

SOF in Touch

DECEMBER 2022

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



AT A GLANCE

- 12/2: CCC 6-8 pm @ Larson's house
- 12/3: KERYX Prison Service
- 12/4: ADUTs "Movie with Pastor Mike" 2 pm
- 12/9: Christmas caroling 5:30-8:30 pm
- 12/17: Christmas dress rehearsal; call-time 9 am
- 12/18: Christmas Program 10 am & 7 pm
- 12/25: Communion by Travis Roberts

Inside this issue:

<i>A Message from Pastor Mike</i>	2
<i>ADUT Scuttlebutt</i>	2
<i>Youth Truth</i>	2
<i>Kids' Corner</i>	3
<i>Nursery News</i>	3
<i>Ladies' Life</i>	3
<i>Men's Moment</i>	4

Stars in the Darkness

By Jenny Deweese

Dark, indeed, was the plight in Israel all those years ago! Romans ruled harshly and had little respect for the Jewish nation. The Jews were captives in their own country, and it was about to get much worse. Furious about being thwarted by the Magi, Herod ordered the execution of every boy under age two. That darkness must have been almost tangible to the grieving families.

If only they had known, as the Magi had, that the True Light of the world had been born in their midst a short time earlier. The

Magi had seen a curious sight in the night sky—a star signifying the birth of a Jewish King. Drawn by its unique and rare brightness, these wise men were willing to set out on a journey that was certain to make them uncomfortable and possibly even put them in harm's way.

Some guests who come to our church may be stumbling through dark times in their lives. Battling the harsh reality of this cruel world, many of them seek out the church as a last resort, fearing this will be a darker place than any other full of judgement & condemnation.

What they find when they arrive here, though, is not darkness but is the exact opposite—LIGHT—of Christ, of love, and of hope! You, our faithful family, are a part of that light—your willing hearts can shine through the darkness and send the message to our guests that they matter and that someone cares about them.

As you come to serve our church, sacrificing your time, braving the elements, and risking the possibility of stepping out of your comfort zones, you can become unique, rare "stars" who shine through our guests' dark situations with a Light of love and concern they won't soon forget. THANK YOU!

A Word from Pastor Weldon

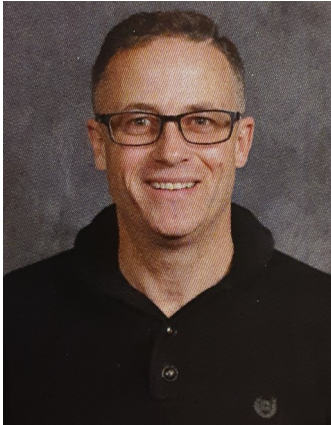


Shield of Faith Families, we are looking to close out 2022 with a big WOW. Look at all we did this year as a church!

1. Weekly Bible studies
2. Men's & women's breakfasts & luncheons & CCC's
3. Egg dash for the community
4. One Week One Street
5. Camping trip to Otisville
6. SP Kentucky mission trip
7. Soul-winning outreach to Saginaw at Ken's Auto Repair
8. Overnight women's retreat in Otisville
9. Powerful Youth-led service
10. All-church workday to spruce up our building and grounds
11. Trunk-or-Treat outreach to over 400 people by 23 families who decorated cars and fed over 300 people
12. Will have blessed our community by caroling at multiple locations
13. Will have presented a Christmas program twice
14. Will have celebrated a Candlelight Christmas Eve service



15. Will have given thousands of dollars to support other community ministries, including 10 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child
 16. Ongoing ADUTs & youth activities
- Again, what a year!
You are greatly loved,
Pastor Weldon



A Message from Pastor Mike

Greetings, Shield of Faith Saints of God!

I pray as you receive this newsletter, you are experiencing God's abundant blessings in your life. "Tis the reason for the season"—happy, happy December! A Child is born, *halleluiah!* Rejoice in the Lord; let your praises be heard; sound the trumpet! Jesus, Jesus, our Savior, our Deliverer, our Gift from God,

all glory to God!

As I reflect on this past year and His many blessings, I encourage you to do the same. Look at the good and ignore the bad. Matthew 6:33 states, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things shall be added unto you." I pray that this



month brings you much joy and peace in knowing your victory in God.

ADUT Scuttlebutt

By Jenny Deweese

Our young adult group is growing, both spiritually and numerically! We were pleased to have a new addition for the past two Sundays. Our total number, now, when all attend will be 7, and we are trusting the Lord to continue our increase. Thank you for joining us in that prayer!

Our next "Movie with Pastor Mike" is December 4th at 2:00 p.m. We can't wait to see his reaction the *Avengers: Infinity War*. He'll probably be a bit surprised.

Don't miss Christmas caroling December 9th! We hope to bless even more stops this year—last year we were able to bless over 40 different loca-

tions! I'm praying for another great turnout this year. The sign-up sheet is on the big table in the welcome center. You may also suggest recipients. Please be sure and sign up no later than Sunday, December 4th, as teams need to be assigned to each vehicle and route. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Deweese.

"Adults Discovering Ultimate Truth"
A group for ages 18-25ish who want to grow together in faith and fun



Junior and Senior High kids learning to navigate this crazy world together in a way that challenges the "norm" through Jesus' mighty power

Youth Truth

Pastors Randy & Lisa Larson

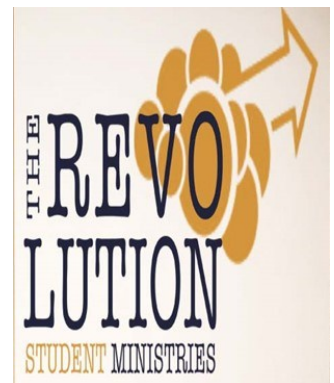
We had a great November hanging out and going through the series THE GLOW— all about letting God shine in your life and choosing to live in HIS light. We have really been challenging our youth to make their faith their own—to seek God daily, read HIS Word, worship HIM, and to keep themselves exposed to

the light of Jesus. No more hiding the issues and worries, but rather bring them to Jesus and let Him get you through.

In December we will meet on the 3rd, 10th, and 17th.

MUCH LOVE MEGA BLESSINGS!

(Our youth Christmas party has been rescheduled to January 7th with games, snacks, and a white elephant gift exchange.)



Kids' Corner

By Jackie Gilles
&
Colleen Curry

Psalm 107:1

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”

Children's Ministry packed and sent out 10 shoeboxes stuffed full of toys, school supplies, toiletries, and letters from each child. Thank you to all who donated! Donations can be dropped off throughout the

year. Also, if you ever want to donate prizes for our own children to earn in Children's Minis-

try, please see Jackie or Colleen for ideas. Thanks!



Kids in grades K-5 growing with Jesus

Nursery News

By Jenny Deweese

Our littlest ones are loved in a BIG way here at SOF! When you drop your infants or toddlers off in our nursery, you can be sure they will be cared for purely, taught truthfully, and entertained joyfully.

Grace and patience are two critical qualities our nursery

volunteers possess in abundance! Your littles will play, listen to a Bible lesson presented at their level, and enjoy a snack.

If you have any questions about our nursery ministry, please contact Judy Barnes.



*“Let the little ones come to Me...”
Infants through preschoolers’ starting life in Jesus’ love*

Ladies' Life

By Rev. Lynn Ahrens

The Ladies at SOF are definitely very busy indeed. At this point we have the following activities: “potlucks” (randomly) at SOF, overseen by Rosie; “luncheons” every 3 months in local restaurants, overseen by a team of 4; “retreat” in the summer, overseen by Tammy; “CCC” (Coffee, Conversa-

tion, & Chocolate) monthly, overseen by Sherri; crafts” (bi-monthly), overseen by Judy and Sherri; “pro-life” ministry gifts to moms and babies, overseen by a team of 5. Contact Lynn Ahrens if you are interested in any of these groups.

Hope you had a marvelous Thanksgiving Holiday!



SHIELD OF FAITH
MINISTRIES

10322 Swan Creek Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48609

Phone: 989-781-4668

Fax: 989-781-3766

sof@sofsaginaw.org



POINTING THE WAY TO
JESUS!



venmo

A Kernel from Pastor Kathy

By Pastor Kathy Townsend

The History of Sound of Worship Part 1: Lucifer, the Light Bearer

Most past interpreters of the Bible feel that Ezekiel 28 12b-15 and Isaiah 14 are a prophetic revelation of the Cherub, Lucifer, who was likely one of the stars of the morning that sang together (Job 38:5). He was “the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.” I feel that because he was the anointed Cherub and that God established him, we can conclude he was the worship leader. On the day of his creation he was given a commission; his employment was to cover the throne of God. The Hebrew indicates that covering meant to entwine and join together. He pulled together the heavenlies in worship. The throne of God was covered by an angel worship leader that had embedded precious stones of diamond, sapphires, emeralds, turquoise, gold and many more, shooting reflections of colorful glory all around, encompassing the vast area of the Lord’s throne. Interesting, also, is the fact that timbrels (small drums and/or tambourines) and pipes (musical wind instruments) and maybe even viols (stringed instruments - Is 14:5) were “set in him” and his assignment was to bring it forth unto the Lord over His throne with music, song, and light and color. But when pride over his beauty and the fact that he corrupted wisdom to his benefit as well as his plan to ascend over the Throne of God was found in him, God cast him out of God’s holy mountain, and he was thrown to earth to become an astonishment and a “horror.” He was no longer known as Lucifer-the Light Bearer, but as Satan. It is not mentioned in the Bible that another was anointed to take his place. I think that is because creation would now be required to take up the assignment to “cover” the throne (and now the earth) with the sound of worship. Let’s do this with all of our might!

Lovingly,

PK

Men’s Moment

The Promise in Seasons

By Adam Gilles, Elder

As I sit back and reflect on the seasons we all go through, spiritual and natural, I can’t help but think of how God’s promises always come true.

Look at how the leaves wither away in season—most trees go dormant.

Do you feel dormant at times?

Hold on to God’s promises—it’s just a season.

In John 15:5 we are just like those trees, the branches.

“I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me.”

Remain in God, and just like the trees in the spring will bloom and bear fruit, you will also bloom and bear fruit in Jesus’ Name.

