

Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**SOTH  
OFFICE STAFF**

Jon Pedersen, Pastor  
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**ENDOWMENT  
BALANCE**

As of 9/30/25:  
  
\$95,950.43

**CONGREGATION  
COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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[fernk@comcast.net](mailto:fernk@comcast.net)

David Helfert—Vice Pres.  
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Jean Soderstrom—Treasurer  
[smiling7878@gmail.com](mailto:smiling7878@gmail.com)

Ed Grabenhofer—Secretary  
[edgrabenhofer@gmail.com](mailto:edgrabenhofer@gmail.com)

**COUNCIL AT LARGE**

Linda Bunting  
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Pastor Jon Pedersen  
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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, please visit our nursery which is in the north hallway.

**OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE  
TO GOD’S LOVE**

January 24/25, 2026  
Attendance—116 / Online—84

General Fund	\$2,343.00
Altar Flowers	120.00
Weekly Offering	<b>*\$2,463.00</b>

*\*Does not include Zelle payments*

Treasurer’s Report	
2025 Year to Date as of 11/30/25	
Income:	\$448,040.61
Expenses:	<u>\$445,858.03</u>
Net Income:	<b>\$ 2,182.58</b>

Mortgage Balance: \$164,336.18

*Your giving makes a difference!*

Today’s Scripture Reading(s):  
**1 Corinthians 1:18-31, pg. 926**  
**Matthew 5:1-12, pg. 785**

**Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church**  
**WWW.SHEPHERDOFTHEHILL.COM, 815-838-0708**

*Called and Equipped by the Holy Spirit To Be Sent Out  
as the Heart and Hands of Christ*

Today’s Altar Flowers Are For:

***For The Glory of God***  
By: Altar Guild



Order forms ~ on table in narthex ~ cost ~ \$40 per vase ~there are 2 vases



*The Kingdom of Heaven:  
A Different Way to Think*

**CONTINUED PRAYERS**

*Healing God, we lift up those of our community that need healing and wholeness—Les Tindle, Emily Vlk, Bob Barwa, Bob Fanello, Wally Lewandowski, Toni Leonard, Philip Ackland, Lillianna Pelayo, Michael Anderson, Lenny Coe, Leroy Foster, Jason Haley, Alice Pritchett, Ron Slack, Tony Flaherty, Don Soltis, Marvin Pickering, Dylan Krestan, Blanche Bolton, Beverly Aiwohi, Carol Mattes, Glen Kleuch, Karlynn Anderson, Danny McKian, Ed & Tina Kosobucki, Robert Kinder, Paul Dordal, Kevin Helfert, Dave McGuire, Don Clayton, Barry Anderson, Kathy Stolzenburg, Debbie Dair, Ron Slack, Nancy Naylor, Mayson Gibson, Cathy Lind, Linda Hamilton, and Rachel Torga.*

**SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

Dakota Novander, Anthony Kopel, Kaitlin Reed, Melanie Rigoni, Nico Arellano, John B. Momich, Caitlyn Grabenhofer, Megan and Daniel Sanchez, Jack and Mike Superczynski, Seth Trent, Timea Sara, Anthony Martino, Eric John Stepek, Bradley Poerio, Nathan Snyder, Alphonso Huerta, Jr., Cobi and Anthuan Valentin.

**HOMEBOUND**

Lily Mazeika  
Janet Villacci  
Sandra Schrader  
Wally  
Lewandowski  
Marge Novander  
Donna Anderson

***4th Sunday  
After Epiphany***

Jan 31/Feb 1, 2026

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

Saturday at 5pm  
Sunday at 10am

***JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE SERVICE  
ON FACEBOOK / WEBSITE***

Available starting at 10am on Sunday  
**CHILDREN’S MINISTRY**  
Online has begun, next in-person will be Feb. 8

**WORLDWIDE  
PRAYERS**

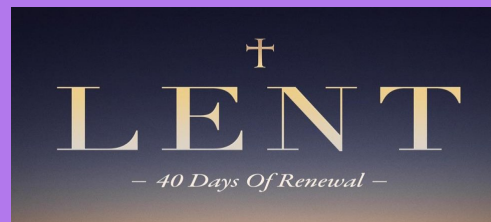
Those affected by wars in Ukraine, Sudan, Congo, Gaza, and the Middle East. All of those affected by food insecurities and immigration challenges.

***GIVE COMFORT  
TO THOSE  
GRIEVING THE  
LOSS OF  
LOVED ONES***

Michael Hernandez  
Gianna Oldenstedt  
Betty Sikirica  
Bob Trischitta



**February 18**—Ash Wednesday services at 11am and 7pm  
**February 25—March 25**—Mid-Week Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 6:45pm  
**April 2** —Seder Meal at 7pm  
**April 3**—Good Friday Crosswalk 12-2pm  
**April 3**—Good Friday Service at 7pm  
**April 4**—Easter Egg Hunt: More info to follow  
**April 4**—Easter Vigil Service at 7:30pm  
**April 5**—Easter Morning Service at 10am




**Chili Luncheon**  
 Sunday, Feb. 1st  
 after church  
 8oz cup of chili w/fixings  
 (Chicken or Beef)  
 Cornbread  
 Baked Potato  
**\$10 – adults**  
**\$8- children**  
 (tickets on sale in  
 narthex or call office)  
 To-go options available  
 Funds raised will support  
 the Youth Summer  
 adventures – LOMC &  
 Group Mission Workcamp.

### New Members Classes:

Join us as Partners of  
Mission and Ministry

**A four-week class  
starting soon**



Talk to Pastor Jon  
or call the church  
office at  
815-838-0708

### DOMINOES

Dominoes has started back. Please join us next  
**Thursday, 2/5 at 9:30am**

No experience is needed—we'll be happy to  
 teach you how to play. Bring a snack to share  
 if you'd like, and come enjoy good company  
 and laughter.

### END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving statements for 2025 will be in your  
 church mailboxes this weekend  
 (January 31 / February 1).

Join us each week as we take a deeper  
 dive into the Bible using the ancient  
 practice of Lectio Divina.

## A Deeper Dive

For instructions, see the "Preparing the Soil"  
 insert in the weekly bulletin. An instructional  
 video is also available on our website.



### for your generosity:

Milne Grove - \$2830  
 Coat drive – 120 coats, etc.  
 ELCA/Good Gifts - \$2023  
 Operation Christmas Child – 27 boxes

### IS RUTH CIRCLE FOR YOU?

A welcoming group of ladies who meet once a  
 month (usually the 4th Wednesday) to pray, read  
 scripture, share fellowship, and enjoy light morn-  
 ing treats. If you would like to join them, their  
 next gathering is Wednesday, 2/25 at 10am. For  
 more information, contact Dawn in the office at  
 815-838-0708.



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.

**February 8th – next in-person event**

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

### GIVE THROUGH ZELLE!

How to Use Zelle:

**Enroll:** Simply register your email or U.S. mo-  
 bile number through your banking app.

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

**There is NO COST to using Zelle!**

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

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.

### STILL IN NEED OF GAS CARDS

We are still in need of  
 \$10 gas gift cards for  
 our neighbors in need.  
 The ones requested  
 are:

Speedway/Circle K/  
 Murphy's  
 Thornton's/ Gas City

We continue to  
 move forward on  
 the SOTH-related  
 home in Fairmont.  
 The next building  
 day is TBD. Talk to  
 Pastor Jon if you  
 would like to be  
 included on the  
 information email.



**NAMI** Will-Grundy  
 National Alliance on Mental Illness

**Mental Health Support Groups**  
 Free & Confidential

CONNECTION SUPPORT  
 FOR ANYONE EXPERIENCING  
 SYMPTOMS OF A MENTAL ILLNESS

FAMILY SUPPORT  
 FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO 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 will be on February 19**

**Do you know someone who needs  
 help with:**

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



**Check out:**  
[lockportresource.org/community-resources](http://lockportresource.org/community-resources)

**“Later” can be too late. Don’t delay having your will  
 drawn. Make sure your estate plans are in place so that  
 your wishes will be carried out to benefit your family.  
 Gifts you plan for your church through your will can  
 help your church continue to minister and serve.**

**“Pray  
 continually.”**  
 1 Thessalonians  
 5:17