



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

Congregational Newsletter *July 2013*

VBS 2013

I am looking for some top-notch volunteers to be Elementary Crew Leaders at our church's Kingdom Rock VBS happening July 15—18. Check out the volunteer description and see how you can help with this life-changing ministry!

Elementary Crew Leader (1-4 grades) ages 6-10.
Hours: 8:30-12:00 pm

Attend Kingdom Rock VBS each day. (Our theme this year is Medieval Times. You know that will be great!). Participate and engage your group in fun activities while building relationships with a group of 3-5 elementary-age kids. Arrive 20-30 minutes early each day to greet your group members each day.

See! You can be a great volunteer! Pray about being an Elementary Crew Leader, then reply to me by e-mail or in person .

Marina, VBS Director, at rhodemarina@gmail.com



Important Dates in July

July 2.....	Prairie Point Quilters,	Study,
July 3.....	Men's Fellowship Breakfast,	July 15 VBS, Council Meeting
July 7.....	Grafton Food Pantry Collection,	July 16 VBS
July 8.....	Ministry Meeting Night, SOTP	July 17 VBS,
	Visual Arts Team	July 18 VBS, Beth Moore Bible Study,
July 10.....	Prairie Crafters,	July 19 Spirit Ringers
July 11.....	Prayer Shawls, Beth Moore Bible	July 28..... Merry Widows

A Note From Pastor Mark

Dear Christian Friends,

Romans 8

Paul's letter to the Romans, written to a people he had not visited but longed to know personally, brings to his readers his very deepest beliefs. It speaks to the mind in strong theology and to the heart of living in Christ. What a joy to reach a crowning point in verses 26-39 of chapter 8. For in these verses, those who have put their trust in God through Christ Jesus find assurance upon assurance of God's love for us and presence in our lives.

For those times when we face a situation where we feel our deepest need for God but can't find the words to pray, Paul assures us that we don't have to verbalize that need for the Holy Spirit prays for us. Furthermore, the Spirit's prayers on our behalf are prayers from the heart of God!

Paul goes on to emphasize that all things work together for good for those who love God. Have you looked back on something that seemed a great disappointment at the time and realized that in fact it was a blessing in your life? God doesn't send suffering to help us grow, but God can use the sufferings and disillusionments that come to us in this life to give us greater insight or compassion and thereby draw us closer. Perhaps something that we might have wanted and seen as absolutely necessary would have been the very worst thing for us.

Then Paul shares with the Romans and with us his complete confidence in the fact that nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus.

Paul, who had lived through shipwreck, beatings and prison still considered himself more than conqueror. We can't read these words without feeling Paul's joy in his relationship with Jesus.

I had the graced experience of sharing the last months, weeks and days with one whose complete trust was in God even through that time of suffering from life threatening illness. Yes, there were those days when she couldn't find the words to pray, but she knew that when she opened herself to the Holy Spirit, God would hear. Although succeeding diagnoses were more and more difficult to bear, she continued to hang on to God's promises. And then when death was near, she put her hand in the hand of Jesus. The illness did not separate her from God's love!

What a blessing to know that our destination is secured. I pray that you may feel each day the mighty hand of God leading and guiding you on right pathways for his names sake knowing "nothing will separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus."

I'll see you in worship,

Pastor Mark

Shepherd of the Prairie—Job Content Document

Job Title: New Member Welcome and Involvement Coordinator
Location: Huntley
Reports To: Pastor
FLSA Status: non-exempt, part-time
Prepared By: Kristi Cordle
Prepared Date: 6/7/2013
Approved By: Shepherd of the Prairie Staffing Committee
Approved Date:

SUMMARY: The New Member and Involvement Coordinator will be charged with promoting, encouraging and coordinating new and existing members within the congregation to hear God's call to serve in ministry. This position will welcome and facilitate the discovery and use of new member's God-given talents and skills. The New Member Welcome and Involvement Coordinator will support active and ongoing ministries in support of the mission of the church while also providing strong leadership for volunteers involved in leading ministries.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following. Other duties may be assigned as needed.

Primary Responsibilities

1. Organize and along with Pastoral staff, lead new member gatherings.
2. Formulate a plan with the Pastor to grow the base of support for member involvement in meaningful ministry and assess new talents and skills toward that objective.
3. Help facilitate connections between new members and ministry leaders within the congregation through use of digital database of talents and skills.
4. Work closely with the Pastor and SOTP Inreach Team to further develop new ideas and special projects to continue to grow vital ministry in support of the mission of the church while continually assessing the ongoing involvement of new members.
5. Serve as a resource and guide for ministry leaders, assisting them in understanding skills and talents as well as encouraging a team approach to ministry.
6. Maintain current job description notebook as a guide for volunteer ministry leaders
7. Develop and implement a recognition program for ministries.
8. Keep thorough and accurate records and provide feedback to and from Pastor and Church Council.
9. Uphold the mission and values of Shepherd of the Prairie.

Qualifications, Skills and Gifts

- Good verbal, written and electronic communication skills
- Excellent organizational abilities
- Office computer skill competence a must
- Interpersonal skills important
- Gifts of strong leadership desired
- Strong ability to inspire and show appreciation for volunteers
- Be a visible and vibrant disciple of Christ

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Must possess outstanding interpersonal skills and be able to work well with a variety of individuals and groups simultaneously. Strong organizational, administrative and computer skills are required. Must show a strong commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. Must be able to develop "leaders of leaders" and to share a major part of job responsibilities with lay leaders.

Youth Culture News

FROM THE WORD:

On the night before his death, Jesus spoke with his Heavenly Father regarding the Father's will for his followers in all times and all places. Reading and meditating on Jesus' prayer gives us insight into who we are called to be, along with the mark we should aim for as we parent our children and teens. At the beginning of his prayer, Jesus defines eternal life as knowing the Father and the Son (John 17:3). God desires that the main trajectory of our lives be set on the mark of developing a dynamic and growing personal relationship with God. . . a relationship that shapes and forms every nook and cranny of our lives.

If that's the case, what should we be endeavoring to learn for ourselves, and to teach to our kids? "Knowing God" requires us to see that God is a living, ever-present being who we loyally follow and serve. We will embrace the Scriptures and understand the life and teachings of Jesus. We will develop Christ-like character that enables us to be about Christ's work in the world without being of the world. We will understand the importance of the church and our role in it. And, we will ask God to instill in ourselves a Christian way of looking at and living in all areas of life.

Does that sound like a tall and imposing order? It is! In effect, parenting children and teens is about becoming a Christian educator. And, when it comes to the spiritual nurture of our kids, the most powerful and lasting lessons aren't forced, but they flow naturally out of who we are. To nurture your kids you must first be nurturing yourself. Helping them to know God flows from our own knowledge of God. What are you doing to know and embrace God?

Youth Culture Hot Quote:

I think it's amazing how self-aware people are becoming as a result of constantly posting images on Facebook and Instagram. They're blissfully unaware their childhoods are being shortened. That period of time when you're not self-conscious is sped up.

Actress Emma Watson, while discussing her role in the film *The Bling Ring*, *The Daily Mail*, May 16, 2013.

TRENDS

pornography use

In his little book, *What's Wrong With a Little Porn When You're Single?*, Nicholas Black reminds us that it's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that looking at porn isn't at all harmful. After all, everyone else is doing it. Sex is natural. And, we can lead ourselves into thinking that it's something we can keep under control. But pornography is the misuse of God's good gift of sexuality, making it a sin against God and others. Nicholas also says that pornography negatively impacts the life of a single person in three ways, all of which we should share with our kids. First, pornography isolates you from healthy dating relationships by creating unrealistic expectations for other people. Second, pornography sabotages your future marital relationship before you are married, by destroying your ability to experience spiritual, emotional, and physical intimacy. And finally, pornography can lead to sexual addiction. Equip your kids for a porn-free adolescence



Latest Research

Post-Christian Nation

The folks at the Barna Group continue to track spirituality and Christian commitment in contemporary north American culture. Not surprisingly, Barna has found that we are, indeed, becoming a nation populated by post-Christian people. Nearly two-fifths of the nation's adult population can be considered post-Christian based on an aggregate measure of fifteen different factors that measure identity,

belief, and behavior. What is most telling for those of us who are parents, is that there are striking differences between the generations, with each generation

measuring as more post-Christian than the prior generation. Forty-eight percent of this generation of children and teens qualify as post-Christian. While we may bemoan this fact, it should cause us to become more intent on engaging in deliberate efforts to nurture our children in the Christian faith. We encourage you to take Deuteronomy 6 to heart, and talk all the time about who God is and what He's done.

QUICK STATS

Teenagers who have best friends that drink are three times as likely to begin drinking themselves. (Research from the University of Iowa)

48% of young women say that the first time they lived with a guy they weren't married. This number has risen from 34% back in 1995. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

OUTREACH

The Outreach Team would like to thank everyone for their participation in our summer Outreach activities.

The community can see what a great church family we have as we work together to tell others about Jesus. Every time you read the sending signs as you exit SOTP that read, “You are now entering the mission field!” we hope you are gently reminded to be a witness for Christ! Have a great summer and remember – Jesus Loves You!

God’s blessings to you!

Your Outreach Team,
Barbara Hoch, Chairperson

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

The Outreach Team would like to encourage those who worship at SOTP to be a good neighbor to the Huntley Library. Their paper recycling fundraiser supports many programs and activities sponsored by the library including the summer reading program. You can deposit your newspapers, magazines, and copy paper in the collection bins located on the east side of the parking lot at the Huntley Library, 11000 Ruth Road at any time.

PLEASE REMEMBER: NO CARDBOARD and NO TELEPHONE BOOKS!

OFFERING COUNTERS

If you are available on Monday mornings, you could join the ministry of counting the Church offerings. Once counters are trained, they sign up for counting a month (of their choice) at a time. Some do it once a year and others do it more often. If you are interested, contact Ralph Wehnes at 224-569-2808.

WE GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE

We give God thanks and praise for the gift of Diana Reincke and her ministry among us for the years as our Sunday school director. Mike Parmele is taking her place. You can contact Mike at mikeparmele@yahoo.com.

ADULT EDUCATION

Lazy, hazy summer days are upon us, vacation time is here, let's slow down and relax a bit! But this doesn't mean we won't continue meeting and studying God's good and faithful Word together. Of course, we will! So what's on the calendar for the month of July?

On **Sunday, July 7; Tuesday, July 9; and Wednesday, July 10**—we'll explore the assigned Old Testament reading for the 7th Sunday after Pentecost, Isaiah 66:10-14, a text filled with great promise for a downtrodden people. On **Sunday, July 14; Tuesday, July 16; and Wednesday, July 17**—we'll plumb the depths of Deuteronomy 30:9-14, the Old Testament reading for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost, and another text full of promise for a people learning to live in a new way.

Then, during the last two weeks in July, something a bit different happens. On **Sunday, July 21**, we'll study Genesis 18:1-10a, the story of God's promise to Abraham; and on **Sunday, July 28**, Genesis 18:20-32, a wrestling match between God and Abraham.

On **Tuesday, July 23 and on Wednesday, July 24; and again on Tuesday, July 30, and on Wednesday, July 31**, PASTOR MARK will lead us on a journey of reflection based on the Gospel reading and his sermon from the previous Sunday. What did you hear when God addressed you? What were the promises spoken? How did the Holy Spirit move you into action because of Pastor Mark's message? These are other questions will be discussed. This is a great opportunity to sit at the feet of our pastor, and to deepen our understanding of the Word that went forth in the power of the Spirit.

We look forward to seeing YOU!

Pastor Bill

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

On **Wednesday, July 3**, 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.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

The next scheduled event at NIFB will be Saturday, September 14, from 1:00 p.m. 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.

CHILDREN/YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Many thanks to Carol Waxenberg for directing our Blessings Choir this last year. The children provided special music several times throughout the year and God was truly praised. Great job Carol! We so appreciated your willingness to serve.

Michael (Micky) Waal will be our new Blessings Choir director this fall. Micky will also direct the Jubilate beginning handbell choir. Micky has many years of experience teaching children's vocal and handbell choirs. We are very excited to have him on board !

Children/Youth Fall Rehearsal Schedule :

Cherub Choir: PK-3 thru 1st grade Wed. 5 to 5:25pm

Sandy Martin, Director

Blessings Choir: 2nd thru 5th grades Wed. 4:30 to 5:15pm

Michael Waal, Director

Joy Ringers 2nd thru 3rd grades Wed 5:15-5:45pm

Denise James, Director

Jubilate Ringers: 3rd thru 5th grades Wed. 4:00 to 4:30pm

Michael Waal, Director

Jubellation Ringers 5th/6th thru 7/8th grades Wed. 5:15-6:00 pm

Jane McMullen, Director

Spirit Ringers 8th thru 12th grades Sun. 3pm to 5pm

Jane McMullen, Director Rehearsals start **Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013**

Youth Band once a month rehearsal and lead worship at 10:45am service.

Jane McMullen, Director

Adult Music Ministry Fall Schedule

Adult Beginning Bells Tuesday's 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Adult Bells: Thursday's 7:45 to 9:00pm

Adult Choir: Wednesday's 7:00 to 8:00pm

Worship Band Thursday's 6:00 to 7:30pm

Thanks You For Your Support!



Thank you for supporting our mission trip team so we could serve our brothers and sisters, and take care of the creation that God has given us!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FROM WOMEN OF ELCA CONSTITUTION

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the home, the church, the society, and the world.

Funds distributed by WELCA of SOTP for the WELCA year of 2012-2013:

08/27/12	WELCA Summer Bible Study Session (Malaria Initiative)	130.00
11/20/12	Thanks Offerings collection for Women of the ELCA	422.00
04/12/13	Spa Retreat Speaker fees	50.00
	(Dr. Stoughton, Chiropractor donated his \$50.00 back to the Home of the Sparrow)	
05/28/13	Reimbursed SOTP for Office Supplies used	50.00
05/28/13	Oklahoma Tornado Relief	100.00
05/28/13	SOTP Crafters for Supplies	50.00
05/28/13	SOTP Prayer Shawls for Supplies	50.00
05/28/13	SOTP Quilter for Supplies	50.00
05/28/13	Good Samaritan Fund	100.00
05/28/13	Huntley Fire Department Wal-Mart gift certificates for Disaster client use, 3x \$50.00	150.00
05/28/13	Malaria Tent Initiative	100.00
05/28/13	Grafton Food Pantry	99.23
05/28/13	Women of ELCA	<u>55.00</u>
	Total Donations from WELCA for 2012-2013	\$1406.23

*Treasury for the year beginning June 1, 2013
or WELCA 2013/2014 is \$200.00*

This past year we came together in Friendship groups to study the bible and social groups where we have enjoyed much camaraderie . Our whole congregation participated in giving uncountable amounts of school supplies to Grafton Food Pantry, gifts of food were brought to the “Happy Birthday Jesus” party, which were donated in His name to the food pantry, and so many personal items for the Retreat to fill spa beauty bags, which were gifted to the Home of the Sparrow. We have been truly blessed.

Thank you all for making our year a very special one.

Judy Spencer, Chairwoman, Jeanne Henley, Co-Chairwoman, Susan Coe, Treasurer, Frances Wilson, Secretary, WELCA Board of 2012-2013.

The Mary Martha Bible study will not meet during the summer months

SAVE THE DATE!

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

ACOLYTES FOR JULY

	9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
July 7	Kyle Lemke	Kaia Huston
July 14	Annabel Johnson	Josh Miley
July 21	Rachel Miller	Jack Trevino
July 28	Alexandra Stowell	Bree Huston

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed this month for the Grafton Food Pantry:
salad dressing, ketchup, mustard, shampoo, toilet paper and cereal



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

Most people spend so much of their lives acquiring financial security that they never develop skill in giving money away. Too late they discover that giving is the greatest joy in life. The surest way to be enriched is to share freely what you have whether it is money, love, appreciation of beauty, or devotion to a worthy cause. Sharing brings the greatest joy of all. It's the only way to keep what you have.

ALTAR GUILD—JULY

- * **Sunday 9:00 a.m.:** Caryl Fabian,
Sue Wehnes,
Alternate: Betty Zimmerman

- * **Sunday 10:45 a.m.:** July 7: Sandy Hupert & Carol Lilla
July 14: Marlene Boehler & Barb Beaudette
July 21: Linda Jahr & Donna Schneff
July 28: Jan Koerner & Merrily Burkland

- * **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 JULY

July 7—Betty Zimmerman
July 14—Sandy Martin
July 21—Sally Schuett
July 28—Lynn Broederdorf

Saturdays
July 20, 27 & August 3—Dowell
Family



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>June 2013</u>
Loan Balance	<u>\$1,092,838.43</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:	\$205,593.64	\$214,735
General Fund Expenses:	<u>\$199,539.01</u>	<u>\$214,735</u>
Net Income:	\$ 6,054.63	\$0

OFFERING COUNTERS FOR JULY



- ◆ First Week—Warren Brody & Ralph Wehnes
- ◆ Remainder of Month—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)

Four more family's signed up for "Simply Giving". We are close to 12% of our Congregation that is participating. It is a safe and secure program that keeps your pledge up to date. 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.



JULY

- 1 Elease Chapman, Mel Long,
Brian Ott
- 2 Sharon Neubauer,
Greg Dowell, Alexander Coe, Kyle Lemke
- 3 Joseph Debolt, Tammy Sabie, Dimitra
Ferentinos,
Cooper Krewer, Olivia Ostrem
- 4 Jerry Bergman
- 5 Sue Vitner, Libby Weston
- 6 Kristen Fleener
- 7 Harvey Feustel, Julie Wills, Daniel Coe
- 9 Les Lawrence, Katie Masters, Krista
Glosson
- 10 Nicole Scalise
- 11 Arthur Uteg
- 12 Anne Skidmore, Jadon Conroy
- 13 Anne Szekeley, Phil Turk
- 14 Donna Turner, Andy Patel, Jamie Patel
- 15 June Kobler, Susan Boyle,
Matt Greene, Maria Michalak, McKenna
Hess, Zachary Berti
- 16 Jane McMullen, Donna Brown, Kaia
Huston, Evelyn Kolcz
- 18 Tom Miller, Nicholas Wolf
- 19 George Walker
- 20 Tom Luedtke, Roy Rankin, Nicholas Brown
- 21 Sue Reid,
Jerry Christopherson,
Deb Hansen, Marina Rhode, Brian Rojas
- 22 Ralph Wehnes, Casey Bozza, Avery
Michalak
- 23 Delle Lenegar, Rich Wille, Dolores Barry,
Breanne DePorter
- 24 Vivian Anderson, Dick Tabatt, Denise
James
- 25 None
- 26 Michelle Conroy,
Michael Fiorese,
Delaney Krewer,
Aiden Wintersteen
- 27 Ryan Flanagan
- 28 Destry Arndt, Steve Brown
- 29 Megan Moretti,
Samantha Poray
- 30 Justin DeBolt, Dylan Mejdrich, Anthony
Lorenzo,
Gavin Schlachta
- 31 Rick Hess, Robin Bishop

Our Vision:

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

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Pastor Bill Waxenberg

Director of Adult Education

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Greg Dowell

Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator

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Jane McMullen

Director of Music & Worship

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Dennis Lilla

Technology Support Manager

dennis@shepherdoftheprairie.com

Judy Spencer

Office Manager

Michael Waal

Organist/Piano Accompanist

michael@shepherdoftheprairie.com

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*

Adam Adams

Amy Brittain

Theresa Molgren

Larry Newbanks

Wayne Schmidt