



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

Congregational Newsletter February 2013

EXODUS' WELCOME TO AMERICA FAMILY

Twice a year SOTP participates in Exodus International's Welcome to America Welcome Pack Program. This provides a warm welcome for a courageous refugee family when they arrive. It helps turn their first apartment into a home by supplying all of the basic household items needed for the bedroom, bathroom and kitchen and a first month's supply of food staples.



*Chris & Mary Trodahl and Carl & Sandy Hupert
with the Sum Family from Burma*

On Tuesday morning, January 15, the Sum Family arrived from Burma. The Trodahl's and Hupert's had the honor of delivering and setting up such items to the Sum Family on the first day of their arrival to the United States. The family consists of: father Sum, Kham Lian; mother Cing, No Zam; and a toddler girl named Huai, Nel Dieh. They are a Christian family from the Chin sect of

Burma where they worked as farmers and a waiter. They came with their life possessions of three suitcases. Of course they were exhausted from their long trip and they do not speak any English, but were still kind enough to let us take a few pictures to share with SOTP.

Thanks everyone for the many items donated. If we don't collect the items, the costs comes to about \$600. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Important Dates in February

Feb. 3.....Grafton Food Pantry Collection	Feb. 15.....SOTP Bowling League
Feb. 5.....Prairie Points Quilters	Feb. 16.....First Communion Instruction
Feb. 6.....Men's Fellowship Breakfast	Feb. 18.....Council Meeting
Feb. 7.....Prairie Crafters	Feb. 19.....Prairie Points Quilters
Feb. 8.....Scrapbooking	Feb. 20.....Lenten Service
Feb. 11Ministry Meeting Night	Feb. 21.....Mary/Martha Bible Study
Feb. 13GEMS, Ash Wednesday Services	Feb. 23.....First Communion Instruction
Feb. 14Prayer Shawls	Feb. 27.....GEMS, Lenten Service

A Note From Pastor Mark

Dear Christian Friends,

Lent and Holy Week at Shepherd of the Prairie

Wow!!! Lent begins early this year. It seems we just finished giving birth to the Christ child in our lives and now we are planning in preparation for Jesus journey to Jerusalem.

Lent is our invitation to journey with our Lord on his walk to the cross. Lent is our invitation to let go of some of things in our life which may be keeping us away from love and service. Lent is 40 days of preparation to renew commitments which empower lives to experience true joy.

This year we will be using as our theme a verse from Luke's Gospel. "When the days

drew near for him to leave this earth, Jesus "set his face" to Jerusalem to encounter the pain of the cross on our behalf (Luke 9:51)." Our Lenten Midweek worship services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 13. In our worship together we will set our faces on the cross of Christ that lies before us. As we face the cross during these Lenten days, we also face certain aspects in our lives which are not always in line with the cross. We will be encouraged to work on some of these through the cross of Christ—who came to save us that we might see him face-to-face in heaven.

Please make worship and service a vital part of your Easter preparations this year.

Pastor Mark

Ash Wednesday, February 13 – 12 Noon and 7:00 p.m.

"Facing Our Sins" • Romans 3:23-24

We come to terms with our sinfulness and rejoice in Christ's forgiveness.

Wednesday, February 20 – 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper at 6:00 pm.

"Facing Temptation" • Hebrews 4:14-15

We acknowledge that we give in to temptations at times, but rest on the power of Christ to resist the devil.

Wednesday, February 27 – 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper at 6:00 pm.

"Facing Our Fears" • Isaiah 41:10

Recognizing what strikes fear in our hearts helps us to grab on more tightly to Christ.

Wednesday, March 6 – 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper at 6:00 pm.

"Facing Our Worldliness" • Matthew 6:19-21

Accepting we are often all too dependent on worldly goods opens the door to seeing the value of everlasting blessings.

Wednesday, March 13 – 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper at 6:00 pm.

"Facing One Another" • Ephesians 4:31-32

Confessing that we have not always treated each other in a Christ like manner helps to build better relationships.

Wednesday, March 20 – 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper at 6:00 pm.

"Facing Suffering" • Romans 8:18-19

Enduring suffering in this world connects us to Christ and points us to the joy to come.

Maundy Thursday, March 28 – 7:00 p.m.

Living Last Supper

Good Friday, March 29

10:00 a.m. Children's Worship

7:00 p.m. The Lord's Supper with Tenebrae

Resurrection Weekend – Facing the Future

Saturday, March 30 – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 31 – 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

LITTLE LAMBS EARLY LEARNING REGISTRATION

Little Lambs Early Learning Program is now accepting registrations for the 2013 - 2014 school year. Our program is Bible-story-based and includes developmentally appropriate structured time (craft, music, calendar, learning activities, etc.), as well as free play. We have programs for children ages 2 - 4 by September 1, 2013. Children do not need to be potty trained. Our class sizes are small (not more than 10 children in the 1 day classes or 12 in the 2 day class). Classes meet from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Our classes are open to members and non-members of SOTP. For more information, availability, and tuition/registration fees, please contact Jill Gillming at littlelambs@sotpmail.com.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST!

On **Wednesday, February 6**, we will meet at **Sammy's Restaurant at 9:00 a.m.** for breakfast. Sammy's is located on Route 47 in Huntley just north of the train tracks. All men of SOTP are welcome to attend.



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION FOR 5TH GRADERS



First Communion instruction for 5th graders will be held from **9:30 - 10:30 a.m. on the following Saturdays: February 16 & 23 and March 9 & 16. Students will receive their First Communion on Sunday, March 17.** Please call the church office at (847)669-9448 to register your child.

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

We would like to invite each of you to deepen your understanding of and possible call to belonging to Shepherd of the Prairie. Come and enjoy an informal gathering on **Sunday, February 10 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** Those who desire to become members will be welcomed during the worship services the following Sunday, February 17. Please call the church office at (847)669-9448 to let us know if you will be participating with us and if you will need child care for the afternoon.

Youth Culture News

Boundaries For Teenagers

By Walt Mueller, President of The Center for Parent and Youth Understanding

I once heard someone define a teenager as “an adult waiting to happen.” One reason why the adolescent years tend to be marked by parent/teen conflict is that teenagers believe they are adults who deserve and can handle total freedom, while parents might fail to recognize that their kids are growing up, resulting in never allowing them any measure of freedom. The precarious balancing act we need to perform as parents of teenagers is like holding a wet bar of soap. If you hold it too tightly it will shoot right out of your hands. If you hold it too loosely, it will fall out as well.

Establishing well thought-out boundaries is very important. Parents who maintain total control over their growing teens risk finding themselves with an angry and rebellious adolescent on their hands. Many rebellious teens I’ve met have grown up in overly strict Christian homes. On the other hand, parents who release all control at once may get a positive reaction from their kids. After all, our kids want freedom. But they usually want that freedom in doses they can’t yet handle. This approach is like putting our kids into a boat and pushing them out into the ocean without a rudder, sail, motor, paddle, or compass. They are left to the mercy of the environment and their own inexperience. . . and it’s a recipe for disaster.

We need to protect our teens from themselves and from others. They need to learn how to live a disciplined life. They need to learn how to set guidelines and make responsible choices for themselves. It is advisable to allow them to develop these skills by using the “going out to play” model.

When our children are little, we don’t allow them to wander around outside by themselves. Mom or Dad take them by the hand and keep a careful watch on them while they play. When we are sure that they know not to wander out into the street, we might let them play in the backyard by themselves. Of course, we spend much of our time checking out the window or opening the door to yell, “What are you doing? Are you OK?”

As our children continue to grow up, we begin to trust their judgment more and more. Soon they are able to cross the street without our assistance. They can walk to a neighbor’s house or play in a friend’s yard. Before long they take long bike rides into other neighborhoods. Even though we might worry about their safety, we trust their judgment because we have watched them make good choices on their own. We need to implement this “going out to play” model as we set and expand the boundaries of personal choice and responsibility. As our kids begin to earn our trust, we widen the boundaries further. My father constantly used to remind me that, in our house, “privileges come with responsibility.” As much as those four words used to get on my teenaged nerves, his approach was totally right.

Think about it: Read *Ephesians 6:4*. What does this passage say about setting boundaries for children and teens? How much is too little? How much is too much? How would you rate your efforts at setting boundaries? Do you need to make any “boundary adjustments?”

TRENDS

HOKKAH—Anti-smoking efforts targeting children and teens have typically focused on preventing the use and abuse of cigarettes. Now, experts are calling for efforts to reduce the number of teens smoking flavored tobacco from Hookah pipes. It seems that the use of Hookah pipes is on the rise, with 18.5% of 12th grade students admitting to smoking a hookah pipe during the previous year. One reason for the rise is that many teens think that smoking a hookah is safer than smoking cigarettes. But smoking a hookah is dangerous and there are serious health risks. Hookah smoke contains many of the same toxins as cigarette tobacco and has been associated with lung cancer and other types of respiratory illness. Of course, the best preventive effort we can put forth is taking the time to talk to our kids about the dangers of smoking a hookah or any other type of implement. Remember, our kids think they are invulnerable and immune to any short or long term risks or harm. Take the time to warn your kids about hookah smoke.



Latest Research

SUICIDE—One of the ugliest words we can encounter is suicide. Many of us have had friends take their own lives. Many have looked into the eyes of parents whose children took their own lives. We've all heard or read countless news stories about hopeless teenagers who found the darkness of a self-inflicted death to be better than the pain of their lives. The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention now reports that almost 16% of our high-school aged teens have considered suicide, with half of those considering suicide making some attempt to take their own lives. Experts are now connecting the dots

between these horrifying statistics and a technological culture that's created more avenues for the kind of bullying that leads to hopelessness. We must always be watching for the signs of suicide. And where we suspect that a student is struggling, we should ask them if they are considering suicide, and then get them Christ-centered help.

Youth Culture Hot Quote: For me, aspiring to be an artist at a young age, I didn't think about being a role model. But I definitely thought about being an inspiration. So I hope that I am an inspiration, especially with my work ethic and my ability to overcome obstacles. - Katy Perry, in an interview for *Billboard Magazine* after being named *Billboard's Woman of the Year*, November 30, 2012

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE ON 2012 GOALS

Last January, Shepherd of the Prairie leaders (council members, staff members and key ministry group chairs) met for a half-day to chart the direction for Shepherd of the Prairie for 2012. Results of that meeting became the basis for specific goals developed by the Council to guide Shepherd of the Prairie for 2012. These goals were shared with the congregation via Temple Talks and the March Newsletter. The goals and results are summarized below.

Goal: Enlarge the culture of involvement in Christ-like ministry in and through His Church. Because we care for God's children of all ages we encourage Shepherd of the Prairie members to be blessed by and bless others with Christ-like service.

Shepherd of the Prairie has been blessed with a congregation that actively seeks to apply our Statement of Purpose: "Caring for God's Children of All Ages by Growing Disciples who make disciples." As our congregation grows our ministry should also grow. This goal includes tasks that help continue and encourage Shepherd of the Prairie's culture of ministry to others.

The essence of this goal is to "grease the skids" for members to become involved by making it easy for them to participate. A key form of involvement and caring is through intergenerational ministry with 2012 events such as the Green Tree landscaping event, the church picnic, Mission Ministry Night, the LOMC Swing Choir event and the Peter Eide concert. To make it easier for members to participate, emphasis was placed on both new and current members to complete the Ministry Interest Form and for the appropriate ministry to follow-up to welcome new members to their team. This is a challenge for all congregations and while we experienced some start up issues, we also had successes with adding ministry members and finding ministry leadership this year through these efforts. Yet more still remains to be done.

Goal: Encourage and equip current and future Shepherd of the Prairie leaders by providing training and resources that grow leadership capabilities.

With the growth Shepherd of the Prairie is experiencing, the Retreat highlighted the need to further encourage and equip current and future leaders to support day-to-day operations as well as our statement of purpose.

Pastor Bill gave short but instructive presentations on Christian Leadership on four different Ministry Meeting Nights (2nd Monday of each month) to ministry group members. To strengthen ministry team leadership, ministry groups with council liaison were asked to identify a vice chair to fill in when the chair is absent and to have agendas and minutes for their meetings. Ministry group members were encouraged to attend the Northern Synod's Congregational Resource Event in March and to plan for the 2013 event this coming March. Pastor Mark also accompanied an interested high school student on a seminary day trip. Pastor Mark hopes to make this an annual opportunity.

Goal: Ensure good stewardship of the existing human and physical resources at Shepherd of the Prairie.

Stewardship encompasses many aspects of Christian living. The Retreat identified one aspect of stewardship that can easily be overlooked: stewardship of existing human and physical resources. This goal seeks to strengthen Shepherd of the Prairie processes that define our congregation and take steps to ensure these processes continue in the future.

A key concern for the council was how to support Saturday night services with only one called pastor. Pastor Mark has been faithful in his commitment to both Saturday night and Sunday worship services. This is an unrealistic commitment to expect of only one called pastor. The Council approved up to three additional weekends off per year for Pastor Mark until an additional called, ordained pastor is hired. Before proceeding the Council confirmed that both human and financial resources were available to cover pulpit supply for these additional weekends.

There are many activities performed by dedicated members at Shepherd of the Prairie – some are visible and others are “behind the scenes” but essential. The question is: would someone else be able to step in and perform these activities? So, we asked each responsible ministry group to start documenting their processes (visible or not) to provide continuity in our ministries. One particular need identified was audio/visual resources to support worship services and special events. Following a review of needs and other discussions, the Council passed a motion to contract part-time technical services to support volunteers and to ensure Shepherd of the Prairie has high quality sound and visual experiences to support meaningful worship and special events. Greg Dowell was hired part-time to fill this role for one year. When the year is complete, the council will reassess the situation and determine what is required going forward.

To oversee congregational support ministries such as Home Communion, Helping Hands, Hospital Visitations, Prairie Guides, Visitor/Newcomer Follow-Up, Prayer Ministry, Coffee Hour, Sports, etc., an In-Reach Ministry team was formed under the leadership of Donna Kelly. Initial areas of focus in 2013 will be Caring Call Ministry and Home Communion.

Goal: Begin the process to develop a long-range plan (3-5 years) for Shepherd of the Prairie.

Several themes raised at the retreat led to the conclusion that Shepherd of the Prairie needs a long-range plan to give direction to our congregation over the next 3 to 5 years. A long-range plan will help us make appropriate decisions on staffing, future construction, training required, plan for a potential sabbatical, etc. To develop this plan, we anticipate a 3 to 6 month process to gather information, seek input from the congregation, share what is found with the congregation and finally formulate a Shepherd of the Prairie plan to present to the congregation for approval. Jeff Cordle

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WELCA

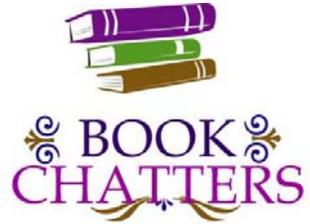
We are looking forward to the **SPRING RETREAT on April 13**. Mark your calendars! More news to come...

SCRAPBOOKING will be held on **Friday, February 8 from 6-11 p.m.** at the church. Come out and enjoy some fellowship while you get those pictures organized! Please RSVP to Renae at renae@sotpmail.com by February 4.

MARY MARTHA BIBLE STUDY will meet on **Thursday, February 21 at 1:00 p.m.**

BOOK CHATTERS

Book Chatters will tackle two forms of media in February: a movie and a book! We'll be reading Tatiana de Rosnay's *Sarah's Key*. Participants will read the book prior to our meeting at **noon** on **February 20**. When we first meet, we will watch the movie of the same name and follow the viewing with a discussion of the book and how the movie folks did at making a movie of it. Bring lunch if you want to, so you can munch as you watch -- popcorn will also be provided.



Sarah's Key is a very readable novel about a child of Paris in the early 1940's. But it is much more than simply another novel about Europe during the Second World War. It also takes place in present day, and provides mystery and emotions in all sorts of twists and turns. There is lots to digest and lots to discuss. The book is available at local libraries and in paperback at local and mail-order book stores. Ask around, maybe a friend owns one and will loan you a copy -- several book clubs have read this book in the last year.

Please join us as we travel down another literary lane....

PRAIRIE CRAFTERS

Do you have an idea or two for our Spring Craft Sale? We are always looking for ideas. Would you like to put together a plastic canvas or cross stitch kit for our sale in March? We will give you the kit and even teach you how to put it together. Join us at our meeting **Thursday, February 7 at 9:00 a.m.**

PARENTS OF GEMS



Thank you for faithfully bringing your daughter to GEMS! We are enjoying getting to know them. We would like to let you know that beginning February 13 we will start GEMS as usual at 6:00 p.m. We will do a craft and short discussion time. Then at 7:00 p.m. we will join the congregation in the sanctuary for Lenten services. You are welcome to join your daughter at that time in church, pick her up then or pick her up after the service. The service usually lasts about 45 minutes. If you are planning on picking your daughter up before the service, please be at church before 7:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. we will have everyone go into church. There will be no GEMS the week of Holy Week (March 27). Have a great week and let us know if you have any questions.

Peace,

Jenn Huston (Jennhuston77@gmail.com) & Brandi Lorenzo
(Brandilorenzo96@gmail.com)

STITCHIN' TIME

We meet on **Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the church. Learn to knit and crochet. We will also give you a plastic canvas or cross stitch kit and teach you how to put it together for our sale on March 10.

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

The Stubbs Family, our missionaries in Tanzania, sent Christmas greetings and shared a bit how they celebrated Christmas this year at Arusha Community Church and the music presented at the choral celebration. Keep them in your prayers and check out their website at stubbsmission.info.

*Randy & Carol Stubbs
Megan, Marissa, & Nathan*



ADULT EDUCATION

The **month of February** is a grand opportunity for something new in adult education! **On Sunday, February 3, at both 9:00 & 10:30 a.m., and on Wednesday, February 6 (there will not be a class on Tuesday evening, February 5), we'll consider our own journeys of faith.** Both Pastor Bill and Pastor Mark will share their own stories of how God has worked in their lives to bring them to this point in their ministries. And you will be invited to think about the same! Who are those people who brought you the Gospel? What are those places that have been important to you in your faith development? How have your life events deepened or challenged your faith in God? Come and join us as we explore together the roads of faith that we have traveled!

Then a new series begins February 17, the First Sunday in Lent! For six weeks--on Sundays at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m., Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00, and on Wednesday mornings from 11:00 to noon--we'll explore together *Making Sense of the Cross* by David Lose. Dr. Lose is a New Testament professor at Luther Seminary, and has a wonderful way of connecting with folks of all ages in a congregation. What does the cross mean? Why the cross at all? How do we understand the cross--as God's judgment on a sinful world? As a demonstration of God's unbounded love? Did Jesus take our place? These and other questions will be brought to the table through a video and discussion. A student book is available (suggested but not necessary) for \$11 each. This exciting journey will take us through the season of Lent, concluding the week of Palm Sunday.

You may not have joined us before for Adult Education, but, believe me, this is a wonderful opportunity to get started! You don't have to be a biblical scholar. Why, you don't even need to know where the book of Amos is in the Bible! **All you need is a bit of curiosity, an openness to learn, and a desire to deepen your relationship with Jesus.** So come join us for six weeks of exploring his cross--what it meant for Jesus and what it means for us.

Pastor Bill Waxenberg

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed this month for the Grafton Food Pantry:

cereal*, deodorant*, dish soap, paper towels, syrup, jello, kleenex, shampoo*, cooking oil, razors

(*desperate need)

Thank you so very much for your generosity.



COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS FOR FEBRUARY

February 3—Lynn Broederdorf
 February 10—Betty Zimmerman
 February 13 (Ash Wednesday) - Pat Fiorese
 February 17—Elaine Neukirch
 February 24—Jen Powe

Saturdays

February 2—Judy Spencer

February 9, 16, 23—Sally Schuett



If you are interested in baking bread for Communion or have any questions about this ministry, please contact Pat Fiorese at (847)687-9164 or email a3ptkicker@sbcglobal.net.

ALTAR GUILD—FEBRUARY

- * **Saturday:** Volunteers
- * **Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.- Set-up:**
 Ann Lehman, Carol Fabian
 Alternates: Judie Symbal, Sue Wehnes
- * **Sunday 10:45 a.m. - Take-down**
 February 3—Carol Lilla & Linda Jahr
 February 10, 17, 24—Sandy Hupert & Linda Jahr
- * **Ash Wednesday—February 13**
 Set-up—Sue Wehnes
 Take-down—TBA

WORSHIP GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY

	Saturday 5 p.m.	Sunday 9 a.m.	Sunday 10:45 a.m.
Feb. 3	Kay O'Shanna	Ron & P.J. Knudsen	Bob & Carolyn Malm
Feb. 10	Kay O'Shanna	Warren & Elaine Brody	Bob & Carolyn Malm
Feb. 17	Lois Kenyon	Chris & Mary Trodahl	Bob & Carolyn Malm
Feb. 24	Brian & Jamie Bremer	Chris & Sara Solem	Bob & Carolyn Malm

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has agreed to lead this team and, while some preliminary work has started, most of this effort will occur in 2013

The Council also asked the Mutual Ministry team to develop a sabbatical policy based on ELCA guidelines. The policy is documented in the Mutual Ministry report elsewhere in the Annual Report and will be voted on at the January 27, 2013 Annual Meeting. Under the policy, only Pastor Mark would currently be eligible for a sabbatical as a full-time, ordained pastor called by Shepherd of the Prairie. If the congregation approves the sabbatical policy, Pastor Mark may consider taking one in 2014.

In Summary

The goals and results above reflect specific tasks the Council and ministry groups focused on in 2012, but so much more is happening at Shepherd of the Prairie as we continue to grow our congregation and expand its ministries. Shepherd of the Prairie is truly blessed with a congregation who is sincere in seeking to apply our Statement of Purpose: “Caring for God’s Children of All Ages by Growing Disciples Who Make Disciples.” So let’s continue to encourage each other to bless others and be blessed with this Christ-like service in 2013 and beyond.

*Larry Newbanks
President, Congregational Council*

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR—RECYCLE!

The Outreach Team would like to continue to encourage those who worship at SOTP to be a good neighbor to the Huntley Library and support the library’s ongoing newspaper recycling project. Last year this fundraiser provided over \$1200 for the library! The fundraiser supports many programs and activities sponsored by the library. You can deposit your newspapers, magazines, copy paper, and shredded bills/papers in the collection bins located on the east side of the parking lot at the Huntley Library at 11000 Ruth Road at any time.

**PLEASE REMEMBER: NO CARDBOARD, NO TELEPHONE BOOKS,
NO PLASTIC BAGS!**

Thank you SOTP for helping to make this fundraiser a success!

OUTREACH—HUNTLEY EXPO ON FEBRUARY 23 & 24

2013
Huntley
CHAMBER HOME & BUSINESS EXPO

The Outreach Team has been discussing several ways we can reach out to the community to share our love for Jesus. SOTP will be represented at the **Huntley**

Expo on February 23 and 24. Our booth will include information about the ministries offered in our church, programs for the Youth, Little Lambs Early Learning Program, VBS, games and prizes. The Expo will be at Marlowe Middle School located at 9625 Haligus Road (Corner of Reed Road & Haligus Road) in Huntley.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THE EXPO A SUCCESS! Please consider taking a little time to help run the booth and tell others about our church. This is a great opportunity to have fun with friends and family. Please sign up to help: email Jim McGuine at mcguinejim@yahoo.com or call (847)494-9801.

*Your Outreach Team
Barbara Hoch, Chairperson*

LENTEN OFFERING -- FAITH IN ACTION OF MCHENRY COUNTY

The SOTP Lenten Offering will be sent to Faith in Action. This organization assists our senior neighbors in McHenry County and in Sun City to live independently in their own homes or with loved ones. Services include transportation, home and yard maintenance, respite for caregivers, companionship, medical equipment loans. There is no charge for the services.

Become a Faith in Action Volunteer While our money offering is important, Faith in Action depends on volunteers to provide the services to seniors. Can you help? There are opportunities in transportation, yard work, visits, phone calls, and many more. Volunteer training is offered. If you are interested, contact the Faith in Action volunteer coordinator, Susan McCoy at (815)455-3120.



*Faith In
Action*

Do you or a family member need services? If you are age 60 or older and live at home in McHenry County or Sun City Huntley, you are eligible. If you can use a little help with minor home maintenance, transportation, friendly visits or phone calls, and many other services, contact Faith in Action at (815)455-3120.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Month	<u>January 2012</u>
<u>Loan Balance</u>	<u>\$1,167,118.24</u>
Estimate Payoff Date	12-1-2021

OFFERING COUNTERS FOR FEBRUARY



- ◆ Warren Brody
- ◆ Gloria Samuelson
- ◆ Helen Berry

FINANCIAL RECORDS

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church only keeps financial records on members and non-members that have envelopes assigned. If you are not a member and would like envelopes, please contact the church office.

2013 ESTIMATE OF GIVING RESULTS

Thank you to everyone that responded by filling out an "Estimate of Giving" hard copy or email response. As of the end of December, 86% of our giving units have responded with 216 pledges for the General Fund and 182 pledges for the Building Fund. The dollar amounts are \$436,586 for the General Fund and \$210,286 for the Building Fund. The General Fund is +8% compared to last year and the Building Fund is -6%. Last year we received 39 online pledges and this year it increased to 88.

END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

2012 Giving Statements were sent by email the week of January 14. If you requested a printed copy please pick it up from the usher's table. If you did not receive your statement by email it could be because we do not have a valid email address. Please advise Renae at renae@sotpmail.com with your email address. Check the box on the usher's table for your statement. Any questions or discrepancies should be reported to Sue Wehnes at (224)569-2808 or susanwehnes@sbcglobal.net.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Barbara Hoch, Gavin Falbisaner
- 2 Noel Lemke, Ivan Suski
- 3 Steve Barnard
- 4 Brigitte Pelka, Ryan Gartzke
- 5 Abby Gillming
- 6 Albert Guerrieri, Sydney Patel
- 7 Arlene Kraaz, Maximus Reed
- 9 Susan Blotch, Conner Gillming,
Jordan DeBolt
- 10 Mark Kowalski, Joshua Symbal
- 11 Annika McNeal
- 12 Pat Schmidt, Grace Boster
- 13 Zoe Dowell
- 14 Donald Kruto
- 15 Suzanne Dunn, Silvia Forsythe,
Elizabeth Raines
- 16 Alexa Piskule
- 17 Gail Barnard, Chuck Petersen,
Donna Kelly, Bud Hansen
- 18 Kim Kowalski, Kari Arndt,
Susan Coe
- 19 Nanette Ridgway, Linda Jahr,
Ralph Scalise, Gregg Gillming
- 20 Carol Kalbas, Halie Gartzke
- 21 Patty Driscoll-Shaw
- 22 Heidi Dunfrund,
Russell Lundstrom,
Mary Arneson
- 23 Avery Andersen
- 24 Rebecca DiVenere
- 25 Justin Anderson, Raquel Lemke
- 26 Don Petelle, Tim Papka,
Kaitlyn Guttenberg
- 27 Alan Busch, Nicole Flanagan,
Charlie Powe
- 28 Mary Trodahl, Joan Rice,
George Bull, Matt Konie,
Jason Bloomfield

Our Vision:
**"Caring for God's Children of All Ages
 By Growing Disciples Who Make
 Disciples"**

10805 Main Street, Huntley, IL 60142
 Office Phone: 847-669-9448
 Fax: 847-669-9455
 Office Hours: 9:00 a. m.-Noon, Mon-Fri

Pastor Mark Boster
 847-515-2713 (Home)
 pastormark@sotp.org

Pastor Bill Waxenberg
 Director of Adult Education
 pastorbill@sotp.org

Greg Dowell
 Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator
 greggornation@gmail.com

Jane McMullen
 Director of Music & Worship
 jane@sotp.org

Dennis Lilla
 Technology Support Manager
 dennis@sotp.org

Renaee Greene
 Office Manager
 renaee@sotp.org

Michael Waal
 Organist/Piano Accompanist
 michael@sotp.org

Kristy Warnke
 Prairie Ringers, Little Lambs

Sandy Martin
 Cherub Choir

Carol Waxenberg
 Blessings Choir

Denise James
 Joy Ringers

Diana Reincke
 Sunday School Director

Sue Wehnes
 Contributions Secretary

Tammy Uteg
 Music Librarian

Congregation Council
Larry Newbanks, President
Bob McDuffee, Vice President
Kathy Pizarro, Secretary
Devin Burg, Treasurer
Rebecca Fulcer
Mike McCann
Kathy McGuine
Theresa Molgren
Wayne Schmidt