

8/02/2026

Shadow of the Cross
Lutheran Church

Rev. Brian C Dupre
Pastor

THE CROSS CHRONICLES



Readings for the week of August 02, 2026

First Reading Is. 55:1-5

Epistle Rom. 9:1-5

Holy Gospel –Matt. 14:13-21

**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 begins at 11:30 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 Wed Thurs, 9:00 am –
1:00 pm and Tuesday 9:00am – 12:00 pm. Thank you.

“The Answer to the WHY Question”

Proverbs 3:3-8 – “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. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones”

Matthew 5:4 – “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

A mother of two young children is stricken with cancer and dies 6 months later. A father of four dies in a car crash leaving his wife and kids without insurance and without income. A three year old child is killed by a stray bullet in a drive-by shooting. How do you begin to comfort those that suffer such a loss? And where is the love of God that Christians speak of at these times? It's not easy finding an answer to the question “why” when tragedy strikes and there are no simple answers. The truth is we don't know why tragedy strikes when and where it does. But we are keenly aware that this statement provides no comfort to those that mourn in loss. The temptation is to either blame God or attempt to explain the apparent absence of His grace and mercy in these events. In the latter, we say, “God needed Mom more than we did” or “Something good will come out of this.”

My friends, this type of self-medication may make you feel better in the short run, but never provides us with lasting comfort. When tragedy strikes, we may feel the need to “justify our loss” by rationalizing it. But it is just not that simple. Neither blaming God nor rationalizing our loss satisfies the “why”. One pushes us away from our Lord and creator while the other is merely a mask for our inability to understand. The sad truth is that tragic events happen because sin has come into this world and distorted all that God once called ‘Good.’ This is the only answer to the “why” question. And not even the most God-fearing Christian is exempt from the effects of this sin-sick world. The sad truth is that bad things are going to happen to all of us. It is here that I must remind you that God did not promise any of us a life without hurt, sorrow, illness or affliction.

The glorious truth is that He has promised us that come what may, He will never leave us nor forsake us (Deut. 31:6, Joshua 1:5, Heb. 13:5) and will be with us always, even to the very end of the age (Mt. 28:20). He has also promised that for those of us who endure (remain faithful) and perseveres under trial, even unto death shall be given the crown of life (Jas. 1:12, Rev. 2:10). Our hope and our joy can be found in these promises. Our joy is that regardless of what happens to us in this life, we will not endure it alone. Our joy is in the fact the Jesus Christ has conquered death so that we may have everlasting life. Our joy is that the death of those we love is not the end of the story, for all who believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, who died for our sins and was resurrected so that we may no longer be a slave to death, shall be saved from death and shall be resurrected to eternal life with our King, He who created us.

What do you say to those grieving the loss of a loved one? What do you say when they ask “why”? Take them back to the cross. Remind them of these truths and promises that God has given us in His Word. And remind them that, “God so loved the world that He gave up His Son, so that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). God bless you all!

-Pastor Dupre



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=Rzdpd09PU05CWXZCU1NROEI4bll5dz09>

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



Mediterranean Chicken

Ingredients:

- 4 small (6-to-8-ounce) boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 3/4 tsp. black pepper
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped

- 1 red onion, cut into a large dice
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 3/4 cup pitted green olives, halved
- 2 tsp. fresh oregano, chopped
- 1 zucchini, halved lengthwise and sliced into 1/2-inch half-moons
- Zest and juice of 1 small lemon
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- Rice, orzo, bread, or roasted potatoes, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Preheat the oven to 375°F.
 2. Pat the chicken dry with paper towels and season with 1 teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon black pepper. In a large oven-safe skillet or braiser, heat 2 tablespoons of the oil over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook on one side until well browned, 4 to 6 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a plate.
 3. Reduce the heat to medium and add the remaining 1 tablespoon oil. Add the bell pepper, onion, garlic, and remaining ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper and cook, stirring frequently, until the vegetables are tender and lightly golden, 4 to 6 minutes. Add the wine and cook, scraping up any browned bits, until most of the liquid has evaporated, about 1 minute. Stir in the tomatoes, olives, oregano, zucchini, lemon zest, and lemon juice.
 4. Nestle the chicken seared-side up in the vegetables. Transfer the skillet to the oven and bake, uncovered, until the internal temperature of the chicken registers 165°F on an instant-read thermometer, 20 to 25 minutes.
 5. Sprinkle with parsley and serve with rice.

RELIGIOUS JOKE

1. How do we know God likes coffee? Because the Bible says, **He brews.**
2. Why wasn't Boaz a nice man before he got married? **He was Ruth-less.**
3. Aside from Adam & Eve, who in the Bible had no parents? **Joshua, son of Nun ("none").**
4. A man gets on an airplane and sees a nun praying fervently beside him.
"Are you afraid of flying?" he asks.
"Flying, no. Crashing, yes."
5. "A priest, a rabbi, and a minister walk into a bar. The bartender says,
'What is this, a joke?'"
6. How do you make holy water? **Put water in a pot and boil the hell out of it.**
7. What did Moses say when he came down the mountain and saw the Israelites worshipping a golden calf? **Holy cow!**
8. Who was the world's first comedian? **Samson. He brought the house down.**
9. Need a boat? I [Noah](#) guy.
10. The Pharisees believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the Sadducees don't. **That's why they're sad, you see.**
11. What type of car would Jesus drive? **A Christler.**
12. What time of day did God create Adam? **Just before eve.**
13. It wasn't the apple in the tree that got us in trouble, **but the pair on the ground.**
14. Of course I believe in [free will](#)! **What choice do I have?**
15. Who was the smartest person in the Bible? **Abraham, he knew a Lot.**

16. Who was the first person in the Bible to swear? **Job - He cursed the day he was born!**

Bible Trivia Questions

Q. What is the name of the boat Noah built to survive the great flood?

A. Ark

Q. How many plagues did God send upon Egypt to free the Israelites from slavery?

A. Ten

Q. What are the first words of the Bible?

A. "In the beginning..." (Genesis 1:1)

Q. What are the last words Jesus spoke on the cross according to the Gospel of John?

A. "It is finished." (John 19:30)

Q. On which mountain did Moses receive the Ten Commandments?

A. Mount Sinai

Q. What is the name of the disciple who betrayed Jesus?

A. Judas Iscariot

Q. After their expulsion from the Garden of Eden, what did God give Adam and Eve to wear?

A. Tunics of skins (Genesis 3:21)

Q. What is the name of the fruit forbidden to Adam and Eve?

A. The Bible doesn't specify the exact fruit, but it's called the forbidden fruit or the fruit of the tree of Knowledge of good and evil.

Q. What is the name of the king who built the first temple in Jerusalem?

A. King Solomon

This God Is Mine

My God the great Creator
Who stretched the starry sky
Who built the earth from nothing
And taught the birds to fly
Who sends the rain and sunshine
Who makes the snowflake shine
Who speaks like roaring thunder
And calls creation "mine"
Who guards the mighty oceans
Who forms the morning dew
Who feeds the tiny sparrow
And clothes the lilies too
This God is my Creator,
My Father, and my Friend
He's made me His forever
With love that has no end
He hears my prayers and answers
He cares for me each day
He guides my steps and keeps me
Along my homeward way
He died to buy my pardon
He rose to set me free
He loves to hear my praises
He set His love on me

Christina Joy Hommes

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.

Financial Information as - Expected Revenue per Budget \$23,229

Actual Revenue through July 27, 2026, \$24,229. **Worse than expected \$1,000.**

*****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.

Prayer Journey: 2nd and 4th Saturdays 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm 1-425-436-6395 dial 341-364 # not zoom.

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

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>

Shadow of the Cross Picnic August 29,2026 Saturday 12pm to 5pm.
Hamburg's and Hot dogs supply by Elders. Potluck signup sheets in Narthex.
The community are invited. Also need cleanup help after picnic.

VIOC August 22 is canceled and will have Bible Study August 29,2026
12:00pm and then join the picnic.

Family and Friend Potluck Sunday Sept.13,2026 please bring your guest
and enjoy having meal with us after church. Signup sheet on table
Narthex contact Veronica.

Fall Rummage Sale Sept.1 you can begin bringing rummage sale items.
Sale starts September 17,18 bag sale 19, set up 15 & 16.

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.

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.

The Food Pantry. **Please shop for our pantry grocery** Need cans w/pull
tabs, or easy open packages. Etc.

Please take advantage of the green recycling bin for paper items

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.

PRAISE CHOIR: Meet on the 1st and 2nd Tuesday, in August at 5:30 sing 3rd
Sunday.

Money Donated during coffee hour at the desert table is being used to buy
kitchen supplies.

BD. OF PROPERTIES are in need of help with the work around the building.
They meet on Mondays @ 5:45pm. Trustee Elders 7:00 pm.



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