



Shepherd
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Caring For All God's Children

**Congregational
Newsletter**
August 2014

SOTP Statement of Purpose

*"We care for God's children of all ages
by growing disciples who make disciples."*

NEW MEMBER GATHERING



New Members Are Joining

Have you been worshipping with us here at Shepherd of the Prairie for a while now and think you would like to learn more about our church or think you might be interested in becoming a member? Please join us at the New Member Gathering on **Sunday, August 3, from 3:00-5:30 p.m.** This will be an opportunity for you to find out more about the life and ministry of our church and to give prayerful consideration to whether or not you want to enter into formal membership in the SOTP family.

Those who desire to become members will be welcomed during the worship services on the following Sunday, August 10. Please call the church office to let us know if you will be participating with us and if you will need child care during the gathering.

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Mon-Fri

A Note From Pastor Mark

Dear Christian Friends,

My devotions this morning led me to those very familiar words from John 10. God's word reminds us here that Jesus is our Shepherd who leads and guides us through life. Jesus is a shepherd that protects and guides his flock (followers). The flock trusts Jesus because they know his voice. Past experience assures them that not only his voice but his manner will see them through the day. I remember our great dog Quincy who died a few year ago that when she would hear our voice she would immediately come to us. Wherever we would be in the house Quincy would have to be near to us, often at our feet,

Have you ever followed someone you considered a leader, or led by a dream only to later realize that something was amiss? Who did you blame for your predicament? What do you rely on to make decisions; prayer, your own research, friends, public opinion?

The promise Jesus is making in the John 10 is one of guidance and abundant life to those who follow him.

We are beginning to plan for a new year of learning and growth at Shepherd of the Prairie. Pray for our staff and all who are serving to lead us in the education ministry of our church. I would encourage your participation in opportunities to better tune yourself in to the Good Shepherd's voice.

There is a purpose in his being our shepherd not only in this life but also to prepare us for the life to come. For many of us that is good news for when we wander away from the path Christ has prepared...he'll come looking for us. The critical point is responding to his call when we hear it.

I was chatting with someone a few weeks ago who just returned from a trip to Norway. They shared with me that sheep were let loose to roam the high pastures for the summer. Their wool was marked with a colored dye to signify to whom they belonged. They were free to wander at will and some were far from their fellow flock members. She said "we all got a chuckle on the bus when our tour guide said, they need to be careful not to get "sheepnaped."

As followers of Christ we too can be scattered all over. Yet we are marked, sealed by the cross of Christ forever, waiting to be called into his presence. So pay attention to the shepherd! Listen for his voice.

Be encouraged to grow in your relationship with Christ through continued study of His Word.

I'll see you in worship,

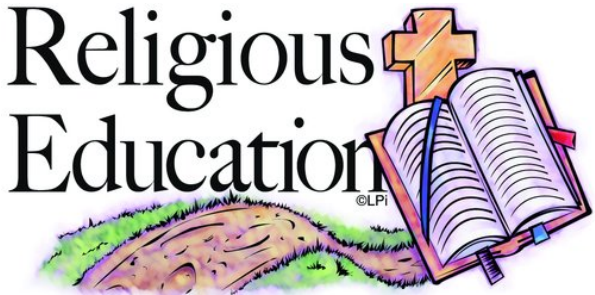
Pastor Mark

**Bracketed by a
Potluck!**

Our 2014 Summer Read kicked off on June 1 with a potluck. Now we'll conclude the same way!

When we gathered in June, it was an

opportunity to meet others who would join us in a small group to read and discuss Philip Yancey's book, *"The Question that Never Goes Away."* Groups have been meeting throughout the summer, and now we'll have a chance to meet one final time--all together.



On Sunday evening, **September 7**, you're invited to join fellow-readers at 5:30 at the church for a closing potluck and large group discussion, including questions like: *"What was most helpful? Least helpful? What did you learn? Has this book and subsequent discussion changed your faith? Challenged your faith?"* And so on.

For this final gathering, we suggest the following: those whose last names begin with A-J, a dessert; K-R, a main dish; and S-Z a salad or side dish.

We hope you'll put this on your calendar--and join us!

But wait, there's more!

Beginning in September, another year of adult education commences! It's a time to learn, a time to grow, a time to be encountered by the Spirit of the Lord through his Word and through his people!

In next month's newsletter a full schedule will be available, but for now, here's what you need to know. We will begin our new year with a study of the Gospel according to John. Why John? Because we've already looked at Matthew, Mark, and Luke! John awaits. And John's telling of the Jesus story is so radically different from the other three. It's as if John had access to Matthew, Mark, and Luke and then raised the question: but what does it all mean? So through poetry, through metaphor, through incredible inspiration and insight, John seeks to answer his own question.

Plan now to join us this fall as we meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and 10:30, on Tuesday evenings at 7:00, and on Wednesday mornings at 11:00. And watch for the September newsletter, or go on-line, for more information.

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

A Note From Donna Kelly

August has arrived and with it the “dog days of summer”. With August comes the end of summer and for many the beginning of school. For me this August brings a major change in my life. I am retiring after 20 years in the commercial insurance industry to be able to devote myself to the ministry position of **New Member & Lay Ministry Coordinator** here at SOTP. I am so looking forward to being able to spend more time here at the church office and working with all of you. I will be in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-12 and once Confirmation begins, on Wednesday evenings. Of course if someone wants to meet with me during other hours, just give me a call and we can set it up.



I am very excited and blessed to be able to assume more of this role and I have many hopes and dreams for this position. Of those is a desire to find new ways to help our new and existing members to find the place and ministry to which God is calling them as well as additional ways to welcome visitors. Other ideas include encouraging existing ministries to find ways to welcome and incorporate new participants and to encourage additional approaches to carrying out those ministries.

I believe it takes each and every one of us answering God’s invitation for our family as SOTP and as the church and the world as a whole to make a difference. My desire is that together we can “sow the seeds” of faith, kindness, forgiveness and welcome to all.

Donna Kelly

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

On **Sunday, August 24** we will take time in worship for our Annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Students are encouraged to bring their packs to worship that day. Blessings to all of our students, parents and those who serve as teachers in our schools. We remember that we continue to learn in order to be better equipped to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



Sunday, August 10, Noon at Deicke Park!

Please sign up online (www.sotp.org/2013/forms/picnic/picnic.html) or in the Crossroads on August 3. We need to know how many are coming so we have enough food and especially gift bags for the children's games. Hamburgers, hot dogs and cold drinks will be provided so you can bring a salad, side dish or dessert.

See you there!

KINDERGARTEN BLESSING

Parents of children entering Kindergarten!!! We encourage you to share in worship with us on **Sunday, August 17**.

On that day we will be offering a blessing for all children entering kindergarten. Please let us know that you will be with us that day by calling the church office at (847)669-9448 or sending an email to pastormark@sotpmail.com



YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

From The Word...

The words of the apostle Paul to Timothy (2 Tim. 3:16), a young man who needed encouragement, apply not only to Timothy's life and ministry but to us today as we fulfill our God-given ministry in parenting. We must depend and rely on God's Word as we parent our children and teens. In this verse Paul lists four valuable uses for God's Word.

“Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another — showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.”

—2 Timothy 3:16
(The Message)

First, the Bible offers sound instruction. It is a believable teacher and the only true source of knowledge. Like the instruction manual for a complicated machine or appliance, God's Word helps us understand the complexities of life.

Second, a growing knowledge of the Bible helps us to evaluate and test everything else that claims to be true. All other parenting philosophies, advice, manuals, and approaches should be measured against the blueprint of the Bible.

Third, the Bible serves as a diagnostic checkup and troubleshooting guide. As we look at our own lives and approaches to parenting, the Bible helps us to see where we have gone wrong while offering clear guidelines on how to correct our course.

And fourth, the Bible is a roadmap that helps us stay on course in all of our tasks and activities. It lays out a clear path for right and godly living. As parents we need disciplined and regular study of God's Word. You were made for a relationship with God. Your primary responsibility as a parent is to point your teen to Christ. Take the time – every day! – to get to know God, His will, and His way in His Word.

YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

Clearly texting, SMS and chat are very different than writing a letter or email. In fact, I believe what is going on is that people are realizing that you use short messaging, like texting, SMS, chat, Twitter, etc. for quick informal messages, and you use email for more intimate and formal letter writing. In this sense, mail is the preferred medium for “letter writing”, and if anything, texting and chat, are killing ‘letter writing’.

V A Shiva Ayyadurai, an early “inventor” of e-mail and current MIT systems scientist, in an interview to the Press Trust of India, June, 2014

Trends

Smartie Snorting

This spring, a local school district sent home an informational letter to parents of middle school students. The letter warns parents to warn their kids about a dangerous and risky new practice that has gained momentum, thanks to peer pressure and Internet publicity. It seems that a growing number of kids are smoking or snorting the little candies known as Smarties. Kids are crushing the candy and then snorting it up through their noses through a rolled-up piece of paper. Others are pouring the powder into their mouths and blowing it out like smoke, imitating a smoker's exhale. Some are even going so far as to exhale the sugary smoke through their noses. Health officials are now sounding warnings regarding the health issues related to this practice. These include nasal cavity infections due to powder residue, respiratory problems, and even maggots feeding on the dust that stays wedged in the nose. Parents, steer your kids away from this dangerous practice.



Latest Research

Reading

Have you ever heard it said that readers are leaders, and leaders are readers? If that's the case, then we need to be promoting reading among our children and teens. Sadly, it seems many young people, including college students, are actually proud of the fact that they haven't read a complete book in years. According

to a new study from the Pew Research Center, nearly a quarter of all Americans did not read a book last year. That's almost three times the amount of people who said the same thing back in 1978. Still, the folks at Pew did find that almost twenty-eight percent of Americans had read eleven or more books in 2013. If you have younger children, turn off the screens in your home, both large and small, and sit down and read with or to your kids. If your kids are older, block off quiet times when reading can take place. Encourage them to read good books. And don't forget, reading the Scriptures is our primary avenue to knowing God.

QUICK STATS

5.6% of high school seniors who have never used marijuana, who have a strong sense of right and wrong, and who don't have any close friends who use marijuana say that they would try the drug if it was legal.

—*International Journal of Drug Policy*

FALL SUPPER CLUB

SUPPER CLUB

SOTP ADULTS: Don't "FALL" out of touch with fellow SOTP members, Meet new people, expand old relationships. GATHER TOGETHER OVER A MEAL, FOUR TIMES DURING SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER. Add your name(s) to the "FALL" Yellow Supper Club Signup sheets posted in the Cross Roads. Sunday September 7 is the last day to sign up for the fall session.

Here's how it works:

Folks sign up every four months (Trying one session does not automatically sign you up for more, it is up to you.) After the cutoff date folks (singles are welcome) are divided into small groups of 6-8 people. Usually (but not always) the host provides the main meal in their home, then the others bring a dessert, salad, etc. The next month another takes the main meal, etc. Some groups order in or eat out for one or more of their meals. Each group makes their own plan.

Questions? Or want to sign up via phone or e mail?? Please do contact Sandy at sandyhupert@gmail.com or call 224-569-6041! You can also sign up online on our website "Registration" page, or directly at <http://www.shepherdoftheprairie.com/2013/vwdforms/supperclub/supperclub.aspx>.

ACTIVE PARENTING CLASSES

Starting in September, on Wednesday evenings, there will be a series of parenting classes. This video-based program, for parents of children ages 5 to 12, will help you learn ways to raise responsible children who are able to resist negative peer pressure. Over the course, you'll learn effective discipline techniques, communication and encouragement skills which will help build your child's self esteem and a solid foundation for the upcoming teen years. Look for more information in the bulletin and on the SOTP's website."

THRIVENT FINANCIAL WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

The **Stewardship Team** has scheduled a workshop to be presented by John & Matt Drafall, our Thrivent Financial



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↓
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Representatives. It will be open to all members of SOTP. The date is **Sunday August 17th**. There will be two meetings for you to choose from. Both will be presented during our regular Church service. You can attend 9:00 a.m. Service and the 10:30 a.m. meeting or you can attend the 9:00 a.m. meeting and then go to the 10:45 a.m. Service. They will have information on annuities, IRA's, insurance, trusts, wills, asset allocation, and many more topics that may be able to help you save on taxes. Through the end of June, Thrivent Financial has given SOTP \$2,826.00 to be applied to our loan principal. Mark your calendar and plan to attend one of these very informative sessions.

STEWARDSHIP TALES



The Lord is a good master and gentle master. Perhaps this may best be seen in the condition of His employees. I don't mean just the professional servant of the church, but anyone who spends the years as a follower of Christ. The passage of time reveals that the discipline of serving the Lord is helpful and not harmful. Years of Christian living leave their marks: a right spirit, renewed again and again by worship,

and the beauty of character shaped by endurance in Christ's service, plus contentment. Who is your boss? We seldom ask ourselves that plain question, even though the answer to it is always reflected in our work. Any job can become a burden when your motivation is only in benefitting yourself. It is in serving God and others that real meaning is found in any job. No life but Christ's was ever lived in total perfect service to God alone. God's stewards take to heart Jesus' words: "But I am among you as one to who serves."

MISSION TEAM NEWS

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN (Thursday, August 7)

The Mission Committee decided to try something different and committed 20 people (we would love to increase that to 30 or 40) to volunteer at the **Feed My Starving Children** (FMSC) facility in Schaumburg from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.



This appears to be an easier job than what we have done at the **Northern Illinois Food Bank** (NIFB). They can accommodate people who need to sit while they work as well as people to stand. The length of the shift is shorter and food items we are lifting are not nearly as heavy. Check out the FMSC website at <http://www.fmsc.org/>

If you wish to participate on August 7, please call Sid Sorensen at [224-858-4168](tel:224-858-4168) or email at sorensensid@comcast.net.

EXODUS RUN/WALK FOR REFUGEES (Saturday, September 6)

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 (in Long Grove) or supporting a runner/walker. Carl and Sandy have done this walk with their 6 & 8 year old grandchildren. It is a great family activity, benefiting those in need. (Also, some of the stores in Long Grove open up for after the event!)

WE NEED RUNNING (walking) MATES. Would you be interested in being a part of a SOTP team to Help Exodus Run/Walk for refugees? The event course is a 5K Chip-timed race and a 3K walk through a historic business district and Long Grove country roads. The entry fee includes water, goodie bags, pancake breakfast, T shirt (of course!), and much more.

Contact Sandy Hupert sandyhupert@gmail.com (224-569-6041), or any Mission Team member if you are interested in participating, would like the name of a participant to support or any other question concerning Exodus.

MISSION TEAM NEWS

EXODUS WELCOME TO AMERICA PACK

The Mission team is very excited with the response for the Welcome to America Packs

The Hamid Family from Bagdad were very thankful for our delivery in June>>>

SO NOW WE HOPE TO AID ANOTHER REFUGEE FAMILY.

The tall sign up sheet will go up early in August. We hope to have collections done by September. We already have a set of dishes, a twin blanket and a set of drinking glasses.

QUESTIONS? Ask any Mission Team member or contact Sandy Hupert at sandyhupert@gmail.com (224-569-6041).



NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK (Saturday, November 8)



Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

SAVE THIS DATE. **Northern Illinois Food Bank** 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Details to follow soon.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Mr. Hopeful (the little green-shirted guy by the welcome window) is looking for more **GREEN CARDS** to be filled out and dropped in the box next to him. What are the green cards for? They are a way you can say what you are currently doing for God's work or a suggestion of what you might want to do. DIDN'T GET A GREEN CARD? There are some right next to the little box of completed cards. Of course, we can give suggestions, but mostly it would be great to see what YOU are or will be doing. Please help us in this effort.

PLEASE ASK THE MISSION TEAM (Jill Brown, Becky Henessey, Carl Hupert, Sandy Hupert, Theresa Mohlgren, Larry Newbanks, Nancy Ottinger, Jules Pelka, & Mary Trohdahl) ANY QUESTIONS.. They will also have extra Green Cards if needed.

AUGUST VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Saturday 5:00 p.m...... Becky Tuzik, Tom & Darlene Polzin
& Volunteers

Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. (setup). Ann Lehman & Caryl Fabian

Sunday 10:45 a.m. (take-down)

August 3.....Jan & Don Koerner

August 10.....Merrily Burkland & Barb Beaudette

August 17.....Linda Jahr & Donna Schneff

August 24.....Sandy Hupert & Marlene Boehler

August 31.....Jan & Don Koerner

I continue to encourage our members to become a member of the Altar Guild. If you have interest in serving please contact Sue Wehnes at (224) 569-2808. On-the-job training is available.

COUNTERS

William Brody, Dottie Bobzin, John Throckmorton

GREETERS

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

All Saturdays Nel & Ruth Quam

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

August 3..... Terry Halpin & Joanne Klinger

August 10..... Terry Halpin & Barbara Niemec

August 17..... Terry Halpin & Barbara Niemec

August 24..... Terry Halpin & Alice Murphy

August 31..... Terry Halpin & Judy Sanford

Sunday 10:45 a.m.

All Sundays Bob & Carolyn Malm

FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY

ATTENTION LADIES!

Friends Bible Study meets on **Monday afternoon from 12:30-2:00 p.m.** at the church. We will be studying from the book “Angels” by Douglas Connelly.

Do angels have wings and fly? Do they protect us from accidents? Will we become angels? Misconceptions about angels abound. This study will show you what the Bible really says about God’s angels and about fallen angels. Come and discover the wonderful ministry angels have in our lives.

We will begin our fall session on **Monday, September 8** with a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own beverage. You are invited to join us at any time as we meet, pray, study, laugh and fellowship together. We have fun studying the Bible and getting to know each other better.

Books will be for sale between services on Sunday, August 31, September 7, and at our luncheon on September 8. Please contact Barb Hoch at 847 -669-6652 for more information.

A Friend is a gift you give yourself! Please plan to join us and make new friends!

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed this month for the Grafton Food Pantry:

Cereal, pancake mix, toothpaste, kitchen needs (salt, sugar, flour, spices, cooking oil), jello and pudding baking mixes.

Thank you so very much for all you do.



FINANCIAL NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget Year-to-Date as of June 30, 2014:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 267,755.11	\$ 257,670.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 250,610.41	\$ 257,658.00
Net Income:	\$ 17,144.70	\$ 12.00

General Fund Notes: Through June, operating revenues exceed expenses. Member contributions continue to exceed budget primarily due to Prepaid Pledges of \$15,480.00 from 2013 being recognized in January 2014. Expenses are over budget in the categories headed Facilities, and Equipment Rental. The insurance expenses have evened out as we spread it was spread over the first six months. Facilities Lawncare/Snow Removal is in excess of budget because of the number of snow events we have had this year and mulch expense not budgeted. Overall General Fund Expenses are under Budget YTD \$7,047.59 primarily in the Staffing Ministry expense category and restraint in spending in various other expense categories.

Building Fund Year-to-Date as of June 30, 2014:

Building Fund Begin Balance 06/01/2014:	\$ 80,255.25
Building Fund Donations:	\$120,223.38
Prepaid Building Fund Donations 2013:	\$ 6,533.40

Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 57,326.78
Loan Interest Payments:	\$ 11,043.22
Principal Only Payments:	\$ 13,337.02
Total Building Fund Expenses:	\$ 81,707.02

Ending Fund Balance: \$ 105,305.01

Net Income: \$ 45,049.76

The current building loan balance is \$851,282.52. Thanks to your faithful giving we continue to reduce our building loan obligation.

Jim Hanley
SOTP Treasurer

BUILDING FUND UPDATE FOR AUGUST 2014

Loan Balance	\$839,601.19
Estimated Payoff Date	June 2020

August Birthdays

Date Name

- 1 John Kawa, Troy Miller,
Alexandria Miley
- 2 Joy Kruto, Joyce Petersen,
Darin Allison
- 3 Alice Murphy, Jennifer Baumstark,
Nate Brown, Ava Hisel
- 4 Marian Mesebrink, Emmetta Shepard,
Dave Macaulay, Kathryn Weston
- 5 Len Suski
- 7 Joanne Klinger, Lauren Black
- 8 Laura Klaus, Josh Ramey
- 9 Nancy Ottinger, Sarah Wolf,
MacKenzie Alpert, Madison Alpert,
Max Hisel
- 10 Theresa Molgren, Tom Knawa
- 11 Sandra Lemke, Angi Corless
- 12 Carlee Petelle, Bill Noffz, Colin Wade
- 14 Richard Moore, Tim Lukes
- 15 Erica Bishop
- 16 Marissa Rojas, Cade Golembeck
- 17 Warren Brody, Sarah Roberts,
Joseph Roberts
- 18 Barbara Beaudette, Carol Engstrom
- 20 Betty Knawa, Tyler Hennessey
- 21 Savannah Patel, Aidan Hibbeler
- 22 Michael Saletta, Christine Black
- 23 Barbara Auwerda, Carrie Mathiesen,
Jared Grabs
- 24 Lou Soest, Jeff Kolcz
- 25 Christa Serpe
- 26 Larry Dale, Joseph Browne
- 27 Jessica Hess, Justin Underwood
- 28 Martha Brenner, Jim Auwerda,
Brian Bala, Gloria Desiato,
Cassidy Mathiesen, Rebecca Powe
- 29 Sue Wehnes, Barry Burren,
Adam Adams
- 30 Bonnie Baysen, Geri Dale,
Charles Tresp, Jean Libby,
Robert McDuffee, Timothy Reincke
- 31 Jordyn Bremer, Alicia Parmele

Staff and Contacts

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Jill Gillingm

Little Lambs

Sandy Martin

Cherub Choir

Michael Waal

Blessings Choir

Denise James

Joy Ringers

Michael Parmele

Sunday School Director

Sue Wehnes, Renae Greene

Contributions Secretaries

Tammy Uteg

Music Librarian

Congregation Council

Bob McDuffee, *President*

Kathy McGuine, *Vice President*

Mike McCann, *Secretary*

Jim Henley, *Treasurer*

Adam Adams

Marlene Boehler

Amy Brittain

Larry Newbanks

Wayne Schmidt