



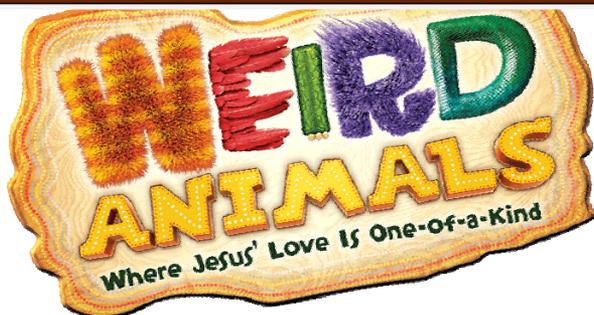
Shepherd
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Caring For All God's Children

**Congregational
Newsletter**
July 2014

SOTP Statement of Purpose

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS MONTH



Monday, July 28 - Thursday, July 31, 9:00 a.m. - noon.

"Weird Animals: Where Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind"

Register your kids or volunteer at
<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/weirdanimals>
or visit our website www.sotp.org

At Weird Animals, kids will learn about some of God's most creative creations! They'll participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and dig into yummy treats, experience cool Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them they are one of a kind, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God

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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
10805 Main Street, Huntley, IL 60142 • Phone: 847-669-9448 • Fax: 847-669-9455 • www.sotp.org
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Mon-Fri

From The Word...

Culture is morphing and changing at breakneck speed. And for those of us committed to living out our faith in every nook and cranny of life, the changes in culture bring a realization that the world is in many ways regressing rather than progressing. As a result, it's easy for us to throw up our hands in lament thinking that everything is spinning out of control.

“WHEN THE FOUNDATIONS ARE BEING DESTROYED, WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO? THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE; THE LORD IS ON HIS HEAVENLY THRONE.”

—Psalm 11:3-4

This is particularly true for us as parents. We hope and pray that our kids won't make bad decisions. Sadly, many opt to follow the voice of the culture as opposed to following the voice of God. When this happens, our faith is oftentimes shaken to the core. And if we're honest with ourselves, we may even wind up questioning God.

When this happens, it's good to remember the words of David in Psalm 11: “When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?” The answer you might expect would be an action plan. You know, a “do this” or “do that” type of response. But that's not the answer that David...or we...get. Instead, God states the fact that should serve as a sure foundation in the midst of turmoil: “The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord is on His heavenly throne.” In other words, God is. He is still God. He is sovereign. And no matter how bleak or dark things look, He is still in control.

Remind yourself of this often. Our trust is in God and God alone. The world and everyone in it is broken. But our heavenly Father is still seated firmly on His throne and in control. What a comfort this is!

Youth Culture Hot Quote

“I do sometimes think that higher education is wasted on the young. It's about the privilege of spending three years exercising your brain in something you are really interested in. If you've made the wrong decision it might not give you the best outcome. My message is that schools need to focus on helping students think about these decisions in a lot of detail and not rush them based on what your parents think or what your mates are doing.”

Mary Curnock Cook, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (in Britain), in a speech to head teachers, May, 2014

TRENDS Neknominate

There's a new dangerous youth culture trend that began to surge in popularity earlier this year. It's an online drinking game known as NekNominate. In the game, an individual films himself drinking a predetermined amount of an alcoholic beverage and then uploading the footage to the Internet. The person then nominates or dares two or three other people to top his feat. As the popularity of this one-upmanship drinking game has grown, participants have taken to drinking not only dangerously high volumes of alcohol, but they have mixed the alcohol with more dangerous substances, including things like motor oil. In addition, the participants show themselves drinking while engaging in other dangerous activities. Parents, you need to be aware of this new trend. Not only is it encouraging the spread of an already dangerous underage drinking culture, but it's encouraging kids to engage in behaviors that can and have been deadly.



Latest Research Alcohol and Popular Music

Here's another reason to know what kind of music your kids are listening to, and then to talk to them about the messages in that music. New research from the Stanford Prevention Research Center says that popular music that mentions alcohol brands may inspire kids to drink. Senior research scientist Lisa

Henrickson says, "Alcohol brand names are quite prevalent in popular music." She continues, "For example, hip-hop/rap lyrics favor luxury brands, such as Cristal and Hennessy, and brand references in rap music have increased fourfold over time, from eight percent in 1979 to forty-four percent in 1997. It would be foolish to think that the alcohol industry is unaware of and uninvolved with alcohol-brand mentions in music. The strategy of associating products with hip culture and celebrities who are attractive to youth comes straight from a playbook written by the tobacco industry." Parents, we recommend that you process and talk about music's messages from a Christian perspective.

QUICK STATS

Over half of today's high school students report cheating on an exam in the last year.

(Report Card on the Ethics of American Youth from the Josephson Institute)

Nearly 6 in 10 children from Britain have used a social network despite older age limit restrictions.

(Knowthenet Opinion Survey)

(Continued from page 1)

Sightings. Each day concludes with The Tail End—a celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 11:45 am in the Sanctuary.

Kids at Weird Animals VBS will join Home of the Sparrow Women & Children's Shelter, and the Huntley Animal House Shelter in an effort to share God's love by providing needed items and or monetary donations.

Weird Animals VBS is for kids from 3yrs old (potty trained) to entering 4th grade and will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day. If you need additional information, please contact SOTP at [847-669-9448](tel:847-669-9448) or Marina Rhode at rhodemarina@gmail.com.

ANNUAL SOTP GOLF OUTING

The **Annual SOTP Golf Outing**, after a year off, is scheduled for September 21, 2014 at Craig Woods, Routes 47 & 176 in Woodstock. Lunch will be served at Crystal Woods nearby.

Details and signups to follow in August. Questions? Call Walter Roth at [224/858-4071](tel:224-858-4071) or Ron Knudsen at [847/669-2301](tel:847-669-2301).

Join Our
Golf Outing



TAKE THE FAMILY TO SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA

Thrivent Financial Discount Days at Great America are **Saturday, July 12 - Sunday, July 20**. Go to www.sixflags.com to order tickets.

Choose park (Six Flags Great America).

Enter promo code **Thrive14** in upper right hand corner. Your cost per ticket: \$33.00. Such a deal!



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



Sunday, August 10, Noon at Deicke Park!

Please sign up online (www.sotp.org/2013/forms/picnic/picnic.html) or in the Crossroads on 7/13, 20, 27 and 8/3. We need to know how many are coming so we have enough food and especially gift bags for the children's games. Hamburgers, hot dogs and cold drinks will be provided so you can bring a salad, side dish or dessert.

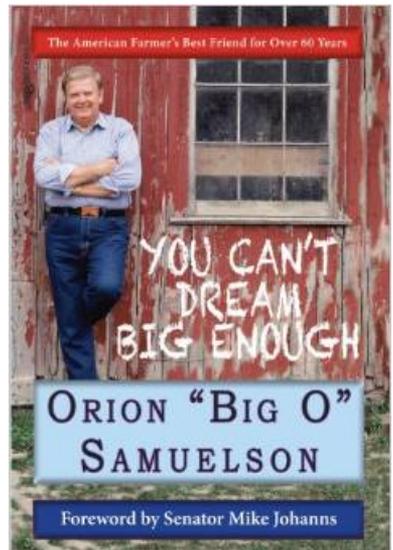
See you there!

THE GIFT THAT CONTINUES TO GIVE...

Last year when member Orion Samuelson published his book, *"You Can't Dream Big Enough,"* Orion and wife Gloria pledged \$1.00 for every book sold to the SOTP Building Fund. As of January 2014, 14,000 books have been purchased. The building fund has received checks totaling \$14,000.00.

Orion's next project is to make an audio version of the book which should mean additional sales.

Thank you to all who purchased the book to support the contributions to the building fund and thanks to Orion and Gloria for remembering the church in their giving.



STEWARDSHIP TALES



“What’s the time?” “I don’t have the time.” “Time out.” “It’s about time.”

All phrases we use in daily talk. Our times are governed by calendars, diaries and clocks. Sometimes we become slaves to time. Unable to pause and relax, we rush from this to that, fast burning up our time. But it’s not our time. Time is a gift from God, to be used wisely, or fritted away. God allows us to choose how to use his gift. Now let’s look at those phrases.

“What’s the time?” We’ve already seen that. It is God’s time, a gift to us. For many of us this will be a gift of seventy or eighty years. How will we use them? And how would we use God’s time if we knew that he would give only another 24 hours?

“I don’t have the time.” Too bad if God said that to us! Don’t have time for what? Not enough time for worship, for Bible study, for loving and caring deeds? Funny isn’t it—we always can find time for the things we really want to do. Does this mean that some of us don’t think that God is worth giving the time of day?

“Time out.” It’s so tempting to take time out especially in hazy, lazy days of summer. Those who take time out from Christian study or worship are surely the losers. Time out to be a loser?

“It’s about time.” The Bible says that TODAY is the day of salvation. Not yesterday, or tomorrow, but TODAY. Maybe it’s about time we took that seriously.

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed this month for the Grafton Food Pantry:
Cooking Oil, Instant Potatoes, Gravy, Toothpaste & Shampoo
Thank you so very much for all you do.



MISSION TEAM NEWS

Feed My Starving Children, Thursday August 7



SAVE THIS DATE. The Mission Committee decided to try something different and committed 20 people (we would love to increase that to 30 or 40) to volunteer at the **Feed My Starving Children** (FMSC) facility in Schaumburg

from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. This appears to be a much easier job than what we have done at the **Northern Illinois Food Bank** (NIFB). They can accommodate people who need to sit while they work as well as people to stand. The length of the shift is shorter and food items we are lifting are not nearly as heavy. Check out the FMSC website at <http://www.fmsc.org/>

We are not abandoning our efforts at the NIFB, but the committee felt we should see what kind of interest there might be in going to this facility. Our youth and many of you have volunteered there many times in the past. The cause is quite different, but the need is just as great, as it is at the NIFB.

If you wish to participate on August 7, please call Sid Sorensen at [224-858-4168](tel:224-858-4168) or email at sorensensid@comcast.net.



Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

Northern Illinois Food Bank, Saturday, November 8

SAVE THIS DATE. **Northern Illinois Food Bank** 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Details to follow soon.

Stubb's Family Update

The Stubbs, our missionary family in Tanzania, have been busy with college and local concerts. They just received a large grant from European Development Organization to improve the college's music department equipment and teaching ability. Randy said this is really a "big deal" and extremely important grant to be awarded. Keep them in your prayers and visit their web site at www.Stubbsmission.info.

JULY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Saturday 5:00 p.m...... Becky Tuzik, Tom & Darlene Polzin
& Volunteers

Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. (setup). Adele Wogstad & Dee Pedersen

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

July 6..... Merrily Burkland & Barb Beaudette

July 13..... Jan & Don Koerner

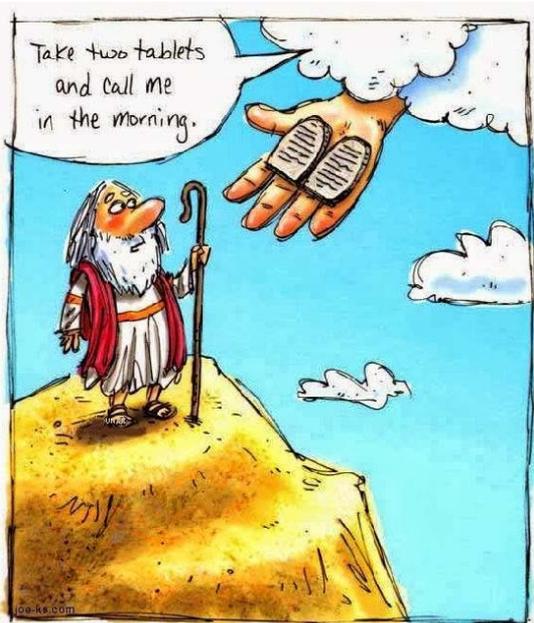
July 20..... Linda Jahr & Donna Schneff

July 27..... Sandy Hupert & Marlene Boehler

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

COUNTERS

William Brody, Ralph Wehnes



THANKS VERY MULCH!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MULCH WORKERS AT THE LSSI FACILITY

A special thanks to all of you who helped spread almost 40 yards of Mulch (YES FORTY !!!) at the Lutheran Social Services Behavioral Health facility in Elgin. We had approximately 32 people of ALL ages helping. I fact we had so much help, the project was finished in under 2 hours and we had to request an early lunch (At 10:00 a.m.!). LSSI fixed a great meal.

A special thanks to Tim Bean of Beans Farm in Hampshire, who donated over \$500 worth of Mulch. Please consider Tim for any Mulch or Firewood needs that you may have.

There are some great pictures and videos of the event that we will also share.

Blessings,

Jules Pelka

NEW MEMBER GATHERING



Have you been worshipping with us here at Shepherd of the Prairie for a while now and think you would like to learn more about our church or think you might be interested in becoming a member? Please join us at the New Member Gathering on Sunday, August 3, from 3:00-5:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for you to find out more about the life and ministry of our church and to give prayerful consideration to whether or not you want to enter into formal membership in the SOTP family.

Those who desire to become members will be welcomed during the worship services on the following Sunday, August 10. Please call the church office to let us know if you will be participating with us and if you will need child care during the gathering.

FINANCIAL NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 225,307.53	\$ 214,725.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 206,619.94	\$ 208,025.00
Net Income:	\$ 18,688.49	\$ 6,700.00

General Fund Notes: Through May, 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, Equipment Rental, 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 \$1,405.06 primarily in the Staffing Ministry expense category.

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

Building Fund Begin Balance 05/01/2014:	\$ 60,255.25
Building Fund Donations:	\$ 99,009.11
Prepaid Building Fund Donations 2013:	\$ 6,533.40

Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 45,808.26
Loan Interest Payments:	\$ 8,887.74
Principal Only Payments:	\$ 13,337.02
Total Building Fund Expenses:	\$ 68,033.02

Ending Fund Balance: \$ 97,764.74

Net Income: \$ 37,509.49

The current building loan balance is \$862,751.04. Thanks to your faithful giving we continue to reduce our building loan obligation.

Jim Henley
SOTP Treasurer

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

SOTP has received \$2,577.00 from Thrivent Financial "**Choice Dollars**" program this year. This amount has been applied to Building Fund.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE FOR JULY 2014

Loan Balance	\$851,175.46
Estimated Payoff Date	6/1/2020

July Birthdays

Date Name

- 1 Elease Chapman, Mel Long, Brian Ott
- 2 Sharon Neubauer, Greg Dowell, Kyle Lemke
- 3 Joseph Debolt, Tammy Sabie, Cooper Krewer, Olivia Ostrem
- 4 Jerry Bergman
- 5 Sue Vitner, Cynthia Schoenfeld, Libby Weston
- 6 Kristen Fleener
- 7 Harvey Feustel, Julie Wills
- 8 Rob Deblieck
- 9 Les Lawrence, Katie Masters, Krista Glosson
- 10 Nicole Scalise
- 11 Arthur Uteg
- 12 Anne Skidmore, Jadon Conroy, Elaina Hibbeler
- 13 Andy Szekely, Phil Turk
- 14 Donna Turner, Andy Patel, Jamie Patel
- 15 June Kobler, Matt Greene, Maria Michalak, McKenna Hess, Zachary Berti
- 16 Jane McMullen, Donna Brown, Kaia Huston, Evelyn Kolcz
- 17 Karen Eckert
- 18 Tom Miller, Nicholas Wolf
- 19 George Walker
- 20 Tom Luedtke, Roy Rankin, Nicholas Brown
- 21 Sue Reid, Jerry Christopherson, Deb Hansen, Marina Rhode, Brian Rojas, Kim Satalino
- 22 Ralph Wehnes, Casey Bozza, Avery Michalak
- 23 Delle Lenegar, Rich Wille, Dolores Barry, Breanne DePorter
- 24 Dick Tabatt, Denise James
- 26 Michelle Conroy, Michael Fiorese, Delaney Krewer, Aiden Wintersteen
- 27 Ryan Flanagan
- 28 Destry Arndt, Steve Brown
- 29 Megan Moretti
- 30 Justin DeBolt, Dylan Mejdrich, Anthony Lorenzo, Gavin Schlachta
- 31 Rick Hess, Robin Bishop

Staff and Contacts

Pastor Mark Boster

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

Pastor Bill Waxenberg

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pastorbill@sotpmail.com

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Jane McMullen

Director of Music & Worship
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Dennis Lilla

Technology Support Manager
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Donna Kelly

Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator
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Michelle Rankin

Office Manager
michelle@sotpmail.com

Michael Waal

Organist/Piano Accompanist
michael@sotpmail.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