

SOF in Touch

MARCH 2024

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



AT A GLANCE

- 3/2: *KERYX Prison Service*
- 3/9: *Ladies' Easter card making, 10 a.m.*
- 3/23: *ADUTs help Carol move, 3 p.m.*
- 3/24: *Communion led by Lynn Ahrens, 10 a.m.; ADUTs help Lynn, 1 p.m.*
- 3/28: *Maundy Thursday service, 6-7 p.m.*
- 3/29: *Good Friday service, 12-1 p.m.*
- 3/31: *Resurrection Celebration, 10 a.m., followed by Egg Dash*

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Living Through Lent

By Lisa Larson

Hello! March is upon us! Lent is in full swing (traditionally goes for 40 days, 2/14- 3/30). Although as a church, we are not a traditional denomination, I think we can take a lot from their traditions, and they can help us draw closer to Jesus. Lent is a time of preparation for celebrating Easter, AKA Resurrection Sunday. It should be a time of reflection on ALL Jesus has done for us.

Starting March 1st, I would like to

do a church-wide Bible study via the platform, YouVersion. YouVersion is an online Bible that is accessed via your phone and/or computer.

The plan is called "Take up your Cross." It is a 15-day devotional. In this study "You will examine what it means to take up your cross and follow Jesus." It focuses on the life of Jesus and His early followers. I thought this would be a great plan to do as a church body to help us remember all that Jesus

has done for us this Easter.

As the warmth comes in and the cold fades away, may we prepare our hearts and minds to be more like Jesus. I pray this Bible study will help you do just that.

Much Love, Mega Blessings



[YouVersion App](#)

A Word from Pastor Weldon

If you see yourself as a mighty warrior in God's Kingdom, what areas in your life need to get stronger? You see, we all have gifts and callings in our lives (Rom. 1:29) that God never removes from us, but are we developing and using them (Rom. 12:6)?

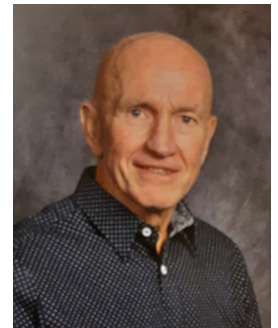
Ask yourself, "Am I living a life that would cause those I have influence with to be more like me as I imitate Christ? If not, why not?" or "What changes am I willing to implement this year that will make me a better example for others to follow?"

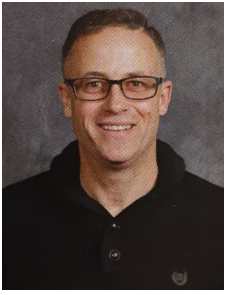
The world has gone crazy and needs strong men and women of God to show God's lifestyle being lived out. With Jesus as our Savior and the Holy Spirit

teaching us His Word, we have the answers to life's problems.

Come on, SOF Soldiers, let's commit to be the best examples we can be in this year 2024, so others will want Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We can do it together. I believe in you, Family!

Much Love





A Message from Pastor Mike

Many people around the United States in the month of March are looking forward to watching March Madness, men's college basketball, to find out who the next champion will be. Well, I am looking for March miracles—to find out the next recipient God's miraculous healing hand will touch! With so many distractions around us and all kinds of noise that take our focus away from what we should be focusing on, let's spend some time waiting on God, expecting

the miraculous to take place. For our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). May God bless you all;

may you find favor in His sight; and may His healing presence touch each and everyone of you in Jesus' Name.



*“Adults Discovering Ultimate Truth”
A group for ages 18-30ish who want to grow together in faith and fun*

ADUT Scuttlebutt

By Jenny Deweese

Hey, all you fabulous young adults! We have some great service opportunities coming up this month!

On Saturday, March 23, Carol Lashley will be moving into her new apartment, so we'll be lending her our muscles and energy to load and unload her stuff. We'll meet at her current place in St. Charles at 3 p.m. that day. She is generously offering to feed us, too, so please let

me know by March 18th how many of you are coming to help.

The very next day on March 24th at 1 p.m., we'll be helping “Grandma Lynn” by loading all her furniture into a rental truck, so she can have new carpet installed. On the following Tuesday or Wednesday, we'll put everything back for her. Please let me know by March 18th how many of you can help with this, as well.

I appreciate each of you so much! I look forward to seeing you on Sundays—especially after church for our lunches and Bible studies!



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

Hey, SoF Family!

I'm Alex Curry, a high school senior currently a part of the Firehouse Revolution Youth Group. You've probably seen me up on stage Sunday mornings playing either drums or bass guitar for the worship team. Music is at my core, and worshipping the Lord just so happens to fit that smoothly.

Beyond music I've got big plans. I'll be attending college this upcoming fall, and whether that means staying local at Saginaw

Valley or going off to CMU (tuition-free!), I'll be on the road to becoming an eye doctor to help others and build a nest egg.

However, such big steps in a person's life always come from the places most important. I have learned a lot from Pastors Randy and Lisa Larson, and now, although I will have only a short time with Pastors Adam and Jackie Gilles until I become a young adult, I can already tell that they are going to do great things with this ministry.

Since January, they have been teaching us youth about the im-

portance of God's Word and how studying it deeply can improve our understanding. As an avid student and know-it-all, I can confidently say this Bible study approach has helped me find the importance in even the smallest phrases from the Holy Bible. In particular we have been studying the first few chapters of Ephesians where Paul writes about our gifts in the Holy Spirit and who we are in Christ.

These helpful reminders will stick with me as I go off to school and remind me that God is always on my side no matter where I go.

Kids' Corner

By Jackie Gilles

Our Young Warriors are half-way through the Greatest Journey Discipleship program. They have been doing a great job at memorizing a scripture each week. I love the excitement on their faces when they come in the next Sunday and share their verse with me. Each time we take the time to memorize God's Word, we are empowering and equipping ourselves to stand against the enemy. We know there is power in speaking God's Word over every situation, and we are teaching our

children that they can do the same!

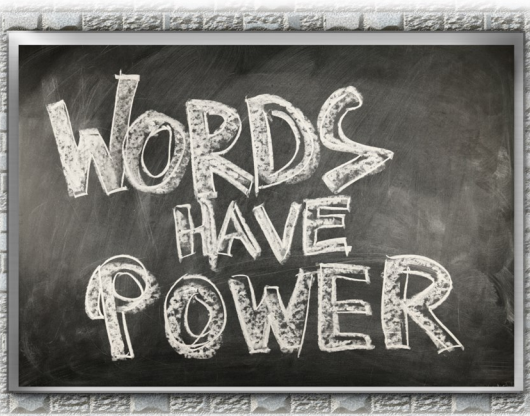
We recently studied 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, and their memory verse said, "God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. So in all things and at all times you will have everything you need." The lesson continued to remind them that God is faithful and powerful to provide all our

needs, that we can trust Him and have faith in Him.

If you are interested in memorizing the same scriptures as our class, please come see me, and I will share the list with you.



Kids in grades 1-5 growing with Jesus



Nursery News

"Jesus loves the little children—all the children of the world! Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves

the little children of the world!"

The mission of King's Kids is to make this message known to our lit-

tlest ones every Sunday.



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

Ladies' Life

By Lynn Ahrens

The February 10th Shield of Faith Ministry Ladies' Luncheon at Cam's Brick Oven Restaurant in St. Charles was a definite success. Twenty-five of our girls were able to come out from 1-2:30 p.m. It was a great turnout, even though the "coughing crud" kept some of them away. What a delight to see such joy and laughter, knowing the girls were having a wonderful time fellowshiping together.

On Saturday, March 9th, we will be gathering in the Admin Building at 10 am to make Easter cards that will be sent to shut-ins. We appreciate any help we can get. All material will be provided. You don't have to be a genius to know how to make these cards. You will receive instant training plus a delightful lunch for being there. Any amount of time you could spend with us would be a delight and greatly appreciated.

On Saturday, April 20th we will be learning about the His Restoration Ministry. We will bring you more on this later.

It's a joy to see that the family of Shield of Faith is actually becoming more of a family each time we meet. Psalm 133:1—"Look at how good and pleasing it is when families come together as one."



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POINTING THE WAY TO
JESUS!



An Adage from Pastor Adam

You Are Made for More...

"I can't help but think we were made for more. You are chosen; you have a future; and it's worth living—'cause you weren't made to tend a grave. You were called by name, born, and raised back to life again. You were made for more. Hallelujah! He buried your past, and you are not going back! Hallelujah!"

These are some lyrics to a song by Josh Baldwin. How true is this? We are made for more. Church, our past is buried, gone, and forgiven, and we are called by name for such a time as this. Look at the book of Esther 4:13-14. God is telling Esther to rise up. God is saying, "I put you here for a reason." She was made for more. Esther had a choice to make. She could do nothing and face destruction, or she could risk her life by approaching the king to plead for the protection of the Jews. Now, I'm not saying you need to plead for your life, but I am saying you were made for more. God chose you.

I am encouraging you, Church, look for more. Ask the Holy Spirit, and He will reveal more and more. We are the ones God is looking to use for this exact time, and He prepared you and is preparing you for more. I pray goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life, and you will dwell in the house of the Lord.

Ladies' Luncheon Pictures:



Men's Moment

By Richard Morrissey

"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God' ... " (Psalms 14:1a-AKJV).

Notice that the words "there is" are italicized, meaning that they were not in the original text but were added by the translator. Now read the verse without those two words. "The fool has said in his heart, 'No, God.'" See the difference? The foolish person isn't saying there is no God, but he is saying "no" to

what God has said. You can see examples of this throughout the Bible. God told Cain to bring a blood sacrifice and Cain said, "No, God, I'm going to bring something I grew." (How did that turn out?)

Doesn't this describe exactly what's going on today? God has said it, and man says, "No way, leave me alone. I'd rather have it my way." So they choose to put God out of their thinking.

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were they thank-

ful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." (Romans 1:21-AKJV).

To all adults and young adults: If you are interested in learning how to rightly divide the Word, meet with us in Sunday school, every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 9:30. Sponsored by the Men's Ministry, Sunday School is the place to discover the truths found in God's Word and how they relate to our lives today. You will even be in-

spired to read your Bible more often. Will see you there!

Men's Fellowship Breakfast is coming up. Will let everyone know when a date has been set for that. Be Blessed!

