

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming, give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ENDOWMENT BALANCE

Eff. 6/30/24:
\$80,641.47



SOTH OFFICE STAFF

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WELCOME VISITORS!

Thank you for visiting Shepherd of the Hill. We would love to remain in contact with you. Please fill out a communication card that you will find near the Bibles and hymnals in the pews. You can then give your card to Pastor, or drop it in one of the 3 collection boxes that are hanging on the back wall (east side) in the church. Thank you!

NURSERY IS OPEN!

If you have young children that would like to attend our nursery while you enjoy church services, our nursery is in the north hallway. This is a service that we provide for all families.

OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

December 1, 2024

Last Weekend 134 / Online 51

General Fund	\$10,337.05
Advent/Christmas	3,940.00
FISH Pantry	300.00
Altar Flowers	170.00
Memorial Fund	<u>100.00</u>

Weekly Total *\$14,847.00

Principal Mortgage Balance:
\$194,480.82

*Does not include Zelle or SimpleGive Payments

Your giving makes a difference!

Check out our website for further information:

SHEPHERDOFTHEHILL.COM

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

925. E. Ninth Street, Lockport, IL 60441

Our Mission: To Know Jesus & To Make Jesus Known

Second Sunday of Advent—Peace

December 7/8, 2024

Today's Altar Flowers Are For:
In Memory of Norm Kelm
By: Ginger Kelm
In Memory of Jerry Lewis
By: Deb Brubeck



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Saturday at 5pm, Sunday at 10am

JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE SERVICE ON FACEBOOK / YOUTUBE

Available 10am on Sunday

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Registration forms available in the narthex for online access. Next in-person class will be 12/8.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

Healing God, we lift up those of our community that need healing and wholeness—Les Tindle, Ken & Karen Franz, Madelene Vargo, Emily Vlk, Bob Barwa, Bob Fanello, Wally Lewandowski, Toni Leonard, Philip Ackland, Jessica Wallin, Lillianna Pelayo, Michael Anderson, Lenny Coe, Leroy Foster, Jason Haley, Brian Butler, Allan Franz, Alice Pritchett, Ron Slack, Tony Flaherty, Jeff Stubler, Don Soltis, Marvin Pickering, Stan & Eleanor Rzeminski, Ashley & Devin White, Naida Magercak, Deb Franiak, Gina Nordquist, Gary Haut, Francis Kania, Ceil Veihl, David McGuire, Paul England, Taylor Neverman, Nicholas Rohde, Karen Bremmer, and Kathy Helfert.

WORLDWIDE PRAYERS

For those affected by wars in Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East. For the release of the Israeli hostages.

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Michael Meyers, Dakota Novander, Anthony Kopel, Kaitlin Reed, Melanie Rigoni, Nico Arellano, Katerina and Lenny Casselman, John Schneider, Tom Schneider, John B. Momich, Caitlyn Grabenhofer, Megan and Daniel Sanchez, Jack and Mike Superczynski, Seth Trent, Timea Sara, Anthony Martino, Eric John Stepek, and Alphonso Huerta Jr.

HOMEBOUND

Norma McCall
Lily Mazeika
Janet Villacci
Sandra Schrader
Wally Lewandowski

COMFORT TO THOSE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES

Jeff Silhan
Ben Oberto
Rick Oltmanns

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY, 12/8

Blood Drive, 9am-1pm
Gift Cards for Milne Grove Giving Tree Due

SATURDAY, 12/14

Caroling at Shady Oaks, 1pm (all are welcome)

SUNDAY, 12/15

All Poinsettia Payments Due
Carols in the Round, 6pm

SUNDAY, 12/22

Christmas Pageant During 10am Service
Congregational Meeting
Preschool Christmas Program, 2pm
Pledge Cards Due

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, 12/24 at 5pm and 10:30pm

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Saturday, 12/28, 5pm
Sunday, 12/29, 10am



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

As of this writing, we have 15 poinsettias left. You can sponsor as many as you like, and take them home after the last Christmas Eve service. Red envelopes are on the table in the narthex for this purpose. Please return them with your payment (mark "poinsettia" on your check) or you can use Zelle for your payment (please mark "poinsettia" on the memo part) **by Sunday, 12/15. Suggested donation is \$28.**



CAROLS IN THE ROUND

Carols in the Round will be on Sunday, December 15th at 6pm. We are seeking cookie donations and a volunteer to make the punch and organize the cookies for the reception. Please call the office or Ellen Schroll if you are willing to help.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is normally open Tuesday thru Friday 8:30am-2:30pm. It's a good idea to call the office to be sure the person you need is working that day.



UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

If you have a change of address, phone number, or email, please call the church office or email Dawn at: soth.office@shepherdofthehill.com and let us know so that we can update our records accordingly. It's also helpful for us to have a contact person and phone number in case of an emergency.

ENDOWMENT/ESTATE PLANNING

Please remember *Shepherd of the Hill* in your will. For more information, please contact:

Timothy Urness
Regional Gift Planner, ELCA
331-444-3120, or
tim.urness@ELCA.org

2025 GIVING ENVELOPES

Don't forget that you will receive your 2025 giving envelopes in your home mailbox soon. As always, we thank you for your continued donations to Shepherd of the Hill.



Mental Health Support Groups

Free & Confidential

CONNECTION SUPPORT
FOR ANY ONE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF A MENTAL ILLNESS

FAMILY SUPPORT
FOR ANYONE WHO WANTSTO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING A LOVED ONE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS

3rd Thursday of Each Month

6:00 to 7:30 pm – SOTH

Next meeting for NAMI is Thursday, 12/19

HELPING OUR LOCAL NEIGHBORS IN NEED

We are in need of more \$10 gift cards for:

- Speedway
- Circle K
- Murphy's
- Gas & Wash
- Burger King
- McDonald's

These are for our local neighbors that come to the church looking for help. The cards can be dropped off in the church office. Thank you to all those who have so generously given gift cards already.

We are in need of a couple more counters for our weekly offerings. Please email our Treasurer, Jean Soderstrom at:

smiling7878@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Several church members are looking for someone to take them to doctor appointments once in awhile. If you are able to help with this ministry, please call the office at 815-838-0708 and talk to Dawn.

PRAYERS

We are happy to add your prayer requests for sick/deceased/ military friends and family members to the bulletin. Contact the office or let Pastor Jon know. Sometimes we run out of room for all of our requests in the bulletin. Just tell us if we need to add someone back on if you see that we have taken them off.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 22, right after the 10am service. We will be approving the 2024 operating budget, and the Constitution and By Laws.

Pick up your 2024 Advent Devotional in the Narthex. Large print copies are available



LAST DAY FOR MILNE GROVE COMMUNITY GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who so generously gave gift cards so that the children of Milne Grove have a nice Christmas. We will report how many we received in next week's edition of the Yellow Pages.



CAROLLING AT SHADY OAKS



All are welcome to join us as we brighten the faces of our Shady Oaks friends on Saturday, December 14, at 1pm to sing Christmas carols. We are also looking for someone who would be interested in playing Santa Claus. Please contact the office for further information (815-838-0708).

ELCA GOOD GIVING TREE

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA. Take a card to go with your ornament to tell a loved one about the gift given in their honor. (if you so choose to honor someone). Choose an ornament off the tree, return your check (**payable to ELCA**), to Shepherd of the Hill before January 5. For more information, see ELCA.org/GoodGifts.



ELCA GOOD GIVING PIGGY BANKS

Make it easy (and fun!) for your family to say "goodbye" to traditional gift-giving and "hello" to meaningful gifts that really make a difference in the world. Tell your children about those living in far away lands that could use their donation at this time of the year. Deposit your donation of \$30 (check, made payable to ELCA Good Giving) into the piggy bank and return to church. Thank you!

PLEDGE CARDS

Pledge cards are on the table in the narthex. Please prayerfully consider your donation and put your card in the pledge card box in the narthex any time prior to December 22. Thank you!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Thank you to all who filled a shoebox. We collected **32 boxes** this year to be shipped to needy children overseas! Don't forget to pray for the recipient of your shoebox!



~ Thank you ~

We have many people to be thankful for and especially the people who took the time to help us decorate our church last weekend. Also, all of those who helped to put our big screen tv up in the narthex. That was quite a job and we appreciate all of the help we received. God bless each and every one of you for helping to enhance our church environment.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Alcoholics Anonymous is meeting in Fellowship hall on Wednesdays; 6:30pm for new members, 7:30pm for current members. Contact Ken Franz: 815-838-7657 with any questions.



WINTER COAT DRIVE FOR MORNING STAR MISSION

We are collecting coats and hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens of all sizes thru December 15 for Morning Star Mission. There's a big box in the narthex for your donations.

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE
helps to keep our neighbors warm



Join us for SOTH Kid's Club,
our online kid's ministry for ages 4-11, starring
the Whirl Kids.

Join us online every week and in-person
the 2nd & 4th Sundays during worship.

December 22nd – next in-person event

Contact church office (815-838-0708) or Audrey
Bjerum (abjerum@gmail.com) to sign up

Do you know someone who needs help with:

- financial assistance
- finding food
- finding low-cost medical services
- substance abuse
- copng with mental illness
- escaping domestic violence



Check out:
lockportresource.org/community-resources

Christ in Our Home

January, February, March
2025

LARGE PRINT EDITION



Pick up your copy of
Christ in Our Home –
a daily devotion for
Jan. – March.
Available in
the narthex.



We are excited to announce that we now accept payments for offerings, flowers, most anything, through **Zelle!** This fast and secure service allows you to send and receive money directly from your bank account, making transactions easier than ever. **How to Use Zelle:**

Enroll: Simply register your email or U.S. mobile number through your banking app.

1. **Send Money:** Enter the recipient's email (soth.finsec@shepherdofthehill.com), choose the amount, and hit send!

Why Choose Zelle?

- **Speed:** Transfers are typically completed in minutes.
- **Convenience:** No need for cash or checks—just use your bank's app.

Free to Use: There are no fees for sending or receiving money with Zelle.

ALTAR FLOWERS

2025 Altar Flower dates are now open! The dates are quickly going! They are \$40 for each vase (we have 2 vases). Pick your date (s), let us know if you want 1 vase or 2, submit your form either in the donation box or drop off at the church office. Payment is not necessary right away. You can pay the week your flowers are on the altar. Don't forget that you can use Zelle for your payment! Just note on the memo section that it's for flowers.

FISH PANTRY DONATIONS

FISH Pantry is asking for the following donations. Please bring your donations inside the church and place in red wagon for our hungry neighbors.

Breakfast Items

- Pancake mix
- Breakfast bars
- Grape & strawberry jelly (plastic)

Pasta

- Mostaccioli
- Spaghetti
- Elbow
- Shells

Penne

Sides

- Rice—white or brown
- Pasta sauce

Canned Fruit

- Pineapple
- Peaches
- Pears
- Fruit cocktail
- Mandarin oranges

Drinks

- Bottled water

Questions? Call the church office
815-838-0708.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11