

12/03/2023

Shadow of the Cross  
Lutheran Church

Rev. Brian C Dupre  
Pastor

## THE CROSS CHRONICLES



# DECEMBER

**Readings for the week of Dec.3,2023**

**First Reading** Isaiah 64:1-9

**Epistle** – 1 Cor. 1:3-9

**Holy Gospel** –Mark 11:1-10

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

[SHADOWOFTHECROSSLC.ORG](http://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,

## That Our Joy May Be Full”

*“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”*

-John 15:9-11ESV

Advent is here, and Christmas will be here soon as well. This time of year the hearts of Christians are filled with natural joy because we understand the great sacrifice God made for us by sending His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. We understand that being loved, blessed, highly favored and forgiven by God is better than any gift that can be purchased with the wealth of the world. We understand that as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Savior, and King, who brought salvation and eternal life to us all. If that doesn't bring joy to your heart, then you have no pulse.

But Jesus said, *“Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love... that your joy may be full”*. What does He mean by this? Merriam Webster defines ABIDE as... to remain stable or fixed in a state... to accept without objection... to endure without yielding. Therefore Jesus is telling us to remain in His love; to remain faithful to Him; to endure all things in His name. and He also tells us how to do this. He said, *“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love.”* By doing what Jesus has commanded us to do; love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves; and keep the laws He has written on our hearts; remain faithful to Him through all adversity, not being turned or swayed by false gods, doctrines, gospels or prophets; by doing these things, we will abide in His Love. We will remain in His love and our joy will be full.

Do you understand the impact of what Jesus is telling us here? First, He is telling us that the only way our joy can be full, complete, totally satisfying and comforting is through our faith in and love for Him. Earthly joy is and always will be fleeting at best. But true joy that comes to us through Jesus, in our faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, is eternal. It cannot diminish as long as we endure in faith; and that is what makes it full and complete. That is the natural joy that Christians have in their heart. Sadly, it is a joy that those who remain in unbelief will never know. That natural joy brings to all Christian the comfort that no matter what happens, whether we live or die, we're going to be just fine, because we are in God's loving and protective hands.

Second, Jesus said, *“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”* Here, Jesus is telling us that our faithfulness and willing obedience brings joy to Him and that He desires us to dwell in the fullness of joy with Him. He wants our joy to be full and complete and that is why He has given us the

pathway to such joy in this passage from St. John's Gospel. Our relationship with our Lord and Savior in our faith and love is the fullness of joy and Jesus desires us to remain in that relationship, that our joy may be full. Merry Christmas and 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 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=Rzdpd09PU05CWYZCU1NR0E14bll5dz09>

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



## Christmas Chicken

### Ingredients

- 1.5 kg / 3lb whole chicken
- ½ cup softened butter
- zest of 1 orange
- zest of 1 lemon
- 2 garlic cloves finely minced/crushed

- 1 tbsp sage finely chopped
- 2 tsp thyme leaves
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 oranges halved
- 1 onion quartered
- 2 garlic bulbs halved
- 10 sprigs fresh thyme
- 6 sage leaves

## **Instructions**

Place softened butter in a bowl then add the zest of an orange and a lemon, crushed garlic, finely chopped fresh sage and thyme leaves. Season with salt and pepper and mix well.

Allow the chicken to come to room temperature before cooking.

Gently loosen the skin over the breast and drumsticks with your fingers, taking care not to tear the skin.

Spoon the butter under the skin and gently spread over the meat until the butter has been distributed over the chicken.

In a roasting dish, add orange halves, quartered onion, halved garlic bulbs, thyme and sage.

1. Place the chicken on top then drizzle with olive oil and season generously with salt and pepper on both sides. Pour wine around the chicken then place in the oven.
2. Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F.
3. Allow the chicken to roast for 45-60 minutes, depending on size, until golden brown and cooked through.
4. Remove from the oven and allow to rest for at least 10 minutes before carving and serving.

## Religious Jokes

### OCCUPIED

My wife and I arrived late to a crowded religious convention where there was standing room only. We noticed some people get up to leave, and after they hadn't returned for several minutes, we took their seats. The woman next to us insisted that the chairs were taken. I assured her that we'd be glad to move if the people came back.

Moments later we sang a hymn, and at its conclusion the music director asked all of us to turn to our neighbors and say that we loved them. The woman at my side faced me and said, "I love you, but those seats are still taken."

### A BELL OF TIME

A friend of mine, a professional organist, was asked to play for a wedding. Unfamiliar with the church's organ, she went to the sanctuary to practice. Curious about a small keyboard that slid out from under the two regular keyboards, she tapped out a couple of bars of a children's song but heard nothing. Then she played a few more notes, but still no organ music.

Just then a man came running into the church, shouting, "Who's playing 'Three Blind Mice' on the church-steeple bells?"

She had been operating the carillon.

### FALLING INTO THE WATER

The Presbyterians were convening in Scotland. After a couple of days of sitting on hard pews, a group decided to stretch their legs in the countryside. Soon they approached a rickety old bridge over a river. They were so busy talking they missed the Keep Off the Bridge sign.

A villager saw them step onto the dangerous span and yelled for them to stop. "That's all right," one of the ministers responded. "We're here from the Presbyterian convention."

"I dinna care about that," came the reply. "But if ye go much farther, ye'll all be Baptists!"

## 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:** What is the longest name in the Bible and where can?

**Answer:** Mahershalalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:1, 3)

**God told Isaiah to name his son this whopping 18-letter, six syllable name—the longest name in the Bible.**

**Question:** What is the name of the man that lived the longest in the Bible?

**Answer:** Methuselah

**Methuselah, in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), patriarch whose life span as recorded in Genesis (5:27) was 969 years. Methuselah has survived in legend and tradition as the longest-lived human.**

**Question:** What name is only mentioned once in the Bible?

**Answer:** Abitub or Abitob

**The name Abitub or Abitob appears only once in the Hebrew Bible, in 1 Chronicles 8:11, where it is used for a character said to be the son of Shaharaim, in a section on the descendants of Benjamin.**

**Question:** What did the woman pour on Jesus' feet at the home of Simon the Leper?

**Answer:** Jar of expensive [perfume](#)

**Question:** How did Jesus leave Earth and go to Heaven?

**Answer:** He rose into the clouds.

**Acts 1 (Acts 1:1–9): Jesus tells the disciples to remain in Jerusalem and await the coming of the Holy Spirit; he is then taken up from the disciples in their sight, a cloud hides him from view, and two men in white appear to tell them that he will return "in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."**

## **THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL**

The greatest gift Given long ago Wasn't wrapped in paper or tied with a bow  
Gods only Son From heaven above Given to us Straight from His love Lest we forget  
Please hold on tight To the great truth Brought on that night His gift for love  
For all to receive The gift of salvation To those who believe

By Jennie Munson

The Future and Hope!

By Nathan Taylor Jr.

My hope for the future is to stop all the violence in the world. There have been so many mass shootings so far in our country and I want it STOP them! I have come up with a plan of action to help make our nation safer for all children. First the Leaders of our country need to step up and stop letting people with mental health issues purchase AR-15's or any weapon for that matter without a very good background check.

My next plan of action would be to make sure our schools are safe for all students and staff. Armed police at the front doors of all schools should always be there and if shooters or gangs try to break into a school police protection would already be there. My final course of action would be to Lean on God, Isaiah 60:18 says "No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but will call your walls salvation and your gates praise."

So we can all take our concerns and cares to the lord, he is against of any kind of hurt, harm or danger to his people. Another bible verse that helps me feel safe when going to school and that I meditate on is Psalms 72:14 "He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight". Prayer changes things and I trust in the Lord to keep me and all children safe everyday.

**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 November 15,2023. Actual Revenue \$88,934 Budget Revenue \$103,484 under Budget **\$(14,550)**

### **\*\*\*\*ONLINE GIVING & DONATIONS\*\*\*\***

Some of you may not be aware but SOTC has an easy and convenient way to make one time or recurring donations to the church on our website. You can use a credit card, checking 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. Its super easy! If you have 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.

**Chili Cook Off Saturday** December 2,2023 AT 3PM

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

**Advent Services:** Dec. 6, 13, & 20, noon. with soup & salad luncheon following.

**Christmas Eve Sunday** 9:45am and 6:00pm candlelight.

**New Years Eve: Sunday** 9:45am. No Service on Christmas Day or New Years Day. The peace of the Lord be with you -Rev. Brian Dupre, Pastor, SOTC

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023** – Women's Christmas Dinner time 5:30 pm and the cost is \$20.00.



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

**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 Laina 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.

**Andrea Ballantine plays in the second violin sections** for two orchestras and invites you to attend a concert!

**Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra:** Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at Royal Oak Middle School, showcasing holiday favorites. Tickets are \$20 (13+), \$15 student and seniors, and free for 12 and under. [www.royaloakorchestra.com](http://www.royaloakorchestra.com). Other concerts this season are March 15 and May 10.

**Redford Civic Symphony:** Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm at St. Paul's Presbyterian, 27475 5 Mile Rd, Livonia. All concerts are FREE admission, with goodwill donation requested. [www.redfordsymphony.org](http://www.redfordsymphony.org). Other concerts this season are March 10 and May 19. Concert locations change so please check the website.

**"Lessons and Carols" at St. John's Lutheran Church in Rochester** (1011 W. University Dr, Rochester) puts on a wonderful "Lessons and Carols" concert with a full orchestra and huge choir. The concerts are free, with goodwill donation. The concerts are on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and 4:30pm, but get there early for a good seat because it will fill up!

**Body and Soul** will start taking Blood Pressure on the last Sunday of the month beginning January 2024 strictly confidential. More information to follow.

**Body & Soul** is planning a Martin Luther King Breakfast, in January, headed by Roddy McClure. More information to follow.

**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

**PRAISE CHOIR** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, in December at 5:30pm.

**SOTC CHOIR:** Meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

**Tuesday Bible Study 11:00 am will start back Jan.10,2024.**

**The Food Pantry** Please shop for our pantry grocery list on the bulletin board or see Dawn for the list.

**BD. OF PROPERTIES** are in need of help with the work around the building. They meet on Mondays @ 6pm. Work night for Trustee 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Tuesday.



2023

day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						10:00am Altar Guild decorate church 10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom.Noon properties cleanup.noon
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Zoom	6:00pm Trustees Meeting. 7:00pm Elders' Meeting.	Pastor Bible Study 11:30 Postpone 5:30 pm Praise Choir 7pm SOTC Choir	<b>Advent service Noon-</b> w/soup & salad	ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm		9:30 Womens League 10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom 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.		Pastor Bible Study 11:30 Postpone 5:30 pm Praise Choir	<b>Advent service Noon w/soup &amp; salad</b> 7:00pm. Finance Meeting.	ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm		10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultZoom. Noon properties cleanup.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School.11:00am Bible Study Zoom.		Pastor Bible Study 11:30 Postpone 7pm SOTC Choir	Advent service <b>Noon</b> /w/soup & salad	ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm 7:00p Leadership Council meeting		10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultZoom. 11:15am Prayer Journey zoom
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:45am CHRISTMAS EVE & 6:00pm BYCandlelight . w/communion	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> No Service	Pastor Bible Study 11:30 Postpone 7pm SOTC Choir		ESL Program meet. 10am to 12:00pm 10:30 Visually Impaired BStudy		
31						
<b>New Year Eve</b> 9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School.11:00am						

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