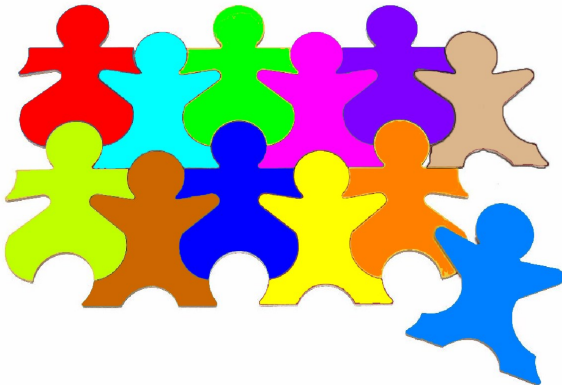




SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

**WELCOME TO
SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE**



**“A Growing Church, for
Growing People”**

Statement of Purpose

“A Growing Church for Growing People”

Vision

Shepherd of the Prairie is a vibrant congregation, open and attentive to God’s will. We reach people and build community on the ground and online with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Young people find a place to launch their faith lives. Adults live out an increasingly mature faith, growing deeper as follower of Jesus.

Through dynamic worship, meaningful small group and committed service, God’s people are able to love and be loved-in the congregation, community and in the world.

Envision a Culture

.....where first and foremost it is all about attaining this Vision.

where the Vision is at the forefront of all decisions and the commitment to a culture of positivity and grace is paramount

where the church is welcoming and encourages worship in large and small groups

Envision Governance

.....where the Council continually remembers how critical its role is to leading Shepherd of the Prairie and how many people are counting on the Council.

where the Council has open discussion and then ultimately works as a unified body to drive the church toward attaining its Vision.

where the Constitution is adhered to and periodically reviewed to make sure the Congregation is properly represented by the Council.

Envision Pastoral Care

.....where Pastor Mark continues to inspire the congregation with his pastoral leadership

where the Council quickly augments those talents with the proper staffing to achieve the Vision of Shepherd of the Prairie

where a second pastor is called to further enhance the Pastoral Care of the church and whose traits also help toward the achievement of the Vision

Envision Shepherd of the Prairie’s Staff

.....where they individually and collectively work toward the Vision of the church in an incredibly positive manner

where staff has absolute clarity regarding the direction of the church and their individual roles and responsibilities

where employment at SOTP is sought after, as the best in class fill the positions and their work experience is ultimately satisfying

where those who are in leadership roles have dynamic personalities and people want to follow their leadership naturally

where staff see themselves as not necessarily “doers” of ministry but ones who engage the laity into lives of service in and through the church

Envision the Community that Shepherd of the Prairie is a part of

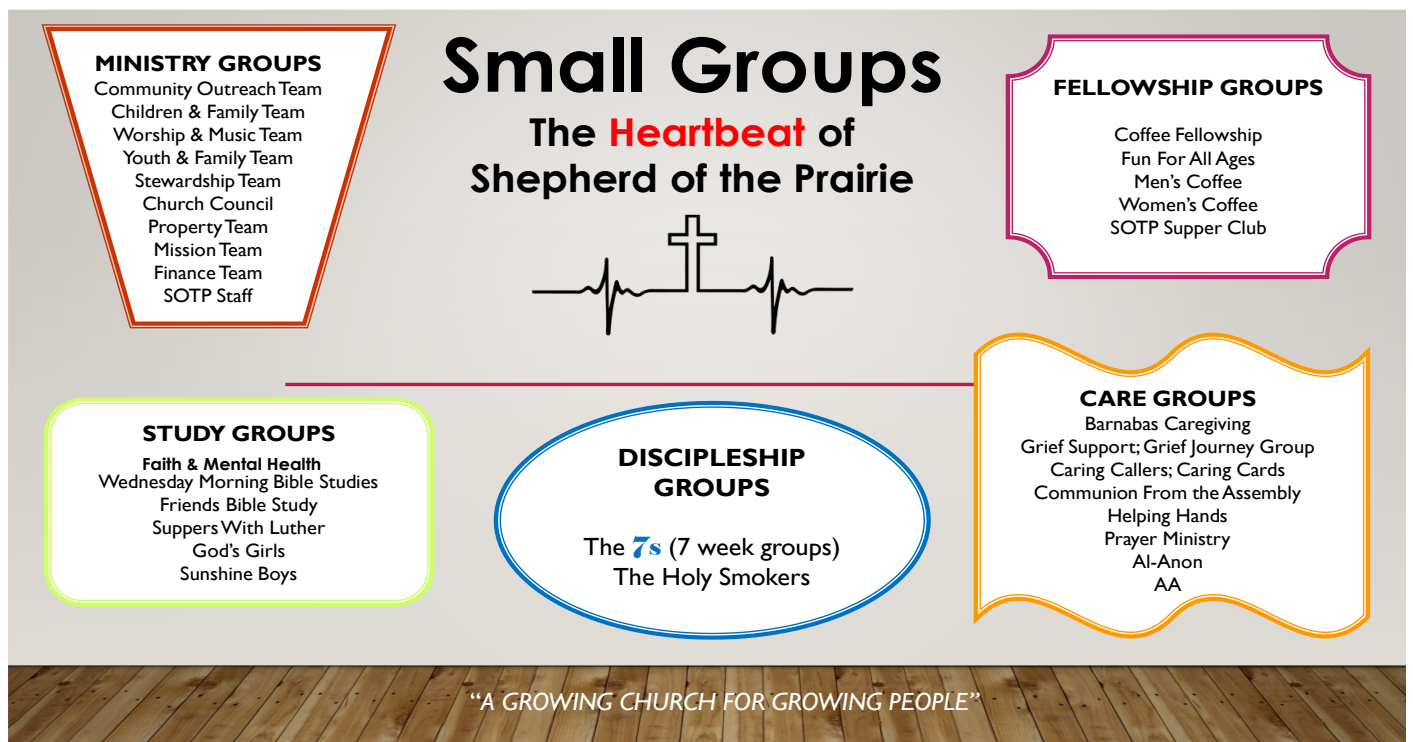
.....where they know that Shepherd of the Prairie is a positive force in the local community

where they can receive communication in many and ever evolving formats

Envision the Worship at Shepherd of the Prairie

.....where excellence is the standard and achieved for both traditional worship and contemporary worship

where teaching continues to be a primary focus



INTRODUCTION

As members of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, we are called to participate in God's mission. This mission is:

- Worshiping God in the sharing of the word and the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness and service.
- Proclaiming God's saving Gospel according to the witness in the scriptures; preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to all we come into contact with in our lives.
- Carrying out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier of all.
- Serving in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
- Nurturing its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- Manifesting the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

To fulfill these purposes, our congregation is able to use their time, passions and talents by reaching out to all people by serving in various ministries. Please prayerfully consider serving in the ministry where God is leading you to be God's faithful servant.

We Serve Through Small Groups

Small groups are essential for bringing SOTP members together into community. Small Groups meet on a regular basis for fellowship, prayer, study, service and discipleship training. SOTP small groups include: Ministry Groups, Fellowship Groups, Support Groups, Study Groups and Discipleship Groups.

MINISTRY GROUPS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach Team

The goal of the Community Outreach Team is to introduce Shepherd of the Prairie church to our growing community. This is accomplished by participating in various meetings and workshops and planning for outreach each year at the Huntley Fall Fest, Memorial Day Parade and Farmer's Markets. The Community Outreach Team encourages all members to invite friends and family to worship at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church. All the members of our team are excited about sharing their love for Jesus and are always looking for new ways to make others feel welcome.

Contact: Mike Yndestad;
mike@sotpmail.com, 847-515-7193

Publicity

This ministry involves individuals from our congregation to provide information to the local newspapers regarding our weekly services and various meetings to be held during the week. These individuals also coordinate with the various publications and other media where SOTP advertises.

Welcome Center

Members of the team greet first-time visitors during Sunday worship at the **Welcome Center** in the Gathering Area (narthex). We hope you have noticed the WELCOME above the center. At this location, after each service, we welcome new visitors and present them with a gift. We call this the **"Mugging Ministry"** because each family receives a mug and information on all the activities that we offer in our worship community.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY

The purpose of serving as team leaders of Children and Family Ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie is to glorify God by providing 3-year-olds through 5th grade youth opportunities to develop and nurture their Christian faith and their relationships with one another.

Contact: Jill Gillming, jill@sotpmail.com, 847-669-9448

Kid's Connect

This ministry provides for faith formation and religious education of our Preschool through 5th grade youth. Kids Connect builds the foundation of our youth's relationship with Jesus, and continually works on strengthening that relationship by through song, video, experiments, stories, crafts and games. Kids Connect is for children up to 5th grade. The children begin worship seated with their parents, and then are guided to Kids Connect by their teacher after the children's message and return during the passing of the peace.

Contact: Jill Gillming, jill@sotpmail.com, 847-669-9448

Adventure Club

A ministry for 4th and 5th graders as they learn more about Jesus and the Bible in a new, interactive way. Adventure Club meets on Wednesday evening in 7 week sessions throughout the school year.

Contact: Pastor Mark Boster,
pastormark@sotpmail.com

Vacation Bible School

Help kids learn about the Lord through the enjoyment of music, crafts and fun—this is what Vacation Bible School is all about! For one week during summer we reach out to Pre-school and grade-school-age children in our church and community, to develop their understanding of the many teachings of Jesus, through high energy activities. It's a fantastic way to get to know families from within our church and those who live in our area.

Contact: Jill Gillming, jill@sotpmail.com, 847-669-9448

Nursery Caregiver

This ministry consists of volunteers who help care for little children who do not attend worship services with their parent(s).

Little Lambs Early Learning Program

Little Lambs is for children between the ages of 2 and 5 years. This early learning program is held on weekday mornings. During that time children enjoy Bible stories, crafts, music and other fun activities. All these activities help children develop a love for Bible stories and the knowledge that God loves us.

Contact: Jill Gillming, Jill@sotpmail.com, 847-669-

High School (Grades 9th – 12th)

Youth Group is a time of gathering for our high school students. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says *"Come to me all who are weary and carry heavy burdens and I will give you rest"*. This is designed for our high-school-aged students to come and rest. In the midst of the turmoil of being a teenager, it is refreshing to come and just "be" with other Christian students. **The** group meets at the church one night a week.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

The purpose of Youth and Family Ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie is to help grow and nurture the faith of our children, which is accomplished through five key ways:

- Faith is formed through personal, trusted relationships
- The church is a living partnership between home and the congregation
- Home is church, too
- Faith is caught more than taught
- It takes Christian parents and other adults to raise Christian children.

We build our relationships with God and each other through caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals and traditions.

As a support to the parents in guiding their child on the journey of Confirmation, we provide **AAA** (Authentic, Available, and Affirming) adults within the Confirmation program.

Contact: Pastor Ryan Mackey, pastorryan@sotpmail.com, 847669-9448

Confirmation – (Grades 6th, 7th & 8th)

Confirmation is a public rite of the Church, for which students have spent time in instruction, designed to help them identify with the life and mission of the Christian Church. The Rite of Confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God's promise given in Baptism, to make a personal public profession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of faithfulness to Christ.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Come learn more about God's Word with Pastor Mark. This group meets on Wednesday mornings at 11am .

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Come learn more about God's Word with Pastor Roy. This group meets on Sunday mornings at 10:20 am .

Friends Bible Study

Friends Bible Study is a group of women who meet Mondays at 12:30 at the church. Using various inspirational books as guides, the "Friends"

Suppers With Luther

This study is offered as an opportunity for those who are new to the Lutheran expression of faith and for those for whom confirmation has been a long time ago to learn more about Martin Luther and what we believe and practice as Lutheran Christians.

Contact: Donna Kelly, donna@sotpmail.com

Discipleship Groups (7s)

Small groups are essential for bringing together SOTP members into community. SOTP small groups include: Ministry Groups, Service Groups, Support and Care Groups, Fellowship Groups, Study Groups, Discipleship Groups (7s) . Our Discipleship Groups meet for seven weeks, three times per year (Fall, Winter, Spring) . They meet at various times and places.

Contact: Donna Kelly 214-676-1788 214-676-1788

MISSION TEAM

Mission Team

The Mission Team was formed to do “outward visioning” for mission involvements where SOTP is not present, but can work to make a difference in God’s world; locally and globally. Some examples of mission team projects are shown below:

Contact: Sandy Hupert, sandyhupert@gmail.com, 224-569-6041

Exodus World Service

SOTP works with Exodus World Service to provide Welcome to America packages for refugees. These packages provide the basics for setting up an apartment and providing for the refugee family’s first month in America. Members also deliver the items and set up the apartment.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

P.A.D.S. (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)

Anyone who has a desire to help others and the community is welcome. Volunteers are needed for making lunches twice monthly and for serving of lunches at the McHenry facility.

Re-Entry

A ministry to help those who are reentering society after incarceration.

A.A.R.R.K. Gardens

A ministry located in Hebron IL that provides transitional support for the homeless. By providing an opportunity to work at the garden growing vegetables that are then sold to the public.

Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God’s children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: SOTP volunteers, children and adults, hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. The meals are shipped to distribution partners around the world where they are used to operate orphanages, schools, clinics and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty. FMSC food has reached more than 70 countries in our history.

Northern Illinois Food Bank

SOTP volunteers visit the Northern Illinois Food Bank every few months. NIFB is a nonprofit organization providing food for hungry neighbors across 13 counties. Much of the donated food Northern Illinois Food Bank distributes needs to be inspected, sorted and packaged before it’s distributed to our hungry neighbors and this is only possible with the help of volunteers.

Grafton Food Pantry

SOTP is committed to the Grafton Food Pantry program, which meets the needs of families and individuals who do not have the means to purchase food and other essential items. As our community grows, it will be necessary to plan for the expansion of our food pantry services, and to continue partnerships with the church and business community, as well as local civic groups to provide these services.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is based on a very old idea... that those experiencing rough times, physically, emotionally or spiritually, are comforted with the presence of a warm shawl. The group meets once a month and is open to men or women, young or old. We give these shawls for both joyful events such as the birth of a child, or for those sad times when someone needs a little comfort.

Prairie Point Quilters

This group of women meets the first and third Tuesday of every month to make quilts for various organizations, such as Lutheran World Relief and Home of the Sparrow. These organizations distribute the quilts to the needy here in the United States and overseas.

WORSHIP

Worship Planning Team

The purpose of serving on the Worship Planning team is to glorify God by creating an atmosphere of worship where God's Word is clearly proclaimed. Worship at SOTP is at 5PM Saturday nights (Blended) at 9AM (Traditional) and 10:45 AM (Contemporary) on Sunday Mornings.

Contact: Jane McMullen, janemcmullin1957@att.net, 847-533-9527

Assisting Minister

The Assisting Minister's responsibility is to support the Pastors during the Traditional worship service. This role involves leading prayers of the church and preparing the elements for Communion. The Assisting Minister reads the offertory, communion and dismissal prayers. A robe is provided. As the Presiding Minister represents ordained clergy at the altar, the Assisting Minister represents lay people.

Communion Assistant

The Communion Assistant is a representative of the congregation during worship by assisting the Presiding and Assisting Ministers in the distribution of Communion by serving the wine and grape juice.

Reader

This position involves reading of the lesson or psalm during the traditional service. The reader coordinator always sends the lessons/psalms to the reader in advance so they review the readings prior to service.

Greeter

Pastor usually stands outside the door prior to the early service to greet all worshipers. A greeter welcomes people and lets them know how happy we are that they came to worship with us.

Usher

The position of Usher is one of worship facilitation. Worship can be a confusing experience, especially if it is one's first time to our congregation. Ushers help worshipers navigate the layout of the building, such as location of worship service and restrooms. They collect offerings, guide worshipers to Communion, light and extinguish altar candles.

Altar Guild

The SOTP Altar Guild is a dedicated group of men and women whose primary mission is to prepare the worship space with the furnishings, appointments, vessels, elements, linens, and paraments used in worship.

Communion Setup and Take Down

Those who setup for communion at each service are a part of the Altar Guild. They prepare the communion elements for regular weekend worship and special worship services and take down the communion elements after worship.

Decorating Committee

The Decorating Committee of SOTP decorates the sanctuary area for Christmas, Easter and other church dates and in placing banners to coordinate with the Church seasons..

Drama for Worship

The Drama group is involved in creating and acting out short skits to enhance the worship experience, performing once every few months or as requested.

Baptismal Blankets

White Baptismal Blankets are crocheted by congregational members and placed inside the Faith Chest at each baptism, child and adult, to remind them that they are blessed and enfolded in the love of God and the members of Shepherd of the Prairie.

Faith Chest Ministry

The Faith Chest Ministry provides a wooden hand-crafted personalized chest for each child baptized into faith at our Shepard of the Prairie Lutheran Church. The Faith Chest is intended to be a place where documents, moments & keepsakes of one's life of faith.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Contact: Jane McMullin,
janemcmullin1957@att.net, 847-533-9527

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir meets for practice every week on Wednesday evenings except during the summer months. The choir sings at the traditional service and sings mostly traditional music. The only requirement for joining this choir is loving to sing.

Adult Bells

This Adult Handbell Choir usually plays twice a month from fall to spring. The Ringers also play for special services, such as Christmas and Easter. They meet Tuesday evenings for practice, except during the summer months. The Ringers are always looking for new members and the only requirement is the ability to read music at the intermediate level.

Children's Choirs, Bells and Chimes

Children's Choirs provide an opportunity for children to become actively involved in worship. They sing and play music that praises God and spiritually guides them in their faith journey. Children learn and practice basic music concepts, move and play some basic rhythm instruments. It's a great way to build friendships with other children in the church. Relationships with adults will develop through prayer partner ministry and opportunities to perform with the adult worship team.

Choirs:

- Sonshine Choir (Toddlers – 2nd grade)

Bells and Chimes:

- Chimers Ring & Sing (K – 2nd grade)

Saturday Night Worship

Saturday evening worship at 5 PM is predominately led by piano/organ with the addition of occasional special music such as handbells, instrument ensembles and vocal offerings.

Praise Band

This group leads worship at the 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship service. Vocalists, keyboardists, guitarists and drummers are welcome. Rehearsal is once a week.

Contact: Jeff Moore, Jeff@sotpmail.com; 224-629-0050

FELLOWSHIP

Coffee Fellowship

The Sunday Coffee Fellowship tie provides a welcoming atmosphere for members and guests between services each Sunday. SOTP members prepare the coffee and set up the before the first service ends. The hosts have the responsibility of cleaning up the refreshment table and coffee pots and returning all equipment to the assigned storage areas.

Dessert Club

The purpose of the Dessert Club is to provide an opportunity to become better acquainted with other SOTP members. This ministry consists of small groups of six to eight who get together once a month for meals. There are three different sessions for these groups: winter, spring/summer and fall. All are welcome.

Contact: Marilyn Sauerberg, ggmar35@gmail.com, 847-544-6854

Men's Coffee

Men from the congregation (and friends) meet at McDonald's by Walmart every week on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. for fellowship.

Women's Coffee

Women from the congregation (and friends) meet at McDonald's by Walmart every week on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. for fellowship.

Fun For All Ages

This group coordinates the church picnic in August and Pie Fest on Thanksgiving Eve.

BARNABAS CAREGIVING

Barnabas Caregiving Ministry

Barnabas Caregiving Ministry is a simple, effective program developed by Pr. Chuck Olson for training volunteers to give care in most institutional or home situations. Barnabas Ministers are able to establish relationships with people going through the different stages of life and to listen and encourage people as they do.

Contact: Donna Sorensen,
sorensensid@comcast.net, 224-650-9193
Director: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

Barnabas Ministers

Trained ministers of SOTP who develop a relationship for a specific care-receiver. The ministers visit their care-receiver at least once a month to bring a listening ear and encouragement. Ministers go through a training process and are commissioned as Barnabas Ministers.

Pastoral Care

Specially trained Barnabas Ministers who assist Pastor Mark and Pastor Ryan with hospital and care facility visits.

Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

Communion from the Assembly

The purpose of serving in this ministry is to carry and serve the sacrament to those who are unable to be present in worship. This can be at home, in the hospital, or nursing/rehab facility. Ministers are given easy instructions on how to distribute the sacrament and share the love of Christ through the Lord's Supper.

Tablets for Seniors

Tablets are donated by SOTP members and restored to factory settings and then given to residents and shut ins so they are able to be part of our online worship experience.

Grief Support

This ministry provides booklets on grief that are mailed four times over the first year after the death of a loved one. The booklets offer comfort and insight into the grieving process.

Grief Journey Group

A gathering to provide opportunities for the bereaved for understanding and healing. This group meets together every other week for 10 sessions to share and encourage each other in our grief journeys.

Contact: Donna Kelly, donna@sotpmail.com,
214-676-1788

Prayer Ministry

Special prayer requests for members, family and friends are sent to nearly 80 people via email. The prayers can be for healing, support, comfort for those in need, and to rejoice and celebrate good news. Prayer requests can be made using special forms on the website or through the church office.

Contact: Donna Kelly, donna@sotpmail.com

Barnabas Card Ministry

Cards are sent twice a month by Barnabas Ministers to all shut-ins; at home, in the hospital or in care facilities

Caring Card Ministries

This ministry sends cards to those who have been added to the prayer chain each week.

Caring Caller Ministries

This ministry contacts those who have been added to the prayer chain each week.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is a ministry of care. This ministry's goal is to plan and provide meals after funeral services in our worship space.

PROPERTY TEAM

The Property Team is responsible to help maintain the church property. Are you familiar with interior or exterior maintenance? If you join us, this does not mean we would call you constantly looking for help; we would call you only if we had a problem in your area of expertise. Some examples of help we might need are painting, changing light bulbs, working on door hardware or changing furnace filters. If you would like to join this ministry, please free to contact any member on the committee or contact the church office.

Contact: Mark Frendreis,
vettefixer67@sbcglobal.net 847-902-4741

AUDIO / VISUAL TEAM

Audio/Visual

Members of the Audio/Visual team do their work in the booth in the rear of the sacristy. They meet at the church regularly to discuss their duties and for training on new functionality.

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS...Running the soundboard during the worship services is an important part of worship. This ministry involves adjusting volume levels in the house speakers and the stage monitors to the musician's specifications. The sound board operator needs at least 45 minutes before services to prepare for these tasks. The sound board operator attends worship rehearsals.

AUDIO/VISUAL COMPUTER OPERATOR...The Audio/Visual computer operator controls the material that appears on the screens in the worship area. This consists of either the live action material from the camera (pastor's sermon, children's message, etc.) or song lyrics for congregation accompaniment for the music team. The Audio/Visual computer operator needs at least 45 minutes before services to prepare for these tasks. The A/V computer operator attends worship rehearsals.

Contact: Mike Yndestad, mike@sotpmail.com, 847-515-7193

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Computer Services *

This is a data input ministry, entering basic new member and visitor information (name, address, etc.) into our church database.

Financial Secretary *

The Financial Secretaries are responsible for entering offering contributions into the church database and running financial reports as necessary.

Contact: Linda Dungey, lindajsd88@gmail.com
847-347-9267

Gifts and Memorials *

This committee is responsible for recording and acknowledging all special gifts and memorials received by the church during the year. We also receive monetary gifts to honor or celebrate special occasions for our members. These gifts can be designated for the building fund or special needs of the church or the organizations.

Contact: Sue Wehnes, susanwehnes@sbcglobal.net,
224-569-2808

Offering Counter

Offering counters meet at church on Monday morning (unless it's a holiday) and follow procedures for counting the previous weekend's offering. Money is earmarked for various accounts and all must balance with the actual amount received. Counters sign up for one month at a time, but can certainly count more than one month in a calendar year. There are usually three counters at each session.

Contact: Ralph Wehnes, ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net,
224-569-2808

Newsletter Assembly

Newsletter Assemblers meet once a month on Friday (usually towards the end of the month) to assemble and prepare the church newsletter for mailing. Four volunteers are needed and they meet in the church office. This vital ministry takes about one hour.

Contact: Michelle Rankin, michelle@sotpmail.com
847-669-9448

CONGREGATION SUPPORT

Church Council *

The Church Council consists of the Executive Committee, namely, **President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer**, in addition to five associate members.

Nominating Committee *

This committee consists of six voting members of the congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Council and shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

The Nominating Committee nominates members for the Audit Committee, the Voting Members of the Synod Assembly and the Congregational Council.

Synod Representatives *

During the annual Shepherd of the Prairie congregational meeting, delegates are chosen to serve as voting members of the ELCA Synod Assembly. The number of persons to be elected and other qualifications are described in the guidelines established by the Northern Illinois Synod.

Mutual Ministry (Pastor Support) *

Mutual Ministry is a small group of people who meet monthly with the pastor to provide a safe and confidential environment for him to share new ideas, blessings and concerns he may have about his ministry at SOTP.

The Mutual Ministry group also administers the pastor's yearly performance evaluation and is available to the congregation for feedback or concerns specifically about the pastors or their ministry.

*-Elected or Appointed position

Finance Ministry

The purpose of this ministry group is to oversee SOTP financial activities. This ministry group should consist of approximately 3-5 selected members. Its activities include:

- Review/develop investment strategies for SOTP funds.
- Review/document accounting procedures and practices to insure compliance with generally accepted accounting procedures and Federal and State laws.
- Oversee insurance needs – insure church assets are adequately protected.
- Review monthly financial reports communicating with the council and congregation as appropriate.
- Oversee preparation and procedures for Annual Budgets with appropriate staff and ministry groups, as well as annual budgets for operations and capital.
- Coordinate with stewardship committee.
- Coordinate with Space and Facilities Planning Team.
- Review and oversee any other STOP financial activities and issues as needed.
- The Council Treasurer is the council liaison to the Financial Ministry Group.

Contact: Bob Mollis, bobmollis@outlook.com, 630-215-5525

Stewardship

Stewardship means "belonging to God" - all that we are and all that we have comes from God. We are grateful to God for it all, and responsible to God for how we use it. There is a connection between stewardship and spirituality: generous giving as a spiritual discipline helps us to grow in Christ. "Duty and delight" are both motivating factors for giving - doing what we ought to do as responsible church members, and making cheerful sacrifices out of love for God.

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for planning and sponsoring workshops and temple talks leading up to Commitment Weekend. The committee also has the responsibility of providing detailed financial information in the newsletter and visuals at Church with regard to our loan balance projected pay off date and pledge results.

Contact: Mike McCann, michaelmccann71@gmail.com, 847-915-9436