



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

**Congregational
Newsletter**
October 2014

SOTP Statement of Purpose

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

**NEW MEMBERS
CLASS**

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

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, October 5, 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, October 12. 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
10805 Main Street, Huntley, IL 60142 • Phone: 847-669-9448 • Fax: 847-669-9455 • www.sotp.org
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Mon-Fri

A Note From Pastor Mark

Dear Christian Friends,

God calls us, his followers, to be the salt and the light of the world. Salt adds flavor and serves as a preservative.

And what is the reason for all the saltiness and shininess? According to verse 16, it's for others to see our good deeds and know that they're God's work. It's to give glory and praise to our God. God calls us to be intentional, to make a difference. God calls us to be salt and light for the world.

Have you ever felt like you don't have enough to give? What if the shaker runs dry, or the Light bulb burns out? Staying connected to God – through prayer, devotions, worship, service, and community – can help with that.

God will equip you, and open your eyes to all kinds of opportunities to sprinkle his flavor of love and kindness, and to shine his ray of hope, wherever they are needed.

Think about opportunities that you have had to add some flavor and light in the lives of others.

Have you sent a greeting card lately? Have you brought food or groceries to someone? Have you offered a ride for someone who doesn't have transportation? Have you visited someone who is ailing or grieving?

SALT & MATTHEW 5:13-16 LIGHT

Have you offered assistance or prayer? Have you had a chance to be a good listener as someone poured out their troubles? Have you invited someone to Shepherd of the Prairie?

God wants our lives to be full and abundant.

When we open ourselves up to God, we can see places where we can share with others.

And by so doing, we receive a blessing, also.

God equips and enables us to do the work of God's Kingdom, here and now.

I'll see you in worship,

Pastor Mark

Pastor Bill's Adult Education News



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

October brings with it a "mixed bag" for adult education. First, our journey through the Gospel of John will continue through the week of the 12th as we look carefully at John's artful telling of Jesus' death and resurrection, and then at those who are called to be witnesses to these events. Then, beginning the week of October 19th, we'll shift gears as we start a six week journey to consider "*Six Core Lutheran Values.*" What are those tenets of the faith that we hold dear and are non-negotiable? What are those beliefs that are open to change? These six core values will be seen in light of a God who is full of surprises; a radical God who doesn't act like gods of the past or of the present. Come join us as we meet every **Sunday morning at 9:00 and 10:30, on Tuesday evenings at 7:00, and on Wednesday mornings at 11:00.**

Second, during October we'll also continue our journey called "*Animate: Faith.*" We'll explore how best to walk in the way of Jesus. We'll ask about salvation, and just what it means to be saved. The cross will occupy a third session--what, in fact, happened on that day outside of Jerusalem in 33 AD and why does it make a difference? And then we'll look at this curious book called the Bible. Why do we have it, and what are we supposed to glean from its pages? And how do we get a collection of writings that are over 2000 years old to make sense to us in 2014? **We meet every Wednesday from 6:30-7:45 p.m.,** and it would be fantastic if YOU joined us!

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

PRAYER MINISTRY

As many of you know, Carol Gerhardt has answered God's call to head the Prayer Ministry here at SOTP. We thank God for her and know that she will guide this ministry in a wonderful way!

If you are not yet a part of this special ministry, we invite you to join us as we bring our petitions to God on behalf of members, family, friends and the world.

You can participate in the Prayer Ministry two ways:

- E-mail prayer chain: As requests come in, they are sent out to all who have requested to be on the Prayer Chain email list. Once the prayers are received by the members, they are prayed for by each in their own way. *(Some may be able to stop and pray right away and others may wait until they can put aside some time to spend with God in prayer. Sometimes they may pray for each petition individually and at other times life is so busy one prays for the entire group as a whole. As long as we are coming to God with our prayers, the manner is not as important as the fact that we are praying for those that need our prayers.)*
- Published list: Lists of petitions are sent to you weekly in the e-mailed weekend announcements within the Friday Flourish and there are printed copies of the prayer list available on the Usher's table in the Crossroads. *(If you aren't receiving the Friday Flourish and would like weekly updates on SOTP, please e-mail admin@sotpmail.com and ask to be added, we would be happy to add you.)*

Sometimes there is a petition that is asked to be kept private and unpublished. We honor those requests. They will not be published and will only be sent by e-mail to the prayer chain. When such a request is made, we ask that this be kept confidential.

If you would like to submit a prayer request or join our Prayer Chain, there are several ways to do so:

- Calling or emailing Carol Gerhardt, 847-683-2746 or omafive@att.net
- Calling the church office at 847/669-9448
- Filling out one of the yellow prayer request sheets found on the Usher's table in the Crossroads and placing it in the wooden box by the requests.

We are always in need of more members for our prayer ministry. If you would like to be part of the SOTP email prayer ministry, please contact Carol Gerhardt or the church office and we will happily add you to our e-mail distribution.

From The Word...

We all struggle with sin. It is a fact of life in a broken and fallen world. We may know what is right and try with all our effort to do what is right, but still find ourselves giving in. The apostle Paul admitted his personal struggle with sinful inclinations: "I do not understand what I do. For what

"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

—Romans 7:24-25

I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. . . . I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. . . . What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:15, 18, 24). No doubt Paul would include in this struggle the moral dilemma between deciding to do what everyone else is doing and deciding to do what God says is right and true.

In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus describes the spiritual struggle of choosing who or what we will follow in life. He calls us to make the right choice as we stand at a fork in the road. On one side sits a wide gate that opens onto a broad road. Those who look through the gate will see that the path beyond is wide and well-worn from the number of people who have gone down it. In fact, many can be seen walking that way. But this is the path that leads to death. On the other side is a narrow gate that opens onto a small trail. Maybe we see nobody going down that path, but Jesus commands his listeners to take this latter path. Even though fewer travel it, he says it is the path that leads to life.

While we need to recognize that both we and our children will make many mistakes and poor choices, we must at the same time pursue and point to the direction of Paul's answer to this universal tendency to give in to our sinful nature. Paul ends the description of his personal struggle with sin on a victorious note about the way out: "Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 7:25).

YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

"I was saying to a friend the other day 'Remember, our kids are not us' They're not. Sometimes we're trying to fix things that happened to us or projecting (onto them), and that's a terrible, terrible trap."

Jada Pinkett Smith,
on parenting,
Us Weekly,
August 18, 2014,
p. 18.



Trends Teens and HGH

New research from the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids (drugfree.org) has found that among teenagers in grades 9-12, there has been a doubling of the reported lifetime use of synthetic HGH, from five percent in 2012 to

11 percent in 2013. The research indicates that African-American and Hispanic teens are more likely to report the use of synthetic HGH, at rates of

15 percent and 13 percent respectively. The survey found that 9 percent of Caucasian teens have used synthetic HGH. Overall, 12 percent of the male teen population and 9 percent of the female teen population report use.

In recent years a large, growing, and unregulated over-the-counter and through-the-Internet synthetic HGH business has been answering a growing demand among teenagers and adults looking to improve their athletic performance and/or outward appearance. This dramatic jump in use should serve as a wake-up call to parents, educators, and youth workers as we endeavor to provide a unified front to protect our vulnerable and impressionable kids from harm, while providing for their well-being.



Latest Research Pornography Use

One of the greatest threats to our spiritual, physical, and relational well-being is pornography. Researchers tell us that 70 percent of our boys and 23 percent of our girls have spent more than 30 consecutive minutes looking at online pornography on at least one

occasion. 35 percent of our boys have done this on more than 10 occasions. And 14 percent of our girls have spent more than 30 consecutive minutes looking at online pornography

on more than one occasion. Parents, not only is pornography pervasive in today's culture, but your sexually developing and curious kids will one day encounter porn. And if they don't find it, it will find them. It's not a matter of if, but when. Take a proactive and preventive approach by sitting down and talking with your children about pornography, the way that it distorts God's good and wonderful gift of sexuality, and the harm that it causes.

QUICK STATS

It will cost a middle-income couple an estimated \$245,000 to raise a child born in 2013 to the age of 18.

—U.S. Department of Agriculture

Teenagers who get fewer than six hours of sleep a night are 20% more likely to be obese by the age of 21.

—Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

Operation Christmas Child

It's not too early to think about Christmas! Once again, our SOTP youth will be leading us in Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Christmas shoeboxes—often the only gift many children will receive—are filled with toys, hygiene items and school supplies, and sent to children in need around the world. We hope SOTP members of all ages will help us fill many boxes of joy.



Ways to help:

- Pick up a red-and-green shoebox at the OCC display which will be in the Crossroads in mid-October. Or use a shoebox from home. OCC suggests starting with a toy or two that will bring an immediate big smile. For more suggestions and the needed tags, pick up a brochure at our OCC table or go to samaritanpurse.org/occ. Also, OCC requests that you include \$7.00 for shipping. This can be a check inside the box or donated online with the receipt attached to the box.
- Individual items and cash donations are also welcome. If you don't want to fill an entire shoebox, we'll have a box in the Crossroads where you can drop off individual items. Our church youth will use these to fill additional boxes at our packing party. Or you can make a cash donation, and our youth will do the shopping for you.
- Bring your items or your filled box to SOTP anytime in November, but by November 16 at the latest.

What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Before distributing the boxes, OCC adds a gospel book in the child's native language, so the boxes truly are a way to demonstrate God's love to needy children around the world. Many of these children are invited to attend a 12-week follow-up discipleship program. And it all starts with a shoebox full of love.

Questions? Contact Sophie Dowell or Grace Boster. And thank you!

WELCA



Women ^{of the} **ELCA**

Set Aside the Date

A Pre-Holiday Event

Holiday Fashion and Luncheon

Christopher & Banks and Tropical Café Catering

Saturday, November 15, 11:30 a.m.

WELCA's Barb Pagano & Hostesses

Tickets and Reservations taken beginning October

MARY/MARTHA

All women of the church are invited to join the (WELCA) Mary Martha bible study on **Thursday, October 9, from 12:30-2:00 in the afternoon.**

Our study will be from the Gather Magazine and the theme is **"We Are Called"** transforming life and faith.

In this session we will revisit the risen Christ's calling of Paul, study ways God has recruited prophets and disciples, and consider how we have been called in baptism and throughout the twists and turns of our lives.



CHILI & CHEESECAKE COOK-OFF



Do you have secret family chili recipe or do you make the best cheesecake this side of New York? Of course you do! Bring them to our **Chili & Cheesecake Cook-Off on Sunday, October 12 at 5:30 p.m.** at the church. We will be voting on the best chili and cheesecakes in several categories and prizes will be awarded (along with bragging rights!!). Even if you don't bring a chili or cheesecake for judging, come and vote for your favorite and

enjoy the fellowship. We will provide an alternative for those who don't eat chili. Any questions? Contact Donna Kelly at donna@sotpmail.com. If you are planning to bring a pot of chili and/or a cheesecake please contact Pam Waloch, pwalloch911@yahoo.com so we have an approximate count. See you there.



FOOD PANTRY

Items needed this month for the **Grafton Food Pantry:**

Soup (ready to eat, dry mixes, chicken noodle), TP, whole kernel corn, jam, pasta noodles (any), mixes (cookies, cakes, etc.), canned peaches, refried beans, deodorant, salad dressing, kitchen needs (salt, sugar, flour, spices, etc.)

Thank you so very much for all you do.



PRAIRIE POINT QUILTERS

SAVE THOSE QUARTERS!!

On the weekend of November 23, 2014, the Prairie Point Quilters will be having their annual Quilt Dedication. All the beautiful quilts that the quilters have made throughout the year will be displayed in the sanctuary. In conjunction with the Quilt Dedication we will be holding our 'QUARTERS FOR QUILTS' campaign. Please start saving your QUARTERS!! The proceeds will be used to purchase batting and other much needed quilting supplies. Your support will be greatly appreciated!



STEWARDSHIP TALES



A finance officer ensures that the money is well managed by budgeting carefully, tracking expenses, and paying bills. A lousy manager incurs late fees for overdue bills or by making mistakes that cost the company. But have you ever thought of yourself as the steward, or finance officer, of the gifts God has given you?

In Luke 19, we read about a nobleman giving ten minas to his workers. Then the three of them are evaluated in how they handled the money. How we use gifts from God can glorify the Giver or reveal the selfishness of the receiver. Do we spend beyond our means and wonder why we're in debt? Do we budget our money carefully so that we can give to our church?

Luke 19 is not about investing just for the sake of investing, but about using God's gifts in order to make the Gospel message of Christ's love known to the world. We are stewards, entrusted with God's gifts to support our own and others needs. But in this area in life, as in all others, we often fall short. But God the Giver gives to us yet again in forgiveness and mercy.

MISSION TEAM NEWS

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE



The SOTP Mission Team designated \$500 in September to go to Lutheran Disaster Response. It was a cry for help from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Working with the Lutheran World Federation, the Lutheran Disaster Response has committed assistance

to Augusta Victorian Hospital in Jerusalem, a place that provides medical services regardless of race, gender, religious, or political affiliation.

EXODUS WELCOME TO AMERICA PACK

HELP US WITH THE NEW WELCOME TO AMERICA PACK.

Some of the items still needed are: towel sets, queen sheets, covered fry pan, silverware, broom & dust pan, stamps, box of envelopes, radio alarm clock and much more. PLEASE check the tall sign up board in the crossroads for more information and detailed needs. Call or email Sandy Hupert -- 224-869-6041, sandyhupert@gmail.com or any mission team member.

"...in as much as you have done it unto the least of these my brothers you have done it to me."

—Matthew 25:40

GEMS GIRLS' CLUB

We are so excited to announce that Shepherd of the Prairie will be starting this year's **GEMS** (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) Club again this year!!! We are looking for any and all 4th & 5th grade girls to join us. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. starting Wednesday, October 15th. For additional information, see the latest Friday Flourish (right side of our home page www.sotp.org) and registration is available on the "Registration" page of our web site.

MISSION TEAM NEWS

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

You are needed! For **Saturday, November 8, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.** the Mission committee has committed 53 volunteers to help re-

package food at the **Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB)** in

Geneva. . This is the most we have ever committed to bring to an event like this, but because of the enthusiasm of past trips and the willingness of so many of you to give of your

time we felt we would have no trouble bringing that many.



The only age requirement is that you must be at least 10 years old. Many of you have gone in the past and know what a rewarding experience it can be. If you have not done anything like this before the committee would urge to consider going.

It is a few weeks away, but try and make room for it on your busy calendar and email Sid Sorensen at sorensensid@comcast.net or call [224-858-4168](tel:224-858-4168).

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM THERESA

Thanks to all my SOTP family for the lovely coffee hour held in my honor. Leaving you is a sad experience, even though I'm happy to be near family in the Nashville, TN area. I have been blessed by my 12 year membership at SOTP and enriched by the pastoral guidance of Pastor Mark and Pastor Bill (and Pastor Ken and Pastor Sue Ellen before them). I will continue to pray for you and your mission.

God bless.

—Theresa Molgren

FINANCIAL NEWS

Treasurer's Report

Operating Budget Year-to-Date as of August 31, 2014:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 354,294.18	\$ 343,560.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 331,468.75	\$ 343,544.00
Net Income:	\$ 22,825.43	\$ 16.00

General Fund Notes: Through August, 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 Office Expenses - Equipment Rental. 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 \$12,075.25 in the categories Mission Ministry, Staffing Ministry, and Outreach Ministry and we appreciate the restraint staff and mission teams have shown in spending in the various other expense categories.

Building Fund Year-to-Date as of August 31, 2014:

Building Fund Begin Balance 08/01/2014:	\$ 60,255.25
Debt Reduction Donations	\$ 17,910.75
Building Fund Donations:	\$148,175.32
Mission Plus Interest Income	\$ 320.32
Prepaid Building Fund Donations 2013:	\$ 6,533.40

Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 80,435.79
Loan Interest Payments:	\$ 15,282.21
Principal Only Payments:	\$ 27,449.77
Total Building Fund Expenses:	\$ 123,167.77
Ending Fund Balance:	\$ 110,027.27
Net Income:	\$ 49,772.02

The current building loan balance is \$814,010.76 Thank you for your faithful giving as we continue to cover our mission operational costs and funding our building loan obligation.

Jim Henley

—SOTP Treasurer

FINANCIAL NEWS *(cont.)*

BUILDING FUND UPDATE FOR OCTOBER, 2014

Loan Balance.....\$802,389.57
 Estimated Payoff DateMay 1, 2020

OCTOBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

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

Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. (setup)Marilyn Schnake, Sue Wehnes,
 Barbara Nitschneider

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

October 5.....Sandy Hupert & Barb Beaudette
 October 12.....Jan & Don Koerner
 October 19.....Pam & Darren Walloch
 October 26.....Linda Jahr & Donna Schneff

October Alternates if needed Merrily Burkland & Marlene Boehler

COUNTERS

Warren Brody, Mary Trodahl, Cal Meyer

WELCOME MINISTRY

<u>Date</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:45 a.m.</u>
October 5	Cathie & Jim Conway	Helen Fenzan
October 12	Jack & Mary Conti	Debbie Lindquist & Noreta Walker
October 19	Jan Suski & Joyce Thompson	Elaine & Guy Neukirch
October 26	Chris & Mary Trodahl	Joanne Bychowsky

October Birthdays

Date Name

- 1 Dolly Cardascio, Karen Klein, Gayle Uhlman, Roger Emery, Craig Mudge, Viveka Forsythe
- 2 Barbara Butzen, John Throckmorton, Beth Harding
- 3 Caden Mathiesen
- 4 Chris Trodahl, Helene Himebaugh, Karen Raistrick
- 4 Olivia Burg
- 6 Jodi Dowell, Peyton Wade
- 7 Lynn Broederdorf, Arlene Wille, Pam Fender, Tracy Allison, Casey Rhode, Colton Hess, Alicia Sova
- 8 Sandra Richardson, Kimberly Stowell, Mike Stenson
- 9 Julius Pelka, Ralph Scalise
- 10 Mark Alpert
- 11 Donna Lundstrom, Kara Burg, Summer Lukes
- 12 Janet Larrison
- 13 Tom Polzin, Jeanne Henley
- 14 Louis Vanaria, Ken Raines, Kyle Papka, Kyle Wolf
- 15 Zigrida Bekeris, Kathryn Dahl, Jen Kolcz, Hannah Mudge
- 16 Bonnie Vanaria, Dan Mandro
- 17 Ann Lehman, Julia Henderson, Luke Mejdrich
- 18 Myra Lawrence
- 19 Scott Browne
- 20 Julia Dunfrund, Mary Conti, Ginny Manley, Jim McGuine
- 21 Jordan Trevino, Andrew Kowalski, Zoe Rosemarie Harvat
- 22 Louise Sebastian, Steve Legel, Mark Mathiesen
- 23 Melissa Bala
- 24 Ralph Bergstrom, Ralph Bergstrom, Chole Bozza, Katelyn Territo, Ryan Michalak
- 25 Bear Reed, Brian Eric Harvat
- 26 Madison Szekely, Tyler Szekely, Samantha Crase
- 27 Carol Minutillo, Janet Walker
- 28 Bob Uhlman, Kathy Guerrieri, Nicholas Adams, Allison Territo
- 29 Chuck Zunker, Robert Malm, Jessica Buesing
- 30 Gladys Feustel, Joseph Perrott, Jenni Browne, Henry Martin
- 31 Lloyd Davis, Betty Hansen, Cliff Dungey, Kim Domenz, Tiffanie Young

Staff and Contacts

Pastor Mark Boster

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Jill Gillming

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

Shepherd of the Prairie is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Statement of Purpose: “We care for God’s children of all ages by growing disciples who make disciples.”

For information, please call the church office at (847) 669-9448 or email: pastormark@sotpmail.com.
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Lutheran Church
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Worship Schedule
*10805 Main Street
Huntley, IL 60142*

Saturday Evening

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning

9:00 a. m. Traditional Service

10:45 a. m. Contemporary

Service

Refreshments between Services

Nursery care provided all morning

Sunday School at both services

(September through May)

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