



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

Congregational Newsletter June 2014

SOTP Statement of Purpose

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

CREATION RESTORATION 4.0 —YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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

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A Note From Pastor Mark

Dear Christian Friends,

Welcome to summer, a great time to reflect, refresh and renew your call to ministry through the church. Please don't neglect your time in worship on the weekends. Worship is vital to our spiritual health and wellness and the best way for us to hear where God may be leading you in life.

When Jesus heard that John had been imprisoned (Matthew 4), he returned to Galilee. His time had come. As John had preached the preparatory message of repentance, Jesus now began making possible our living out the transformed life of which John had spoken. As Matthew continues, he reminds his readers that all of this was according to God's plan—the light that had been promised was here.

Jesus had already been preaching and healing; now it's time to choose disciples. It was customary at that time for students to choose a rabbi (teacher). Instead, Jesus chose them—an act of grace—calling fishermen to become fishers of men. How they must have wondered, and yet, they immediately left their nets and followed him. They didn't understand what Jesus' kingdom was all about, but they followed. They continued to question, but they followed.

Doesn't God call us in the same way?

- asking us to turn to God and God's plan;
- to leave our wrong assumptions of what his kingdom should be;

- to move out of our comfort zone into places where we don't always feel qualified;
- trusting that as we respond and open our hearts to God, God promises to transform our lives even as the lives of the disciples were transformed.

This was a time of leaving—Jesus left Nazareth for Capernaum; the disciples left their nets. We are all at different places in our lives in relationship to Christ. Some of us have left the work force or changed the career we've pursued for years; children have left our homes; we've left those homes to live somewhere smaller, requiring less maintenance or seeking a more favorable climate; those whom we love have gone on ahead to their eternal home, leaving us. Others of us are leaving home for the first time, off to college, purchasing a first home, preparing for marriage, preparing to be a mother or father for the first time. And yet, even now and wherever we find ourselves, Jesus comes to us and says, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." God's plan continues and God has chosen us for that kingdom.

We're to follow as the disciples did even now—or perhaps, especially now. Take time over these months to seek the Spirit's call to ministry. Where is our Lord calling you to serve? Step out and boldly give of yourself in love to Christ for the sake of others.

I'll see you in worship,

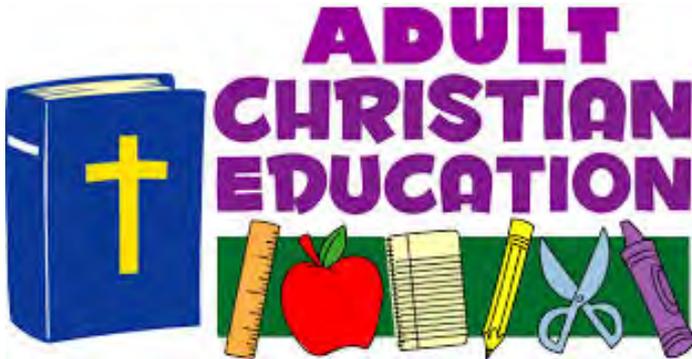
Pastor Mark

Pastor Bill's Adult Education News

Adult education for Summer 2014

This summer we're doing something new and different for adult education. While there won't be a regular class schedule meeting on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays for June, July and August, there will be a new a wonderful opportunity to continue growing in our faith.

Beginning on Sunday, June 1, at 5:30 in the evening, you're invited to a "kick off" potluck at the church. This will inaugurate our journey together as we move into an all-congregational event. Together we'll be reading Philip Yancey's new book, "*The Question that Never Goes Away.*" As a Christian author and speaker, Philip Yancey has been at the forefront in helping people cope with tragedy--including Newtown, Connecticut--and with the pesky but profound question, "Why?"



You're invited to sign up for a small group where Yancey's book will be discussed and our questions can be wrestled with. Each group will determine when and how often it will meet. (Sign-up sheets are available on a table in the Crossroads.) Watch your e-mail for more information about the Sunday potluck, when books (cost is \$10 per book) will be distributed. Or, you can order the book for your Kindle for \$2!

We look forward to having you join us on this journey. Accompanying our reading will be selected psalms and questions for discussion. See you on June 1! And then again in September when we pick up our regular adult education schedule.

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

From The Word...

Contrary to the belief we've somehow come to hold that deciding to follow Jesus is the path to a happy and easy life where we inherit the entitlement of a pain-free and problem-free existence, the Scriptures speak from beginning to end about the presence and benefits of suffering. The Bible teaches us that suffering and difficulty lead to spiritual growth, a deeper understanding of and dependency on God, and even Salvation.

James tells us that we are to “consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance,” which lead us to maturity (James 1:2&3). Many of our teens find adolescence to be a painful and trying time. It becomes the same for us. Together with our kids, we can experience the joy of going deeper with God in dependence on Him during the confusing and often turbulent period of adolescence.

Michael Card reminds us that “the path to God is through the wilderness. There, and only there, will we learn what God is truly worth. There we discover His provision: manna, quail, living water. But more significantly, along this path we experience His Presence and discover it is more precious than His provision.” From a human perspective, these are the times when God does his best work in our lives. Their growing up is an opportunity for us to grow up. . . and for us to model to them what it means to grow up in Christ. If helplessness comes through adolescence taking the form of “the wilderness” in your home, embrace it. In fact, I would suggest that we even pray for the blessing of suffering to come.

Youth Culture Hot Quote

“I’m terrified of growing up. Once you become an adult, how do you step back from that? It’s something that wakes me up at night.”

Lorde, 17-year-old phenom singer, at a concert in New York’s Roseland Ballroom, according to Billboard, March 14, 2014



YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

TRENDS

Self-Validation Via Selfies

When your teenager posts one of those social media self-portraits known as a selfie, chances are they will follow-up the post by waiting to see and evaluate the feedback. What they're looking for is immediate feedback that is positive in nature as that kind of feedback is like money in the bank. In effect, they are looking to collect feedback that serves as social capital that validates them as they try to discover the image that makes them most appealing to their friends. The problem is that looking for validation through selfies is a dangerous and misdirected endeavor. Instead, they should work to develop their inward character qualities and virtues, all for the sole purpose of seeking to become more and more like Jesus Christ, and then living not for the audience of their peers, but for the audience of the one true God. Parents, monitor how and where your kids are fishing for validation. Begin by examining your own online habits. Your example and encouragement speak loudly to your kids.



Latest Research

Smartphone Use

One of the subtle dangers related to emerging trends and fads is that with the passage of time, what was once new quickly becomes normal. This is an important principle for us to remember as parents. You see, if we aren't paying attention, we might let down our parent guards

and allow our kids to engage in pursuits without first establishing boundaries that can protect them from harm and provide for their well-being.

One of these shifts that's now occurring relates to technology. With smart phone technology now dominating the mobile communications market, we need to be aware that 70% of teens ages 13 to 17 use smartphones. What this means is that Internet access is a 24/7 possibility. Gone are the days when kids would only be able to access the Internet on the family room computer. For help with kids and technology, visit the Digital Kids Initiative at www.digitalkidsinitiative.com for advice and rules for managing smartphones.

QUICK STATS

In a search lasting just 40 hours, analysts found 12,224 self-generated "sexting" photos of teenagers on 70 different pedophile websites.

(The Internet Watch Foundation)

CREATION RESTORATION 4.0 —YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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-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 themselves. We also hope to construct a playground near a ministry center in one of the poorest neighborhoods.

We'd like to thank all of you for your support of either your prayers our your financial contributions during our fundraising efforts. We'd also like to thank the McHenry/Kane County branch of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for supporting Creation Restoration 4.0 with \$1000 for use toward purchasing the supplies needed for our servant partnership with Jubilee Ministries in Cody, Wyoming.

God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.

—Martin Luther



Church Picnic

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

CREATION RESTORATION 4.0 DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

Day One (June 15th)

Pray for safe travel from Huntley to the Badlands in South Dakota. Pray for rest and the preparation of our hearts for ministry. Pray that all goes smoothly with the logistics. Pray that our own needs, desires, and comfort can be put aside for others. Pray daily that God will touch our hearts and that we will experience His grace in all we do.

Day Two (June 16th)

Pray for another day of safe travel as we complete journey to Wyoming. Pray for the entire team that we make valuable relationships with each other – For those who don't know each other well and for those who are already friends. Pray that we stay safe as we care for others in the city of Lexington

Days Three and Four (June 17th, 18th)

Pray for our safety as we venture off into the backcountry of Yellowstone for a night of camping under the stars, and we see, that in fact, God does write the Gospel in the trees, and in flowers clouds and stars.

Day Five (June 19th)

Pray that we get to see as much of Yellowstone as we can on our last day in the park. Pray that we all see how important it is that we take our jobs that God has given us as stewards of creation seriously, and understand that it is up to each one of us to help tend the garden for all to worship Him in. Pray that we have safe travels to Cody, Wyoming for our service portion of the mission trip.

Days Six, Seven and Eight (June 20th, 21st, and 22nd)

Pray for the team to have open hearts as we learn in greater detail about the specifics of how we will be serving God and His creation in Cody. Pray for us all to be God's hands and feet and for us to let God use us as instruments of His love. Pray that the relationships we make in Cody be memorable and life changing.

Days Nine and Ten (June 23rd and 25th)

Pray for a relaxing day in the shadows of Mount Rushmore, and that we all can reflect and give thanks for our great nation and the freedoms we so often take for granted. Finally, please pray for safe travel back to Huntley. Pray that we adjust well spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Pray that God would continue to work in our hearts after we return. Pray that we would continue to be good stewards of God's creation.

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CREATION RESTORATION 4.0 DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

(Continued from page 7)

We ask that you specifically pray for the following participants of the Mission Trip:

Kurtis Arndt, Will Black, Grace Boster, Sophie Dowell, Trevor Dowell, Kira Frendreis, McKenzie Fulcer, Bailey Greene, Tyler Greene, Domingo Harris, McKenna Hess, Raquel Hess, Kirstin Hooghkirk, Catey Johnson, Samantha Johnson, Amanda Juergensen, Chad Juergensen, Lauren Kerch, Tami Koenig, Dylan Miley, Jack Ott, Zach Ott, Winona Sullivan, Alan Torkelson, Jordan Trevino, Brandon Watson, Katie Zornow, Adam Adams, Kari Arndt, Mark Boster, Greg Dowell, Kyle Frendreis, Matt Greene, Melissa Juergensen, Haley Sabie

The LORD God put man in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of it.
—Genesis 2:15

SOTP BOWLERS

The 5th SOTP Bowling Season came to a close May 16th. I believe the overall feeling of the bowlers was that it was a fun and successful year. The league consisted of 12 teams, 4 of which were made up of our High School Youth. They made us proud!

Some records for the year were:

- Ladies Scratch Series..... Kathy Pizarro (538)
- Ladies Scratch Game..... Sandi Stewart (182)
- Men's Scratch Series..... Wayne Schmidt (620)
- Men's Scratch Game..... Bob McDuffee (219)

The league Championship was won by team "**WHAT HAPPENED**". The members of WHAT HAPPENED were: Bob McDuffee, Kathy Pizarro, Audrey & Wayne Schmidt.

Thanks to everyone who bought treats the last night. Have a great summer. We look forward to a successful season starting in September. We look to grow, and welcome new bowlers. We are also looking for someone new to help me run the League. It's not difficult, and I will assist you. If you are interested please let me know.

Blessings to all.

—Wayne Schmidt (847) 659-1331

STEWARDSHIP TALES



Money is one of the tools our Lord works through. A Church lives by the grace of Jesus Christ, and the money it receives from its parishioners contributes toward a significant part of the of Lord's work in His world. The meaning attached to money depends on its use: Seen as a tool of Christ, it has

a positive meaning; seen as something that consumes the time and energy of "my" life, it has a negative meaning. Money, time and energy are three dimensions of our lives. No need to apologize for any of these, unless they're not being put to the Lords work. When you think about your church commitment, do you think in terms of "how much is the church budget", "whether it is being spent wisely", "how much can I afford", or do you think in terms of how many blessings the Lord has showered on your life and the privilege of saying "thank you" through your financial response to the Church's work. The Christian whose trust in Jesus Christ is growing daily thinks in terms of Christ's love, his blessings, receiving more than he or she has ever been given or deserved, the privilege of responding. Growing Christians know that the grace of Christ enables an individual to take a look at his/her life and rearrange priorities, making sacrifices her and there, so that increased giving of money becomes possible out of seemingly unchanging financial resources. The eyes of Christ applied to life. It's coming to grips, not with the high cost of living but with cost of high living. The church isn't seen as one more demand or charity which receives a slice of seemingly small pie, but a vehicle which, if responded to generously, provides a viable and profound channel through which the Lord works.

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.



MISSION TEAM NEWS

HELP NEEDED FOR LSSI WORK PROJECT Saturday June 7, 2014

The Mission Team of Shepherd of the Prairie has been asked by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) if we would help with purchasing and spreading MULCH at their facility in Elgin. LSSI's



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois



Behavioral Health Center in Elgin provides a variety of residential and outpatient programs designed for people who want to live drug free.

The Mission Team approved a stipend of \$500 towards this project AND SOTP people to do the work.

Beans Farm in Hampshire also has generously made a contribution of one truck-load of Mulch and free delivery. We plan on 2 truck loads. Please keep them in mind for any of your mulch and firewood needs.

We do, however, NEED VOLUNTEERS! Many of you have “mulching experience” from Greentrees. There is no weeding required, only spreading mulch. We will begin at 8:30 AM and plan to finish before noon. Drinks and food will be provided.

We also need wheelbarrows. Much of the mulch has to be moved quite a distance as there is no place to dump it. (Let me know if you can supply one). Shovels and pitchforks are also needed.

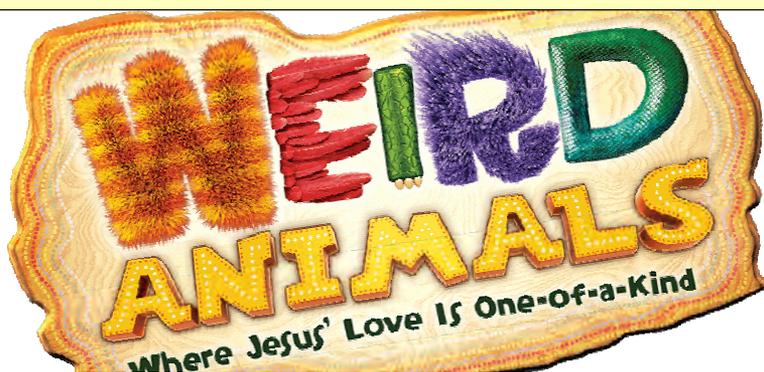
DATE: Saturday, June 7 at 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: ... 675 Varsity Drive Elgin
(This is just off Villa St. on the far east side of Elgin)

CONTACT: Jules Pelka
847-515-1640
847-404-5678 (Cell)
julespelka@gmail.com

(ELSE, he will find YOU!!!)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Monday, July 28 - Thursday, July 31, 9:00 am - 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 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 am to 12:00 pm 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.

JUNE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

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

Sunday 9:00 a.m......Joanne Klinger & Sue Wehnes

Sunday 10:45 a.m. (setup)Joanne Klinger & Barb Nitschneider

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

 June 1.....Merrily Burkland & Barb Beaudette

 June 8.....Sandy Hupert & Marlene Boehler

 June 15.....Jan & Don Koerner

 June 22.....Linda Jahr & Donna Schneff

 June 29.....Merrily Burkland & Barb Beaudette

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.

GREETERS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Sat. 5:00 p.m.</u>	<u>Sun. 9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>Sun. 10:45 a.m.</u>
May 31, Jun 1			Bob & Carolyn Malm
June 7, 8	Stevie Massei	Sandy Lemke & Joanne Klinger	Bob & Carolyn Malm
June 14, 15	Gail Quam	Chris & Mary Trodahl	Bob & Carolyn Malm
June 21, 22	Lois Kenyon	Sid & Donna Sorensen	Bob & Carolyn Malm
June 28, 29	Sue Blotch	Judy Sanford & Alice Murphy	Bob & Carolyn Malm

COUNTERS

William Brody, Gail Quam, Sue Blotch

FINANCIAL NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget Year-to-Date as of April 30, 2014:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 186,578.54	\$ 171,780.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 167,191.82	\$ 171,772.00
Net Income:	\$ 19,386.72	\$ 8.00

General Fund Notes: Through April, 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 \$4,580.18 primarily in the Staffing Ministry expense category and current no funding in Providing for the future accounts (normally funded at year end with any surplus).

Building Fund Year-to-Date as of April 30, 2014:

Building Fund Begin Balance 04/01/2014: \$ 60,255.25

Building Fund Donations: \$ 77,554.69

Prepaid Building Fund Donations 2013: \$ 6,533.40

Loan Principal Payments: \$ 34,389.31

Loan Interest Payments: \$ 6,632.69

Principal Only Payments: \$ 13,337.02

Total Building Fund Expenses: \$ 54,359.02

Ending Fund Balance: \$ 89,984.32

Net Income: \$ 29,729.07

The current building loan balance is \$874,169.99. Thanks to your faithful giving we continue to reduce our building loan obligation.

Jim Henley
SOTP Treasurer

BUILDING FUND UPDATE FOR JUNE, 2014

Loan Balance \$862,651.47

Estimated Payoff Date 6/1/2020



“My real estate agent found me this place. I said I wanted a home that requires no yard work, no painting, no snow shoveling. A place where the weather is perfect and neighbors never complain about my music...”

June Birthdays

Date Name

- 1 Rebecca Miller
- 2 Dolores Burk, Mark Michalak,
Michelle Jacobs, Charles Werner,
Shonna Rankin, Sydney McGuine
- 3 Candi McNeal, Olivia Lorenzo,
Brady Prather
- 4 Ken Pohlmann, Sandy Martin,
Jacob Trevino, Nathaniel Black
- 5 Rachael Yndestad
- 6 Frances Wilson, Kim Scalise, Rob
Satalino
- 7 Joanne Bychowsky, Chuck Bayser,
Corin Casablanca
- 8 Sid Sorensen, Jonathan Boster,
Sean Solem, Rebecca Mudge
- 9 Gloria Samuelson, Kaitlyn
Richards, Kellen McNeal
- 10 Brennen Clementi, Lisa Adams,
Noah Konie
- 11 Carole Cesario, Anthony Serpe
- 12 Payton Serpe
- 15 James Conway, Vicki Maraviglia,
McKenzie Schlachta
- 16 Samantha Guttenburg
- 17 Leah Bloomfield
- 19 Emily Dunfrund, Judie Symbal, Jill
Gillming
- 20 Morgan Alpert, Matthew Alpert,
Hannah Robinson, Ethan Gartzke
- 21 Karin Henkle, John Browne,
Michael Glosson, Pierce Cordle
- 23 Ron Knudsen, Rebecca Fulcer
- 24 Susan Krizmanich, Kathy Pizarro,
Avary Deblieck
- 25 Jacob Andrew Marx
- 26 Bill Brindell, Bill Skidmore, Stevie
Massei, Patrick Desiato, Katie
Casablanca, Alexander Rojas
- 27 Reagan Bishop, Angela Himebaugh
- 28 Carolyn Malm, Daniel Rossman
- 29 June Hermes, Anthony Maraviglia
- 30 Jeanette Shannon, Dana Turk,
David Huston

Staff and Contacts

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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