

SOF in Touch

APRIL 2023

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



AT A GLANCE

- 4/1: KERYX Prison Service
- 4/2: Palm Sunday
- 4/6: Maundy Thursday service, 6 p.m.
- 4/7: Good Friday service, 12 p.m., Faith Fellowship
- 4/8: 5K Fun Fellowship, 9 a.m. "Celebration!"
- 4/9: Resurrection Celebration, 10 a.m.; egg dash following
- 4/22: 5K, 9 a.m. "April Showers"; Men's ministry, 10 a.m.
- 4/23: Communion by Melissa Ferguson, 10 a.m.

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April Showers...

By Jenny Deweese

"There must be a storm coming," my husband said, even though sunshine poured through the open windows. I turned around to see our poor dog shaking so violently, he could hardly make his way to the basement steps. We should have named him "Doppler Radar" instead of Jordy. Spring was a difficult time for our multi-phobic pooch. (He was also afraid of flying airplanes, plastic bags, garden hoses, cell phones, and laundry, to name a few).

I wish we could've explained to Jordy that spring is the season of hope—when things become new and life emerges from the "dead"

residue of winter. Even though spring often brings wind and rain and storms, those forces are what refine the landscape to prepare it for the new growth that's waiting to burst into existence.

Without those storms, we would never be able to experience the beauty of May flowers in the garden and summer picnics on lush, green lawns.

Thankfully, most people **are** capable of understanding this message. They might be in the midst of torrential storms that threaten to destroy their lives, but as we introduce them to Jesus, they realize their trials are refining them, preparing them to



produce the abundant, beautiful fruit that comes from a relationship with Him.

Believers like you help us communicate this message of life-changing hope every day. Whether you teach children's ministry or welcome a visitor or invite a friend, you play a critical role in making our ministry possible. As you continue to faithfully serve in your areas, we will all be able to further advance the Kingdom while we teach everyone that God delights in using our difficult "April showers" to produce beautiful "May flowers."

A Word from Pastor Weldon



Flowing Wells of Revival

Knowing that all believers contain a well or cistern within us and that the Holy Spirit fills our wells/cisterns with powerful, anointed water, we have the responsibility to allow the Holy Spirit to flow out of us and touch a dark world that needs Jesus. You and I are walking around with a revival waiting to be released out of us, so what must we be willing to do?

- 1) stay thirsty—John 7:37-38
- 2) Stay ever filled—Eph. 6:18
- 3) Stir up the Gift (Holy Spirit) within us—II Tim. 1:6-7

Not only does the world need us to stay on fire to offer them hope, but also, the church needs to be exposed to radical, on-fire Christians to help encourage them. It's an exciting time to be alive and flowing! Isaiah 60 tells us when darkness



covers the earth and gross darkness is on the people, the glory (manifested presence) of the Lord would be all over believers, and people will run to us to learn about Jesus. We call this time "revival."

Much love and excitement to you all!



A Message from Pastor Mike

Well, happy April Shield of Faith Saints of God!

As we roll into April, I pray that we have a triumphal entry just as Jesus did riding into Jerusalem. Remember, we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus! A very important point to remember as a Christian is we serve a RISEN Savior, glory be to God; He is RISEN!

I pray that April brings each brother and sister here divine

favor, overflowing blessings, and Godly encounters this month in Jesus Name.



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

ADUT Scuttlebutt

By Jenny Deweese

Well, our roller skating event was tons of fun and ended (for Cammy and me) a bit early with some pretty major excitement! (Come, see me if you'd like to sign my cast.)

This month we're going bowling in St. Charles to have tons more fun! I promise, I won't break any more bones—I'll have several chaperones to make sure of

that, I'm sure! Maybe I'll use the ball ramp to launch the ball for me (but probably not).



REVOLUTION STUDENT MINISTRIES

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

By Pastors Randy & Lisa Larson
Youth group is going well! This past month some of the youth went and saw the Jesus Revolution movie! That was a great time to connect and see how God worked and is working in our country!

This year we have been focusing on challenging the youth kids to become more confident and more bold in the things of

God. We had our youth leader, Lizzie Scott, bring a great message about gifts and talents. We are starting to have live worship again! We are so thankful to have the sanctuary's old soundboard.

Be on the lookout: Sunday, April 30th, Pastor Randy will be bringing the Word, and the youth team will be leading worship!

Save the date: Our yearly service project to Saginaw, ONE WEEK ONE STREET, will be June 25th-30th. More information to come!

Much love, mega blessings!



Kids' Corner

CALLING ALL KIDS & THOSE WHO LOVE KIDS!

June 12-16 will be our Vacation Bible School, Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light!

Children age 3 through grade 6 will be able to participate in this amazing adventure.

Youth and adults will be able to volunteer in all different types of positions—we need about 40 volunteers!

See the VBS display in the welcome center for more details.



Kids in grades K-5 growing with Jesus

Tell your family members, friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends!

We're praying to have a total of 50 kids on the first day and to grow from there!

Thank you for your prayers!!

Jackie Gilles, children's ministries director, and

Jenny Deweese, care pastor & VBS director

Nursery News

By Judy Barnes

Our nursery is now called "King's Kids"!

We have 1-4 kids each Sunday and are learning about the seven days of creation.

If you are interested in helping, please contact me.



"Let the little ones come to Me..."
Infants through preschoolers' starting life in Jesus' love

Ladies' Life

By Lynn Ahrens

It is such a blessing for our "Ladies of Faith" to experience being in a church that allows each of us to use our God-given gifts where and when necessary. Our Pastors have allowed each of them the liberty and freedom to express themselves as God directs. We praise God that our Pastors want their sheep to be able to express their God-given gifts and talents, knowing that He will help the flow

to remain Godly.

In the 29 years I've been at Shield of Faith, I've seen growth in people as well as in myself. I've watched as transparency has helped free others in ways that definitely have been supernatural. Ladies who were damaged in various ways early in life have come to experience the love of Jesus in profound ways, seeing in His Word how often God repeated that He would be our God and we would be His people.

That most often spoken phrase alone can and has stimulated so many of us who realize how many times He stated that promise, which means that He so wants us to "know that we know that we know" He truly means for us to

grab hold and hang on to what He is saying. He definitely has proven to me how much He wants to take care of me as a widow and be the Husband who will bring me the security every woman needs in her life. So also does he want to help every lady to know and experience the same.

Speaking with and getting to know our "Ladies of Faith" has been a joy for me. What I have mostly discovered is that we ALL have had to endure trials and a great deal of turmoil in life's walk, even during our walk with the Lord. Yet, God's promises have healed so many of us. Life without Jesus is doom and gloom, but Life WITH Jesus brings that "Joy in the Morning!" SEE PG. 4, "Life"



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Down to Details

“Life”

It behooves me to encourage each lady who yet has not joined a Bible Study or an activity group and gotten to know other ladies to come on in and join us. We try to reach each lady who has come to our church, and please forgive us if we've missed you. We are not perfect, but it's encouraging to know that God really isn't looking for perfection; He's merely looking for the "willing." He will then do through us what we can't do on our own. I'm usually sitting in the back each Sunday morning, easily visible to all who come to church. Please feel free to come and introduce yourself, and let me know you are interested in becoming a part of our "family." Love, Lynn

Palms are available on palm Sunday to enhance our worship.

POINTING THE WAY TO JESUS!

The Maundy Thursday service is one hour long.



Faith Fellowship is located at 5825 S. Graham Rd., St. Charles.



venmo

The theme for the April 8th 5K is celebration, so wear your party hats and bring some noise makers!

The egg dash will be held after the resurrection service and is for ages 1-18.

April 22nd's 5K theme is April showers. Bring umbrellas, wear a rain coat and/or galoshes, etc.

Men's Moment

By Richard Morrissey

At the time of this writing, the March 25th Men's Ministry meeting has not yet taken place. At that meeting, Shield of Faith men will be asked to decide on the focus of the Ministry.

To call this an outreach ministry, we need enough men who will make themselves available to be called upon to help when a need arises in our church or in

the community. Without enough men willing to make this commitment, our activities will be mostly about fellowship.

Regardless of our mission, the Mighty Men of God at Shield of Faith can and will be a positive force to build up each other and our church.

As we remain Christ-centered, we truly are stronger together.

