

THE CROSS CHRONICLES



Readings for the week of Dec.1,2024

First Reading Jer. 33:14-16

Epistle – 1Thess. 3:9-13

Holy Gospel –Luke 19:29-40

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

SHADOWOFTHECROSSLC.ORG

Worship service livestream:

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

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

Fellowship hours with refreshments will follow service.

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

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.

Be Joyful; Our Burdens are Light

Matthew 16:24-27 Then Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His father, and then He will repay each person according to what he has done."

It's December again, the month in which we celebrate Christmas; the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; the arrival of the Word made flesh into this world to dwell among us. What a great and glorious gift God the Father has given us in Jesus! We will celebrate this glorious gift every year, until He comes again to us in the flesh. But now that the King of Kings has arrived, the time for marveling at the miracle is done. My friends, we have work to do. Jesus tells us in the text that, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

It's easier said than done. Deny ourselves? In this world twisted by sin, where Christmas has come to mean, "Let's see how much stuff I can get for myself and my family", it's just not in our nature to deny ourselves. But it is in our nature to covet everything this world would offer us. And yet harder still, Jesus then tells us to pick up our cross and follow Him. To some people, this must sound crazy and unreasonable. You mean I've got to deny myself and carry my own burdens in order to follow Jesus?

Well, YES, you do! So do I. Let me explain: Jesus wants us to follow Him. But if we are going to follow Him, then we must let go of our desire to please ourselves because we cannot serve Christ and ourselves at the same time. Our focus is to be on others just as Jesus' focus was on others, rather than Himself.

Following Jesus doesn't just mean go where He goes, it also means to do what He does; to live God fearing, morally upright lives, showing brotherly love and concern and care for others. Following Jesus means letting go of care for self and trusting that all your needs will be met in Him. You see, when we are so focused on self, we neglect others and we stray from the path that Jesus made for us. And we lose life, because Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. That path is eternal life and the only pathway to God.

So even if our selfishness delivers all the worlds riches to us in this life, it will soon pass away and we will be left with nothing but eternal damnation and separation from God. The day when we learn to stop measuring whether it was a "Good Christmas" or not by the amount of things under the tree with our names on them, and start celebrating the fact that our names are written in the Lamb's book of life, then and only then do we absorb the real meaning of Christmas; and that makes every Christmas a "Great Christmas."

Yes, it is tough to deny the flesh, to suppress the earthly desires that come so naturally to us. But the promises of God of eternal life with Him in paradise through Christ Jesus, is more precious than everything the world has to give and worthy of every sacrifice. That fact alone should bring us joy. Especially at Christmas time, we should be glad to sacrifice everything for the One who sacrificed everything for us. Our burdens are light compared to what Jesus bore

on the cross for us. Merry Christmas and God's blessings for a happy, safe and prosperous new year. Amen! –Pastor Dupre

SOTC Zoom Account

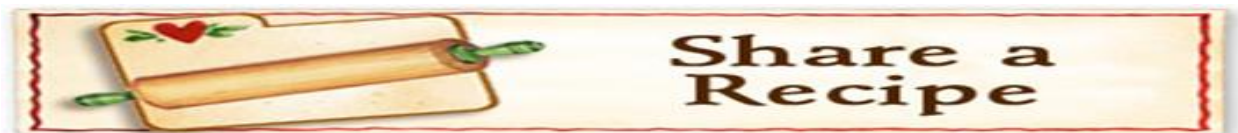
Any chairperson needing to use the Zoom account for their ministry, please contact the Church office. There is a sign-up sheet in the office to reserve your date and time.



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



Simple Christmas Cake

Ingredients

- 1 cup [unsalted butter](#) at room temperature
- 1 ½ cups [granulated sugar](#)
- 3 cups [all-purpose flour](#)
- 4 large [eggs](#) room temperature
- 1 cup [buttermilk](#) room temperature
- 2 teaspoons [baking powder](#)
- ¾ teaspoon [salt](#)
- 1 teaspoon [pure vanilla extract](#)

Frosting

- 8 ounces [cream cheese](#) softened
- ½ cup unsalted butter, softened 4 ounces
- 16 ounces [powdered sugar](#) about 4 cups
- 1 teaspoon [pure vanilla extract](#)
- Fresh cranberries and fresh rosemary, for garnish

Instructions

For the cake

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 3 (9-inch) round cake pans with non-stick cooking spray and line with parchment paper. Set it aside.
2. In a medium bowl, measure out flour, baking powder and salt. Whisk together. Set it aside.
3. In a large bowl, cream butter with an electric mixer until smooth. Add sugar and mix. Add eggs and mix until combined. Add half of the flour mixture and half of the buttermilk, plus the vanilla. Mix on medium low until combined. Repeat with remaining flour and buttermilk. Mix until combined, then continue mixing on medium low for 30 seconds. Divide batter between the three prepared pans. Bake on the middle rack of your oven for 22-27 minutes. At 22 minutes, test one of the cakes by inserting a toothpick. If it comes out clean, they are done. If not, continue to bake for 5 more minutes. Let cool completely.

Frosting the cake

Remove cakes from pans. Place one layer on cake plate. Add frosting. Add another layer. Frost. Add top layer. Frost top and sides of cake. Add a crown of rosemary on top and cranberries in the middle. Store cake, covered, at room temperature for one day and in the refrigerator for up to a week.

Religious Jokes

Jesus and Satan are having a competition on who can finish an essay first. 1, 2, 3, GO. Jesus starts and takes his time while Satan is typing up a storm. Satan is typing so fast that the power goes out and both computers are shut off. They start back up, and Jesus states that he is done with the essay. Riddled, Satan asks how he wrote that fast. Jesus turns to him and simply says, "Jesus saves."

Two nuns are doing their grocery shopping. As they pass the cooler full of beer, one nun says longingly to the other one, "A cold beer would go down great tonight!" "Indeed," the other nun replies, "but how can we show up with beer at the check-out counter?" "Don't worry, I have a plan," the other nun answers. "Grab a six-pack." The cashier is surprised when he sees the beer, but the one nun is ready with an explanation. "We use the beer to wash our hair" she says. "At the convent, we call it 'Catholic shampoo.'" Without hesitation the cashier bends down, grabs a package of pretzels, and throws it in one of the nuns' groceries bags, saying "The curlers are on the house."

One fine day, a priest, a rabbi, and a high priestess decide to all go fishing. They manage to get to the water, and off they go. One hour later, the high priestess says, "I think I forgot the food!" She steps off the boat, walks across the water, gets the picnic basket, and walks back! As they are eating, the priest thinks, "What a display. Jeez, where does she get off walkin' on the water?" Right then, the rabbi says, "Oye! I forgot the drinks." He steps right off the boat and walks across the water to get the drinks. By this time, the priest is very frustrated! He excuses himself, and as the priest steps out of the boat, he falls in the water. The high priestess turns to the rabbi and says, "You think we should have told him about the rocks?"

When Paddy's dog died, he took it to the local Catholic church. He asked the preacher if he could have a funeral service for his much-loved pet, but the preacher explained that they didn't do services like that for animals. Paddy asked who would and the preacher suggested that the Baptist church up the road would probably give the dog a funeral service. Paddy asked, "Preacher, do you think \$5,000 would be enough payment for the dog's funeral?" The preacher replied, "Dearest Paddy, why didn't you tell me that your dog was a Catholic?"

A church's bell ringer passed away. The church posted the job opening in the local newspaper's classified ads and a man came in with no arms wanting the job. The clergy weren't sure he could do it, but he convinced

them to let him try it. They climbed the bell tower and the guy ran toward the bell and hit it with his head, producing a beautiful melody. They gave him the job on the spot. The next day he went to ring the bell, tripped, bounced off the bell and fell to the sidewalk below. Two priests were walking past. One asked, "Do you know this guy?" The other responded, "No, but his face rings a bell." The next day, the dead man's twin brother came in for the again vacant bell ringer position. He also had no arms. The clergy led him up to the bell tower, where he ran at the bell, tripped and fell to the sidewalk below. The same two priests walked up. The first asked, "Do you know him?" The second responded, "No, but he's a dead ringer for his brother."

Two old timers were talking after church one day and the one asks the other, "So tell me brother, what did you think of the soul food this morning?" The other replies, "The food was excellent, but the service sucked!"

Bible Trivia Questions

Question: What was God's promise to never send a flood connected to?

Answer: A Rainbow.

Question: How were sins forgiven in the Old Testament?

Answer: Animal sacrifice.

Question: One title that God has is El Shaddai. What does it mean?

Answer: Almighty God.

Question: Which Apostle shared the Gospel with an Ethiopian official on the road to Gaza?

Answer: Philip...

Question: What did Joseph's brothers do after they put him in the pit?

Answer: Sold him as a slave.

Question: What was Moses' error at Kadesh?

Answer: He struck the rock.

Life Is

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.

Life is beauty, admire it.

Life is a dream, realize it.

Life is a challenge, meet it.

Life is a duty, complete it.

Life is a game, play it.

Life is a promise, fulfill it.

Life is sorrow, overcome it.

Life is a song, sing it.

Life is a struggle, accept it.

Life is a tragedy, confront it.

Life is an adventure, dare it.

Life is luck, make it.

Life is life, fight for it.

by Mother Teresa

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

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.

****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. If you have any questions, contact the office.

Financial Information as 10/31/24 YTD Revenues Received \$82,897.33 and Budgeted Expenses \$112,398.00.

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

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

Women's League December 3,2024 Tuesday Christmas Party at Deluca's Restaurant 27424 Warren Rd on corner of Warren & Inkster Westland Mi 48185 5:00 pm. Optional to bring a \$15.00 gift and exchange signup sheet in narthex on table cost \$20.00.

The Women's League is asking for donations of full-size blankets until December 8,2024. Working with Family of God to give to the homeless. Place in Playpen in Narthex.

."SAFE FOR ALL" LINE DANCE CLASS Taught by Sydney Rose Burwell, Semi-retired Registered Nurse (RN). The last line dance class for 2024 this year will be on Tuesday, November 19th, because of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year services. We will not return to the regular scheduled line dance until Tuesday, January 21st, 2025, 12:45pm to 1:45pm.

Pastor Bible Study 11:00 am Tuesday Bible Study postpone and will start back up Jan.14,2025.

SOTC Holiday Services 2024

Midweek Advent Service 1 – Wednesday December 4 –11am service and lunch follow, **Location Outer Drive Faith Lutheran Church**, 17500 James Couzens Fwy Detroit MI 48235-2642, (313) 341-4095

Midweek Advent Service 2 – Wednesday December 11 – 11am service and lunch follow, **Shadow of The Cross** 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills, 48336

Midweek Advent Service 3 – Wednesday December 18 – 11am service and lunch follow. **Location St. John Lutheran Church** 4950 **Oakman Blvd Detroit MI** 48204-2684. (313) 933-9360

Christmas Eve – Tuesday December 24 – 7:00 pm at SOTC

New Years Eve - Tuesday December 31 – 7:00 pm at SOTC

Church 2024 Election Results: To be installed in January 2025.

1 Congregation Secretary Linda Wilcoxson

5 Board of Elders George Barnes, Jim Kivimaki, Roderick McClure, Doug Eiben, John Rosseau

1 Board of Finance Sharon Martin

1 Board of Trustees/Properties Charles McCants

4 Parish Board of Education Ava Davis, Roderick McClure, Lainia Burk, Villada Brown

Andrea Ballantine plays in two orchestras and invites you to attend! Redford Civic Symphony concerts are FREE! Mark your calendars for concert on dates are Dec 15, Mar 9, May 18, and the outdoor concert on June 24 at St James Presbyterian Church, 25350 West Six Mile, www.redfordsymphony.org

Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra is the winner of the Detroit Music Award for Best Outstanding Community Orchestra in 2020 and 2022! All ROSO concerts are at

Royal Oak Middle School (Dondero Auditorium). Other concert dates are Dec 6, Mar 14, and May 9. www.royaloakorchestra.com

10:30 Visually Impaired BStudy has been changed to Saturday December 28, 2024.

City of Farmington Hills Cultural Arts: Margo Dupre has two artworks on loan to the City of Farmington Hills for two years: 2024 -2025. Please visit the city hall main floor on Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake anytime over the next two years.

BodySoulSpirit Blood Pressure is taken on the 4th Sunday of the month strictly confidential.

Body & Soul is planning a Martin Luther King Breakfast, on January 20, 2024, headed by Roddy and Dorothy McClure. More information to follow.

Cathleen Flinchum and Gloria Marchand are still collecting bottles and cans this time for audio upgrade for the church we need your support thanking in advance.

Please shop for our pantry grocery list on the bulletin board or see Dawn for the list. We are very in need of groceries.

PRAISE CHOIR 1st and 2nd Tuesday in December at 5:30 pm.

SOTC CHOIR Meet Tuesday 7:00 pm

MEN'S CHOIR Meet Sunday after church.

PBD. 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

Coming Soon Youth / Young Adult Center



2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible	6:00pm Trustees Meeting. 7:00pm Elders' Meeting.	Pastor Bible Study 11:00 Postpone 5:30 pm Praise Choir 7pm SOTC Choir	Advent service 11am-worship & lunch Outer Dr. Faith			10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom Noon properties cleanup.noon
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study		Pastor Bible Study 11:00Postpone 5:30 pm Praise Choir 7pm SOTC	Advent service 11am-worship & lunch SOTC 7:00pm. Finance Meeting.			9:30 Women's League 10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom 12 to 1pm Prayer Journey – Noon pbd cleanup.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School.11:00am Bible Study		Pastor Bible Study 11:00amPostpone 7pm SOTC Choir	Advent service 11am-worship & lunch St. John	7:00p Leadership Council meeting		10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultZoom. Noon properties cleanup.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:45am Worship p w/communion & Sunday School.11:00am Bible Study		11am- bible study postpone CHRISTMAS EVE 700pm worship w/communion BYCandlelight	CHRISTMAS No service			10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultZoom. 10:30 Visually Impaired BStudy 12 to 1pm Prayer Journey Noon properties cleanup.
29	30	31				
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School.11:00am Bible Study		Pastor bstudy 11:00ampostpone New Years Eve 7:00pm worship w/communion				