



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

**Congregational  
Newsletter**  
*May 2014*

## **SOTP Statement of Purpose**

*"We care for God's children of all ages  
by growing disciples who make disciples."*

## **CREATION RESTORATION 4.0**

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Our youth mission trip team has a heart to take care of the creation that God has given us, and a desire for serving others. In Genesis, after God created Heaven and Earth, sky and water, and, plants and animals, He created man and woman, and then placed them in the garden to take care of it. Additionally, when Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is, His response was "Love God with all of your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself". We will be modeling these two passages with our upcoming mission trip. From June 15th to June 24th, we'll be travelling to the Yellowstone National Park area to grow in our faith and to serve those who are less fortunate. In addition to all of the great things we'll see and do while we are at Yellowstone, we will be serving the community of Cody, Wyoming. Cody is a town of about 10,000 people, with many people living below the poverty level. We will do home repairs for people who don't have the funds or physical ability to do things for



*(Continued on page 7)*

## *A Note From Pastor Mark*

Dear Christian Friends,

Easter blessings to you and your family. These past couple of weeks have been full of experiential worship services that we hope have been meaningful to you in drawing you closer to Christ. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were especially meaningful to me as we encouraged all who were gathered to participate in the story of Christ' sacrifice.

Now it is the Sunday after Easter (John 20:19-31) and this week we find disciples are hiding in the upper room, fearing arrest by the Jewish leaders. Can you imagine what is going through their heads?

They follow Jesus for three years, they run scared when he's imprisoned, they watch him die, they bury him, and now the body is gone.

Isn't it amazing that they, like us, can listen, learn, hear, and try to apply all they've been told regarding Jesus Christ, and yet they do not fully grasp it?

Then Jesus appears, and says to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." He offers his pierced hands as proof of his true identity and gently nudges, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, the disciples back to the joy of the truth of his resurrection. Though still full of fear, they are now also filled with hope, and empowered to share God's grace.

But that is not all. Now, Jesus encourages the real work of the disciples. And, like the disciples, once we get beyond our past, and believe and accept the promise of eternal life through our faith in Jesus Christ, we know that we are forgiven and deeply

loved. Because of our faith, we, too, are prepared to be sent out for the Father's sake.

Being present in that room that day must have been an astonishing moment, an astonishing revelation that Jesus is all about moving forward, not reliving the past. Never does Jesus remind them of failure. Instead, he brings peace and offers hope. Our hope is that, through our wounds and pains, we discover who we are and move beyond ourselves to share the good news.

Jesus brings "shalom," peace to you. He reminds the disciples, and each of us, that he is peace among us, the children of God. He brings us wholeness, justice and blessing; a wholeness that provides healing, justice that helps us transform, and blessings that take death away.

As we receive these gifts and the breath of the Holy Spirit, Jesus tells us that we cannot stay behind locked doors. We are called to bring the power of God's Spirit and forgiveness to the world. As we leave the church each week we are reminded that we are entering the mission field. This is where we have the opportunity to tell God's story through our lives.

Make a difference by the way you live. Be filled with grace that spills over to others. Be "shalom" in your corner of the world. That is how we can make a difference for God and be transformed like the disciples, filled with Jesus' peace, God's grace, and the power to make a difference.

I'll see you in worship,

*Pastor Mark*

## *Pastor Bill's Adult Education News*

Continuing our story--this is what adult education is about during the month of May. Whose story? Ours--yours and mine--the Church's story.

We began hearing about this story earlier in the year, before Lent, reminding ourselves of the work of

God's Holy Spirit in constituting the Church on Pentecost. We then continued to learn about the lives of those early Christians under persecution. Then we looked at some of the early heresies with which the Church had to deal, stories about Jesus, about who he was--and wasn't. This was followed by one of the major events in the life of the Church: the conversion of Constantine which moved the Christian faith from being a persecuted minority to becoming the official religion of the Roman Empire. We then learned about the importance of the Creeds which helped define what it is we believe. This moved toward a division in the Church between East and West which ultimately led to a split that has lasted down to this very day. We concluded with the Church of the Middle Ages which is where we left off as Lent began.

Now, after a six-week hiatus, we're ready to pick up our story once again. Beginning April 27 and continuing through the week of June 1, we'll learn about the Protestant Reformation (including the role Martin Luther played) as well as the variety of church denominations that have arisen because of it. After all, there are no less than 250 Christian denominations in America alone! We'll then consider how the Church shaped and, in turn, was shaped by the American experience, as well as those events that had a profound influence upon both world and Church--World War I and World War II. And after that? What about today? What is our Church's story today--in modern and now post-modern society? Do we still have a role to play, and, if so, what is it? Has the Church lost its meaning for people? Or has the Church lost its focus? Or does the Church need to be re-defined? Can we still be relevant? Or is "being relevant" a new form of idolatry?

Come along and join the conversation. We're using a video series led by a church history professor as our starting point. From there the conversation begins! We meet on Sunday morning at 9:00 and 10:30, on Tuesday evening at 7:00, and on Wednesday at both 11:00 in the morning AND 6:30 in the evening. And, even if you weren't a part of the class earlier in the year, it's never too late to come aboard!

Blessings,

*Pastor Bill*

adult  
CHRISTIAN  
education

### From The Word...

We are an approval-obsessed culture. In a world that values outward appearances over and above inward character, virtue, and beauty, we live in fear of not measuring up to the standards set by our culture. Spending our lives in pursuit of the approval of other people is actually a form of idolatry. We compromise ourselves and we wind up being less than we were created to be.

God's deep desire for us is that we would pursue Him. We must find our life's purpose in knowing God, loving God, and following God. This is, in fact, what we've been made for. If we allow ourselves to be consumed with people-pleasing and approval-seeking, we are putting ourselves on a fast track to brokenness.

The best avenue to keeping our lives in balance is to fill ourselves with a knowledge of God's Word. Regularly reading and meditating on Scripture serves to change and transform us by giving us a truthful perspective from which we can look at and evaluate the messages of culture that bombard us 24/7. This is especially true when we allow God to speak to us through His Word about what He sees when He looks at us. In Isaiah 43:1 God says to us, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." In the midst of our brokenness, the God who made us and loves us acts on that love by calling us, delivering us, and making us His own. This is what God sees when He looks at us. That is truly beautiful!

### Youth Culture Hot Quote

*"Let's not get distracted by the technology, and realize that technology is showing us what's happening in kids' lives, and use that as an opportunity to make a difference in their lives, as opposed to thinking that if we make the technology go away we can solve problems. Because that is not at all the way this works."*

—danah boyd, Microsoft principal researcher and author of *"It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens,"*  
Fast Company, February 18, 2014



## **TRENDS**

### Energy Drinks

Is your teen having trouble sleeping or concentrating? The cause could be a combination of caffeine, sugar, and other stimulants – all ingredients in a growing number of drinks that promise to increase energy, boost metabolism, and improve stamina.

With one can including 54 grams – or 13 teaspoons of sugar – it's no wonder that kids' minds are racing, they can't sleep, and they're having trouble paying attention.

The situation only gets worse as kids look to answer their cravings for caffeine by downing more than one of these drinks a day. While the drinks are popular among overworked and stressed out high school and college students, the packaging and marketing makes them especially appealing to younger kids. As Christian parents, we should always be concerned about the spiritual, emotional, and physical health of our kids. If you need to, set limits.



## **LATEST RESEARCH**

### Depression and Suicide

The adolescent years have always been a complex time for kids. Add to that the confusing barrage of our culture's new pressures, challenges, choices, and expectations, and the burden can become difficult for some to handle.

Perhaps it's not surprising that one study of students in grades six, eight, and ten found that 18 percent of our kids report feeling symptoms of depression. Teen depression has reached epidemic proportions, and a growing number of kids are at risk for being more than down in the dumps. In addition, some kids are considering suicide and making attempts to take their own lives. Suicide is now the third leading cause of death among teenagers. Depression and suicide don't play favorites. Like it or not, teens of every age, socioeconomic group, geographic area, and type of family situation are at risk.

## **QUICK STATS**

- The number of children in the U.S. ages 12 to 19 having obesity surgery has tripled in recent years. (*Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*)
- Research shows that one 1 in 8 individuals show signs of problematic Internet use. (*CNS Spectrums: The International Journal of Neuropsychiatric Medicine*)

## YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

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Adolescence is a time when our kids need to be encouraged and built up. But by setting standards for beauty and body image that are largely unattainable, the media can mentally, emotionally, physically, relationally, and spiritually rip our kids apart. Sadly, when we as parents allow ourselves to succumb to the same pressures and standards, we may be overtly and covertly reinforcing the media's ridiculous and unhealthy messages.

Consider what our kids see during their several hours a day of screen time. Whether it's the TV, movie, computer, or smartphone screen, they are bombarded with images of "beautiful people" who don't look anything like the people we see in the mirror. And the images they see define their notion of what they should see when they look at themselves in the mirror. Sadly, these culturally-defined images become what our kids obsess over, leading them to funnel their time, money, efforts, and very hearts into achieving these unrealistic standards.

A few years ago a middle school girl came to me in tears over her looks. "I'm too short. I don't like the color and texture of my hair. And my face looks funny." When I asked her why she wasn't happy with the way she looked, she began to describe each feature she'd like to change and gave me an example of someone who had the particular characteristic she coveted. Sadly, each person she mentioned was one of the "beautiful people" she had seen on a screen.

As cultural standards of beauty change, we need to monitor those standards and come to an understanding of how those standards are shaping our kids' obsessions. . . with their own appearance, and with the appearance of others. For example, in today's world, our girls are feeling the pressure to pursue what's known as the "thigh gap." As absurd as it sounds, having a visible gap between your thighs when standing upright with both feet touching is now considered to be attractive, desirable, feminine, and the ideal body shape. It's no wonder that disordered eating is now epidemic in both the female and male populations, both young and old alike. We are appearance obsessed.

Parents, you are the first line of defense against these and other cultural lies that run counter to the truths of God's Word. Here are some suggestions on how to counter the pressure.

First, recognize and talk about these unrealistic standards from a biblical perspective. When you are engaging media with your kids, point out and discuss the ways in which media promotes body image standards. Counter those messages with the message that God is concerned with our hearts, not our appearance.

Second, take a long look into your own mirror. . . not to see if you measure up to culture's body image standards, but to see if you might be obsessed with and promoting those standards yourself. Remember, your actions will speak louder than your words. And if you are spending lots of time, money, and energy looking out for your looks, your kids will get the message about what's really important.

And third, act on any unhealthy body image manifestations your kids might have by securing competent professional help. Anorexia, bulimia, extreme dieting or exercise. . . these and other types of disordered eating are extremely serious physical, mental, and spiritual health issues that require professional counseling and help.

**—Walt Mueller, President, Center for Youth and Parent Understanding**

## **CREATION RESTORATION 4.0 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

themselves. We also hope to construct a playground near a ministry center in one of the poorest neighborhoods. We'd like to ask for your support, by specifically praying for:

- The team's preparation for the trip.
- The team's safety – while travelling and while serving in Wyoming.
- The continued passion for our youth to serve those who are less fortunate.
- The successful accomplishment of our mission to help those in need.

**Thank you for supporting our youth!**



### STUBBS FAMILY SUPPORT

The Stubbs family is continuing their 8th year of mission in Tanzania. Megan, Randy and Carol's 18 year old daughter has some interesting insights into life and attitudes in Tanzania and how they impact her and the other children of the Stubbs.

Megan says she likes the general attitude of people: "You get there when you get there, take your time, you are always welcome in our home. The pace of life is so much slower than in America." So which country does she like best, Tanzania or America? Both! They are so different and she likes both for different reasons.

Check out the kids section along with Randy's blog at the Stubbs website [www.Stubbsmission.info](http://www.Stubbsmission.info) and please pray for the Stubbs family as they do the Lord's work in Africa.





## THANK YOU!

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**T**wo little words that mean so very much to me. Everyone in our congregation has been so wonderful to me during my illness and long time in the Nursing Home and very frequent hospital stays. Difficult to count the many trips back and forth to each facility. It was a very long and depressing time, however, I got through those difficult days because of all the Prayers, Love, Cards and phone calls from all of you. Pastor Mark and Pastor Bill and Carol for visiting when I wasn't in Isolation, which I was in for some time....that's why I couldn't have anyone come to see me. When I was allowed a visitor, it was difficult as we were worried about the possibility of further infection and my Infectious Disease doctor thought it best to not have anyone come. Pastor Mark did come to see me, pray for me and bringing both Lou and I Communion. And to those who came after I was home and brought us Communion. Home Communion is such a wonderful ministry to those who cannot get to Church. We are so very blessed! To be honest, there were many days I just wanted God to take me home, but it was difficult to think of leaving Lou and our family. I also guess that God has more work for me here on earth and until the time I leave this world, I will do my utmost to follow God's guidance. So again, I just can't say it enough....you are ALL wonderful and THANK YOU for your continued Prayers, Love and Support. God Bless!

—Darlene Soest

## EASTER THANKS!

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Thank you to the following individuals for adorning our worship area with greenery and flowers during our Easter Season.

- **Barb Pagano**—Palm Arrangements for Palm Sunday
- **Melissa Juergensen, Kari Arndt, Amy Johnson and daughters Samantha, Alison, and Emma, Jane McMullen, Roy and Michelle Rankin**—Easter Sunday gardens . Also thank you to the individuals and families that purchased plants for our Easter garden. You may pick them up at anytime. Items left will be planted on the church property.

Alleluia He Is Risen.

The weekend was a beautiful and joyful celebration for our Lord.

## STEWARDSHIP

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The Stewardship Committee/Team is looking for additional volunteers. The Stewardship team plans the pledge drive, investigates various workshops, and looks for ways to encourage members to utilize their interests in SOTP. If you are interested, please contact Donna Kelly (donna@sotpmail.com) or Ralph Wehnes (ralphwehnes@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## WELCA NEWS

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### **Mary Martha**

Mary Martha will meet on Thursday, May 15 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Noreta Walker will lead us in the Bible discussion of “*Rahab, a Faithful Businesswoman*” from the May issue of the Gather Magazine. All women of the church are invited. Mary Martha will NOT meet during the months of June, July and August.



## SOTP BOWLERS

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Our last night of bowling this season is May 16. We traditionally close by asking members to bring a snack or dessert to share. While the rest of us are bowling, eating and having fun, 2 teams will be battling each other for the League Championship. (except when they are at the food table and/or talking with their friends). It has been a fun year. Thanks to each of you for making it so.

Please note that all bowling fees are due that night. So if you can't make it please let me know so we can arrange to collect from you in advance. You can either call (847) 659-1331 or E-mail me at [schmidtw12@comcast.net](mailto:schmidtw12@comcast.net).

— Wayne Schmidt

## DO YOU HAVE A GRADUATE?

Please let us know via e-mail or a phone call if your daughter or son will be graduating from high school or college. We would like to include any member who is graduating this Spring in the June newsletter. We will be recognizing high school graduates in worship on Sunday, June 8. Thanks so much!

## ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC SCHEDULED AUGUST 10



**Please save the date  
August 10  
Annual Church Picnic at Deicke Park!**

## FOOD PANTRY

Items needed this month for the Grafton Food Pantry:  
**Dish soap, bleach, deodorant, facial tissue,  
paper towels, toilet paper**

Thank you so very much for all you do.



# May Volunteer Schedules

## ALTAR GUILD

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Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Becky Tuzik, Tom & Darlene Polzin & Volunteers

Sunday 9:00 a.m. (setup) and 10:45 a.m. (re-set)

Sue Wehnes, Caryl Fabian (Barb Nitschneider as alternate)

Sunday 10:45 a.m. (take-down)

May 4

Sandy Hupert &  
Marlene Boehler

May 11

Linda Jahr &  
Donna Schneff

May 18

Jan & Don  
Koerner

May 25

Merrily Burkland &  
Barb Beaudette

I continue to encourage our members to become a member of Altar Guild. If you have interest in serving please contact Sue Wehnes at (224) 569-2808.

On-the-job training is available.

## COUNTERS

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William Brody, Donna Turner, Gloria Samuleson

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

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Here we go again! Please help us at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on **May 12 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.** A celebration of "**Good bye Winter, Hello Spring.**" Because of everyone's response to the previous six trips to the NIFB, the mission committee has committed 30 volunteers for serving at NIFB in Geneva, IL. Please sign up by emailing Sid Sorensen at [sorensensid@comcast.net](mailto:sorensensid@comcast.net) or call 224-858-4168.

# Financial News

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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Operating Budget Year-to-Date as of March 31, 2014:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 145,610.10	\$ 128,835.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 125,567.66	\$ 128,829.00
Net Income:	\$ 20,042.44	\$ 6.00

General Fund Notes: Through March, operating revenues exceed expenses. Member contributions continue to exceed budget primarily due to Prepaid Pledges of \$15,480.00 from 2013 being recognized in January 2014. Expenses are over budget in the categories headed Facilities and Church Insurance in Other Church Expenses account. These insurance expenses should even out as we spread it over the next six months. Facilities Lawncare/Snow Removal is in excess of budget because of the number of snow events we have had this year. Overall General Fund Expenses are under Budget YTD \$3,261.34 primarily in Staffing Ministry expense.

Building Fund Year-to-Date as of March 31, 2014:

Building Fund Begin Balance 03/01/2014:	\$ 60,255.25
Building Fund Donations:	\$ 57,923.58

Prepaid Building Fund Donations 2013: \$ 6,533.40

Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 22,970.36
Loan Interest Payments:	\$ 4,377.64
Principal Only Payments:	\$ 13,337.02
Total Building Fund Expenses:	\$ 40,685.02

Ending Fund Balance: \$ 84,027.21

Net Income: \$ 23,771.96

The current building loan balance is \$885,588.94. Thanks to your faithful giving we continue to reduce our building loan obligation.

Jim Henley  
SOTP Treasurer

## BUILDING FUND UPDATE FOR MAY, 2014

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Loan Balance	\$874,169.99
Estimated Payoff Date	6/1/2020

## **COMMUNION FROM THE ASSEMBLY TRAINING**

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A two day Communion from the Assembly training class, lead by Pastor Ken Pohlmann, will meet in Pastor Bill's room on **Friday, May 30 (7:00 p.m.) & Saturday, May 31 (10:00 a.m.)**. Would you like to be a minister of communion and take communion to our shut-ins? This is a very special ministry and we need you! Contact Sharon Neubauer or the church office for further details.

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE  
LUTHERAN WHEN**



**COFFEE IS A LINE ITEM  
IN THE CHURCH BUDGET**



## May Birthdays

### Date

- 1 Donna Cygan
- 2 Sheri Ott, Michelle Rankin, Noelle Schlachta
- 3 Doris Kopp, Jan Koerner, Alexis Werner
- 4 John Dawson, Nelly Rojas, Brian Buesing, Brandon Young
- 5 Richard Brush, John Thunholm, John Baumstark
- 7 DeWayne Klein, Lori Conway
- 8 John Lindquist
- 9 Marlene Boehler, Elaina Satalino
- 10 Jo Broz, Joseph Trevino, Gavin Glosson
- 11 Kathy Kann, Sasha Suski, Tyler Debleick
- 12 Harriet Thompson, Judy Sanford, Sharon Little, Craig Forsythe, Laura Ramey, Brayden Patel
- 13 Corky Corless
- 14 Jill Dobek
- 15 Caryl Fabian, Chris Solem, John Berti, Grace Moretti, Ashlyn Rankin
- 16 Dennis Lilla, Dottie Bobzin, Michael Habrat
- 17 Lois Brothers, Joe Hansen, Alexandra Stowell
- 18 Anita Bull, Ron Mudge, Mark Fulcer, Lincoln Kolcz
- 19 Carlie Werner
- 20 Brian Bremer, Don Thomson, Nathan Allison
- 21 Jacque Stashwick, Carol Waxenberg, Emily Ramirez
- 22 Carl Hupert
- 23 Charlie Tuzik, Zac Boster, Jonathan Crase, Lizzy McCann
- 24 Ken Gniot, Evelyn Gniot, Karen Burren, Nicole Schorsch
- 26 JoAnn Ward
- 27 Donald Hoppensteadt, Joshua Harding, Jack Schlachta
- 28 Arlene Petriner, Sandy Hupert, Jack Ott, Andrew Behm
- 29 John Richardson, Beth Macaulay
- 30 Dick Larrison, Robyn Ostrem, Jeni McCann, Tom Domenz, Tony Moretti, Kyle Sabie, Carly Domenz
- 31 Robert Dunfrund, Ken Morgan, Neal Mejdrich, Elizabeth Case

## Staff and Contacts

### **Pastor Mark Boster**

847-515-2713 (Home)  
pastormark@sotppmail.com

### **Pastor Bill Waxenberg**

*Director of Adult Education*  
pastorbill@sotppmail.com

### **Greg Dowell**

*Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator*  
greg@sotppmail.com

### **Jane McMullen**

*Director of Music & Worship*  
jane@sotppmail.com

### **Dennis Lilla**

*Technology Support Manager*  
dennis@sotppmail.com

### **Donna Kelly**

*Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator*  
donna@sotppmail.com

### **Michelle Rankin**

*Office Manager*  
michelle@sotppmail.com

### **Michael Waal**

*Organist/Piano Accompanist*  
michael@sotppmail.com

### **Jill Gillming**

*Little Lambs*

### **Sandy Martin**

*Cherub Choir*

### **Michael Waal**

*Blessings Choir*

### **Denise James**

*Joy Ringers*

### **Michael Parmele**

*Sunday School Director*

### **Sue Wehnes, Renae Greene**

*Contributions Secretaries*

### **Tammy Uteg**

*Music Librarian*

### **Congregation Council**

**Bob McDuffee**, *President*

**Kathy McGuine**, *Vice President*

**Mike McCann**, *Secretary*

**Jim Henley**, *Treasurer*

**Adam Adams**

**Marlene Boehler**

**Amy Brittain**

**Larry Newbanks**

**Wayne Schmidt**

Shepherd of the Prairie is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Statement of Purpose:** “We care for God’s children of all ages by growing disciples who make disciples.”

For information, please call the church office at (847) 669-9448 or email: [pastormark@sotpmail.com](mailto:pastormark@sotpmail.com).  
Our web site is [www.sotfp.org](http://www.sotfp.org) — Church Office: 10805 Main Street, Huntley, IL 60142

Shepherd of the Prairie  
Lutheran Church  
10805 Main Street  
Huntley, IL 60142

**Worship Schedule**  
*10805 Main Street  
Huntley, IL 60142*

**Saturday Evening**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Morning**

**9:00 a. m. Traditional Service**

**10:45 a. m. Contemporary**

**Service**

*Refreshments between Services*

*Nursery care provided all morning*

**Sunday School at both services**

**(September through May)**

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