

Congregational Newsletter March 2017

Statement of Purpose

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

BUILDING TEAM TARGET GOALS FOR FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL:

- FEBRUARY 9 − Bid Preview Date
- FEBRUARY 19 Coffee with the Building Team held between services
- FEBRUARY 22 All Bids due to Shales McNutt Construction
- MARCH Appraisal and Construction Loan process continues
- MARCH 19 Coffee with the Building Team held between services
- APRIL 23 Congregational Meeting to approve Construction and Loan
- APRIL 30 GROUND BREAKING!

Our Ground Breaking Team consists of Co-Chairmen Jodi Dowell and Renae Greene, along with Pastor Mark and Building Team liaison, Bob Malm.

Please continue to keep your Building Team members along with our Congregation in your prayers as we navigate together through this monumental and historic time, building the New Mission Center of Shepherd of the Prairie.

A Note From Pastor Mark

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the season of Lent. This is a time for us as individuals and community to reflect upon our relationships that matter. Jesus. I encourage



your participation in our weekly midweek worship as well as opportunities for growth through study and prayer.

Lent always begins with the story of Jesus temptation. The story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness sticks in our memory as a great example of Godly strength by God's son, Jesus.

But at the end of Jesus' forty days, we find a warning: "(the devil) left him until an opportune time" (verse 13).

We need to be aware that the devil is never very far away from each of us. He waits in the wings to take advantage of the opportunity when we are weakest. And he rejoices in our falling down and in our failings. He longs to reign in our feelings of rejection, discouragement, and despair.

We all need in God's word which can be trusted. "He is with us always" (Matthew 28:20) and also that he sends a host of angels to be with us (Psalm 91:11-12). Our beloved Word of God confirms that "in our weakness God is strong" (Isaiah 40:29- 31). He tells us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (Luke 14:27). Jesus prays to God for our protection in John 17 (verses 11 and 15). And when we need the right words, the Holy Spirit will give them to us (Luke 12: 11 - 12).

With those helpful words, with the example of Jesus, and with other godly friends, we can be strong and bold, and invite the Holy Spirit to keep us from caving in when confronted with temptations.

Take time this month to think about times when you've been helped or had the opportunity to be a helper through troubled days. How did those situations impact you? Others?

Pray through some of the above Scriptures and find strength to meet each day. I look forward to our walk together through Lent and once again meet Christ on the other side in His resurrection presence.

Pastor Mark

Adult Education News

Of all the writings that Martin Luther produced, none has had more impact than his Small Catechism. Written for parents to use with their children, the Catechism contains the basics of the Christian faith. In simple language, but with profound insight, Luther gives us a deep understanding of who God is and who we are in relation to God. Many of



us were expected to memorize the Catechism as we went through Lutheran confirmation. In fact, I remember Ed, a pilot who flew rescue helicopters in Vietnam. He told me that as he awaited rescue after his own helicopter was shot down, Luther's Catechism came flooding back to him: what Luther had to say about the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Holy Communion. So there must be something of great importance here! As a part of our preparation for our Reformation 500 celebration this October, we'll explore the Catechism during our midweek Lenten worship and in adult classes during Lent. How about joining us on Wednesday evenings, beginning March 8, at 7 pm for worship; and on Sunday mornings at 10:45 and Wednesdays at 11 am for further exploration and conversation? A great Lenten discipline--much better than giving up watermelon!

Pastor Bill

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 April & May. We will be looking at the core values and practices of the ELCA Lutheran Church. Come at 5:30 and at 6 we'll grab dinner from the Lenten Soup Supper and continue to learn as we eat together. The class will run from **5:30 to 6:45.** We will meet April



19th, 26th, and May 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th 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.

Ministry Musings

"O! Come, let us sing to the Lord; Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" Ps 95:1

"O! come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our God our maker." Ps 95:6

"O! magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt God's name together." Ps 34:3



Have you ever, like me, seen a beautiful sunset, a newborn baby, a vista from the top of a mountain, the first glimpse of spring, the roar of an ocean or the chaos of children at VBS and been struck totally speechless? There are no words at that moment – just pure emotion that fills your heart, soul and mind. That moment is our word for March, and it is expressed as O!. It's pure amazement and awe for God and his creation and acts.

As in the Psalm verses above, my only response often is, "O Lord"! Even more words of praise and thankfulness form in my mind and look for expression. Worship is the only way to express all that is inside.

"Worship is the practice of all that is within us to celebrate the joyful goodness of God. It invites us to contemplate the glorious, transcendent living god of love, and it so doing to experience transformation in that image ourselves. Worship is an act of the whole being, uniting intellect with emotion, integrating reason with feeling, combining thought with affection, summoning both of our brains hemispheres and all of our brain's layers and capacities in a joint corruption of joyful love and loving joy." Brian McLaren, Naked Spirituality.

Whether we worship in a cathedral of pine trees and babbling brooks, or a cathedral of carved stone and stained glass; whether we worship in the form of time-honored liturgy or less traditional contemporary; whether we worship with others or simply on our own, we are still worshipping God with enthusiasm, joy and awe...O!

And O! is not just for communal worship, but is a way of life. It's seeing and praising God in all moments; the joy filled and sorrowful,

(Continued on page 5)

Ministry Musings Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

the awe-inspiring and mundane. Here are a few ideas of how to worship God with our whole lives and beings:

- Worship God by greeting him first thing each morning, O!
- Worship God by giving thanks at every meal, O!
- Worship God as the response to every pleasure, O!
- · Worship God with first consideration in your weekly schedule, O!
- Worship God as your supervisor or client for all work, O!
- Worship God with the first part of every paycheck, O!
- Worship God with the joy of your creativity, O!

"Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy house of worship, praise him under the open skies; praise him for his acts of power. Praise him for his magnificent greatness; praise him with a blast on the trumpet, praise him by the strumming of strings; praise him with

castanets and dance, praise him with banjo and flute, praise him

with cymbals and mandolin. Let every living, breathing creature praise God! Hallelujah!" Ps 150 (The Message)

Donna Kelly

FOOD PANTRY

Weekend of March 4 & 5

is Food Pantry Collection Weekend at SOTP before all services

NEEDS THIS MONTH:

- Deodorant
- Salad Dressing
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Feminine Products



AND AS ALWAYS,
CHECKS MADE OUT TO
SOTP THAT STATE
"FOOD PANTRY" IN
THE MEMO WILL BE
FORWARDED
TO THE FOOD PANTRY.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

On February 19th, we formally welcomed several new members into our family at SOTP:

Cary & Jan Thompson * Dorothy Wills
Ryan & Emily Schoenberg, Ella, Ethan and Nolan
Joanne Schwartz * Anita Walden
Patrick & Dana Ullrich, Ella, Ava
Scott & Nellica Seibert, Clara, Lydia
Chris & Kelly Clark; Andrew, Evie, Elena Fetzer
Jim & Diana Murphy * Fred & Marilyn Wilhelm
Rick & Kathy Miller * Merle & Susan Lewis
Eleanor Baxter



Sean & Jennifer Nagel, Logan, Lucas, Norah and Liam

We are blessed to have these brothers and sisters in Christ join us! Please make yourself known to them and invite them to activities here at SOTP.

Updated photo directories, including our newest members are available on the Usher's table.

MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

Shepherd of the Prairie is hosting our first Mobile Food Truck Saturday, April 1st from 9:00 am -11:00 am. We will be

helping the Northern Illinois Food Pantry distribute food in honor of Sid Sorenson.

All are welcome to come and serve.

More information coming soon.



STUBBS FAMILY UPDATE & PRAYER REQUEST

As some of you may know, Carol Stubbs, the wife of Randy Stubbs, the missionaries we help support in Tanzania, has had back pain and a general lack of wellness the last few months. Since her condition continued to deteriorate to the point of her becoming critical she was flown to Pretoria, South Africa for additional diagnostic workup. Before she could finish the workup she had cardiac arrest twice and was thankfully revived. The diagnosis that came back from the doctors was an aggressive and hard to treat form of lymphoma.

So besides treating the cancer her doctors had to rebuild her general health to the point of where she could travel to the United States to be close to family and friends and continue treatment. Surprisingly, over the last two months, through the work of her physicians and many prayers her condition has improved dramatically to the point where plans are being made to transport her home to DeKalb.

It has been a real miracle how Carol has come back from the edge of death to where she is now taking small walks, eating and becoming stronger every day. People have been praying for her here in the states and also in Tanzania. Prayers do work!

Even though Carol has made great progress, the road ahead

will be hard and difficult. Randy and the family have asked for your continuing prayers as she travels home and fights her disease. May God comfort and strengthen them in the weeks and months ahead.



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE SPONSORS THE STUBBS FAMILY

a missionary family in Tanzania. Check out their website at www.StubbsMission.info

OUILTERS PRAYER

We thought you would like to read our quilters prayer that each of us reads a line at every one of our quilting sessions:

A Quilter's Prayer by Patricia Hauze (2003, used with permission)

Guide my hands to work as your hands work, to know the power of your love in every stitch I make, in every thread I knot. May my hands be guided by the same love and care with every quilt I make, knowing

that this love and care was and is and will continue to be a gift of blessing to the one it is intended for.

May the work of my hands be pleasing in your sight, O God.

Lord, bless my work today.

As I choose materials and patterns, may I be reminded of the uniqueness you blessed us all with.

As I cut each length of thread, may I be reminded of the doors that must be closed in our lives so that a new and stronger door may be opened.

As I tie each knot, may I be reminded of a bond of love so strong, nothing will break it.

As I run the thread between my fingers, may I be reminded of the times you have touched my life, my heart, my soul.

As I sew each stitch, may I be reminded of the healing power of your grace in each of us.

As I concentrate on my craft, may I be reminded of the love and care you put into each of our lives.

As I add my last stitch, tie my last knot, cut the final cord, may I be reminded of the completeness with which you commanded in each of us before we were ever given to this life.

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." (Ecclesiastes 9:10 A)

Amen

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES



First Communion classes for 5th graders are coming soon. They will be held on Saturdays:

- Saturday, March 4, 10:00 11:00 am
- Saturday, March 11, 10:00 11:00 am
- Saturday, March 18, 10:00 11:00 am
- Saturday, April 1, 9:30 11:00 am

Students will receive their First Communion the weekend of April 1 & 2 at the worship service of each family's choosing.

Please call the church office at (847) 669-9448 or e-mail Michelle@sotpmail.com to register your child.

LENTEN SERVICES & SOUP SUPPERS

Once again, we are looking forward to the fellowship shared with our Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm followed by our Lenten services at 7:00 pm.

Here is a schedule of the groups that will be providing dinners for those nights:



- ⇒MARCH 8, Adult Choir & Adult Bells
- ⇒MARCH 15, Greeters
- ⇒MARCH 22, Ushers
- ⇒March 29, Quilters & Fun for All Ages
- ⇒APRIL 5, Welcome Center & Mission Team

Reminder: all soups need to be set up by 5:30 as the choir eats early at 5:45 and everyone else at 6 PM.



HOLY WEEK AT SOTP

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, PALM SUNDAY 9:00 am & 10:45 am services

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm service

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, GOOD FRIDAY

10:00 am Children's Service (All are invited) 7:00 pm traditional Good Friday service

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, HOLY SATURDAY 5:00 pm service

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, EASTER SERVICES 9:00 & 11:00 am services



EASTER FLOWERS

SOTP flower committee is working on plans for Easter. Although the final design is not completed, we did want the congregation to know that we plan to decorate the church at Easter with a variety of spring flowers similar to last year. The congregation will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of spring



flowers with prices ranging from \$10 to about \$35. We will be decorating the sanctuary on April 15h at 9am. Watch for more information in the Friday Flourish.

EASTER EGG HUNT ~ CANDY REQUEST

We are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 am here at SOTP.

Children can come hunt filled eggs and enjoy fellowship and fun leading up to our Easter Celebration.

We are in need of wrapped candy to stuff in the eggs. Please drop donations off in the box in the Crossroads.

















NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Please hold the date and mark your calendars accordingly for Saturday, May 13, 2017 so you can help do God's Work with Your Hands at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The Mission Team has committed our church to provide 70 volunteers to help put together food items to feed our hungry neighbors. If needed, there are also sit-down jobs that contribute to the projects.



Simply let us know. Whether you have been there or not in the past, you will discover how great it feels to assist.

A Saturday date was chosen so that families (children minimum age 8) have a better chance of participating together. It is a great learning experience for people of all ages. Please consider signing up. If you have any questions, or want to sign up, please call Dave or Sharon Stangle at 224-628- 2107 or email davidstangle@yahoo.com.

As in the past, participants are invited to meet at church by 8:00 AM and travel to 273 Dearborn Ct., Geneva, IL, or you can go directly there and arrive by 8:45 in time to confirm registration, gather together for a prayer, and begin working at 9:00. The project will end by 11:30. Participants are welcome to carpool together. If you need assistance in organizing a carpool, we are happy to assist. As Isaiah 58:10 tells us, "Feed the hungry and help those in trouble, then your light will rise and the darkness around you will be as bright as day."

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors | Volunteer. Donate. Get Involved.

WWW.SOLVEHUNGERTODAY.ORG

MARCH SCHEDULES

		March 4 & 5	March 11 & 12	March 18 & 19	March 25 & 26		
Presiding Minister		Pastor Mark Boster					
Altar Guild	5:00 SAT	Becky Tuzik, Tom & Darlene Polzin					
	9:00 AM	Joanne Klinger & Jackie Elkin					
	10:45 AM	Sandy Hupert Merrily Burkland	Jan & Don Koerner	Marlene Boehler Sandy Petersen	Pam & Darren Walloch		
Altar Flowers	Weekend	No Flowers for Lent					
Assisting	9:00 AM						
Minister	10:45 AM						
Bulletin & Newsletter Folders	Friday	June Kobler Annette Carlson	Marian Mesenbrink Marlene Tresp	Barb Krmpotich Jill Hoffman	Elaine Neukirch Donna Turner Alice Hallett		
Coffee Hour Hosts	SUNDAY	Friends in Faith					
Coffee Hour Treats	SUNDAY	THORUS IIIT aiui					
Communion Bread	Weekend	Bev Pinnelli and Tom Noesen	Joan Rice	Joanne Klinger	Jeanne Henley		
	5:00 SAT						
Communion Stewards	9:00 AM						
	10:45 AM						
Counters	Weekend	Warren Brody, Donna Turner & Cal Meyer					
	5:00 SAT	Becky Tuzik	Steve Murphy	Nancy Zunker	Dorothy Wills		
Greeters	9:00 AM	Barb Niemiec & Terry Halpin	Sharon Neubauer & Terry Halpin	Donna Reynolds & Terry Halpin	Dolly Cardascio & Terry Halpin		
	10:45 AM	Bob & Carolyn Malm					
	9:00 AM	Jen Powe	Judie Symbal	Jen Powe	Jen Kolcz		
Nursery	10:45 AM	Joceyln Doden	Blue Geller	Sandy Hupert	Mary Lee Rischel		
	Clean Up	Judie Symbal	Jen Powe	Sandy Hupert	Mary Lee Rischel		
Readers	9:00 AM						
	10:45 AM						
Rejoice Worship Band	10:45 AM	VOCALS: Annette Boster, Dana Turk, Ron Mudge GUITAR: Dennis Caravello, Jon Boster PIANO: Tyler Greene	VOCALS: Chris Brittain, Dawn Bach, Jim Rhode, Kim Szekely GUITAR: Dennis Caravello, Jon Boster DRUMS: Brian Buesing PIANO: Tyler Greene				
Sound- board	5:00 SAT	Dan Wills	Dan Wills	Dick Brush	Dick Brush		
	9:00 AM	Jim Rice	Tom Polzin				
	10:45 AM	Brian Ott	Tim Torkelson		-		

MARCH SCHEDULES (Cont.)

		March 4 & 5	March 11 & 12	March 18 & 19	March 25 & 26
Sound- board	5:00 SAT	Dan Wills	Dan Wills	Dick Brush	Dick Brush
	9:00 AM	Jim Rice	Tom Polzin		
	10:45 AM	Brian Ott	Tim Torkelson		
Ushers	5:00 SAT	Denis & Carol Minutillo	Doreen Drinan Becky Tuzik	Carol Hartman Becky Tuzik	Randi Dawson Steve Murphy
	9:00 AM	WAYNE SCHMIDT Warren Brody John Jensen Walter Lemke	JACK CONTI James Blanchard Chris Hinde Merly & Harriet Thompson Marlene Tresp	WALTER ROTH Dan Wentzloff Roy Rankin Chris Solem Carol Roth Vik Bekeris	ED CUTTLE Carolyn Cuttle Jeff Stipes Harold & Joan Doege Ralph Wehnes
	10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE John Richardson Vik Bekeris Paul Ross Chris Swanson	MARK FRENDREIS Patrick Fleener Charlie Powe Andrew Szekely	JOHN BOEHLER Don & Jan Koerner Darren Walloch Vik Bekeris	BOB MCDUFFEE John Richardson Vik Bekeris Paul Ross Chris Swanson
Visuals	9:00 AM	Josh Harding	Josh Harding		
visuais	10:45 AM	Jack Ott	Greg Dowell		
Welcome Center	9:00 AM	Mary & Jack Conti	Nancy Ottinger Cheryl Adams	Jan Suski Joyce Thompson	Elaine & Warren Brody
	10:45 AM	Marty Jacobsen	Sandy Warner Joanne Bychowsky	Elaine Neukirch Judy Petropolus	
Worship Leader	Sat Sunday	Michael Waal			

If you aren't currently involved in ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie and would like to find

Donna Kelly at donna@sotpmail.com or the church office at 847/669-9448.

There are so many different ways to get involved, you are one of our missing pieces!



FINANCIAL NEWS

Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2017

Thanks to your faithful and generous support the mission of Shepherd of the Prairie is off to a very successful start in 2017. Through January operating income exceeded expenses by \$4,725. Contributions slightly exceeded the budgeted amount by \$4,591 and expenses were slightly under the budgeted amount by \$659.

As of January 31st the Building Fund Balance was \$ 718,979. During the month of January we received donations of \$75,724. This included \$57,101 to our Forward in Faith campaign and \$18,090 to our FORWARD campaign. Building Fund expenses for the month were \$50,665. The Loan Balance on our existing property is \$476,749.

General Fund	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/Under	
Income: Expenses: Net Income:	\$ 55,312 \$ 50,587 \$ 4,725	\$ 50,721 \$ 51,246	\$ 4,591 \$ (659)	
Fund Balance	\$ 91,158			
Building Fund				
Income: Expenses:	\$ 75,724 \$ 50,665 (\$37	(\$37,951 for Architectural Fees)		
Fund Balance:	\$718,979			

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel L. Wentzloff Church Treasurer

JUST WHAT IS THIS
WELCOME PACK AND
EXODUS WHO
SPONSORS OUR
INVOLVEMENT?



There is a wonderful way to find out all about it at a very nice Free Dinner April 7th at 6:30 pm.

Please join us for an exciting evening of great food and inspiring stories as we celebrate our ministry of mobilizing volunteers to welcome refugees.

Talk to Sandy Hupert <u>224-569-6041</u>, <u>sandyhupert@gmail.com</u> or any other mission Team member.

Mission Team will start a new Welcome Pack Collection at the beginning of lent.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- I......Zachary Ott, Annette Carlson, Joe Jones, Darren Walloch
- 2......Brendan Hollow, Taylor Ramey, Ronnie Bretsen
- 3......lill Hoffman
- 4......David Bishop
- 5.....Michele Marx, Matthew Behm
- 6.....Marty Jacobson, Tamara Uteg, Hollie Lindgren
- 7..........Carol Roth, Timothy Ramirez, Tamara Polzin -Netsel, Madison Black
- 8.....Taylor Dean, Carol Bletz
- 10......Jaime DeBlieck, Merlyn Thompson, Skyla Geller, Alyson Johnson, Richard Dahl, Richard Gerhardt, Pamela Perrott, Emily Rossman, Vivian Kasal, Kendall Wolf
- I IDenise Gartzke, Sandy Werner
- 12.......Joanne Schwartz, Jaxson Thomas Domenz, Alice Hallett
- 13......Chris Hinde, Ronda Shoemaker
- 14......Bentley Jacobs, Lisa Piskule
- 15......Lauren Flanagan, Scott Fiandalo
- 16......Brooke Grabs, Daniella Berti, Ashlyn Grabs, Ferdie Kimminau, Hannah Dobrolinsky, Grant lahr
- 17......Colt Luedtke, Mark Wilkerson
- 18......Alexis Kowalski, Kathy Strang
- 19......Dee Jones, Seth Conroy, Annabel Johnson, John Robinson, Phyllis Thomson
- 20......Cheryl Konie
- 21Bradén Turk, James Rice, Jeff Bala, Neal Doden, Alex Steen
- 22......Bennett Buesing, Ed Richard, John Fuellgraff, Payton Marx, Devan Turk, Derek Reincke
- 23......Mary McCullough, Zachary Ethan Powe, Cecelia DeBolt, Annika Yndestad. Lillian DeBolt, Michael Hoch
- 24......Chad Juergensen, Karen Ankerberg, Sara Solem
- 25......Gerd Rankin, Brandon Wade. Trevor Dowell
- 26......Sandi Stewart, Al Guttenburg, Charlie Burian, Noreta Walker, Iim Milford
- 27.....Ruth Quam, Kylie Golembeck, lennifer Trevino
- 28.......Renae Greene, Christopher Stopka, Rachel Miller
- 29......Curt Gerald, Arnie Didricksen. Wayne Schmidt
- 30......Amy Johnson, Jennifer Powe, Kay O'Shanna
- 31Orion Samuelson, Alixandria Rhode. Amanda Juergensen

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Michael Waal,

Blessings & Treasures Choirs

Denise James, Joy Ringers

Michael Parmele

Sunday School Director

Sue Wehnes, Renae Greene Contributions Secretaries

Congregation Council

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Matt Greene, Vice President

Amy Brittain, Secretary

Jim Henley, Treasurer

Adam Adams Marlene Boehler

Cliff Dungey

Bud Hansen

Bob McDuffee