



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

Congregational Newsletter November 2014

SOTP Statement of Purpose

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Last month we welcomed new members to our family here at SOTP.
The New Members:

- George & Carol Goodhue
- Patty Hoogkirk and Hayden and Kirstin
- Paul & Shannon Ross and Chris,
Cody, Caitlin and Morgan
- Gary & Colleen Bender
- Carol Forsythe
- Sandy Pelka,
- Barb Heuser
- Carrie Padget
- Marilynn Schnell.



We are blessed to have these new brothers and sisters in Christ. Be sure to welcome and invite them to join with you in activities here at SOTP.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP AND PIEFEST

Please join us on **Thanksgiving Eve**, November 26, for worship at 7:00 p.m. followed by Piefest. You are encouraged to bring an extra pie from the Thanksgiving table to share with your brothers and sisters at SOTP. Join us for worship and fun fellowship following.

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
10805 Main St, 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,

Those Generous Macedonians...

When God gave the Promised Land to the Israelites, God told them what was expected of them regarding the poor who would be among them. The Israelites were to be openhanded to their needs. In the same way, we are to be openhanded with all that God has given us.

In *The Joyful Christian*, C.S. Lewis gives a good definition of what being openhanded means. He writes, "I do not believe one can settle on how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common to those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we would like to do but cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them" (pg. 144).

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, Paul sheds an even greater light on giving. The very act of giving generously is a gift from God. He cites the example of the Macedonians who insisted on the privilege of giving even from their poverty. He goes on to encourage the Corinthians to follow in their stead. It is interesting to note that these Christians had wealth, but had not yet considered generous giving as an outlet of their faith. Not only

does Paul give them the example of the Macedonians but reminds them of the gift Jesus gave us—leaving his heavenly home to live as a man in our world. We are reminded of the letter to the Philippians where Paul says that Jesus, having the very nature of God, did not consider exploiting that position but instead took the nature of a servant, taking the form of a man and being obedient to death, even death on the cross.

I would encourage and challenge us in our giving. Be encouraged by the great faith shown by our sister and brother in Macedonia long ago. What is our response to giving to those in need? Do we give openhandedly, or do we find excuses for not giving?

When given examples of others who are giving generously, do we respond in kind, or find reasons why we cannot? When reminded of all that Jesus gave on our behalf, can we do otherwise than give ourselves and all that we have to him in return? May our prayerful response be— "We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee."

Thanks for your faithful giving and serving through Shepherd of the Prairie. I am so blessed to serve among you.

Pastor Mark

Pastor Bill's Adult Education News



During the month of November, our adult education classes will continue our study of "**6 Core Lutheran Values**" every Sunday morning at 9:00 and 10:30, on Tuesday evenings at 7:00, and on Wednesday mornings at 11:00. These are the deeply held beliefs that define who we are as Lutheran Christians. They certainly don't make us any better than anyone else (!) but they do shape what we believe and how we live out those beliefs. Even if you haven't joined us in October, feel free to jump in at any time.

This series will be the last series for the fall. We'll conclude the week of November 23rd, and then take a hiatus during the holidays, resuming our classes in January. Watch for further details for the first of the new year!

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

2015 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE PROGRAM

Looking at the many accomplishments of our congregation is an inspiring experience! We have worked hard toward our goals and made a difference for good in the lives of many. Our ministries reach out into our community and across the world. It is a joy to be part of Shepherd of the Prairie.

Supporting all that we do requires a lot of prayer, sharing of gifts and talents, being open to the leading of God's Holy Spirit and then stepping forward in faith and love. Thank you for giving your faithful support of God's work! What a blessing!

On Saturday November 8th and Sunday November 9th we will have our **2015 Commitment Weekend**. This is our opportunity to again express our individual concern and witness. When you attend Church, you will be given an **"Estimate of Giving"** card. You will be asked to make an estimate of giving to Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church's General Fund and/or Building Fund. This estimate will be used by our Finance Team to formulate a budget for 2015. Even if you don't plan to give an estimate of your giving at this time, **please fill out a card or use the online form**. This will save the time of contacting you later in November to determine your intentions for 2015.

If you would rather give your intentions on line, you can go to www.sotp.org, click on the Estimate of Giving link on the home page and record your intentions on line. Last year over 90 families used the computer web site.

You will also notice on the Estimate of Giving card, as well as the on the online form, you can apply for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for your giving. At the present time we have 49 families using Simply Giving EFT.

Each of us is one of God's unique creations. Because of this, there are things only you can do. What are the special gifts of time, talent and treasure that you alone can share? Give this your prayerful consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact any members of the Stewardship Team; Kathy Dahl, Jerry Bergman, Warren Brody, Enrique Rojas, Darren Walloch, Bob McDuffee, & Ralph Wehnes.

Our church is diverse, our talents widespread and our generosity abounding. We'll have another great year ahead!

Blessings,

Your Stewardship Team

YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

From The Word...

Growing up in today's youth culture means that our kids live their lives on a landscape filled with all kinds of pressures and choices. One of the most important lessons we can teach them is that whenever they make a choice, they are choosing sides. They either choose the narrow road that leads to life as they make their choice intent on bringing glory to the Kingdom of God, or they choose the wide road that brings glory to what the Bible calls the kingdoms of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

—James 4:4

Counselor Timothy Lane reminds us that the world, the flesh, and the devil are three basic elements to temptation. The world includes our past, our strengths and weaknesses, and our relationships. These things don't determine our behavior, but are our “bents” that lead us to respond and choose in certain ways. The flesh is our evil desires. And the devil is the one who uses the world and the flesh to set traps that lead us into sin. . . and then accuses us of being so rotten and evil when we do sin that we stand no chance before God.

But John reminds us that while we are to remain watchful because of the world, the flesh, and the devil, God has provided a way out. The Spirit tells us, “The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (James 4:4). That's a message that we must embrace ourselves, and never stop teaching our kids.

YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

“The past does haunt you, but it haunts you for a reason: to remind you of the mistakes and actions you've made along the way and you have to grow from those actions.”

RJ Mitte, actor who played Walter White Jr. in AMC's “**Breaking Bad**” reflecting on his past and his real-life struggles with cerebral palsy

—Intelligencer Journal/New Era, September 11, 2014



YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

Trends

Exercise Dependency

Over the last several years, CPYU has researched the eating disorders known as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa on numerous occasions. While doing that research, we learned that there are all other kinds of disordered eating starting to

sweep through our culture. We live in a world where the pressure to be thin and to be perfect are overwhelming. One surprising disorder is



labeled hyper-gymnasia. It's an obsession with and addiction to exercise. It's now more commonly called exercise dependency. A recent study of 2,800 secondary school children found that as many as 8.5% showed some degree of exercise dependency. While this behavior spans both genders, it tends to be young women who most often show signs of becoming obsessed with a gym perfect physique and then exercise as much and as often as possible. In a world where identity is found in appearance, we need to lead our kids to find their identity in Christ.

Latest Research

Sexual Assault

Earlier this fall, the United Nations released some alarming news regarding rape and sexual assault against girls under the age of eighteen. New research indicates that one in ten girls around the world have been forced to have intercourse or take part in other sexual acts. This

means that there are about one-hundred-and-twenty million girls who have been victimized, most commonly by former husbands, boyfriends, and partners. What is

it that feeds this horrible scourge of sexual misconduct? First, the sin that has entered into and permeates the world has broken God's good gift of our sexuality. And second, we live in a culture that continues to promote boundary free sexual expression and the objectification of people, which combines to send the message that people are not people, but sexual objects to be used. Parents, teach your children about God's design and order for sexuality. Teach them how to avoid being victimized, and how to view others with God-given dignity and value.

QUICK STATS

52% of American teens between the ages of 15 to 17-years-old don't know how to change a tire. 32% don't even know how to check tire pressure.

—STUDY COMMISSIONED BY MICHELIN

Operation Christmas Child



There's still time to be part of **Operation Christmas Child!** Just fill a shoebox—often the only gift many children in war-torn or poverty-stricken countries will receive—with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Or bring some individual items (toys, crayons, hard candy, etc.) to be combined with others to fill more boxes. Or if you'd rather donate

cash, our church youth will do the shopping for you. (Need a shoebox? We have lots of the ready-to-fill red and green boxes at the OCC table.)

Please bring all filled boxes and other donations to SOTP by **Sunday, November 16**, so there is time to get them to children in need around the world. For details, please pick up a flyer at our OCC display or go to samaritanspurse.org/occ. OCC requests that you include \$7.00 for shipping. This can be a check inside the box or donated online. (*More fun: an online donation allows you to follow your box around the world.*)

What goes into the shoebox is fun, but what comes out 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. Please contact Sophie Dowell or Grace Boster with any questions. And thanks to all of you who have already helped with shoe boxes, donations and prayers. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of many children.

WELCA



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

See Barb for Tickets and Reservations

MARY/MARTHA



WELCA - MARY MARTHA will meet
**Thursday November 13 from 1:00-3:00
p.m.**

Our lesson is from the October issue of the GATHER magazine and we will cover the October lesson "**We Are Called**". We will revisit the Christ's calling of Paul and meet people from both the old and new testaments who heard God's call. Please come and join us.

FOOD PANTRY

SOTP is committed to the Grafton Food Pantry program, which meets the needs of families and individuals who do not have the means to purchase food and other essential items. Food items needed this month: Baking Mixes, Salad Dressings, Deodorant, Salt, Sugar, Flour, Toothpaste, Soup.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

CRAFT BAZAAR & BAKE SALE

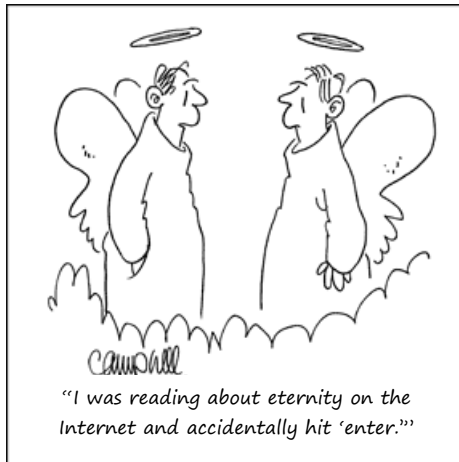


The **SOTP 11th Annual Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale** is coming in early November. This is a great opportunity to gather up those handmade goodies for teachers, grandparents, new babies and loved ones of all ages. Join us again for our **Santa's Workshop**, for

children to shop for their loved ones—no parents allowed! Plan to attend, let us help you get through the busy holiday season with a smile!

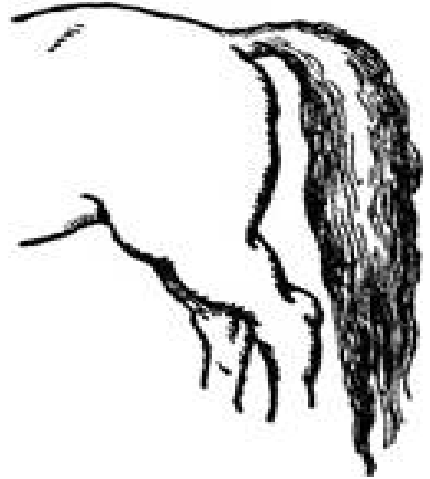
SOTP 11th Annual Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale :

- Friday, November 7—5:00-8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 8 —9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and before & after services
- Sunday, November 9—before & after services.



STEWARDSHIP TALES

When it comes to giving hard earned money to the church, what basis is there from which to determine an acceptable contribution? Along with this question there is also the consideration of what standard should be used—the Jones', the church's, our own, or God's? The concept of tithing is for the most part an act of adoration and thanksgiving. It is returning to God ten per cent of all one receives as an acknowledgement that God has dominion over everything. Often when the church asks for money, the reply is "how much do you need?" This has nothing to do with needs of others, but with an individual's personal need to recognize God as a personal creator—seeing all things coming from Him.



It is a way of life whereby the person who tithes in good faith and places God first in his or her life and develops a sense of complete trust in Him. To look at tithing this way makes sense even to the poor, to those on relief, to dependents, to those who have no income or jobs. It is the responsibility of the church to be the steward of the tithe, to see that all of it is directed toward God's work here on earth. An acceptable contribution is more theological than financial or economic, in that it puts God first by returning the first ten per cent of our income. It is an act of faith and hope and love and gratitude and penance.

The intention and promise to tithe puts God first. The thither is happy to contribute God's money. They are left with the good feeling that they have made an acceptable sacrifice, not in the eyes of their neighbors, not the church, but in the eyes of God.

MISSION TEAM NEWS

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

The SOTP Mission Team designated \$500 in October to go to Lutheran Disaster Response: **Ebola Outbreak Response**. This gift will be used 100% to assist those impacted by the Ebola crisis in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The ELCA has had a long-standing relationship with these countries which provides a strong foundation to respond to their needs.



THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The SOTP Thanksgiving offering will be divided equally between two charities.

- **Feed My Starving Children**

A non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's children. Volunteer adults and children hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. These meals are then shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world.

- **ELCA World Hunger**

Working with and through congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and other partners, ELCA World Hunger reaches communities in need with meals and supports sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

GIVING TREE

In a few weeks, the "Giving Tree" will be in the crossroads with the names of McHenry county people who are in need. The tree will be up the week of Sunday, November 9th with the names on ornaments. In the weeks to follow, additional details will be in the Sunday bulletin and Friday Flourish. Our help is so much appreciated to make a brighter Christmas for the families in need.

MISSION TEAM NEWS *(cont.)*

PADS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Looking to volunteer but do not have a lot of time to give? Looking to volunteer for a ministry as a family? Pads is looking for you!

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)

provides a warm meal and a bed to the homeless during the cold months of October through March. We need 5 people to meet at SOTP at 5:30 p.m. to make sandwiches and then transport them to Bethany Lutheran Church in Crystal Lake. There you will serve supper. You should be done around 8:00 p.m. Individuals and families wanted. What a great way to serve together as a family! Volunteers are needed for Sunday October 26, November 23 and December 28. Please consider signing up on the board in the Crossroads, or contact Rebecca Hennessy 847-961-6050 or Jill Brown 847-683-5027.

We are also in need for travel-sized toiletries, Kleenex and Chapstick to give to the homeless. Please place in the PADS bin located in the crossroads. Thank you!

WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

SOTP gives you an opportunity to recognize a special individual/family/occasion by purchasing flowers to adorn our Altar in 2015. The cost per bouquet is still only \$25.00. You may elect to take the flowers home following the worship services or donate to a shut-in. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the Crossroads. Bouquets are prepared by Deb at Huntley Florist Shop. We thank her for using God's gift of flowers to enhance our worship space.



Also in November, a sign-up sheet will be available to purchase poinsettias for our Christmas season. The poinsettias will be purchased from Hubbs Greenhouse in Marengo. Please watch the Friday Flourish for additional information in November.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Treasurer's Report

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

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 393,316.13	\$ 386,505.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 383,122.63	\$ 386,487.00
Net Income:	\$ 10,193.50	\$ 18.00

General Fund Notes: Through September, 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 Income exceeds Expenses to Budget YTD \$10,193.50 and we appreciate the restraint staff and mission teams have shown in spending in the various expense categories.

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

Building Fund Begin Balance 08/01/2014:	\$ 60,255.25
Debt Reduction Donations	\$ 18,874.75
Building Fund Donations:	\$161,473.82
Mission Plus Interest Income	\$ 320.32
Prepaid Building Fund Donations 2013:	\$ 6,533.40

Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 91,999.92
Loan Interest Payments:	\$ 17,392.08
Principal Only Payments:	\$ 27,449.77
Total Building Fund Expenses:	\$ 136,841.77

Ending Fund Balance: \$ 110,615.77

Net Income: \$ 50,360.52

The September end building loan balance is \$802,446.63 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 NOVEMBER, 2014

Loan Balance.....790,679.93
Estimated Payoff DateMay, 2020

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Saturday 5:00 p.m......Becky Tuzik, Sue Blotch & Gail Quam

Sunday 9:00 a.m. (setup & take-down)Donna Newbanks & Caryl Fabian
(alternate: Jackie Elkin)

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

November 2.....Sandy Hupert & Merrily Burkland
November 9.....Pam & Darren Walloch
November 16.....Jan & Don Koerner
November 23.....Linda Jahr & Donna Schneff
November 30.....Marlene Boehler & Barb Beaudette

COUNTERS

Warren Brody, Gloria Samulson, John Shepard

GREETERS

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>
Nov. 1	Becky Tuzik
Nov. 8	Stevie Massei
Nov. 15	Becky Tuzik
Nov. 22	Lois Kenyon
Nov. 29	Kay O'Shanna

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>
Nov. 2	Judy Sanford & Terry Halpin
Nov. 9	Sara Solem & Terry Halpin
Nov. 16	Alice Murphy & Terry Halpin
Nov. 23	Sandy Lemke & Terry Halpin
Nov. 30	Joanne Klinger & Terry Halpin

Sunday 10:45a.m.

Bob & Caroline Malm

November Birthdays

Date Name

- 1 Dolores Cardascio,
Tracy McDuffee, Kylie Rankin
- 2 Elaine Brody, Terri Corless
- 3 Samantha Johnson, Diana Reincke,
Sherry Roberts
- 4 Jonathan Black
- 6 Autumn Maraviglia, Maggie Rojas,
Joseph Trevino, Michael Yndestad
- 7 Carol Gerhardt, Nancy Morbeck,
Katie Parker, Dylan Schorsch
- 8 Ken Grate
- 9 Patricia Bour, Sarah Frederickson,
Breanna Huston, Brock Riebock
- 10 Zoe Bishop, David Johnson,
Miike Kasal, Nate Reincke
- 11 Merrily Burkland, Jeffrey Case,
Carol Legel, Jake Scalise
- 12 Norris Bretsen, Kymberly
Clementi, Randi Dawson, Thor
Forsythe, Paul Marx, Dylan Miley,
Megan Prather
- 13 Melissa Juergensen, Don Koerner,
Paul Lemke, Joe Lindquist,
Alexander Stenson, Rebecca Tuzik
- 14 Mark Boster, Jill Brown,
Elise Dean, Richard Himebaugh,
Miike Parmele, Don Schneider
- 15 Richard Hoffman, Jake Luedtke
- 17 Gina Debolt, Rylen Jacobs,
Patti Schmitendorf
- 18 Kristine DeBolt, Barbara Pagano,
Ronald Petersen
- 19 Cassidy Serpe, Kim Szekely,
Pattie Young
- 20 Helen Fenzan, Brittany James,
Dick Maiman
- 21 David Kann, Jen Raines
- 22 Elizabeth Johnson, Joyce
Thompson
- 23 Drew Anderson, Laura Miley
- 25 Janet Thunholm
- 26 Jill Bohrmell, Barbara Hoppensteadt
- 27 Ted Anderson
- 28 Bailey Greene, Scott Wintersteen
- 29 Terry Halpin, Richard Juergensen
- 29 Venessa Lorenzo, Jim Rhode,
Robert Vitner

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