

THE CROSS CHRONICLES



**Readings for the week of November 5,2023**

**First Reading Rev.7: 9-17**

**Epistle –1 John 3: 1-3**

**Holy Gospel –Matt. 5: 1-12**

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

[SHADOWOFTHECROSSLC.ORG](https://www.shadowofthecrosslc.org)

**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 service.

**Prayer Journey:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

“Reasons to be Thankful, Part 3”

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his, we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”*

**Psalm 100 ESV**

*“Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!  
For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*

*Praise the Lord!”* **Psalm 117 ESV**

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!”*

**Psalm 118:1 ESV**

As we enter November, the month we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, we remember that God brought the pilgrim settlers through the harsh winter and provided them with harvest and bounty. It is a reminder of His great providence. And those settlers did thank God in prayer for that harvest and bounty. But there is more to thanksgiving than just thanking God for giving us our daily bread. Notice anything in common about the Scriptures above? They all speak to the greater reasons we owe God praise and thanksgiving. They all speak to the character of God and who He is. They all say give thanks to the Lord for He is good. That is a characteristic of God. It is who He is. He’s all that is good and right and pure and true and holy. In other words, He means you no harm, but wishes everything that is good and right and pure and true and holy for all of His people and even for those who do not know Him; and even for those who reject Him. This is His way of trying to draw the lost back to Him.

These same scriptures tell us that God loves us. He proved it by sacrificing His beloved Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ by death on a cross; crucified for the sins of the world. Jesus willingly laid down His life so that we would not have to face the Father’s righteous wrath. He did this out of a love, grace and mercy that we cannot understand so that we would not die but have everlasting life. He died so that we would live. Greater love has no one that he lay down his life for another. And if God loves us, and if He is

for us, who can be against us? You see, Whitney Houston was wrong; the greatest love of all is not learning to love yourself; it's learning of the love that God has for you and I.

These same Scriptures also tell us what kind of love God has for us. It is steadfast meaning It is immovable, certain, unchanging, established, dependable and unwavering. They tell us that His love and faithfulness endure forever—meaning they have no end; faithfulness—meaning devoted, loyal, true to one's word and promises. And that means that God will never leave us nor forsake us; we may turn our backs Him, but He will never turn His back on us. If we are going to give thanks to God, let us thank Him for being the loving, faithful, gracious, steadfast, merciful God that He has been, is, and always will be to His people. I think you will agree with me that these reasons to be thankful are far greater than the turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie that are sure to be a part of the holiday celebration. And yet, we thank God for those as well. Happy Thanksgiving! 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.



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, Lania 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/83332323924?pwd=Rzdpd09PU05CWxZCU1NROE14bl15dz09>

**Meeting ID:83332323924 Passcode: 525750**



## Easy Stuffed Peppers

### Ingredients

- 6 bell peppers
- 1/2 pound lean ground beef
- 1/2 pound Italian sausage
- 1 small onion diced
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 can small, diced tomatoes 14 1/2 ounces, with juice
- 1/2 cup white rice uncooked
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon [Italian seasoning](#)
- salt & pepper to taste
- 2 1/2 cups [marinara sauce](#) divided
- 1/2 cup mozzarella or cheddar cheese shredded, optional

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease a 9×13 baking dish.
2. Cut off the tops of the bell peppers, reserving them for the sauce. Remove and discard the seeds and membranes inside the peppers. Finely chop the tops and set aside for the sauce.
3. Bring a large pot of water to a boil and cook the peppers for 5 minutes. Alternatively, air fry the peppers at 400°F for 5 minutes. Remove and drain well if simmering.

4. Heat a large skillet, over medium-high heat. Add lean ground beef, Italian sausage, diced onion, and minced garlic. Brown over medium-high heat, breaking up with a spoon, until no pink remains. Drain any fat.
5. Add diced tomatoes with juice, rice, water, diced pepper tops, Worcestershire sauce, and Italian seasoning. Season with salt and pepper.
6. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce the heat to a low simmer, and cover. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes or until rice is tender, adding more water if needed. Remove from the heat and stir in ½ cup marinara sauce.
7. Place 1 ½ cups of marinara sauce in the bottom of the prepared pan. Add the peppers cut-side-up, and divide the rice mixture evenly over the peppers. Spoon the remaining marinara sauce over top.
8. Cover with foil and bake for 35 minutes.
9. Remove the foil and spoon the sauce from the bottom of the dish over the peppers. Top with cheese and bake uncovered for an additional 10 minutes or until cheese is melted and peppers are tender.

#### **Notes**

If you want firmer/tender-crisp peppers, skip the boiling step and bake as directed. Peppers can be pre-cooked by simmering, air frying, or baked for 15 minutes at 400°F.

Additional vegetables, such as diced zucchini or chopped mushrooms, can be added to the filling.

Stuffed peppers can be kept covered in the fridge for up to 3 days.

Reheat in the oven until heated through.

## Religious Jokes

### **A shepherd looks over at his flock of sheep in the pasture.**

The day is ending soon, and he has to herd the sheep into their pen for the night. The shepherd calls for his trusty sheepdog and asks it to get the job done.

"Right away, sir," says the sheepdog.

10 minutes later, and the shepherd glances out his window to see the sheep safely in their pen. The sheepdog bounds in through the door to report the completion of its task.

"Excellent work, did you get all of them?" asks the shepherd.

"Yes, all 40 of them."

The shepherd stares confusedly at the sheepdog. "Hang on, I thought I only had 37 sheep?"

The sheepdog replies, "Well yes, I rounded them up."

### **Jesus, Moses, and an old man go golfing.**

. The first one to tee off is Moses. He smashes the ball and it is heading right for the water hazard before the green. Moses raises his club, the water parts, and the ball makes it to the green. Jesus gets up to swing, cranks it out, and it is headed for the water hazard. Jesus closes his eyes and prays. The ball skips across the water and lands on the green two feet from the hole. The old man's turn comes and he drives the ball. The ball looks like it is going to drop directly into the water. A fish jumps from the water hazard swallowing the ball, as an eagle drops from the sky, grabbing the fish. As the eagle flies over the green, a bolt of lightning strikes the eagle, making it drop the fish. As the fish hits the green, it spits out the ball and the ball falls into the hole, making a hole in one. Jesus looks at Moses and says, "I really think I'm leaving Dad at home next time!"

## **A drunk staggers into a Catholic Church**

enters a confessional booth, sits down, but says nothing. The Priest coughs a few times to get his attention, but the drunk continues to sit there. Finally, the Priest pounds three times on the wall. The drunk mumbles, "Ain't no use knockin'! There's no paper on this side either!"

**One night a lady** came home from her weekly prayer meeting, found she was being robbed, and she shouted out, "Acts 2:38: 'Repent & be baptized & your sins will be forgiven.'" The robber quickly gave up & the lady rang the police. While handcuffing the criminal, a policeman said, "Gee mate, you gave up pretty easily. How come you gave up so quickly?" The robber said, "She said she had an axe and two 38's!"

**Three men are traveling on a ship**, when they are accosted by the Devil. The Devil proposes that if each man drops something into the sea and he cannot find it, he will be that man's slave. If the Devil does find it, however, he will eat that man up. The first man drops a pure, clear diamond, and immediately gets eaten. The second drops an expensive watch, trying to impress the Devil, and gets eaten. The third man fills a bottle with water and pours it into the sea yelling, "You think I'm a fool? Try finding that!"

## **Bible Trivia Questions**

**Q. Which book of the Bible mentioned Haman?**

**A.** Esther

Esther thwarted the evil plots of the villain, Haman, who had the intention to destroy the Jews.

**Q. What was engraved in the headband of high priests?**

**A.** Holiness to the Lord

The high priests wore the Tzitz, a rectangular plate of solid gold with the inscription 'Holiness to the Lord' engraved in Hebrew letters.

**Q What did Zacchaeus promise to give to the poor in reparation for his sins?**

**A.** Half of his wealth



After listening to Jesus preach, Zacchaeus turned a new leaf and decided to pay back what he had stolen from people.

**Q. In which part of the Bible is the perseverance of Job recorded?**

**A.** James 5:10-11

The story of Job stands as a lesson to Christians to put their trust in God even in hardship.

**Q. Who came to Jesus at night?**

**A.** Nicodemus

Nicodemus was a member of the Jewish ruling council and came to Jesus to inquire about the kingdom of God.





## **Embracing the Future with Hope**

In times of uncertainty and adversity, it is human nature to seek solace and assurance for the future. The Bible, a timeless source of wisdom and guidance, offers profound verses that inspire hope and remind us of the promising future that awaits. This essay will explore two such verses that vividly capture the essence of future and hope. Jeremiah 29:11 reads; "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 resonates with the reassuring voice of God, assuring His people of His divine plans and intentions. Amidst trials and tribulations, this verse reminds us that God is in control and has a purposeful design for each individual. It instills hope by unveiling the promise of a bright future, one filled with prosperity and protection. This verse encourages believers to trust in God's providence, knowing that His plans are ultimately for our well-being and fulfillment.

Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 presents a profound assurance that God works all things for the good of His beloved. This verse invites us to shift our perspective, recognizing that even amidst adversity, God's ultimate purpose is to bring about good in our lives. It offers hope by reminding us that our present circumstances do not define our future. Instead, they serve as opportunities for God's redemptive work to unfold, ultimately leading to a glorious and hopeful future. The Bible serves as an unfailing source of encouragement and hope for those navigating the uncertainties of life. Through verses like Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28, we are reminded that our future is secure in God's hands. These verses teach us to trust in His plans, which are filled with prosperity, protection, and purpose. No matter the trials we face, we can find solace in the knowledge that God is working all things together for our ultimate good. As we embrace the future with hope, let us cling to these timeless biblical truths, knowing that our faith in God will sustain us on our journey towards a promising tomorrow.

By Marllis Whitt

## **God Lives Under the Bed**

I envy Kevin. My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped to listen, "Are you there God?" he said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed..."

I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He was born thirty years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size (he's 6'2"), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a seven year old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Clause is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas, and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day and off to work at a workshop for the disabled. Home to walk our cocker spaniel, return to eat his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme is laundry, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied. He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05, eager for a day of simple work. He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores.

And Saturdays – oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my Dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and loudly speculate on the destination of each passenger inside. "That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!" Kevin shouts as he claps his hands.

His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights. And so goes his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. His life is simple. He will never know the entanglements of wealth or power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be. His

hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it.

He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax. He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure.

He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry, or sorry. He is always transparent, always sincere. And he trusts God.

Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God – to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an “educated” person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions. It is then that I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap. I am. My obligations, my fear, my pride, my circumstances – they all become disabilities when I do not trust them to God’s care.

Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark, and soaking up the goodness and love of God. And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I’ll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed. Kevin won’t be surprised at all!

Ruth Palmer

**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](mailto:sotclutheran.officemanager@gmail.com) or Dawn’s email [sotclutheran.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:sotclutheran.secretary@gmail.com)

Information for the Newsletter, please submit by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month’s publication. Thank you and Blessings!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Please do not remove any of the books from the pulpit shelf. Pastor uses them.**

**Financial** Information as of September 27,2023

Actual Revenue \$61620.82 Budget Revenue \$66147.50 under Budget **\$4526.68)**

**ONLINE GIVING & DONATIONS** You can use a credit card, or saving account to make donations just go to our home page @ [www.shadowofthecrosslc.org](http://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.

**The Board of Elders** invite guests to fill in the welcome cards on the back of the pews. Please place them in the plate during the collection of offerings. Thank You.

**SOTC International Friendship Center** Social activities meet weekly Thursdays 10AM -12NOON.



## **HAMS, BACON, SAUSAGES**

**SOTC will be hosting a fundraiser**, selling holiday treats for Thanksgivings. From the Dearborn Sausage Co, Hams, Bacon, Sliced Turkey Breast, Kielbasa, Skinless Franks, and Beef Franks. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex, with the cost of all items, please make your checks out to SOTC and turn in to the office or Linda Wilcoxson by November 12, 2023. Purchases can be pick up at SOTC Saturday, November 18, or Sunday November 19, 2023, after service. Again, thank you for your Support.

Fundraising Committee

Linda Wilcoxson, Sunday School

**SOTC Family:** We have great things going on in our Church kitchen; whenever you need cups, napkins, plates etc., they are in our kitchen for everyone to use, The Church does not have Kitchen Supplies in the budget, so we depend on donations. Ruth Palmer and the Women's League buy the supplies with your contributions. So, when you see a basket on the dessert table asking for donations or attending a meeting during the week and enjoying a warm cup of coffee, **Please THINK about the kitchen supplies basket and give monetary gift.**

Thank You, SOTC Women's League

### **SOTC COFFEE HOUR**

Some like their coffee black.

Some like it sweet.

Some like cream with flavor to make their day complete.

Some like their favorite treats.

Some need cups, stirrers, creamer, + sweeteners to enjoy their coffee.

Some need napkins to wipe their mouths and hands.

Some need a plate for their favorite treats.

Some need foil or carry-out containers to take extras home.

Now we know what we like and need, so **Please consider a free-will donation for coffee and other kitchen supplies**

**Hello SOTC,**

The "Gifts for All God's Children Holiday Gift Exchange" for 2023 is underway. This year Shadow of the Cross was blessed to sponsor 10 families, including 27 children.) Please contact Lainia Burk or Barbara Hatcher if you have any questions. If anyone would like to be a shopper, make a donation or volunteer to help assemble gifts, please refer to the website [www.giftsforallgodschildren.org](http://www.giftsforallgodschildren.org)

May God's Peace be with you all.

**Rummage Sale** Hosted by the Sunday School in November, 9, 10 and 11 Thursday & Friday 9am-4pm & Saturday, 9am-1pm. Drop off hours start Oct. 23 from 10:00am to 1:00pm please bring helper to unload your items. Last day drop Nov. 7, 2023

**November 5, 2023**, Mission and Ministry Fair after church,

**Sat., November 11 Craft & Vendor Show** at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154, 10am – 3pm, \$2 admission. There will be Local Crafters, Home Party Vendors, Youth Bake Sale, Lunch Available, Door Prizes and Treasure Map Prizes.

**Church Thanksgiving Potluck**\_Sat. Nov. 18, 1-5pm.

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023** – Women's Christmas Dinner time and cost will be announced later.

**DeLuca's Restaurant** – 27424 Warren Rd at Inkster Rd. Gift Exchange - \$15.00 limit optional.

**New Wi-Fi Access** User ID- **SOTC Guest**, Password- **sotclutheran**

**PRAISE CHOIR** Meet 1st and 2nd Tuesday in November at 5:30 pm. All are welcome!!!

**SOTC CHOIR** Tuesdays at 7pm. All are welcome!!!

**MEN'S CHOIR** Sunday right after church. All are welcome!!!

**The Food Pantry** Is almost **EMPTY!!!!** Please shop from our pantry grocery list on the bulletin board or see Dawn for the list.



# 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm All welcome		10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom .Noon properties cleanup. Women's League meeting 9:00am coffee 10:00am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Saints Day 9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Zoom. Daylight saving time ends (set clocks back one hour) Mission Fair after church	6:00pm Trustees Meeting. 7:00pm Elders' Meeting.	11:00 Pastor's BibleS w/Lunch 1:15 Unity meeting 5:30PM PRAISE CHOIR 7pm SOTC Choir Election day	7:00pm. Finance Meeting.	ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm Rummage sale 49am - 4pm Pie Meeting 6 oopm South campus	Veterans Day Rummage sale 9am -4pm	10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom 11:15am Prayer Journey zoom Noon properties cleanup. Veterans Day Rummage sale 9am 1pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Zoom.		11:00 Pastor's Bible Study w/Lunch 5:30Praise Choir 7pm SOTC Choir		ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm All welcome 7:00p Leadership Council meeting.	10:30 Visually Impaired BStudy	10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultZoom. Noon properties cleanup. Thanksgiving Potluck meal 1pm to 5pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School.		11:00 Pastor's Bible Study POSTPONE 7pm SOTC Choir	Thanksgiving Service 6:30pm	 HAPPY Thanksgiving		10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultZoom. 11:15am Prayer Journey zoom Noon properties cleanup.
26	27	28	29	30		3
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study		11:30 Pastor's Bible Study POSTPONE 7pm SOTC Choir		ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm All welcome		