

8/04/2024

Shadow of the Cross
Lutheran Church

Rev. Brian C Dupre
Pastor

THE CROSS CHRONICLES



Readings for the week of August 04,2024

First Reading Ex. 16:2-15

Epistle Eph. 4:1-16

Holy Gospel –John 6:22-35

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

SHADOWOFTHECROSSLC.ORG

Worship Service: Sunday 9:45 am **Holy Communion** every Sunday.

Prayer Journey: 2nd and 4th Saturdays 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm 1-425-436-6395 dial 341-364 #

Fellowship hour with refreshments will follow the service.

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

Tuesday Bible Study is 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 – Thurs, 9:45 am – 2:00 pm. Thank you.

Are There Levels of Heaven?

Recently in one of our Bible study sessions the question of whether there are levels of heaven and if so how many and what are they. Well the suggestion was put forth that there are 7 levels of heaven, but that is not scriptural. The idea of 7 levels of heaven comes from Jewish Rabbinic literature such as the Talmud which teaches that there are 7 distinct levels of heaven.

Level 1 is called **VDON** – the place where the sun resides. Level 2 is called **RIGIA** – the place where the sun shines, and the moon, stars, and planets are fixed. Level 3 is called **SHECHAGIM** - in which are the millstones to make the manna for the pious. Level 4 is called **ZEBHUL** - where resides upper Jerusalem along with the temple and the altar. It is also the place where Michael, the chief angel-prince, offers sacrifices. Level 5 is called the **MAON** - where the "angels of the ministry" are located. Level 6 is called the **MACHON** - which contains the treasuries of snow, hail and the chambers of noxious dews. It also houses the receptacles of water, the chamber of wind, and the cave of mist, whose doors are of fire. Level 7 is called **ARABOTH** - the place where justice, judgment and righteousness reside. It also contains the treasures of life, of peace and of blessing, the soul of the righteous, and the spirits and souls of those who are to be born in the future. It also stores the dew by which the dead are to be raised. (<https://www.biblestudy.org/question/seven-heavens.html>)

I remind you that this is according to Jewish tradition, not the Bible. However, the Bible suggests there are at least three levels of heaven. In *2 Corinthians 12:2* Paul refers to himself in the third person when he said, "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows." If there is a third heaven, there must be at least a first and second heaven. It has been suggested that the first heaven is the sky, the atmosphere we live in including the air we breathe and the stratosphere where the birds fly as evidenced by *Genesis 6:7* - So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." *James 5:8* says - Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

It has also been suggested that the second heaven is the celestial heaven referring to outer space, where the sun, moon and stars reside as evidenced by *Matthew 24:29* which says, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken".

It has been suggested that the third heaven is the dwelling place of God. While God does not reside in one particular area, there is a place where His presence dwells in a unique way. Although the exact location of the abode of God is not revealed in Scripture, it is spoken of as being above the first and second heavens. *1 Kings 8:27* says - "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built". We may not know the exact location of the dwelling place of God in the heavens but what we do know is that there is a designated place as evidenced by *Hebrews 8:1* which says - "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens."
(<https://biblical-christianity.com/the-3-levels-of-heaven>)

If we are interpreting these 3 levels correctly and if there are other levels of heaven, does it really matter? God has revealed to us already what He wants us to know. The "what

and where" don't matter because we will all find out someday.

God bless you all! – Pastor Dupre

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



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL Online

Sunday school is back, and we are meeting in person on Sundays at 10:00 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/83332323924?pwd=Rzdpd09PU05CWXZCU1NROEI4bll5dz09>

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



EASY HOMEMADE APPLE HAND PIES

Ingredients:

Pastry Dough:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/3 cup water, very cold (ice cold)

Apple Filling:

- 2 large apples
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar (+ more for topping, optional)
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 egg, beaten (for egg wash)

INSTRUCTIONS

Pastry Dough: Add flour, sugar, salt and butter into a food processor. Pulse on and off until flour mixture forms into small pieces of dough, approximately 1 minute.

- 1. Drizzle ice water into the mixture (ice water is the key). Close the lid and continue to pulse on and off for another 1 minute, until the dough turns into a breadcrumb consistency.**
- 2. Transfer dough (breadcrumbs consistency) on a work surface. Use your hands to squeeze all the pieces together until it forms into a dough. Shape it into a smooth disc. Wrap the disc in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour.**

Apple Filling:

- 1. Peel, core and cut the apples into 1/2-inch cubes. Place apples into a large bowl filled with water (to prevent browning).**
- 2. In a saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in apples, sugar, cinnamon, brown sugar, and salt. Cover and stir occasionally for 5 minutes or until apples are slightly softened. Stir in flour and continue to cook until apples are soft and tender (but not mushy), and the filling has thickened. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature.**

Assembling and Baking Apple Turnovers:

- 1. Preheat oven to 400 F.**
- 2. On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough to 1/8-inch thickness (or the thickness of a cardboard box). Cut out dough into 6-inch circles.**
- 3. Place 1/3 cup of apple filling at the centre of each circle. Fold over the dough, leaving a 1/2-inch overlap. Push down to seal the filling. Fold over the overlap and press down to seal the edge.**
- 4. Crimp the edges using your fingers or a fork (see photos above in post). Transfer turnovers onto a parchment-lined baking tray.**
- 5. Brush egg generously on the top surface and sprinkle some sugar on top (optional). Cut out three small ventilation holes on top of the turnover. Bake for 25-30 minutes, until the pastry is lightly browned.**

RELIGIOUS JOKES

After years of his wife's pleading, this rich good ole boy finally goes with her to her little local Church on Sunday morning. He was so moved by the preacher's sermon that on the way out he stopped to shake his hand. He said, "Reverend, that was the best @%&x sermon I ever did hear!" The Preacher replied, "Oh!! Why, thank you sir, but please, I'd appreciate it if you didn't use profanity in the Lord's house." The man said, "I'm sorry Reverend, but I can't help myself, it was such a @#&x good sermon!" The Reverend said, "Sir, PLEASE, I cannot have you behaving this way in Church!" The man said, "Okay Reverend, but I just wanted you to know that I thought it was so @%&x good, I put \$5000 in that there collection plate." And the Reverend said, "No @#&x?"

As a young man was an exceptional golfer. At the age of 25, however, he decided to become a priest, and joined a rather peculiar order. He took the usual vows of poverty, chastity, but his order also required that he quit golf and never play again. This was particularly difficult for him, but he agreed and was finally ordained a priest. One Sunday morning, the new priest woke up and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to say Mass for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, the priest headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church! At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not." Just then the priest hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. It WAS A 420-YARD HOLE IN ONE! St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who is he going to tell?"

A minister wound up the services one morning by saying, "next Sunday I am going to preach on the subject of liars. And in this connection, as a preparation for my discourse, I would like you all to read the seventeenth chapter of Mark." On the following Sunday, the preacher rose to begin, and said, "Now, then, all of

you who have done as I requested and read the seventeenth chapter of Mark, please raise your hands." Nearly every hand in the congregation went up. Then said the preacher, "You are the people I want to talk to. There is no seventeenth chapter of Mark."

Bible Trivia Questions

Q What city mentioned in the Book of Revelation is also the name of an American city?

A. Philadelphia.

Q. What four books tell about Jesus' life on Earth?

A Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Q. What catastrophe did Joseph predict by interpreting the Pharaoh's dream?

A. A severe, seven-year famine.

Q How did God make people spread out across the earth?

A. Confused their languages.

Q. Who was David's captain of his army?

A. Joab.

When Is That Golden Moment?

When the scale tells me I've not gained a pound
When my glasses or phone or keys have been found,
When the cop pulls me over but spares me the ticket
When my ice cream cone drips and I get to lick it,
When I read the obituaries and don't know a soul,
When the car just ahead of me pays for my toll,
When my pants can fit without sucking my gut in
When I'm on the dance floor and a man asks to cut in,
When it's time for a movie and I get to choose it,
When I cut out the coupon and remember to use it.

Everyone understands the worth
Of a big celebration: a marriage, a birth
But moments of joy, too many to mention
Brighten each day, when we just pay attention.

By Eileen Hession

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!

Using Technology in God's World

In today's world, technology intersects with our lives in numerous ways.

Reflecting on Isaiah 5:20-24, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

This verse highlights a common issue: technology's influence on our sense of ethics.

Social media can promote conformity to popular opinions, even when they contradict

ethical standards. As we move forward, it's important to reflect on how technology

shapes our values and behaviors, as we strive to maintain truthfulness and moral

principles. People often find ways to justify their wrongdoings or sins. When it comes to

doing the right thing, many times people make excuses for bad behavior and misdeeds,

fearing societal judgment for being different. This societal pressure stems from social

media which tends to be very biased.

In Psalms 8:5-6, "Man is a little lower than the angels, and we must do good works with our hands." In this verse, we are reminded of humanity's significance and responsibility.

In today's world, technology offers a powerful tool for spreading the

word of God. Rather than conforming to the widespread opinions and trends online, we

are called to use our digital platforms as tools to spread positivity and faith. By

harnessing the reach and connectivity of technology, we can disseminate the message of

Psalms, helping people see their value in God's plan and inspiring them to send

messages of love and truth.

Morgan Wesley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shadow of the Cross live streams the worship service. Please join us when you cannot attend in person.

Financial Information as June 30,2024. Actual Revenue \$ 265,805.00
Budget Revenue \$ \$277,584.00 under Budget \$ (\$11,779.00)

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

SOTC has an easy and convenient way to make a one-time or recurring donations to the church on our website, using a credit card or checking or savings account. Just go to our home page @ www.shadowofthecrosslc.org and click on donate in the upper right corner. It's super easy! If you have questions, contact the office.

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

THE LUTHERAN LAYMANS COUNCIL OF DETROIT 4TH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP UNITY PICNIC at St. John Lutheran Church 4950 Oakman Blvd, Detroit, August 10,2024,12 - 4 p.m. Come join us for food, fun, games & fellowship.

SOTC Church Picnic August 25,2024 after service on church grounds.

Prayer Journey: 2nd and 4th Saturdays 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm 1-425-436-6395 dial 341-364 # (not Zoom).

BodySoulSpirit Blood Pressure is taken the last Sunday of the month strictly confidential.

City of Farmington Hills Cultural Arts

In addition to Margo Dupre having two artworks on loan to the City of Farmington Hills for two years: 2024 -2025. Please visit the city hall main floor at Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake roads, anytime through 2024.

Goodfellow Dolls are here to be dressed. If you would like to make an outfit by sewing, knitting, or crocheting, see Flo Morris. Must be back by August 30. Motto "No child without a Christmas."

2024 Lutheran Adult Gathering registration is now open, for October 11-13, 2024, at the Grand Hotel 286 Grand Ave. Mackinac Island, MI 49757. Since 1981 this gathering brings together believer to this spectacular setting to be spiritually strengthened for service to Christ in this world. The theme for 2024 is "New Beginnings IN HIS PRESENCE", based on Revelation 21:5. Nationally renowned speakers will inspire and encourage us to connect with the next generation of believers with the hope-filled and unchanging message of the Gospel. The Grand Hotel beckons guests to a time where the old world meets new charm. Experience the tradition of Afternoon Tea in the Parlor, dress up for dinner, dance to the sounds of a live orchestra, and sit in a rocking chair on the world's longest porch. Registration is \$50.00 per person and includes ferry to the island. Register at <https://michigandistrict.org/Lutheran-adult-gathering-registration/>. Lodging reservations are made separately and include Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and dinner, Sunday breakfast, and tips. A limited number of rooms are available on Thursday and Sunday nights for those wishing to extend their stay.

Fall Rummage Sale, Women's League want you to start saving items for the October Sale. More info. to follow.

Cathleen Flinchum and Gloria Marchand are still collecting bottles and cans for audio upgrades for the church. We need your support.

PRAISE CHOIR: Meet on the 1st and 2nd Tuesday, in August at 5:30 pm! All are welcome!!!

SOTC CHOIR and MEN'S CHOIR on summer break returning back Sept. 8, 2024 SOTC meet Tuesday at 7:00 pm and Men's Sunday right after church.

Money Donated during coffee hour at the desert table is being using to buy kitchen supply.

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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						10:00am Sunday School Adults Zoom Noon properties cleanup.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study.	6:00pm Trustees Meeting. 7:00pm Elders' Meeting.	Pastor 11:00am Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Choir				10:00am Sunday School Adults Zoom 12 to 1pm Prayer Journey. Noon properties cleanup.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study		Pastor 11:00am Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Choir	7:00pm. Finance Meeting.	7:00p Leadership		10:00am Sunday School Adult Zoom. Noon properties cleanup.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School, 11:00am Bible Study		Pastor 11:00am Bible Study		10:30 Visually Impaired B Study		10:00am Sunday School Adult Zoom. 12 to 1pm Prayer Journey Noon properties cleanup.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:45am Worship communion & Church Picnic after service		Pastor 11:00am Bible Study				10:00am Sunday School Adult Zoom. Noon properties cleanup.