



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

# Congregational Newsletter *September 2013*

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMEBERS (ADULT(S) (CHILDREN)**

Randi & John Dawson  
Linda Anderson  
Karen Eckert  
Dinah Lindsey  
Carol Engstrom  
Jackie & Ronald Petersen, Riley

Rob & Jamie DeBlieck, Tyler, Avary  
Michael & Nicci Grabs, Jared, Ashlyn,  
Brooke  
Nicole Schorsca, Sean, Dylan  
Kelly & Dan Hibbeler, Elaina, Aidan  
Mary Lou Donovan

We give thanks and praise to God who continues to bless us with new partners in ministry. Let's continue to reach.

## **IT'S ALMOST SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME!**

Mark **September 8th** on your calendars! Let's start this year off with a big bang! Come join us as we are starting our Sunday School year with an old fashioned ice cream social between services. Sunday School's first day of class is **September 15th**.

We are looking for a few teachers to help fill our roster. If you are interested in hearing more about how you can help, please contact Mike Parmele by email at [Mike-parmele@yahoo.com](mailto:Mike-parmele@yahoo.com), by phone (309) 251-6075, in person at church, or drop a note in my mailbox. Come and join the fun!"

### **Important Dates in September**

September 1 .... Grafton Food Pantry Collection Prairie Point Quilters,, Rejoice Worship Band Practice, Stitchin' Time  
September 2 .... Labor Day—Church Office Closed  
September 3 .... Little Lambs, Prairie Point Quilters , Adult Bible Study  
September 4 .... Little Lambs, Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Adult Bible Study  
September 5 .... Little Lambs, Prairie Crafters, Rejoice Worship Band Practice, Stitchin' Time  
September 7 .... Saturday Evening Service  
September 8 .... Adult Education  
September 9 .... Friends Bible Study, Ministry Meeting  
September 10... Little Lambs, Funeral Service Pre-Planning, Adult Bible Study  
September 11 .. Little Lambs, Adult Bible Study  
September 12.. Little Lambs, Prayer Shawls, Rejoice Worship Band Practice, Stitchin' Time  
September 14.. Northern Illinois Food Bank, Saturday Evening Service  
September 15.. Adult Education

September 16.. Friends Bible Study, Council Meeting  
September 17 Little Lambs, Prairie Point Quilters, Lydia Friendship Circle, Adult Bible Study  
September 18.. Little Lambs, Adult Bible Study, Parent/ Student Night  
September 19 Little Lambs, Mary Martha Friendship Group, Rejoice Worship, Stitchin' Time  
September 21 .. Tuzik & Cooke Wedding, Saturday Evening Service  
September 22.. Adult Education, Merry Widows  
September 23.. Friends Bible Study, WELCA General Meeting  
September 24.. Little Lambs, Adult Bible Study  
September 25.. Little Lambs, Adult Bible Study, Confirmation KickOff  
September 26.. Little Lambs, Rejoice Worship, Stitchin' Time  
September 28.. Saturday Evening Service  
September 29.. Adult Education  
September 30.. Friends Bible Study

# *A Note From Pastor Mark*

Dear Christian Friends,

I believe that Psalm 23 is the most read chapter in the Bible.

Is it any wonder that this little piece of Scripture has captured the attention of so many hearts? It paints a vivid picture if we take the time to absorb what is being described. It begins with words of assurance to the believer gently coupled with words of peace and quiet to instill a feeling of spiritual renewal. Thus assured, we are given guidance to honor not only the Lord's name but also we are provided with protection in our journey through life, our approaching death and the life thereafter.

In Luke 17:22-31, Lazarus, a beggar, appears in heaven and a rich unrepentant man having also died found himself on the other side of the chasm which prevented him from entering heaven and enjoying the comfort that Lazarus had. So while Lazarus and other believers are being fed at the banquet table, the rich man and his co-residents must be content to simply watch while the wonderful aroma titillates their noses.

At least that's the picture I get. It's a believer's joyful banquet followed with anointing with oil with all things continuing to be overflowing in superabundance. You really couldn't ask for a more beautiful picture, could you?

Finally, at the end of the Psalm 23, there is the promise of goodness and mercy following us throughout our life in Christ. But it is the remaining words that really move me... "and I

will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Did you get that? Forever! It's not a day, a week, a month or even a number of years but forever!

Some people usually refer to forever as when something isn't happening fast enough for them. For instance: "what's going on anyway? It's taking them (the mailman, the

repairman, or friends) forever to get here, for crying out loud!" Obviously, we don't measure forever as the Bible does.

God wants us to receive all God has promised.

As we begin a new year of learning open up and read your Bibles. Consider attending one of the many study opportunities offered at SOTP. Discover God's promises through God's Word. Sit down at the banquet table (Psalm 23) and avoid standing in the darkness. God invites you to listen as he speaks and be drawn to the light of God's love.

## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY**

On **Sunday, September 8** we will celebrate in worship the 25th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As a part of that day we will encourage everyone to consider "Being a Blessing." You ask what that may be? We want to encourage everyone that week to spend at least 1 hour in face to face Christian service. Most of us are already doing some sort of weekly service and this will be a reminder of how far reaching our ministry of care extends into the community. Others may want to consider a taking time as a family or individual to serve in some way to extend the love, mercy and compassion of Christ. We also would like for you take a picture and e-mail it to us so that we can put together a video collage of our "Being a Blessing" week. Please join us for worship on this very important day in the life of our work together as the ELCA.

I'll see you in worship,

*Pastor Mark*

# Confirmation Begins September 26th!

Wednesdays from 6:30—8:00

Join us for dinner at 6:00

Haven't registered yet? Go to [sotpyouth.com/confirmation](http://sotpyouth.com/confirmation)

## Important Dates

Aug 28, 7pm— Parent Information Night

Sept 18, 7pm—Parent/Student Night

Sept 25—1st Teaching Night

Oct 26th—Richardson Farm Corn Maze

Nov 8, 9, 10—Peder Eide Retreat LOMC

Dec 21, 9am—Feed My Starving Children



## Join us at the Corn Maze—October 26th—6-10pm!

Join us Saturday, October 26th, at Richardson Farm in Spring Grove, just 30 minutes Northeast of Huntley.

It will be a fun evening of spending time with your family while exploring the world's largest corn maze, zip lining, picking out pumpkins, and more!

We will have a campfire—Join us for a devotion and s'mores.

- Reservations and payment due no later than Oct. 13th
- Ages 13 and—\$11.50      Ages 4-12—\$9.50      Kids 3 and under are FREE

## Sign up in the Crossroads

# Youth Culture News

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## Five Trends Your kids Think are Normal... But Shouldn't:

When you're born into something, you don't notice it. It's normal. It's always been there. You know nothing different. You don't question it. You accept it. And when someone comes along who does question it. . . well. . . that rattles your world and you think the questioner is nuts. That's certainly the way it is with the youth culture soup kids are swimming in today. There's stuff in there that wasn't around when those of us who are older were adolescents. But it's always been there for our kids.

With your kids back in school, start thinking now about how you will take time during the coming school year to teach your kids some important lessons by intentionally addressing, talking about, and pounding home (over and over and over again) God's will and way on these five trends that have become just a normal part of life for your kids.

1. **Social Media Narcissism.** Hey, there's nothing wrong with Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. But when these sites are used to create, curate, promote, and sell one's self. . . that's narcissism. It's idolatry. We need to teach our kids how to use social media to the glory of God, not self.

2. **Relativism.** We live in a world where kids are encouraged to develop, figure out, and act on the truth that works for them based on how they feel at any given moment in time. If it works for you, well then go for it. Fact is, that's a recipe for personal, communal, and societal disaster. Let them know that God has gifted us with His will and way. There is such a thing as transcendent truth that exists outside of ourselves and that always has been and always will be there.

3. **Cohabitation.** Marriage is in deep, deep trouble. The days of "first comes love, then comes marriage, then comes baby in the baby carriage" are long gone. Even our Christian kids are opting to get it all out of order. Teach a biblical order for love, sex, and marriage through your words and actions. Chances are they aren't hearing it anywhere else.

4. **Tolerance.** I will be the first to admit that we need a little more appreciation for the great diversity that God has placed in His world. In addition, we need to show a whole lot more love and grace to those who might think and act differently. The church hasn't done a good job of that in recent years. But now, the pendulum is swinging in the opposite direction. When tolerance runs amok we wind up promoting, celebrating, serving, and spreading the kingdom of the world, the flesh and the devil (i.e. sin) . . . not the Kingdom of God.

5. **Marketing and Consumerism.** Each of us sees multiple thousands of marketing messages a day. Talk about swimming in something so much that we don't notice it anymore! Each of those ads sells both product and a way of looking at/living life. I believe that in today's world, marketing shapes us more than anything else. Ads promise redemption, wholeness, and satisfaction through the purchase of a product. But we know those products can never deliver the redemption we need. Why then, do we buy into their messages and manipulation? Teach your kids to think critically and Christianly about ads. Go ahead now. . . rattle your kids. . . even if they think you're nuts!

## TRENDS

### Lingerie for young girls

It wasn't that long ago that a young girl passing from childhood to puberty would mark the start of that passage with a trip to the store with mom to purchase what was called a training bra. A recent story from Bloomberg Businessweek sheds light on just how much our culture has changed. It seems that sales of lingerie for younger women are a 1.5 billion dollar a year business for the folks who manage Victoria Secrets' line of products known as Pink. The lingerie line known as Pink is geared primarily towards college girls. But because of age-aspiration and the desire to look and feel older, more and more middle school and younger aged girls are tapping into the brand. Consultant Dan Stanek says that young girls are getting the message that sensuality and body image are tied together, thereby driving them to grow up and be cool at younger and younger ages. Parents, we need to temper this pressure with lessons that point to finding one's identity in Christ, and dressing to His glory.



## LATEST RESEARCH

### Parental influence & drinking

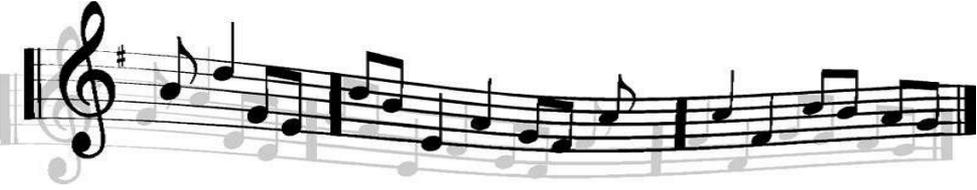
Maybe you remember that now famous still picture captured from the movie Animal House. In the photo, John Belushi's character is seen wearing a sweatshirt emblazoned with the generic word "college," while he's holding a bottle of whiskey. The picture captures what many college students believe is an integral part of their college experience. Sadly, many parents think the same thing and wind up believing that there's nothing they can do to prevent their son or daughter from getting wrapped up in the campus drinking culture. But new research from The Journal of Alcohol and Drugs shows that teens who talked with their parents about anti-drinking strategies before beginning their first year of college were more likely to fall into a non-drinking or light-drinking category, or to transition out of the heavy-drinking category if they were already heavy drinkers. Parents, your influence is more powerful than you think, and you must equip your kids to make God-honoring decisions.

### QUICK STATS

73% of 9 and 10 year-olds and 80% of 13 and 14 year-olds have been identified by their teachers as being adversely affected by sleep deprivation. (Boston College)

Teens who watched movies featuring lots of on-screen drinking were twice as likely to start drinking as compared to those who saw much less on-screen drinking. Those teens were also 63% more likely to progress to binge drinking. (British Medical Journal Open)

# ADULT, CHILDREN AND YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY



## Fall Schedule

### Adult, Children and Youth Fall Rehearsal Schedule :

**Cherub Choir:** PK-3 thru 1st grade Wed. 5:00 to 5:25 pm

Sandy Martin, Director

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

Michael Waal, Director

**Joy Ringers** 2nd thru 3rd grades Wed. 5:15 to 5:45 pm

Denise James, Director

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

Michael Waal, Director

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

Jane McMullen, Director

**Spirit Ringers:** 8th thru 12 grades Sun. 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Jane McMullen, Director

### Rehearsals start Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013

**Youth Band** Once a month rehearsal and lead worship at 10:45 am 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 9:00 pm

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

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

# SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE—JOB CONTENT DOCUMENT

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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

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## **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.

## ADULT EDUCATION FOR THIS FALL

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We say the words every time we gather for worship: "I believe in God...." It's called the Apostles' Creed. It's an amazing statement of faith, going back centuries, built on the faith of the early apostolic church. Its words reflect what the earliest apostles taught. And they've passed that on to us so we too can declare what we believe about the one, holy, triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

But while it's important to know this Creed from the standpoint of church history, what does it mean for us today, for us who live 2000 years after the apostles? What relevance does it have for those of us whose lives are so drastically different from the lives of Peter, Andrew, Thomas, and Mary Magdalene?

Well, let's find out! Beginning on **Sunday, September 15**, and continuing for the next two weeks, Pastor Jim Carr, a retired pastor who's a member of SOTP, will lead us in a series titled, "Seeing, Believing, and Being." Week one will focus on "I believe that...." Week two, "I believe in...." And week three, "I believe, therefore...."

So what do YOU believe--and why? And what difference does what you believe make in your life? Come join us for a lively discussion every **Sunday morning at 9:00 or 10:30; every Tuesday evening at 7:00; and every Wednesday morning at 11:00.**

**And now, a second adult education opportunity, and this might just be for you! Beginning on Wednesday, September 25, at 6:30 pm**, we'll begin a series for those who desire to know the basics of the Christian faith. We'll start with "Bible 101" and explore the most popular book in the history of the world, and yet a book with which many are not really acquainted. Where did the Bible come from? Why do we have an Old and a New Testament? What are the 12 key events? What are the primary themes? What do we mean when we call the Bible "the Word of God"? And how do we Lutherans interpret these Scriptures? The parents of our confirmands are particularly invited to participate, but this is for anyone who's interested in learning the basics about this Book of Faith. Come join us!

## SOTP BOWLING LEAGUE

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Can you believe summer is coming to a close, and fall is right around the corner? That means the start of season 4 for the SOTP BOWLING LEAGUE is rapidly approaching. We are looking forward to a great season and hope to expand the league. Requirements are easy. Anyone can participate. Here is all it takes:



This is a FUN league. If you enjoy getting together with other church members socially, then this is right up your ALLEY.

Being a good bowler is OK, but definitely not a requirement, and remember you will never lose a BALL like all the golfers do.

You only have to commit to one evening a month - the **3rd Friday from 6:00 p.m. to about 9:00 p.m.**

We are open to church members and friends high school age and above. If you are over age 99 we require a note from your mother or doctor.

There are 4 bowlers to a team. If you have enough for a team, GREAT! If you are a single bowler or a couple we'll match you up with other exciting people just like yourself.

Teams are made up of men, women, single or married. Couples can bowl together or we can separate you if your mate criticizes your style or score.

If you can SPARE one night a month, are looking to have some fun with close friends, or wish to STRIKE up new friendships, then you will have a BALL with our group. It's also great exercise. Call Wayne Schmidt and leave a message at (847) 659-1331, or email at [hmidtw12@comcast.net](mailto:hmidtw12@comcast.net). Do it TODAY!!! You don't want to miss out on this EXCITING limited offer.

## GIFT CARDS

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Send Your College Student To School With Gift Cards—Do you know somebody venturing off to college soon? Probably the most useful thing you can give are gift cards to local stores, restaurants, and gas stations. When you order your gift cards on Sunday, they are available for you to pick up the following Sunday! Perfect timing for their college departure! See our table in the CrossRoads for a list of gift cards that are available.



Also, please consider purchasing gift cards for your regular grocery, clothing, and fuel purchases. Every card you purchase supports our Shepherd of the Prairie Youth Ministries!

"GL Scrip Gift Card Fundraiser is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, McHenry/Kane Fraternal Chapter. Funds will be matched up to \$800".

## WORSHIP GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER

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### Saturday 5:00 services

September 7	Gail Quam -
September 14	Beck Tuzik
September 21	Lois Kenyon
September 28	Sue Blotch, Gail Quam

### Sunday - 9:00 service

September 1	Judy Spencer, Alice Murphy
September 8	Warren & Elaine Brody
September 15	Ron & P.J. Knudsen
September 22	Chris & Sara Solem
September 28	Sandy Lemke, Joanne Klinger

**All Sunday 10:45 - services - Bob & Carolyn Malm**

## FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY

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**ATTENTION LADIES!** Friends Bible Study meets on **Monday afternoon from 12:30-2:00 pm** at the church. We will be studying from the book “Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them” by the well-known author Liz Curtis Higgs. Liz breathes life into everything she does. Her messages are biblical, encouraging, sensible, and profoundly funny.



We will begin our fall Bible Study on **Monday, September 9** with a pot-luck luncheon. Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share. You are invited to join us at any time as we meet, pray, study, laugh and fellowship together. We have fun studying the Bible and getting to know each other better. Please contact Barb Hoch at 847-669-6652 for information on how to order your book. A Friend is a gift you give yourself! Please plan to join us and make new friends!

## VOLUTEER OPPORTUNITY—NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

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Here's your chance! The Mission committee has reserved room for 30 volunteers to work at the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) on **Saturday Sept. 14th** from 1 to 3:30 P.M. This will be the fourth time a group from SOTP will be volunteering. We have committed more volunteers than in the past, but we have no doubt that you will respond. Those who have gone in the past have found it to be a very rewarding experience. This is open to everyone, whether you have gone in the past or not. We have scheduled it for a **Saturday** so that more families would be able to participate. We need to know who will be going by **Sept. 1st**. Please call Sid Sorensen (224-858-4168) or email (sorensensid@comcast.net) or call Judy Spencer at the church. The NIFB is located in Geneva and distributes around 40 million pounds of food to 13 counties in Northern Illinois. They really need our help. Once we have everyone registered we will work out the transportation details.



## WELCA's NEWS

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**Summer Lunch on Wed. August, 14,** brought us together in “Good Company” for laughter, fellowship, as we shared delicious salads and the Liz Curtiss Higg’s uplifting video, “Embrace Grace”. We left deciding to share more time together in this kind of setting. Stay tuned for another upcoming event with Liz Curtiss Higgs.



### **Malaria Initiative**

Women of Beth Moore Study this summer contributed generously to Malaria Initiative with their offerings. Over \$300 was collected thus enabling 30 plus nets to be purchased to “Net out Malaria” in Africa. An untreated net for display purposes has been hung on the WELCA bulletin board in Crossroads. Visit the area to see children and families we have served. Francis Wilson will be WELCA’s contact person.

**The Huntley Area Public Library** will be taking part in **Fall Fest Saturday Sept. 28th from 10-5, and Sunday, Sept. 29th from 11-5,** with a large book sale. If you have begun to collect books for our Tanzania mission collection of books to add to their educational opportunities, this is a perfect time to add to the collection. See the display in the Narthex or contact Barbara Pagano for the list of acceptable books, and at the same time add to your own collections.

### **“In Good Company” Stories of Biblical Women, is WELCA’s Theme for 2013-14.**

Yes, that’s us, the women of Shepherd of the Prairie. Our board has been busy this summer planning activities: studying the book of James with Beth Moore, buying school supplies for Grafton Food Pantry children, supporting Malaria Initiative with generous offerings to purchase Malaria tents for families in Africa, knitting prayer shawls, sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Home of the Sparrow, serving along side Helping Hands for funerals, making crafts for our annual bazaar, reading suggested books to share with Chatters, scrapbooking, weeding the church grounds, serving Sundays with Altar Guild and preparing for a meaningful WELCA Unit. We are busy and many hands are at work. Indeed we are “In Good Company”.

Continued on next page

# WELCA: W4: WOMEN WHO WORK WONDERS!

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Written by Kay Ward, the “In Good Company Bible lessons” found in Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Magazine, Gather, are the basis for our studies and fellowship this year. The board of Michelle Rankin, treasurer, Janice Shuff, secretary, Barbara Pagano, vice president, and Donna Sorensen, president, invites you to come and be part of all that WELCA-W4 has to offer. There are many opportunities to join a small group and become friends.

**Friends Bible Study** meets weekly on Mondays. *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtiss Higgs. Barb Hoch facilitates this group.

**Lydia Friendship Circle** will meet on the third Tuesday at 12:30 following Prairie Points Quilting. Bring a bag lunch for fellowship and enjoy the Bible Study using the September issue of *Gather Magazine*.

**Chatters Book Club** is held on the third Wednesday of the Month with Gail Barnard facilitating the group.

**Mary-Martha Friendship Circle** meets on the third Thursday from 1-3 pm and it too will use the September issue of *Gather* magazine.

**Quilting, and prayer shawl ministries** and bazaar workdays are announced in *Friday Flourish*, weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter. You will use your hands, enjoy laughter, and develop a strong sense of community and fellowship here.

We hope to see you at one of these events or in a small group enjoying *Good Company*. Julie Ageson writes in *Gather*, “Keeping good company is a privilege. Good company is life giving.” *Gather* into *Good Company*.

**At present five General Fellowship Events are planned for the year:**

**General Meeting Kicks off on Monday September 23 from 5:30-8:00.** A second chance to partake of a potluck supper. There will be a brief business meeting highlighting the year ahead.

**Saturday, October 19, at 3:00 pm**—Befriend the children, the adolescence, and parents of Tanzania with Bookfriends International, as Shepard of the Prairie help build their libraries, with your blessings, by donating used educational books.

Meet Steve and Paulie Kutschat the founders of Bookfriends. They will share their goals and mission of fulfilling the needs of African children pursuing their education and leading to career development.

A Tanzanian Curry Chicken Soup and a vegetable soup, with fried bananas will be served before church service at 5:00. Please join us and help build a library.

**Sunday, December 8,** at 1pm, our Second Annual Christmas Tea based on the book, *The Christmas Tea*.

**Annual Retreat: April 5th 2014**

**Mother-Daughter Fashion Review/Banquet June 14, 2014**

## ALTAR GUILD

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### THIS TIME I'M NOT ASKING, I'M BEGGING!!!

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The ALTAR GUILD currently has about 30 ladies/men who do the set-up and take-down for communion at three worship services each week and ALL our special services throughout the year. Thirty members is a very small percentage of our adult membership to take care of one of the most important jobs for our worship services – preparing the Eucharist. Working in teams it requires 15 minutes before and after each worship service. Early service members are scheduled for one month at a time with an alternate in case of illness or time away. The late service teams prefer one Sunday per month. Saturday services we have several leaders and other volunteers.

We are in great need of dependable adults, men and women, to help us out at all services. I am willing to meet with you to explain what we do and how we do it. We have on-the-job training with experienced members of the Altar Guild.

Please let me know if you feel you can share some time on Saturday evening or Sunday mornings to help as a member of the Altar Guild.

Sue Wehnes, 224 569-2808 [susanwehnes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanwehnes@sbcglobal.net)

## LITTLE LAMBS EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

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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 2 - 4 by **Sept. 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 am 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](mailto:littlelambs@sotpmail.com).

**Little Lambs is celebrating it's 5th year!!!!** We would like to send out a big "Thank You" to Kristy Warnke for everything she did for the Little Lambs program, we couldn't have done it without you. Blessings to you and your family on your new adventure, you will be greatly missed.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

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On **Wednesday, September 4**, 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.



## OFFERING COUNTERS

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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.

## SOTP BOWLING LEAGUE

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There are 4 bowlers to a team. If you have enough for a team, GREAT! If your a single bowler or a couple we'll match you up with other exciting people just like yourself.

Teams are made up of men, women, single or married. Couples can bowl together or we can separate you if your mate criticizes your style or score.

If you can **SPARE one night a month**, are looking to have some fun with close friends, or wish to STRIKE up new friendships, then you will have a BALL with our group. It's also great exercise. Call Wayne Schmidt and leave a message at (847) 659-1331, or email at schmidtw12@comcast.net. Do it TODAY!!! You don't want to miss out on this EXCITING limited offer.

## "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD!"

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Recently Carol and I worshiped in an Episcopal church, and lo and behold, this was the Hymn of the Day! Not long ago, I entered a Catholic church, and paging through their hymnal, guess what I found? Sure enough, there was Luther's great hymn. Not only was Luther a prolific hymn writer whose work extends beyond the Lutheran church, but he was so many other things as well: pastor, theologian, preacher, husband, father--and a very contrary man!

Luther's impact on both church and world cannot be fully measured. In 2000, he was voted third among those who contributed the most to the world in the previous 1000 years! Quite an accomplishment.

Now you have an opportunity to visit the land of Luther and get the rich flavor of the world in which he lived! In **September 2014**, you're invited to join Pastor Bill and Carol, as well as Chuck and Sharon Little, as we take a 10-day tour of LutherLand. A brochure is available in the church office that tells all about it. And in September you're invited to join us for a time of questions and answers about this upcoming trip. We'll meet on **Sunday morning, September 8, at both 9:00 and 10:30; on Tuesday, September 10, at 7:00 pm; and on Wednesday morning, September 11, at 11:00.**

And then come join us for an adventure!

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

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The Stewardship Committee is needing additional volunteers. Please contact Ralph Wehnes, 224-569-2808 if you are interested.

## STEWARDSHIP TALES

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True thanksgiving begins with being genuinely thankful to God the giver of every gift. And that describes and includes all we are and possess--they are gifts. This is a fine beginning, but it is only a beginning. The true fruit of genuine gratitude and thanksgiving is how we use and what we do with what God has given to us and blessed us with. You cannot lift up your heart in thanksgiving and not use what God has given you in his service and to his glory. What a hollow ring it must sound in the ears of God, the Giver, when we express our thanksgiving to him, then proceed to hoard, store up or self-indulge his gifts and blessings. God blesses and showers us with an abundance of good gifts from above not to just make us thankful but to make us useful. By any other name, what we express to God about what he has given us is called "Thanksgiving". What we do with all of it is called "Stewardship".



## BOOK CHATTERS

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Book Chatters will kick off its reading year by not reading! How does that work? Gail Barnard is preparing a book review that she will present at our kick-off meeting on **September 18 at 1 p.m. at the church.**



The book being reviewed is Marghanita Laski's *Little Boy Lost*. This book, almost as old as Gail and no longer in print, is part mystery, part introspection, part tearjerker about a man who is valiantly but unsuccessfully searching for his son who he had to leave in France as he escaped from Nazis during the fall of France. During the search, the father has to struggle with some pretty unpleasant truths about himself and his attitudes. Gail chose this book for her review because her mother reviewed it many, many years ago. And, as with many daughters and mothers, Gail did not pay attention to her mom's reviewing process, just the story. So she had to order the book from London, England, and start from scratch. Lesson learned.

Gail's presentation will use not only the book but also excerpts of the movie starring Bing Crosby which absolutely infuriated the author. You don't want to miss finding out what Bing did that was so bad, do you?

Also at the September meeting, we will decide what book(s) we want to delve into for the October meeting. The group is informal, friendly and eager for new members. We don't get all wonky about the literary aspects of most books but read and share for enjoyment. It also is not unusual to share additional book info about what we're reading and do or do not like. We also allow ourselves to be led somewhat afield about the book topics and how we relate to them. We call our group Book Chatters rather than Book Study for a reason....

Please join us September 18 to check out our format and maybe put us on your calendar regularly.

## EXODUS WORLD SERVICE

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**Run/Walk for Refugees—Saturday, September 7,** Long Grove — Refugees walk hundreds of miles to find safety. They escaped terror and persecution in their homelands. They spent years waiting in dangerous refugee camps. Now these courageous families face the difficult challenge of starting over. Join the Run/Walk for Refugees and bring help and hope to weary refugees. For more detailed information about how to register to walk, go to <http://www.e-w-s.org/>. or contact Sandy Hupert at 224-569-6041. Can't walk? You can support our SOTP walkers. Contact Sandy Hupert to find out how.

**NEW REFUGEE FAMILY** - News headlines and Shepherd of the Prairie connect! Millions of refugees have poured over the borders into neighboring countries. We've read about it and watched it on TV. We've prayed for peace. Now we will have a personal connection. Our newest refugee family will arrive on **Thursday, August 22, from war-torn Syria**. Please pray for the Sabree family's safe arrival.

## THE PENTECOST BANNER

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The new Pentecost banner displayed in the sanctuary is a gift to the church in loving memory of Helen Berry by her family.

The verse, Matt. 28 v19, Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, encourages us to share God's word with all nations.

We are grateful to Helen's family for honoring her memory and to Pat Fiorese for making the banner.



## FUNERAL SERVICE PRE-PLANNING

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The InReach Committee of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Funeral Service Pre-Planning group session. It will meet at the church on **Tuesday, September 10th at 10:00 A.M.** Pastor Ken Pohlmann has been sharing this ministry with individuals and couples for several years and has agreed to lead a group session. Maximum group size: 12. Participants will receive guidance and resource materials that will assist them in planning a memorial service, one which will celebrate their life and faith, bring comfort to those who mourn and above all, give glory to God whose promise of ETERNAL LIFE is fulfilled. Pre-register by contacting Pastor Ken. Phone: 847-669-8675. E-Mail: kpohlmann3152@aol.com. In Person: at church.

## STITCHIN' TIME

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Do you want to learn a craft? We can teach you to cross stitch, crochet, knit or hook rug. There will be a sign up sheet in the crossroads. We will be meeting on **Thursday nights at 7:00 beginning on Sept. 19.** Come and join us. If you have any questions call Alice at 847-515-7556.

## SOTP ADULT SUPPER CLUB

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Don't "FALL" out of touch with fellow SOTP members,

Meet new people, expand old relationships. **GATHER TOGETHER OVER A MEAL.**

**FOUR TIMES DURING SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER.** Add your name(s) to the "FALL" Yellow Supper Club Signup sheets posted in the Cross Roads. Sunday Sept. 8th is the last day to sign up for the fall session.

If you are not familiar with how the Supper Club is done please read on.

Folks sign up every 4 months (Trying one session does not automatically sign you up for more, it is up to you.) After the cutoff date folks (singles are welcome) are divided into small groups of 6-8 people. Usually (but not always) One hosts the main meal in their home, then the others bring a dessert, salad, etc. Then another takes the main meal, etc. Some groups order in or eat out for 1 or more of their meals. Each group makes their own plan. We will for the second time try a second option which would be people who want to **ONLY** eat out or order in.

Questions? Or want to sign up via phone or email?? Please contact Sandy at sandyhupert@gmail.com or call 224-569-6041.

## SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

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WELCA at SOTP collected school supplies and school bags for families served by the Grafton Food Pantry. This opportunity started off school year brighter for many of our Grafton families. Here are some photos of the fruits of your donations. Families coming into the Grafton Food Pantry were beyond excited, very surprised & extremely appreciative to be blessed with these gifts to start their children off this school year. Thank you ALL for your HUGE support!!! This congregation never ceases to amaze me with all the love & support that is given out within our own community and around the world.

## FOOD PANTRY

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Items needed this month for the Grafton Food Pantry:

### Cereal, deodorant, toothpaste, soup & pasta

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.



## OUTREACH

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We would like to thank each of you for being a member of the Outreach Team! As you “enter the mission field” this month, please think of someone who is just waiting for you to invite them to SOTP. We encourage you to invite family, friends and neighbors to attend worship services with you on Sunday, September 15. This would also be a great opportunity for you to invite a child to attend the first day of Sunday School. We all know how children love to learn about Jesus.

Please be a witness for Christ and spread the Good News that JESUS LOVES YOU! God’s blessings to you!

Your Outreach Team Barbara Hoch, Chairperson

## ACOLYTES

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ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES and those who would like to be begin serving. Those who are entering the 3rd grade - 6th grade students are encouraged to consider serving as acolytes during Sunday morning worship services. Our next training session with Pastor Mark will be on **Saturday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m.** Please call the church office to let us know that your child will be participating in this very important ministry of the church.

## ALTAR GUILD—SEPTEMBER

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\* **Sunday 9:00 a.m.:** Marilyn Schnake & Ann Lehman

**Sunday 10:45 a.m.:**

September 1— Carol Lilla & Barbara Beaudette

September 8— Jan Koerner & Marilyn Burkland

September 15—Sandy Hupert & Marlene Boehler

September 22—Donna Schneff & Linda Jahr

September 29—Jan & Don Koerner

\* **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

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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.

## THRIVENT

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The McHenry-Kane County Thrivent unit supports Shepherd of the Prairie in many ways. But its most significant contributions are matching dollars for projects within the congregation. This year Thrivent supported Prayer Shawl Ministry and Prairie Point Quilters with Care Abounds dollars of \$300 each. Yarn and rolls of quilting batting has been purchased to support those two projects.

In addition \$800 has been ear-marked for Youth Ministry. Matching dollars will be given up to \$800 for the GL Scrip Gift Card Fundraiser sponsored by SOTP's Youth Ministry. Every card purchased supports our youth ministries.

Thrivent also supports Exodus and Habitat for Humanity, two service organizations our members are active with outreach.

Donna Sorensen, Congregational Advocate

# TREASURER'S REPORT

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## Operating Budget Year-to Date as of July 31st, 2013

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$294,008.12	\$300,629.00
General Fund Expenses:	<u>\$276,323.98</u>	<u>\$300,629.00</u>
Net Income:	\$17,684.14	\$0

General Fund Notes: the net income is inflated due t two special gifts received in July totaling \$10,000.

## Building Fund Year-to-Date as of July 31, 2013

Building Fund Income:	\$140,844.73
Loan Principal Payments:	\$75,835.46
Loan Interest Payments:	\$19,882.54
Principal Only Payments:	\$20,000
Net Income:	\$25,126.73

Building Fund Notes: A principal only payment will be made in the month of August using a portion of the net income.

# OFFERING COUNTERS FOR SEPTEMBER

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- ◆ Warren Brody
- ◆ Donna Turner

# FINANCIAL RECORDS

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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)

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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.



## September

### Birth date Name

- 1 Beverly Noffz, Susan Krewer
- 2 Jason Lindquist, Phillip Jacobs
- 3 Lois Long
- 4 Beth Wintersteen, Brett DePorter,  
Kira Frendreis
- 5 Harold Henkle, Jake Harding
- 6 Kelly Hibbeler, Olivia Krewer
- 7 Jean Clausen, Nick Parry,  
Stephen Browne, Pearl Kolcz
- 8 Gerhardt Neukirch
- 9 Gail Quam, Riley Petersen
- 10 Phyllis Anderson, Nicole Grabs,  
Beth Mudge, Jordan Wills,  
Samantha Szekely
- 11 Sally Schuett, Gloria Scimeca,  
Alan Henningsen, Donna Sorensen
- 12 Jamie Bremer, Don Wiek, Karen Carr,  
Emma Konie, Leah Anderson
- 14 Gladys Meese, Janice Shuff,  
Adam Luedtke
- 15 Eric Lindgren, Jodie Reed, Todd Schilling
- 16 Andrew Fulcer, Luther Yndestad
- 18 Victor Pizarro, Marty Schnepff
- 19 Linda Christopherson, Raymond Dunn,  
Donna Newbanks, Kristi Cordle,  
Crystal Schilling
- 20 Josh Bremer, Gordon Burseth,  
Rob Schuett, Joshua Miley,  
Meredith Parmele
- 21 Autumn Kasal
- 22 James Blanchard
- 23 Adele Wogstad, Sandy Scalise,  
Teagan Papka
- 24 Ruby Haerle, John Shannon,  
Wendy Papka, Tyler Greene
- 25 Cameryn Piskule
- 26 Lois Kosmen, Nanette Wade,  
Vivian Lukes
- 27 Candy Henningsen
- 28 John Shepard
- 29 Dee Pedersen, John Arneson, Haley Sabie
- 30 Bill Harding, Mike Huston, Nathan Ulmer,  
Gianna Young

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: 8:00 a. m.-Noon, Mon-Fri

**Pastor Mark Boster**  
847-515-2713 (Home)  
pastormark@sotpmail.com

**Pastor Bill Waxenberg**  
Director of Adult Education  
pastorbill@sotpmail.com

**Greg Dowell**  
Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator  
greg@sotpmail.com

**Jane McMullen**  
Director of Music & Worship  
jane@sotpmail.com

**Dennis Lilla**  
Technology Support Manager  
dennis@sotpmail.com

**Judy Spencer**  
Office Manager  
judy@sotpmail.com

**Michael Waal**  
Organist/Piano Accompanist  
michael@sotpmail.com

**Jill Gilling**  
Little Lambs

**Sandy Martin**  
Cherub Choir

**Carol Waxenberg**  
Blessings Choir

**Denise James**  
Joy Ringers

**Michael Parmele**  
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**