



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

Congregational Newsletter February 2016

Statement of Purpose

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

JOIN US FOR LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Message</u>
Wednesday, February 10 Ash Wednesday	12 Noon & 7:00 pm	"The Pharisee and Tax Collector"
Wednesday, February 17	6:00 pm Soup Supper & 7:00 pm Worship	"The Sower and the Seed"
Wednesday, February 24		"The Hidden Treasure and Priceless Pearl",
Wednesday, March 2		"The Good Samaritan"
Wednesday, March 9		"The Workers in a vineyard"
Wednesday, March 16		"The Prodigal Son"
Thursday, March 24 Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm Worship	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, March 25 Good Friday	Children's Service 10:00 am & Regular Service 7:00 pm	Good Friday Services

**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,

Christian friends, the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The word “Lent” originally meant “spring.” It is a time to reflect on our baptism and a time of rebirth and renewal. The season of Lent lasts 40 days, excluding Sundays. The altar color is purple to reflect the solemnity and somberness of the season.

In church history, candidates for baptism would fast during these 40 days leading to their baptism at Easter.

Ashes, in a Jewish and Christian context, suggest judgment and God’s condemnation of sin, our total dependence upon God for life, and repentance. We are reminded of the words of the burial service...

“Earth to earth and dust to dust.”

Ashes are also a symbol of cleansing and renewal. Just as baptismal water suggests death and life...so do the ashes of Ash Wednesday.

This year during the Lenten Season, beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing on Wednesday evenings for five weeks we are going to be seeking the wisdom of Jesus found in the parables. In the context of Jesus’ parables we will discuss and discern the wisdom behind each of these stories which impart great teachings about God’s Kingdom.

February 10, Ash Wednesday – “The Pharisee and Tax Collector” – Justification, the tax collector who repents goes home right with God, while the Pharisee does not.

February 17, “The Sower and the Seed”, The seed that falls on good soil take root and grows. The seeds that falls on other soil fail. God’s word grows within us.

February 24, “The Hidden Treasure and Priceless Pearl”, two men give all they have to buy object of great worth. We have the treasure of Jesus who gave all for us to have eternal life.

March 2, “The Good Samaritan”, A man beaten on the road is shown mercy by unlikely fellow.

(Continued on page 3)

March 9, “The Workers in a vineyard”, all receive the same pay regardless of what time in the day they started.

March 16, “The Prodigal Son”, A wayward son returns to a forgiving father

I hope you will make worship a priority as we seek the wisdom of Christ in these Jesus stories.

Pastor Mark

Pastor Bill's Adult Education News

During the season of Lent, the focus of our adult education will be a reflection of the season itself. For six weeks our theme will be "Death and Dying with Hope." Each week we will hear from a professional who can assist us in end-of-life issues. An attorney will speak to us about the importance of wills and estate planning.



Someone from Hospice Care will tell us what they do and how they can be of help in the last stages of life. A doctor will talk about her experience with dying patients and their families and what we can expect. And a funeral home director will lift up their important ministry as families and individuals make final preparations for loved ones and for ourselves. These presentations will be bracketed by an exploration of how our cultural attitudes and beliefs about death differ from how the church understands it. And during the final class, we'll explore our Lutheran funeral service--a powerful witness to Christ and our faith.

So come join us! This class is for all adults of every age. For those in the winter of life as well as for those who have parents who are in their later years. We will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:20 beginning February 14, and on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 beginning on February 17. There won't be a class on Wednesday evenings due to our Lenten suppers and worship services.

Pastor Bill

Ministry Musings

Happy Valentine's Day !



This is the month we dedicate to honoring love; romantic love, love of family, love of friends, and of course the love of God!

The other day I was reading in the book of Luke and came across some words of Jesus on love; "Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you! Bless people who curse you! Pray for people who treat you badly...Your reward will be great! You will be children of the highest! He is generous you see to the stingy and wicked. You must be merciful just as your father is merciful...Don't judge and you won't be judged. Don't condemn and you won't be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven...the ration you give to others is the ration you'll get back for yourself." These words made me think about how I love others. Do I only love those who love me? How do I deal with a person with whom my personality doesn't "mesh" or whom always rubs me the "wrong way"?

I remember years ago in a previous congregation there was a woman, who was a leader in the church, who absolutely fit into that category! No matter how much we worked together I always felt out of sorts with her. Her worldview was totally different than mine. We had contrary priorities and ways of doing things and we focused completely on opposite ministries. And of course, we each thought our ministry and approach were right! I wasn't alone in my feelings as many others in the congregation had the same difficulties with her methods. I was coming to my wit's end and had been praying for years for patience and understanding with this woman. Finally I was talking with another friend (who didn't know this person) about my difficulties and she asked me, "Have you prayed FOR her?". That caught me off guard!! She explained that it is very difficult to harbor ill feelings for someone you are asking God to bless. WOW! That really struck home! I did start praying for her, and before too long I noticed that "she" had changed and no longer rubbed me the wrong way. Obviously she was still the same person but I was now thinking of her instead of myself and now seeing her through God's eyes of love rather than through mine!

The kingdom that Jesus preached and lived was all about radical, illogical, and irrational generosity! One way to describe this is to think of the very best thing you can do for the most difficult person in your life, and then do it! Think of the person to whom you are most tempted to be nasty,

and lavish this crazy, all-encompassing generosity on them! Jesus was not giving us new rules or Law to follow and cross off when we did; he was urging us to live with a new attitude of heart and a lightness of spirit in the face of all that the people in our lives throw our way! And we are to be like this, because GOD is like this. He doesn't love only those who deserve his love (we'd all be in a mess if he did;) but he loves all of us (who don't deserve it) in his grace.

Jesus didn't love only his friends and those who loved him back. He showed his love to those who nailed him to the cross; he wept over the city that rejected him and his plea for peace. He was the true embodiment of the God who loves us "as is".

My prayer for all of us this Valentine's Day is that we never forget that every single person in our lives is a beautiful, fragile and broken reflection of our God that we need to respect and cherish. We need to reflect God back to them by making sure we never make ourselves look good by making others look bad; that we love freely and wholly. Our aim is to make each one know that they are loved by God and his people and are welcome in our lives and worship.

Donna Kelly

—Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS

On **February 3rd** we are welcoming new members here at SOTP. We are so glad to have them join us on this journey with God here at Shepherd of the Prairie. Please be sure to look for them to introduce yourself and invite them to an activity or ministry you are a part of. Let them know how happy we are to welcome them into our family.



Trends

PARENTS PROVIDING ALCOHOL

Some of the most absurd and foolish parenting stories CPYU hears are those about parents who provide alcohol and a place to drink for their own underage teenagers and their friends. Many parents justify this approach to parenting by embracing the faulty conclusion that kids are going to drink anyway. Sometimes these parents believe they are doing kids a favor by confining the kids for a safe drinking experience. This is dead -wrong. On the one-



hand, you are encouraging and teaching kids to skirt and break the law. In addition, you are teaching kids that drinking is a necessary and expected part of life if you are hoping to have fun. Perhaps most risky, is the fact that you could be triggering a life-long alcohol problem in a kid who is predisposed to alcoholism. Finally, it is now a documented fact that alcohol consumption by teens permanently alters the structure and function of the brain. Parents, please don't choose to go down this ridiculous and dangerous road.

Latest Research

TEENS AND SCHOOL

A recent survey of 22,000 high school students from across the United States set out to discover what our kids are feeling during the hours they are in school. Students were asked to fill words of their own choosing into three blank spaces that followed the open-ended question, "How do you

currently feel in school?"

Eight of the top ten responses were negative. 39% of students said they feel "tired." In second place was "stressed," with 29% of the students choosing

that word. And finally, 26% of the respondents chose the word "bored." With the top three most mentioned responses being "tired," "stressed," and "bored," we need to consider how we might be putting pressure on our kids, along with how we can relieve any undue pressure. As Christian parents, we must expect our kids to do their best in school, rather than some socially-defined best. Let's help our kids have a healthy school experience.

QUICK STATS

- 9.5% of U.S. adults used marijuana in 2013 and 58% of Americans now favor the legalization of cannabis. (National Institutes of Health and Gallup)
- From 2014 to 2015, poison control centers in the U.S. experienced a 229% increase in calls related to the use of synthetic marijuana.

(Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University)

The Caffeine Kick

-By Walt Mueller

Way back in the late 1970s, one of my college roommates convinced me to get an edge in preparation for a big exam, by taking caffeine in pill form. Poor planning had left me a bit behind in my studying, and I needed to bear down and get ready for my final. The product was known as NoDoz and it was a popular over-the-counter pill-form stimulant used to pull all-nighters among college kids. I tried it once and vowed never to do it again, knowing that better preparation and planning on my part would help me avoid the disruption of my much-needed sleep patterns. What I was experiencing was the effects of a central nervous system stimulant.



In today's world, a growing number of teenagers and college students are ingesting powdered caffeine in an effort to boost energy, improve their athletic performance, elevate their mood, and stay awake in order to study. Because of this, medical experts are warning kids of the dangers, including an increased heart rate and even cardiac arrest. Some kids have died as a result of caffeine powder overdose.

The sale of caffeine powder is unregulated. It's easily secured in stores and from online vendors. A 100-gram package costs about \$10 and contains as much caffeine as 3,000 cans of Coke. Just 2.7 grams of the powder is equivalent to 28 cups of coffee, or 79 cans of caffeinated soda.

Ten grams – about a tablespoon – is a lethal dose for an adult. Parents, warn your kids about the dangers.

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS.
CHANGE THE WORLD.

FROM THE WORD...

As we begin another new year, you most likely have high hopes for the next twelve months. Most people desire to put aside, forget, and move on from the difficult realities of life they've faced during the last year. That's not at all unusual. In fact, this desire for things to be right actually points to the fact that we were made for something better. That "something better" is what existed when God created our first parents and placed them in the Garden. Things were the way they were supposed to be. No pain. No heartache. No sickness. No tears. No death. Isn't that really what we hope for at the beginning of every new year?

For those who are committed followers of Jesus Christ, this reality that we all long for will one day be realized. In Revelation 21:5, God pulls back the curtain on our future and tells us to "Look! I am making everything new" (The Message). We are told that we

can look forward to a new heaven and a new earth where things will be the way they are supposed to be. No more pain, heartache, sickness, tears, or death! The brokenness and suffering we are sure to once again experience this year will finally be gone.

Your longing points to the fact that you were made to be in a relationship with God. Follow Jesus and hope will be yours. As God helps you navigate anything difficult that might come your way in 2016, rest assured that there is a day coming when "gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

***"Look! I am making
everything new."
Revelation 21:5
(The Message)***

HOT QUOTE

The video was to represent the young woman today - it's not the traditional woman anymore - and not the specifics of 'Am I gay? Am I straight? Am I bi?' I'm making the rules for myself, and I don't have to be stuck down to one label. Actress and singer Keke Palmer in response to her steamy music video for the song "I Don't Belong To You" and on why she chooses not to label her sexuality, *PEOPLE*, Dec. 16, 2015



YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

NEW FOR 2016!!!

PARENTING CHRISTIAN KIDS NEWSLETTER

If you find it a struggle to raise strong Christian kids in a troubled world, then this newsletter is for you. Each Parenting Christian Kids Newsletter is packed with: Articles, parenting principles, pointers and more—all focused on a relevant, monthly theme. You'll find: Scripture woven throughout; Power Source—a prayer guide; Teachable Moment—a family activity tied to the theme and to Jesus; Current cultural trends and stats that provide insights for parents.

*The Parenting Christian Kids Newsletter
is available online at
www.sotpyouth.com*

*We will also provide printed copies
available in the Crossroads area at SOTP.*

—John 1:14



THE ROLE OF CREATIVITY

A couple months ago, CNBC ran an evening special report on how the pop singer known as Pitbull has achieved his fame and fortune. In fact, the special report was titled, “Pitbull: Fame and Fortune.” In the show, the singer explains rather honestly that the blueprint for success in today’s music industry is “ninety percent business” and “ten percent talent.” Parents and youth workers, this is a reality we must talk about with our kids. Not only should we teach them to take note of how marketing efforts are used to get them to spend their money on music that lacks creativity, but we should talk about the role of creativity in



God’s plan for humanity. In the first chapters of Genesis, we read that God created humankind in His image. To be made in God’s image means that we have been given the ability to create. In fact, all the good things God created have been given to us to in turn use to make things, including music. Teach your

SUPPERS WITH LUTHER

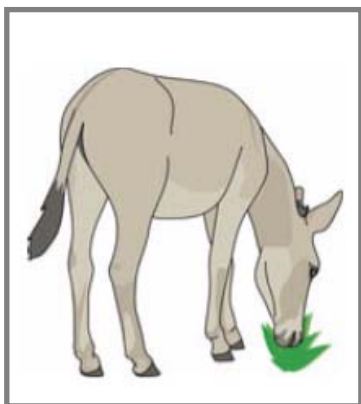
Are you new to being a Lutheran, or has it been a while since you were confirmed?



Come join us for "Suppers with Luther" on Wednesday evenings in February and March, starting February 17. We will be looking at the core values and practices of the ELCA Lutheran Church. Join us at 5:30 and at 6 we'll break to grab dinner from the Lenten Soup Supper then continue to learn as we eat together.

The class will run from 5:45 to 6:45 (*we hope you will join us for Lenten worship at 7 pm*). We will meet Feb 17,24, March 2,9,16,and23 so come and join us! If you have any questions please contact Donna Kelly through the church office 847-669-9448 or at donna@sotpmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP TALES



There is no doubt that many of us need to change our thinking about money.

Many of us think of money as the end. But Jesus tells us that our money and possessions are intended as a means of expressing our love for God. Depending upon how you acquire it and how you use it, your money either threatens your trust relationship with God or it enhances it.

A great problem in our time is that few people really believe that this applies to them. God has appointed you to be His good and

faithful steward. He says, "If I give you a Bible, make good use of it; if I give you a house and a car and money, make good use of them. The cattle on a thousand hills are mine," says the Lord, in a beautiful verse from Psalms. The monies in a thousand band accounts are mine, says the Lord. Put my estate to good use, says the Lord. Manage it in My service by using it to serve the needs of others. Carry out this kind of stewardship and you will be fulfilled, you will be happy, you will be at peace. Trust Me, says the Lord.

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING EVENT (CRE)

The annual CRE is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Kishwaukee College in Malta, IL. The keynote speaker this year will be Rev. Wayne Miller, Bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod.



This event is a wonderful time to get together with leaders and members of other congregations in our Northern Illinois Synod to exchange ideas and to learn about ideas and concerns in the ELCA as a whole and our Synod in particular.

There will be time for gathering as a large group and for worship as well as the opportunity to attend three workshops of your choice on topics ranging from “My Muslim Neighbor” to “Start Seeing Refugees” to workshops for Church Council Leaders. There are also workshops on personal faith and growth. The leaders of these workshops are clergy and lay persons with expertise in these areas. There is also an opportunity for lunch.

Several members from here at SOTP went last year and found it a valuable asset to their continued ministry. We invite members to attend again this year. We should have the formal list of workshops, costs and times shortly and I will pass that info on to all. If you are interested in being part of this great day or have any questions, please contact Donna Kelly at the church office at 847-669-9448 or at donna@sotpmail.com.

SIMPLY GIVING

If you have not yet updated your 2016 giving to reflect your 2016 pledge it is not too late to do that. Please call the church office and give Michelle the update.



FOOD PANTRY



Weekend of February 6 & February 7, Is Food Pantry Collection Weekend

Some of the greatest needs at the
Grafton Food Pantry are cereal and soup
(especially the just heat & serve soups).

This Super Bowl weekend, let's celebrate

“Cereal & Souper-Bowl of Caring” weekend, SOTP will be collecting for
the food pantry before all services.

Let's help transform the weekend of the
Super Bowl into the nation's largest
celebration of giving and serving.

This month, please bring **cereal and soup**
for your food pantry donations.

*“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football
game, help us be mindful of those without a
bowl of soup to eat.”*



ATTENTION PARENTS

First graders through seniors in high school are joyfully invited to perform in Praize Jamz, a concert of high-energy praise & worship songs.



WHO: First graders through seniors in high school

WHAT: Praize Jamz

WHEN: **Concert April 23, 2016 during 5:00 pm worship**

For flexibility, we are offering **Wednesday or Sunday rehearsals**. You are welcome to flip flop between the two with your schedule ~ please try your best to attend one each week... or both.

Final Dress Rehearsal, Saturday, April 23 10:00 am—Noon.

Wednesdays 4:30 - 5:15 pm	2/24	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	4/6	4/13	4/20
Sundays, 2:00 - 3:00 pm	2/28	3/6	3/13	3/20	3/27	4/10	4/17	

Praize Jamz promises to be an uplifting time of worship for all. What a fun way to raise up the next generation of worship leaders and instill in them a love and passion to lead others into the presence of the Lord through song, as they lift their hearts and voices in worship.

Please contact Annette Boster with any questions.

FEBRUARY MUSIC REHEARSALS

* **NO REHEARSALS ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

* Adult Choir: resuming February 3



* Adult Bells:

* Adult Beginning Bells: Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:05 pm

* Prairie Ringers: Tuesdays 7:15 - 8:15 pm



Children's Choir & Bell Rehearsals

4:30 - 5:00 pm, Jubilate Ringers (*grades 3-5*)

4:30 - 5:00 pm, Treasures Choir (*grades 1&2*)

5:00 - 5:30 pm, Joy Ringers (*grades 1&2*)

5:00 - 5:30 pm, Cherub Choir (*2½-5 year olds*)

5:15 - 6:00 pm Blessings Choir (*grades 3-5*)

5:15 - 6:00 pm, Jubellation Ringers (*middle school*)

* Youth Band, rehearsals February 14 & 21 at noon,
playing at 10:45 am worship February 24

WHY COFFEE HOUR?



Coffee Hour is an important part of our service as it gives all of us an opportunity to know one another better, as well as to make visitors feel welcome and to get acquainted with them.

The goal of coffee hour is to embody the welcome Jesus gives us to his realm. Its goal is intimacy, ordinary intimacy. It is kitchen talk.

If you find yourself always glued to the same comfortable person for the entire hour, every week, have you ever considered something different? Circulate. Move. Make it a point to speak to different people. Really speak to them. Remember something about them. You never know, you may make a new friend in Christ (*maybe even bridge a generational gap*).

In order to keep coffee hour going and allow SOTP the comfort of this "kitchen talk", we need your help. Please consider signing up with friends or as a mission team to host coffee hour either by dropping off treats, serving or cleaning up (*or both*). Please sign up in the Crossroads on the "Mission Possible" board. Please contact the church office or Carol Waxenberg at cwaxenberg48@gmail.com or Marty Bergman at bergym@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.

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."

LITTLE LAMBS

We are now accepting registrations for the 2016-2017 school year.

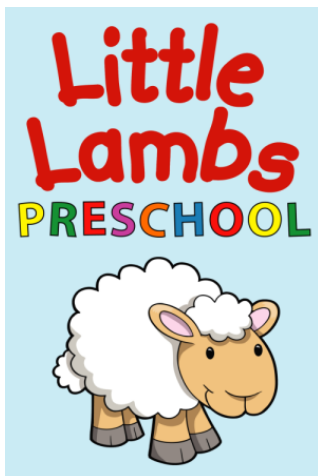
Our program is Bible-story-based and includes developmentally appropriate structured time (*craft, music, calendar, learning activities, etc.*), as well as free play. We have programs for children ages 2 - 4 by September 1, 2016.

Children do not need to be potty-trained.

Our class sizes are small (*not more than 10 children in the 1 day classes on Wednesdays or 12 in the 2 day classes on Tuesday and Thursday*). Classes meet from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Our classes are open to members and non-members of SOTP.

For more information, availability, and tuition/registration fees, see our "Registration" page on our website www.sotp.org or contact Jill Gillming at LittleLambs@sotpmail.com.



PADS ~ HELP NEEDED

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 & serve dinner. Preferably 5 volunteers are needed. Youth volunteers are welcome (depending on maturity level & if they are able to sit still for 1 hour & follow directions w/

out adult supervision) Meet at SOTP Sunday evenings at 5:45 pm to make lunches for the shelter. Transport lunches (including donations) to Bethany. Serve dinner from 7 to 8 pm about 2 hours. Jill Brown shops for supplies & this is a ministry that is allocated in our church budget.

When & How? The 4th Sunday of the Month, help still needed for March & 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

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

God's calling you again. The Mission team has committed 60 volunteers for the NIFB. We certainly hope that you will be able to respond to his call as you so willingly have in the past. With so many volunteers gone for the

winter, we really need everyone who is able to step up. The trip last October was a huge success with everyone having their "God's Work, Our Hands" yellow shirt on. We hope to repeat that on Feb. 27th. We will have more shirts available for those who did not go last time.

FYI, in the 11 previous trips you have repackaged over 80,000 lbs of food which has provided over 75,000 meals. Unbelievable! What a difference we can make with our hands.

If you can help, or have questions, please let Sid Sorensen know at sorensensid@comcast.net or 224-858-4168



JOIN WITH US
to sort and pack food for
our hungry neighbors
FEBRUARY 27, 2016

sign up today



FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Saturday (setup).....Becky Tuzik

Saturday (take-down).....Becky Tuzik

Sunday (9:00 a.m. setup & take down)

..... Caryl Fabian & Ann Lehman

Sunday (10:45 a.m.—take-down)

Feb.7th Sandy Hupert & Merrily Burkland

Feb.14th Marlene Boehler & Barb Beaudette

Feb.21st Darren & Pam Wallach

Feb. 28th Jan & Don Koerner

BULLETIN ASSEMBLERS Date (Fridays for the weekend)

Feb. 6June Kobler & Annette Carlson

Feb. 13Marlene Tresp & Marian Mesenbrink

Feb. 21Jan Burseth & Deanna Moore

Feb. 28.....Elaine Neukirch & Barb Krmpotich

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS

Sunday

Feb. 7Michelle Miller

Feb.14Joan Rice

Feb.21Jacque Stashwick

Feb.28Mary Trodahl

COUNTERS: Warren Brody, Ralph Wehnes & Donna Turner

GREETERS

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Feb. 6 -Becky Tuzik

Feb. 13 -Elizabeth Anderson

Feb.20 -Nancy Zucker

Feb.27 -Stevie Massei

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Feb. 7 Terry Halpin & Barb Niemec

Feb. 14 Terry Halpin & Alice Murphy

Feb. 21 Terry Halpin, Chris & Sara Solem

Feb.28..... Terry Halpin & Joanne Klinger

Sundays 10:45a.m.

.....Bob & Caroline Malm

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLERS:

Alice Hallett, Bonnie Bayser, Marian Mesenbrink

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES (cont)

NURSERY

Date	9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	Clean
Feb. 6.....	Jen Kolcz	Mary Lee Rishel.....	Mary Lee Rishel
Feb 13.....	Judie Sym	Blue Geller	Blue Geller
Feb 20.....	Jen Powe.....	Betty Farina	Judie Symbol
Feb 27.....	Jen Powe.....	Sandy Hupert.....	Sandy Hupert

USHERS

5:00 SAT	Denis & Carol Minutillo	Steve Murphy & Randi Dawson	Dan & Cheryl Mandro	Scott Wintersteen & Doreen Drinan
9:00 AM	Wayne Schmidt Jerry & Marty Bergman Waren Brody John Jensen Walter Lemke James Conway	James Blanchard, Jack Conti, Sammy Harris, Chris Hinde, Merlyn & Harriet Thompson Marlene Tresp	John Arneson, Roy Rankin, Chris Solem Walter & Carol Roth, Darrel Thompson, Dan Wentzloff Carol Engstrom	Jim Malczewski, Sid Sorensen, Mike & Michelle Saletta Jeff & Karen Sipes Ed & Carolyn Cuttle
10:45 AM	Bob McDuffee, John Richardson, Paul Ross, Chris Swanson	Patrick Fleener, Mark Frendreis, Charlie Powe, Drew Szekely	John Boehler, Don Koerner, Adam Walloch & Darren Walloch	Vik Bekeris, Dick Gerhardt, Carl Hupert, Bob McDuffee & John Richardson

WELCOME CENTER (Sundays)

Feb. 7	9:00am.....	Wayne & Audrey Schmidt
	10:45 am	Helen Fenzan & Marty Jacobsen
Feb. 14	9:00 am	Nancy Ottinger & Cheryl Adams
	10:45 am	Joanne Bychowsky
Feb. 21	9:00 am	Jan Suski & Joyce Thompson
	10:45 am	Elaine Neukirch & Judy Petropolis
Feb. 28	9:00 am	Chris & Sara Solom
	10:45 am	Noretta Walker & Judy Petropolis

FINANCIAL NEWS

Treasurer's Report

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

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 559,252.82	\$ 553,700.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 544,406.05	\$ 567,125.00
Net Income:	\$ 14,846.77	\$ (13,425.00)

General Fund Notes: Through December, operating income was more than expenses by \$14,846.77. Member contributions are over budget by \$6,875.49. Expenses are under budget \$22,718.95. Overall General Fund Income is more than Expenses to Budget YTD \$28,271.77 which allowed us to fully fund Provision Accounts \$15,500.00 and reduced staffing costs of \$18,125.42. We want to thank the staff and mission teams for their restraint in their spending in the various expense categories.

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

Building Fund Begin Balance 12/01/2015:	\$ 68,931.49
Debt Reduction Donations	\$ 33,906.75
Building Fund Donations:	\$ 185,685.06
Forward in Faith	\$ 141,040.90
Mission Plus Interest Income	\$ 370.16
Memorial Donations Building Fund	\$ 1,100.00

Building Fund Income/Donations: \$ 362,102.87

Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 121,115.80
Loan Interest Payments:	\$ 18,459.20
Principal Only Payments:	\$ 35,590.85
Capital Campaign Expenses	\$ 44,901.45
Architectural Expenses	\$ 18,086.85
Building Fund Expenses:	\$ 238,154.15
Net Income(Loss):	\$ 123,948.72
Ending Fund Balance:	\$ 192,880.21

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

The December month end building loan balance is \$531,208.74. 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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Date

- 1 Gavin Falbisaner, Barbara Hoch,
Oneida Wheeler
- 2 Noel Lemke, Ivan Suski
- 3 Steve Barnard
- 4 Ryan Gartzke, Brigitte Pelka
- 5 Abby Gillming
- 6 Albert Guerrieri, Sydney Patel,
William Trudeau
- 7 Brian Harvat
- 9 Susan Blotch, Jordan DeBolt,
Conner Gillming, Michelle Saletta
- 10 Mark Kowalski, Joshua Symbal
- 11 Annika McNeal, Zachery Serpe
- 12 Grace Boster, Addison Buesing,
Pat Schmidt
- 13 Zoe Dowell
- 14 Colin Glosson, Logan Glosson,
Donald Kruto
- 15 Silvia Forsythe, Sandee Keane,
Elizabeth Raines
- 16 Alexa Piskule
- 17 Gail Barnard, Vernon Hansen,
Donna Kelly, Chuck Petersen,
Karen Schimmel
- 18 Karin Arndt, Kim Kowalski
- 19 Gregory Gillming, Linda Jahr,
Nanette Ridgway, Ralph Scalise,
Dave Shotick
- 20 Halie Gartzke, Carol Kalbas
- 21 Patty Driscoll-Shaw
- 22 Mary Arneson, Heidi Dunfrund,
Julia Hoving, Russell Lundstrom,
Shannon Ross
- 23 Nikki Bach
- 24 Rebecca DiVenere
- 25 Justin Anderson, Raquel Lemke
- 26 Kaidyn Guttenberg, Tim Papka,
Don Petelle
- 27 Alan Busch, Nicole Flanagan,
Charlie Powe
- 28 Jason Bloomfield, George Bull,
Matt Konie, Joan Rice, Mary Trodahl

STAFF AND CONTACTS

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Jill Gillming

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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 Boehler, *Vice President*

Mike McCann, *Secretary*

Jim Henley, *Treasurer*

Adam Adams

Amy Brittain

Cliff Dungey

Matt Greene

Larry Newbanks