



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

# Congregational Newsletter October 2013

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT WEEKEND

The Stewardship Team has picked the weekend of **November 9th and 10th** for our 2014 commitment weekend. We will have 4 temple talks at **Saturday & Sunday Services** starting **October 19th** as we prepare our financial intentions for 2014. Please make an effort to attend all four weeks and pray over your commitment.

### IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

October 1 ..Prairie Point Quilters, Adult Bible Study  
October 2 ..Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Adult Bible Study,  
October 3 ..Prairie Crafters,  
October 5 ..Saturday Evening Service  
October 6 ..Traditional & Contemporary Services, Grafton Food Pantry Collection, LifeSource Blood Drive, Adult Ed Class  
October 8 ..Adult Bible Study  
October 9 ..Adult Bible Study  
October 10 Prayer Shawls,  
October 12 Saturday Evening Service  
October 13 Traditional & Contemporary Services, Adult Ed Class  
October 14 Ministry Meeting Night  
October 15 Adult Bible Study  
October 16 Adult Bible Study, Book Chatters  
October 17 Mary/Martha Woman's Worship  
October 19 WELCA Meeting, Saturday Evening Service  
October 20 Traditional & Contemporary Services, Adult Ed Class  
October 21 Council Meeting

October 22 Adult Bible Study  
October 23 Adult Bible Study  
October 26 Richardson Farm Corn Maze, Saturday Evening Service  
October 27 Traditional & Contemporary Services, Adult Education Class, Merry Widows  
October 29 Adult Bible Study  
October 30 Adult Bible Study  
Repetitive Dates:  
Friend Bible Study meets every Monday afternoon  
Little Lambs meets every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings  
Stitchin' Time meets every Thursday evening  
Confirmation Class meets every Wednesday night  
Cherub Choir, Blessings Choir, Jubilate/Joy Ringers, Jubellation Ringers meet every Wednesday night  
Band Rehearsal & Adult Bells meets every Thursday night  
Spirit Ringers meet every Sunday afternoon

# *A Note From Pastor Mark*

Dear Christian Friends,

Beginning on the weekend of **October 19 and 20**, and continuing over the next four weekends, I invite you to join me in discovering what it means to be found faithful in giving to God. My thanks to everyone who has accepted an invitation to share with us over these four weekends...

Ralph Wehnes - "Called to be faithful"

Marina Rhode "Found faithful in little"

Bree Huston – "Found faithful with much"

Orion Samuelson "Found faithful with all"

We will spend four weeks exploring being faithful in little things, faithful with much, and faithful with all God has giving to us.

God can take little things in our lives, things that seem relatively insignificant, and multiply their impact beyond what we could have imagined. What gifts are we holding back because we think they are "too little"? God can multiply even our smallest gifts in ways that allow people to be restored.

We are richly blessed. How does God call us to be faithful with much – with all of our generous blessings? Allow God to show you that God will be found faithful as we increase our faithfulness and generosity.

In what new ways is God calling our congregation to be generous? Many of us have been involved in cottage meetings over the last couple of months asking such questions. We need to seek clarity by God's Spirit moving among us to follow. When we trust the Lord with all we have, miracles are possible. The reward of ministry well done is often more work, more trust, more testing and more engagement with our Master, Jesus.

I look forward to all that we will learn and experience as together we celebrate God's faithfulness and find way to increasingly be found faithful in our response to God's goodness and blessings.

With you and mission and ministry, I'll see you in worship.

*Pastor Mark*

## FROM THE MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

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The Mutual Ministry Team is a small group of people who meet monthly with the pastor to provide a safe and confidential environment for him to share new ideas, blessings, and concerns he may have about his ministry at SOTP. This group also is a supporter of the pastor in many ways to include, but not limited to, the following: making sure he has good work and family balance, takes his vacation, is attending continuing education opportunities, has meaningful goals each year and administering his yearly performance evaluation from the staff and congregation.

It is now time to gather feedback for Pastor Mark. Shortly, you may receive an email asking for constructive feedback via an online survey on how Pastor is doing in his ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie. This feedback will allow him to understand how he can better serve Shepherd of the Prairie and set goals for next year. The team asks you to take approximately 15 minutes to complete this short, but important survey.

It is important to note that for us to consider your feedback, your name must be entered into the survey. At Shepherd of the Prairie we value honesty and accountability and in accordance with scripture, see unwillingness to address points of concern in a personal manner as a violation of the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment, bearing false witness against your neighbor.

If you have any questions or do not have email address and would like to complete a survey, please contact a member of the Mutual Ministry Team.

*Rebecca Fulcer  
Mike Hoch  
Neal Mejdrich  
Jessica Panella  
Sarah Wolf*

## Identity Matters

Ever wonder what occupies the minds of your teenagers more than just about anything else? It's the quest to figure out who they are and who they will be for the rest of their lives. Developmental experts call this primary task of adolescence "identity formation." It's this quest for identity that leads so many of them to regularly reinvent and curate themselves visually and descriptively on social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. To complicate matters, they've been hammered long before their teenage years by a non-stop flow of compelling messages fed to them by a culture that's more than happy to write their identity script, telling them what to think, what to say, how to live, and who to be.

If our primary calling as parents is to point our kids to Christ, praying that He would embrace them so hard that they would find their identity solely in their embrace of Him, then what can we do to help our kids find their way through youth culture's confusing identity mess? Here are some suggestions to get you started.

First, look in the mirror to evaluate the identity you've chosen. Our example speaks louder than anything else to our kids. In his book *The Reason For God*, Tim Keller reminds us that "every person must find some way to 'justify their existence,' and to stave off the universal fear that they're a 'bum.'" Ultimately, our identity can and must be found in Christ and Christ alone. We must be sure that with Augustine we are able to say, "Our hearts our restless until they find their rest (identity) in Thee!"

Second, continually check in on the identity-shaping world of your kids. For the Christian parent, culture-watching is an active and on-going responsibility. The responsibility falls on us to stay on top of the nuances of our kids' youth culture, particularly the messengers and messages that are shaping their identity. But it's not just something we do. It's something we do with a purpose. Theologian John Stott calls this "dual listening." He says that we "stand between the Word and the world with consequent obligation to listen to both. We listen to the Word in order to discover ever more of the riches of Christ. And we listen to the world in order to discover which of Christ's riches are needed most and how to present them in their best light."

Third, confront the lies. Several times in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus issues "You have heard it said. . . but I tell you" statements. Each and every time, Jesus is issuing a corrective to conventional, widely-held, cultural wisdom that his hearers had not only heard, but had allowed to become a part of their very lives. A hallmark of our parenting is continually assuming the same "you have heard it said. . . but Jesus tells you" posture on identity matters.

Look for, find, and expose our world's identity lies. . . in the culture, in yourself, and in your kids.

# YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

## TRENDS

### Kids And Smartphones

Have you seen those Youtube videos of babies and toddlers trying to manipulate magazine pages as if they are tablet and smartphone screens? It's not surprising that the youngest digital natives have difficulty differentiating smart screens from paper pages, and they wind up swiping the pages with their fingers to no avail. One reason for this is that we are putting smartphones in the hands of our youngest kids. We need to start thinking about how



smartphone use is affecting our children. Nineteen percent of our elementary school-aged children are now using smartphones. One of the most prevalent dangers is that smartphones give kids access to the Internet. Sadly, many kids are engaging with smartphones without parental supervision, making it possible for them to seek out or accidentally be exposed to dangerous Internet content. We suggest that you think twice before putting a smartphone in the hands of your unsupervised young children.

## LATEST RESEARCH

### Sports Concussions

With school back in session and the fall school sports season in full swing, it's important to take a minute to think about a health issue related to kids and sports. As parents, we need to be diligent about ensuring the physical safety of our kids and their bodies as it relates to concussions. God made the brain to be a complex organ. In recent years experts have been sounding the alarm about the short and long-term damage that concussions can do to the brain. A recent study in the journal *Pediatrics*

suggests that the effects of a concussion may last longer than previously thought, a reality we should consider when we are pondering when to get our kids back on the field. Some concussions take months, rather than a few weeks, to heal. It takes longer if the athlete has had a prior concussion. In a day and age when we value athletics and on-field achievement perhaps too much, think about the long-term effects that today's decisions might have on your kids.

## QUICK STATS

1 in 8 teens is abusing Adderall (used to treat ADHD) in an effort to lose weight.  
(The Partnership at Drugfree.org)

Almost a quarter of married homeowners ages 18-34 bought a home together before they were married. (Coldwell Banker Real Estate Survey)



# Operation Christmas Child

It's not too early to think about Christmas! Once again, our SOTP youth and children will be leading us in Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Christmas shoe boxes—often the only gift many children will receive—are filled with toys, hygiene items and school supplies, and then sent to children in need around the world. We hope SOTP members of all ages will help us fill LOTS of shoeboxes.

Boxes must be returned here by Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more details on how to pack a box and the needed tags, etc., please pick up a brochure at our OCC display (**starting in early October**) or go to [operationchristmaschild.com](http://operationchristmaschild.com). Shoeboxes should be standard size and be able to be opened for inspection, so if you want to wrap the box, please wrap the lid and bottom separately. Also, OCC requests that you include \$7 for shipping. This can be a check inside the box or donated online with the receipt attached to the box. (Bonus if you donate the shipping online: you'll receive a tracking code to attach to your box so you can follow your box to its destination.)

Individual items and cash donations are also welcome. If you don't want to fill an entire shoebox, we'll have a box in the Crossroads where you can drop off individual items. Our church youth will use these to fill additional boxes at our packing party. Or you can make a cash donation, and our youth will do the shopping for you.

But it's not just about the presents inside the box. Before distributing the boxes, OCC adds a gospel book in the child's native language, so the boxes truly are a way to demonstrate God's love to needy children around the world and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. And many of the children who receive boxes are invited to participate in a follow-up program where they learn more about Jesus.

Questions? Contact Zoe or Greg Dowell. And thank you!

# **BLOOD DRIVE AT SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE**

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For those that don't know me, my name is Patrick Fleener. I have been in Scouting with the Boy Scouts of America since 200, when I was 8 years old. I joined as a Tiger Scout in the Cub Scout Program and have earned all ranks up to and including Life Scout in Boy Scouts.

To attain my next rank, I need to finish 5 more Eagle Required Merit Badges and complete a

project that will show my leadership qualities. For my Project, I have chosen to arrange, coordinate and promote the need for Blood Drives in our community. I have chosen to do blood drives because of needs not only for our Armed Services, but also in our community for those that are sick or injured that need blood to get better. My Nana, Papa and Grandmother have all received blood when they were in the hospital and it saved their lives.

I am working with LifeSource to host three Blood Drives, two at Hampshire High School where I am a Junior and on the Football team and one at Shepherd of the Prairie. My overall goal is to collect 150 pints total between them all. We have already had one at school and am awaiting confirmation on how many pints were collected. My goal for SOTP is to collect at least 30 pints.

**The Blood Drive at Shepherd of the Prairie will be on Sunday, October 6, from 8:00am - 2:00pm.** LifeSource will be using a Mobile Trailer that will be parked outside of the east entrance of the church. Anyone age 16 and above can donate. (A 16 year old will need to have a parent signed waiver to donate).

Please help me attain this goal. If you have any questions, I will be in the Welcome Center between services near the Gift Card Table and after the 2nd service.

Thanks so much,

Patrick



## CARING CALLERS

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Are you someone who enjoys talking on the phone? One who loves to let others know you care? Are you looking for a way to share God's love?

Could you be a Caring Caller?

**A Caring Caller** is one who calls members on the prayer chain for a friendly chat, to check on their well being, to see if there is anything their SOTP family can do to help and most of all, just listen.

**Qualifications:** faith, a caring heart, listening ears and the willingness to show others that you care.

There will be training sessions on **Monday, November 11 at 10:00 am and at 7:00 pm** led by Pastor Mark.

If you would like to be a part of this opportunity to share God's love as well as your own as a Caring Caller, please contact the church office or Donna Kelly at 214-676-1788 or [donnarae51@gmail.com](mailto:donnarae51@gmail.com).

Grace & Peace,

The InReach Team



## COMMUNION FROM THE ASSEMBLY

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Ministers of Communion from the Assembly are ready and anxious to bring the weekend Worship Service to you through Holy Communion.

If for whatever reason you cannot attend worship at SOTP whether it is for a long-term illness, short-term illness or other reason, and would like Communion brought to you at your home or other living facility, please contact the church office or Pastor Mark.







## 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 **October 13th**
- Ages 1-3 —\$11.50
- Ages 4-12—\$9.50
- Kids 3 and under are FREE

Sign up in the Crossroads

## **SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE—JOB POSTINGS**

New Job Posting: Coordinator of Audio/Visual Technology—Shepherd of the Prairie Staffing Team will be posting the position of Coordinator of Audio/Visual Technology on the Shepherd of the Prairie website. This position had been held on a temporary basis by Greg Dowell. Upon review of the Church Council, this position has been identified as a permanent need at Shepherd of the Prairie. All qualified applicants interested in applying should submit their information via the website. New Member and Involvement Coordinator position is, also, posted on SOTP website.

## **WELCA: W4: WOMEN WHO WORK WONDERS!**

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**Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 3:00pm**

Befriend the children, the adolescence, and parents of Tanzania with Bookfriends International, as Shepard to 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 vegetable soup, with fried bananas will be served before church service at 5:00pm. Please join us and help build a library.

Sign-up sheet will be available Tickets are \$5.00

**Lydia Friendship Circle** future dates to be announced.

**Mary-Martha Friendship Circle** meets on the third Thursday from 1:00pm to 3:00pm 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.

**Sunday, December 8, at 1:00pm**, 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**

# PARISH LAY VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN TRAINING PROGRAM

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What a blessing Donna Kelly and Patty Driscoll-Shaw are experiencing as 2 of 31 participants of an in-depth educational and practical integration process in Pastoral Care. This 12 week program, under the auspices of the Bishop Anderson House, an agency of Episcopal Charities and Community Services, includes presenters on Pastoral Care Techniques of Presence, Gerontology, Psychological Illnesses, Addictions, Spirituality, Prayer, Wellness, End of Life Issues – to mention only a few.

Through our training we will deepen our sensitivity to listening, communicating and counseling by accompanying people across the continuum of the life span. Pastor Mark carries the role of our Supervisor with whom we'll meet each week and through whom we'll be guided to visit members of Shepherd of the Prairie in hospitals, nursing homes and home visits. Through our skilled training, we will extend SOTP's ministry of Pastoral Care of the sick and needy. Both of us consider it a privilege to be part of this ministry within and through our faith community.

## OUTREACH

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The Outreach Team would like to thank you for inviting friends and family to worship with you at SOTP on Rally Day. Our church was filled with excitement as children attended the first day of Sunday School. Many ministries are available at SOTP and we encourage you to participate and bring a friend with you during the week as you share time with your church family.

We would like to thank each of you for being a member of the Outreach Team! It is evident each Sunday as we see your smiles and hear your words of encouragement as we share in fellowship at SOTP. Please continue to share your love for Jesus as you "enter the mission field" this month!

God's blessings to you!

Your Outreach Team, Barbara Hoch, Chairperson

# NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK WORK DAY

Thanks to the 40 volunteers who gave their time on  
**Saturday, September 14.**



“I was hungry and you gave me food.....” Matthew 25:35

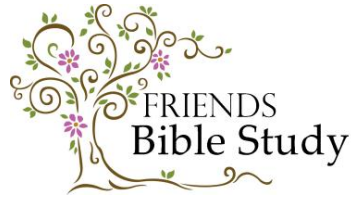
Over 46 million people in the United States live in poverty. (The poverty line is \$23,492 for a family of 4.) Many of these people live in our community, some are in our families. Shepherd of the Prairie members are very generous with their gifts of food, time and money. Here are some upcoming opportunities:

1. Next work day at Northern Illinois Food Bank is **November 11, 2013.**
2. Thanksgiving Offering will be given to Grafton Food Pantry and Northern Illinois Food Bank.
3. Food donations are collected for Grafton Food Pantry on the first Sunday of the month.
4. Contact Alice Hallett for opportunities to volunteer at the Grafton Food Pantry.

# 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.



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!

## GIFT CARDS

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Please consider purchasing gift cards for your regular grocery, clothing, and fuel purchases. What a great birthday, anniversary, or holiday gift.

**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".



## OUTREACH GOES GREEN!

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Since we have been supporting the Huntley Library's ongoing newspaper recycling project. The bins have been full and the library is receiving the maximum amount of money for each bin.

Please continue to drop off your newspapers, copy paper and magazines at any time in the bins located on the east side of the parking lot at the Huntley Library, 11000 Ruth Road. This fundraiser supports many programs and activities sponsored by the library.

**EVERY PAPER COUNTS!** Please remember: NO CARDBOARD and NO TELEPHONE BOOKS! Thank you for being a good neighbor to the Huntley Library!

## ALTAR GUILD

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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)

## USHERS

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The Worship Ministry Team is asking for your help. Ushers are needed for the 10:45 am Sunday service. If you are interested, please contact Ferdie Kimminau at 224-569-6739 or email [ferdiekimm@att.net](mailto:ferdiekimm@att.net).



Thank you for your help.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

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On **Wednesday, October 2**, we will meet at Sammy's Restaurant at 9:00 am 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.

## CALLING ALL CRAFTY PEOPLE

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We can use your hand made items for our 10th annual bazaar and bake sale this **November 8th and 9th**. All unique handcrafted items donated will be gratefully accepted. We will need willing hands to help setup and clean up. Some sweets for our sweet shop and cafe, that was very successful last year, will be repeated.



New this year will be a Santa Secret Shop for children to buy for Moms, Dads and Grandparents.

Please be busy creators and help us add to the debt reduction of the church building. Blessings to all who help either by creating or buying.

Thank you, The Prairie Crafters.

## ADULT EDUCATION

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What's coming in adult education for the wonderful autumnal month of **October**? First, on **Sunday October 6, at 9:00am and 10:30am; on Tuesday, October 8, at 7:00 pm; and on Wednesday morning, October 9, at 11:00am**, we'll explore the office of bishop within our church. Our current Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson, graced us with his presence this past May and was expected to be re-elected to this office in August. But it didn't happen! Elizabeth Eaton was elected, and following her election, several people asked, "What happened?" And, "Why don't you do a class about bishops?" So, at the beginning of October we'll explore the office of bishop. What is a bishop? Why do we have bishops? Where does this office originate? What does a bishop do? And what difference does having a bishop make to those of us who sit in the pew? Good questions, all. So come and find out just what this "bishop business" is all about!

Then, for the **remained of October**, we'll begin to explore the Gospel according to St. Matthew. Why Matthew? In part because we Lutherans (along with our friends in the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopal churches) we'll hear the story of Jesus through Matthew's words this next year. We are currently hearing from the Gospel of Luke each week, last year we heard from Mark, and now it's Matthew's turn. What's unique about Matthew? What are the things for which we need to listen? How does Matthew compare with the other gospels? Starting on **Sunday, October 13, at both 9:00am and 10:30am, and continuing each Tuesday evening at 7:00pm, and on Wednesday mornings at 11:00am**. we'll open Matthew's story. Of all the gospels, Matthew has the most Jewish flavor, and yet, right from the start, he sneaks in Jesus' openness to the Gentiles, the non-Jews. Of all the gospels, Matthew is the best organized--he likes grouping things together. And, of all the gospels, Matthew has the most challenging things to say about the church. So, come and join us, as together we put ourselves under God's good Word, and open ourselves us to its power.



## “THIS WEEK IN AGRIBUSINESS”

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Shepherd of the Prairie has been selected this year as the featured church for the Christmas show of the nationally syndicated television program "This Week in Agribusiness." SOTP's Choirs and Bell Choirs will be featured as well as an interview of Pastor Mark with Orion Samuelson. The show will be taped at SOTP in the late afternoon/early evening on **Saturday, December 7**. Please save the date because we will need the congregation members help in filling the sanctuary that day. More info. will be coming soon regarding how your family may participate

## STEWARDSHIP TALES

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I had a terrible dream. I dreamed that the Lord took my Sunday offering, multiplied it by ten, and this became my weekly income. In no time I had to give up my car, my house payments, my little luxuries and even my necessities. What can a person do on ten dollars a week? If the Lord took your offering and multiplied it by ten (a reverse tithe) and made that your weekly income where would that leave you and me?



## "DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST"

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This is a very belated "thank you" to all those who sent me their good wishes on the 40th anniversary of my ordination. My delay in thanking those who spoke words of appreciation, and for those who sent cards of congratulations, does not diminish my gratitude for your kindness. It has, indeed, been a blessing to serve Christ's Church as a minister of Word and Sacrament for these many years, and I am blessed once again to be serving the faithful here at Shepherd of the Prairie.

Thank you and God bless.

Pastor Bill Waxenberg

## BOOK CHATTERS

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Book Chatters will kick off the year **October 16** at 1:00 p.m. when we meet at the church. Gail Barnard will be reviewing *Little Boy Lost* as the content for the first meeting. During the session, we will choose our books for the next several months and will enjoy the usual spirited discussion of the book.



Chatters meet monthly to discuss our book of choice -- we keep it light most of the time but have been known to wander afield into side discussions that delve deeply into topics suggested by the book. Monthly, we choose the book for the coming month so that participants have the opportunity to get and read the book. Once in a while, someone shows up and admits they didn't get the book or didn't get it finished. No shock, no problem. We just clue them in and let the discussion go on. We have read classics, top-ten listers and a variety of other titles. We usually don't get all wonky about literary structure or illusions, but aren't immune from mentioning things we like and don't like. In other words, we're a group of folks who sit down around a good book we got from the library, bookstore, or e-book and have at a lively discussion. We think you'd like us and ask you to join us for a try.

With no reading assignment, there's really no reason not to join us in **October**. We look forward to seeing you then.

## WORSHIP GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

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### Saturday 5:00 services

October 5	Jamie & Brian Bremer
October 12	Kay O'Shanna
October 19	Lois Keyon
October 26	Stevie Massei

### Sunday - 9:00 service

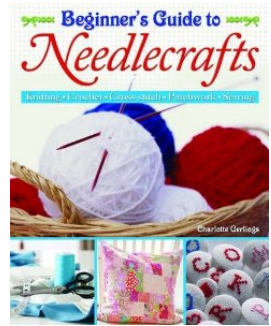
October 6	P.J. & Ron Knudsen
October 13	Chris & Mary Trodahl
October 20	Warren & Elaine Brody
October 27	Sid & Donna Sorensen

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

## 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 7:00pm beginning on September 19th**. Come and join us. If you have any questions call Alice at 847-515-7556.



## GIVING TREE

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It is time to make a difference in McHenry County, for the needy. The "**Giving Tree**" will appear, in **November**, with tags requesting the needs of each person. This is a critical time for families in McHenry county. Let's make Christmas a blessing for the needy. More information to follow in the Sunday Bulletins and the **November Newsletter**.



## SAVE YOUR JEWEL DINNERWARE STAMPS

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Every \$10 you spend at Jewel, you receive a stamp that can be used for free Rachael Ray Dinnerware. Bring your stamps to church and place them in the special envelope on the bulletin board in Crossroads. The Mission Team will use them to purchase dinnerware for our next Exodus World Service sponsored refugee Welcome to America collection.

## FOOD PANTRY

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Items needed this month for the Grafton Food Pantry:

**soups, deodorant, razors, shampoo and baking items**



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 9:30am and Tuesdays at 8:30am** 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.

## OCTOBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

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	9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
October 6	Alexandra Stowell	Trevor Dowell
October 13	Brennen Clementi	Josh Miley
October 20		Rachel Miller
October 27	Kyle Lemke	Jared Grabs

## 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.

## OFFERING COUNTERS FOR OCTOBER

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- ◆ Warren Brody
- ◆ Donna Turner
- ◆ Mary Trodahl

## ALTAR GUILD—OCTOBER

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\* **Sunday 9:00 a.m.:** Judie Symbal, Caryl Fabian

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

October 6: Marlene Boehler, Sandy Hupert

October 13: Barb Beaudette, Merrily Burkland

October 20: Donna Schneff, Linda Jahr

October 27: Jan Koerner, Marlene Boehler

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

Thank you to all our Altar Guild members for your continued help. Any conflicts with your date as scheduled please make a change with another member.



**ALTAR GUILD**

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

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

## 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.



# MONTHLY BUILDING FUND

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MONTH: SEPTEMBER 2013  
LOAN BALANCE: \$1,034,998.11  
ESTIMATED PAY OFF DATE: 07/01/2021

## OPERATING BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE AS OF AUGUST 31ST, 2013

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Budget	YTD Actual	YTD
General Fund Income:	\$319,287.12	\$343,576.00
General Fund Expenses:	<u>\$317,634.83</u>	<u>\$343,576.00</u>
Net Income:	\$1,652.29	\$0

General Fund Notes: Through August 31st, operating revenue exceeded expenses. One factor for the lower than budgeted expenses are due to the vacancy in our Lay Ministry Coordinator. If this position had been filled for the 8 months, we would currently have a deficit of (\$8,688.46).

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

Building Fund Income:	\$157,360.46
Loan Principal Payments:	\$97,698.24
Loan Interest Payments:	\$25,367.76
Principal Only Payments:	<u>\$45,000.00</u>
Net Income:	(\$10,705.54)

Building Fund Notes: The building fund deficit is a result of receiving building funds in 2012 that were applied toward additional principal payments in 2013. The building fund always maintains a minimum of 3 full months of principal and interest payments in reserve.

# 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.

## October BIRTHDAYS

Birth date	Name
1	Karen Klein, Gayle Uhlman, Roger Emery, Craig Mudge, Viveka Forsythe
2	Barbara Butzen, John Throckmorton, Steve Jones, Elizabeth Harding
3	Caden Mathiesen
4	Chris Trodahl, Helene Himebaugh, Karen Raistrick, Olivia Burg
6	Jodi Dowell, Peyton Wade, Bryce Anderson Parry
7	Lynn Broederdorf, Arlene Wille, Pam Fender, Tracy Allison, Casey Rhode, Colton Hess, Alicia Sova
8	Sandra Richardson, Kimberly Stowell
9	Julius Pelka, Ralph Scalise
10	Mark Alpert
11	Donna Lundstrom, Kara Burg, Summer Lukes
12	Janet Larrison
13	Tom Polzin, Jeanne Henley
14	Louis Vanaria, Ken Raines, Kyle Papka, Kyle Wolf
15	Zigrida Bekeris, Kathryn Dahl, Jen Kolcz, Hannah Mudge
16	Bill Reitzel, Bonnie Vanaria
17	Ann Lehman, Julia Henderson, Luke Mejdrich
18	Myra Lawrence
19	Karen Jackson, Scott Browne
20	Julia Dunfrund, Mary Conti, Jim McGuine, Ginny Manley
21	Carol Ann McCuen, Jordan Trevino, Andrew Kowalski
22	Louise Sebastian, Steve Legel, Mark Mathiesen
23	Melissa Bala
24	Chole Bozza, Katelyn Territo
25	Bear Reed
26	Madison Szekely, Tyler Szekely
27	Carol Minutillo, Janet Walker
28	Bob Uhlman, Kathy Guerrieri, Nicholas Adams, Allison Territo
29	Chuck Zunker, Robert Malm, Jessica Buesing
30	Gladys Feustel, Joseph Perrott, Jenni Browne, Henry Martin
31	Lloyd Davis, Betty Hansen, Cliff Dungey, Kim Domenz, Tiffanie Young

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

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 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 Gillingm**  
*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**