

## FROM THE PASTOR

### Weekly Worship Services

Saturday 5:00pm  
 Sunday 8:30am & 10:00am  
 8:30am Service is Livestreamed  
 Nursery Available

### Sunday Social Hour

9:15am - 10:15am  
 Coffee and snacks

### Office Hours & Phone

Monday - Thursday  
 9:00am - 5:00pm  
 Friday  
 9:00am - Noon

404 N. Green Street  
 McHenry, IL 60050

Phone: 815-385-4030

[www.shepherdofhills.org](http://www.shepherdofhills.org)

### Congregation Council

Jake Stemmen  
 Jason Vanick  
 Jackie Huddleston  
 Steve Spraker  
 Carol Janssen  
 Barb Nalley  
 Susan Porter  
 Jay Quinlan  
 Sharon Rinard

### Our Mission

To LOVE people wherever they are,  
 To LIVE the grace of God in Jesus Christ and  
 To GROW in faith and service.

### Our Vision

Growing disciples of Jesus  
 that will change the world.

### Our Values

Belonging, Welcoming, Fellowship, Integrity

*Dear disciples at Shepherd of the Hills,*

*March 5<sup>th</sup> begins our Lenten Journey for 2025. There will be two services with the imposition of ashes. One service at 11:00am and the evening service at 7:00pm.*

*All Disciples of Jesus at Shepherd of the Hills are welcome to be part of the celebration of the rite of being marked with the sign of the Cross and hear the centuries old sentence "Remember your are dust and to dust you shall return." This has been named a reality check of the Church by which we are reminded that all of us are the creation of the Creator God we are called to serve. It is an opportunity to know who we are and whose we are. Receiving Ashes is a beautiful and meaning-filled act of humility in which we humbly acknowledge our indebtedness to the one who has taken on our lot so that we might grow in grace, faith, and closeness to God in Christ.*

*Come let us worship and bow down before our God as the sheep of the Shepherd's pasture and the people of God's hand.*

*Together let us commit anew to bear witness to the Love God in Christ Jesus shed upon us.*

*Blessings,  
 Pr. Rob*





# Buzzing in and about SOTH



## Sunday Stewards

Lee & Sue Borresen, Helen Burlack, Bert Denley, Bob & Bev Fluger, Nevie Gamble, Barb Gaskell, Kevin Harrington, Jackie & Dave Huddleston, Carol Janssen, Christina Johnson, Ron & Lynne Jones, Debby Krause, Jill Holtz Kropf, Sue Larson, Jeff Lichte, Paul Morgan, Sue Murphy, Barb & Jay Nalley, Karen O'Neill, Sandy Orlando, Ruth Paddock, Breine Patton, Lois Randall, Sharon Rinard, Pam Schilf, Jake & Kristin Stemmen, Bert Young, Dan Umbarger, Cindy Ziessow

## Flower Sponsors

February 2: OPEN  
February 9: OPEN  
February 16: Sharon Rinard, in memory of Richard Rinard  
February 23: Rosemary & Roger Schneider



## Refreshment Sponsors

February 2: Dick & Gail Anderson  
February 9: Barb & Jay Nalley  
February 16: Chuck & Kathy Chamberlain  
February 23: Sharon Rinard



# Shepherd's Fellowship Events - February

## SCOUTS SUNDAY

If you are a Scout please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance and the flag ceremony on  
**Sunday, February 2, 2025**  
8:30 am & 10:00 am Service





# 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025



Jay Quinlan was the winner of the 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off.

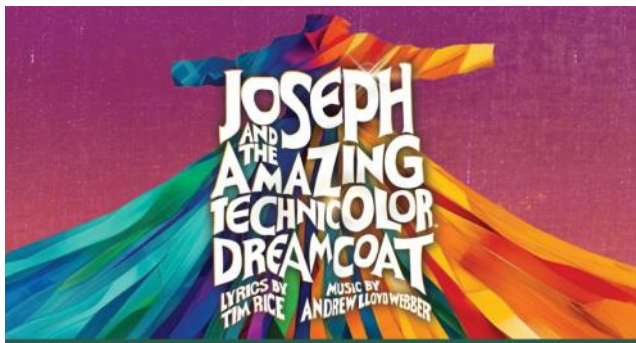


# 2ND ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SUB SANDWICH

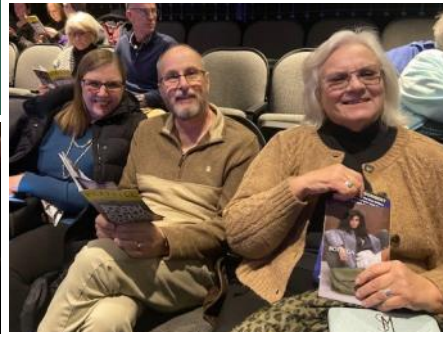
YOUTH GATHERING 2027 FUNDRAISER







SATURDAY, FEB. 22, 2025  
4:00pm Show  
MARRIOTT LINCOLNSHIRE



Are You  
**SMARTER**  
THAN A  
**CONFIRMATION** Student?



Come out to watch the confirmation student take on their parents

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025**  
**@ 3:00 PM**

Questions contact Heather - [hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org](mailto:hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org)



**Students score 960 to adults score 756.**



## The Music of Lent

by Randy Casey

One searches long to find the proper words to express how rich the music of Lent can be. Adjectives such as poignant, powerful, piercing, and penetrating come to mind, but even combined they present an incomplete idea of the depth of the musical offerings of Lent. The basis of this depth resides in the fact that humanity understands suffering all too well. And so when we ponder the suffering of Jesus during this penitential season, musical examples come readily to mind.

The *St. Matthew Passion* of Johann Sebastian Bach was first presented on Good Friday of 1727 in St. Thomas Lutheran Church of Leipzig with Bach himself conducting. As a devout Christian Bach was well aware of the telling of Jesus' life among us. But Bach had also suffered personally since he lost both of his parents when he was 9 years old. His ability therefore to convey the concept of suffering in his music came all too easily. The opening chorus of the *St. Matthew Passion* alone can hardly be surpassed for its expression of grief.

Closer to home one need only to think of spirituals such as "Were You There," "He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word," or "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" to realize how humanity's pathos can be musically expressed. So widespread is the effectiveness of "Were You There" that I have an arrangement of it for choir by a Finnish composer that is very good. I would venture to say that "Were You There" has been set by composers in almost every land so vast is its appeal.

On Ash Wednesday evening and on Maundy Thursday Shepherd's Voices will be singing two excerpts from the *St. John Passion* of Irish composer Bob Chilcott. Entitled "It is a thing most wonderful" and "Drop, drop slow tears" these excerpts are hymn-like and will be readily comprehensible.

On Good Friday Shepherd's Voices will be presenting "Requiem" by Gabriel Faure. This is a beautiful piece of music that I will discuss in next month's newsletter. For now, however, please plan to be in church on Good Friday for a work you will not want to miss.

We have all suffered in our own way. Perhaps a piece of music you hear at church during this coming Lent will give voice to this aspect of your emotions.



I am honored to step into the role of Treasurer for our church and want to take a moment to express my gratitude. First, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Bob Preston and Cristy Karaba for their invaluable assistance in helping me transition into this position. Their guidance has been instrumental, and I appreciate their willingness to continue offering support as questions arise.

I also look forward to working alongside Willetta Wheeler, our new Finance Director. Her impressive experience and dedication have already made a positive impact, and I am excited for what we can accomplish together. Although I have only been in this role for one week, I want to share a few financial matters that are currently on our radar:

**Rising Insurance Costs** – We recently received notice that our Umbrella insurance policy is increasing, following a 35% increase in our general property and liability policy last year. Additionally, deductibles have gone up. Research will be conducted to explore alternative insurance options to help minimize costs while ensuring we maintain the necessary coverage.

**State Law Changes Affecting Costs** – Recent legislative changes in Illinois, including the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act and minimum wage increases, have had a financial impact. These changes are being closely monitored as we work to adjust our financial planning accordingly.

**Vendor Price Increases** – We have also received notices from several of our vendors indicating that they will be increasing their costs this year. These changes will impact our budget, and we will be evaluating options to manage these rising expenses effectively.

As we navigate these challenges, I am committed to ensuring transparency and fiscal responsibility in managing our church's finances. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to keeping you informed in the months ahead.



# Shepherd's

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out our website at [www.shepherdofhills.org](http://www.shepherdofhills.org)



## WELCA Preparing Our Hearts for Lent

Sunday, March 2, 2025

12:30am - 3:30pm

Fellowship Hall

\$15.00 per person

Soup & Salad Lunch followed by entertainment by "4 Strings Attached" and 10 interactive Lenten stations for all ages.

Register by February 23, 2025 Forms available in the Narthex.

## S.K.I.P.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

NO SKIP DURING SPRING BREAK

Questions contact Heather  
[hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org](mailto:hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org)



adult  
night out

Ethereal

CHOCOLATE MAKING CLASS & TOUR

Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 6pm

\$30/person

Limited spots

We will be making truffles and chocolate pretzels this year.

R.S.V.P. by March 1  
to Heather at [hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org](mailto:hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org)



Sunday, March 23, 2025

2pm - Game

Blackhawks vs. Flyers

Contact Heather with any questions [hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org](mailto:hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org)



Monday, March 24, 2025

Feed My Starving Children

742 E Park Ave, Libertyville, IL 60048

7:00-8:45pm

\*\*You can meet us there or carpool from the church.  
We will leave at 6pm from SOTH, let Heather know if you need a ride.

Sign up in the Narthex by March 9, 2025

For more information contact Heather  
[hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org](mailto:hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org)



Join us this August at LOMC  
(Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center)

March 28-30, 2025 in Oregon, IL

Please see the information and  
sign-up in the Narthex.

Contact Heather for more info. [hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org](mailto:hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org)



# MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are looking to start a Men's Fellowship group

## Activities

- Shooting Range Trip
  - Archery Range Day
  - Home of the Sparrow or Habitat for Humanity house project
- There are no set dates yet.

If you would be interested sign up in Narthex.  
Contact Jake Stemmen [j.stemmen@outlook.com](mailto:j.stemmen@outlook.com)  
or Jay Quinlan [jay\\_quinlan@comcast.net](mailto:jay_quinlan@comcast.net).

# OFFICE HOURS

TEMPORARILY CHANGED

MONDAY-THURSDAY

9AM - 3PM

FRIDAY

9AM - 12PM

STARTING FEB. 18, 2025

## Ash Wednesday Service



March 5, 2025

Services will be held at  
11:00am

followed by lunch please bring a dessert to share  
and 7:00pm

## Mid-Week Lenten Worship

**Wednesdays  
11:00am ONLY**

A light lunch will be provided each week following the 11:00am worship in Fellowship Hall. If able, please bring a dessert to share.

*All are welcome!*

## Holy Week Service Schedule

### Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 12, 2025 - 5:00pm

Sunday, April 13, 2025 - 8:30am & 10:00am

### Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17, 2025 - 11am & 7pm

### Good Friday

Friday, April 18, 2025 - 11am & 7pm

### Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 19, 2025 - 5:00pm

### Easter

Sunday, April 20, 2025 - 8:30am & 10am

## Watch at the Cross

April 17-18, 2025

4/17/25 8:00pm

until

4/18/25 9:00am

Sign up in Narthex  
for an hour of reflection

For more information contact Heather  
[hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org](mailto:hcastaing@shepherdofhills.org)





**Registration  
Now for  
Summer Camp!**

**815-276-6829**

Contact Ashley Metcalf

[ametcalf@shepherdofhills.org](mailto:ametcalf@shepherdofhills.org)

[www.shepherdofhills.org/](http://www.shepherdofhills.org/)

[beforeandaftercareandsummerprogram](http://beforeandaftercareandsummerprogram)



**BRIGHT  
BEGINNINGS  
PRESCHOOL**

**Check out the website for 2025-2026  
Registration and information**

[www.shepherdofhills.org/brightbeginningspreschool](http://www.shepherdofhills.org/brightbeginningspreschool)

- Offering 3, 4, and 5 year old Classes
- Contact Jennifer Walker - [jwalker@shepherdofhills.org](mailto:jwalker@shepherdofhills.org)

**Refreshment Sponsors** are needed for Sunday morning social hour. Interested? Cost is \$30.00

**Sponsor Flowers** in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, in memory of loved ones or "just because". Cost is \$30.00 per arrangement. Sponsors are encouraged to take their floral arrangement home after the 10:00am service.

Sign-up and forms are located in the hallway outside the church office. Any questions give the office a call at 815-385-4030.



**Monday Night Zoom  
Prayer Group**  
is every Monday, 7:00pm

**Meeting ID:** 872 3148 3009 **Passcode:** 562505  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87231483009?pwd=mBO5orb9vGU2LhCJxmkDVRv16fhRKe.1>

**Questions?** Please call or email:  
Barb Nalley  
815-354-4322 or [nalleybarb@gmail.com](mailto:nalleybarb@gmail.com)

Would you be willing to learn to serve as a Greeter? Usher? Liturgist? Communion Assistant? Help set up for communion? Please prayerfully consider serving your church family in one of these ways. Call the church office at 815-385-4030 to sign up.



**Sing (or Ring) to the Lord a New Song!**  
Shepherd of the Hills offers several music ministries; Shepherd's Voices, Shepherd's Bells, Shepherd's Brass & Praise Band.



The groups perform at services, special programs, holidays and other church events. We welcome new members!

If you are interested please call the church office at 815-385-4030.

**Men's Breakfast**  
the first Saturday of every month,  
8:00am @ Buddy Z

**Ladies' Breakfast**  
the first Saturday of every month,  
8:00am @ Kim & Patty's Restaurant



LERT Training was Feb. 22. If you are interested in learning more about LERT contact Bruce Preston, [bpreston2006@comcast.net](mailto:bpreston2006@comcast.net)



# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
8:30 & 10am: Worship 8:30am: Confirmation 10am: Sunday School 12:30pm: WELCA Preparing Your Hearts for Lent	10am: Quilters 5:45pm: Girl Scouts 6pm: TOPS 7pm: Zoom Prayer Grp	1pm: WELCA 6pm: High School Youth Group 6pm: Praise Band 6pm: Membership Com. Mtg. - ZOOM	11am & 7pm: Ash Wed. Worship 5:30pm: Christian Ed Mtg. 6pm: Cub Scout 311 7pm: Confirmation 7:30am: Bells/Brass	2pm: HeadStart Parent Mtg. 4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 5:45pm: Girl Scout 772 7pm: Shepherd's Voices	7	8am: Ladies B'fast @ Kim & Patty's 8am: Men's B'fast@ Buddy Z 5pm: Worship
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30 & 10am: Worship 8:30am: Confirmation 10am: Sunday School 12-5pm: Blue Gold Scout Event-Anderson's	9am: Fellowship Mtg. 10am: Quilters 6pm: TOPS 7pm: Zoom Prayer Grp	6pm: Praise Band	11am: Lent Worship 6pm: Cub Scout 311 6pm: Worship Corn. Mtg. 7pm: Confirmation 7:30am: Bells/Brass	12:30pm: Staff Mtg. 4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 5:30pm: SKIP 6pm: Cub Scouts 131 6pm: Executive Com. Mtg. 7pm: Shepherd's Voices	14	5pm: Worship
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30 & 10am: Worship 8:30am: Confirmation 10am: Sunday School 4pm: Worship at Full Volume	10am: Quilters 5:45pm: Girl Scouts 6pm: TOPS 7pm: Zoom Prayer Grp	6pm: High School Youth Group 6pm: Praise Band	11am: Lent Worship 6pm: Cub Scout 311 6pm: Council Mtg. 6:30pm: Garden Club 7pm: Confirmation 7:30am: Bells/Brass	4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 5:45pm: Girl Scout 772 7pm: Shepherd's Voices	5-8pm: Preschool Daddy & Me	5pm: Worship 6pm: Adult Night Out-Ethereal
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30 & 10am: Worship 8:30am: Confirmation 10am: Sunday School 2pm: Blackhawks Game	10am: Quilters 6pm: TOPS 7pm: Zoom Prayer Grp 7pm: Feed My Starving Children	6pm: Praise Band	11am: Lent Worship 6pm: Cub Scout 311 7pm: Confirmation 7:30am: Bells/Brass	4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 6pm: Cub Scouts 131 7pm: Shepherd's Voices	LOMC Retreat 3/28-3/30	9am-4pm Private Baby Shower 5pm: Worship
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30 & 10am: Worship 8:30am: Confirmation 10am: Sunday School 1-3:30pm: Private Baby Shower	10am: Quilters 6pm: TOPS 7pm: Zoom Prayer Grp 7pm: Feed My Starving Children	6pm: Praise Band	11am: Lent Worship 6pm: Cub Scout 311 7pm: Confirmation 7:30am: Bells/Brass	4:30pm: Men's Bible Study 6pm: Cub Scouts 131 7pm: Shepherd's Voices	LOMC Retreat 3/28-3/30	9am-4pm Private Baby Shower 5pm: Worship
30	31					