



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

Congregational Newsletter December 2015

Statement of Purpose

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

Celebrate Christmas with us

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

- * **Happy Birthday Jesus Party**, following 10:45 am service. Come Celebrate the BEST birthday of the year! Enjoy lunch, games, crafts, caroling, and a silly story! (Contact Shannon Mejdrieh (847)841-7055)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

- * **Children's Christmas Concert** at 9:00 am & 10:45 am services
- * **A Night in Bethlehem**, 4:00 - 6:00 pm Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have been in Bethlehem on that first Christmas? Come and experience the wonder of Jesus at A Night in Bethlehem. Come experience the sights, smells and tastes of Bethlehem as you go around to different stations and make a Christmas memory you will never forget.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

- * **Heartland Voices**, Christmas Ringers & Shepherd's Voices Concert, 4:00 pm Free concert at SOTP. (Free will offering)
- * **Christmas Cookie Walk Sale** following 9 & 10:45 am services & 4:00 pm concert

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

- * **Candlelight Family Service**, 5:00 pm
- * **Candlelight Festival Communion**
Worship, 11:00 pm



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

- * **ONLY ONE SERVICE, 10:00 am** Piano & Organ Service of Carols

10805 Main St, Huntley, IL 60142 • Phone: 847-669-9448 • www.sotp.org
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-noon, Mon-Fri

A Note From Pastor Mark

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas blessings to you and your family in your preparations to rejoice and be glad the Savior has come. I am hopeful that you will make worship a priority for you and your family during this season of joy. Two services will be offered on Christmas Eve. The first at 5:00 p.m. will be a family friendly service with carols. The 11:00 p.m. service will also be filled with carols and include the celebration of Holy Communion. Both services will end with the lighting of candles and singing "Silent Night."

Consider joining us at 11:00 p.m. this year. Parents with children under the age of 12 are invited to bring their children to worship in their PJ's. This is such a special service as we sing "Silent Night" to welcome Christmas morning. Consider a new tradition by giving Christmas pajamas to your children and join us for worship at 11:00 p.m.

In Luke 2:22-40, Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the temple to fulfill the requirements of Jewish law. We recognize their poverty because they bring only two doves rather than a lamb as their sacrificial gift.

In the temple they first encounter the "righteous and devout" Simeon. Simeon is serving in the temple awaiting the Messiah for he has been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until this desire was fulfilled. Now as Simeon holds the infant Jesus, he says, as recorded in Luke 2:29- 32: "Sovereign Lord, you have promised. Now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people."

They also meet the very elderly prophetess, Anna, a widow of many years who lived in the temple, fasting and worshipping. She, too, spoke of the child who all were looking to for the redemption of Jerusalem. Simeon, a Jew, who was living under the jurisdiction of the Romans and Anna, a widow who was at the mercy of the community for her sustenance, forgot their anxieties and found their contentment in the realization of Jesus, the Messiah.

Contrast their lives with their hope. Think about our present circumstances. We, too, are aging in an uncertain world. There are wars and unrest in many places. Though the years of our lifespan are increasing, many of us are living with life-changing illnesses and disabilities. Many have lost a spouse and even children and feel alone.

(Continued from page 2)

But as Simeon and Anna, we have the hope infused in us by the Holy Spirit at our baptism, that we are children of God, heirs with Christ. Please read Galatians 4:4-7. Like Simeon and Anna, we can go about our lives, thankful for our inheritance, living in contentment—but also as they, sharing that news joyfully with all whom we meet.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine; Oh what a foretaste of glory divine—
This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior, all the day long!
Amen.

Faithfully,

Pastor Mark



Pastor Bill's Adult Education News

Here's an invitation for you during the Advent/Christmas season: read! In the midst of all the busyness, all the hustle-and-bustle of the holidays, take a bit of time to read the story of Jesus' birth. And not just read, but read, compare, reflect. The most well-known Christmas story is found in Luke 2:1-20. This is the one we read every Christmas Eve. But the story is also found in Matthew 1:18-25. They're a bit different from each other, and yet each is rich in its own telling. Each adds to the whole. Then read John 1:1-18. It's as if John read these stories from Luke and Matthew and then asked, "Yes, but what do these stories mean?" And then he set out to give us a depth of understanding found nowhere else. And how poor we would be if any of the three were left out of the Bible!

Here's another idea. Try reading each of these stories in the quiet of the evening. If there are children in the house, after they've gone to bed. Then sit quietly near the Christmas tree and read and reflect in the glow of the Christmas lights. Maybe one story a night. Read, reflect, read and reflect again. Note the nuances of each story. And ask the question: what's God up to here? In, with, and under these stories what's the Spirit of God telling us? About God? About ourselves? Shhh. Quiet. Just listen to what the Lord is saying. And may this deepen your Christmas peace.

Pastor Bill

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR ~ THANK YOU!!!

**Thank you so much to all that helped raise \$5,154
for the reduction of debt on our building.**

There were over 100 people that helped with:

- * Coming up with ideas
- * Creating crafts & baking
- * Moving & setting up tables
- * Setting out items to be sold
- * Working tables at the bazaar
- * Making lunch for workers
- * Setting up and serving coffee and tea
- * Advertising
- * Purchasing crafts & baked goods
- * Clean up
- ... and more

If you are interested in helping out down the road please contact Alice Hallett at 847/515-7556



SUPPER CLUB SIGN UP

SupperClub
FOOD & FRIENDS

THE EARLY BIRD GETS
THE WORM.
START YOUR NEW YEAR
RIGHT AND
EAT, MEET AND GREET
in fellowship with other
“SOTPers”

Once again, Winter season, Supper Club is almost upon us.

Four (4) times During January 2016 through APRIL 2016 we will be sharing hospitality and food within small groups of 6 to 8 people. Groups are made up from the sign up list. Singles are welcome.

Each group determines what, when and how they will meet. Often one home hosts the main meal while others bring salad, desserts, etc. Some groups decide to “eat out” or “order in” for one or all of their meals it is up to the folks in that particular small group.

Sign up as soon as you can. There are two ways to sign up:

- * Yellow signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Cross Roads area.
- * Sign up online by visiting <http://goo.gl/ULRGWL>

Groups will be determined by mid January. For more information or questions please contact Sandy Hupert, phone 224-569-6041 or e-mail sandyhupert@gmail.com

PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)

What is PADS?

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (McHenry County founded 1988). This program is not government supported. Since 2009, PADS reports a 51% increase in people needing help (33% increase in homeless individuals diagnosed with mental illness 54% increase in chronically homeless and 46% increase in transitional youth).

How does SOTP help?

We make lunches and serve dinner. Preferably five volunteers are needed. Youth volunteers are welcome (depending on maturity level and if they are able to sit still for one hour following directions without adult supervision). We meet at SOTP Sunday evenings at 5:45 p.m. to make lunches for the shelter, and then transport lunches (including donations) to Bethany. We serve dinner from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Jill Brown shops for supplies. This is a ministry that is allocated in our church budget.

When?

The 4th Sunday of the Month, October through April. To sign up contact Becky Hennessy 847-961-6050 or Jill Brown 847-683-5027 or email us: k.b.hennessy@sbcglobal.net or orjillbrown14@yahoo.com.

Where?

We support Bethany Lutheran Church every 4th Sunday at 76 W Crystal Lake Ave in Crystal Lake IL 60014. This is only a 15 to 20 minute commute from SOTP. Linda is our contact at Bethany--she has been in charge of that facility for over 25 years and will assign your job. There are 7 churches in McHenry County that provide overnight shelters (rotated Monday through Sunday) from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. A transportation bus is used to commute the homeless between the churches.

Reasons to Volunteer

Add it to resumes or college applications. Earn high school volunteer credit. Give back to your community by setting a "Christ-Like" example.

Volunteering tips

Be friendly, but don't give personal information. Leave personal belongings at home (i.e.; don't wear expensive jewelry or don't bring a purse. Leave cell phones at home or in your car.



Trends

Marijuana and Vaping

Here's a not-so-surprising trend alert from the world of today's youth culture. According to a recent study, teenagers are now using e-cigarette vaporizers to smoke and inhale marijuana. About 27% of high school students who have used both marijuana and electronic cigarettes report using these devices to vaporize pot. Those most likely to engage in the practice include males and younger teens. One of the draws is the way that an e-cigarette hides the tell-tale smell of marijuana. By using an e-cigarette, it's believed that it's easier to conceal the use of the drug. With e-cigarette use increasing more than 200% between 2011 and 2013, we need to be tracking this trend. Attitudes and laws surrounding the use of marijuana continue to be relaxed. Parents, we must educate our kids to the legal, moral, physical, and spiritual issues related to all kinds of substance abuse. We are responsible to prepare them to live their lives to God's glory!



Latest Research

Sexual Activity and Social Standing

Researchers have uncovered some interesting facts about how the sexual activity of teenagers affects their peer relationships and social standing. The study looked at young people ages 11-16 years old. Researchers found that early adolescent girls who have sex lose friends. But those same girls can gain friends and social standing for making out. The opposite is true for their male peers. It seems that boys gain friends and social standing for having sex, and lose social standing and friends for making out. The survey offers us insight into how peer pressure can influence and guide the sexual behaviors of our kids. These complex new sexual rules remind us of our need to teach our kids the biblical standard of sex as a good gift for a man and woman to indulge in the context of marriage. But in addition, we must understand these emerging sexual expectations and standards, and then prepare our kids to respond in God-honoring ways to sexual peer pressure. Talk to your kids about God's order and design for sex.

QUICK STATS

- A study estimates there are 280 million mobile addicts globally, an increase from 147 million just a year ago. —*Bank of America*
- The number of teenagers admitted to the hospital with eating disorders across the UK has nearly doubled in three years.

—*The UK's National Health Service*

Watch Your Bubbles

Walt Mueller, CPYU President

When scuba divers are down deep, it is easy for them to become confused and disoriented. Since water diffuses light, divers often find themselves surrounded by illumination, making it difficult to discern which way is up. Feeling weightless and without a sense of gravity contributes to this confusion. The only way to distinguish up from down is to watch the direction in which their air bubbles travel. Divers who lose their sense of direction risk drowning if they trust their inner senses more than their bubbles. They are taught early on that no matter how they feel, no matter what they think, their bubbles are always right.



I know a mother who is confused and disoriented as she attempts to tackle the task of being a Christian parent. She desires to be a good and Godly mother. Consequently, her shelves are filled with parenting manuals and books that she has read from cover to cover. She has attended the many parenting seminars offered in her local schools and community. She even makes a point of going to other mothers to ask for guidance and advice. She tracks with several online parenting blogs. No doubt she has learned a lot. But she is the first to admit that she has been left confused by exposing herself to dozens of different parenting philosophies and techniques. She needs to learn that no matter how she feels, no matter what she thinks, no matter what subjective advice any book or parenting expert gives, the Bible describes things accurately and clearly. Like the scuba diver's bubbles, the Bible is always trustworthy and right. Everything else must be evaluated, considered, and judged in light of God's Word.

From the moment they are born, our children need parents who tune themselves in to the most reliable source of parenting information and instruction. God has given us the Bible to guide us through these difficult and confusing days in our broken, confusing, and disorienting world. Your approach to parenting should be informed and guided by God's Word. Study the Bible with diligence on a regular basis. Discover how it speaks to the values, attitudes, trends, and messages of contemporary youth

(Continued next page)

YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

culture. Uncover the character traits and attitudes that God calls us to exhibit in our families and other interpersonal relationships.

On a personal note, I have found that my investment of time in knowing God's Word has been the very thing that has guided me through the deep waters of parenting. I have not been a perfect parent and I have not raised perfect kids. We have experienced the blessing of suffering due to circumstances and poor choices. While these times have been painful, they have also been times of great blessing as we have seen God be true to his Word as he parents us while we sometimes helplessly parent our own children. Through it all, the bubbles of God's truth always rise to the top, giving us a clear sense of where we are and where we need to be.

*“Don’t you see that kids are
God’s best gift? The fruit of the
womb his generous legacy? Like
a warrior’s fistful of arrows are
the kids of a vigorous youth. Oh,
how blessed are you parents,
with your quivers full of kids.”*

**PSALM 127: 3-5 (THE
MESSAGE)**

—Proverbs 13:20

HOT QUOTE

“Do I worry about being in the public eye and raising kids? Yeah. Any situation you’re in, you’re going to worry about raising your kids.”

—Kanye West, in an interview for SHOWstudio’s In Camera, October 6, 2015



YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

FROM THE WORD...

During this Christmas season, we pause to thank God for His abundant supply of good gifts. Did you know that your teen is a gift from God? For that reason we can't buy into the widespread cultural cynicism regarding teenagers as difficulties or burdens. That's unjustified.

The psalmist writes, "Don't you see that kids are God's best gift? The fruit of the womb his generous legacy? Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the kids of a vigorous youth. Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of kids." (Psalm 127:3-5, The Message). Teenagers are not liabilities; they're rewards from God, given to us as a sign of God's favor. God values them highly and so must we.

Because it's so easy for us as adults to fall prey to the selfish pressures and expectations of life in today's world, we can just as easily see teenagers as inconveniences and nuisances that suck the life out of us, keeping us from doing the things we want to do and from realizing what we think is our full potential. When you face difficult times with your kids – and you will – always remember that the children God gave you as gifts remain gifts. . . even during the teenage years. This month, why not take the time every day to thank God for the gift of your children and teens??!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

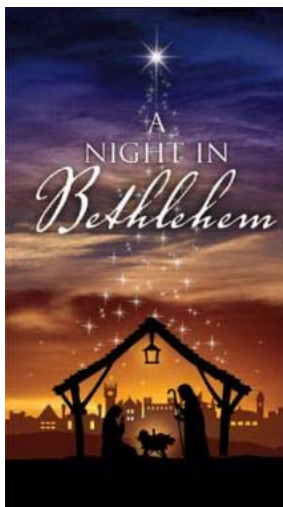


The Sanctuary will be bright with God's glory thanks to the many poinsettia plants purchased by our members. The Worship Ministry Team sends you a very grateful "thank you" for enhancing our Christmas services. The poinsettia plants will be available for pick-up following the 11 pm Christmas Eve service.

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have been in Bethlehem on that first Christmas? Come to Shepherd of the Prairie and experience the wonder of Jesus at A Night in Bethlehem on

Sunday, December 13th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm



Find out about life in Bethlehem by visiting:

- * The Spice Shop (grind frankincense and myrrh really and take a little with you to remember the smells of Bethlehem)
- * The Pier (to hear about life on the sea, and catch a fish)
- * The Census Takers office to register for the census (and make a keepsake in Hebrew)
- * The Toy Shoppe (where you can learn about Jesus in his early years, and take home a special ornament for your Christmas Tree)
- * End your Night in Bethlehem by visiting the Stable and welcoming in The Messiah.

Come experience the sights, smells and tastes of Bethlehem and make a Christmas memory you will never forget.

FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Collection weekend is **December 5 & 6**, before all services.
Needs this weekend -----

- * Condiments
- * Ready to eat Soup
- * Deodorant
- * Cereal
- * Holiday baking items (flour, baking powder and salt etc.)
- * And, as always, checks made payable to SOTP with Food Pantry noted in the memo will help the pantry purchase items through the Northern IL Food Bank



Thank you so much

POSTCARDS FOR CHILDREN

As you travel or just go to Chicago, please buy some 4 x 6 postcards. Mission Team will have a project to send postcards to children with life-threatening illnesses.

Try to select postcards that are eye appealing to children. As you know, children enjoy receiving mail, even the old fashioned way. Look how happy this young girl was made from receiving postcards.



Soon GEMS will provide a postbox in the cross roads area where postcards can be placed, or give them to Sandy Hupert or any member of the Mission Team. They can also be put into Mission Team's mailbox inside the office.

The project will be "Send Kids the World". Feel free to go online to learn more about this program, <http://www.sendkidstheworld.com>. As Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another."

FROM THE BUILDING TEAM

Family & Friends,

The Building Team met with our SOTP architect, Paul Barribeau from GDG, on November 10th. We looked at various floor plans, discussing options, costs, etc., and addressing the thoughts and questions that were sent in to our Suggestion Box. We are expecting to have a detailed floor plan to show the congregation on **Wednesday, January 6th, 2016**. Such an exciting time as we move Forward in Faith!



NEW "FORWARD IN FAITH" WEBSITE

We have released a companion website which will cover our "Forward in Faith" Capital Stewardship Appeal. This site will focus on the Stewardship Appeal with content on background and vision, planning, architect renderings and tracking progress. In addition, we have a "Frequently Asked Questions" section as well as forms for your comments and suggestions.

To see the "Forward in Faith" website, visit <http://goo.gl/JD8C0p>.

Ministry Musings

One of my favorite Christmas songs is “Mary Did You Know”. The words just seem to put in perspective the entire story of Jesus. At Christmas we think of a cuddly little baby, wrapped in blankets and lying in the manger. We enjoy the comforting picture of the angels visiting the shepherds and the shepherds in turn coming to the stable. And then there is the greatness of the Wisemen bringing their gifts. All these things in the biblical narrative speak to our hearts and our souls.

But it is not often that when we think of the baby born in a manger that we think of the savior bleeding and dying on the cross and rising again. For the time being we put aside all of the imagery of Jesus and his disciples wandering the countryside healing and teaching and then the events in Jerusalem.

The babe in the manger is the same as the man on the cross. The joy of Christmas is dwarfed by the joy of Easter. Only in thinking of the entire span from creation to resurrection and beyond can we experience the complete story of God and his relationship with us. Both Genesis and John start with, “In the beginning...” and the story will be complete when God renews his creation in its fullness.

The song, “Mary Did You Know,” reminds me again each time I hear it that the God of creation, the I AM of the Exodus, the God of the prophets, the babe in the manger, the Jesus of Good Friday and Easter and the Spirit of Pentecost are one and the same; and that his story is not yet finished. He uses you and I to move the story forward until that day of completion arrives. May we be ready and willing to move forward in this journey.

If you would like to view the video of the song, “Mary Did You Know”, please use this link:

<https://goo.gl/Q9JAJN>

Donna Kelly

—Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator



Advent Season

The weekend of November 27/28 marks the beginning of Advent Season. Advent is the first season of the liturgical year and the name comes from a Latin word that means “coming.” Advent focuses on “coming” in three ways: the infant Jesus coming in the past, Christ coming in the present in word and sacraments, and Christ coming again in the future at the end of time.



Advent is celebrated during the four Sundays before Christmas. The preferred color of Advent is blue, the color of hope. A few churches still use the alternate color of purple signifying the royal color of the coming King.

You will also see an Advent Wreath positioned in the Sanctuary. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday until all of the candles are shining on the fourth weekend. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The theme for this year's Advent Season is “Hark the Glad Sound”, based on four Biblical songs of God's people as they awaited the Savior of the world.

Week one will focus on The Song of Zechariah. Zechariah's Song revealed that his newborn son will be a prophet, sent to prepare the way of the Lord, and the song serves as a melody of repentance for us. During this week meditate on Luke 1: 67-79.

Week two is highlighting The Song of Mary. Mary's Song declares that the Lord has remembered his covenant with us through his Son, making this a melody of remembrance. Please meditate on Luke 1: 46-55.

The Song of the Angels will be the focused during week three. The Song of the Angels announced with great joy the Good News of Christ's birth, and echoes through our lives today as a melody of rejoicing. Meditate on Luke 2: 8-14.

And weekend four will be The Song of the Church. The Song of the Church carries the angels' message of peace, good will to the entire world, and resounds as a melody of reconciliation, bringing us into harmony with Christ and one another. Please meditate on Isaiah 52:7-10.

Join us as we prepare our hearts with hope, joy, and love as we eagerly look forward to Christmas—the celebration of the birth our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Worship Ministry Team

STEWARDSHIP TALES



A person would think that anyone tithing would have less to live on than someone who does not tithe. After all, if I give one-tenth, off the top of my income, back to God then I have only nine-tenths to live on. Less cannot be more, or so it seems. The mystery, however, is different than the worldly expectation, Somehow people who tithe end up with more to spend than they did before starting to tithe. No, it's not

miraculous, like money growing on trees or something. Maybe it motivates us to budget better, or not to waste money. Maybe some expenses really are not necessary, and when we are thinking God's way we are not impressed with every advertised "need". Whatever the explanation, those who practice tithing insist that it works; they have more money at the end of the month than they did before they started to tithe. Why does God work this way? Here's a thought, God uses the tangible measure of material wealth to teach us about spiritual things. When people learn through the proper handling of material things how to put God first, then they can carry that lesson into more important things. Tithing and material blessings form the Lord is therefore, elementary lessons in spiritual providence. People start tithing, usually, at an early stage of spiritual development. Once they can trust God completely for material things, then heaven is the limit of things God can show and give them.

QUILT DEDICATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, December 6 we will be displaying and blessing the beautiful quilts that the quilters have been working on so diligently these past months. They will receive a blessing before they are shipped off to those in need. Thank you to all that had a hand in making them.

"There is, indeed, a transforming moment when a Quilt passes from our hands into another's, and they embrace it." – Kirk Betts, Former Chairman of the LWR Board of Directors, upon distributing LWR Quilts in Niger



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas Free Will Offerings will be divided equally between the following:

- * **Turning Point** – a domestic violence agency with a mission to confront violence against women and children in McHenry County.
- * **Home of the Sparrow** – provides housing and other services to homeless women and children to help them overcome homelessness.
- * **Transitions Hospice** – serves their patients and their families in Kane and McHenry Counties through physical, emotional and spiritual challenges of life's final transition.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This year's "Giving Tree" will be and ready for our congregation to take names the week of Monday, November 9th. We will again care for 25 needy families, 15 families from Grafton Food Pantry, Huntley, who will deliver food to the families, and 10 families from Turning Point, Woodstock, who provide help to women and children who are victims of severe violence by a family member or partner.

DO NOT WRAP the gifts as each family will wrap the gifts themselves, paper provided. Attach the ornament, securely, to either the bag or box and if there is a gift receipt, place with the gift. Boxes will be furnished for drop off.

All gifts must be returned to church by Sunday, December 6th.

Let's help these unfortunate families have a Merry Christmas. If you have any questions, please call Barb Hoppensteadt at 847-669-0016.





IF YOU HAVEN'T TURNED IN YOUR 2016 PLEDGE CARD, IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

You can still turn in your pledge card or participate in on Line Pledging.
Our on line pledge link is available through our web site by selecting
“2016 Estimate of Giving”.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child:

A HUGE THANK YOU

to our amazing youth and congregation who helped us fill **284 shoeboxes** for Operation Christmas Child! You are helping bring joy to children around the world with your generosity.

Thanks to you, a child will receive what is very likely the only Christmas gift he or she will receive. From Huntley our boxes went to the Minneapolis regional distribution center, where pamphlets about Jesus (written in the child's native language) will be added to the boxes. Then our boxes will be sent on their way to spread the love of God. We couldn't have done it without all of you.



DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

NURSERY

Date	9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	Clean
Dec. 6.....	Jen Kolcz	Jen Powe	Jen Powe
Dec. 13	Judie Symbal	Blue Geller	Blue Geller
Dec. 20	Jamie Patel	Mary Lee Rishel	Mary Lee Rishel
Dec. 27	Jamie Patel	Sandy Hupert	Sandy Hupert

COUNTERS: Warren Brody, Jim Rice, Donna Turner

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES (cont)

ALTAR GUILD

Saturday (setup).....Becky Tuzik & Sue Mattiucci

Saturday (take-down).....Tom & Darlene Polzin

Sunday (9:00 a.m. setup).....Judie Symbal & Sue Wehnes

Sunday (9:00 a.m. take-down).....Joanne Klinger & Ann Lehman

Sunday (10:45 a.m.—take-down)

Dec. 6.....Sandy Hupert & Merrily Burkland

Dec. 13Jan & Don Koerner

Dec. 20.....Linda Jahr & Donna Schnepff

Dec. 27Marlene Boehler & Barb Beaudette

GREETERS

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 5 Nancy Zunker

Dec. 12 Stevie Massei

Dec. 19 Elizabeth Anderson

Dec. 26

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Dec. 6.....Terry Halpin, Jackie Elkin

Dec. 13.....Terry Halpin, Evelyn Gniot

Dec. 20.....Terry Halpin, PJ & Ron Knudsen

Sunday 10:45a.m.

.....Bob & Caroline Malm

Sunday, 12/27 10:00 am (ONLY ONE SERVICE)

SUNDAY WELCOME

Dec. 6 9:00am.....Joanne Bychowsky & Donna Allen

 10:45 amHelen Fenzan & Marty Jacobsen

Dec. 13 9:00 amNancy Ottinger & Cheryl Adams

 10:45 amJohn & Sandra Richardson

Dec. 20 9:00 am Jan Suski & Joyce Thompson

 10:45 amElaine Neukirk & Joanne Bychowsky

Dec 27 9:00 amWarren & Elaine Brody

 10:45 amNoreta Walker & Judy Petropolis

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS

Saturday

Dec. 5-12.....Oneida Wheeler

Dec 19-26Renae Greene &
 Elaine Neukirch

Sunday

Dec. 6.....Pat Fiorese

Dec. 13Jill Brown

Dec. 20Tom Noessen &
 Bev Pinelli

Dec 27Michele Miller

FINANCIAL NEWS

Treasurer's Report

Operating Budget Year-to-Date as of October 31, 2015:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 457,556.40	\$ 461,410.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 440,180.47	\$ 472,653.00
Net Income:	\$ 17,375.93	\$ (11,243.00)

General Fund Notes: Through October, operating income was more than expenses by \$17,375.93. Member contributions are under budget by \$1,471.54. Expenses are under budget \$32,472.53. Overall General Fund Income is more than Expenses to Budget YTD \$28,618.93 primarily due to unfunded Provision Accounts \$12,920.00 and reduced staffing costs of \$17,568.28. We continue to encourage the restraint of staff and mission teams in their spending in the various expense categories.

Building Fund Year-to-Date as of October 31, 2015:

Building Fund Begin Balance 10/01/2015:	\$ 68,931.49
Debt Reduction Donations	\$ 30,911.75
Building Fund Donations:	\$ 143,655.46
Forward in Faith	\$ 15,100.00
Mission Plus Interest Income	\$ 302.22
Memorial Donations Building Fund	\$ 1,100.00

Building Fund Income/Donations: \$ 191,069.43

Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 112,823.14
Loan Interest Payments:	\$ 15,745.86
Principal Only Payments:	\$ 32,595.85
Capital Campaign Consultant	\$ 26,304.73
Architectural Expenses	\$ 12,934.22
Building Fund Expenses:	\$ 200,403.80
Net Income(Loss):	\$ (9,334.37)
Ending Fund Balance:	\$ 59,597.12

We continue to accumulate funds in the Building Fund account per Council direction and Congregation approval on future building expansion requirements.

The October month end building loan balance is \$542,496.40. Loan payments beginning 10/01/2015 adjusted to \$5,503.00 per month. Thank you for your faithful tithing as we continue to cover our mission operational costs, funding our building loan obligation, and our future building expansion.

Jim Henley
SOTP Treasurer

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jacob Guttenburg
- 2 William Chapman, Mark Frendreis,
Kevin Jocius, Tess Miller
- 3 Marlene Tresp, Tim McMullen,
Mike Ulmer
- 4 Brady Allegretti
- 5 Raquel Hess, Jackson Moretti
- 6 Lisa Berens, Amanda Stenson,
Noelle Lukes
- 7 Daniel Black
- 8 Mike Maraviglia, Hallie Guttenburg
- 9 Donna Schnepff, Jim Lindquist
- 10 Dave Kosmen, Sophie Dowell
- 12 Ericka Berti, Megan Juergensen
- 13 Carolyn Cuttle, Devin Burg
- 14 Patricia Lidbury
- 15 Katie Desiato, Macy Luedtke
- 16 Pat Fiorese
- 17 Richard Stashwick, Martha Bergman,
Nancy Ramirez, Seth Boster,
Katie Ostrem, Shane McGuine
- 18 Elaine Mucibabich, Ella Trudeau
- 19 Susan Mattiucci, Emma Johnson
- 20 Wilma Lyding, Karen Gollhardt,
Enrique Rojas, Jack Bloomfield
- 21 Tristan Mathiesen
- 22 Chuck Little, Andrew Raistrick
- 23 Deanna Moore, William Waxenberg,
Daniel Wills, Alexandra Adams
- 24 Mary Ann Wiek, Carol Goodhue,
Marina Reicher
- 25 Jim Henley, Jake Satalino
- 26 Darlene Polzin, Matthew Ostrem,
Chelsea Greene
- 27 Carol Lilla, Darrel Thompson,
Amy Johnson, Shelby Kowalski,
Hannah Retzlaff
- 28 Jim Carr, Patricia Mallow,
Annette Boster, Mike McCann,
Taylor Wade
- 29 Robert Weldon, Chuck Lamb
- 30 Michael Grabs
- 31 Pat Milford, P.J. Knudsen

STAFF AND CONTACTS

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Jill Gillming

Little Lambs

Annette Boster

Cherub Choir

Michael Waal

Blessings & Treasures Choirs

Denise James

Joy Ringers

Michael Parmele

Sunday School Director

Sue Wehnes, Renae Greene

Contributions Secretaries

Congregation Council

Bob McDuffee, *President*

Marlene Bohler, *Vice President*

Mike McCann, *Secretary*

Jim Henley, *Treasurer*

Adam Adams

Amy Brittain

Cliff Dungey

Matt Greene

Larry Newbanks

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.

Our web site is www.sotp.org — Church Office: 10805 Main Street, Huntley, IL 60142

Shepherd of the Prairie
Lutheran Church
10805 Main Street
Huntley, IL 60142

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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