



**SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**2026
JUNE**

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

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*CONFIRMATION
LOCK-IN
making memories!*



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

This summer at Shepherd of the Prairie, we will journey together through a sermon series called “Following Jesus: The Basics of Faith.” Rooted in the Gospel of Matthew, this series invites us to rediscover the simple yet life-changing foundations of discipleship.

In many ways, summer gives us space to slow down. Schedules shift. Families gather.

Vacations offer moments to breathe. And in that slower rhythm, we often become more aware of the deeper questions of faith: What does it really mean to follow Jesus? How does faith grow? What does trusting Christ look like in everyday life?



This series traces a beautiful spiritual movement: from grace to growth, from trust to mission, from receiving to living outwardly. Week by week, we will hear Jesus call ordinary people into an extraordinary life of faith.

We begin with the reminder that faith starts not with our goodness, but with God's grace. Jesus calls sinners, the weary, and the broken. We do not need to “get our lives together” before following him. Grace always comes first.

From there, we explore how faith naturally moves outward. Jesus sends disciples into the world with compassion and purpose. Faith is never merely private; it becomes visible in love, hospitality, generosity, courage, and service. Even a cup of cold water offered in Christ's name matters in God's kingdom.

Along the way, we will wrestle honestly with the realities of discipleship. Jesus tells us that faith can be costly. Life can feel messy. Doubt and fear are part of the journey. Yet again and again, we will hear the good news that Jesus meets us there too—in the storm, in uncertainty, and in our burdens.

Several weeks focus on growth and formation through Jesus' parables. Like seeds planted in soil, faith grows over time. Sometimes slowly. Sometimes quietly. But God is always at work beneath the surface.

The series concludes with powerful reminders of God's abundance and presence. Whether feeding the crowds or reaching for Peter in the stormy sea, Jesus shows us that faith is ultimately about trusting the One who holds us fast.

(continued)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK (CONT)

(continued)

Our hope is that this series will encourage both longtime believers and those still exploring faith. At Shepherd of the Prairie, we believe this deeply: you belong even before you believe. And wherever you are on the journey, Jesus continues to say, “Follow me.”

I’ll look forward to being with you in worship!

Pastor Mark

FAITH ON TAP WITH PASTOR RYAN



Join Pastor Ryan for an hour of casual conversation about faith, doubt, and everything in between. There are no sermons or formal agendas—just good brews, great company, and open dialogue in a space where all are welcome. Bring your questions and your thoughts, or just come to listen and share in the gift of community. Pull up a chair, we’d love to have you at the table!

Meeting the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.

Contact Pastor Ryan at pastorryan@sotpmail.com

MINISTRY MUSING, DONNA KELLY

Our Wednesday Bible study group has been talking about forgiveness the last few weeks. One of the passages we discussed is the one in Matthew where Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone, wondering if seven times is enough. Jesus tells Peter that he should forgive 70 times (some translations say seventy time seven). We also talked about what it meant when Jesus commented that if we don't forgive we won't receive forgiveness. Just as in the Lord's Prayer we say, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."



We read a section of commentary on the passage by N.T. Wright from his book, "Matthew for Everyone". Wright said, "Forgiveness is like the air in your lungs. There is only room for you to inhale the next lungful when you've just breathed out the previous one. If you insist on withholding it, refusing to give someone else the kiss of life they may desperately need, you won't be able to take more in yourself, and you will suffocate very quickly. Whatever the spiritual, moral and emotional equivalent of the lungs may be, it's either open or closed. If it's open, able and willing to forgive others, it will also be open to receive God's love and forgiveness. But if it's locked up to the one, it will be locked up to the other."

This is hard to hear and to live out. People and situations hurt us, anger us, close us off. And it can be extremely hard to forgive at times as we hang on to the anger and pain. We may fear that to let go of it means letting them "get away with what they have done". We want to see them held accountable and/or punished for their actions. But as we learned at our study that night, in order to put ourselves in the frame of mind to be able to receive God's forgiveness, we need to exhale our anger and resentment and forgive the other person so we can make room for God's grace and mercy to flow in. Only God's mercy and forgiveness can fill us with the peace that makes no sense and bring us to live in harmony with God, ourselves and one another.

Donna

SUPPORT GROUPS



GRIEF JOURNEY GROUP

TUESDAY MORNINGS
10AM

Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPgrief

A poster for the Grief Journey Group. It features a dark grey background with a mountain landscape on the right. A QR code is in the bottom left corner.

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR SUPPORT GROUPS, MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.

Grief Journey is for those mourning the death of a loved one.

Transitions is for those going through a deep loss: death of a loved one; job loss; loss of a relationship; empty nesting; divorce; loss of health; loss of purpose.

Dementia Caregiver Support is in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, a support group for caregivers, friends and/or family members with Dementia.

What's Next is a group for seniors to talk about changes and challenges in life and ideas on how to cope.

For more information on any of our support groups, reach out to Donna:

Contact: Donna Kelly
donna@sotpmail.com



TRANSITIONS

A JOURNEY THROUGH LOSS

TUESDAYS
7:00 PM

More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPtrans

A poster for the Transitions support group. It features a light blue background with a circular graphic in the center. A QR code is in the bottom left corner.



DEMENTIA

Caregiver Support Group

MEETINGS:
MONTHLY
3RD TUESDAY
2:00 PM

More Info & Sign Up:
www.bit.ly/SOTPdementia

A poster for the Dementia Caregiver Support Group. It features a purple background with a graphic of two people sitting at a table. A QR code is in the bottom left corner.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Group for seniors talk about changes & challenges & ideas on how to cope.

11:00 AM
SECOND TUESDAY

More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPwhatsnext

A poster for the What's Next support group. It features a dark blue background with a graphic of chess pieces and question marks. A QR code is in the bottom left corner.

WOMEN'S COFFEE



Women's Coffee Gathering

Fridays 10am



MCDONALD'S BY HUNTLEY WALMART

MEN'S COFFEE



MEN'S COFFEE

McDonald's by Huntley Walmart



Tuesdays at 7:30 am
INFO: www.bit.ly/SOTPmen

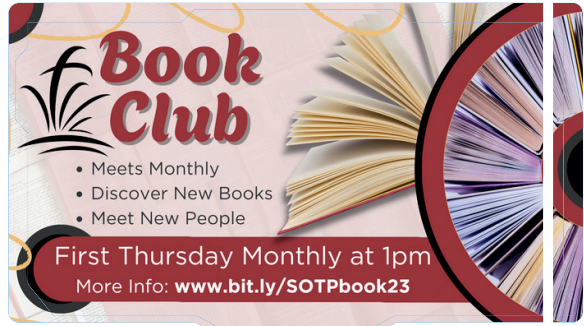
BOOK CLUB

Do you enjoy reading?
Looking for a way to
connect with others?
Then you just might enjoy
our Book Club.

We take turns reading
different genres. Books
being discussed:

- June: **ANXIOUS PEOPLE** by Fredrik Backman, humorous fiction.
- July: **THE MAGNIFICENT LIVES OF M. POST** (think Battle Creek, MI) by Allison Pataki, historical fiction.

Contact: Dottie Bobzin at dbinil@att.net



VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



CULVER'S FUNDRAISER HELP NEEDED

Help us raise money for our Youth & Family Ministries!

We will need the following Volunteers for all shifts. Sign up for one hour (or more).

Needed for all shifts:

- At least 2 adult supervisors - 18+
- At least 4 food runners per shift - At least 9 Years Old
- 2 door holders - Any Age
- 1 dining room assistant - Any Age

Contact: Dan Wichtendahl at danwichtendahl@yahoo.com



SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS GAME

Come enjoy an evening of fellowship and baseball while supporting our Youth and Family Ministry!

All tickets purchased through this link give back to the church.



LINK: www.bit.ly/SOTPBOOM26

Contact: Dan Wichtendahl at djrun405@yahoo.com

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & CAR SHOW

Let's start out this summer with games, music, fun, and ice cream!

Please register if you are:

- * Attending (joining us for a night of FUN!)
- * Bringing a car (show up between 5:30-5:45pm)
- * Donating items (please drop off all donations by Thursday, June 11th at noon)
- * Volunteering (more hands makes for less work for all - and it's more fun!)

This event is for the young and the young at heart, members and non-members, so everyone is welcome!

FREE ICE CREAM while supplies last.

Contact: Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com



QUILTERS INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM

It's Summer already!

The ladies are still hard at work making quilts. We are up to 46 quilts now! A lot of you knew Janet Thunholm - Janet and John have moved to New Jersey to be closer to their daughter's family. She has left us some fabric that you should see in the quilts at the dedication in the fall. Sandy and Eileen are our "design team" and they are putting together lots of pretty quilts..



Contact: Bev Kenny at krkbjk@comcast.net

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Please join us for a Mission Event at Feed My Starving Children – Schaumburg on Saturday, June 13th. This is a fun and rewarding 2-hour food packing session available to those Kindergarten age and up.



Our efforts will result in food being packaged and shipped out to the neediest children around the world.

When: **Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

Where: 740 Wiley Farm Court, Schaumburg, IL 60173

Children and Teens are welcome and encouraged to attend. If volunteering your children, please keep in mind the ratio of children to adults below:

- Grades K-2: 1 child to 1 adult
- Grades 3-6: 3 children to 1 adult
- Grades 7-12: 4 children to 1 adult

To learn more about Feed My Starving Children, visit <https://www.fmsc.org/about-us>.

Contact John Witt at john_witt@outlook.com

THE GARDEN ROOM



THE JERSEY TENORS – ARTIST SERIES

The Jersey Tenors bring unique sounds at free performance in Huntley

The popular Artist Series presents The Jersey Tenors, America's hottest new tribute act, to Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, 10805 Main Street, Huntley, on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 7:00pm.



Sponsored by the SOTP Artist Series, the public is invited to attend this free performance. No tickets are required and freewill donations are gratefully accepted.

The Jersey Tenors are the newest Opera/Rock Mash-up sensation, creating an explosive blend of iconic opera classics alongside rock 'n roll greats like Queen, Elton John, and Bon Jovi, to name but a few. They will raise the roof with their powerful voices and before you know it, the audience will be singing along with their favorite tunes.

They are "Jersey Proud" and haven't forgotten where they come from. Their performances highlight some of Jersey's finest like Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen, Kool and The Gang, and even "Jersey" girl Whitney Houston.

Visit the church website at www.bit.ly/SOTPARTIST for further information or email at artistseries@sotpmail.com.

SUPPORTING LSSI

2026 Synod
Assembly
In-Kind Offering:
Supporting
Lutheran Social
Services of
Illinois



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

We had the privilege of hosting Mark Stutrud, President/CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) on Sunday, May 17, to hear his message on John 17:1-11 and the good works LSSI does in partnership with our Church.

Learn more about LSSI at www.lssi.org. We have another opportunity to contribute to LSSI as individuals in conjunction with the Thirty-Eighth Annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly taking place on June 12-13 in Rock Island, IL. This can be done from the comfort of your home.

This year, our Synod's in-kind offering will support the vital work of LSSI. One of those ways to give is by participating in the Mindful Giving effort where donors purchase items from a dedicated Wishlist curated by LSSI staff, and the items will be shipped directly to LSSI. These items support many important LSSI programs, and the Wishlist is updated regularly based on current, urgent needs.

How to Donate

- Go to giftlist.lssi.org to shop the Wishlist. Please be sure to add Shepherd of the Prairie as your organization name at checkout so the Synod can track and celebrate our church's generosity!

PADS – CLOSED FOR SUMMER

As of June 22, PADS Willow Creek is closed for the summer.

DO NOT DROP OFF ANY ITEMS FOR PADS AT SOTP.

Any items dropped off for PADS will be donated elsewhere.



RECEIVE EMAILS FROM SOTP



Sign up to receive any (or all):

- Monthly Newsletter
- Weekly Updates with Friday Flourish
- Daily Devotionals
- Important messages from SOTP

Go to: www.bit.ly/SOTPEMAIL

Contact: Michelle Rankin at michelle@sotpmail.com

HELP NEEDED AT THE PANTRY

Clients are now able to come into the Pantry to select items. The scheduling changes to improve our assistance of clients will be flexible as we see the needs.

The new shift hours are as follows;

- Monday 2:30 to 5pm and 4:30 to 7pm
- Wednesday 12:30 to 4pm
- Friday 12:30 to 4pm

These are the volunteer areas that need help;

- Waiting area and Donation Room... 2-3 Volunteers
- Aisle 1 Meat and coolers area...3 Volunteers
- Aisle 2 Groceries area...1 Volunteer
- Aisle 3 Paper goods...1 Volunteers
- Breads and Desserts area...1 Volunteer

We are here to assist and be friendly. Volunteers **MUST BE TRAINED**. When they are trained they sign up for shifts weekly. I would think the Managers would prefer folks who could be somewhat consistent in their commitment.

If interested, please **call the pantry at 847-495-0922** and ask for information about volunteering at their location 11481 Allison Ct., Huntley.

Contact: Annette Petersen at petersenannette12@gmail.com



PRAYER CHAIN



BUY SOTP LOGO WEAR



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Online Apparel Store

Ranging from \$10 - \$55

www.bit.ly/SOTPgear

*Note: Put your name as "player name"

The advertisement displays several items of apparel with the Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church logo: an orange long-sleeved shirt, a grey long-sleeved shirt, a blue long-sleeved shirt, a blue polo shirt, a red hoodie, and a grey baseball cap. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner.

MINISTRY NIGHT-JOIN US!



SECOND MONDAY MONTHLY
7:00 pm

Volunteers Needed

MINISTRY NIGHT

More Info: www.bit.ly/SOTPministrynight

The advertisement features a group photo of approximately 25 people, mostly men, standing in a line in a well-lit indoor space, likely a church hall. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner.

KIDS CONNECT – SUNDAYS



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1-Jun Rebecca Miller
 2-Jun Mark Michalak
 2-Jun Derek Mackey
 2-Jun Michelle Jacobs
 2-Jun Shonna Rankin
 2-Jun Sydney McGuire
 2-Jun Sarah Bradstreet
 3-Jun Candi McNeal
 4-Jun Kim Stancl
 4-Jun Jacob Trevino
 5-Jun Curtis Hollabaugh
 5-Jun Conrad Barta
 6-Jun Sandra Meyer
 6-Jun Randy Blankenhorn
 6-Jun Rob Satalino
 6-Jun Kim Scalise
 7-Jun Anneliese Espinoza
 7-Jun Joanne Bychowsky
 7-Jun Audrey Coots
 8-Jun Rebecca Mudge
 8-Jun Jonathan Boster
 8-Jun Kathy Miller
 9-Jun Gloria Samuelson
 9-Jun Kaitlyn Richards
 9-Jun Kellen McNeal

9-Jun Peter Kalamaras
 9-Jun Toesana Kagdi
 10-Jun Jonathan Larson
 10-Jun Merle Lewis
 10-Jun Susan Falbo
 10-Jun Elaine Berens
 10-Jun Lisa Adams
 11-Jun Carole Cesario
 11-Jun Anthony Serpe
 11-Jun Gary Howard
 12-Jun Payton Serpe
 12-Jun Marilyn Schnell
 12-Jun Henry Womac
 13-Jun Jon Peppler
 13-Jun Max Wondriska
 15-Jun McKenzie Schlachta
 15-Jun Vicki Maraviglia
 16-Jun Sharon Mundt
 17-Jun Beth Froelich
 18-Jun Nicki Troia
 19-Jun Patrick Ullrich
 19-Jun Megan Palombit
 19-Jun Deanne Byers
 19-Jun Jill Gillming
 19-Jun Judie Symbol

20-Jun Hannah Robinson
 20-Jun Ethan Gartzke
 21-Jun Michael Glosson
 21-Jun Troy Kindle
 22-Jun Margaret Motyka
 22-Jun Anne Nagel
 23-Jun Kimberly Ernst
 23-Jun Ron Knudsen
 23-Jun Rebecca Fulcer
 24-Jun Avary DeBlieck
 24-Jun Mary Klatt
 24-Jun Mary Lou Chamberlain
 24-Jun Susan Krizmanich
 25-Jun Lincoln Shaw
 25-Jun Jacob Marx
 26-Jun Bill Skidmore
 26-Jun Alexander Rojas
 26-Jun Barb Carr
 27-Jun Ella Ullrich
 27-Jun Kelly Stallbaum
 28-Jun Carolyn Malm
 29-Jun Anthony Maraviglia
 30-Jun Dana Turk
 30-Jun Elizabeth Trout

STAFF

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SENIOR PASTOR
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Pastor Ryan Mackey
PASTOR
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 TEACHER**
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TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD ENDING April 30, 2026

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND

	MONTHLY ACTUAL	MONTHLY BUDGET	MONTHLY ACTUAL VS. MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL VS. YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	YTD PERCENT RECEIVED	YTD PERCENT EXPENDED
April 1, 2026 Beginning Balance	\$ 432,766.51								
Monthly Income	\$ 92,027.74	\$ 91,243.00	\$ 784.74	\$ 386,669.99	\$ 369,979.00	\$ 16,690.99	\$ 1,059,057.00	36.51%	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 75,302.40	\$ 82,052.00	\$ (6,749.60)	\$ 333,848.21	\$ 340,570.00	\$ (6,721.79)	\$ 1,059,057.00		31.52%
Income vs. Expenditures	\$ 16,725.34	\$ 9,191.00		\$ 52,821.78	\$ 29,409.00				
April 30, 2026 Ending Balance	\$ 449,491.85								
Average Monthly Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 88,254.75								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	5.09								

MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND

	MONTHLY ACTUAL	MONTHLY BUDGET	MONTHLY ACTUAL VS. MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL VS. YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	YTD PERCENT RECEIVED	YTD PERCENT EXPENDED
April 1, 2026 Beginning Balance	\$ 81,951.41								
Monthly Income	\$ 16,844.53	\$ 18,807.00	\$ (1,962.47)	\$ 92,546.72	\$ 75,228.00	\$ 17,318.72	\$ 225,684.00	41.01%	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 18,807.00	\$ 18,807.00	\$ 18,807.00	\$ 75,228.00	\$ 75,228.00	\$ -	\$ 225,684.00		33.33%
Income vs. Expenditures	\$ (1,962.47)	\$ -		\$ 17,318.72	\$ -				
April 30, 2026 Ending Balance	\$ 79,988.94								
Average Monthly Expenses	\$ 18,807.00								
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	4.25								

Respectfully submitted, Robert Mollis, Treasurer

DONATE ONLINE



**SHEPHERD
OF THE PRAIRIE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

OnlineGiving



www.bit.ly/SOTPGIVING

CHURCH COUNCIL

Kathy McGuine, President
Jim Puls, Vice-President
Bob Mollis, Treasurer
Lisa Wondriska, Secretary

George Attaway
Carrie McCabe
Susan Sroka
Jim Stancl

INVOLVEMENT SCHEDULE

		June 6/7	June 13/14	June 20/21	June 27/28
Communion Bread	Sun	Carol Stonecipher	Linda Wright	Alice DaBelow	Elizabeth Trout
Counters	Mon	Donna Turner, Marilyn Wilhelm & Dottie Bobzin			
Greeters	SUN 9AM	Carol Engstrom, Elaine Gillam	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin	Susan Blumer Dottie Bobzin	Laura Attaway Cyndi Monson
	SUN 10:45 AM	Carolyn & Bob Malm			
Ushers	SAT 5PM	Chuck Davis Carol Davis	Karen Eckert Lynn Meyers	Tom Cox Therese Cox	Carol Hartman Peggy Lynn Loiselle
	SUN 9AM	WALTER LEMKE Tim Bueschel Jeff Stangle Bill Vallee Bob Henderson Mickey & Cathy Kappel	JACK CONTI Cheryl Rotermond John & Patti Witt Carol Engstrom Sue Blumer	STAN CRISSMAN Wayne Schmidt Arja Kasper Dan Wentzloff Jeff Ottens Andrew Lick	RALPH WEHNES Don Wickersham Jerry & Pat Darrow George Attaway Chuck Zindel
	SUN 10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE Tim & Karen Doyle	JIM STANCL Mike & Patti Kargol	DOUG NAGEL Don Koerner Judy Petropoulos Max Wondriska	BOB MOLLIS Diane Mollis Monca Wichtendahl
Welcome Center	SUN 9AM	Elizabeth Liotus	LuAnn Munneke	Karen Brodsky	Karen Brodsky Stacey Magnusson
	SUN 10:45 AM	Stacey Magnusson	Elizabeth Trout	Elizabeth Trout	Elizabeth Trout

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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