

THE CROSS CHRONICLES



First Reading 1Samuel 1:21-28

Epistle – Hebrews 2:14-18

Holy Gospel – Luke 2: 22-32

**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 – Friday, 9:45 am – 2:00 pm. Thank you. Tuesday Bible Study is at 11:30 am. You can also join us via Zoom, contact the office for the information.

Title: Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Matthew 18:15-18 – “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take two or three others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or as a tax collector. I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

So now I ask you a question; am I my brother's keeper? And what about you, are you your brother's keeper? Some people will tell you “NO”, we are definitely not our brother's keeper. They will tell us that our brothers are responsible for themselves. If they choose to sin, that's their decision. They will tell us that if they want forgiveness, let them pray that God will forgive them. They will tell us that our brothers do not need our forgiveness and that we are not responsible for their spiritual well being. This is the view the world would have us believe.

But I tell you my friends, this is clearly wrong thinking. Sin has distorted the world's view of the truth and prevents us from seeing things the way God intended. This is why we cannot rely on the world to provide the right answers.

There is a book of right answers, however, and it is called the Bible. It is the living Word of God and is 100% true and right. What does it have to say about whether we are our brother's keeper or not? In Genesis 4:9, after murdering his brother Abel, Cain asks God, “Am I my brother's keeper”. How does God respond? He responds with judgment and forgiveness. You see, God forgave Cain for murder; He didn't kill Cain and put a hedge of protection upon him so no one else would either. But in His judgment Cain would have to labor extra hard to make a living. He would be driven from God and family and be a wanderer and fugitive for the rest of his life. God's judgment was upon Cain for being a lousy brother keeper!

There's more! Scripture says that we in the ministry have an obligation to you; our brothers. That obligation is to preach the Gospel, administer sacraments, forgive sins, to reject teachings contrary to the Gospel and to exclude from the community of believers, the unrepentant and ungodly. Yes, I am my brother's keeper; and so are YOU! We share in the responsibility for one another. The text tells you specifically that you are to exhaust all measures to resolve the matter when someone sins against you. If the person will not repent of his sin, forgive him anyway, but treat him as one outside of the church of believers. You see, by remaining unrepentant, that person has excluded HIMSELF from the community of believers

By going through this process, you have demonstrated your love and concern for your brother's spiritual well being. You have fulfilled your Christian obligation as your brother's keeper. Christ will take it from there! This is what we have been instructed to do. It is as much your responsibility as it is mine to preserve the welfare of our brothers because Christ instructed us to love one another as He loves us; to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Remember; we are to love our neighbors as ourselves; And that means we are all our brother's keepers! AMEN!

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

YOUTH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR SHADOW OF THE CROSS FAMILY

The Youth Department is excited about starting a new adventure. We are going to start a Newsletter dedicated to the Youth in our church. This newsletter will highlight the things the Youth/children are interested in and what they are doing. The Youth will be in charge of the Newsletter and writing the articles. It will be edited by the members of the Parish Board. As always you are welcome to give us feedback and input.

We are excited about our New Youth room. It has books, games, a television and a new computer. We will have tutoring for all ages, Youth Bible study, Youth chat group.

The Youth Choir will be starting up in February. They will be singing on the 3rd Sunday. Any of the youth that would like to sing are encouraged to come out and join us.

We would like to welcome Megan Russell who was baptized on the Fifth Sunday, December 29, 2024.

The Youth are looking forward to the outings we have planned in the next few weeks: Bowling, Skating, family luncheon outing and Breakfast with the Pastor.

We look forward to seeing you.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Choose Love over hate, for it has the power to heal and unite.

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



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL Online

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, Lainia 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



5-ingredient lemon Eton mess

INGREDIENTS

- 900ml thickened cream is equal to 4.23 US customary cups
- 400g (1 1/4 cups) bought lemon curd
- 20 vanilla marshmallows, halved
- 5 (70g each) bought meringue nests
- 210g pkt shortbread fingers
- 1/2teaspoon [ground black pepper](#)
- 1large [lemon](#), halved

DIRECTIONS

Use electric beaters to beat the cream in a bowl until soft peaks form. Fold in 160g (1/2 cup) curd and three-quarters of the marshmallows. Crumble 4 meringues and half the biscuits over the cream mixture. Stir gently to combine.

Spoon one-third of the cream mixture into a 2L (8 cup) serving bowl. Drizzle over half of the remaining curd. Crumble over 2 of the remaining biscuits. Add half of the remaining cream then top with the remaining curd and 2 more crumbled biscuits.

Top with the remaining cream mixture. Crumble over the remaining meringue and biscuits. Scatter over the remaining marshmallows to serve.

PREP 25M COOK 10M SERVES 10

Religious Humor

ONLY A YEAR

A Fellow went to the doctor who told him that He had a bad illness and only a year to live. So, he decided to talk to his pastor. After the man explained his situation. He asked his Pastor if there was anything he could do. "What you should do is go out and buy a late '70 or early '80 model Dodge Pickup," said the Pastor. "Then go get married to the meanest, ugliest woman you can find, and buy yourselves an old house trailer in the panhandle of Oklahoma." The fellow asked, "Will this help me live longer?" "No." said the pastor." but it will make what time you do have seem like forever."

Squirrels

A small town had four churches Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic and Baptist

All four had a serious problem with squirrels in the church. Each church in its own fashion had a meeting to deal with the problem. The Presbyterians decided that it was predestined that squirrels be in the church and that they would just have to live with them. The Methodists decided they should deal with the squirrels lovingly in the style of

Charles Wesley. They humanely trapped them and released them in a park at the edge of town. Within 3 days, they were all back in church. The Catholics also humanely trapped them and attempted to teach them the "rhythm" method which of course did not work. The Baptists had the best solution. They voted the squirrels in as members. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

The 10 commandments

A Sunday school teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to her five-and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother" she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" One little boy shouted, "Thou shall not kill."

Bible Trivia Questions

1.Question: In Joseph's dream, how many stars bowed down to him -3,7,10,11 or 12?

Answer: 11 Gen 37:9

2. Question: Who was the mother or Ishmael?

Answer: Hagar (or Sarah's maid) (Gen 16:1,15-16)

3. Question: To what kind of animals did Rebekah offer water showing that she was the bride God had picked for Isaac?

Answer: Camels (Gen 24:20)

4. Question: What insect was the writer of Proverbs talking about when he said: "Consider her ways and be wise,"?

Answer: An ant (Prov 6:6)

5. Question: How many days was it dark during the plague of darkness over the land of Egypt in Exodus -1, 3,7,10, or 40?

Answer: 3 days (Ex 10:22)

6.Question: Paul says that he has symbolically fed us what?

Answer: **A.** Milk, **B.** Blood, **C.** Meat Body **D.** Fish

Correct A. Milk

7.Question: Paul **says that before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup, we must do what?**

Answer: **A.** Praise God, **B.** Examine ourselves, **C.** Say a prayer, **D.** Kneel down

Correct: B. Examine ourselves

The Plains of Peace

[Olivia Ward Bush-Banks](#) 1869 –1944

Again, my fancy takes its flight,
And soars away on thoughtful wing,
Again my soul thrills with delight,
And this the fancied theme, I sing,
From Earthly scenes awhile, I find release,
And dwell upon the restful Plains of Peace.

The Plains of Peace are passing fair,
Where naught disturbs and naught can harm,
I find no sorrow, woe or care,
These all are lost in perfect calm,
Bright are the joys, and pleasures never cease,
For those who dwell on the Plains of Peace.

No scorching sun or blighting storm,
No burning sand or desert drear,
No fell disease or wasting form,
To mar the glowing beauty here.
Decay and ruin ever must decrease,
Here on the fertile, healthful Plains of Peace.

What rare companionship I find,
What hours of social joy I spend,
What restfulness pervades my mind,
Communing with congenial friend.
True happiness seems ever to increase,
While dwelling here upon the Plains of Peace.

Ambitions too, are realized,
And that which I have sought on earth,
I find at last idealized,
My longings ripen into worth,
My fondest hopes no longer fear decease,
But bloom forth brightly on the Plains of Peace.

Tis by my fancy, yet 'tis true,
That somewhere having done with Earth,
We shall another course pursue,
According to our aim or worth,
Our souls from mortal things must find release,
And dwell immortal on the Plains of Peace.

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 Bless

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 12/31/24 YTD Actual Revenues Received \$137,686.00 and YTD Budgeted Expenses \$168,497.00 Under Budget \$30,811.00.

******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 and click on donate in the upper right corner. It's super easy! If you have questions, contact the office.

Congregation meeting after service February 16,2025.

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.

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

10:30 Visually Impaired BStudy has been changed to 4th Saturday.

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.

Margo Dupre: Hello church, I am excited and thankful to God that I have been invited along with my fellow Concordia Publishing House authors to participate as a speaker this coming year at the BEST Practices Ministry conference in Arizona during February 2025. My topic is " Christian Intentionality in a Chaotic World". This is a wonderful opportunity to come together with both church professionals and lay workers supporting their work in the ministry. It is a true gift as it is fully complimentary to all participants (meals, shuttling, speakers, snacks, activities, and registration).

I really hope to see you there at my session or at the CPH store. God bless you during this holiday season. If you're interested in attending, check out information below :<https://cclphoenix.org/bpm/>

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Thank You Shadow of the Cross Church from Demond Fernandez Channel 4 news on 1/14/2025 the International Sewing Center donated 56 pairs of prescriptions eyeglasses with cases. Channel 4 collected over 10,000 pairs of eyeglasses in one day. Praise God!

Mitten Tree Thank you to all that contributed. There were over 200 items taken to Wellspring this year.

The Woman of the Year chosen by the LWML is Ms. Charlestine Gooden. We will honor her at the 61st Annual Luncheon Tuesday, March 25,2025 11:00am at the Crystal Gardens Banquet Hall 16703 Fort St., Southgate, MI. Parking is available in front of and to the east of the building. Reservations are \$38.00 per person; seating is at tables of 10. The deadline is February 9,2025. Give payment to Dee Sexton or place it in her mailbox. Make checks out to SOTC Women's League.

"SAFE FOR ALL" LINE DANCE CLASS Taught by Sydney Rose Burwell, Semi-retired Registered Nurse (RN). The line dances on Tuesday 12:45pm to 1:45pm. It costs \$2.00.

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, 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 Mar 14, and May 9. www.royaloakorchestra.com

Kroger's Community Rewards Program. Each must enroll individually. Once you have enrolled, every time you use your Kroger card, a portion of the money is rebated to SOTC ever so often in the form of a check payable to SOTC.

We have been assigned the following NPO (Non-Profit Organization) number:

QA495

To enroll login to <http://www.kroger.com> and then search by either Shadow of the Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church or by our NPO QA495 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account requiring some basic information, a valid email address and a Kroger rewards card.

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: Meet 1st and 2nd Tuesday, at 5:30 pm! February all welcome!!!


SOTC CHOIR Meet Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

MEN'S CHOIR Meet Sunday after church.

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.

FEBRUARY

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						10:00am Adult Sunday School ZOOM Noon properties cleanup.
2	3	4	5	6	7	
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Ground Hog Day	Bd of properties 6p meeting Elders 7pm	Pastor Bible Study 11:00 Line dance 12:45 - 1:45 Unity meeting 5:30pm Praise Choir 7pm SOTC Choir				10:00am Adult Sunday School ZOOM Prayer Journey 12pm to 1pm Noon properties cleanup.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study		Pastor Bible Study 11:00 am Line dance 12:45-1:45 5:30pm Praise Choir 7pm SOTC Choir	7:00pm Finance meeting			10:00am Sunday School zoom Noon properties cleanup.
16	17	18	19	20	21	23
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Congregation meet	Presidents Day	Pastor Bible Study 11:00 am Line dance 12:45-1:45 7:00 pm SOTC Choir		7:00pm Leadership meeting		10:00am Sunday Adult 10:30 Visually Impaired BStudy 12pm to 1pm Prayer Journey Noon properties
24	25	26	27	28		
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Zoom		Pastor Bible Study 11:00 am Line dance 12:45-1:45 7pm SOTC Choir				