
See expectations for case increases or decreases for your state and across the US

Publisher's note: If you have information, prayer request, something you would like to share with your church family, a poem, a song, a scripture, a picture of something that puts a smile on your face, please send it to Veronica's email sotclutheran.officemanager@gmail.com or Dawn's email sotclutheran.secretary@gmail.com
Information for the Newsletter, please submit by the 20th of each month for the following month's publication. Thank you and Blessings!

Youth Shoe's With Fundraiser

SOTC Youth is collecting new/gently used footwear till December 5, 2021
Any SIZE, Any GENDER, and Any SEASON! Please bring to church and put in

Youth and Woman's League Fall Garage Sale was a Huge success!!! We want to send everyone that helped a big THANK YOU! The helpers were the ones that donated their time: making and serving food, giving donations, sorting and helping to keep the donations on the correct tables. Again THANK YOU!

The ESL group members

Tuesday, November 16th was the last day this year. We will continue their dedicated time for Bible study after the arrival of the new year. Thank you

Help Wanted!

Shadow of the Cross is looking for PRAYER WARRIORS...mornings and evenings open! NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!!! ONLY A LOVE FOR JESUS, and a desire to follow His footsteps and pray with and for others. IF YOU HAVE A FEW EXTRA MINUTES, please consider joining the team....CALL: **Mary Rooker or Nancy Faith.**
"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints," - Ephesians 6:18 ESV "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." - Philippians 4:6 ESV

the designated bin near the office or we are happy to arrange pick-ups!

THANK YOU ALL for your support, SOTC Youth has collected 1450 items 11/18/21.

We have a long way to go to reach goal of 2,500 pair to earn \$1,000 towards National Youth Gathering, but with your support anything is possible.

Our Youth will need to raise over \$14,000 to cover costs of those currently interested in going to the National Youth Gathering next summer, so we are grateful for all your support!!!

Regarding the Pledge..... You can make your pledge in as many payments as you like but please have them paid by the end of this year. The weather is going to start getting bad and we would like to have the work done. Thank you for your pledges!!

Roof Repair/AC Pledge Drive November 22,2021 Report THANK YOU!!

1. Total amount of pledges: \$20,145.00 of our \$50,000.00 goal.
2. Actual Funds Received (as of 11/22/21) \$23,500.00

PLEDGE COMMITMENTS – Roof/AC

Jeanette Adams
George and Kay Barnes
Reanelle Beaty
Carole Boulware
John Burhop
Craig Clark
Brenda Clavon
Ava Davis
Pastor and Margo Dupre
Annie Edwards
Doug Eiben
Shirley Eiben
Herb and Nancy Engling
Timothy and Clare Engling
Merlin Fields
Nancy Faith
Mary Gardner
Veronica Green
Barbara Hatcher

Max Heise
Herschel and Angie Hembree
Joyce Hilpert
Robb Howell
Alice Iaconelli
Bob and Mary Jo Keller
James and Dawn Kivimaki
Russ and Lindsay Lapworth
Ann Little
Gloria Marchand
Sharon Martin
Dorothy McClure
Roddy McClure
Keith McKee
Patricia Melton
Lauren Mosley
Ruth Palmer
Lynette Robinson
John Rousseau

Mary Rooker
Steve and Heather Rooker
John Rousseau
Lola Sample
Diane Smith
Felicia Smith
Ronald and Carol Smolka
Joe and Sandy Soukup
Norma Speier
Dorothy Tankard
I. Thompson
Ellis Threadcraft
Daniel and Connie Strausberg
Katherine Wemyss
William & Robin Ward
Chester & Linda Wilcoxson
Charleen Woodfield

This list will be updated as pledges come in. Thank you!

How Shadow of the Cross Became a "Virtual" Reality

By Robin J. Ward

Since Wednesday, March 25, 2020, Shadow of the Cross has had an online worship presence, and as of Sunday, November 28, 2021, we are at 93 segments and counting.

Our virtual ministry started with a 10:59-minute smart phone video of Pastor Brian Dupre delivering a midweek Lenten message, a prayer and a blessing from his home, after Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued a statewide stay-at-home order for all non-essential workers on March 23, 2020.

It started with his words of encouragement: "We don't have to be in the same place at the same time, because the church is not a building. The church is the congregation. And I encourage every one of us to reach out, to check up on, to send kind words, and to pray for our brothers and sisters. And I promise you I will do the same for you." It began by the Grace of God.

By June 14, 2020, we had progressed to live-streaming a full worship service from the sanctuary. Aaron Clark volunteered his time and his personal equipment every week to allow online access to the service through his YouTube account. Shortly after, SOTC obtained its own YouTube channel (link). All our videos combined have received around 4,700 views (a "view" is when a user intentionally initiates the watching of a video for at least 30 seconds).

At Pastor Dupre's request, in the spring of 2021, we applied for the "Esther 4:14 National Grant Program" offered by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Office of National Mission. The stated purpose of this grant was "to encourage congregations to purchase equipment to meet the challenges of the day." The last part of Esther 4:14 reads, "yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" As we all know, this "time" was the start of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Our grant application to obtain a high-definition camcorder was accepted and in June we received \$1,150 to use toward the purchase of a camera to improve our live-stream capabilities. In addition, we purchased a mixer board to help with the sound (the acoustics in the sanctuary aren't so good for live-streaming) and a laptop to get the video onto the internet.



There have been some bumps along the way. But we are working on improvements to the sound and video quality. We are also working on increasing our internet capacity to produce a smoother picture with less interruption.

Even though SOTC returned to in-person worship services in the summer of 2020, maintaining our "virtual" presence online continues. Why is live-streaming important for SOTC? "Because we can reach people outside the local community as well as our own shut-ins to share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ," commented Pastor Dupre.

SOTC has only just begun its "virtual" venture. Stay tuned for progress updates as this aspect of SOTC's ministry expands to share the love of Christ with the virtual community