



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

Congregational Newsletter *June 2013*

VBS 2013

Enter the epic adventure that empowers kids to stand strong! Here, God's victorious power isn't a fairy tale—it changes kids forever. Join this royally-rocking' realm—register online to be a part of Kingdom Rock VBS or become a volunteer! Registration is open to children as young as 3 years old (potty trained) up to entering 4th grade. Just click on the link below to register your child or to volunteer:

www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/SOTP



Important Dates in June

June 1 WELCA General Meeting,
Prayer Shawl Celebration
June 2 Grafton Food Pantry
Collection, Prayer Shawl
Celebration
June 4 Prairie Points Quilters
June 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
June 6 Beth Moore Bible Study,
Prairie Crafters
June 8 Mission Trip Departure
June 10 Ministry Meeting Night

June 13 Prayer Shawls, Beth Moore
Bible Study
June 15 Mission Trip Returns
June 17 Council Meeting
June 18 Prairie Points Quilters
June 20 Beth Moore Bible Study
June 23 Stewardship Workshop, Merry
Widows
June 27 Beth Moore Bible Study
June 30 Stewardship Workshop, Youth
Sunday

A Note From Pastor Mark

Dear Christian Friends,

This morning I read through the 23rd Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. We have all met people who by their words or actions try to convey to others that they are indeed great, maybe not yet famous but with a little bit of luck or some financial backing, they undoubtedly will certainly leave their mark one way or another. And then you have those who by their very nature are content to go about the task of daily living, taking time to see that those less fortunate are given a helping hand or encouragement in addition to their need for food, housing or financial aid.

The church is always looking for help. Offer what help you can. Also, when do we take the time and effort to help our neighbor regardless of their status or where they live in this world? We are a global community, so perhaps we sometimes ask if we even make a difference. Do we sometimes expect a "payback?" Do we need some token "Thank you" in return? Or, are we tired and growing indifferent to the constant request for help? Do we need to call attention to our "works"?

In light of recent events in Oklahoma we certainly do have hearts drawn by the love of Christ to those in need.

What you do, or say or give certainly makes a big difference! If you are not able to do physical work, you can contribute money, prayers, or assist in some of the other unseen tasks that need to be done. You don't have to be skilled, just willing. So your photo or name fails to appear as one of those helping out, so what? God sees it all and what can top that?

In addition to reading from *Matthew* 23, I also encourage you to consider the first verse of *Matthew* 6: "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

No one likes to listen to a braggart or to be around one, unless of course, you can top what they have done and would like them to know it. When one works among other humble and giving people, an air of mutual respect and admiration is formed by those working alongside you and one becomes united in a spiritual sense so thanks for a job well done is a 'community' event.

Faith and hope create a love that is much more life-giving than fame can ever offer. Don't even think about doing good for someone or for some cause, just do it!

I'll see you in worship,

Pastor Mark

STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOPS

The Stewardship Committee will sponsor 2 informational workshops. You will have the opportunity to attend either or both workshops. They will be presented on **Sunday, June 23 and Sunday, June 30 at 9 & 10:30 a.m. in the adult education classroom**. Participants will learn more about financial tools that may decrease their taxes and/or supplement their retirement and help Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church and other ministries. Refreshments will be available in the classroom. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Crossroads.

Sunday, June 23: *Charitable Giving - Making a Difference by Giving Back*, presented by Thrivent Financial: John & Matt Drafall

Sunday June 30: *Generous Lives, Generous Giving: Faithful, Joyful Abundance*, presented by Mission Investment & ELCA Foundation: Enrique Rojas & Jennifer Prinz

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” *2 Corinthians 9:8*

NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Please welcome Judy Spencer as our new office manager. Judy will begin her official duties on Monday, June 3. Judy has been an active member of SOTP and involved in various ministry activities of the church. She brings a wealth of experience to her new position in managing the daily office operations of the church. A more complete bio for Judy will be in our July newsletter. Welcome Judy and thanks for saying “yes” to God’s call of service.

WE GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE

We give God thanks and praise for the gift of Renae Greene and her ministry among us for three years as our Office Manager. Renae is leaving her position to go back to school to further her education. We wish Renae well in her new endeavors.

Renae has done so much to further the ministry of Shepherd of the Prairie. She was instrumental in creating an online calendar for members and friends to use on our website, put together our last two pictorial directories, and has done a great job in updating our church newsletter. Renae’s organizational skills have been invaluable in keeping the office running efficiently. She will be missed! Please take time to thank Renae for her great work among us.

Youth Culture News

FROM THE WORD:

What do you consider to be the “necessary” aspects of your job as a parent? We would all agree that we need to provide our children with the physical sustenance that ensures that they will grow from childhood into a healthy adulthood. This includes food, water, shelter, medical care, immunizations, etc. We would also agree that it would be horribly irresponsible if we didn’t provide our children with an education that prepares them for independent living in the world. In addition, we might include some of the cultural requirements expected of parents in today’s world. . . things like getting our kids into extracurricular activities and a variety of social settings. When done correctly and with attention to balance, these things are “necessary” and good.

But do we consider the spiritual nurture of our children a “necessity?” And if we do, what level of importance do we give to spiritual nurture? The dictionary defines “necessity” as something that is required or indispensable. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that it was necessary for him to preach the Gospel. Preaching was an obligation that Paul felt and a necessity that he could not ignore or escape. Because of his God-given calling, Paul tells the Corinthians very simply, “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (*1 Cor. 9:16*). In *The Message*, Eugene Peterson translates this verse as reading, “I’m compelled to do it, and doomed if I don’t!” That’s some strong language that captures just how important the communication of the Good News about Jesus Christ really is.

Because you have been given the gift of children, it follows that you have been called by God to nurture your children. . . physically, emotionally, relationally, intellectually, and spiritually. In fact, the spiritual nurture of our children should be primary, shaping and informing all the other aspects of nurture. Parents, get to know the Gospel. Consume it. Embrace it. Live it. And then, be a conduit of the Gospel to your kids.

Youth Culture Hot Quote:

This is the future - people broadcasting themselves. YouTube’s already the biggest broadcaster in the world.

~Actor Ricky Gervais, defending his decision to release new videos on YouTube, rather than via traditional television broadcast, on *The Daily Show*, April 18, 2013.

TRENDS

Media multitasking and family closeness

Thirty years ago, experts warned that family time was being compromised because families were turning on the TV during meals or watching too much TV together. Experts said that this primitive form of multi-tasking was serving to break down the family.

With the many advancements we've seen in technology and the proliferation of new media devices,

multitasking is now something entirely different. For example, television time is now divided not so much between TV and family members,

but between the TV and other devices. According to the latest *Video over the Internet Consumer Survey*, 77% of respondents said they use their computer or laptop while watching TV, an increase of 16% over last year. While technology is helpful, it can also become a hindrance to family closeness. We suggest that you model Godly media use priorities. Put your devices down and spend some time communicating with your kids.



Latest Research

Divorce and family spirituality

As the sexual revolution was unfolding back during the 1960s, there was a widely held notion that children of divorce are incredibly resilient. It was believed that a kid could bounce back rather quickly to a normal life after his parents had divorced. Over the years, research has shown that the exact opposite is true. Children of divorce are statistically far more prone to a host of social problems and issues.

New research on divorce and spirituality show that children from intact families are twice as likely to be involved in worship during their adult years than are children of couples

who divorce amicably. When the institution of the family falls apart, the children in that family are prone to be less interested in organized religion and religious services. We can't help but wonder if the crisis causes them to question the love, grace, kindness and existence of God. A child's concept of God and love for God are established and nurtured in the home! Parents, build your marriage!

QUICK STATS

Nearly twenty million Americans are diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections each year, about half of those are young people between the ages of 15 and 24. (CDC)

44% of births to high school educated adults are outside of marriage. (*Institute for American Values*)

EXODUS WORLD SERVICE—WELCOME TO AMERICA PAK

Refugees, people who cannot go home, are coming! Their new living spaces are sparsely furnished. We want to help. We want to have a complete list of Welcome to America items by the end of May for June delivery. Listed below are some of the items still needed. Please check the tall sign-up sheet in the Crossroads and sign up to bring any of these or other items:

- Sharp knife set
- set of cooking utensils
- queen-sized blanket
- 4 pillows (sign up for even just one)
- clock radio with alarm
- small trash basket (bathroom)
- kitchen trash can
- shower curtain & hooks
- 15 disposable razors
- 2 tubes toothpaste
- 25 hangers
- 4 quarts (or gal.) cooking oil
- case of soda pop
- 1 box of tea bags
- 1 jar instant coffee
- 2-4 light bulbs

Questions? Contact any Mission Team member or Sandy Hupert at (224) 569-6041 or sandyhupert@gmail.com.

OUTREACH

We are planning to continue to Reach-Out to the community as we make plans to participate in the **HUNTLEY ALL AMERICAN FAMILY FUN DAY on Saturday, July 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Huntley Towne Park**. Our booth will include information about SOTP worship services and ministries of our church; we will have games, prizes, and face painting. We need your help to make this event a success! Please consider taking a little time to help run the booth and tell others about our church. Fourth of July weekend is a great time to be outdoors, have fun with friends and family. The signup sheet for this event is on the bulletin board in the Crossroads.

God's blessings to you!

*Your Outreach Team
Barbara Hoch, Chairperson*

ADULT EDUCATION

The month of June will bring with it a variety of educational opportunities. On **June 2, 4, and 5** we'll be finishing up our study of Paul's letter to the Colossians. Then on **June 9, 11, and 12**, we'll be offering something new: "Stump the Pastor!" You're welcome to ask any question you like about church, the Bible, theology, or Pastor Bill. So that he can be a bit prepared, you're invited to submit your question or questions beforehand, either by stopping at the church office to leave them in his mailbox (no anonymous questions please!), or you can send him an email with your question at bwaxenberg@gmail.com.

There won't be any classes the week of **June 16, 18, and 19**.

On **Sunday, June 23**, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be making a presentation, and on **Sunday, June 30**, we'll be hearing from the ELCA Foundation and our ELCA Mission Investment Fund. These are wonderful opportunities to learn more about responsible financial planning and gift-giving.

Then what happens on the **Tuesdays of June 25 and July 2; and on Wednesdays, June 26 and July 3**? We'll be taking a look at the Lectionary for the upcoming Sundays. These are the Scripture readings appointed for June 30 and July 7. Each week there are four readings from the Bible: one from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a reading from one of the New Testament letters, and a reading from the Gospels. Why four? How do they inform one another? How does one reading enlighten the others? These and other questions will be discussed.

So, that's June! Join us on **Sunday morning at either 9:00 or 10:30, on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., and on Wednesday mornings at 11:00**. We look forward to having you with us!

Pastor Bill

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

On **Wednesday, June 5**, 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.



WELCA

The Mary Martha Bible study will not meet in the month of June or during the summer months.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

I would like to thank the following for their effort at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on May 3: John and Emmetta Shepard, Warren and Elaine Brody, Grant and Linda Jahr, Pastor Bill and Carol Waxenberg and their granddaughter Grace (who worked harder than any of us!), Dick and Mary Tabatt, Helen Berry, Marian Mesenbrink, Chris Trodahl, John Thunholm, Ralph Wehnes, Steve Legal and Sid Sorensen.

Together we packaged 2,360 pounds of food which will make 2,217 meals. It was a fun afternoon and the next scheduled event at NIFB will be **Saturday, September 14, from 1 to 3:30 p.m.** I have committed 30 volunteers, so mark it on your calendar. It is a great family experience. More information will follow in July.



PRAYER SHAWL CELEBRATION

June 1 and 2 we will be observing the blessing that our Prayer Shawl Ministry is to our congregation and community. Please wear your prayer shawls you have received as a sign of how vast this ministry has touched the congregation and others. Shawls will also be displayed on the chairs in the church at the services that have been knitted or crocheted by many of our members and friends. This is a way of celebrating the gift we were given as a way of service to provide peace, joy, comfort, caring and the love of Jesus to others.

CR 3.0.

A big thank you to those of you who have been ordering gift cards through gift card fund-raiser to support SOTP Youth! Your continued participation will go a long way to benefit our youth program, general fund, building fund, and the least of these. If you haven't yet purchased gift cards, won't you please consider doing so?

With the Great Lakes Scrip Fundraiser, our families earn money for our youth programs by making their regular household purchases. But instead of paying with cash or credit, you use prepaid gift cards from local retailers. Scrip fundraising gift cards are the same gift cards you would normally purchase from a retailer in local retail stores, and they work the same way. And with over 500 of the country's biggest retailers, Great Lakes Scrip Center has something that will appeal to every family at SOTP. There are cards you can use at grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, movie theaters, home improvement stores, and almost any business that accepts gift cards.

We are asking SOTP families to use scrip gift cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center. You can purchase gift cards for places where you plan to shop, and use those cards instead of cash or credit. Great Lakes Scrip Center sells those gift cards to us at a discount. We sell them to our families for full face value and our families redeem the cards for full face value. We keep the difference as a rebate, earning a percentage of every dollar spent using the scrip gift cards.

By making your normal purchases each month, with just groceries, gas, dining out, and clothing purchases, one family can generate over \$500 a year. With 20 families participating we could see over \$10,000 per year. 50 families would get us over \$25,000 each year! Think about what 100 families could do...

The success of this program depends upon you planning out your purchases and committing to doing this year round. We know that after you get into the swing of things, ordering your gift cards regularly will become second nature to you.

We thank you for your support in helping our young people become the hands and feet of Christ!

SHANNON McMULLEN TO SERVE IN SLOVAKIA

And now, for your imaginary listening pleasure, a favorite hymn:

*I the lord of Sea and Sky
I have heard my people cry...
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
...who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

As the daughter of a church musician, you can bet that hymns have been my lifeblood. In fact, I don't really remember a car trip with my mom where we weren't listening to one! But despite the wealth of phenomenal sacred music I was exposed to (thanks, Mom), the text of "Here I am, Lord" has always resonated with me above all else, from ninth grade, when I first heard it at my confirmation service, onward. I was an English major in college, so beautiful words are my passion, and this text is full of striking images, profound in their simplicity. But more than that, it functions for me as a summation of my own faith. The God we believe in is majestic, and the universe He has created is equally so: full of enormous waters, mountains, and stars, and its people are as diverse as this geography, yet one thread unites them: an urgent need for grace. God will tend to it, but through His people, teaching them to serve. He will "break their hearts of stone" and "give them hearts for love alone," opening their eyes to the needs of those surrounding them.

My own life is currently at a crossroads: I graduated from the University of Illinois in December and, though I currently work as a researcher at the university, my job is ending in June, and I have spent the past few months weighing offers and waiting for options. Do I pursue music? Go to graduate school? Or something else? Enter "Here I am, Lord." A few weeks ago, I came home from church with this hymn inescapably stuck in my head. As I began to reflect on the text, I realized that the cornerstone of faith must be service. To love others, and leave their lives altered, is to shine as the light of the stars that the lyricist mentions in "Hear I am Lord," the same light that defines the story of our salvation in John's Gospel: "What has come to being in him was life / And life was the light of all people. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (*John 1:4-5*).

Through these reflections, I was able to make a crucial decision: to serve as a teaching missionary in Bratislava, Slovakia, during the 2013-2014 school year. In January, I applied to the ELCA's Global Mission teaching program, and in April, was appointed to a post in Bratislava, which is

Slovakia's capital city, situated near the country's border with Austria. I will teach English and literature courses to high school students at a school that is co-run by the ELCA and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia, a member of the Lutheran World Federation. Slovakia is a new nation that seceded from the Czech Republic in 1993, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. On January 1 of this year, the country celebrated its 20th birthday, but in the aftermath of communism, the nation still faces many social and economic challenges. On the whole, the nation is largely secular, and most of those citizens who are Christians practice Catholicism.

Though my time at Shepherd of the Prairie is often brief, worshipping with the congregation on weekends and holidays when I visit my parents, I really admire the congregation's commitment to mission work, at home and abroad (and have often smiled and reflected on the "you are now entering the mission field" sign that frames the church parking lot), so I wanted to share my plans for the year ahead, and it is my hope that you will join me in prayer—for the people of Slovakia and the students I teach, as well as the new challenges I will encounter during my time there; that I am brave enough to handle them and my heart is ready to serve. I will be sending along a video I created about the country of Slovakia and the work the ELCA is doing there in the near future. For now, when I am excited or afraid, I will just sing the refrain of the hymn:

*"Here I am Lord,
Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart."*

And if you're curious: www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Where-We-Work/Europe-Middle-East/Slovakia.aspx

www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Global-Service/Basics-of-Global-Service/Volunteer-Service/Central-Europe.aspx

Contact me: Shannon.mcmullen@gmail.com

~Shannon McMullen

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Church Picnic will be held **August 18** at Deicke Park. Mark your calendars!!

ACOLYTES FOR JUNE

	9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
June 2	Jack Trevino	Chelsea Greene
June 9	Annabel Johnson	Rachel Miller
June 16	Alexandra Stowell	Chelsea Greene
June 23	Brennen Clementi	Kyle Lemke
June 30	Brittany James	Bree Huston

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed this month for the Grafton Food Pantry:
toilet paper, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, deodorant, shampoo, baby food



Help is needed on the first Sunday of the month at SOTP to load the vehicle and to unload at the food pantry just after the second worship service begins and on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. at Grafton Food Pantry to help unload vehicles and put the food away. For more information contact Alice Hallett at (847)515-7556 or Michelle Rankin at (847)515-1428. Thank you so very much for your support.



STEWARDSHIP TALES

The Way I Give

If I give so I can be rewarded...God is Santa Claus.

If I give so I can claim an exemption on my taxes...God is a CPA.

If I give to impress my friends...God is my PR agent.

If I give to avoid punishment...God is a bandit.

If I give so that I can express my love and so others may hear the gospel...
God is God.

ALTAR GUILD—JUNE

- * **Sunday 9:00 a.m.:** Dee Pedersen,
Adele Wogstad
Alternate: Sue Wehnes

- * **Sunday 10:45 a.m.:** June 2: Jan Koerner, Barb Beaudette,
June 9: Don & Jan Koerner
June 16: Carol Lilla, Merrily Burkland
June 23: Linda Jahr, Donna Schnepff
June 30: Sandy Hupert, Marlene Boehler

- * **Saturday:** Becky Tuzik and other volunteers

Thanks to all our volunteers for serving each month. We are trying a new schedule for the late service for take-down. Volunteers will serve only once (most months) rather than for the entire month. If you cannot serve, please contact another member and exchange dates. Any problems please contact Sue Wehnes at (224)569-2808.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

Just a reminder: if you are going to turn on the sanctuary lights, please read the instructions above the light panel. Make sure you don't hold the button in as it may reprogram the setting.

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS FOR JUNE

June 2—Kim Stowell
June 9—Mike Parmele & family
June 16—Jeanne Henley
June 23—Judy Spencer
June 30—Elaine Neukirch

Saturdays
June 1—Pam Fender
June 8, 15, 22—Jen Powe
June 29, July 6, 13—Pam Perrott



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.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Month	<u>May 2013</u>
Loan Balance	<u>\$1,103,700.26</u>
Estimate Payoff Date	9-1-2021

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget year to date as of April 30, 2013

	YTD Actual	YTD
General Fund Income:	\$164,483.51	\$171,788
General Fund Expenses:	<u>\$114,318.23</u>	<u>\$171,788</u>
Net Income:	\$ 13,731.49	\$0

OFFERING COUNTERS FOR JUNE



- ◆ Warren Brody
- ◆ Donna Turner

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.

SIMPLY GIVING—EFT (ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER)

Several members have expressed interest in signing up for Simply Giving. Remember; it's easy to sign up, you don't get behind in your giving, and it's secure. Just stop by the church office and we can get you enrolled. Other great reasons to use Simply Giving are that it saves the counters time, your giving bypasses the counters and is posted automatically to your giving statement.



JUNE

- 1 Rebecca Miller
- 2 Dolores Burk, Mark Michalak,
Michelle Jacobs, Charles Werner,
Shonna Rankin, Sydney McGuine
- 3 Candi McNeal, Olivia Lorenzo,
Brady Prather
- 4 Ken Pohlmann, Sandy Martin,
Jacob Trevino, Nathaniel Black
- 5 Rachael Yndestad
- 6 Frances Wilson, Kim Scalise
- 7 Joanne Bychowsky, Chuck Bayer,
Corin Casablanca
- 8 Sid Sorensen, Jonathan Boster,
Rebecca Mudge
- 9 Gloria Samuelson, Kaitlyn
Richards, Kellen McNeal
- 10 Brennen Clementi, Lisa Adams,
Noah Konie
- 11 Carole Cesario
- 12 James Conway, Vicki Maraviglia,
Kenzie Schlachta
- 16 Samantha Guttenburg
- 17 Jerry Warnke, Leah Bloomfield
- 18 Emily Dunfrund, Judie Symbal,
Jill Gillming
- 20 Matthew Alpert, Morgan Alpert,
Hannah Robinson, Ethan Gartzke
- 21 Karin Henkle, John Browne,
Michael Glosson, Pierce Cordle
- 23 Ron Knudsen, Rebecca Fulcer
- 24 Susan Krizmanich, Kathy Pizarro
- 25 Jacob Marx
- 26 Bill Brindell, Bill Skidmore, Stevie
Massei, Patrick Desiato, Katie
Casablanca, Alexander Rojas
- 27 Reagan Bishop, Angela Himebaugh
- 28 Carolyn Malm, Tristan Bjorklund,
Daniel Rossman
- 29 June Hermes, Anthony Maraviglia
- 30 Jeanette Shannon, Dana Turk,
David Huston

Our Vision:

**“Caring for God’s Children of All Ages
By Growing Disciples Who Make
Disciples”**

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Organist/Piano Accompanist

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Jill Gillming

Little Lambs

Sandy Martin

Cherub Choir

Carol Waxenberg

Blessings Choir

Denise James

Joy Ringers

Diana Reincke

Sunday School Director

Sue Wehnes, Renae Greene

Contributions Secretary

Tammy Uteg

Music Librarian

Congregation Council

Bob McDuffee, *President*

Kathy McGuine, *Vice President*

Mike McCann, *Secretary*

Devin Burg, *Treasurer*

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Larry Newbanks

Wayne Schmidt