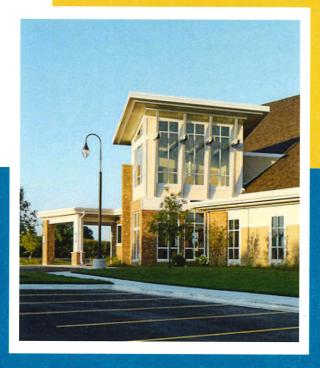
AUGUST 2023NEWSLETTER



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A GROWING CHURCH FOR GROWING PEOPLE



sotp.org

August Note

From Pastor Mark

Matthew 16:13-20

Most of us have let go or given away something of value either because it had no more value to us or we thought someone else would appreciate the gift or simply enough, they had requested the desired object for themselves. Shortly thereafter, we perhaps rued our actions and desired the item back but were left to lament, preferably, in silence rather than face "I told you so" comments from those who cautioned us.

Why do we hang on to excess or needless baggage regardless if it is good or bad stuff?

Do we have a sense of remorse or guilt if something leaves our hands or heart?

Wouldn't it be nice if we could feel free enough to stuff all our good stuff in a bag and walk down the



street dispensing goodness like a handful of confetti and leave the bad stuff for the garbage man to pick up?

Wouldn't it be nice to see all the smiles and hear the "Thank you's" as your bag emptied?

Wouldn't it be nice to approach Heaven's doors and be greeted with "Hey, I see your bag's empty, how nice" rather than, "What's with all this baggage you're dragging along with you? You won't need it up here you know, it's a fresh start."

I don't think Heaven is run like an airline where you pay extra for excess baggage. It pays to travel light in this world if your destination is Heaven.

In a few weeks we will be reading this story from Matthew 16 and be invited by Jesus to "let loose the good stuff."

The story encourages us to share or give away the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let it loose! Let the Good News flutter down on people like confetti dancing through the air during a ticker tape parade. It shouldn't be hard to give that away and even if you do, you still have enough in the bag for the next opportunity to share.

For most of us, it is easier to rehash the day's news or gossip with another than it is to talk about Jesus Christ.

I wonder if in an average day one is more likely to hear God's name used in a cursing manner than in a loving manner. Have you ever thought about how you use Jesus name in a twenty-four hour period? I can't brag myself and know that I fall far short of what I should be saying regarding what Jesus has done for me.

"Let loose the good stuff," and if you think about it, it certainly has a positive ring to it.

If we all did our share in letting loose the things God has done for us in our own personal life, what a difference that would make in this world.

Ask yourself, what would you rather hear, good news or bad news?

What do you think other people would like to hear?

Come on, let's empty our bag with the Good News and leave the other stuff behind. Surely this might be a way to lighten someone else's burden and give them hope if we try.

I'll look to our being together in worship!

Pastor Mark

August Note

From Pastor Ryan

With fall in our sights (how can *that* be?!?), youth and family ministries ramp up for a great year of learning, faith formation, and relationship building. Much of this summer, our confirmation team has been hard at work brainstorming and reflecting on ways to improve our program, and we are excited to unveil a new kind of confirmation experience for SOTP!

On Wednesday,
August 30, we will
host a parent/student
orientation from 7pm8pm and on
Wednesday,
September 20,
confirmation will
officially begin at
6:30pm. The new
schedule will look a
little different



From 6:30-7pm youth will be invited to

gather with games and snacks. The crossroads area will feature ping pong, foosball, and other games (we are in search of a nice quality, like new, 3×6 pool table). The youth will be encouraged to get to know each other better and how to have fun together each night while refueling with snacks so they are ready for the rest of the night.

The hour from 7pm-8pm will be broken up into large group time and small group time like it has been before, but we are excited for a brand new (to us) curriculum that should be more engaging for our youth as they explore their faith, discover the Bible, and learn to ask questions. The curriculum is

called Head to the Heart and is produced by a well-known, well-respected organization known as Faith Inkubators.

Every second week of the month, we will take a break from the normal routine as we alternate between fellowship events and servant events. Fellowship events will either be in the church or somewhere in the community and will focus on fun and relationship building. Servant events will get the group out into the community engaging in some form of service. Our confirmation team will plan the first couple of events, but then we will shepherd the youth as they begin to plan their own fellowship and servant events.

As I shared with you last month, Youth Group will be joining our Wednesday night lineup starting on August 9. The plan is to work toward one night for the whole family. We have so many families with kids in different age groups, why not offer ministries for each member of the family on a single night? As of September, we will have Adventure Club from 5-6pm and Confirmation and Youth Group from 6:30-8pm. My dream is that we will eventually offer some adult programming as well as something for our littlest friends.

I'm raising a glass to an awesome year and want to thank you for all you do to make SOTP a healthy, vibrant faith community!

Thank you!

Pastor Ryan

Email Pastor Ryan: pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Link to Youth Gathering website for those interested in more information: https://www.elca.church/gathering

August Note

From Donna Kelly

Most of you know by now that my 19-yearold grandson Payton took his life on June 28th. This has been a devastating loss in our family, and we are just beginning to find ways to cope and process his death. Suicide is hard to understand, and as many of you said to me, "There are no words". And we who loved him find that is so very true.



When anyone, especially a young person takes their life, you wonder if we should have seen it coming, or if there was anything we could do to prevent it. In Payton's case, he has been struggling with depression and his identity for many years. My son and daughter-in-law made sure he received all the treatment, help, encouragement and love they could give. His girlfriend Liv loved him dearly and they were truly soulmates. None of us saw this coming, we were all totally shocked by this event.

My daughter-in-law said it best when she told Liv that she needed to live her life in honor of Payton; to finish school, to fall in love again, to raise a family; all in Payton's honor. And that is the way we too can honor the lives of those we had lost; to live our lives in a way that honors our loved ones and our Lord.

Again, there are no words to express my appreciation for the love and support all of you have given me. I thank you for your thoughts and prayers, your cards, texts and emails. Your hugs and tears meant so much and with each one I felt the arms of Jesus around me. Many of you gave to the "Go Fund Me", to help pay for the costs involved in Payton's death, and others have made memorial gifts to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in his honor, thank you. Also, thanks for the plants and gifts you sent me. Most of all, I cannot say a big enough thank you to those of you who drove into Roselle for Payton's Celebration of Life. Every time, another one of my siblings in Christ walked into the room, my heart was filled with wonder and love. I have never felt so loved and supported.

Donna

Email Donna: donna@sotpmail.com



SPECIAL EVENT: Tuesday, August 1st at 4:30 pm - Meet at church to carpool to National Night Out in Huntley Town

Square 5-7pm. Staying for concert at 7:30 pm. Bring a picnic dinner or buy food at the restaurants downtown.

Shepherd of the Prairie started a new Fellowship Group called Next Step. This is a group for single seniors looking for community and fellowship. Whether widowed, divorced or never married, member or friend of SOTP, if you find yourself single and in these best years of your life, we encourage you to join us. People who consider themselves seniors (55+) are invited to participate.

We will meet again on July 29 at 11:00 at the church (bring your own drink) in the coffee area outside of the sanctuary to discuss the results of the activities discussion and plan some future activities. If anyone would like to go out to lunch (separate checks) that day, let Phyllis Thomson know and we can make a reservation somewhere local for after the meeting.

We are starting a couple of card/game groups and considering a book club and a movie outing. We will discuss these plans at the meeting on July 29.

Come and join us on July 29 and bring your ideas for ways this community can have fun, grow, and serve.

Contacts: Phyllis Thomson, phyllisthomson@aol.com or Dave Stangle, dstangle.ds@gmail.com



"LORD WHEN WERE YOU IN PRISON AND I VISITED YOU?" (Mathew 25:39)

YOU & I CAN VISIT PRISONERS

LSSI (Lutheran Social Services of Illinois) meets prisoners the day they are released and try to help them rehabilitate.

They need hygiene kits for when they are first released.

BY SUPLYING THEM WITH ANY OF THE **ITEMS BELOW** MISSION TEAM (with YOUR help) is collecting:

Shaving Cream Men's Deodorant Toothbrush

Tooth paste Shampoo & Conditioner

Lots of Disposable Razors

Soap

DROP ITEMS OFF IN THE BOX ON THE BLUE TABLES BY OFFICE WINDOWS WE ARE COLLECTING AUGUST THROUGH MID SEPT. THESE ITEMS WILL BE PLACED IN GALLON SIZED ZIP LOCK BAGS Then Delivered to LSSI which then will be delivered to various prisons where needed most all located in Illinois.

Contact: Sandy Hupert sandyhupert@gmail.com

Food Drive

SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE HOSTS



GRAFTON PANTRY FOOD DRIVE



-10805 MAIN ST. HUNTLEY



1ST SUNDAY

8:30 - 11AM

Collecting in Car Outside Main Office Entrance

SIMPLY bring your items for the Food Pantry, drop them off at the vehicle outside by the side door.

We will also have containers inside the Front Door.

Needs for August:

- Peanut Butter
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Ready to Eat Soup

Contact Annette Petersen petersenannette12@gmail.com

Or any mission team member



Please join us this weekend for a Blessing to honor the Kindergarteners and all other students returning for the 2023-2024 school year.

Registration is not required, but it is helpful.

We are excited to see children getting ready for the new school year!

Contact: Jill Gillming jill@sotpmail.com



Help our crafters clear their shelves!

All items have been hand made with love and donated to be sold to help pay down our mortgage.

Free will offering craft sale - all \$ goes toward paying down the mortgage.

- Kitchen Items
- Baby Items
- Gift Boxes
- Tissue Boxes
- Holiday Items
- & More!

Help needed for set up, collecting \$ & clean up. Register here.

Contact: Judie Symbal judie.symbal@att.net



"Come and see!" John 2:46. If you have been worshipping with us for a while here at SOTP or online and would like to know more about us as a worshipping community, we would love to have you join us at our New Member Gathering.

We will be offering the gathering on **Sunday, August 13th, from 3-5:30pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the life and ministry of SOTP and for you to consider prayerfully whether or not you want to formally become a member of the SOTP family.

Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

SEE Week



SEE week, Servant Engagement and Equipping week will kick off on Sunday, August 13 with our New Member Gathering. This is an opportunity for our new friends to find out more about Shepherd of the Prairie, our life in Christ and the community, and to find ways to get engaged in ministry. During the week we invite anyone (not only our new members) who would like to participate in the ministry life of the church to come and see.

On Monday night our ministry teams meet beginning at 7:00 pm. Come and see how you might get plugged into to helping on one of those teams: Community Outreach Team, Children/Youth and Family Team, Mission Team, Property Team, Stewardship Team, Worship Planning

During the week other ministry teams will hold SEE gatherings for those currently serving as well as those who might wish to serve.

Mon - 8/14: Greeters - 6pm & Welcome Center - 4pm

Tues - 8/15: Ushers - 6pm

Wed - 8/16: AV - 5:30 pm & Worship Assistants,7pm

Thurs - 8/17: Welcome Center, 10am & Barnabas, 7pm

Mon 8/21: Kids Connect - 7pm

Please consider and pray about where and how God might be calling you to serve. Thankful for your partnership in the Gospel and come and see.

Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com



We are excited to kick off confirmation with our youth and parents for the new school year!

Register online: www.bit.ly/SOTPconf23

Contact: Pastor Ryan pastorryan@sotpmail.com

Sunday Adult Education



EXPLORING THE DANGERS OF CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

"Christian nationalism is a cultural framework—a collection of myths, traditions, symbols, narratives and value systems—that idealizes and advocates a fusion of Christianity with American civic life." It can distort Biblical Christianity and prevent proper patriotism and true love of country. During each session we will listen to a podcast produced by the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) and then discuss what we have heard. The weekly topics and schedule are listed below.

- September 10: Christian leaders on Christian nationalism (including ELCA Bishop Eaton)
- September 17: Academic view of Christian nationalism
- September 24: Were we founded as a Christian nation?
- October 1: Theological view of Christian nationalism (featuring Walter Brueggemann)
- October 8: Understanding Project Blitz
- October 15: Standing against Project Blitz in a state legislature (featuring John Marty, son of Martin Marty)
- October 22: Christian nationalism, race and white supremacy
- October 29: Christian nationalism and white nationalism
- November 5: Religious freedom, church-state law and Christian nationalism
- November 12: Embracing civic pluralism

Contact: Pastor Roy Olson olson612sr@sbcglobal.net



The bouquets are delivered from the florist for the weekend worship services. The flowers are yours to keep after the Sunday services or you can pick them up on the Monday following. The church is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There are several ways to place an order for altar flowers. You can do so online here, you can also order the flowers on the church website or you can contact Diane on dem910@outlook.com. Payments can be made by credit/debit card or check/cash.

When you order the flowers, you will need to provide your name, the date you would like them, your phone number, and for whom the flowers are dedicated to or in memory of. You will receive a special offering envelope for the payment in the mail if you choose to pay by check or cash. If you have any questions, please call Diane Mollis at 224-654-6677.

Thank you for contributing to beautify the altar during our services at Shepherd of the Prairie.

Contact: Diane Mollis dem910@outlook.com

Prairie Pointe Quilters Monthly on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 9:00 am No Experience Necessary

The Prairie Pointe Quilters are hard at work finishing as many quilts as they can to fill the sanctuary in early August.

We're hoping to have 100 to send to Lutheran World Relief for people all over the world! We only have a couple meetings left so we could use any help you could provide. And we have TREATS!

We meet the first and third Tuesday of each month. Here is another example of one of the quilts - love the happy sunflowers and daisies!

Contact Bev Kenny with any questions krkbjk@comcast.net .



Shepherd of the Prairie is excited to announce that we now have an online apparel store!

Our online store will be available all the time moving forward so feel free to browse here as well: http://bit.ly/SOTPlogowear. While on the site, you may see that in some places, it asks about "players." The company we are using provides services to a lot of sports teams so that is why that word is there. Please skip any request to enter "player" info.

SHIPPING OPTIONS:

- Flat Rate (\$11.00) Shipped to your house (3 weeks time)
- In Store Pickup (Schaumburg, IL) (\$0.00)
 European Sports, 830 E Golf Rd Suite A, Schaumburg, IL 60173
 - You would need to pick (3 weeks time) OR
 - You can wait for the church to make a bulk pickup
 - For this option, you can expect to receive your items by the end of following month of purchase
 - IE all purchases in August, you will receive towards the end of September

All purchases help SOTP provide our outreach t-shirts for events like parades and events in the community.

Contact: Matt Morrison matt@sotpmail.com

A Guide to Pre-Planning Your Funeral Service

Shepherd of the Prairie has a document that is helpful to have filled out for your loved ones as they plan your funeral.



This funeral planning guide is available online at www.bit.ly/SOTPplan or as a hard copy in the church office.

Saturday Night

Ushers Needed

Saturday night ushers needed for the 5th Saturday of the month.

You would serve ONLY four times a year. Wanted: two persons or a couple to fill this request.

Please join our Team.

Contact: Barb Hoppensteadt hoppen@sbcglobal.net



Vacation Bible School

Thank You!

VBS this summer was a huge success!!!

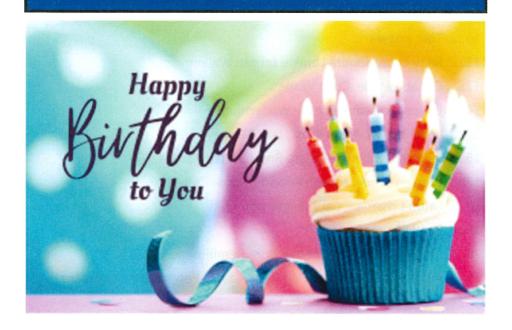
We had 90 kids, and over 40



volunteers, it was incredible. Ready, Set, Move! Following Jesus here, there, and everywhere was our theme. Kids had a busy adventure everyday singing songs, playing games, making crafts, eating delicious snacks, and hearing amazing stories about Jesus. (PLease include some pictures of vbs)

A special thank you to all of our volunteers that helped make our VBS this year unbelievable!

August Birthdays



- 1.....Ricky Falbo, Anthony Galati, John Kawa, Noah McCabe, Alexandria Miley, Troy Miller
- 2..... Kristi Allegretti, Darin Allison, Caelyn Caddoo
- 3..... Jennifer Baumstark, Nate Brown, Carla Elam
- 4..... David Macaulay, Emmetta Shepard, Kathryn Weston
- 5..... Donald Campbell, Len Suski
- 6..... Doreen Brangenberg
- 7..... Lauren Black, Bob Kapheim, Joanne Klinger, Norah Nagel, Marley Reicher
- 8..... Laura Klaus, LuAnn Munneke, Josh Ramey
- 9..... MacKenzie Alpert, Madison Alpert, Christopher Murray, Nancy Ottinger, Ron Tenggren, Sarah Wolf

(Continued on page 15)

August Birthdays

10 Tom Knawa
11 Riley Dase, Sandra Lemke, Jordan Walker
12 Carlee Petelle, Colin Wade
14 Emerson Kramp, Crosby Wildermuth
15 Erica Bishop, Alexa Ernst, Jack Mackey
16 Cade Golembeck, Marissa Rojas, Nathan Stopka
17 Warren Brody, Joseph Roberts, Sarah Roberts
18 Laura Crissman, Carol Engstrom
19 Sandy Tenggren
20 Jon Cook, Tyler Hennessy, Nora Kemblowski
21 Aidan Hibbeler, Savannah Patel, James Puls, Austin Stallbaum, Mary Jo Winkenwerder
22 Christine Black, Mitchell Smith
23 Barbara Auwerda, Patricia Buesing, Jared Grabs, Carrie Lyne Mathiesen
24 Caleb Crespo, Jim Doty, Daphne Shaw, Louis Soest, Jim Stancl
25 Chris Brittain, Marjorie Marlowe, Christa Serpe
26 Joseph Browne, Linda Rotter
27 Jessica Hess, Phil Stegge, Nancy Wilson
28 Jim Auwerda, Brian Bala, Grace Clifford, Nate Clifford, Cassidy Mathiesen, Rebecca Powe, Abby Ressler, Mary Victorson
29 Adam Adams, Sue Wehnes

30..... Bonnie Bayser, Robert McDuffee, Timothy Reincke, Rick Wright

31..... Valerie Tomanica

Weekend Serving Schedule

August 2023

		August 5/6	August 12/13	August 19/20	August 26/27
Counters	Mo n	Donna Turner, Diana Murphy & Marilyn Wilhelm			
	SAT 5:0 0 PM	Interested in Serving Here? Contact: Elaine Gillam suggillam@aol.com			
Greeters	SU N 9:0 O AM	Linda & Ken Rotter	Eileen Gerald Terry Halpin	Dottie Bobzin Candy Beck	Laura Attaway Carol Engstrom
	SU N 10: 45 AM	Bob & Carolyn Malm	Bob & Carolyn Malm	Bob & Carolyn Malm	Bob & Carolyn Malm

		August 5/6	August 12/13	August 19/20	August 26/27
Ushers Interested in Serving Here?	SAT 5:00 PM	Joy Nesta Lynn Meyer	Diana Murphy Jim Murphy	Sue Mattiucci Carol Hartman	Steve Murphy Joy Nesta

Contact:

Ed Cuttle edschn28@ comcast.net	SUN 9:00 AM	WALTER LEMKE Art Ryden Chris Solem Tim Bueschel Mickey Kappel Cathy Kappel	JACK CONTI Pete Thompson Frank Cesario Carol Engstrom Cheryl Rotermund Jeff Ottens	WAYNE SCHMIDT Nancy Wilson Arja Kasper Dan Wentzlof Mike Malczewski Jeff Stangle	RALPH WEHNES George Attaway Ed & Carolyn Cuttle Jerry & Pat Darow
	SUN 10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Chuck Peterson Annika Yndestad	MARK FRENDREIS Sandi Stewart Jessica Panella	DOUG NAGEL Don Koerner Judy Petropulos	VIK BEKERIS Bob Mollis Diane Mollis

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Report as of June 30, 2023

General Fund Report: The Unrestricted General Fund Balance is \$352,316. Total income for the month was \$78,623 and total expenses for the month was \$93,026 **. Approximately 4.35 months of General Fund reserves.

General Fund reserves. Mortgage Service Fund Report: The Mortgage Service Fund Balance is \$53,689. Income for the month was \$13,421. The monthly mortgage payment is \$18,807. Approximately 2.85 months of Mortgage Service Fund reserves.

This Month

General Fund	Actual	Budget	Difference	Percentage	
Income:	\$78,623	\$80,151	(\$1,528)	-2.0%	
Expenses:	\$93,026	\$97,269	\$4,243	4.36%	
		Year-to-Date			
General Fund	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Percentage	
Income:	\$470,771	\$509,651	(\$38,880)	-7.6%	
Expenses:	\$487,213	\$491,001	\$3,788	.7%	

Mortgage Service Fund

Income for Month:

Income YTD:

\$13,421

\$100,020

Payments YTD:

\$112,842

Ending Fund Balance: \$53,689

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy McGuine

Congregation Treasurer

^{**} Expenses include new payroll policy changes for 2023.

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

Worship Schedule

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am Traditional & 10:45 am Contemporary

or online at sotp.org and Facebook Live Worship with us in person



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE

10805 Main Street Huntley, IL 60142 847/669-9448 sotp.org

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