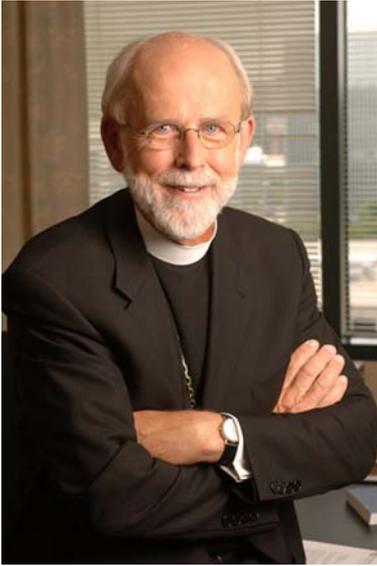




Shepherd  
OF THE PRAIRIE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Caring For All God's Children*

Congregational  
Newsletter  
May 2013

**BISHOP MARK HANSON TO VISIT SOTP**



What a month we will enjoy here at Shepherd of the Prairie. On, Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day), it will be our joy to welcome the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Mark Hanson. We pray for our bishops each Sunday; now it is your opportunity to meet Bishop Hanson face to face.

Bishop Hanson is a wonderful preacher and has an incredible vision for the work of the church. Before being elected presiding bishop, he served as bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Prior to being elected synod bishop, he served as pastor of three Minnesota congregations: Prince of Glory Lutheran

Church, Minneapolis; Edina Community Lutheran Church, Edina, Minn.; and University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis.

Born in Minneapolis on December 2, 1946, Hanson graduated from Augsburg College with a B.A. in sociology. He was a Rockefeller Fellow at Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York, and received a

*Continued on page 3*

**Important Dates in May**

May 1 ..... Men's Fellowship Breakfast	May 15.....Book Chatters
May 2 ..... Prairie Crafters	May 16.....Mary Martha Bible Study
May 3 ..... Northern Illinois Food Bank	May 17.....SOTP Bowling League
May 5 ..... Grafton Food Pantry Collection	May 19.....Rite of Affirmation of Baptism
May 7 ..... Prairie Points Quilters	May 20..... Council Meeting
May 8 ..... GEMS	May 21 .....Prairie Points Quilters
May 9 ..... Prayer Shawls	May 22.....GEMS
May 12..... Mother's Day, Bishop Hanson Visit	May 26.....Merry Widows, PADS
May 13 ..... Ministry Meeting Night	May 27.....Memorial Day, Church office closed

## *A Note From Pastor Mark*

Dear Christian Friends,

### **“Caring for God’s Children of All Ages, By Growing Disciples who make Disciples”**

I really appreciate the guidance of our statement of purpose (above). The statement gives good guidance for us as we seek to know and do God’s will.

Jesus said, “If you love me you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever...the Spirit of Truth.”

How do we love Jesus? What does Jesus command? Jesus promises “another Counselor...the Spirit of Truth.” What truth does this Spirit bring into our lives?

A few years ago I attended a workshop entitled “Christian Ethics, how do we know right from wrong?” I was excited about deepening my understanding of how to know and speak more clearly regarding the issue of “what would Jesus do.”

What a shock! The professor didn’t tell us what specific issue was right or wrong like some hoped. His presentation focused on the core of faith and ethics. He pointed us to Jesus saying, “Love one another as I have loved you.” (*John 15:12*) He said the core of faith and ethics is God’s love. Love God, then love

your neighbor!

What is love? Our English language has such poverty in expressing love! One word is used for everything from fleeting sexual feelings (I’m in love), attraction to an object of desire (love that new car), addictive attraction (to good coffee), intellectual attraction (love to read philosophy) and more. What does “loving” Jesus mean?

WWJD, “What Would Jesus Do?” Maybe that is not the right question! It often leads to arguing about what Jesus would do? The more important question is, “What can I do to praise, reverence and serve God?” This is about “loving Jesus.” Our response to Jesus’ love leads us to the Spirit of truth which Jesus sends from the father (God).

As we celebrate the gift of a mother’s love this month, let’s consider and pray about the question “what can I do?” to love and serve. Using our gifts may we be led to praise, reverence and serve God in order to “care” for one another.

I’ll see you in worship,

*Pastor Mark*

*Continued from page 1*

Master of Divinity degree there in 1972. He also attended Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, and was a Merrill Fellow at Harvard Divinity School in 1979.

From 2003 until 2010, he was President of the Lutheran World Federation, a position he held concurrently with his position as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. Serving with this global communion of Lutheran churches, Bishop Hanson has traveled widely throughout the world, sharing a confident hope in God's promises and a vision of the joyful freedom in Christian community and mission.

Hanson is widely known as a leader with an evangelical passion and imagination who embraces the Christian tradition, the Christian community, and the world with both generous goodwill and thoughtful insight. He has been an articulate advocate for the renewal of the church's preaching and public voice, for the strengthening of ecumenical and inter-religious relationships, and for reconciliation and justice in society, with attention especially to those who live with poverty and discrimination.

Since being elected presiding bishop, he has received several honorary degrees, including Doctor of Humane Letters from Augsburg College, Wittenberg University, and Grand View University; Doctor of Humanities from Capital University; Doctor of Divinity from Lenoir-Rhyne College, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Susquehanna University, Wartburg College, and The Academy of Ecumenical Indian Theology and Church Administration.

He is the author of *Faithful Yet Changing, the Church in Challenging Times* and *Faithful and Courageous, Christians in Unsettling Times* both from Augsburg Fortress Publishers.

Married to Lone, they are the parents of Aaron, Alyssa, Rachel, Ezra, Isaac and Elizabeth, and grandparents to Naomi, Kingston, Sam, Danielle and Sophia. Bishop Hanson is the brother of a member at Shepherd of the Prairie, Mary Trodahl.

We hope you will make every effort to join us at one of our two morning worship times at **9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** Please note the time change for the contemporary service that day. Our primary reason is to give more time for fellowship between services on that day.

# Youth Culture News

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## FROM THE NEWS:

### *How much is too much?*

Perhaps you've heard it said that "too much of anything can make you sick." In recent years, that little cliché has been tweaked to sometimes read "too much of anything can make you an addict." Experience shows that to be true. It was partially because of this reality that the Apostle Paul challenged the Corinthian followers of Jesus to slow down and back off from some of their misunderstandings regarding Christian liberty...a liberty that they exercised in excess in an effort to satisfy their own desires (*I Corinthians 6:12*).

Paul's words should be taken to heart today in a world where addictions are everywhere. There is a very real danger that exists when we take a good thing and make it an ultimate thing. Balance is lost when we go from engaging in something with healthy moderation, to indulging ourselves to the point where our lives are hijacked and we are mastered by that thing. When it comes to living our lives on the digital frontier, the Apostle Paul's clarifications and correctives should always be in the front of our minds. Blogger Tim Challies took these words to heart when he realized that his love for technology was getting out of hand. He finally asked himself this very difficult question: "Do I own my technology or does my technology own me?"

How would you answer that question about yourself? How would you answer that question about your children? Prayerfully meditate on *I Corinthians 6:12*. Then, do what you must to be sure that you're living your life being mastered by The Master.

#### ***Youth Culture Hot Quote:***

**To raise children who become adults with the moral strength to resist the defilements of the age requires an extraordinary degree of sacrifice from parents, and even then there are no guarantees. But what choice do we have? To surrender our children's hearts and minds?**

*Author Rod Dreher, in a blog for The American Conservative, February 27, 2013*

**www.greggornation.com**

# TRENDS

## Snap Chat

With all the effort adults are putting forth to teach teens about the dangers of sexting, it should come as no surprise that a new phone photo app called Snapchat is exploding on the youth culture scene. What Snapchat does is allow you to snap a photo and then share it with your friends. The catch is that the photo disappears in seconds. One teenage snapchat user told ABC News, "That's kind of like the appeal, because the fun of it is to send embarrassing pictures. Texting is made for words, but now that there's snapchat, we can communicate through pictures." Since the app was first introduced in July of 2012, well over a billion "snaps" have been shared. Many kids are using snapchat to sext, thinking it's a safe alternative that will keep them from getting caught. What users don't realize is that there are many ways that the photos can be saved, and then distributed virally. Monitor your kids and their technology, and be sure to tell them about how wrong sexting is.



# Latest Research

## Video Gaming & Sleep

God made us for sleep. We need our sleep if we want our bodies and minds to function the best that they can. That's even more true for teenagers. Their bodies are growing in ways that require even more sleep. But the sleep patterns of children and teenagers are increasingly compromised by the glut of developing technologies. New research from the sleep laboratory at Flinders University found that prolonged video gaming immediately before bed caused significant sleep disruptions in a group of teenaged boys, even when they went to bed and fell asleep at their usual bedtime. There was a 27 minute loss in total sleep time and 39 minute delay in sleep onset after 150 minutes of gaming. Researchers conclude that video gaming is not a good thing to do at the end of the day. Parents, perhaps it's a good idea to keep the gaming platforms out of the bedroom. In addition, set limits and a shut-down time for gaming. God made our kids for sleep. Let's be sure they are sleeping to the glory of God!

### QUICK STATS

More than one third of all kids ages 13-17 can't last 10 minutes without checking their phones. (Textplus Survey)

The percentage of teenagers in the United States who have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes and full blown type 2 diabetes has more than doubled in the last 12 years. (CDC research published in *Pediatrics*)

## ADULT EDUCATION

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Easter--more than a day. More than a season of the church year even. In fact, Easter is actually a way of living, a life style if you will. For we are a people of the resurrection! "When you were buried with (Christ) in baptism," writes the Apostle Paul to the Colossians, "you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God..."

Christ is alive! And by the power of his Spirit he dwells among us even now. We believe that do we not? We say he comes among us in Word and Sacrament. So that when our pastor preaches the Word to us, his voice is the voice of the living Christ. And when we partake of Holy Communion, the bread and the wine are not merely symbols of something that happened 2000 years ago, but the very means by which this living Christ makes himself known to us in the here and the now in, with, and under these gifts of the earth. And when we leave worship and return to daily living, do we leave this Christ behind--in the sanctuary? Or does he journey with us into the world where we live; so that how we live makes a difference because he is present with us even there?

This resurrection living is what Paul's letter to the Colossians is all about. He sings of the glorious event of the resurrection, and then writes clearly about the impact of the resurrection for daily living. During the month of May we'll be exploring all the things Paul has to say to us in this short letter, and you are invited to join us on our journey. We meet on **Sunday morning at 9:00 and 10:30, on Tuesday evening at 7:00, and on Wednesday morning at 11:00.** We'll even provide you with a Bible if you don't have one! So come join us--and bring your coffee!

## MISSIONARY IN TANZANIA

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The Stubbs family is continuing to promote the art of music and the glory of God in Tanzania. They received our Christmas package a bit late (came in January) but enjoyed the "goodies" they don't usually have there—coffee, tea, cocoa, peanut butter, etc. Check out their website and blog at [www.stubbsmission.info](http://www.stubbsmission.info).



## CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS!

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Reagan Bishop  
River Bjorklund  
Jackie Blanchard  
Taryn Boltz  
Josh Bremer  
Nicholas Brown  
Stephen Browne  
Charlie Burian  
Madison Carbon  
Amanda Juergensen  
Noah Konie  
Delaney Krewer  
Hannah Lattanzio  
Dylan Miley  
Brad Model  
Shaelyn O'Rilley  
Jack Ott  
Cole Raines  
Casey Rhode  
Sarah Roberts  
Joseph Roberts  
Emily Rossman  
Madison Szekely  
Tyler Szekely  
Jake Trevino



We pray that God strengthens them with His gifts of grace, to love and to serve as a disciples of Christ, and that they may be filled with the joy of His presence. Please join us for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism on **Sunday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m.**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

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**The Sunday School year will come to a close on Sunday, June 2.** This will also be the last day to purchase items at the Bible Bucks store. We've had a terrific year and wish all of our kids a FANTASTIC summer!

## HUNTLEY MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

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SOTP will have a float in the Huntley Memorial Day Parade on **Monday, May 27**. We will gather at the church at 9:00 a.m. to assemble the float and decorate bikes. We are to be in our place in line by 10:30 a.m. In addition to assemblers, we need people to ride on the float, walkers, people pushing strollers and pulling wagons, and bike riders of all ages.



### **WE NEED YOU!**

As we move forward in the parade, we will be singing songs and making a joyful noise to the Lord! This is a great opportunity for everyone who worships at SOTP to have fun, invite the community to worship and to VBS, and let them see what a great church family we have.

Our float will honor God, our veterans and all those presently serving our country. We ask that you please wear red, white, or blue. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Crossroads! We will see you at the parade! Please pray for sunshine!

As you are making your decision to join us in the parade and reach out to members of our community, please remember the words of *1 Corinthians 15:58* "So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord."

God's blessings to you!

*Your Outreach Team  
Barbara Hoch, Chairperson*

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY– NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK**

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Are you looking forward to a late "Spring Fling" event? Here's your chance! On **Friday, May 3, from 1 to 3 p.m.**, you will have the opportunity of volunteering at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. For those who participated the two times before, I think they have found it to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. There are only 19 places available, so sign up as soon as possible with Renae at the church or call Sid Sorensen at (224)858-4168 or email [sorensensid@comcast.net](mailto:sorensensid@comcast.net). I apologize to those who are unable to help because of work, but we will set another event on a Saturday afternoon in September.

# WELCOME TO AMERICA

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More than 13 million refugees do not have a safe place to call home. This year again some will be invited to find safety and freedom in the U.S.A. Starting over is difficult. Exodus World Service helps these refugees who can't go home. AND SO CAN WE!

Once again the Mission Team is starting to gather things to help another family get started. This is not a family we are sponsoring, but a family that is already working with an agency. When Exodus is asked to help we want to be ready with a new Welcome Pack.

Here is the scoop:

Welcome to America Pack (gently used or new items)  
(Hoping to complete in May)

- \* Kick off for this collection was April 14
- \* Look for the tall sign up gizmo in the Crossroads to sign up to bring needed items
- \* You could help deliver items when refugee family arrives
- \* You could contact Sandy Hupert with any questions at (224)569-6041 or email [sandyhupert@gmail.com](mailto:sandyhupert@gmail.com) or any Mission Team member.

Here is a list of some of the items we need to collect: *roasting pan, shower curtain & hooks, tableware for 8, 4 pillows, broom & dust pan, box of salt, case of pop, 2 twin blankets, clock radio*

## GREEN TREES LANDSCAPING WORK DAY

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Last year, members of Shepherd of the Prairie participated in a Landscaping Project which involved planting MANY trees and shrubs at the Green Trees Housing Project. This complex, just down the street from SOTP, provides low income housing for seniors and for those with disabilities.

We now need to maintain what we planted. There is some weeding and general cleanup required; much less strenuous than what we did last year. This will also give us an opportunity to see how our plantings are doing. We will devote one morning to do this: **Saturday, May 18 beginning at 9 a.m.** and finishing no later than 12 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be available at 8:30 a.m. and pizza will be available at noon.

Those of you who helped last year will be emailed to see if you can help again. If you are willing and available to help, you can contact Jules Pelka at (847)515-1640 or email at [julespelka@gmail.com](mailto:julespelka@gmail.com). There will also be a sign-up sheet at church.

## BETH MOORE STUDY COMING THIS SUMMER

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Shepherd of the Prairie will offer a Beth Moore Bible Study, "James: Mercy Triumphs," on **eight Thursdays this summer starting Thursday, June 6**, led by Mary Tabatt and Carol Waxenberg. You will be receiving a survey via email from the church to help us plan for this event. If you don't receive the survey, there will be surveys available in the Crossroads beginning on April 28.

"Mercy Triumphs" explores both the life and the *Book of James*, Jesus' brother. This study will help us face the implications of our faith and encourage us to put our faith into action as we study the man, James, and his book.

Beth Moore studies are usually two hour sessions: an opening with prayer and announcements, discussion of the homework with those at your table, a 55 minute video where Beth presents information about next week's study, and a closing. In this particular study, homework is optional, but is strongly encouraged. A workbook will be available for purchase.

On Sunday, May 5, a brief information session will be held with details about the study and an opportunity for questions. This will be between services from 10:05-10:25 a.m., in the Adult Education room.

Questions? Contact Carol Waxenberg at (815)-529-1805 or Mary Tabatt at (480)773-7507 or (847)515-1579 after May 1.

## SAVE THE DATE!

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

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

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On **Wednesday, May 1**, 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.



## YOU KNOW YOU'RE LUTHERAN WHEN...

1. The only meal time prayer you know is "Come Lord Jesus".
2. All of your casserole dishes have your name on the bottom.
3. They have to rope off the last few pews in church so the front isn't empty.
4. A midlife crisis means switching from the old hymnbook to the new one.
5. You can't imagine a celebration without food.
6. While watching Star Wars you hear "May the force be with you" and you reply "And also with you".
7. At potlucks all the men have tableware and napkins in their shirt pockets so their full plates are easier to carry.
8. You are at a funeral of a family member who is Catholic, and you are the only one who says "for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen." after everyone else is done.
9. You sing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" while sitting down.
10. You arrive in church and start having a panic attack because someone else is sitting in your pew.

## FOOD PANTRY

Items needed this month for the Grafton Food Pantry:

***paper towels, ketchup, mustard, toilet paper, salad dressing***

Thank you so very much for your generosity.



# WELCA

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The Board of WELCA would like to thank everyone who donated all of the wonderful products to Home of the Sparrow for the enjoyment of the ladies there. Also, to all those who were able to attend the Spring Retreat, thank you so much for coming and making it a very special day. Thank you to the ladies who helped assist with the flow of the events, without whom we could not have enjoyed ourselves nearly as much. Don't we just have the most special women in our congregation?! The packages just grew and grew, and when we finished, it was overwhelming! You are Awesome, LADIES!! God bless you.

**WELCA Board elections will take place on Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19.** Ballot counting will be on Monday, May 20 and installation of new officers will be held on Saturday, June 1. The following is a list of the duties of the WELCA officers:

All Four (4) positions need to be filled

1. Chairperson:
  - Responsible for conducting meetings
  - Oversee the planning of all events and activities
  - Be liaison to the Congregational Board, and report as needed
  - Prepare an annual report to the congregation
2. Co-Chairperson:
  - Serve in the absence of the Chairperson
3. Treasurer:
  - Responsible for the collection and disbursement of moneys for the Unit.
  - Administer the finances of the Unit in accordance with the annual budget.
  - Present a written financial report at each circle and general meeting.
4. Recorder:
  - Record minutes of the board and general meetings.
  - Notify all Shepherd of the Prairie members of the WELCA meetings and events through established, church approved methods, i.e., bulletins, newsletter, e-mail, telephone or other publications, etc.
5. Circle Leaders:
  - Leaders should strive to promote the goals of the Unit (W4) through Bible Study and social interaction.
  - Serve as liaison between the Circle and the Unit Board.

Nominations: before you nominate someone, please get that person's permission. Include their name, phone number and position that they are being nominated for. Place these in a sealed envelope marked "WELCA Board Nomination" and put the envelope in WELCA's mailbox in the church office. Deadline for nominations is May 4.

**MARY MARTHA BIBLE STUDY** will meet on **Thursday, May 16 from 1:00-3:00. p.m.** at the church All women of the church are invited.

## PRAIRIE POINT QUILTERS

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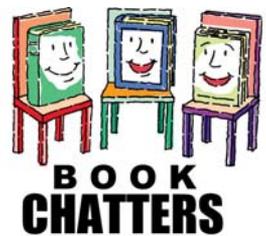
SOTP Quilters are busy making beautiful quilts thanks to all of the generous people at SOTP. All of the quilters thank you very much! Many donations of new material has made it fun to lay out new patterns. One family has made a donation to assist and defray some of the shipping costs in sending quilts overseas at the end of the year. We certainly appreciate all of your support. We meet the **first and third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m.** We would love to have you join us.

## BOOK CHATTERS

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Book Chatters will meet **Wednesday, May 15, at 1 p.m.** to discuss Vanessa Diffenbaugh's *The Language of Flowers*. The book is a love story about a emotionally damaged young lady who finds inspiration in the flowers she learns to love and revere for their meanings as well as physical beauty. The book is available in book stores, libraries and

from e-book sources. There is a lot to discuss in this book -- the girl, her reactions to life, the flowers and their "traditional" meanings. Helen Fenzan has agreed to lead the discussion which will be a spirited one if the group holds to form. As you read the book, be sure to check the appendix which lists many common flowers and herbs and gives their meanings. We encourage each participant to come to the discussion with a "virtual" bouquet -- one that they simply list on paper but which they feel represents who they are or strive to be. Please join us!



## WORSHIP GREETERS FOR MAY

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	Saturday 5 p.m.	Sunday 9 a.m.	Sunday 10:45 a.m.
May 5	Gail Quam	Chris & Mary Trodahl	Bob & Carolyn Malm
May 12	Sue Blotch	Judy Spencer, Joanne Klinger	Bob & Carolyn Malm
May 19	Lois Kenyon	Barb Niemiec, Sandy Lemke	Bob & Carolyn Malm
May 26	Gail Quam	Sharon Neubauer, Alice Murphy	Bob & Carolyn Malm

## SUNDAY SERVICE TIME CHANGE FOR MAY 12

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On **Sunday, May 12**, Bishop Mark Hanson will be visiting Shepherd of the Prairie. **Our services times for that morning will be 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** This will allow extra time for fellowship in between services.

## WORSHIP & ARTS TEAM

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The Easter banner and contrasting streamers were made by Pat Fiorese. Our thanks to Pat for adding the beautiful color to our Easter season. The newly created Worship and Arts Team will be adding more creative work to enhance our worship service, sanctuary and Crossroads.

## ALTAR GUILD—MAY

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- \* **Saturday:** Volunteers
- \* **Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. Set-up:** Judie Symbal,  
Donna Newbanks  
Alternate: Caryl Fabian
- \* **Sunday 10:45 a.m. - Take-down:** Barb Beaudette,  
Donna Schnepff

Guild members are asked to change place with another member if they cannot serve as scheduled.

## SATURDAY SERVICE ALTAR GUILD NEEDED

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Additional volunteers are needed to help with Saturday evening Communion set-up and take-down. It would be helpful if members attending the Saturday evening services on a regular basis would be willing to help so that we could have a schedule as we do for Sunday. Please consider helping with this important part of our evening worship service. Contact Sue Wehnes at (224)569-2808 or you can ask Becky Tuzik at a Saturday evening service just how you can help.

## COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS FOR MAY

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May 5—Pat Fiorese  
May 12—Phyllis Thomson  
May 19—JoAnn Ward  
May 26—Jacque Stashwick

Saturdays  
May 4, 11—Renaë Greene  
May 18, 25, June 1—Pam Fender



If you are interested in baking bread for Communion or have any questions about this ministry, please contact Pat Fiorese at (847)687-9164 or email [a3ptkicker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:a3ptkicker@sbcglobal.net).

## CR 3.0 FUNDRAISING

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A big thank you to those of you who have been ordering gift cards through our gift card fundraiser to support SOTP Youth! Your continued participation will go a long way to benefit our youth program, general fund, and building fund. If you haven't yet purchased gift cards, won't you please consider doing so?

With the Great Lakes Scrip Fundraiser, our families earn money for our youth programs by making their regular household purchases. But, instead of paying with cash or credit, you use prepaid gift cards from local



retailers. Scrip fundraising gift cards are the same gift cards you would normally purchase from a retailer in local retail stores, and they work the same way. And with over 500 of the country's biggest retailers, Great Lakes Scrip Center has something that will appeal to every family at SOTP. There are cards you can use at grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, movie theaters, home improvement stores, and almost any business that

accepts gift cards.

We are asking SOTP families to use scrip gift cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center. You can purchase gift cards for places where you plan to shop and use those cards instead of cash or credit. Great Lakes Scrip Center sells those gift cards to us at a discount. We sell them to our families for full face value and our families redeem the cards for full face value. We keep the difference as a rebate, earning a percentage of every dollar spent using the scrip gift cards.

By making your normal purchases each month, with just groceries, gas, dining out, and clothing purchases, one family can generate over \$500 a year. With 20 families participating we could see over \$10,000 per year. 50 families would get us over \$25,000 each year! Think about what 100 families could do...

The success of this program depends upon you planning out your purchases and committing to doing this year round. We know that after you get into the swing of things, ordering your gift cards regularly will become second nature to you.

We thank you for your support in helping our young people become the hands and feet of Christ!

## LUTHERLAND TOUR 2014

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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church is sponsoring a 2014 Lutherland tour which will be led by Pastor Bill & Carol Waxenberg and Chuck & Sharon Little. Because many of you plan well in advance, we are announcing the dates for this tour now. The dates are **Tuesday, September 9, 2014 to Tuesday, September 23, 2014**. The tour will start in Berlin, Germany, spending a day and a half seeing the sights of this city. Then we will be off to Luther country, visiting many of the historic sites chronicling the life of Martin Luther and the beginning of the Reformation movement in Europe. We will also visit other historic sites in the area and have unstructured time for shopping, taking some self-guided walking tours or just resting. The trip will end with a couple of days in Munich, just in time for the start of the famous Oktoberfest. A detailed itinerary, cost and other information will be available in a few weeks. So, if you are interested in joining the SOTP group, mark your calendar now and save these dates.



## STEWARDSHIP TALES

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Shake the dust off that old cliché, “Time is Money” and you may find it is true. The stewardship of service is at least as important as checkbook stewardship, but sometimes it is easier to write a check than to take the trouble to explore what you can do for your church or community with your “hidden assets”- your skills and talents. We should not mismanage our skills’ and talents’ budget any more than we should mismanage our financial budget. We should all try to discover the wealth of undiscovered skills in our community and how we can use those talents as part of our stewardship responsibility.

## THANK YOU

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You did it again! January’s spine surgery and February’s fall fracture into bootlegging - or no, rather, my leg in a boot, through March and into April: you cared and loved me through! Thank you so very much! Some of your cards and messages made me laugh, others so touched me into tears. The soups and dinners nourished Dan and me. And, then there was the “Patty-sitting” when I could not do for myself. You all have been and continue to be a sacrament to me, a sign and symbol of Jesus. I deeply appreciate and love you! Many blessings,

*~Patty Driscoll-Shaw*

## BUILDING FUND UPDATE

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Month	<u>April 2013</u>
Loan Balance	<u>\$1,134,611.11</u>
Estimate Payoff Date	12-1-2021

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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Operating Budget year to date as of March 31, 2013

General Fund Income:	\$128,049.72
General Fund Expenses:	<u>\$114,318.23</u>
Net Income:	\$ 13,731.49

## OFFERING COUNTERS FOR MAY

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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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Several members have expressed interest in signing up for Simply Giving. Remember; it's easy to sign up, you don't get behind in your giving, and it's secure. Just 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.



# MAY

- 1 Donna Cygan
- 2 Sheri Ott, Michelle Rankin,  
Noey Schlachta
- 3 Doris Kopp, Jan Koerner,  
Alexis Werner
- 4 Nelly Rojas, Brian Buesing,  
Brandon Young
- 5 Richard Brush, John Thunholm,  
John Baumstark
- 7 DeWayne Klein, Lori Conway
- 8 John Lindquist
- 9 Marlene Boehler
- 10 Jo Broz, Joseph Trevino, Gavin Glosson
- 11 Kathy Kann, Ted Poray, Sasha Suski, Judy  
Sanford, Harriet Thompson, Sharon  
Little, Craig Forsythe, Philip Tangen,  
Laura Ramey
- 12 Brayden Patel
- 13 Corky Corless
- 14 Robert Zimmerman, Jill Dobek
- 15 Caryl Fabian, Chris Solem, Jon Coe,  
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 Carol Mosby, Jacque Stashwick, Carol  
Waxenberg, Emily Ramirez
- 22 Carl Hupert
- 23 Charlie Tuzik, Allyson Poray,  
Zac Boster, Lizzy McCann
- 24 Ken Gniot, Evelyn Gniot, Karen Burren,  
Sherry Johnson
- 26 JoAnn Ward
- 27 Donald Hoppensteadt, Joshua Harding,  
Jack Schlachta
- 28 Sandy Hupert, Arlene Petrine, 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

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

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**Michael Waal**  
Organist/Piano Accompanist  
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**Kristy Warnke**  
Prairie Ringers, Little Lambs

**Sandy Martin**  
Cherub Choir

**Carol Waxenberg**  
Blessings Choir

**Denise James**  
Joy Ringers

**Diana Reincke**  
Sunday School Director

**Sue Wehnes**  
Contributions Secretary

**Tammy Utég**  
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**