

THE CROSS CHRONICLES



Readings for the week of March 2, 2025

First Reading Deut. 34:1-12

Epistle. Heb. 3:1-6

Holy Gospel –Luke 9:28-36

**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.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8482337828?pwd=SDEweUIQTVVOcWtkY3ZjNytNRHVwUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 233 7828 Passcode: 333179

Fellowship hours with refreshments will follow service.

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.

Where There Are No Leaders, Be Thou A Leader

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

- Romans 12:9-13

This message is for the men in all congregations. It is not a new message, but it is one that bears repeating until we live it. Men, we are called by God to be leaders in the church. Those roles are not reserved for the pastors, elders and board of directors of the church. We are each called individually to be leaders in one way or another. Therefore, Where There Are No Leaders, Be Thou A Leader. We are all called to serve the Lord.

God has gifted each one of us with unique talents and we are to use these talents in service to Him as well as to one another. When we come together as a congregation, we find that there are many things that need to be done. If you are a painter, and painting needs to be done, lend the church your talent. If you are a teacher, there are always more teaching opportunities than teachers to fill them. Volunteer your time and talent. If you have a strong singing voice, then make a joyful noise!. We can always use good vocal leaders. If you are an artists, help us decorate our holy house. If you are a musician, share your talent. If nothing else, step up and volunteer. There are always things that need to be done. You see, every one of us has some special skill or talent that can be used to the glory of God in His church. Serve the Lord. Please stop waiting for someone else to do it.

Some of us may say that we are too young to be of any use. But David was just a young boy when he slew Goliath. Some of us may say that we are too old to be of any use. But Noah was 500+ years old when he built the ark. God's own Word has taken away all of our excuses. We can do incredible things when we believe in ourselves and trust in God and hold ourselves accountable for what we have done and what we have left undone. That being said, I challenge every man in this congregation including myself, from this day forward, serve the Lord and where there are no leaders, be thou a leader. God bless us 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.



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, 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/83332323924?pwd=Rzdpd09PU05CWZCU1NROEI4bll5dz09>

Meeting ID:83332323924 Passcode: 525750



Bourbon Chicken

Ingredients

- 1 ½ pounds skinless boneless chicken thighs, cut in 1-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch, divided
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- ¼ cup minced onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
- 1/3 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1/3 cup reduced sodium chicken broth
- 1/4 cup bourbon (or apple juice)
- 3 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 2 cups cooked rice
- 2 green onions, sliced

Directions

1. Gather Ingredients.
2. Toss chicken with 1 tablespoon cornstarch in a medium bowl.
3. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat; add chicken. Cook and stir until browned; transfer to a plate using a slotted spoon.
4. Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil in same skillet. Add onion, garlic, and ginger; cook and stir until softened and fragrant, for 1 to 3 minutes.
5. Stir the remaining 1 tablespoon cornstarch, soy sauce, broth, bourbon, brown sugar, vinegar, and crushed red pepper together in a small bowl.
6. Add sauce mixture to skillet; cook and stir until thickened and bubbly.
7. Serve over rice. Top with green onions.
8. Prep Time 15 mins Cook Time: 15 mins Total Time:30 mins Serving 4

Religious Jokes

I don't want to go to church today!

A mother went to wake her son for church one Sunday morning. When she knocked on his door, he said, "I'm not going!" "Why not?" asked his mother. "I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me. Two, I don't like them. His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why YOU WILL go to church. One, you're 47 years old. Two, you're the pastor!"

The \$100 and \$1

Two well-worn bills arrived at the Federal Reserve Bank to be retired – a \$100 and a \$1. As they traveled down the conveyor belt, they struck up a conversation. The hundreds reminisced about the interesting life he had, traveling all over the country. "I've been to the finest restaurants, Broadway shows, Las Vegas, and amusement parks," he said. "I even want on a Caribbean cruise once. Where have you been?" "Oh," said the one-dollar bill, "I've been to a Methodist church, an Episcopal church, a Baptist church, and a Lutheran church." "What's a church?" asked the hundred.

A four-year old's description of creation

In the beginning, which was close to the start, there wasn't anything except God, darkness and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord, thy God, is one," but I think He has to be much older than that. Anyway, God made the world and then He said, "Give me some light," and somebody gave it to Him. He split an atom and made Eve. Adam and Eve didn't wear any clothes, but they weren't embarrassed because God hadn't invented mirrors, yet. Adam and Eve sinned by eating one bad apple and they were driven out of the Garden of Eden. I'm not sure what God drove them in because He hadn't invented cars, either. Adam and Eve's son, Cain, hated his brother as long as he was Abel. After a while, all of the first people died, except Methuselah, who lived to be, like, a million years old.

Jonah and the whale

One day, a teacher was talking to her first-grade class about whales when a little girl had a question.

Little Girl: "Do whales swallow people?"

Teacher: "No, even though they are much bigger than a person, they have throat pleats that filter their food of krill and plankton.

Little Girl: "But Mrs. Thurston says Jonah was swallowed by a whale."

Teacher getting angry: "Blue whales cannot swallow people."

Little Girl: "Well, when I get to heaven I'll just ask Jonah if he was really swallowed by a whale."

Teacher, still red with anger: "What if Jonah went to hell?"

Girl: "Well, then you can ask him."

Bible Trivia Questions

Q: What last judge of Israel died after Saul made a temporary peace with David?

A: Samuel

Q: Name the two Old Testament people who appeared when Jesus was transfigured?

A: Elijah and Moses

Q: What problem did Bartimaeus have that Jesus fixed?

A: He was blind

Q: What amazing miracle happened with languages?

A: Everybody heard the sermon in their own language.

Q: Who was exiled to an island?

A: John

Q: Philip was instructed by an angel to go south from Jerusalem along a road that led to what other city?

A: Gaza

What Is Our Life

What is our Life? The play of passion.
Our mirth? The music of division:
Our mothers' wombs the tiring-houses be,
Where we are dressed for Life's short comedy.
The Earth the stage; Heaven the spectator is,
Who sits and views whosoe'er doth act amiss.
Are like drawn curtains when the play is done.
Thus playing post we to our latest rest,
And then we die in earnest, not in jest.

By Sir Walter Raleigh

Publisher's note: If you have information, prayer requests, 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.

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.

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.

On behalf of the finance team, I want to apologize for not getting the 2024 contribution statements out in a timely fashion. We are experiencing some personal issues that have prevented us from producing the 2024 statements, this is not an excuse just an explanation of the facts.

Until our bookkeeper returns to the office, we won't be able to produce the statement via QuickBooks. However, if you know the dollar amount of your 2024 contributions, we can produce a letter that includes the dollar amount that can be used when filing your 2024 tax return. If you have other questions, please contact Steve Rooker at 248-361-0162 or srooker@springlinex.com. Thank you for your understanding.

BodySoulSpirit are taking Blood Pressure on the 4th Sunday of the month strictly confidential after Church service.

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.

Lutheran Women in Mission Prayer Service 2025 Shadow of the Cross Lutheran Church 20805 Middlebelt RD. Farmington Hills, Mi. 48336 Corner of 8 Mile RD and Middlebelt Saturday March 8,2025 12:00pm -2:00 pm.

March 16,2025 we will celebrate our 6th anniversary at Shadow of The Cross. Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper will be our guest speaker.

Please plan to join other sisters in Christ for a retreat "Children of Light," on Saturday, March 22, at Christ Our Savior.

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, at 11 a.m. at the Crystal Gardens Banquet Hall (16703 Fort St. in Southgate). Parking is available in front of and to the east of the building.

The Unity Ministry is asking all members to resume their monthly gift-giving toward the SOTC Fundraiser. We are thankful for the many Spirit-filled gifts we have already received, as we continue to grow and share God's Word.

"SAFE FOR ALL" LINE DANCE CLASS Taught by Sydney Rose Burwell, Semi-retired Registered Nurse, will resume after Easter.

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

Pastor's Tuesday Bible Study is postponed until April 22.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, March 4 at 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

March 5, Ash Wednesday service, 6:30pm

Lenten Services: March 12, 19 and 26 and April 2 and 9; meal at 5 p.m. and the service begins at 6:30 p.m.

April 18 Maundy Thursday service 6:30 pm

April 19 – Good Friday service 6:30 pm

VOIC - Saturday, March 22, 10:30 a.m.

PRAISE CHOIR meets the 1st and 2nd Tuesday in March at 5:30 p.m.!

SOTC CHOIR rehearses on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

MEN'S CHOIR rehearses Sundays after church

THE FOOD PANTRY - please help us fill the box. Place your food donations in the room next to the stage in the gym.

Cathy Flinchum and Gloria Marchand are still collecting bottles and cans for the audio upgrade. We need your support - thank you in advance!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>March is.</p> <p>SOTC SIX Anniversary Month</p>						<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom</p> <p>. Noon properties cleanup.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:45am Worship w/ communion Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Bd of properties meeting /Trustee 6:00pm Elders 7pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pastor11:00am Bible Study postponed Praise Choir 5:30pm SOTC Choir 7pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ash Wednesday 6:30pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>World Day or Prayer</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom . Noon properties cleanup. 12 to 1pm Prayer Journey zoom Women Mission Prayer 12:00 -2:00pm</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:45am Worship communion Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Daylight saving time</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pastor11:00am Bible Study postponed Line dance 12:45-1:45 Praise Choir 5:30pm SOTC Choir 7pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Lent service 5:00 pm meal 6:30 pm service 7:00pm Finance meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom . Noon properties cleanup.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Celebration SOTC Anniversary</p>	<p>17</p> <p>ST Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pastor11:00am Bible Study postponed Line dance 12:45-1:45 SOTC Choir 7pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Lent service 5:00 pm meal 6:30 pm service</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm 7:00p Leadership Council meeting First Day of Spring</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom .VIOC BS 10:30am Noon properties cleanup. 12 to 1pm Prayer Journey zoom</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pastor11:00am Bible Study. postponed Women of the year luncheon 11:00am Line dance 12:45-1:45 SOTC Choir 7pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Lent service 5:00 pm meal 6:30 pm service</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom . Noon properties cleanup.</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:45am Worship Communion 11:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p>					

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

THE ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025,
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MORNING SERVICE

THE TOPIC FOR THE ESSAY COMPETITION WILL BE: "BEING A CHRISTIAN IN A CHAOTIC WORLD"

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESSAYS

COLLEGE GRADS 300 words or more with 2 Bible verses – AWARDS \$200-\$400 DOLLARS

Continuing college students 300 words or more with 2 bible verses – AWARDS - \$200-\$300

High School Grads – 250 words or more with 2 Bible verses – AWARDS \$100-\$200

High School Students – 150 words or more with 2 Bible verses – AWARDS - \$100-\$150

Elementary/Middle School Students – 100 words or more with 1 Bible verse - AWARDS \$25-\$50

Sponsors: Board of Parish Education

The MLK Prayer Breakfast was well represented by our Youth. Heaven Moore and Ellis Threadcraft, who both spoke at the prayer breakfast. Thank you for the great job.

Thank you From the Body and Soul Ministry

FROM THE CHOIR

The Youth Choir were back in action singing on the Third Sunday in addition to the Praise Choir. Please bring your youth out to sing with the Youth choir on the third Sunday of the month.

FROM THE PARISH BOARD:

LET US WELCOME OUR NEWEST ACOLYTE HEAVEN MOORE



SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER:

WHO DO YOU KNOW?

1. I lived for 900 years?.
2. My wife turned into a pillar of salt?
3. We brought Baby Jesus gifts?
4. I was the only female judge?
5. I was sold into slavery?

JUST FOR LAUGHS

How does Moses make his coffee?

HEBREWS IT

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas Eve

BIBLE VERSE FOR MARCH

I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for HE is right beside me. PSALM 16:8

RECEIPE CORNER:

Easy peanut butter cookies:

1 cup of peanut butter, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar, 1 egg - beaten, 1 teaspoon vanilla – oven 350

Mix all ingredients together, use a tablespoon, scoop up a little mixture, shape into a ball and place onto an ungreased cookie sheet. It should make approximately 18 cookies

Take a fork, lightly mash the ball down making a criss cross pattern on top of the ball. Bake for 15-20 minutes (depending on oven) let cool on sheet for about 5 minutes. Enjoy.

Our Little Free Pantry Helps Our Community

By Robin J. Ward

In the first months of the COVID pandemic, the Ballantine family set out to help those in need in our community by starting a Little Free Pantry and a Little Free Library here at Shadow of the Cross. Four years later, SOTC continues to host these little free boxes. “We are helping others so they can stretch their money for other necessities, and give praise to God,” commented Dawn Kivimaki.

Just what are these little free boxes? The Little Free Library program began in 2009 and boasts 200,000+ boxes in 128 countries. This program’s mission is “to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes.” The Little Free Pantry arrangement was started by a woman in Arkansas in 2016 as a spinoff of the Little Free Library program. The unofficial motto of these mini pantries is “Take what you need. Give what you can.” In 2020, it was estimated that there were more than 3000 mini pantries around the world.

The SOTC little free boxes – complete with real roof shingles – were constructed by the Ballantine family and installed on the east side of the building. This location allows for easy, safe car, bike or pedestrian access without blocking traffic or being in harm’s way. It also allows 24/7 availability, and no questions asked.

The items in the box are managed by a dedicated foursome: Margo Dupre, Dawn, Ruth Palmer and Carol Smolka. As Margo explained, this team gathers the donations, checks for any container damage and past expiration dates, wipes down the cans, packages and boxes and places them on the shelves in the room off the gym until it’s time to restock the pantry.

The pantry is checked and restocked almost every day by the team because it is used daily by people in our community. “I think it is nice to provide food for those less fortunate than me through our church,” said Ruth.

Almost all the donations to the Little Free Pantry are made by SOTC members, who bring in their donations almost every Sunday and sometimes during the week. Surprisingly, others in the community seldom contribute any food. And, as can be expected in a fallen world, there are occasionally inappropriate things left in the box, which the team promptly removes.

During the winter months, because the need is greater, the team has repurposed the Little Free Library box for food items. In fact, during the last month both boxes have been completely emptied several times. In other seasons, the box usually remains half full.

Speaking of winter, the team tries to put out food that won't freeze: Cold cereal boxes, hot cereal packets, dry soup mixes, powdered milk, cake mixes, packaged cookies, instant mashed potatoes, pancake mixes, stuffing mixes, etc.

It is important to remember that perishable items that can spoil from the heat or cold should be avoided, as should expired food, because we wouldn't want anyone getting ill. Additionally, easy-open packaging is preferred, like cans with pull-tabs, because not everyone has a can opener. But regular cans are still welcome.

As Carol noted, sometimes people eat the food right after taking it out of the pantry, so providing ready-to-eat items is beneficial. Such items can include granola bars, breakfast bars, protein bars, raisins and other dried fruits, fruit cups, Jell-O® cups, jerky, chips, crackers, pretzels – you get the idea.

Other recommended items for the other seasons and not already mentioned are:

Apple sauce

Canned meats

Canned chicken

Capri Sun®

Chicken broth

Canned fruit

Fruit juice

Jam

Lemonade mix

Microwave popcorn

Nut butters

Pudding cups

Shelf milk products

Soups

Suddenly Pasta® Salad

Canned tuna

(Interestingly, however, Farina cereal doesn't seem to be popular.)

Big “Thank-Yous” go out to the Ballantine family; Margo, Dawn, Ruth and Carol; and everyone who has donated items to or helped with our Little Free Pantry. “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat,” Matthew 25:35a.

