

4/06/2025

Shadow of the Cross
Lutheran Church

Rev. Brian C Dupre
Pastor

THE CROSS CHRONICLES



Readings for the week of April 6,2025

First Reading Isaiah. 43:16-21

Epistle –Phil. 3: 8-14

Holy Gospel –Luke 20: 9-20

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 #

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

Meeting ID: 848 233 7828 Passcode: 333179

Fellowship hour with refreshments will follow service.

Pastor Dupre's Sunday Bible study begins 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.

“Spiritual Heart Health”

When I was at the fitness center the other day, I noticed that it was unusually packed with people. Perched on my usual spot, the treadmill, I saw men and women of all ages exercising; moving, and sweating and absorbing as much water as they could. Every treadmill, elliptical, and recumbent bicycle was being used. There were a few very large men lifting the free weights and flexing in front of the mirrors. But the vast majority of the people there, including me, were working on the cardio-machines.

Many years ago, I was at GNC buying my omega-three fish oil pills. It took me a while to find the right ones because there was literally an entire wall dedicated to heart-healthy supplements. It's obvious that a large number of people, including me, are obsessed with living a heart-healthy lifestyle. But that's the physical heart; the one that pumps blood through our veins. What about the spiritual heart; the one that Holy Spirit seeks to change by grace through faith in Christ?

We hear all the time about this food or that, or this product or that, or this type of exercise or that, which are supposed to support and strengthen the muscle in our chest and produce a healthy physical heart. Unfortunately, we don't hear as much today, if any, about the need to engage in practices that produce a healthy spiritual heart. The world knows little, if anything, about the necessity for such “heart-healthy” behaviors like repentance and confession and forgiveness. But these things are essential to our spiritual heart health as exercise and proper diet are to our physical heart health.

You see, without repentance there is no acknowledging our sin, and therefore no contrition. Without repentance, our spiritual heart begins to die because it is infected with sin that it cannot get rid of. Without confession, there is no ownership of our guilt. We may feel the need to repent, knowing something is wrong in us, like the twinge of pain in the chest and arm at the onset of a heart attack, but we do nothing about it. Without confession, we acknowledge and ignore the signs of our spiritual death. And forgiveness; it's like the super-duper extra strength DHA omega three fatty acids for our spiritual hearts. Forgiveness goes into our spiritual heart and cleans out all the sludge and gunk that was keeping it from operating properly. Without forgiveness, our spiritual heart clogs to the point where the life sustaining blood, which is the love and Word of God in Christ Jesus, cannot move. The result is spiritual death.

As you move about through the rest of this year, certainly spend time cleaning and strengthening your physical heart with exercise, proper diet and vitamin supplements. But don't forget to cleanse and strengthen your spiritual heart as well with repentance, confession and forgiveness. Stay in the Word. Our spiritual heart health is just as important as our physical heart health. God bless you all!

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.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL Online

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83332323924525750?pwd=Rzdpd09PU05CWXZCU1NR0E14bll5dz09> Meeting ID: 83332323924, Passcode: 525750



Cheesy Chicken Alfredo Pasta Bake

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cubed
- salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 ½ cups chicken broth

- 2 ½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 (16 ounce) package penne pasta
- 2 cups grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions

Step

1. Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add chicken, salt, and pepper; cook and stir until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Add garlic; cook until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Add broth and heavy cream; stir in pasta and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until pasta is tender, about 15 minutes.
2. Set oven rack about 6 inches from the heat source and preheat the oven's broiler. Grease an 11x17-inch baking pan.
3. Pour 1/2 of the pasta mixture into the prepared pan. Sprinkle 1/2 the Parmesan cheese and 1/2 the mozzarella cheese over the pasta. Layer remaining pasta on top; finish with remaining Parmesan and mozzarella cheeses.
4. Broil in the preheated oven until cheese is golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes.

HOLY HUMOR

One day in Heaven, Jesus realized he hadn't seen his father Joseph in a few centuries (which in Heaven, of course, is not a very long time). He saw St. Peter, and asked, "Hey Pete, have you seen my father?"

Peter asked, "You mean God?"

"No, no," laughed Jesus. "I see God all the time. My earthly Dad, Joseph."

"Sure," said Peter. "He likes to sit under a tree in the Heavenly Park."

So, Jesus strolled down to the park, and from a distance, he saw an old man under a tree, carving a piece of wood. He approached the man from behind and said, "You're very handy with wood. Back on Earth, were you a carpenter?"

The old man said, "Why yes, I was an excellent carpenter."

Jesus asked, "And did you have any children?"

"Yes," replied the old man. "I had one son. But... I must admit, I wasn't exactly his father. You see, he wasn't conceived in the usual way. He was born by magic."

Excitedly, Jesus exclaimed, "Papa, it's me! Your son!"

The old man shouted "**PINOCCHIO!!!!**"

Two beggars are sitting on a park bench in Ireland. One is holding a cross and the other a Star of David. Both are holding hats to collect contributions. People walk by, lift their noses at the man with the Star of David and drop money into the hat of the man with the cross. Soon the hat of the man with the cross is filled and the hat of the man with the Star of David is empty.

A priest watches for a while and then approaches the men. He says to the man with the Star of David "Don't you realize that this is a Catholic country?"

You'll never get any contributions holding a Star of David"

The man turns to the one with the cross and says, "Moishe, can you imagine, this goy is trying to tell us how to run our business?"

Two priests die at the same time and meet St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says, "I'd like to get you guys in now but our computers are down. You'll have to go back to Earth for about a week, but you can't go back as humans. What'll it be?"

The first priest says, "I've always wanted to be an eagle, soaring above the Rocky Mountains."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and off flies the first priest.

The second priest mulls this over for a moment and asks, "Will you be keeping track of us, St. Peter?"

"No, I told you the computer is down. There's no way we can keep track of what you are doing. This week's a freebie."

"In that case," says the second priest, "I've always wanted to be a stud."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and the second priest disappears.

A week goes by, the computer is fixed and the Lord tells St. Peter to recall the two priests.

"Will you have trouble locating them?" He asks.

"The first one should be easy," says St. Peter. "He's somewhere over the Rocky Mountains, flying with the eagles. But the second one could prove to be more difficult."

"Why?" asks the Lord.

"Because he's on a snow tire somewhere in Alaska."

A preacher visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. "Mind if I have a few?" he asks.

"No, not at all!" the woman replied.

They chat for an hour and as the preacher stands to leave, he realizes that instead of eating just a few peanuts, he emptied most of the bowl. "I'm terribly sorry for eating all your peanuts, I really just meant to eat a few."

"Oh, that's all right," the woman says. "Ever since I lost my teeth all I can do is suck the chocolate off them."

Bible Trivia Questions

1.Question: Who was the last king Daniel served under in the Bible?

Answer King Nebuchadnezzar's.

2.Question: Who let the Israelites return to their homeland?

Answer Cyrus.

3. Question: Who helped pay the bills for Jesus and the disciples' ministry?

Answer: Several women whom Jesus had healed.

4.Question: Name the demon Jesus cast out in the region of the Gerasenes.

Answer: Legion.

5. Question: How many people saw Jesus after he came back from the dead?

Answer: More than 500.

A Psalm of Life

'Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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.

Financial Information as 02/28/25 YTD Actual Revenues Received \$229,867.00 and YTD Budgeted Expenses \$227,800.00 over Budget \$2,067.00

******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.

BodySoulSpirit are taking Blood Pressure on the fourth 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.

Sewing Circle meet every Thursday 10:00am to 12:00pm please come join us. Contact MaryAnn Otsuji.

VIOC meeting on the 4th Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 1p.m.

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

Lent Services April 2 and 9; meals at 5 p.m.; services begin at 6:30 p.m.

April 17 - Maundy Thursday service, 6:30 p.m.

April 18 – Good Friday service, 6:30 p.m.

April 20,2025 Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am second service 9:45 am both with communion.

Andrea Ballantine plays in two orchestras and invites you to attend! Redford Civic Symphony concerts are FREE! Mark your calendars at 3:00 pm St James Presbyterian Church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford Other concert dates are May 18, and the outdoor concert on June 24. www.redfordsymphony.org

Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra is the winner of the Detroit Music Award for Best Outstanding Community Orchestra in 2020 and 2022! Students/seniors, free for 12 and under. All ROSO concerts are at Royal Oak Middle School (Dondero Auditorium). The concert date is May 9. www.royaloakorchestra.com

PRAISE CHOIR Meet 2nd & 3rd Tuesday, at 5:30 pm & **SOTC CHOIR** Meet at 7:00

MEN'S CHOIR Meet Sunday after church.

PLEASE SHOP for our food pantry. The grocery list is on the bulletin board, or see Dawn.

BD. OF PROPERTIES in need of help with the work around the building.

Cathleen Flinchum and Gloria Marchand are still collecting bottles and cans for an audio upgrade. We need your support.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Pastor Bible Stdy 11.am. postponed. 7pm SOTC Choir April fool's Day	<i>Lent service</i> 5:00 pm meal 6:30 pm service	Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm		10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom .Noon properties cleanup.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45am Worship w/communion & Bible Study 11:00am Sunday School	Bd of properties 6p meeting Elders 7pm meeting6:00pm Trustee Meeting.	Pastor Bible Stdy 11: am postponed. 1:15 Unity meeting 5:30 pm Praise Choir 7pm SOTC Choir	<i>Lent service</i> 5:00 pm meal 6:30 pm service 7:00pm. Finance Meeting.	Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm		Women League Meeting 9:00am 10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultsZoom 12 to 1pm Prayer Journey Noon properties cleanup.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday 9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday Bible School.11:00 am.		Pastor11:00am Bible Study postponed. 5 :30 pm Praise 7pm SOTC Choir		Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm SOTC	Good Friday 6:30pm SOTC	10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultZoom. Noon properties cleanup.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter 7:00am Sunrise service 9:45am Worship both w/communion		Pastor11:00am Bible Study. 7pm SOTC Choir Eartha Day		Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm		10:00am Sunday SchoolAdultZoom. 10:30am- 1pm: Visually impaired BStudy 12 to1pm Prayer Journey Noon properties cleanup.
27	28	29	30			
9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Blood pressure check		Pastor11:00am Bible Study 7pm SOTC Choir				

An Opportunity for Encouragement We All Need

By Robin J. Ward

Professional and lay church workers - YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

This is the motto of the Best Practices Ministry conference that Margo Dupre attended in Phoenix, Arizona, back in February. Margo recently shared her experiences at this inspirational event with Shadow of the Cross members on March 23.

“This experience provided exactly what I believe God wants us as believers to receive from one another, as taught in I Thessalonians 5:11* and Hebrews 10:24-25**. There was an intentional effort on behalf of everyone there to give and receive encouragement and inspiration so that we can continue to love and do ‘good works’ as a means to glorify God,” said Margo.

An organized effort to provide such encouragement began 11 years ago by Christ Lutheran Church in Phoenix using a conference-style format that they titled “Best Practices for Ministry.” As proclaimed on their website, the purpose of this conference is to “remind professional and lay church workers that they are loved, they are not alone, and they matter.” Since its inception, the conference has been presented free of charge to all attendees. Participants are greeted with warm hospitality and derive encouragement from great speakers, practical workshops and inspiring fellowship opportunities.

As Margo made clear during her presentation, this conference is for ALL of God’s people, and in her words, those who should attend include:

- Anyone who loves God, follows the teachings of Jesus Christ and seeks to please Him
- Anyone (volunteer, ordained servant, professional church worker, or lay person) who seeks to be re-energized in whatever service you participate as a Christian
- Anyone who is seeking new ideas or exploring new directions for personal or congregational needs.

“It is edification for everyone (all who believe!), she stated. “To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,” (Ephesians 4:11-12).

How is this encouragement accomplished during the conference? Margo answered that:

- You are immersed into the global body of the church (ethnicities, races, and continental boundaries) like a sort of baptism.

- You participate in Christian servanthood through giving and receiving instruction, as well as exchanging guidance and support on showing the love of God to the world.
- You are re-energized, enlightened, and fulfilled from having experienced the intentionality of bringing God’s people together from around the world.
- You learn about many types of ministries that can be introduced to your church as new opportunities to engage members and reach outside of the walls of the church.

Doesn’t this sound like a wonderful event? Margo related another wonderful aspect when she reiterated often that this conference is a true gift - it is fully complimentary to all participants. Conference attendees receive breakfast, lunch and dinner and all-day snacks (fresh fruit, muffins, ice cream, cookies, popcorn, cotton candy, etc.); hotel shuttling from three properties; free airport shuttles; 300+ speakers presenting topics related to supporting God’s people; and activities catering to a variety of interests. Participants need only pay for their transportation to the conference city and their hotel lodging.

The most exciting portion of Margo’s presentation was when she announced that a Best Practices in Ministry conference is being held in Frankenmuth this summer!

Hosted by St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, the event will occur August 10 - 12. As the invitation on their website says, “Each of us may serve the Lord in different ways, according to the gifts and callings He has given us. However, we all share a common need: to be encouraged by the Lord and by one another in our various callings. Join us for a time of **ENCOURAGEMENT** at Best Practices for Ministry—Heartland! We are excited for you to attend along with an estimated 400 conference attendees! Come prepared for time in worship, learning and sharing centered around our theme *“Encouragement in Our Callings.”* For more information on the conference, visit this website: <https://stlorenz.churchcenter.com/pages/bpmh>.

Registration for this event is open now. To register by June 30, visit this website: <https://stlorenz.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2791121>. Anyone wishing to serve as a breakout session leader, the deadline to register for that role is May 30. Exhibitor registration is due June 30.

For anyone interested in attending the 2026 Phoenix conference, which is scheduled for February 12 - 14, here is the link to that event: <https://cclphoenix.org/bpm>.

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** I Thessalonians 5:11: “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”*

***Hebrews 10:24-25: “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*