



Find out how you can

**Pray.**

**Participate.**

**Provide.**

#### **PRAY.**

Pray for boldness to share the gospel and open hearts among people we seek to reach.

Pray that through this ministry more people would come to saving faith, learn the truth of God's Word and live for the sake of God's glory.

Pray the Lord would prepare me and our family as we begin this church plant and that He would use us mightily for His kingdom.

#### **PARTICIPATE**

Build relationships with missionaries and their families.

Send notes of encouragement.

Learn birthdays and anniversaries, so you can send gifts and cards.

#### **PROVIDE**

Learn the ministry strategy and context, so you can provide relevant resources.

Support a missionary financially.

# Luke Schmeltzer

## SHEPHERD REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

### About the Family

I came to faith in junior high in a Southern Baptist church and felt God's call to ministry while in high school. I went to ONU for pastoral ministry, where I met my lovely wife, Jess. We were married on 6/12/21 and moved back to Bourbonnais to continue serving in our local church. We recently moved to Morris, Ill., to be more fully involved at our church plant.

Jess taught first grade for a year while I studied at MidAmerica Reformed Seminary. On September 20, 2022, our beautiful daughter, Olivia June, was born! I switched to online studies with Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary to finish my Master of Divinity degree.

I love books on the Christian life and theology, good coffee, Taco Bell and hosting board game nights in our home.

### About My Church Plant

I got really involved in youth group in high school and in my junior year started a student Bible study after school. My pastors encouraged me to fan into flames the gift God had given me to lead and teach, so I decided to go to a Christian college and study for ministry. I was a pastoral intern at a local church for five years and got a lot of experience preaching and shepherding.

We started meeting for worship as "Shepherd Reformed Baptist Church" in August 2023 and have seen more than 60 visitors and dozens of gospel conversations. I am passionate about planting a biblical church where people will be reached with the gospel, God is glorified, disciples are made and healthy families are built. We hope to have a special ministry to the students at Joliet Junior College nearby.