

9/03/2023

Shadow of the Cross
Lutheran Church

Rev. Brian C Dupre
Pastor

THE CROSS CHRONICLES

≡ hello ≡
SEPTEMBER



Readings for the week of September 3, 2023

First Reading Jer.15:15-21

Epistle – Roman 12:9-21

Holy Gospel –Matt.16:21-28

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

SHADOWOFTHECROSSLC.ORG

and this link for secure electronic giving:

Worship service livestream:

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

Worship Service: Sunday 9:45 am **Holy Communion** every Sunday.
Fellowship hour with refreshments will follow the service.

Prayer Journey: 2nd and 4th Saturdays 11:15 am via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8482337828?pwd=SDEweUIQTVVOcWtkY3ZjNytNRHVwUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 233 7828 Passcode: 333179

Pastor Dupre's Sunday Bible study begin at 11:00 am.

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 11:00 am. You can also join us via Zoom, contact the office for the information.

“Faith”

*And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” And Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” **Matthew 17:14-20 ESV***

In this Gospel text Jesus heals a demon possessed boy. But the miracle of the healing is not the main point of the text. The main point is the unbelief of the disciples which prevented them from healing the boy. This story follows the story of Jesus’ transfiguration. The amazing thing is that Peter, James and John saw Jesus’ transfiguration. They saw Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah. They heard the Father’s voice saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.” And **still** they could not muster up the faith of a mustard seed between the three of them? Even more than that; there were nine disciples that failed to drive out the evil spirit that day. Jesus said the faith of a grain of mustard seed could move mountains. Yet nine disciples did not have enough faith even heal the boy. No wonder Jesus expresses such pain and deep disappointment! From His own disciples, Jesus had the right to expect something better. So the question is; how could these disciples who spent so much time with Jesus; seeing him do wonders and miracles; seeing Him cast out demons; seeing Him heal multitudes of people; seeing Him walk on water; how could they still lack faith, even the faith of a grain of a mustard seed? It seems almost impossible and yet it happens all around us every day. One possible explanation is that they forgot that it was God who was doing the work, not themselves. It is possible that they felt pride and arrogance being selected and empowered by Jesus to do His work, instead of giving the glory to God. This is misplaced faith because it is based in ourselves instead of our source, God, who empowers us, lifts us and sustains us. Faith in self is not faith in God. Therefore, when the disciples confronted the demon-possessed boy; the demon did not see the Son of God in them; it did not fear them and would not obey their words.

There is another possible explanation: When Jesus sent the disciples out among the Jews, seeking the lost sheep of Israel in chapter ten, maybe these disciples did not truly believe that they could do what Jesus sent them to do. This explanation is more likely because it falls in line with our human limitations. Jesus told them to go heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and cast out demons. Who among us can do that? How many of us would believe it even if Jesus said we could? The disciples were

human too and they may have questioned themselves and doubted that Jesus could do all of these miracles through them. It's nothing more than what Jesus says to us, His latter-day disciples, when we demonstrate our lack of faith by taking matters into our own hands, rather than relying God's promise to take care of us. Lack of faith amounts to fear. And fear erodes faith if we let it; because if we truly believe every word and promise of God simply because He said it, than that mustard seed of faith blossoms into an immovable force, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our faith then becomes something that will sustain us until the end, if we continue to nourish it with Word and Sacrament. Faith is more than just something that would be nice to have; it is a necessity in this life. We cannot and will not live without it in this world or the next. We need faith as much as we need air, food and water. Just as air, food and water sustain the body, faith sustains the spirit. If we spent even half as much time nourishing our spirits with faith as we do our bodies with food, all of us would be able to move mountains. God bless you all! - Pastor Dupre

The peace of the Lord be with you -Rev. Brian Dupre, Pastor, SOTC

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.



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL Online

Sunday school is back, and we are meeting in person on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. Our adult Sunday school will continue 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/83332323924525750?pwd=Rzdpd09PU05CWXZCU1NR0E14bll5dz09>

Meeting ID: 83332323924, **Passcode:** 525750



Lemon Icebox Cake

Ingredients:

2 3.4 oz packages lemon instant pudding mix

- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 tub, 16 oz whipped topping, thawed and divided.
- 1 16 oz box graham crackers
- graham cracker crumbles and/or fresh berries, for garnish (if desired)

Instructions:

- In a large bowl, whisk instant pudding mix and milk together for 2 minutes. Fold in 1/2 of the whipped topping.
- Cover the bottom of a 9 x 13 baking dish with a single layer of graham crackers. Add 1/2 the pudding mixture, spread into an even layer. Repeat with another layer of graham crackers and then the rest of the pudding. Top with a 3rd layer of graham crackers and then the remaining whipped topping.
- Cover and refrigerate overnight, or for at least 4 hours.
- Garnish with fresh berries and/or graham cracker crumbles, if desired. Slice and serve.

Prep time 15 min Chili Time 4-hour Total time 4-hour 15 min

HOLY HUMOR

LIFE ON AN ISLAND

Louie was shipwrecked and lived alone on a desert island for years until he was finally rescued. Before leaving the island, he gave the rescue party a tour. "I built myself a house. That's it there. Here's the barn, and over here is the church I worshipped in."

"What's that building over there?" one of the rescuers asked. Louie sneered. "That's the church I used to belong to."

GOOD FOR SOME, BAD FOR OTHERS

My sister's dog had been deaf and blind for years. When she started to suffer painful tumors, it was time to put her down. As I explained this to my seven-year-old son, he asked if Jazzy would go to heaven. I said I thought she would, and that in dog heaven, she would be healthy again and able to do her favorite thing: chase squirrels. Jacob thought about that for a minute, then said, "So dog heaven must be the same as squirrel hell."

GOOD MONEY

A preacher was asking for contributions to the church's program to buy food for the needy. The town gambler, who also owned the saloon and several other shady operations, offered the preacher \$500. "You can't take that," a scandalized deacon told the preacher. "That's the devil's money." "Well, brother," said the preacher, cheerfully accepting the gift, "in that case, the devil has had his hands on it long enough. Now let's see what the Lord will do with it."

ACCEPTING MONEY

The phone rings at the synagogue office.

"Hello, is this Rabbi Schwartz?" The caller asked.

"It is."

"This is the Internal Revenue Service. We wonder if you can help us."

"I'll try."

"Do you know Herman Cohen?"

"I do."

"Is this man a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate \$10,000?"

"He will."

ONE FOR EVERY ROOM

One Sunday our priest announced he was passing out miniature crosses made of palm leaves. "Put this cross in the room where your family argues most," he advised. "When you look at it, the cross will remind you that God is watching."

As I was leaving church, the woman in front of me walked up to the priest, shook his hand, and said, "I'll take five."

Bible Trivia Questions

Question: Who did Peter address his first letter to?

Answer The "elect resident aliens."

The Sanhedrin consisted of either twenty-three or seventy-one elders appointed to sit as a tribunal.

Question: At what age did Sarah, the wife of Abraham, die?

Answer 127

Sarah was 90 years old when she conceived and bore her son Isaac, and she died at the age of 127.

Question: When exactly did the Jews celebrate Passover?

Answer: 14th-day of the 1st month

Though things have changed a bit, the Jews still celebrate Passover to commemorate their exodus from slavery in Egypt.

Question How long did Enoch live?

Answer: 430 years

Enoch was ordained a priest by Adam at the age of 25, blessed at 65, and lived another 365 years before his demise.0

Question: What kind of spirit possessed the girl in Philippi?

Answer: Spirit of divination

Paul met the Philippi girl possessed by a spirit of divination and commanded the spirit to leave her in the name of Jesus. Acts.16:16-34

Your Best

If you always try your best
Then you'll never have to wonder
About what you could have done
If you'd summoned all your thunder.

And if your best
Was not as good.
As you hoped it would be,
You still could say,
"I gave today.
All that I had in me."

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Information as of August 18,2023, Actual Revenue \$32,853 Budget Revenue \$33,785 Under Budget (\$932.00)

****ONLINE GIVING & DONATIONS****

You can use a credit card, or saving account to make donations just go to our home page @ www.shadowofthecrosslc.org and click on donate in the upper right corner. Please write checks to church in black or blue ink. Do not make cross-outs on checks. These are not acceptable to the credit union. Have any questions, contact the office.

Shadow of the Cross is now live streaming the Church Services again please join us.

Free ESL Classes everyone welcome come often or when you can. Friendship

Social/Sewing Class Meets Thursdays 10am-12pm Hand Sewing and Basic Machine Sewing at Shadow of the Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church 20805 Middlebelt Rd, Farmington Hills, MI · (248) 474-0675

SOTC International Friendship Center Social activities and support services.

Weekly Thursdays 10AM -12NOON Support us by getting a Friendship Coin bottle from the narthex and return.

Tea with Friends Hosted by SOTC International Friendship Center Saturday

September 30,2023 2PM to 4PM Open House, Fellowship, Food, Art. Speaker will be Rev. Brian Dupre, Pastor at Shadow of the Cross Lutheran Church 20805 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills, MI. Reserve your space at the "Tea with Friends." See Roddy or Pat M. to reserve a space for yourself and the guest.

PRAISE CHOIR meets on the 1st and 2nd Tuesday, in September at 5:30 pm and all are welcome!!!

SOTC CHOIR will resume Tuesday 9/12/2023 7:00PM.

MEN 'S CHOIR will resume Sunday 09/17/2023 right after church.

The Food Pantry - Shop from summer pantry grocery list on the bulletin board.

Money donated during Coffee Hour is being used to buy kitchen supplies.

New Wi-Fi Access User ID: SOTC Guest; Password: sotclutheran

Concordia Lutheran School Annual Dinner/Auction Sunday October 29,2023, "March Forth Knights" Held 3:30pm at Hellenic Cultural Center, Westland, MI. Tickets sold in CLS Office 313-937-2233

Hello SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						10:00am Adult Sunday School ZOOM NOON properties cleanup.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Zoom.	Labor Day	Pastor 11:30am Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Choir		ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm All welcome		Women's league 9:00am coffee hour and 10:00am meeting 10:00am Sunday School Adults Zoom 11:15am Prayer Journey zoom Noon properties cleanup.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Zoom. Grandparents' Day	Bd of properties 6p meeting Elders 7pm meeting 6:00pm Trustee Meeting.	Pastor 11:30am Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Choir 7pm SOTC Choir	7pm. Finance meeting	ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm All welcome		10:00am Sunday School Adults Zoom Noon properties cleanup.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Zoom. Men Choir after church		Pastor 11:30am Bible Study 7pm SOTC Choir		7:00pm Leadership Mtg ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm All welcome		10:00am Sunday School Adults Zoom 11:15am Prayer Journey zoom. Noon properties cleanup. 1 st Day of Autumn
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Zoom.		Pastor 11:30am Bible Study 7pm SOTC Choir		10:30 Visually impaired BStudy ESL Program meets. 10am to 12:00pm All welcome	ESL Setup for Tea	10:00am Adult Sunday School ZOOM NOON properties cleanup. SOTC Intl Friendship Cntr Tea with Friends 2pm to 4pm