

# Shepherd of the Lakes



LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Dear SOTL Family,

Our vision as a church is to be grounded in the truth of God's Word and the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. From our very first worship service in 1973 to today, Shepherd of the Lakes has been a community that stands on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. He is our foundation when the storms come. As David stated in **Psalm 18:2** "*The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.*"

I wanted to inform you that today former pastor Mark Milatz appeared before the Livingston County Circuit Court and pleaded guilty to a felony crime of financial embezzlement. Sentencing for the crime will be on May 26th. Representatives from church and the congregation were present at the hearing. As we stated in the beginning of this process almost four years ago, we made the decision to not pursue a civil suit and we placed the situation entirely in God's hands. We left it up to the Michigan State Police and Livingston County Prosecutors Office to proceed as they saw fit with their criminal investigation. Throughout the process, we have leaned on the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

We know this news may come with a wide range of emotions. Thankfully we have a Savior who is both our Refuge in troubled times and the Rock that we confidently stand on. If you have any questions, please reach out. We are praying for all those affected by this, and both Pastor Tim and I are here for you if you would like to talk to us or process this news.

Next year in 2023, we will celebrate fifty years of God's faithfulness at SOTL. When we lean into Jesus, He refreshes our soul. "*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness*" **Lamentations 3:22-23**

In Jesus,  
Pastor Ben Bruns