



September, 2010

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is almost here! Sunday School begins with our Rally Day on **September 12th**. The same Sunday School experience will be offered at both the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. This year, Shepherd of the Prairie Sunday School will be using a new curriculum and a rotational format. A rotational format allows students and teachers alike to experience God's love and lessons in different ways. There will be music, arts and crafts, games and other exciting activities each week that will allow children to experience and learn in a way that will maximize the impact and story of God, His people and His church. The curriculum is called **FaithWeaver** and is from Group Publishing. If you have any questions or you would like to volunteer this year, please contact Scott Gaspari at scottjgaspari@gmail.com.



Rally Day

Important Dates in September

September 1.....Men's Breakfast	September 14.....Holy Land Tour meeting
September 5.....Grafton Food Pantry Collection	September 15.....Lydia Circle
September 8.....Adult Choir rehearsal	September 16.....Holy Land Tour meeting, Mary Martha Circle
September 10.....Scrapbooking	September 19.....Golf Outing, Creatively Living Alone
September 11.....Paint-a-Thon, Exodus Walk	September 20.....Friends Bible Study
September 12.....Rally Day, Holy Land Tour meeting	September 26.....Merry Widows
September 13 WELCA general meeting	September 27.....Banner Group meeting

A Note From Pastor Mark

Dear Friends:

If ever you are struggling with prayer, pick up the Bible and pray through the book of Psalms. God's word from the Bible's song book (*Psalms*) has served as a wonderful prayer tool for me especially during times of struggle or fear. Our God understands our fears and sufferings and offers to help. Take a few minutes to read and re-read *Psalms 145*.

Can you see what we are to do? We are to talk to God in prayer, praise God, bless God, and understand that our generation needs to tell of God's works to those coming behind us.

Give testimony of a life lived for God. Think on the things God has done for you and those you love...and the world at large.

Remember the grace given to us, the forgiveness God offers us and God's patience with our stubbornness and selfishness.

Remind yourself that what you see now is temporary...not what you will see. God's kingdom is everlasting and we will be forever with our Lord.

Remember the Lord will sustain

us when we fall and raise us up. He supplies all our needs and is generous in his provisions. Our Lord is righteous and kind in all his deeds. He is near to us when we call, and he will fulfill the desires of those who love and fear him. He will hear our cry and save us. He will keep us. Let us praise the Lord and bless his holy name forever.

Use this new year of learning as an opportunity not only for our young people to learn something new, but all of us as we grow to full maturity of faith. We are all on a never ending journey of becoming. May your journey be filled with peace and hope for what God has planned along the way.

"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but through me" -John 14:6.

I'll see you this weekend,

Pastor Mark

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Where have the Sunday coffee hour treats gone???

Some of you may be wondering why there has been a lack of treats during the fellowship time on Sunday mornings. The reason is that we've had very few people sign up to supply treats recently and just a few get to church early enough to make the coffee. We've had an occasional volunteer and we've also had a few anonymous treat donations show up every now and then, but unfortunately very few people are signing up to bring in treats or to make coffee lately. It's nice to be able to enjoy a cup of coffee and a simple snack while socializing with friends, so please prayerfully consider helping out for just one week every once in a while. The sign-up sheet and reminder cards are located at the kitchen window. Options include making coffee AND/OR bringing treats. Plan to arrive at church by 8:30 a.m. to make the coffee and plate the treats (cookies preferred for ease in clean-up). Clean-up can begin at 10:25 a.m. Thanks to all of you who have helped in the past and also to those anonymous treat donors who quietly leave their goodies for everyone to enjoy – we do appreciate your contributions.



OTHER KITCHEN NOTES: If you use the kitchen and any of the pots, pitchers and other utensils, please be sure to wash and dry them and put them away. Towels are located in the upper cabinet to the left of the sink. If you use the last of the paper towels on the roll PLEASE replace with a new roll. Paper towels are stored in the cabinet under the big window. One last note, please advise our office staff if you use the last of any of the paper products so that the supply can be replaced.

Thanks again,
Kim Frendreis
(847) 854-5651

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Blood pressure checks will not occur in September. They will resume in October.

COUNCIL UPDATE

A significant portion of the August Council meeting was spent reviewing preliminary plans for the fall stewardship program. Ralph Wehnes has agreed to chair the stewardship program. Jerry Warnke and Devin Berg will be council representatives on Ralph's committee. The stewardship program will follow the suggestions made by Pastor Ron Voss at the June Council meeting. Ralph and his committee have already met with Pastor Voss to begin detailed planning.

The Council reviewed progress on Congregational Goals:

Communications - Responsibility: Council and all ministry groups

- ◆ Pastor Mark updated the congregation on our goals during services on August 15.
- ◆ The "Daily Devotional" and "Friday Flourish" are being e-mailed to as many as 90% of SOTP households. In addition, the "Friday Flourish" includes a convenient link for members to forward questions, concerns or other comments with a mouse click.

Member Care - Responsibility: Council, staff, and Outreach Ministry

- ◆ Home Communion has begun with 14 members being trained to bring home communion to those who are unable to attend services. Home Communion will be available on the first Sunday of each month. Anyone desiring a Home Communion visit can simply call the church office by the Thursday before the first Sunday of the month.
- ◆ A special "all member" program featuring Peder Eide is scheduled for the evening of October 6. More information will be coming soon about Peder's concert program.

Human Resources - Responsibility: Council and staff

- ◆ Several ministry leadership positions have been filled recently.
- ◆ More Sunday school teachers are needed to support the new Sunday school program.

Sunday Morning - Responsibility: Worship Ministry Group and Council

- ◆ As a result of the worship survey response from 75 congregational leaders and changes to the Sunday school program, it was decided to continue with only two services on Sunday morning for the time being.

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COUNTERS FOR SEPTEMBER



- Gloria Samuelson
- Helen Berry

SHEPHERD'S VOICES CHOIR

Attention Shepherd's Voices Choir members! Choir rehearsal will begin Wednesday **September 8** at **7:00 p.m.** If you are a current member of the choir or are interested in joining, please show up ready to sing.

I am excited about leading the choir through this next year. Thank you for your support with this new responsibility.

Peace,
Mitch Corso
(847)863-7380
mitchcorsoband@hotmail.com

PRAIRIE RINGERS

Prairie Ringers (adult handbell choir) rehearse on **Thursday evenings** in the sanctuary from **7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** every Thursday. We will usually participate in two worship services a month, once at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday and then either at 5:00 p.m. Saturday or 10:30 a.m. Sunday, and will be working on a variety of different styles of handbell music. If you are interested in joining this group for the 2010 - 2011 year, please call Kristy Warnke at (847)669-3139 or email (gwarnke@sbcglobal.net). Come and ring praises to the Lord!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship breakfast **meets** on the **1st Wednesday of the month**. All men of the congregation are invited to meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pinecrest Golf Club to share breakfast and fellowship. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. For more information, you may contact Ferdie Kimminau at (224)569-6739.

SAVE THE DATE! PEDER EIDE CONCERT

On Wednesday, **October 6 at 7p.m.**, Peder Eide in concert at Shepherd of the Prairie!

Peder Eide will be wrapping up his "Unplugged Connect" tour right here at our very own home! If you don't know who Peder Eide is, just ask any confirmation student from last year who went on the retreat to LOMC. Peder is a Christian recording artist who gives one of the most engaging concerts you will attend. His energy and worship style are contagious and his shows are FUN!!! You won't want to miss this special night at Shepherd of the Prairie. Feel free to invite your friends join us for a special night of praise and worship. GIGATT!!! (God is good...All the time!)



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation begins on **September 12** with an informational meeting during the 9 a.m. service. We ask that the parents please attend with their 6th, 7th, or 8th grade children to find out about some of the changes we have made to the program and to get all the details on our special events such as, retreat dates and the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism. Please make sure all registrations are turned in by September 12.



LITTLE LAMBS

Parent's Day Out program is **currently accepting registrations** for 2 - 5 yr. olds for the 2010 - 2011 school year. Classes are held on Tuesday and/or Wednesday, from 9:00 a.m. - noon, September - May, at Shepherd of the Prairie. This is a Christian early-learning program that will focus on teaching Kindergarten-readiness skills through Bible stories. Jill Gillming and Kristy Warnke are the teachers. For more information, class availability, and tuition costs, please contact Kristy at gwarnke@sbcglobal.net

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Sign up now for the children's singing, chime and bell choirs! All choirs meet on **Tuesday evenings**.

Cherub Choir (preschool (P3) through kindergarten)	4:45 - 5:10 p.m.
Blessings Choir (1st grade through 5th grade)	5:15 - 6:00 p.m.
Joy Chime Choir (2nd grade and up)	4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Jubilate Ringers (4th grade and up with 1 year chime experience required)	4:15 - 4:45 p.m.
Spirit Ringers (6th grade through 12th grade)	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Register online at www.shepherdoftheprairie.com or pick up a registration form in the narthex.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to care for young children in the nursery during worship. We need regular (one service each month) as well as occasional helpers. If you'd like to help care for the youngest members of SOTP, please call Jen Powe at (224)569-6481 for more information.

WELCA

WELCA Summer Study

Prayer: Everywhere, Everyway!

We began our summer study with this prayer: “Merciful God, we thank you for this summer season, for times of rest and renewal, fellowship and fun. Guide us as we study your Word that we might follow the examples of your faithful servants and learn to persevere in Prayer. “

On the third Thursday of each month, WELCA leaders and participants gathered together in fellowship, study and prayer. As a group we met new ladies and formed new friendships. Our study out of *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine guided us to become persistent in prayer, wait with patience and hope, and experience the power of prayer. We participated in a prayer walk using the labyrinth at Grace Lutheran Church in Woodstock . We grew spiritually and in the end experienced a closer walk with God.

Our summer offering supported the Malaria Initiative through Lutheran World Relief. Stevie Massei reports that \$320.00 was raised, enabling us to purchase 35 mosquito insecticidal netting. Sue Wehnes, Francis Wilson and Elaine Neukirch were our hostesses providing us with summer refreshments and a warm welcome each evening. Mary Tabatt, Sharon Little and Donna Sorensen lead the studies.

God’s Blessing to all of you and Thank You

~*Carlee Petelle and Donna Sorensen*

- ◆ Come and join us for some **scrapbooking** on the second Friday of the month, beginning **September 10** at 5 p.m. at the church. We will have tables set up to give you lots of work space. Bring a snack to share. RSVP to Renae Greene (815-479-8115) by September 8 for September’s gathering.
- ◆ Women of the congregation, mark your calendars for the **September general meeting** on Monday, **September 13** with refreshments at **6:30 p.m.** and the program at 7 pm. The topic will be "God Colors Outside the Lines". The Prairie Points Quilters and the Prayer Shawls will serve as hostesses for the meeting and demonstrate their ministry.
- ◆ **Lydia Circle** will meet for our monthly Bible study on Thursday, **September 16** at the church. We will begin with a social hour at **6:45 p.m.** and the study will begin at 7:00 p.m. Mary Arneson will lead the study and Betty Zimmerman will be the hostess. Please let

Betty know if you plan to attend (847 669-4792). Our study is from *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine available by subscription from ELCA at (800)328-4648 or www.lutheranwomantoday.org. The study for the coming year is "The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity". We welcome all women of the church to participate in the study. Extra copies of the study will be available in the church office.

- ◆ The **Mary Martha Circle** will meet at the church on Thursday, **September 16**, at **1:00 p.m.** Elise Chapman is the hostess and Theresa Molgren will lead the Bible Study from the September issue of *Lutheran Women*. Come and join us for a stimulating discussion on how we read the complex book that we call The Bible.
- ◆ On Saturday, **September 18** at **9 a.m.**, the Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA will hold the **22nd Annual Convention** in DeKalb, IL at the First Lutheran Church. **Registration deadline is September 1**. Registration forms are available.
- ◆ Attention ladies! **Friends Bible Study**, a new group at Shepherd of the Prairie, will be meeting **every Monday evening, beginning September 20** from **6:45 - 8:30 p.m.** at the church. We will be studying from the book Father, I Long for a Heart that Dances written by Catherine Martin. Through this study, we will develop a deeper relationship with our God. It is not just a walk with God, but a dance of the heart. A friend is a gift you give yourself! Please plan to join us and make new friends! For information on ordering the book, please contact Barb Hoch at (847)669-6652.

Sign up sheets for all WELCA groups/activities are available in the narthex.

EXODUS RUN/WALK FOR REFUGEES

More than 13 million refugees do not have a safe place to call home. This year some will be invited to find safety and freedom in the U.S.A. Starting over is difficult. The Exodus World Service helps these refugees. **WE CAN HELP** by being a participant in the walk/run on **September 11** (it is in Long Grove) or by supporting a runner/walker. Contact Sandy Hupert at (224)569-604 or by email at carlandsandyhupert@sbcglobal.net (or any Mission Team member) if you are interested in participating, would like the name of a participant to support, and/or any other question concerning Exodus.

PAINT A THON

The Mission is the same-the plan is different!

We will still be redecorating the interior of a low income housing unit at the Green Trees in Huntley. The plan is now to do it all on Saturday, **September 11**. We will start packing and moving items into the POD units at 7:00 a.m. and expect to have that done by 9:30 a.m. We will start cutting and painting at 9:00 a.m. and have that done by 2:00 p.m. The move back will start about 1:30-2:00 p.m. and finish by 5:00 p.m. Many Huntley groups have been invited, but only three have responded so far. We will do one unit and expect to need 4-6 people for these three time periods. Sign up for one or more activities! Lunch will be provided and perhaps coffee in the morning. Sign up on the bulletin board at church or call Dick Tabatt (847)515-1579 and let him know when you will be able to work.

GRAFTON FOOD PANTRY

We are so grateful for all your help to keep the food pantry operating and serving the people in our area that need our prayers and help. This month we need:

Toilet paper	Spaghetti sauce	Beets
Pork and Beans	Kidney Beans	Pinto Beans
Ready to eat soup	Macaroni and Cheese	Noodles
Canned pears	Rice	Cereal

This month we also need your used plastic bags. Thank you so much for your generosity.

SAVE THE DATE

Shepherd of the Prairie's 4th Annual Golf Outing will be held on Sunday, **September 19** with a scramble format so anyone can play. Our committee is cheerfully and gratefully accepting donations of prizes. Sign up sheets will follow. Please contact Ron and P.J. Knudsen at (847)669-2301.



2011 HOLY LAND TOUR

Shepherd of The Prairie Lutheran Church will be organizing a trip to the Holy Land October 24th to November 2nd, 2011. The trip will be led by Pastor Mark Boster, with Chuck and Sharon Little handling all the organizational details. This is a 10 day fully escorted tour with all lodging, meals, and transportation provided. The cost of this trip is \$3298.00 (Optional trip insurance and tips not included). This trip will accommodate 45 people, with a minimum of 15 needed. 30 spaces will be reserved for SOTP people until the end of November. At that time, any of those remaining spaces can be booked by anyone. 15 spaces are available for immediate booking by non-SOTP members.

Areas and sites we will visit are Jerusalem and the “old city,” including the church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Via Dolorosa, the Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock, and the Garden Tomb (with communion) to name a few.

Other areas in Israel that we will see include Qumran (the site of the dead sea scrolls,) Masada (one of King Herod’s retreats,) swimming in the dead sea, the Jordan valley, a boat ride on the sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, Cana, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and many other sites and experiences.

An *optional*, 6-day pre-Holy Land trip to Jordan (Oct. 20-25) is available. The trip will include Biblical sites, Jerash, Petra, Wadi Rum (the stomping grounds of Lawrence of Arabia), Mt. Nebo (where Abraham stood looking at the “Promised Land”) and Amman. This is a fully escorted tour with all lodging, meals, and transportation provided. Cost of this trip is forthcoming.

An *optional*, 7-day post-Holy Land trip to Egypt (Nov. 2-10) is available. This trip will include the Cairo Museum, the Great Pyramids, the Sphinx, Aswan Dam, Abu Simbel (Ramses II & Queen Nefertiti), a 3-night and 2-day trip on a Nile cruise visiting several sites and cities along the way, a ride in a felucca (a small single sail boat), the temples of Luxor and Karnak, the Valley of the Kings and Queens, an optional hot air balloon ride viewing a sunrise over the Nile, and many other experiences. This is a fully escorted tour with all lodging, meals, and transportation provided. The cost of this trip is forthcoming.

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of my church family and friends for the cards, prayers, flowers and visitations when I was in the hospital. I believe in prayer and God has answered my prayers. I especially want to thank my son, Vik, for being there to hold my hand. Thank you to everyone for your care and concern.

~Ziggie Bekeris

Shepherd of the Prairie, Our family wants to thank you for your many prayers for our daughter-in-law, Maria. Your support, as well as prayers, have been so helpful to all of us. We also want to express a special thank you to Salon 37 who gave their time and talents in holding a benefit to help with extensive medical expenses. God bless all of you.

~Joe & Dee Jones

BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you Blood Drive Participants! We collected 25 units of blood. Since one blood donation can save up to three lives, the units collected can potentially save 75 lives. Many thanks to everyone who gave of themselves to help others. Your generosity will help cancer patients, accident victims, burn victims, transplant patients and many others requiring blood.

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Three informational meetings in September will be Sunday, **September 12** at 4 p.m., Tuesday, **September 14** at 10 a.m. and Thursday, **September 16** at 7 p.m. In the spring of 2011, Pastor Mark will lead Bible studies that will prepare the group for the experience. A brochure with trip costs and a detailed itinerary will be available the beginning of September.

If you want more information before these meetings, contact Pastor Mark at (847)669-9448 or pastormark@shepherdoftheprairie.com or Chuck & Sharon Little at (847)961-6172 or chuck@nttt.biz or sharon@nttt.biz

UPDATE YOUR PHONE BOOK

The church's old office number, (847)515-3711, has been deactivated. Please update your phone book and phone memory entries. The church office number is (847)669-9448.

WELCOME CENTER

Members of the Outreach Team will be establishing a WELCOME CENTER on **September 12** (Rally Day) as a way to welcome visitors to church. It is our hope that the Welcome Center will be a way to identify new visitors with a gift and information on all our activities that we have to offer. Look for the Welcome Center at the church office window after services. We hope to have members of all the committees, organizations, and the church council serve at one time or another at the Welcome Center. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our visitors to be welcomed and learn about Shepherd of the Prairie. If you are asked to serve, we hope you will say, "Yes." If we haven't had a chance to ask for your participation, please feel free to let any of the Outreach Team know that you would be willing to spend a few minutes after church service to meet and greet visitors.

Barbara Hoch, Chairperson

Cliff & Linda Dungey, Jim McGuine, Sue Wehnes, Pam Perrott, Carole Cesario, Vic & Kathy Pizarro

BANNER GROUP

Shepherd of the Prairie Banner Group continues to meet the **last Monday of each month**, at church, starting at 9:30 a.m. We welcome anyone who would like to join us to work and share his/her ideas.

A HUGE thank you to Mark Frenreis who designed and built a storage unit that will accommodate 24 banners!! Guess that is a challenge to us to increase our productivity. We are currently working on a design for a new green banner. Green is used during the church season of Pentecost to remind us of life and growth. Branches symbolize Jesus and how we are connected to, and live and grow in Him. Bet you can figure out what the symbol on the banner will be! We thank the congregation for its encouragement and support.

WORSHIP OUTREACH MINISTRY FOR AUGUST

Please note: If you would like to be added to the Greeter's Schedule please contact Sue Wehnes.

	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Sunday 9:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
September 5		Don & Carlee Petelle	Bob & Carolyn Malm
September 12		Ron & P.J. Knudsen	Bob & Carolyn Malm
September 19		Sandy Lemke & Janet Larrison	Bob & Carolyn Malm
September 26	Jerry & Kristy Warnke	Warren & Elaine Brody	Carolyn Malm

We continue to seek greeters for our Saturday services. For anyone attending our Saturday evening services, we would welcome you to greet members and visitors. All you need is a friendly smile, a "hello", and a handshake. Please let Sue Wehnes (224-569-2808) know if you would be willing to serve.

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- ◆ Survey results from 75 congregational leaders showed virtually no support for a third Sunday morning service. Further, under the new Sunday school program we expect to have more seating in the worship area. Sunday School students will start out in Sunday School and students will only participate in the Children's Sermon. Also, the Sunday school program will be the same during both services which should result in more balance in worship attendance between the two services.
- ◆ Review of Sunday Morning services is still under review. The next step will be to forward an electronic survey to all SOTP members with e-mail addresses to gather their feedback on this topic.

In other business, the Council set the date of the Fall Leadership Retreat for the evening of October 6.

Larry Newbanks
Council President

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Day	Name
1	Beverly Noffz
3	Lois Long
4	Beth Wintersteen, Brett DePorter, Kira Frendreis
5	Jake Harding, Kenzie Andersen
7	Jean Clausen, Nick Parry, Stephen Browne
8	Gerhardt Neukirch
9	Gail Quam
10	Phyllis Anderson, Beth Mudge
11	Sally Schuett, Alan Henningsen, Donna Sorensen
12	Don Wiek, Karen Carr, Leah Anderson
14	Janice Shuff, Adam Luedtke
15	Eric Lindgren, Jodie Reed, Todd Schilling
16	Andrew Fulcer, Luther Yndestad
18	Kenneth Dace, Victor Pizarro
19	Linda Christopherson, Donna Newbanks, Kristi Cordle, Crystal Schilling
20	Gordon Burseth, Rob Schuett, Joshua Miley
21	Autumn Kasal
22	James Blanchard
23	Adele Wogstad, Sandy Scalise
24	Dorothy Schons, Ruby Haerle, John Shannon, Tyler Greene
25	Cameryn Piskule
26	Nanette Wade
27	Candy Henningsen
28	John Shepard
29	Dee Pedersen, John Arneson

Our Vision:

“Caring for God’s Children of All Ages”

Church Address

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Office Phone: 847-669-9448

FAX: 847-669-9455

Hours: 9:00 a. m.-Noon, Mon-Fri

Pastor Mark Boster

847-515-2713 (Home)

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Prairie Ringers

Annette Boster

Cherub & Blessings Choirs

Jane McMullen

Joy & Spirit Ringers

Larry Newbanks

Building Committee Chairman

Betty Knawa, Sue Wehnes

Contributions Secretaries

Congregation Council

Larry Newbanks, President

Devin Burg, Vice President

Kris Fleener, Secretary

Jerry Warnke, Treasurer

Kathy Pizarro

Rebecca Fulcer

Dick Larrison

Jules Pelka

Carol Lilla