



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

## Congregational Newsletter October 2017

### Statement of Purpose

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

### CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS



#### CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS WEEK # 6: SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2017

- Foundation walls finished and passed backfill inspection with Village of Huntley
- Grouted and set the setting plates for the upcoming steel
- Spot survey and the anchor bolt survey on new addition
- Backfilled and put gravel base down for the slab on grade
- Electrician starting to run conduits from existing electrical room towards new addition
- SETTING STRUCTURAL STEEL NEXT WEEK!!!!!!  
Things will be...LOOKING UP!!!!

#### CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS WEEK # 5: SEPT. 8, 2017

- Neil Concrete finished pouring foundation walls this week
- Began preparing for backfill of foundation walls by putting wood strip and insulation on exterior of foundation walls
- Little Lambs started first week of pre-school, and enjoyed the convenience and safety of being able to utilize the washroom facilities through their newly installed door
- Owner's meeting held Thursday, 9/7/17
- Preparing for the setting of structural steel to begin 9/15, or 9/18/17

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Building News (continued)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

### **LOOKING UP!!!!!!**

#### **CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS WEEK # 4: SEPT. 1, 2017**

- Poured north and some east foundation walls and the footings for THE ALTAR!
- Working on forming the rest of the foundation walls towards a possible pour on 9/7/17
- Coordination meeting held with Sound Planning and Shales McNutt regarding the sound system in the new Sanctuary

**EAST DRIVE IS CLOSED AND WILL BE  
THROUGH SPRING!**

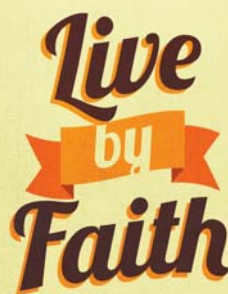
**IF YOU'RE ABLE TO WALK, PLEASE PARK IN THE FRONT  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING PARKING LOT NEXT DOOR**  
*(ENTER THE PARKING LOT OFF OF MAIN ST).*

## *A Note From Pastor Mark*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
God's Word says "the righteous shall live by faith." These are touchstone words lifted up for us in our Reformation history for which this month we are celebrating a 500th Anniversary.

What does that mean for us? I took a trip to the dictionary to find the definition of "live." There were many examples but mainly it means to have life, be capable of vital functions, to remain alive, to continue in existence, operation, memory. To dwell or reside to regulate one's life, to pass life in a specified manner.

As a believer, all the above are to be lived with an eye toward God, trusting in God to supply all we need.



**Live  
by  
Faith**

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *A Note From Pastor Mark (continued)*

Jesus encourages us to look beyond the visible.

To have faith is to trust in the supernatural power and resources of our God who loves and cares for us. No matter what is happening in our life we need to look beyond the circumstances, the drawbacks, the hindrances, and trust and believe God knows and cares about us.

Without faith we would become overwhelmed by what is occurring in the world today: crime, terrorism, evil in every shape and form.

We could be filled with fear over the possibilities of what might happen to our family and us.

But as believers, we know our future and the future of the world and its inhabitants is not up to chance, but is in the control and supervision of God. And yes, it does take faith to hold fast.

There are many wonderful things happening today to counteract the evil.

Thousands of people are coming to a saving faith in Christ; people in bondage to drugs and alcohol are being set free to live healthy lives. Bible study and Christ-based programs in churches are helping people become whole.

Shepherd of the Prairie has a very active learning community. Sunday School is kicking off with a new way of teaching through experiential learning stations, Adult Education is off and running, students are beginning Confirmation studies, children are learning the basics of faith through music on Wednesday nights, young girls (through GEMS) are meeting the Savior, Jesus. This place is alive in Christ.

The apostles asked Jesus to “increase their faith.” Luke 17:5-10”

They were responding to Jesus telling them they had a duty to forgive, not just once but over and over. This evidently was as difficult for them as it may be for us. Aware of their lack, they asked Jesus for more faith.

I encourage you to faithfully respond to Jesus’ disciples’ plea. Get involved, through study, service, generosity or through your commitment to prayer. Ask the Lord to increase your faith and respond to the Spirit’s leading.

God bless you on your life’s journey. I hope you will join us this month as we prepare to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. I’ll see you along the way.

*Pastor Mark*

## Adult Education News



October--the month of the Reformation! As we continue our Reformation 500 journey, we'll explore a variety of facets to one of the major transforming events in the history of the world. So much of who we are today is derived from who we were 500 years ago! We'll hear about important scientists and their scientific discoveries that occurred during the Reformation years and beyond. We'll learn about the history of Lutherans here in the United States, going all the way back to the 1600's when the first Lutherans arrived on our shores. We'll discover how Lutherans shaped and were shaped by the American experience. Then we'll plunge into the formation of our ELCA and explore how our church today impacts the nation in which we live. All of this happens **ON SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:20 AND ON WEDNESDAYS AT BOTH 11 AM AND 7 PM**. Come join us and deepen your Lutheran experience!

*Pastor Bill*

## Ministry Musings

### BEHOLD!

Over the past few months we have looked at the words, NO! HELP! PLEASE! WHEN? WHY? and contemplated what they mean in our lives of faith. This month we look at **BEHOLD!** The dictionary defines **BEHOLD!** as 'to perceive or to observe'.

What you look for most often determines what you see or **BEHOLD!** For example, if I have excitedly been anticipating an event I will go into it expecting to enjoy myself and I most likely will. However, if I go into an event dreading it and expecting it to be a boring, unproductive time, it most likely will be! Because of living through those times NO! HELP! PLEASE! WHEN! WHY! we can hopefully long for a new perspective; to see our situations, ourselves and others from a fresh point of view. Pain, confusion, fear, grief and a myriad of other things can allow us to see life through a fog or out of focus.

Many of us tend to see people in a dualistic way: some are our friends, some are our enemies; some as superior to us, some as inferior; some as worthy, some as unworthy. We make our judgements on them in relation to ourselves; our own fears, our experiences, our pride, our profit, our ideas of right and wrong, good and bad, proper and improper. **BEHOLD!** Now, because of Christ, we can strive to see



## Ministry Musings Cont.

*(Continued from page 4)*

others and ourselves through the living, loving compassionate eyes of God.

When we **BEHOLD!** others and ourselves through God's eyes we can join God in **BEHOLDing** us all in the light of compassion. He knows each of us better than we know each other or ourselves. Our faults aren't excused in his love, but they are swallowed up in forgiveness. Our weaknesses, our dark sides, our faults, our failings aren't ignored, aren't covered up, but they aren't the focus nor are they thrown back into our faces by God. Our strengths are neither exaggerated nor minimized, they simply are part of who we are.

We can endeavor to **BEHOLD!** without arrogance, without an attitude of superiority or control. We can begin to **BEHOLD!** possibilities rather than problems; for goodness rather than flaws; for beauty rather than faultfinding; to see with God. And not to **BEHOLD!** these things just for others, but in how we see ourselves as well. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, "Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts us all in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life; a resurrection life, a far better life than people have ever lived on their own. Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone who is united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life flourishes! **BEHOLD!!** (The Message)

**BEHOLDing** ourselves and others through God's eyes can bring us to the place where we see all of his creation through a new view. We can **BEHOLD!** the beauty and majesty of God in the forest, the sunset, the roaring waves or the crash of thunder. We can **BEHOLD!** the value of each flower, each animal, even the pesky mosquito. Martin Luther once said, "If you could understand a single grain of wheat you would die of wonder."

When we step into the wonder of **BEHOLDing** others, ourselves and creation in this way, we don't waste a lot of time beating ourselves up about past mistakes, we simply accept God's forgiveness and let them fall away into the past. As Pastor Mark once said in the children's sermon, God forgets our sin, and we need to do so as well. I once read an author who said that when we say to God, "Lord I messed up again!" God says, "Again? What again?". With his forgiveness there is no 'again'.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Ministry Musings Cont.

(Continued from page 5)

There is good in everything, or there is potential to bring good out of anything. Romans 8:28 "he knows us far better than we know ourselves ... That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of good for God is worked into something good." (The Message) May God grant us the will and the ability to **BEHOLD!** all things through his eyes of love, grace and compassion. And when we **BEHOLD!** may we be able to exclaim with the man born blind in John 9:25, "I was blind... I now see!". (The Message)

*Donna Kelly*

### WANT TO TRAVEL WITH SOTP FAMILY?



Shepherd of the Prairie is sponsoring two international travel experiences in the upcoming years.

**THE FIRST TRIP** will be October 29, 2018-November 11, 2018 sailing on Celebrity's Constellation visiting LANDS OF THE BIBLE. We will start in Rome and travel to various ports including Crete, Mykonos, Sea of Galilee in Israel, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Athens and Corinth, Naples and Pompeii. Pastor Bill will be escorting the group while we are led by Rev. Dr. Phillip Ruge-Jones a scholar, storyteller, speaker and pastor of a Lutheran church in Eau Claire WI. Brochures are available outside Pastor Bill's office. Sharon and Chuck Little and Carolyn Cuttle are helping to organize the group. We are having a meeting on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 FROM 1:00 – 2:00PM** to talk more about the trip!!!!

**THE SECOND TRIP** will be in 2020. Wow, you say! That is a long time for now. However, we need to get tickets to attend the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. Since 1634 the town's folks have presented the Passion Play thanking God for saving their community from the Black Plague. After the Passion Play, we are heading on a Heritage Tour visiting sites where Martin Luther preached and served. Pastor Bill will again shepherd the group. The official dates are September 1-10, 2020. Brochures are available outside Pastor Bill's office. Sharon and Chuck Little and Carolyn Cuttle are helping to organized the group. We are having a follow up meeting on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 FROM 2:00 – 3:00PM** to talk more about the trip!!!!

Contact: Sharon Little [skl55little@mac.com](mailto:skl55little@mac.com) or  
Chuck Little [jc65little@mac.com](mailto:jc65little@mac.com)

## REFORMATION 500 DINNER

The Reformation committee has planned a great celebration on October 29, 2017... the 500th anniversary of Luther's Reformation. We are having a party and hope that you will come!!!

**DATE: Sunday, October 29, 2017**

**TIME: 4:00 – 8:30pm**

**PLACE: Holiday Inn Crystal Lake  
800 South Route 31  
Crystal Lake IL 60014**



**COST: \$25.00 per adult**

**\$10.95 for children under the age of 12**

Menu: A three course dinner is planned with a choice of beef roulade or pork schnitzel. You will need to make your choice when purchasing your tickets. Dinner, Dancing and Entertainment are planned.

There will be a cash bar.

We will be selling tickets before and after Saturday and Sunday church services. Cash or checks made out to SOTP are accepted. If you need a ride or would give a ride, please let us know to set up car pools for those concerned about driving at night.

**JOIN US FOR THE BIG CELEBRATION!!!!**

*Contact: Carolyn Cuttle [ednca@comcast.net](mailto:ednca@comcast.net)*

## THANK YOU!

Thank you! A heart-felt thank you to all those who helped with our Lutheran/Catholic dialog on September 17. Our Reformation 500 committee, along with all those who assisted with putting up and putting away extra chairs, the greeters, and the hostesses who provided cider, donuts, and, most importantly, hospitality.

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

*The word from our St. Thomas More sisters and brothers:  
"Thanks for making us feel so welcome!"  
Well done, good and faithful SOTP servants!*

**SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE SPONSORS THE STUBBS FAMILY  
MISSIONARY FAMILY IN TANZANIA.  
[www.stubbsmission.info](http://www.stubbsmission.info)**

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Please hold the date and mark your calendars accordingly for **Saturday, October 7, 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 60 volunteers to help put together food items to feed our hungry neighbors. If needed, there are 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 & Sharon Stangle (*see below*). 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 12:00. Participants are welcome to carpool together. If you need assistance in organizing a carpool, we are happy to assist.

As the 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."

*Contact: Dave & Sharon Stangle  
stangle.ds@gmail.com 224-628- 2107*

### NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

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

[WWW.SOLVEHUNGERTODAY.ORG](http://WWW.SOLVEHUNGERTODAY.ORG)

## THIRD QUARTER GIVING STATEMENTS

### THIRD QUARTER GIVING STATEMENTS

will be printed on October 2nd. Please plan to pick-up your statement from the usher table on **October 7 or 8.**

**STATEMENTS NOT PICKED UP  
WILL BE MAILED.**

Your statement will include an important update letter from Pastor Mark about the status of our church and the building progress.

*Contact: Sue Wehnes [susanwehnes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanwehnes@sbcglobal.net)*

QUARTERLY  
GIVING  
STATEMENTS

## CONVERSATION WITH THE BISHOP & POTLUCK

## RE-MARK-ABLE CONVERSATION WITH THE BISHOP – FALL 2017

**SOTP TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 6:15 PM**

We are delighted that we have been asked to host an evening of RE-MARK-ABLE Conversation with the Bishop and hope you will join us! We would love to get a close headcount for SOTP members that will be joining us ~



and the rest of our Synod feel at home at SOTP with one of our famous pot lucks (*we truly have some of the best cooks!*).

The pot luck will begin at 6:15 pm and will be over in time for us to open with devotion and continued conversations at 7:00 pm.

We are a RE-synod! We are MARKed with the cross of Christ. We are ABLE to faithfully forge ahead in the name of Jesus.

As we move toward REvitalizing, REforming and RENewing, Bishop Jeff Clements and the synod staff invite you to an evening of conversation. We want to hear what you're experiencing right now and with what you are experimenting. The guided conversation will allow congregations of each conference to hear more of what others are doing, too. **ALL ARE INVITED – YOUNG AND OLD**; rostered ministers and congregational members; long-term members and brand-new members.

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21, NRSV)

**Please sign up at [www.goo.gl/GmeEW3](http://www.goo.gl/GmeEW3) or call the office.**

- ⇒ To RSVP that you will be attending
- ⇒ To let us know if you will be bringing a dish to the potluck

Contact: Michelle Rankin Michelle@sotpmail.com

## SOTP PRAYER CHAIN

Shepherd of the Prairie is blessed with a wonderful prayer chain.

If you have a prayer request that you would like to add, or if you would like to start receiving the distribution and start praying for those that need them, **e-mail [SOTPprayers@gmail.com](mailto:SOTPprayers@gmail.com)**. Lists are in the Friday Flourish and as a printout on the usher's table.

Contact: Donna Kelly Donna@sotpmail.com 847/669-9448

## SOTP MUSIC MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S BELLS & CHOIRS Wednesdays

- ⇒ Blessings Choir (3rd - 8th grade) 4:30 - 5:10 pm (K-1 Room)
- ⇒ Cherub Choir (toddlers - 2nd grade) 5:00 - 5:20 pm (Big Sunday School Rm)
- ⇒ Chimers ring & sing (kindergarten - 2nd grade) 5:30 - 5:50pm (Big Sunday School Room)
- ⇒ Jubilate Bells (3rd grade - 5th grade) 5:15 - 5:50 (Sanctuary)



### ADULT HANDBELLS Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30pm

### ADULT CHOIR Wednesdays, 7:15 - 8:15 pm

Contact: Jane McMullen Jane@sotpmail.com

## REFORMATION DINNER



**Buy your tickets now** for Shepherd of the Prairie's 500 year celebration of the Reformation taking place at the Crystal Lake Holiday Inn on **Sunday October 29th**.

Don't miss out on a great night of games, dinner and best of all..... dancing! That's right, dance the night away with the great music from the band PHENIX.

Doors will open approximately 3:30 pm and music will end at 8:30. What a great opportunity to share fellowship, fun and friendships!

**Tickets are on sale in the Crossroads between services.**

Each ticket is \$25.00 (\$50.00 a couple). ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

If you're bringing your family, tickets for children 3-12 years old are \$10.95 and will have a kid friendly meal offered.

Don't miss out on the fun!!!!

Contact: Carolyn Cuttle ednca@comcast.net

## VISITOR'S COFFEE

If you have visited Shepherd of the Prairie and would like to have a chance to meet with Pastor Mark and Donna Kelly and maybe ask a few questions, we are hosting a get acquainted coffee on **October 15th** in the middle Sunday School room in the west wing of the building (to the right as you exit the Worship Area). We invite all who would like to come to join us from 10am until about 10:40. This will be a chance to meet each other in a very casual "open house" kind of setting. Hope to see you there!



## PADS

### 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:

Use our PADS online form at [www.goo.gl/hi8WKv](http://www.goo.gl/hi8WKv) or contact Becky Hennessy 847-961-6050 ( [k.b.hennessy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.b.hennessy@sbcglobal.net) ) or Jill Brown 847-683-5027 ( [jillbrown14@yahoo.com](mailto:jillbrown14@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.

Contact: Jill Brown [jillbrown14@yahoo.com](mailto:jillbrown14@yahoo.com)

## DO YOU SHOP AMAZON.COM?



With AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Shepherd of the Prairie.

**To those of you that already do this, thank you!**

**As of August, we have received \$414.24**

**toward the new building at no additional cost to you!**

Next time you shop Amazon, go to AmazonSmile.com select:

“Shepherd of the Prairie” as your non-profit organization.

Contact: Michelle Rankin [michelle@sotpmail.com](mailto:michelle@sotpmail.com) 847/669-9448

## GREEN TREES YARDWORK

For the last 6 years, SOTP has been helping with landscaping at the Green Trees Apartments in Huntley.

We continue to work on this project on a regular basis and can always use more help. No special tools required. You can always bring any favorite tools. (Please put your names on the tools.

We have someone on site every Saturday & Monday

SCHEDULE: SATURDAYS FROM 8 AM TO 11 AM  
MONDAYS FROM 8 AM TO 11 AM

We will continue this schedule until early October.

Weeding, mulching, tree trimming, planting, etc have been projects that help beautify Green Trees.

The following information from the McHenry Director of Housing may help you understand this Complex and how much our work is appreciated.

The GreenTrees Apartments, 11417 E. Main Street, Huntley, are owned and managed by the McHenry County Housing Authority.

**Occupancy is limited to persons age 62 or older, or disabled.**

Contact: Jules Pelka [julespelka@gmail.com](mailto:julespelka@gmail.com)



## PRAIRIE POINT QUILTERS

The Prairie Point Quilters are busier then ever. We are buying batting, shopping for sheets and things are moving along. We have new members this month who are helping us to make more quilts for those in need. Thanks to Thrivent for their help with money for batting, and to all those who purchased sheets for backers. We should have a lot of quilts for our next dedication.

Contact: Nancy Morbeck [jmorbeck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmorbeck@sbcglobal.net)



## FOOD PANTRY

### Weekend of October 7 & 8

is Food Pantry Collection Weekend at SOTP before all services

#### NEEDS THIS MONTH:

- ⇒ Deodorant
- ⇒ White Rice
- ⇒ Cereal
- ⇒ Toothpaste
- ⇒ Shampoo
- ⇒ Toilet Paper



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

Contact: Alice Hallett [agrndmom3@gmail.com](mailto:agrndmom3@gmail.com)

## SECOND TUESDAY

SECOND TUESDAYS AT 10AM –

(\* = tentative)



- ♦ **OCTOBER 10** – “What do you mean, PLAN?” *Tim Urness, ELCA Foundation, Regional Gift Planner*
- ♦ \* **NOVEMBER 14** – “Funeral Directors, Funeral Homes, Cemeteries – words we don’t like to say?” *DeFiore Jorgensen Funeral & Cremation Service, Huntley*
- ♦ \* **DECEMBER 12** – “‘CaringBridge’ – a Resource for You, Your Family, Your Friends” *Curt Gerald0*
- ♦ \* **JANUARY 9** – (Alzheimers)
- ♦ **FEBRUARY 13** – “Financial Planning – it helps!” *Curt Gerald and his Thrivent Reps*

*(Presenters will not be selling products or services.)*

*Contact: Curt Gerald [curtgerald61@gmail.com](mailto:curtgerald61@gmail.com)*

## SOTP BOWLING

Our SOTP Bowling league started their 9th season with a bang September 15th. Everyone had a good time, and enjoyed being back at Bolero/Brunswick. We are still looking for 1 or 2 bowlers to fill the league. This could be men or women or a couple. If you want to have a "ball", can "spare"



1 Friday night a month, and want to make new friendships come join us. This is a "fun" league. Being a good bowler is not required. Having fun and getting some exercise with friends from church is what our group is all about.

If you have any questions, or wish to Join, feel free to give me a call at (847) 659-1331, or E-Mail me at [schmidtw12@comcast.net](mailto:schmidtw12@comcast.net). You do not want to "strike" out on this great opportunity.

Well, it looks like Wayne needs to be "rolling along". I look forward to hearing from you.

*Contact: Wayne Schmidt (847) 659-1331 [schmidtw12@comcast.net](mailto:schmidtw12@comcast.net)*

## COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Sunday morning Coffee Fellowship needs volunteers! Sign up for a one-time event or on a regular basis, it's up to you! What does this entail you ask?

**THE HOST:** is asked to be in the kitchen on Sunday morning (9:50 am until 10:40 am) to set out any donated treats on the snack table along with making sure the supplies on the counter for the coffee remain stocked. If you can clean up following great but if not, this can be done for you! The greatest part is that everything is written down for you and labeled to make it simple. That's it! Smiling and saying "Good Morning" is optional but appreciated. **YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING TREATS UNLESS YOU WANT TO.** This is a VERY easy, but necessary ministry.

**DONATING TREATS:** means just that. You bring in the treats and someone else serves them. **YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HOSTING (SERVING/CLEAN UP) UNLESS YOU WANT TO.**

Sign up with a friends, teens (*this is service hours*) sign up with a parent, or make it a group or family activity. Everyone is welcome!

**If you would like to volunteer please sign up in the Crossroads (bulletin board to the west of the main doors on the wall)**

Contact: Shannon Ross [shannin888@yahoo.com](mailto:shannin888@yahoo.com) 815/751-2637



## NEW MEMBER GATHERING



If you have been worshipping with us for a while and would like to know more about us as a worshipping community, we would love to have you join us at our New Member Gathering. We will be offering the gathering on **Sunday, October 15 from 3:00 - 5:30 pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the life and ministry of SOTP and for you to consider prayerfully whether or not you want to formally become a member of the SOTP family. Please **RSVP to Donna Kelly** at [Donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:Donna@sotpmail.com) or 847/669-9448 (especially if you require babysitting).

We will welcome new members on the following weekend of October 21st & 22nd.

Contact: church office or Pastor Mark [PastorMark@sotpmail.com](mailto:PastorMark@sotpmail.com)  
Donna Kelly [Donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:Donna@sotpmail.com)

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Once again our SOTP youth are leading us in Operation Christmas Child (OCC). We fill shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items and school supplies, and OCC sends them to children in countries torn apart by war and poverty.

We hope SOTP members of all ages will help us fill many boxes of joy. Ways you can help:

- **Pick up an OCC shoebox** in the Crossroads (or use any shoebox). For packing tips, pick up a How to Pack a Shoebox brochure or go to [samaritanaspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanaspurse.org/occ). **Bring your filled box to SOTP anytime, but by November 5th**.
- **Donate individual items ttle cash before October 31**, and our SOTP youth will do the rest. Drop off individual items at the OCC table, and our youth will use these to fill more boxes.
- **Make a cash donation, by October 31** and our youth will be happy to do the shopping for you.



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. Whether you help with a shoebox, a donation, or your prayers, thank you.

*"At the orphanage, we had one toothbrush for 10 girls.*

*My favorite thing in my shoebox was a toothbrush of my very own."*—Jaki,  
Guatemala Shoebox Recipient

Contact: Sophie Dowell  
[sophiedowell1999@gmail.com](mailto:sophiedowell1999@gmail.com) or

Trevor Dowell

## HOPPENSTEADT THANK YOU

Don and Barb Hoppensteadt wish to thank you for all the sympathy cards, memorials, attending the Memorial Service, love and support you gave our family during this sad time with the death of our Grandson Alex. Our family appreciate's everything our church does for us. Thank you again, Pastor Mark, for the wonderful words you spoke at the Memorial Service.

*Thank  
You!*

## CORN MAZE



Join us Saturday, October 28th, at Richardson Farm in Spring Grove, just 30 minutes Northeast of Huntley.

It will be a fun evening of spending time with your SOTP family while exploring the world's largest corn maze, zip lining, picking out pumpkins, and more!

We will have a campfire—Join us for a devotion and s'mores.

### BASIC INFORMATION:

\* 4:00 - 8:00 pm (*be there NO LATER 3:45. We will be there at 3:30 to hand out wristbands*)

\* This is a group event. To get special pricing, we need to purchase block of tickets when we get there.

\* **Reservation and payment due no later than Oct. 12th.**

⇒ Ages 13 and up \$14.50

⇒ Ages 4-12 \$12.50

⇒ Kids 3 and under are FREE

⇒ Parking is free

### WHAT TO BRING:

\* Chairs \* Flashlights \* Jackets

\* \$\$ for food and amusements

\* A stick for roasting marshmallows

Please fill out a Corn Maze form (found in the slots by the Welcome Center window) and

**return to Jessica Panella** through the church office along with a check for the total amount made out to SOTP **by October 12th.**

Contact: Jessica Panella [hawkeye886@comcast.net](mailto:hawkeye886@comcast.net)



### YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

**“This kid will have an iPhone at birth. I’m gonna teach this kid how to Snap when they’re born, like, ‘Put your finger here.’”- Spencer Pratt, speaking about expecting his first child with wife Heidi Montag, on the Allegedly with Theo Von & Matthew Cole Weiss podcast, August 29, 2017**



# From The Word

David was no stranger to anxiety and fear. The book

of Psalms, from start to finish, is filled with emotionally-charged expressions of lament which poured out of his difficult mix of life circumstances. Some of his difficulties had their source in conflicts that came from outside forces. Others were rooted in his own poor priorities and sinful behavior. David is just like us. Typically, the Psalms move from anxiety and fear, to God-centered hope as David would remind himself of God's character, promises, and protection. In Psalm 56, David tells us that he feels constantly trampled, oppressed, and attacked. While his enemies may be different from those we face in today's world, the result of their onslaught echoes with our contemporary experience of fear and anxiety. But we can't stop there. Like David, we must constantly be preaching the truths of God's Word to ourselves. When we do, God blesses us with the resolve of David: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you" (Psalm 56:3). The sufferings, difficulties, and pressures of life lose their perspective when they are not viewed through the lens of eternity, God's character, and God's love. While difficulties are still difficult, they are not our demise. Praise be to God that with David we can say, "I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Parents, lose yourself in the Psalms. And, teach your kids to do the same.



# YOUR TEEN AND ANXIETY

In her poem describing her constant battle with anxiety, 16-year-old Regan paints a picture of how the perfect storm of the pressures of everyday teenage life create an existence filled with stress that seems to never let up. Sandwiched between identical opening and closing lines ("It's all just chaos"), Regan describes her experience of anxiety with words like continuous," "boundless," "binding," "crushing," and "pressure." She pleads, "I need a way off, a clearing

*(Continued on page 18)*

*(Continued from page 17)*

in the brush, a voice in the rush.” Sadly, Regan is not alone. Developmental experts, health-care professionals, and kids themselves tell us that today’s children and teens are plagued by a growing wave of angst that we never felt or experienced when we were growing up. What used to be known as “the wonder years” have suddenly become “the worry years.” The perfect storm includes no escape from things like academic pressures, financial uncertainty, curating social media identity, and family breakdown. . . among a multitude of other realities. While addressing adolescent anxiety is a complex task, there are some basic steps Christian parents can and must take to help their children and teens navigate life in healthy ways that bring honor and glory to God. Here are four initial steps that you can begin to enlist right away.

First, take inventory. Because it’s so easy for us to get swept away in the cultural river that makes us out to be irresponsible parents if we aren’t pushing our kids, we sometimes become the source of pressures, when we should rather be leading our kids towards resilience. When we pile on the idolatrous expectations of academic, appearance, and athletic perfections, it is our kids’ achievements rather than the best interest of our kids that takes precedence. In addition to too much pressure, we are also encouraged to over-protect our kids. Helicopter parenting and running interference does them no favors at all and even adds to their anxiety by derailing opportunities for them to learn how to handle the normal pressures and consequences of life.

Second, change your inventory. If you’ve piled too much of something on the “shelf” of their lives, remove it. But don’t leave the shelves empty. Instead, nurture them into a deep understanding of the hope of the Gospel, drive them to God, teach biblical priorities, and remind them that in Christ they are able to move towards obedience to the most-repeated command in the Bible: “Fear not.” Remind them that God regularly uses difficulties in the lives of those He loves to drive them to a deeper dependence on and faith in Him.

Third, don’t be quick to medicate. Yes, medication is a good gift from God, but it’s not for all cases. We must realize that in today’s world we are way too quick to medicate and far too quick to under-spiritualize. Medication should only be part of an extended plan to address the root causes of anxiety, rather than a quick-fix cover for physical symptoms.

Finally, get help. If your child’s anxiety issues are not being resolved, increasing, or becoming debilitating, seek the help of a qualified Christian counselor.

## Trends

### *Parents on their phones*

Sometimes the very same negative cultural trends that concern us about our kids are cultural trends that clench us in their grip. That's what's been shown in a recent survey of 2,000 secondary school students. More than a third of the 11 to 18 year-old respondents said they had asked their parents to stop checking their phone devices. One in every eight claimed their parents were online during meals. Eighty-two percent of the students believe that family meal times should be device-free. And 22% said that devices were stopping their family from enjoying each other's company. Parents, there's a strong message here from our kids. They want our time and our attention. This shouldn't surprise us at all, as God made us to be in relationship with one another within our families. What are you doing to grow your relationship with your kids? If your faces are buried in your devices, your eyes and ears can't be on your kids.



## Latest Research

### *Decrease in Violence*

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." His words speak loudly to us as we live in a world that is filled with violence, conflict, and strife. In

recent years, experts and educators have worked hard to undermine the growing tide of youth violence that's swept through our

culture. Now, new research from Boston University's Christopher Salas-Wright has found that between 2002 and 2014, there has been a 29% decrease in the relative proportion of young people involved in violence in the United States. Salas-Wright says, "There is often the sense that teenagers are out of control and that things are always getting worse. However, our study makes clear that over the last ten to fifteen years, we have seen a meaningful decrease in the number of adolescents involved in fighting and violence." This is good news! But our efforts need to continue. Continue to teach kids how to value others, and to solve conflict in healthy, God-honoring ways.

## QUICK STATS

- Over 45% of New York City teens spend at least 3 hours a day playing computer or video games, that's up from 28% in 2005. (Youth Risk Behavior Survey)
- In the 1980's, roughly 70% of American 16-19 year-olds held summer jobs. That number has declined to about 40% today. (NPR)

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2017

#### **The Message: Give Generously**

*1 Timothy 6:18-19...go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage ... do good ... be rich in helping others ...be extravagantly generous."*

Shepherd of the Prairie Income and Expenses are in line with the Annual Budget. Through August operating income Year-To- Date(YTD) exceeded expenses by \$39,506. Contributions Year-To- Date exceeded the budgeted amount by \$22,699 and expenses Year-To- Date are under the budgeted amount by \$18,805.

As of August 31 the Building Fund Balance was \$939,533. During the month Forward in Faith donations totaled \$38,653. Building Fund expenses related to the new building were \$5,252 for the month and Total Building Fund Expenses were \$158,267 Year-To- Date.

**Existing Mortgage Paid in Full:** As required to obtain the new Construction Loan of \$3,750,000 our existing mortgage has been paid in full. In August we began paying interest payments on the new loan.

**2018 Annual Budget Process:** The Finance Team has begun the process of preparing the 2018 Annual Budget and a preliminary Recommended Budget will be presented to Council to review in October.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Income:	\$ 428,467	\$ 405,768	\$ 22,699
Expenses:	\$ 388,961	\$ 407,766	\$ (18,805)
Net Income:	\$ 39,506		
Fund Balance:	\$ 125,939		

#### **Building Fund**

Income:	\$ 403,880
Expenses:	\$ 158,267
Fund Balance:	\$ 939,533

*faith and*  
**finances**

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel L. Wentzloff, Church Treasurer

## IF YOU'RE WRITING A CHECK

For those of you who use check blanks for your offerings, please note these three requests from the volunteers who count our offerings:

- 1) Counters cannot accept checks originally payable to someone else or to another organization which have been endorsed to Shepherd Of The Prairie on the back of the check;
- 2) Please make sure that the amount you write in numerals ("100.00") and the amount you spell out ("one hundred and no/100") is the same; and
- 3) Please remember to date and/or sign your check.

At our last meeting, Warren reported that every week at least three checks are rejected by the bank for one of these reasons.

Thanks! Curt Gerald Chair, Stewardship Team

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1.....Roger Emery, Viveka Forsythe, Karen Klein
- 1.....Craig Mudge, Gayle Uhlman
- 2.....Elizabeth Harding, John Throckmorton
- 3.....Caden Mathiesen
- 4.....Olivia Burg, Helene Himebaugh, Karen Raistrick,  
Cody Szepekowski, Chris Trodahl
- 5.....Michelle Clifford
- 6.....Jodi Dowell, Peyton Wade
- Tracy Allison, Lynn Broederdorf, Colton Hess, Logan Nagel,  
Casey Rhode, Arlene Wille
- 8.....Sandra Richardson, Mike Stenson,  
Kimberly Stowell
- 9.....Jules Pelka, Ralph Scalise
- 10.....Mark Alpert, Gerald Ernst
- 11.....Kara Burg
- 12.....Todd Johnson, Janet Larrison, Bill Nesta,  
Carol Spiller
- 13.....Gary Bender, Tammy Bitzenhofer, Chris Brolsma,  
Jeanne Henley, Diana Murphy, Tom Polzin
- 14.....Kyle Papka, Ken Raines, Louis Vanaria, Kyle Wolf
- 15.....Kathryn Dahl, Jen Kolcz, Joon Lee, Hannah Mudge
- 16.....Tessa Lehmann, Carolyn Morris, Bonnie Vanaria
- 17.....Ann Lehman, Luke Mejdrich
- 18.....Myra Lawrence, Joy Nesta
- 19.....Scott Browne, Sheldon Lewis
- 20.....Mary Conti, Julia Dunfrund, Ginny Manley,  
Jim McGuine
- 21.....Zoe Rosemarie Harvat, Andrew Kowalski,  
Jordan Trevino
- 22.....Kate Brolsma, Steve Legel, Mark Mathiesen,  
Louise Sebastian
- 23.....Melissa Bala
- 24.....Ralph Bergstrom, Chole Bozza, Ryan Michalak,  
Katelyn Territo
- 25.....Brian Eric Harvat, Sharon Stangle
- 26.....Samantha Crase, Nancy Stopka, Madison Szekely,  
Tyler Szekely
- 27.....Donna Allen, Carol Minutillo, Janet Walker
- 28.....Nicholas Adams, Allison Territo, Bob Uhlman
- 29.....Jessica Buesing, Robert Malm, Chuck Zunker
- 30.....Jenni Browne, Gladys Feustel, Henry Martin,  
Joseph Perrott
- 31.....Lloyd Davis, Kim Domenz, Cliff Dungey,  
Betty Hansen, Tiffanie Young

## STAFF & CONTACTS

### **Pastor Mark Boster**

847-515-2713 (Home)  
pastormark@sotpmail.com

### **Pastor Bill Waxenberg**

Director of Adult Education  
pastorbill@sotpmail.com

### **Greg Dowell**

Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator  
greg@sotpmail.com

### **Jane McMullen**

Director of Music & Worship  
jane@sotpmail.com

### **Dennis Lilla**

Technology Support Manager  
dennis@sotpmail.com

### **Donna Kelly**

Connections Facilitator  
donna@sotpmail.com

### **Michelle Rankin**

Office Manager  
michelle@sotpmail.com

### **Michael Waal**

Organist/Piano Accompanist  
michael@sotpmail.com

### **Dave Shotick**

Accounting Administrator  
dave@sotpmail.com

### **Jill Gillming, Little Lambs Preschool**

LittleLambs@sotpmail.com

## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

**Marlene Boehler, President**

**Matt Greene, Vice President**

**Amy Brittain, Secretary**

**Dan Wentzloff, Treasurer**

**Adam Adams**

**Cliff Dungey**

**Bud Hansen**

**Sheri Ott**

**Nancy Ottinger**

### **Annette Boster**

Cherub Choir & Ring and Sing Choir

### **Michael Waal,**

Blessings Choir & Jubellate Bells

### **Jane McMullen**

Jubilate Bells, Adult Choir, Adult Bells

### **Michael Parmele**

Sunday School Director

### **Sue Wehnes, Renae Greene**

Contributions Secretaries

# OCTOBER SCHEDULES

		Oct 1	Oct 7 & 8	Oct 14 & 15	Oct 21 & 22	Oct 28 & 29
Presiding Minister		Pastor Mark Boster				
Altar Guild	5:00 SAT	Becky Tuzik, Sue Mattiucci, Tom & Darlene Polzin				
	9:00 AM	Ann Lehman & Judie Symbal				
	10:45 AM	Sandy Hupert Merrily Burkland	Linda Jahr Donna Schnepff	Sandy Petersen Marlene Boehler	Jan & Don Koerner	Pam & Darren Walloch
Altar Flowers	Weekend		Wayne & Audrey Schmidt, celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary	* Tom & Darlene Polin * Lynn Broederdorf, in memory of her son, Lenny Johnson's, birthday	* Susan Mattiucci, in memory of her husband Alfred * Lois Jensen, in memory of her husband Bob	
Assisting Minister	9:00 am	Carol Waxenberg	Wayne Schmidt			
	10:45 am	Tammy Uteg	Sharon Little			
Bulletin & Newsletter Folders	FRI	Donna Turner Jill Hoffman	June Kobler Annette Carlson	Marian Mesenbrink Marlene Tresp	Barb Krmpotich Jill Hoffman	Elaine Neukirch Donna Turner Alice Hallett Anita Bull <i>(1 more needed)</i>
Coffee Hour Hosts	SUN	HELP NEEDED (SIGN UP IN CROSSROADS)				
Coffee Hour Treats	SUN	HELP NEEDED (SIGN UP IN CROSSROADS)				Harry & Donna Reynolds
Communion Assistants	9:00 am	Judie Symbal Adele Wogstad Ron & PJ Knudsen	Audrey Schmidt Alice Hallett Jocelyn Doden JoAnn Ward			
	10:45 am	Carol Legel Art Uteg Sheri & Brian Ott	John & Marlene Boehler Gary & Colleen Bender			
Communion Bread	SAT	Mary Trodahl				
	SUN	Jen Powe	Jen Kolcz	Sue Wehnes	Elaine Neukirch	Judie Brady
Counters	Monday	Fred Wysk	Warren Brody, Ralph Bergstrom & Gloria Samuelson			
Greeters	5:00 SAT		Stevie Massei	Steve Murphy	Sue Blotch	Dorothy Wills
	9:00 AM	Elaine Brody Terry Halpin	Carol Engstrom Terry Halpin	Elaine Gillam Terry Halpin	Dolly Cardascio Terry Halpin	Elaine Gillam Terry Halpin
	10:45 AM	Bob & Carolyn Malm		Bob & Carolyn Malm		
Nursery	9:00 AM	Jen Powe	Jen Kolcz	Blue Geller	Jen Kolcz	Jen Powe
	10:45 AM	Judie Symbal	Mary Lee Rischel	Sandy Hupert	Jen Powe	Mary Lee Rischel
	Clean Up	Judie Symbal	Mary Lee Rischel	Sandy Hupert	Jen Powe	Mary Lee Rischel
Readers	9:00 am	Ralph & Sue Wehnes	Orion & Gloria Samuelson			
	10:45 am	Brian Buesing	Marlene Boehler			

## OCTOBER SCHEDULES (Cont.)

		Oct 1	Oct 7 & 8	Oct 14 & 15	Oct 21 & 22	Oct 28 & 29
Rejoice Worship Band 10:45 am		VOCALS: Annette Boster, Ron Mudge, Dana Turk, Jenn Huston GUITAR: Jon Boster, Harry Choin DRUMS: Brian Buesing KEYBOARD: Michael Waal	VOCALS: Chris Brittain, Kim Szekely, Jim Rhode GUITAR: Jon Boster, Harry Choin DRUMS: Brian Buesing KEYBOARD: Michael Waal	VOCALS: Annette Boster, Dana Turk, Jenn Huston GUITAR: Jon Boster, Harry Choin, Grant Jahr DRUMS: Brian Buesing KEYBOARD: Michael Waal	YOUTH BAND GUITAR: Trevor Dowell, Jon Boster, Harry Choin DRUMS: Brian Buesing KEYBOARD: Allison McCann	VOCALS: Chris Brittain, Kim Szekely, Jim Rhode GUITAR: Jon Boster, Harry Choin DRUMS: Brian Buesing KEYBOARD: Michael Waal
Sound	SAT		Dan Wills	Dan Wills	Dick Brush	Dick Brush
	9:00 AM	Greg Dowell	Tom Polzin	Greg Dowell	Tom Polzin	
	10:45 AM	Brian Ott	Tim Torkelson	Brian Ott	Tim Torkelson	
Ushers  <b>HELP NEEDED</b>	5:00 SAT		Denis and Carol Minutillo	Becky Tuzik Sue Mattiucci	Carol Hartman Sue Mattiucci	Randi Dawson Steve Murphy
	9:00 AM	VIK BEKERIS Carol Engstrom Roy Rankin Dan Wentzlof Dave Stangle Sharon Stangle Chris Solem (alt)	WAYNE SCHMIDT Warren Brody John Jensen Walter Lempke	JACK CONTI James Blanchard Chris Hinde Merlyn Thompson Harriet Thompson Marlene Tresp	VIK BEKERIS Carol Engstrom Roy Rankin Dan Wentzlof Dave Stangle Sharon Stangle Chris Solem (alt)	ED CUTTLE Carolyn Cuttle Jeff Stipes Harold Doege Joan Doege Ralph Wehnes (alt)
	10:45 AM	JOHN BOEHLER Darren Walloch Don Koerner Jessica Panella	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Cody Ross Paul Ross Chuck Peterson	MARK FRENDREIS Charlie Powe Vik Bekeris Sandi Stewart Andrew Szekely	JOHN BOEHLER Darren Walloch Don Koerner Jessica Panella	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Dick Gerhart Chuck Peterson
Visuals	9:00 AM	Josh Harding	Josh Harding	Josh Harding	Josh Harding	
	10:45 AM	Trevor Dowell	Alan Torkelson	Trevor Dowell	Alan Torkelson	Greg Dowell
Welcome Center	9:00 AM	Joanne Bychowsky	Cheryl Adams Carol Engstrom	Jan Suski Joyce Thompson	Warren & Elaine Brody	Wayne & Audrey Schmidt
	10:45 AM	Marty Jacobsen	Carl & Sandy Hupert	Elaine Neukirch Judy Petropolis	Victor & Kathy Pizarro	Noreta Walker
Worship Leader	SAT		Michael Waal			
	9:00 AM					
	10:45 AM		Tyler Greene			

### WEEKEND HELP NEEDED (AND WHO TO CONTACT)

- **USHERS:** Andrew Szekely, aszekely01@hotmail.com
- **NURSERY:** Jen Powe, jen330@gmail.com
- **GREETERS:** Dolly Cardascio, lendolly@aol.com
- **COFFEE HOUR:** Sign up on Mission Control board in the Crossroads

*You can also contact the office to help find your niche in our SOTP family.*