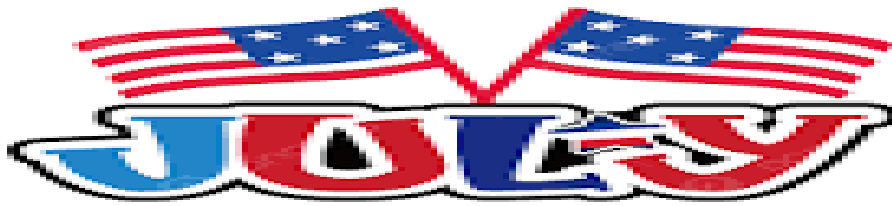


7/05/2026

Shadow of the Cross
Lutheran Church

Rev. Brian C Dupre
Pastor

THE CROSS CHRONICLES



Readings for the week of July 5, 2026

First Reading Zech. 9:9-12

Epistle –Rom.7:14-25a

Holy Gospel –Matt. 11:25-30

**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 begins at 11:00 am.

Pastor Dupre's Tuesday 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 Wed Thurs. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. And Tues. 9:00am – 12:00 pm Thank you.

“Walking Away from Jesus”

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”
– John 6:60-61, 66-69 ESV

The truth is always hard to hear, especially when we know we’ve done something wrong, or it goes against what we have chosen to believe. Jesus had been teaching His disciples scriptural truths that these Jews found hard to accept. He told them how Moses had given their fathers bread from heaven, referring to manna that God gave to the Israelites in the wilderness. Jesus also said that His Father gave these Jews the true bread from heaven. Jesus then said “I am the bread of life; I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and this bread that I give is my flesh. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day”

That truth had to be hard to hear, believe and understand. But instead of asking Jesus for clarification, for deeper explanation; instead of trusting that the words Jesus said were true, even if they didn’t understand them, they grumbled among themselves; they leaned on their own understanding and reason; they doubted and finally they turned back and walked away from Jesus.

The problem these Jews struggled with is the same problem we struggle with today; a problem that prevents us from fully trusting the Word of God; a problem that has some of us walking away from Jesus like these disciples. The problem is that we hold ourselves in such high esteem that we believe if we cannot understand something or are unable to explain it scientifically; it cannot and must not be true. And if it doesn’t make sense to us, it’s not even worth listening to. After all, we are intelligent, reasonable, rational people, aren’t we?

Maybe in our own eyes, but not in God’s. Consider Psalm 110:10, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.”* Consider 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, *“For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”* Consider Proverbs 3:5-7, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.”*

All of these scriptural verses warn against the very problem the disciples and we alike struggle with; leaning on our own understanding and not trusting in the Lord with all our heart. But as Peter wisely said, walking away from Jesus is the most stupid thing a person can do in this life. Truly, where are you going to go and who are you going to follow if not Jesus? What other path is there to salvation and eternal life? The message here is that God's Word doesn't rely on whether we understand it or believe to be true. It is true and infallible whether we believe it or not. And not because I say so; but because God does.

God bless you all! -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 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=Rzdpd09PU05CWYZCU1NROEI4bll5dz09>

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



Bourbon Chicken

Ingredients

- 1 pound chicken breasts or thighs
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1/3 cup bourbon
- 1/3 cup soy sauce

- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
- 4 garlic cloves minced
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 3 green onions chopped thinly for garnish

Instructions

1. Mix the soy sauce, stock, bourbon, brown sugar and spices in a bowl then set aside.
2. Cut the chicken into half inch thick strips then cut into 1-2 inch pieces. Place in a bowl and toss with cornstarch so the pieces are coated.
3. Add oil to a large skillet over medium-high heat. When hot add the chicken in two batches. Cook on one side for about 3 minutes then flip. Do not move around, let it get nice and crispy.
4. Transfer chicken to a plate and add about two tablespoons of oil to your pan add garlic and cook while moving constantly until fragrant. less than a minute.
5. Pour in the sauce and use a wooden spoon to mix and deglaze the pan. Bring to a boil and cook for a minute then add the chicken back in and reduce to a simmer. Move the chicken to coat and cook until reduced by about half.
6. Garnish with sliced green onions and serve with rice.

- **Prep 10 mins Cook: 10 mins Total: 20 mins Servings 4**

Holy Humor

A newly ordained pastor, in the first days of his first call, was attempting to console the widow of an eccentric man who had just died. Standing before the open casket, the nervous young pastor said, "I realize this must be a very hard blow for you, Mrs. Svenson. Just try to remember that what we see before us is only the husk, the shell of your dear husband—the nut has gone to heaven.

At our prayer meeting I asked my pastor to pray for my hearing. He placed his hands on my ears and prayed. Afterwards, he asked if my hearing was better. I said I wouldn't know until Monday when I appear before the judge at the courthouse.

A man stranded on an island for 5 years was finally rescued one day. The man rescuing him noticed he had built 3 huts. He asked him what they were for. The man said, "One was my house, and one was my church." The rescuer said, "Okay, that makes sense, but what about the 3rd hut?" The man replied, "That was the church I used to go to before I changed denominations."

A man was interested in a girl and asked for her Facebook profile from a friend. After the man received it, he said, "Never mind. She's got a man." The friend said, "No she doesn't," so the man asked, "Then who's Roman 12:12?"

A man was working outside and got bit by some ants. He screamed, "Ow! Why did God even create ants?!" His little boy was out in the yard with him too and said, "Dad, that's a really mean thing to say. Of course, God had to create ants!" When the dad asked why, the boy calmly replied, "Because without ants, the uncles would have no wives."

One time I got depressed and asked my pastor for advice. He said, "Cheer up, at least you're not like Jeremiah trapped in a hole in the ground filled with water." I said, "Trapped in a hole in the ground filled with water?" I know he meant *well.*

There was this little boy who was scared of the dark. One evening his mother asked him to go out onto the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy said, "Mama, please don't make me go out there. It's dark and you know I'm scared of the dark." His mother smiled at him and said reassuringly, "There's no need to be afraid of the dark. Jesus is out there and he'll look after you and protect you." The little boy seemed unsure and said, "Are you sure Jesus is out there?" The mother said, "Yes, I'm sure. Jesus is everywhere and is always there and ready to help when you're in need." The boy thought for a moment, then went to the back door and opened it a tiny amount. He looked out into the darkness and called out, "Jesus – if you're out there, please pass me the broom."

Two guys are walking through a game park & they come across a lion that has not eaten for days. The lion starts chasing the two men. They run as fast as they can and the one guy starts getting tired and decides to say a prayer, "Please turn this lion into a Christian, Lord." He looks to see if the lion is still chasing and he sees the lion on its knees. Happy to see his prayer answered, he turns around and heads towards the lion. As he comes closer to the lion, he hears the lion saying a prayer: "Thank you Lord for the food I am about to receive."

BEST BIBLE TRIVIA

Q. On which day did God create the sun, moon, and stars?

A. 4

Q. In Romans 15:13, God is called the God of

A. Hope

Q. What is the name of the tree that Adam and Eve were not allowed to eat from?

A. Tree of knowledge (of good and evil)

Q. True or False: To look forward to something God has promised is Majesty

A. False – Hope means to look forward to something God has promised

Q. What is death the payment for?

A. Sin

Q. Who said, "I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

A. Adam

Q. How many books in the Bible are named after women?

A. 2 – Ruth and Esther

FAITH

F

Focus – Keep your eyes on your visions and goals.

A

Action – Move forward with determination and effort.

I

Integrity – Stay true to your values and principles.

T

Trust – Believe in yourself and the process.

H

Hope – Keep a positive mindset for the future.



God Is the GHOAT: The Greatest of All Time

By Nicholas Taylor

Throughout history, people have looked up to heroes, athletes, and leaders who have accomplished amazing things. Many people call these individuals the GOAT, or the Greatest of All Time. As a Christian, I believe there is only one being who truly deserves that title. God is the GHOAT, the Greatest Holy One of All Time. God is the creator of everything. He made the earth, the sky, the oceans, the animals, and every person. Without God, nothing would exist. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This verse reminds us that God is the source of all creation and life.

God is also the GHOAT because of His amazing love for people. Even when we make mistakes, God continues to care for us and forgive us. He showed His love by sending His Son, Jesus, to save us. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." This is one of the greatest examples of love ever shown.

Another reason God is the Greatest of All Time is because He is all-powerful. There is nothing that God cannot do. He has the power to perform miracles, answer prayers, and help people through difficult situations. Jeremiah 32:17 says, "Nothing is too hard for you." This verse teaches us that God's power has no limits.

God is also always present in our lives. People may come and go, but God is always by our side. He guides us, protects us, and gives us strength when we need it most. Deuteronomy 31:6 says, "He will never leave you nor forsake you." Knowing that God is always with us brings comfort and hope.

To conclude, God is the GHOAT because He created the world, loves us unconditionally, has unlimited power, and never leaves us. While many people may earn awards, break records, or become famous, no one can compare to God. He is truly the Greatest Holy One of All Time and deserves all honor, glory, and praise.

God Is the Greatest of All Time

By Nathan Taylor

Many people have different opinions about who the Greatest of All Time, or GOAT, is. Some people think it is a famous athlete like Michael Jordan or LeBron James. Others might choose a musician, scientist, or leader. While these people have done great things, I believe God is the true Greatest of All Time.

The first reason God is the GOAT is because He created everything. The Bible says in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." God created the world, the animals, the plants, and every person. Without God, none of us would be here. No human can create an entire world, which is why God is greater than anyone else.

Another reason God is the greatest is because He is all-powerful. Jeremiah 32:17 says, "Nothing is too hard for you." People may be talented and successful, but everyone has limits. God does not have limits. He can do things that no person can do and is always in control.

God is also the greatest because of His love. John 3:16 tells us that God loved the world so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us. This shows how much God cares about people. Even when we make mistakes, God continues to love and forgive us. That kind of love is something no one else can match. God is the greatest because He is always with us. When we are happy, sad, scared, or confused, we can pray and trust Him. Deuteronomy 31:6 says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God goes with you." Knowing that God is always by our side gives us strength and hope.

Many people may be considered great, but God is the true Greatest of All Time. He created everything, has unlimited power, loves us unconditionally, and is always with us. These are just a few reasons why I believe God is the GOAT

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

When you are unable to attend a Sunday worship service in person, please join us on the Shadow of the Cross YouTube channel to watch the live-stream."

Please do not remove any of the books from the pulpit shelf. Pastor uses them.

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

"For your convenience, you can use the "Online Giving" button on the SOTC website to submit your regular tithe offering or to make a special donation, using a credit card or checking or savings account."

Church Financial Summary Expected Revenue per Budget \$301,525. Actual Revenue through June 15, 2026, \$317435. Better than expected \$15,910.

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.

Pastor Bible Study Tuesday Bible Study begins at 11:00 am

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

Commitment and Giving are reminders of our thankfulness to God. We ask that you consider the commitment and giving forms on the table entitled: "TRUST IN THE LORD." The table is located across from the Sanctuary. Forms may be placed in the Prayer box for blessings.

Vacation Bible School July 13 thru 17 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Meal 5:00 pm.

Congregation meeting for June 28,2026 will be postponed until July 26,2026.

Best Practices for Ministry – Heartland Conference this August 9 -11 2026 at St. Lorenz in Frankenmuth Mi. 48734 Registration dead line June 30 more information website: <https://stlorenz.churchcenter.com/pages/bpmh>

Fall Rummage Sale by the women of SOTC. Please start to save your donations and the date, September 17,18 bag sale 19, set up 15 & 16.

Kroger Community Rewards Program 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.

Clean up around the church, we will meet the first Saturday and the third Saturday of each month from 9:00am to 1;00pm please help keep church clean and beautify.

Sewing Circle meets 10am to 12pm every Thursday please we need new pillowcase in bright prints and colors we make dresses for girl at orphanages in Zambia, Africa Thanks! MaryAnn 248-767-5825.

PRAISE CHOIR: Meet on the 1st and 2nd Tuesday, in July at 5:30 pm! Sing third Sunday.

SOTC CHOIR Meet every Tuesday 7;00 pm

MEN'S CHOIR Sunday after service.

The Food Pantry. Please help us to fill up the food pantry. Place food donations in the Room across from the stage in the gym.

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

Please take advantage of the green recycling bin for paper items



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
. 9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study	Bd of properties 5:45pm Trustee meeting Elders 7pm meeting	Pastor11:00am Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Choir		Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm		10:00am Sunday School Adults Zoom 12 to 1pm Prayer Journey
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
. 9:45am Worship w/ communion & Sunday school 11:00am Bible Study	VBS 5:00to 8:00pm	Pastor11:00am Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Choir VBS 5:00to 8:00	VBS 5:00to 8:00pm	Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm 7:00pm Leadership mtg / VBS 5:00to 8:00pm	VBS 5:00to 8:00pm	10:00am Sunday School Adults Zoom cleanup. Church 9am to 1:00 pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
. 9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study		Pastor11:00am Bible Study		Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm		10:00am Sunday School Adults Zoom 12 to 1pm Prayer Journey – 10:30 Visually impaired BStudy ,
26	27	28	29	30	31	
. 9:45am Worship w/communion & Sunday School. 11:00am Bible Study Blood pressure check CONGREGATION MEETING		Pastor11:00am Bible Study		Sewing Center. 10am to 12:00pm		