



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

## Congregational Newsletter March 2018

### Statement of Purpose

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

⇒ **LENTEN SERVICE**, Wednesday,  
March 7, 7:00 pm

Soup Supper 6:00 pm

⇒ **LENTEN SERVICE**, Wednesday,  
March 14, 7:00 pm

Soup Supper 6:00 pm

⇒ **LENTEN SERVICE**, Wednesday,

March 21, 7:00 pm & Soup Supper 6:00 pm

⇒ **PALM SUNDAY**, Sunday, March 25

9:00 am (*Traditional Service*) & 10:45 am (*Contemporary Service*)

⇒ **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**, Thursday, March 29, 7:00 pm

⇒ **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES**, Friday, March 30

⇒ 10:00 am (Children's Service, all are invited)

⇒ 7:00 pm (Evening Service)

⇒ **HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE**, Saturday, March 31, 5:00 pm

⇒ **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES**, Sunday, April 1

9:00 am (*Traditional Service*) & 11:00 am (*Contemporary Service*)

*(With limited parking, please drop your family off at the front door  
and park in the front lot of the Municipal Building next door.*

*There will be courtesy shuttles available.)*



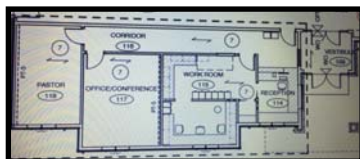
### ***The Building Team has More Good News!***

- 1) **Because** the Building Team has not used Contingency Funds, and dealt with issues such as buying an additional RTU so that all 3 RTUs could be installed at the same timely and cost saving manner.
- 2) **And because** we are under budget on loan interest expense and hence this has become a very positive savings aspect.
- 3) **And most importantly**, because of the generosity of the congregation, *that would be YOU*, being so faithful on their pledges:

***We are now able to***

***Build Out the Office Wing Suite!!!***

***Thanks to you Shepherd of the Prairie  
Members For being so faithful!***



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

## *A Note From Pastor Mark*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our midweek Lenten themes this year are taken from the hymn penned by Fanny Crosby, "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross." The words of this familiar hymn express well the unconditional grace and mercy of God.

That grace of God is probably expressed no better than in the parable of the waiting father. The story was a part of my morning devotions today and in the parable, the younger son is anxious to go out into the world and live it up. The constraints of living at home must have seemed unbearable. So he asks for his inheritance.

You would think the father would stop him and refuse to give him the inheritance. After all, any father seeing his son ready to blow his inheritance would want to protect him from himself. But not this father! He gives him what he wants. Then the father waits.

Day after day he must wonder what is happening to his son. But the days go by. Nothing happens. No word is heard. No communication.

Meanwhile, the young son is out in the world making one bad decision after the other. He loses all his father gave him. His stewardship of the inheritance is a failure. He's reduced to living as a slave slopping the pigs.

The good news in this story is voiced in the words, "... when he came to himself." He realizes his life is a failure.

Some today would say he hit bottom. The best he can do is to imagine returning to his father in order to be one of his father's slaves. Thus he returns hoping to be a slave in his own home.

The waiting father, seeing his son return, rejoices. He cares nothing about getting an accounting of his son's wasteful ways. He will hear nothing of making him a slave. Instead, the father pulls out all the stops. He holds nothing back. He embraces his lost son and celebrates by slaughtering the fatted calf. He makes an extravagant party celebrating that his lost son is found. The father's generous spirit is never hardened or made bitter by his son's irresponsibility. Instead, the father remains unconditional in his love, unconditional in his grace, consistent in spiritual integrity and welcoming to the returning son many would regard as worthless.

During this Lenten season as God points us in the direction of unconditional grace, mercy and love (Good Friday), I hope you will make worship a priority in your life. Join us in community, through worship, fellowship and service. Be watching, waiting and listening for God's word of grace to fall fresh upon you.

Thanks for the part you play in making Christ known.

Peace,

*Pastor Mark*



grace  
mercy  
love

## *Adult Education News*



This year during Holy Week, we'll be hearing **the story of Jesus' Last Supper, his arrest, trial, suffering, and death** as told in the Gospel according to Mark. But Mark isn't the only story around! There's Matthew's telling, and Luke's, and John's. And then there's the Apostle Paul. And while they all tell basically the same story, each evangelist tells it a bit differently- and sometimes very differently! **Beginning on February 25, and continuing throughout March**, we'll explore each of these stories in detail. And we'll ask: Why are there differences? What is each gospel writer wanting to tell us? How does each story deepen our understanding of the death of Jesus? Come join us on **Sundays at 10:20 and on Wednesday mornings at 11:00**. Let's explore the **Passion Narratives** together as we deepen our faith journey during this Lenten season.

*Pastor Bill*

## *Bible 101*

Join us **Saturday, March 17th from 10 am - 2 pm** for a basic introduction to the Bible. *Who wrote it? How did we get it? How can I better understand it?* More information in the announcements & Friday Flourish. Please bring a sack lunch. Coffee, water & cookies provided. Sign up sheet is in the Crossroads. Taught by Pastor Bill. Contact Pastor Bill: [PastorBill@sotpmail.com](mailto:PastorBill@sotpmail.com)

## *Ministry Musings*



I've been reading through Mark this year and recently read the story about James and John asking Jesus if they could have seats of power and importance when he came into his glory. (Mark 10: 35-45). Jesus doesn't berate them for asking but does ask if they can share his cup. I began to think about how much we often want to participate in Jesus' glory without dealing with the suffering.

Many of us like to find ourselves in positions of leadership and/or power. Human nature includes the desire to be in charge; in control of our situation and if at all possible, in control of the actions of those

## *Ministry Musings Cont.*

*(Continued from page 3)*

around us. We want things our way. That can just as easily be seen in the child who says; “play it my way or I’ll take my ball and go home”, and in the adult who says, “we’ve always done it that way, we can’t change it now!”.

In all of Mark chapter 10, Jesus challenges his disciples, the early church and us to rethink our natural tendencies for power and to relinquish our need for control. He has called for his followers to upend the acceptable norms and practices in marriage and divorce (vs 2-12); in the status of children and the lowly (vs 13-16); and in possessions and wealth (vs 17-30). Now he broaches the subject of power and control.

During his time on earth Jesus was continually talking about the kingdom of God. Many of his parables began with the words, “the kingdom of God is like...”. He wasn’t just speaking about “heaven” or the time after the final resurrection. He was talking about the kingdom of heaven that begins here and now, “on earth as it is in heaven”. We as the church are to be the evidence of Jesus’ resurrection, the foretaste of the final reveal of the kingdom of God.

The substance of the here and now kingdom is the upside-down view of the world seen in Jesus’ teachings. He said that to be the greatest in the kingdom is to be the servant of all. The commentary I read on the story of James and John trying to maneuver into seats of power and glory said, “real ministry is never about where you sit; rather it is ultimately about how you serve.”. That made me stop and think.

Jesus calls us to a new way of ministry that differs from the world; whoever is greatest among us must be willing to serve those who are the least among us. Who are the least? They include the person who is left economically and socially devastated, the child who is powerless against abuse or poverty, the person who is homeless and destitute in a society that values the gainfully employed, the victims of prejudice and hate, the sick or those with special needs in a world that esteems the able bodied.

We are reminded by Jesus’ words to worry less about leading the parade and work more to improve the lives of the poor and the marginalized in society.

*Donna Kelly*

# THE BARNABAS CAREGIVING PROGRAM

## THE FIRST DUTY OF LOVE IS TO LISTEN - Paul Tillich



As you may know, the ELCA's Comprehensive Ministry Review Team spent a weekend with Shepherd of the Prairie last October. One of the recommendations they had for SOTP was that we begin a Barnabas Caregiving Ministry here. We are taking the first steps to make that happen and this can be an exciting step in ministry for SOTP.

## WHAT IS THE BARNABAS CAREGIVING PROGRAM?

It is a simple, effective program for training volunteers to give care in most institutional and home situations. Giving care means having conversations with those who are homebound, in care facilities or facing some of life's most difficult seasons to provide a listening ear and encouragement to those who need to be heard and cared for.

The ministry is named after Barnabas, the apostle first mentioned in the book of Acts (4:36-37) who encouraged the twelve by selling a piece of property and laying a gift of the money at their feet. In their gratitude the renamed him "Bar- Nabas" – "Son of Encouragement". Barnabas later traveled with Paul in bringing care and continued encouragement, along with the gospel, to the gentile world.

## WHAT IS A BARNABAS MINISTER AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

A Barnabas Minister is a skilled listener who encourages others by that listening. They are trained in how to listen effectively, how to build relational skills, and in how to encourage others. They will also be trained to bring Communion from the Assembly to the special person they visit.

## THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO SERVE AS A BARNABAS MINISTER:

- Caring for a loved one in your home
- Caring for a congregational member who is homebound
- Caring for a congregational member in a care facility
- Serving on a hospital visitation team
- Caring for a person dealing with a life issue

*(Continued on page 6)*

## THE BARNABAS CAREGIVING PROGRAM (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 5)*

After attending the training, participants are eligible to be commissioned as Barnabas Ministers. After training, each trainee will be able to choose whether or not they wish to make a commitment to be a Barnabas Minister, and what form of service that will take. Once a minister is commissioned, they will be matched with the special person they will minister to.

**Training: Saturday, April 14th, 9am to 2pm**  
*(lunch and all materials will be provided).*

Come and see if this is where God is calling you to serve.

**To make a reservation for training or for more information**  
contact Pastor Mark, [pastormark@sotpmail.com](mailto:pastormark@sotpmail.com) or  
Donna Kelly, [donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:donna@sotpmail.com).

## MEMORY GARDEN



With the increased number of cremations, a committee is being formed to investigate building a memory garden with columbaria on our property. The church council has given approval for this committee to proceed with a survey to determine member interest at this time.

In the near future you will be receiving an email where you can indicate your interest in this project. Printed survey forms will also be available at the church office

## EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is just around the corner and your worship committee is working and planning for Easter at SOTP. Flowers are an integral part of the spirit of Easter. We are trying a slightly different approach this year. Your generosity in the past has blessed us with an abundance of flowers. Last year we were overwhelmed. This year we have created a special design for the Joy of Easter. We will post a poster board sign up for the flowers for our vision. Watch for the poster sign up to go up on **March 4th**. The Flower Committee thanks you for helping make this a beautiful Easter. Contact: Carolyn Cuttle



## MAKE THE MOST OF IRA-TO-CHURCH DONATIONS

**IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO GIVE TO CHARITY FROM YOUR IRA**, since Uncle Sam made the qualified charitable distribution, or QCD, permanent in 2015. Here are answers to some of the common questions Retirement Report readers ask us about this tax-saving move.



Qualified  
Charitable  
Distribution  
TAX BENEFITS

**Can any traditional IRA owner take a qualified charitable distribution?** You must be age 70 1/2 or older to do a QCD. Those who qualify can give up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to charity.

**How does this move cut my tax bill?** QCD money is not included in your adjusted gross income and that's "the main advantage," says Mark Luscombe, principal analyst in the tax and accounting business of Wolters Kluwer, in Riverwoods, IL. The lower your AGI, the lower your tax bill will be.

Reining in AGT—which is your income before subtracting exemptions and deductions—can also help maximize other tax breaks. Lower AGI might also help you avoid or limit Medicare Part B premium surcharges.

**Can a QCD count as my annual required minimum distribution?**

Yes, but you must time the move properly because the first dollars coming out of your IRA for the year count toward your RMD. For the QCD to fulfill part or all of your RMD, the QCD needs to be done before you satisfy your annual RMD.

**Can I give money to the charity myself?** The money must be directly transferred to the charity from your IRA.

**How do I report a QCD on my tax return?** At tax time, report your total IRA distributions for the year on line 15a on Form 1040. Then subtract the QCD and report the remainder (even if it's \$0) on line 15b. Write "QCD" next to line 15b so the IRS knows why the numbers don't match.

Questions? Contact Dan Wentzloff: [danwentzloff@gmail.com](mailto:danwentzloff@gmail.com)

*(Taken from Kiplinger's Retirement Report)*

## SAVE THE DATE! ~ UPCOMING EVENTS



NORTHERN IL FOOD BANK, **May 19, 9am**  
BUILDING DEDICATION FESTIVAL SERVICE  
**Sunday, August 5, 2:00 pm**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, **July 23-26**  
ANNUAL PICNIC AT DEICKE PARK  
**Sunday, August 19, 12:00 Noon**



## FOOD PANTRY

### Weekend of March 3 & 4

is Food Pantry Collection Weekend at SOTP before all services

#### THIS WEEKEND PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS



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)

## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2018



The altar flowers lists are posted in the Crossroads. If you would like to donate flowers for a weekend, sign up now. To pay your \$25 for donating one bouquet of flowers for the weekend, please mark clearly on your offering envelope that \$25 is for ALTAR FLOWERS. Please take the flowers home with you after the 10:45 am service.

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Please mark your calendars accordingly **SATURDAY, MAY 19, 9:00 - 11:30 AM** 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. 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 [stangle.ds@gmail.com](mailto:stangle.ds@gmail.com)

Participants are invited to meet at church by 8:00 AM and carpool to 273 Dearborn Ct., Geneva, IL, or you can go directly there, arriving by 8:45 in time to confirm registration, gather together for a prayer, and begin working. We will end by 11:30.

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."

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK**

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

**WWW.SOLVEHUNGERTODAY.ORG**



## SEND KIDS THE WORLD



If you don't mind and would like to continue sharing God's love with a child with a life threatening illness, we encourage you to go on line to: [www.sendkidstheworld.com/index.php/home.html](http://www.sendkidstheworld.com/index.php/home.html) It is a very informative web site with many children listed. More children have been added to the website:

- ⇒ Noah is 6 years old. His interests are Monster Trucks, Construction Trucks, Fishing.
- ⇒ Finley is 3 years old and loves playing with cars.
- ⇒ Joseph is 17 years old. His special interests are sports, video games, steelers.
- ⇒ Jayson is 8 years old. His special interests are Monster trucks, transformers, dinosaurs, mummies, books, legos, hot wheels, and FNAF
- ⇒ Antonia is 5 years old. Her special interests are Minnie Mouse, princesses, and jewelry.
- ⇒ Ethyn is 10 years old. His special interests are Golden State Warriors basketball, Iowa Hawkeyes, and Chicago Cubs baseball.
- ⇒ Tianna is 8 years old. Her special interests are Disney, YouTube, sailor moon, and wonder woman
- ⇒ Savannah is 16 years old. Her special interests are anime and music.
- ⇒ Braxton is 5 years old and he loves playing with Monster Trucks.
- ⇒ Aleksey is 20 years old. His special interests are animals and music.
- ⇒ Jeremiah is 12 years old. His special interests are Thomas Train, Disney, Movies, and Legos

It truly only takes a couple minutes to write a postcard that ultimately does God's work with your hands making a sick child happy and also helps reduce the parent's stress. Receiving postcards definitely touches their hearts. if you would like to send postcards to children but don't have any at home, we are more than happy to help. Just let Barb Pagano [bobbipgolf@aol.com](mailto:bobbipgolf@aol.com) (phone: 815-258- 6854) or Sharon Stangle [stangle.ds@gmail.com](mailto:stangle.ds@gmail.com) (224-628- 2107) know. **WHAT TO WRITE:** Write a cheerful note to the child. Example, tell about the picture on the front of the postcard. Or just "Greetings from..." Simple is best. Do NOT write get well soon because some of the kids will not get well. You want to cheer them up, not hurt them. Another great alternative is to write one of your favorite Bible verses. Example: "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118: 24." Have fun sending postcards! This is a great way to share God's love for one another. As Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another."

## SPRING BAZAAR IS HERE! (& BAKERS NEEDED!)

**The Spring Bazaar is March 10 - 11 & March 17 - 18, before and after services.**

Once again, we are in need of your delicious, fresh, home-baked bakery goods to sell (many people look forward to the yummys!).

Please drop off at SOTP:

- ⇒ Friday morning (9am—Noon) March 9 an 16
- ⇒ Saturday morning (9:30—11am) or before the 5pm Saturday service March 10 and 17
- ⇒ Sunday morning before services March 10 and 11



*Every penny earned goes toward our new Sanctuary.*

## PRAIRIE POINT QUILTERS

We have finished our second dedication for last year and are looking forward to two dedications for 2018.

For those who would like to know where the quilts go after the dedication we sent 67 to Lutheran World Relief, 10 to Home of the Sparrow, and three were purchased by a member giving us needed money for our supplies.



Thanks to many dedicated women who come and enjoy the fellowship of working and laughing together to make these special gifts. Thanks to all those who are unable to attend but work from home. The spirit of your love shines through also on dedication day.

## STEWARDSHIP



Our Congregation's Constitution states that "Stewardship educates and encourages members to offer their time, talents and money for the church's ministry."

So ... have we read 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 lately? Have we thought about

Paul's words to that early Christian community? Have we heard what Paul might be saying to us?

One of the things I learned from Zion Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, was an understanding of Biblical proportionate giving. Biblical proportionate giving is based on our individual need to give ... not on a congregation's budgetary needs. Biblical proportionate giving is an "attitude of gratitude" ... not "fair share" or club membership dues. Biblical proportionate giving is simply a response to God's love ...and God's love always comes first ... our response always follows!

For more information, let's check out 2 Corinthians 8 and 9!

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

## GEMS GIRLS' CLUB

All 4th & 5th Grade Girls Invited!

Upcoming GEMS Girls' Club Dates:

Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**March 7, 14 & 21**



## LITTLE LAMBS REGISTRATION OPEN



We started accepting registration for the 2018-2019 school year on **February 1st**. Our preschool has programs for children ages 2-4 (by September 1, 2018).

**CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE POTTY TRAINED.**

Our class sizes are small (not more than 10-12 per class). 1, 2, 3 or 4 day classes are available to both members and non-members. For more information please contact Jill Gillming at [LittleLambs@sotpmail.com](mailto:LittleLambs@sotpmail.com) or go to our website and look under FORMS for CLASS REGISTRATION.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Gentlemen, Our next breakfast will be **March 7th at 9:00** at Sammy's in Huntley. Please let RSVP to John by Feb. 5th if you will be coming. Sammy's likes to know how many to set up for. Hope to see you there. John Shepard [fennvilleduo@comcast.net](mailto:fennvilleduo@comcast.net) 224-858-4615



## MEN'S COFFEE



All men are invited to join us for coffee at McDonald's By Walmart in Huntley **every Tuesday at 8:30 am**. No RSVP required, just join us!

*Contact: Pastor Bill Waxenberg  
[PastorBill@sotpmail.com](mailto:PastorBill@sotpmail.com)*

## FEMALE FRIDAYS

Join the women of SOTP for a night out! These nights are for all women of SOTP to get together for a night of dinner and fellowship.

**The next Female Friday is  
Friday, March 9th at 6:00 pm**

**Jameson's Restaurant in Huntley**



**Please RSVP** to Joanne Schwartz at 847/659-1740 or [joanneschwartz@comcast.net](mailto:joanneschwartz@comcast.net) so we can have a reservation big enough to accommodate everyone. Looking forward to seeing you!

## EASTER EGG HUNT

BRING THE KIDS, GRANDKIDS,  
NEIGHBORS AND  
KIDS DOWN THE STREET!  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 10 AM**  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!



We also are asking for donations of wrapped candy to fill the eggs with. There will be a box for donations in the Crossroads. Thank you for making this a great annual event at SOTP!

Contact: Mike Parmele [mike\\_parmele@yahoo.com](mailto:mike_parmele@yahoo.com)

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT



BRING THE KIDS, GRANDKIDS,  
NEIGHBORS AND  
KIDS DOWN THE STREET!  
**FRIADY, MARCH 4, 4-6 PM**  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

Beat the Winter Blues with this Children & Family Fun Event  
We will have fun, food, dancing and games. It is all at the church!

Interested in helping, we could use your help!

Contact: Mike Parmele [mike\\_parmele@yahoo.com](mailto:mike_parmele@yahoo.com)

## SPRING CLEANING AT HOME?

BOOKS, GAMES, DVD, VHS, CD

Bring donations to church. We take them to Half Price Books and sell them, the money goes toward the new addition to our building.

Please drop off in the office, black drawer marked for these items.



## FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY



The Friends Bible Study resumes **Mon, March 5th from 12:30 - 2:00 pm**. All women are invited to join us at SOTP. We will once again be studying a book of John by Warren Wiersbe

Contact: Joyce Thompson 224/858-4541 or  
Carol Gerhardt 847/683-2746

## BUILDING ON FAITH

By now many of you have taken time to do a walk-through the construction of the new building.

*Very impressive; It's beautiful; It's so big;*

*I didn't know it would be so spacious; I can hardly wait!*

These are just a few of the many comments we are hearing. Thank you for the encouragement as the contractors continue with the construction.

This has been a BIG undertaking for the members of SOTP and your generous pledges, gifts, memorials, and prayers are bringing it all together.

As we take the next step with completing the vision for the new sanctuary, office shell, restrooms, hospitality center and music room/classroom shell we bring before you other needs that will be necessary to complete this first phase of the entire project.

Our ministry leaders will be making a list of items including furniture/audio-visual equipment, and needs for the hospitality center, sacristy, and yes, even the janitor's closets. We are calling these items FAITH ITEMS and that's where we all come in. We will soon have a published list and you'll have the opportunity to commit to donating the funds needed for these items.

Although we will not be able to place name plaques on Faith Items there will be a memorial book printed with your gift item noted as a memorial for loved ones; to honor someone; or perhaps to commemorate a special occasion for loved ones. You will have the opportunity to donate a faith items but please realize that the items on the faith list have been carefully selected to coordinate with the new addition and no substitutes or used items can be accepted.

There are many opportunities to give from expensive equipment to basic needs like chairs. Where practical, the total cost of some items could be broken into "shares" to enable multiple donors to contribute towards them. You can give one or more shares or join with other members to make a special gift.

While the Faith list is being put together for publishing, we encourage you to think about how you might want to donate monies for our Building on Faith campaign.

Sue Wehnes has agreed to chair the FAITH team with the help of Cliff Dungey and Larry Newbanks. We encourage you to ask questions and pray that we are able to accomplish the interior needs of our new addition. Please look for detailed information on March 10 & 11 at worship services.

As a note, when our existing building was finished back in 2009, the altar, cross, lectern, flower



## BUILDING ON FAITH (CONT)

*(Continued from page 13)*

stands, credence table, all chairs, and some of the A-V equipment; Sunday School classroom cabinets, tables and chairs; the kitchen cabinets and appliances; office equipment; as well as exterior landscaping were all donated by members and friends of SOTP. It was deemed a very successful program back in 2009, and we've been asked to bring it back in 2018.

Please contact Sue Wehnes 224-569- 2808 or Cliff Dungey 847-515-7863 for more information or any questions you have.

## WORSHIP TEAM NEEDS YOU

As your worship committee works to get ready for the new sanctuary, it is apparent that we will need more volunteers and helpers.



We will need six (6) ushers for Sunday at each service as there are three major aisles.

Normally we utilize 4 ushers at the 9am and 4 ushers at 10:45am service. Serving as an usher is just one Sunday per month for one service. Ushers hand out programs/bulletins, handle the offering and assist with communion. Remember it is one service per month. Please volunteer to help. There will be a training session for everyone prior to our first service in the new sanctuary. Everyone will be a "new bee". Say yes...I will volunteer.

We will need three greeters for each Sunday service as there are three doors. There is the brand new east door under the protective cover. There is the second doorway on the south side near the new office. Then there is the existing doorway that we use now. We anticipate that some of the congregation will use all three doorways for parking convenience. All are welcome but it sure would be great to be able to welcome everyone at each of the doorways.

Call Carolyn Cuttle, head of the Worship Committee, to volunteer at 847-659- 1459 or email [ednca@comcast.net](mailto:ednca@comcast.net). We are working to make our great church even better!!!!

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



We need 4-6 volunteers to help at the Habitat for Humanity Resale shop in Elgin **March 15**. We are looking to book 3-hour shifts.

Contact Carl or Sandy Hupert: 224-569-6041 or [Carlhupert@gmail.com](mailto:Carlhupert@gmail.com) [Sandyhupert@gmail.com](mailto:Sandyhupert@gmail.com).



## WOMEN'S RETREAT

### NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD WELCA RETREAT

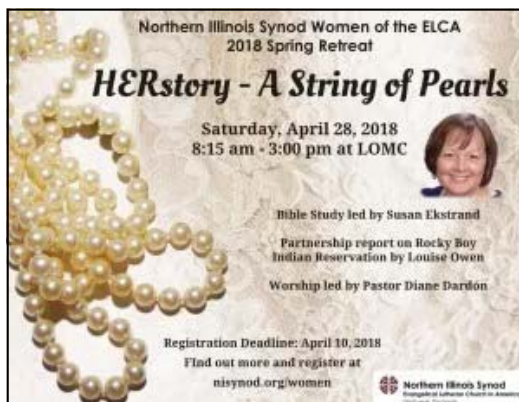
APRIL 28, 2018

All women of the congregation are invited to attend the NIS WELCA retreat on Saturday April 28th from 8:15 am to 3pm at LOMC in Oregon IL. Bible study will be led by Susan Ekstrand and worship by Pastor Diane Dardon. For more information go to

**[www.nisynod.org/women](http://www.nisynod.org/women)**

Registration deadline is April 10 and cost is \$35. Register

on line or forms are available in the SOTP office by the staff mail slots.



## COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour is: "God's people connecting in fellowship and fun!" Coffee Hour is so much more than coffee & treats, but they are the foundation of this valuable time. We need help. If you're interested in helping out with hosting, bringing treats, or both please let us know!

Contact Pam Sandberg, 847-917-4418, [pammies@ymail.com](mailto:pammies@ymail.com)

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia Night is on **April 22nd, 5 - 8pm**

Get a team of 8 together or join a table.

Registration coming soon.

**Looking for donations for raffle baskets & silent auctions. If you can help, let us know.**

Contact Greg Dowell, [Greg@sotpmail.com](mailto:Greg@sotpmail.com)



## LENT SOUP SUPPERS ~ SOUP NEEDED

We still have a need for people to bring soup some nights. If you can bring soup one night, sign up at **[www.google.com/+EAcfc](http://www.google.com/+EAcfc)** or e-mail Jim Rhode at [jrhode22@gmail.com](mailto:jrhode22@gmail.com).



### Your Complete Guide to Parenting a 17 Year Old

By Amy Morin, [Verywellfamily.com](http://Verywellfamily.com)



Watching a child transform into a soon-to-be adult can stir up mixed emotions for many parents. And although most 17 year olds exhibit a lot of maturity, they still require a fair amount of guidance. The key to successfully parenting a 17-year-old starts by understanding your child's development.

#### **EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Turning 17 represents an interesting fork in the road for many teens. Some of them take off on a smooth path toward adulthood.

They become increasingly responsible and they're eager to become independent.

Others, however, struggle with the realities of pending adulthood. Some of them seem lost and confused over the future. They may struggle to show responsibility with their homework, chores, and daily responsibilities and may feel fearful about becoming an adult.

#### **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Friends are still very important to teens at this age. Your teen may spend the vast majority of her free time with friends and when she's home, she may prefer to be in her room by herself.

The parent/teen relationship may shift a little during this age. For some, that may mean growing apart as a teen gains independence, but for others, teens may actually grow closer as their desire to be rebellious fades.

#### **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**

By age 17, most teens have good organizational skills. Many teens are able to successfully juggle extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, and school work.

Although many 17 year olds think they're adults, their brains still aren't yet fully developed. So while they may have skills to regulate their impulses, they may still behave recklessly at times.

#### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Both males and females are fully developed by age 16. They've completed puberty and reached their full height.

Boys may still continue to develop muscles.

(Complete Guide to Raising a 17 Year Old)

#### **TIPS FOR PARENTING A 17 YEAR OLD**

There's only a short window of time before your teen officially

*(Continued on page 17)*

## YOUTH CULTURE NEWS (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 16)*

becomes an adult. Your parenting focus should be on ensuring your teen has the life skills she's going to need to be successful in the real world. Here are some steps you can take to make sure your teen is ready to become a responsible adult:

- **Don't take your teen's need for independence personally.** Letting go of your child may cause grief and sadness as she no longer depends on you for her everyday life. But don't take her desire to be independent personally - it's a sign that she's developmentally right where she needs to be.
- **Establish clear rules.** It's still common for 17 year olds to test limits so it's important to maintain clear rules. Set a reasonable curfew and help your teen establish healthy habits.
- **Follow through with consequences.** When your teen breaks the rules, follow through with consequences. Take away privileges, assign extra responsibilities, or ground her from time with friends. Turn mistakes into healthy learning opportunities.
- **Continue ongoing conversations about safety.** Although many teens know they should wear their seatbelts or they should avoid using drugs, peer pressure and impulsivity can lead to poor choices. Hold ongoing conversations about steps your teen can make to stay healthy and safe.
- **Talk about your teen's future.** By now, your teen should have some ideas about what she may want to do after high school. Volunteering, part-time jobs, job shadowing, and college visits are great ways to help your teen explore future career opportunities.
- **Expect a push/pull relationship.** There may be days where your teen wants you to know she still very much needs support. But there are also likely to be days where she tries to send the message she no longer needs you in her life. This is a normal part of the process.

### YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

"I think the reason that the economic arguments Christ offered are not promoted is because they are deeply at odds with the way we live." - Comedian, actor, and writer Russell Brand, discussing money, materialism and Christ's teachings in Matthew 19, Relevant Magazine, Jan/ Feb



# From The Word

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul tells his readers to ponder and value a

variety of things, including “whatever is true.” Paul knows that our thinking about the truth will influence the way that we live in positive ways. Knowing the truth not only allows us to see and avoid embracing and following lies, but to grow in our faith and holiness. One of the biggest lies we believe is the lie which tells us that “the grass is always greener on the other side.” We come to believe that if our circumstances were different our lives would be better. Counselor David Powlison reminds us that to flourish in life, we must reject all the lies containing the word different. For example, believing that our lives would improve drastically if we only had a different spouse or a different family. Powlison says that these statements are “fundamentally false.” As you live through this month (February) where we are reminded to celebrate love, preach the truth of the Gospel to yourself. And rather than listening to the voice that would like you to forsake the relational gifts you’ve been given in favor of something that only appears to be better, remind yourself that God is control of His world and that He promises to show give you just what you need to navigate your circumstances and to decide to love your spouse and children well.

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# From The News

FAKE NEWS

Living in a world where information

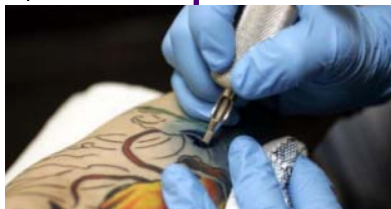
comes at us at breakneck speed makes it almost impossible to know what to believe and what not to believe. This has been pounded home to us over the course of the last several months as we continually hear about fake news. As parents and youth workers, we teach our kids how to discern what is true from what is false. We must also communicate the truths of God’s Word in ways that help them to walk the narrow road that leaves to life, while avoiding the wide road that leads to destruction. The Apostle Paul uses the word “trustworthy” several times in his New Testament letters. In each case, his use of the word is in reference to a saying that is true, and that is to be completely accepted and believed. Are you searching the Scriptures in order to know the truth that is not only to be accepted and believed, but that gives life? Then, are you sharing that with your kids? How about taking the time to look at several of Paul’s trustworthy sayings found in Scripture this month with your kids?

## YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

### Trends

#### *Tattoos, Piercings & Style*

Tattoos, piercings, hair style, clothing. . . these are some of the things we tend to make into major conflict points in our families. For example, when generational styles collide, we tend to turn personal taste and style issues into moral issues in an effort to keep our kids from altering their appearance in ways that we either find embarrassing or wrong. Teens embrace their own unique styles that allow them to individuate as a distinct group away from previous generations. If you don't believe it, just go back and leaf through your high school yearbook. No doubt, this is fertile ground for parent/ teen conflict. On the one hand, these are issues and matters that we must address with our kids. But our first task is to discern the roots of the behaviors. If their fascination with these things isn't symptomatic of a deeper heart issue, then we shouldn't prohibit things that the Scriptures don't prohibit or label as wrong. The old parenting cliché is worth remembering: "Major on the majors. . . not the minors."



### Latest Research

#### *Depression*

Researchers recently released the results of what is called the Millennium Cohort Study. The academic survey was conducted in the U.K. The findings on depression should concern us. By the age of 14, nine percent of boys are depressed. That's alarming enough. But it's the numbers on our girls that are even more distressing. By the age of 14, 24% of our girls are depressed. While depression, anxiety, and mental illness have always been present in the teen population, the frequency and intensity have increased. As parents, we must not only teach our kids how to deal in healthy ways with these things, but how to prevent and avoid them. One strategy is to spend less time on social media. Comparing ourselves to others leaves us feeling empty and consumed with trying to measure up. Our identity cannot be pursued and found in what others think of us. The path to mental and spiritual health begins with finding our identity in Christ.

- Kids ages 4 to 14 received an average \$454 in allowance over the course of 2017. (*RoosterMoney*)
- The percentage of kids from 6-12 years old that play at least one team sport on a regular basis dropped from 41.5% in 2011 to 36.6% in 2016. (*State of Play 2017*)

#### QUICK STATS

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2018

2018 Annual Budget: The 2018 Annual Budget was approved and will meet the expected growth occurring as a result of the New Sanctuary and increased Pastoral needs with our growing congregation.

Operating Income and Expenses are within the requirements of the Annual Budget with an unusual \$35,196 of Net Income over Expenses. Through the first month contributions greatly exceeded expectations probable due to the new tax law changes regarding charitable deductions. The primary reason for the \$35,197 of surplus for January was the transfer of \$26,250 of Prepaid Pledges received in December.

Building Fund The Building Fund Balance is \$204,343 and we are drawing funds from the Construction Loan. Loan funds to pay construction costs each month. During the month *Forward in Faith* donations totaled \$51,784. Building Fund expenses related to the new building were \$670,041 for the month.

Fixed Assets As construction progresses on the new building so will there be a significant increase in the value of the Fixed Asset for Building and Grounds. As of January the increase is \$2,594,318 higher than last year.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Income:	\$ 85,837	\$ 57,691	\$ 28,146
Expenses:	\$ 50,641	\$ 57,194	\$ 6,553
Net Income:	\$ 35,196		

Fund Balance: \$ 182,435

#### Building Fund

Income:	\$ 600,262 (\$549,245 from Loan proceeds)
Expenses:	\$ 570,941

Fund Balance: \$ 204,343

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel L. Wentzloff  
Church Treasurer

*faith and*  
**finances**

### **Do You SHOP AMAZON?**

Shop AmazonSmile.  
When you select SOTP as your nonprofit,  
Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible SOTP.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

We have received **\$548.92** so far toward the new building.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

## STAFF & COUNCIL

### STAFF

#### **Pastor Mark Boster**

847-515-2713 (Home)

pastormark@sotpmail.com

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Youth and Family Ministries

Coordinator greg@sotpmail.com

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#### **Dave Shotick**

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#### **Michael Waal**

Organist/Piano Accompanist

michael@sotpmail.com

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

**Bud Hansen, President**

**Matt Greene, Vice President**

**Amy Brittain, Secretary**

**Dan Wentzloff, Treasurer**

**Adam Adams**

**Marlene Boehler**

**Cliff Dungey**

**Sheri Ott**

**Nancy Ottinger**

# MARCH SCHEDULES

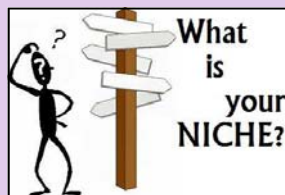
		March 3 & 4	March 10 & 11	March 17 & 18	March 24 & 25 Palm Sunday	March 31
Presiding Minister		Pastor Mark Boster				
Altar Guild	5:00 SAT	Sue Mattiucci, Tom & Darlene Polzin				
	9:00 AM	Joanne Klinger & Ann Lehman				
	10:45 AM	Sandy Hupert Merrily Burkland	Sandy Petersen Marlene Boehler	Jen & Don Koerner	Pam & Darren Walloch	
Assisting Minister	9:00 AM	Donna Sorensen	Carol Waxenberg			
	10:45 AM	John Boehler	Tim Reincke			
Bulletin & Newsletter Folders	FRI	June Kobler Annette Carlson	Marian Mesenbrink Marlene Tresp	Barb Krmpotich Lisa Bradford	Elaine Neukirch Donna Turner Alice Hallett Sandra Richardson Lois Jensen	HELP NEEDED
Communion Assistants	SAT	Tom & Darlene Polzin				
	9AM	Judie Symbal, Adele Wogstad, Chris & Sara Solem	Cliff & Linda Dungey, Alice Hallett, JoAnn Ward			
	10:45 AM	Sandy Hupert, Lisa Adams, Marlene Boehler, Carol Legel	Bob & Tracy McDuffee, Donna Kelly, Jan Koerner			
Communion Bread	SAT	Jen Powe			Joan Rice	
	SUN	Nancy Ottinger	Jill Brown	P.J. Knudsen	Nancy Zunker	
Counters	MON	Warren Brody, Donna Turner, Cal Meyer, Marilyn Wilhelm				
Greeters  HELP NEEDED	5:00 SAT	Stevie Massei	Steve Murphy	Vik Bekeris	Dorothy Wills	Vik Bekeris
	9:00 AM	Vik Bekeris Terry Halpin	Alice Murphy Terry Halpin	Cheryl Adams Terry Halpin	Evelyn Gniot Terry Halpin	
	10:45 AM	Bob & Carolyn Malm				
Nursery  HELP NEEDED	9:00 AM	Jen Powe	Jen Kolcz	Jen Powe	Judie Symbal	
	10:45 AM	Jen Nagel	Blue Geller	Sandy Hupert	Layne Jodway	
	Clean Up	Jen Nagel	Blue Geller	Sandy Hupert	Layne Jodway	
Readers	9:00 AM	Rich & Jacque Stashwick	Cliff & Linda Dungey			
	10:45 AM	Carl Hupert	Bob McDuffee			
Rejoice Worship Band	10:45 AM	VOCALS: Chris Brittain Kim Szekely DRUMS: Brian Buesing	VOCALS: Annette Boster Dana Turk, Jen Huston	VOCALS: Chris Brittain Kim Szekely	VOCALS: Nicole Jacek Sam Johnson, Shonna Rankin, Alan Torkelson GUITAR: Harry Choin Trevor Dowell DRUMS: Brian Buesing KEYBOARD: Allison McCann	



## MARCH SCHEDULES (Cont.)

		March 3 & 4	March 10 & 11	March 17 & 18	March 24 & 25 Palm Sunday	March 31
Sound	5:00 SAT	Dan Wills	Dan Wills	Dick Brush	Dick Brush	
	9:00 AM					
	10:45 AM		Tim Torkelson		Tim Torkelson	
Ushers	SAT 5:00 PM	Denis and Carol Minutillo	Jim and Diana Murphy	Carol Hartman Sue Mattiucci	Randi Dawson Steve Murphy	Rich & Arlene Wille
	SUN 9:00 AM	WAYNE SCHMIDT Warren Brody John Jensen Walter Lemke Joanne Bychowsky	JACK CONTI Merlyn Thompson Harriet Thompson Marlene Tresp	VIK BEKERIS Dan Wentzlof Dick Maiman Joanne Bychowsky	JEFF STIPES Harold Doege Joan Doege Ralph Wehnes Ed & Carolyn Cuttle	
	SUN 10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Cody & Paul Ross Chuck Peterson Jacob Fiandalo	MARK FRENDEIS Charlie Powe Vik Bekeris Sandi Stewart Andrew Szekely	Darren Walloch Don Koerner Jessica Panella	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Dick Gerhart Chuck Petersen Jodi Dowell	
Visuals	9:00 AM					
	10:45 AM					
Welcome Center	9:00 AM	Joanne Bychowsky	Cheryl Adams Alice Miller	Jan Suski Joyce Thompson	Chris & Sara Solem	
	10:45 AM	Marty Jacobsen Sandy Werner	Elaine Mucibabich Joanne Bychowsky	Elaine Neukirch Judy Petropolis	Victor & Kathy Pizarro	
Worship Leader	SAT	Michael Waal				
	9:00 AM					
	10:45 AM	Tyler Greene				

**If you aren't currently involved in a ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie** and would like to find your niche, please contact Donna Kelly through the church office at 847/669-9448 or e-mail [Donna@sotpmail.com](mailto:Donna@sotpmail.com)



Shepherd of the Prairie is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Statement of Purpose:** “We care for God’s children of all ages by growing disciples who make disciples.”

For information, please call the church office at (847) 669-9448 or email: [pastormark@sotpmail.com](mailto:pastormark@sotpmail.com).

Our web site is [www.sotp.org](http://www.sotp.org) — Church Office: 10805 Main Street, Huntley, IL 60142

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

## **Worship Schedule**

**10805 Main Street**

**Huntley, IL 60142**

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### **Saturday Evening**

**5:00 p.m.**

### **Sunday Morning**

**9:00 a. m. Traditional Service**

**10:45 a. m. Contemporary**

**Service**

*Refreshments between Services*

*Nursery care provided all morning*

**Sunday School at both services  
(September through May)**

**NONPROFIT**

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