



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

**Congregational
Newsletter
September 2015**

SOTP Statement of Purpose

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED



Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

With start of Sunday School just around the corner, we are looking for enthusiastic individuals to help us bring our children to Him. Join us in sharing God's Word with our children. We offer classes during each service and there is plenty of opportunity to come and serve. We use a guided curriculum which plans the lessons for you—no experience is needed. Please consider participating in this extremely important part of our young people's Christian education. To volunteer or for more information contact Mike Parmele at (309-251-6075) or by email at mike_parmele@yahoo.com.

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

A Note From Pastor Mark

Dear Christian Friends,

As we move into this new season of learning and growth in faith, I encourage you to use this new season well to grow in your relationship with Christ.

Just this morning I had the opportunity to meet with 3 young dads in our congregation over coffee. We discussed issues related to challenges in relationships. Relationship challenges based upon things happening in the world, in our government as well as right in our own back yards. We discussed how we live as Christians in the midst of all of this fear and anxiety.

In every relationship, grace is at the heart of how we should live. It is the perspective from the cross which sees everything and all us on level ground. Grace is the perspective from Christ. Grace is what takes you to the person who has wronged you and tries to work out the details for the sake of the relationship. Retribution is never healthy; it is destructive. It is not a cross-framed response. Living in grace means knowing that just as we've been wronged, so have we wronged other. In spite of that, we are loved beyond belief by a god who lives to love.

In Romans 5:6 we have these wonderful words of grace: "you see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly." The grace of God in Jesus Christ says we are set free from the bondage of sin and death. There are consequences to our actions, of course, but there is nothing we have ever done or will do greater than God's ability to forgive us.

How does this grace work and how is it that I am forgiven in spite of myself?

Simply put, God create us for a relationship. And the Lord was very specific about the things that made for life and the things that made for death. And given the choice, humankind always leaned toward the thing that made for death. Somehow, though, we thought that there was something that we could do to right ourselves with God; to heal the wound, to bridge the gap. We thought that if we could just do good, live right, and be perfect, we'd please God and earn forgiveness. But there was no use in that. The more we tried, the worse it got.

(Continued on page 5)

Pastor Bill's Adult Education News

A new year of Christian education begins in September--and this includes great opportunities, not only for our kids, but for adults too! Gathering with others to deepen our faith is a wonderful way to be strengthened and challenged for our journey with the Lord Jesus. Or, to put it simply: we're never too old to learn!

So what's coming your way? **Beginning on Sunday, September 13**, at 10:20, we'll explore the first eleven chapters of Genesis. These are the stories many of us grew up with: creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, and the Tower of Babel. These are also some of the most important stories in the whole Bible because they give shape to our faith. But how do we interpret these stories? Are we to read them literally? And if so, where then does 21st century science come in? Are we to dismiss them as fantasies of an uneducated people who didn't really know any better, and thus dismiss them as simplistic fairy tales? Or is there another way, a way that reveals to us something powerful about who our God is and who we are?

Come and find out! **Join us each Sunday morning at 10:20, or on Wednesday morning at 11:00, or on Wednesday evening at 7:00.** And feel free to move from one class to the other as your schedule allows.

But there's more! A new series begins on Sunday, October 4, titled "Christian Active Parenting." This is especially designed for parents of young children who want to be the best parents they can be.

After all, one of the greatest gifts with which God has entrusted us is our children. And we only have them in our care for such a short period of time. How can we love them as they ought to be loved? How can we affirm them as they ought to be affirmed? How can we discipline them in a way that doesn't diminish their sense of well being but clarifies what's appropriate and not appropriate in family life? You can find out more information about this dynamic opportunity by going to the SOTP website or checking out our Friday Flourish. Plan to do it and register today!

Blessings,

Pastor Bill



Ministry Musings

Last month one of our staff members shared a story about a friend of his who was the pastor at a church that was in the last throes of dying out. About 15 years ago they had reached the point of no return and were ready to close their doors. They had tried everything they could think of to survive, but nothing had worked.

The pastor told his congregation that if they were going out they were going out with dignity. He told them he was going to make sandwiches for the homeless in the neighborhood and hand them out. Anyone who wanted to join him was welcome to come and do so. The first week 5 or 6 members showed up; they made sandwiches and gave them out. The next week 9 or 10 members showed up to make and hand out sandwiches. Each week a few more members joined in to make sandwiches. Soon more and more of these people began to take part in worship and other parts of ministry. Today that congregation is still vital and growing continuing to do God's will in their neighborhood.

What made the difference? They stopped concentrating on their demise and working solely on surviving and began to look outside themselves. Their focus turned away from themselves toward God and to serving him and ministering to his people. Once they were able to look outside themselves and giving instead of "hanging on" they were capable of growing and being part of God's kingdom here on "earth as it is in heaven".

We here at SOTP are starting out on a new venture in our life of faith. As we work to build the new addition I pray we continue to remember and act out our purpose; to give God glory and to be part of bringing God's kingdom here on earth to his people in our area. I hope we can continue to be outwardly focused and to concentrate on being God's hands and feet here in Huntley and the surrounding areas and to see this new construction as the way God is using us to share his love and his kingdom.

May God be with us as we go "Forward in Faith" in his name.

Donna Kelly

—Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator

A Note From Pastor Mark

(Continued from page 2)

So great a chasm between that god desire and what we were capable of doing led only to more separation and destruction. But out of amazing grace and awesome love, God knew the only thing to bridge the gap would be the only thing that could pay the price for our sin: Jesus Christ. God sent his son, Jesus, to pay the penalty that we could not pay. God sent Jesus. In 1 Peter 3:18, the writer tell us that "...Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

In the face of such grace we stand, like Peter, before our Lord today with the same kinds of questions going on in our heads. How do I best relate to others? How often should I forgive? What does it take to have a right relationship? In order to fully live Jesus says, we are to forgive "70x7." For us, let's begin by making it just one more time and grow to the stature of God's attitude toward us – GRACE!

Thanks dads for sharing with me this morning and to all of you for reading these further reflections.

I'll see you Sunday,

Pastor Mark

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

On August 16th we formally welcomed several new members into our family at SOTP:

- Bill, Lisa, Laine, Ally & Ashley Berens
- Kevin & Letty Jocius
- Howard & Carol Larson
- Earl & Arlene Meeske
- Steve & Linda Murphy
- Doris Pizzillo
- Stacy, Larry, Elizabeth & Justin Rapach
- Dave & Joy Shotick
- Smiley Smilden
- Sue Trestrail
- Wayne Warner

We are blessed to have these brothers and sisters in Christ join us! Please make yourself known to them and invite them to activities here at SOTP.

Trends

Jott

There's a new instant messaging app that kids ages 13- 18 are downloading onto their iPods, iPads, tablets and smartphone devices. The app is called Jott. Created specifically for school-aged kids, Jott allows users to chat with one another without wifi or a cellular plan. What this means is that kids who don't have costly data plans text one another on a closed network within a one-hundred foot area. Without a way to access the Internet during school hours, kids are especially drawn to Jott because it allows them to text one another throughout the course of the school day. Because Jott provides a way for kids who don't have a data plan, or may not even have a smartphone, to text their friends, it is especially popular among the middle school crowd. Because privacy is a big deal for kids, Jott features disappearing messages, just like Shapchat. We encourage parents and schools to work together to facilitate the healthy and responsible use of social media among kids.



Latest Research

Porn and PreTeen

Our children and teens are growing up in a Way back in 2006, we learned that the average age of first exposure to pornography was 11 years old. That reality fueled our efforts to encourage parents to talk to kids about the many dangers of pornography. Now, researchers in Britain are telling us that kids are not only being exposed to pornography, but they're making their own pornography. More than 1 in 10 British children ages 12-13 has made a pornographic video, according to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. In addition, 1 in 10 are also worried that they may be addicted to pornography. Researchers have also found that more and more young girls who are not even yet teenagers are reporting that they believe they must behave like porn stars to be liked by boys. Parents, it's time for us to wake up. Our kids are learning about sexuality on the Internet and the playground. Is that really where they should be getting an education about this wonderful gift from God? Talk to your kids about God's order and design for sex.

QUICK STATS

- Young adults who abused cannabis as teenagers performed 18% worse on long-term memory assessments compared to young adults who never used the drug.
—Northwestern University
- One quarter of American children ages 6-19 apparently don't drink any water at all as part of their daily fluid intake.
—Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Families and Teen Stress— Walt Mueller, CPYU President

“Daddy, will people make fun of me?” I didn’t expect that question from the mouth of my oldest child when she was only five years old and one day away from heading off to her first day of Kindergarten. “Make fun of you for what?” I asked. “Because of what I look like,” she replied.

It was the late 1980s and already the culture and the peer group was pounding the youngest of the young with compelling and convincing messages regarding how necessary it is to look a certain way if you are going to be liked, accepted, and even loved. In the quarter-decade since, media, marketing, and social media have been feeding a growing body-image frenzy that is literally consuming our kids. And lest you think this is solely a youth culture problem, think again. Body image pressure hits us all. And the more we as parents bow to the pressure ourselves. . . usually without even knowing it. . . the more we contribute to our kids’ struggle to find their identity in Jesus Christ, rather than in what they look like.

Last month, researchers in Britain confirmed what we already know: young children are experiencing dissatisfaction with the size and shape of their bodies that puts them at risk of eating disorders in their teens. My guess is that the data is only exposing the tip of the iceberg in terms of age and intensity regarding these concerns. According to the study, by the age of eight, 5% of girls and 3% of boys are dissatisfied with their body. That number rose with age until 14, when over 32% of girls and 16% percent of boys experience at least moderate dissatisfaction with their bodies. In addition, over 38% of the girls and 12% of the boys were already involved in eating disordered behaviors by the age of 14.

Over the years, it’s become increasingly important for moms and dads to realize that the bulk of this body image pressure comes from the media, the media-influenced peer group, and even parents. As Christian parents, we are called to not only live counter-culturally as we find our identities in Jesus Christ rather than in the image in the mirror, but we are also called to nurture our kids into doing

(Continued next page)

HOT QUOTE

“In high school, every time you stuck your neck out, there was always a bunch of people there ready to chop your head off. Hollywood’s not different.”

—Ryan Gosling, talking about how high school prepared him for negative reviews from critics, Vanity Fair online, April 8, 2015



YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

the same. Here are some suggested steps to take to help your kids manage the pressure.

First, seek and find your own identity in who you are as a person made in God's image and redeemed by Jesus Christ. Contrary to what the world tells you, you are not what you look like.

Second, teach your kids to spot the lies in marketing's messages. Point out where ads send messages that communicate that identity is found only in outward appearance.

Third, do not criticize yourself, your kids, or others about weight or body shape.

Fourth, take stock of how much time and money you spend on tending to your outward appearance. Make adjustments where necessary.

Fifth, compliment your kids on their character traits and God-given talents, rather than on their appearance.

And finally, spend time with your children reading and talking about God's word, looking to see how what God values differs from what the world values.

MISSION TEAM NEWS

One of the directives from the church council to the mission team was to seek out missions that allowed members to actively participate in "doing" as well as "donating" to those outside the church. Examples of such "doings" are PADS, Feed My Starving Children, Northern Illinois Food Bank, and the Green Tree Project. Another charity we support is the **Habitat for Humanity's Restore** in Elgin. The work involved is not constructing homes as some members do, but to work at Habitat's resale shop helping to stock shelves and display merchandise. We need four members at a time, usually for two to three hour shifts. If you are interested in working one day in September, contact Carl Hupert (224-569-6041 or carlhupert@gmail.com) who will put together teams and work out a schedule based on responses. The September work dates are September 10, 26 and 29.

From the Word...

Contrary to popular belief, what is most important about a person is not what we see on the outside. This is certainly a reality we need to trumpet in today's world. But the Scriptures reveal to us that this is not just a contemporary problem.

When Samuel was called by God to anoint a new king (1 Samuel 16), he was challenged by God to consider character and other inward qualities over and above appearance as the standards for the new king to meet. Because of

his appearance, Eliab was going to be Samuel's choice. But God said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Parents, what do you focus on when you look into the mirror? What does your expenditure of time and money say about what's most important to you as you develop yourself as a person? Is it the inside or the outside? Your kids are growing up in a world that ignores the former and overvalues the latter. Is your example teaching your kids to develop themselves in the eyes of God, or in the eyes of the world?

“Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

—1 Samuel 16:7

SUPPERS WITH LUTHER

Are you new to being a Lutheran, or has it been a while since you were confirmed? Come join us for **“Suppers with Luther”** on Wednesday evenings in September and October. We will be looking at the core values and practices of the ELCA Lutheran Church. Come at 5:30 p.m., grab dinner and bring it to the Adult Ed room—we will learn as we eat together. The class will run from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. (you'll be able to hang around for Pastor Bill's class at 7:00 p.m. if you'd like). We will meet September 23rd and 30th and October 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th, so come and join us! If you have any questions please contact Donna Kelly through the church office 847-669-9448 or at donna@sotpmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP TALES



Jesus said for us to take up our crosses and follow him. What does that mean for contemporary Christians? The tithe is one way for Christians to make a significant sacrifice for the cause of Christ. Giving 10% of our income goes back to the beginnings of the Old Testament and it is as current as this Sunday's Worship.

Tithing makes an important sacrifice that says how seriously we take our faith. At the same time it demonstrates that we care about other people and will go to significant sacrifices on their behalf. When we set aside one-tenth of our income for God's cause in the world we make an important statement about ourselves, our trust in God, and our compassion for people around the world. If you are not tithing now, we encourage you to consider it. Whether you move to 10% in one giant leap of faith, or gradually increase your percentage of giving over a period of time, isn't as important as the fact that you set the goal of a tithe. It is an important part of our faith.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE UPDATE-MINISTRY RESPONSES RECEIVED

A big THANK YOU to all who have completed and returned their Ministry Response forms. This will be a huge help for updating our church database and to be able to get this information to our ministry teams and groups. Our hope is to have the database redesigned and completed by the first of the year.

If you have not yet completed your ministry Interest form, you can still go on line and do so, visit with me in my office to complete it, or complete a paper copy. Please consider submitting this form if you have not already done so.

Thanks again for all of your help and input.

Donna Kelly & Ed Cuttle

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

It's here!! **Saturday, October 17th, from 9:00 a.m.-Noon.**

This is the day the Lord has made for you and me. Rejoice and join us as we gather in the part of God's mission field which we know as the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB)

If you haven't joined us in any of the previous ten trips, here is a wonderful opportunity to take this off your bucket list. It is open to anyone who is 8 years old or older. For those who have joined us previously, thank you, and you know what a rewarding experience it is. We

hope you will be able to make room in your busy schedule to join us again. If standing is a problem, they will accommodate us with jobs where you can sit.

This will be our first time in volunteering for the morning shift. It will be fun. So get a car full of your friends, neighbors, kids, or grandkids. Fill up the coffee cup, and meet us there by 8:45 a.m.

The Mission Committee has committed 60 volunteers which is the most ever, so don't hold back to see if you are needed. **You are!**

If you have any questions or want to sign up, email Sid Sorensen at sorensensid@comcast.net or call 224-858-4168. You will rejoice and be glad to do God's work with your hands



SEND KIDS THE WORLD



The Mission Team is planning to introduce a special mission which we will support in the future. The mission is called **“Send Kids The World.”** Send Kids the World features kids with life threatening illnesses and injuries and enables you to reach out to them and send them encouraging postcards from all around the world.

In the meantime, if you are interested in the mission, visit their website www.sendkidstheworld.com. You will find it worthwhile.

Also, in the meantime, we will be collecting blank picture postcards in a container in the crossroads starting mid- to late-September.

FALL SUPPER CLUB

Don't "FALL" out of touch with fellow SOTP members, Meet new people, expand old relationships. GATHER TOGETHER OVER A MEAL, FOUR TIMES DURING SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER. Add your name(s) to the "FALL" Yellow Supper Club Signup sheets posted in the Crossroads or signup on our website (under "Event Signup"). Sunday, September 6 is the last day to sign up for the fall session.

If you are not familiar with how the Supper Club is done please read on. Folks sign up every four months (Trying one session does not automatically sign you up for more, it is up to you.) After the cutoff date folks (singles are welcome) are divided into small groups of 6-8 people. Usually (but not always) one hosts the main meal in their home, then the others bring a dessert, salad, etc. Then another takes the main meal, etc. Some groups order in or eat out for one or more of their meals. Each group makes their own plan.

Questions? Or want to sign up via phone or email?? Please do...contact Sandy at sandyhupert@gmail.com or call 224-569-6041.

MUSIC MINISTRIES REHERSAL SCHEDULE

ADULT MUSIC MINISTRY REHERSAL SCHEDULE

All rehearsals start September 7



SHEPHERDS VOICES--ADULT CHOIR

Wednesdays 7:15 p.m. (Please note NEW time)

This choir sings at the 9:00 a.m. service two times a month and on holidays. All are welcome!!

ADULT HANDBELLS

Tuesdays, 7:15 p.m. (Please note NEW time)

This bell choir plays 1 to 2 times a month and on holidays. Minimum of intermediate music reading skills is helpful.

NEW, NEW, NEW!!

MUSIC READING SKILLS/ADULT BEGINNING HANDBELLS

Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7:05 p.m.

The emphasis of this class is for any adult who would love to learn how to read music and play handbells too! LOW pressure, slower pace, lots of repetition!! Great fun and fellowship!! Lots of laughs!!

ADULT WORSHIP BAND

Thursdays, 7:05 p.m.

Presently, we have two teams of vocalists and instrumentalists who alternate leading worship three Sundays a month. Youth Band leads on the 4th Sunday of most months.

For additional information about any of these Adult Music Ministries contact Jane McMullen, Director at jemcmullen1957@gmail.com

MUSIC MINISTRIES REHEARSAL SCHEDULE (cont.)

CHILDREN/YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

All rehearsals start September 7

Handbells and Chime Choirs

JUBILATE RINGERS

Beginning Handbells—Grade 3-5—basic reading skills required
Wednesday, 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.
in Sanctuary
Michael Waal, Director

JOY RINGERS

Choir Chimes--Ages 6-7
Wednesday, 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.
in Pastor Bill's Office
Denise James, Director



JUBELLATION RINGERS

Middle School Handbells--intermediate reading skills required
Wednesday, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in Sanctuary
Jane McMullen, Director

SPIRIT RINGERS

Advanced High School Handbells
(some middle school ringers per recommendation of Director)
Sunday, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. September thru Mid-May in Sanctuary
(Possible rehearsal change after marching band season would be on
Friday, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Mid-November thru mid-May. We will assess
schedules and make a decision bases on the majority)
Jane McMullen, Director

CMM WELCOMES BACK Annette Boster to our music team.

Annette Boster will be leading the Cherub Choir this year and we are so blessed and excited to have her on our music team again! Sign up all your little Cherubs parents (ages 2 ½ to 5) , it's going to be an awesome year!! Rehearsals start Wednesday Sept 9, 5:00 p.m. Thanks Annette!!

MUSIC MINISTRIES REHERSAL SCHEDULE (cont.)

CHILDREN/YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

All rehearsals start September 7

Children and Youth Vocal Choirs and Band

CHERUB CHOIR

Ages 2½-5

Wednesday, 5:00-5:30 p.m. in Pre-school room

Annette Boster, Director

TREASURES CHOIR

Age 6-7 (minimum 6 children in order to have this group)

Wednesday, 4:30-5:00 p.m. in Sunday School room

Director, TBA

BLESSINGS CHOIR

Grades 3-5

Wednesday, 5:15-6:00 p.m. in large West wing room

Michael Waal, Director

TEEN CHOIR

(better name of group to be determined by group)

7th Grade through High School

Thursday, 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Jane McMullen and Mickay Waal, Directors

YOUTH WORSHIP BAND

Middle School/High School Youth

(Singers and instrumentalists on this team-- guitar, keyboard, percussion, sax, flute etc.)

Rehearsals 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month, 12:15 to 2:00 p.m.

Student Leaders: Bailey Greene, Grace Boster, Sophie Dowell

Youth Band leads worship on the 4th Sunday of each month except the month of December



FOOD PANTRY

SOTP is committed to the Grafton Food Pantry program, which meets the needs of families and individuals who do not have the means to purchase food and other essential items. Food collection is the first Sunday of the month. Food items needed this month: **Salad Dressing, Mustard, Tooth Paste, Baked Beans, Cereal, Coffee.**

THANKS!

I would like to thank everyone with the Altar Guild and Baking Communion Bread ministries. I had surgery Aug. 26, so I will be gone for about 3 weeks. If you have any questions please call Sue Wehnes. Thank you again for all your time.

—Judie Symbal

A big thank you to the grillers, set up, serving and clean up crews at our annual picnic in August. Also, many thanks to Katie Desiato and her teen crew for the games and prizes. My committee of Tracy McDuffee, Kathy Pizarro, Neal and Shannon Mejdrich deserve much thanks as well as Chris Trodahl for his truck and all the hauling of supplies. Together we all enjoyed great food and fellowship. Thanks for coming. God is good-all the time!

—Sharon Little

Heartfelt thanks to Sandy Martin for her 4 years as Cherub Choir director! Thanks so much for sharing your gifts with us, your ministry has been such a blessing to our congregation and especially all our precious children at SOTP. Thanks so much Sandy for your faithful serving and all you do to make Christ know through your life of faith.

More Heartfelt Thanks to Tammy(and Arthur) Uteg who have served as our music librarian for the last few years. Tammy can no longer serve due to a shoulder problem. What an incredible job Tammy has done for our music ministry, we will miss you Tammy and thanks so much for your amazing and silent service!!

—Jane McMullen

WELCA

WELCA - Mary Martha will not meet in September

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES (cont.)

ALTAR GUILD

Saturday (setup).....Becky Tuzik & Sue Mattiucci

Saturday (take-down).....Tom & Darlene Polzin

Sunday (9:00 a.m.)

(setup & take-down).....Jackie Elkin & Marilyn Schnake

Sunday (10:45 a.m.—take-down)

September 6Sandy Hupert & Marlene Boehler

September 13Linda Jahr & Donna Schnepff

September 20.....Jan & Don Koerner

September 27Pam & Darren Walloch

COUNTERS: Warren Brody, Jim Rice, Cal Meyer

GREETERS

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sept. 5 Dolly Cardascio

Sept. 12..... Kay O'Shanna

Sept. 19..... Sue Blotch

Sept. 26..... Gail Quam

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 6..... Terry Halpin, Dolly Cardascio

Sept. 13 Terry Halpin, Sara Solem

Sept. 20 Terry Halpin, Donna Kelly

Sept. 27 Terry Halpin, Joanne Klinger

Sunday 10:45a.m.

..... Bob & Caroline Malm

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS

Saturday

September 12, 19, 26

.....Nancy Ottinger

Sunday

September 6Jill Brown

September 13Sharon Stangle

September 20.....Jeff and Kristi Cordle

September 27Nancy Zunker

NURSERY

Service	Sep.6	Sep. 13	Sep. 20	Sep. 27
9:00 a.m.	Jen Kolcz	Jamie Patel	Jen Powe	Jen Powe
10:45 a.m.	Blue Geller	Mary Lee Rishel	Betty Ferina	Sandy Hupert
Clean	Jen Powe	Mary Lee Rishel	Jen Powe	Sandy Hupert

FINANCIAL NEWS

Treasurer's Report

Operating Budget Year-to-Date as of July 31, 2015:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 317,763.79	\$ 322,987.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 305,414.61	\$ 330,857.00
Net Income:	\$ 12,349.18	\$ (7,870.00)

General Fund Notes: Through July, operating income exceed expenses by \$12,349.18. Member contributions are under budget by \$5,223.21. Expenses are under budget \$25,442.39. Overall General Fund Income is more than Expenses to Budget YTD \$20,189.18 primarily due to funding Provision Accounts \$9,044.00 not done, reduced staffing costs of \$11,494.39 and \$2,500.00 in prepaid pledges. We continue to encourage the restraint of staff and mission teams in their spending in the various expense categories.

Building Fund Year-to-Date as of July 31, 2015:

Building Fund Begin Balance 07/01/2015:	\$ 68,931.49
Debt Reduction Donations	\$ 19,856.00
Building Fund Donations:	\$ 102,773.81
Mission Plus Interest Income	\$ 229.22
Memorial Donations Building Fund	\$ 1,100.00
Building Fund Income/Donations:	\$ 123,959.03
Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 84,296.21
Loan Interest Payments:	\$ 11,421.79
Principal Only Payments:	\$ 21,540.10
Capital Campaign Consultant	\$ 15,429.00
Building Fund Expenses:	\$ 132,687.10
Ending Fund Balance:	\$ 60,203.42
Net Income:	\$ 8,728.07

We continue to accumulate funds in the Building Fund account per Council direction and Congregation approval on building expansion future requirements.

The July month end building loan balance is \$582,079.08. Thank you for your faithful tithing as we continue to cover our mission operational costs, funding our building loan obligation, and our future building expansion.

Jim Henley
SOTP Treasurer

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Loan Balance\$571,261.76
Estimated Payoff Date.....June 1, 2019

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Date

- 1 Beverly Noffz, Susan Krewer,
Natalie Dobrolinsky
- 2 Jason Lindquist, Phillip Jacobs,
Steve Sparks, Abby Fiandalo
- 3 Lois Long, Nancy Eberly, Judie Brady,
Kristina Harvat
- 4 Beth Wintersteen, Brett DePorter,
Kira Frenndreis
- 5 Harold Henkle, Colleen Bender,
Teri Wilson, Jake Harding
- 6 Kelly Hibbeler, Olivia Krewer,
Adam Walloch
- 7 Jean Clausen, Stephen Browne,
Pearl Kolcz
- 8 Gerhardt Neukirch
- 9 Gail Quam, Riley Petersen
- 10 Nicole Grabs, Beth Mudge, Jordan Wills,
Samantha Szekely
- 11 Sally Schuett, Gloria Scimeca,
Alan Henningsen, Donna Sorensen
- 12 Jamie Bremer, Karen Carr, Emma Konie,
Leah Anderson
- 14 Gladys Meese, Janice Shuff, Adam Luedtke
- 15 Deb Case, Eric Lindgren, Jodie Reed,
Todd Schilling
- 16 Andrew Fulcer, Ava Mans,
Luther Yndestad
- 18 Victor Pizarro, Marty Schnepff,
Morgan Bach, Joseph Case
- 19 Linda Christopherson, Raymond Dunn,
Donna Newbanks, Kristi Cordle,
Crystal Schilling
- 19 Chris Swanson
- 20 Josh Bremer, Gordon Burseth,
Rob Schuett, Joshua Miley,
Meredith Parmele
- 21 Autumn Kasal
- 22 James Blanchard
- 23 Adele Wogstad, Sandy Scalise,
Sharon Stangle, Teagan Papka
- 24 Ruby Haerle, Wendy Papka,
Tyler Greene
- 25 Cameryn Piskule
- 26 Lois Kosmen, Nanette Wade,
Vivian Lukes
- 27 Candy Henningsen
- 28 John Shepard
- 29 Dee Pedersen, John Arneson, Haley Sabie
- 30 Cheryl Mandro, Bill Harding,
Mike Huston, Nathan Ulmer,
Gianna Young

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Mike McCann, *Secretary*

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Amy Brittain

Cliff Dungey

Matt Greene

Larry Newbanks